

Deceivers or Dupes.

On New York City's police force there must be either a number of very gullible men or a number of men eager to take advantage of supposed gullibility of the people. They make that much clear in solemnly proclaiming that they have discovered an anarchist plot to kill all the millionaires and loot the city. It is needless to say that individuals so easily deceived can not be competent police officers, while individuals that try to fool the public are worse than incompetent. The first thing needed to improve the quality of such a force is creation of a few vacancies.

S. D.



How Plots Are "Discovered."

The revival by some Rip Van Winkle officials of the almost obsolete habit of "discovering" anarchist plots, makes pertinent the reproduction of a comment made eighteen or nineteen years ago by the Cleveland Recorder on a similar occurrence. It follows:

In Chicago corrupt police officers lived in clover for years, both before and after the Haymarket tragedy by soliciting contributions from certain very rich men, as compensation for keeping the anarchists down. To make their patrons "give up" freely these policemen were obliged every now and then to unearth an anarchist plot or to break up an anarchist meeting, or otherwise keep the scare a-going. There are well informed persons in Chicago who believe that the Haymarket tragedy was the accidental result of one of these scares; that is, that the corrupt police themselves hatched the plot and caused the bomb to be exploded, without expecting it to produce the damage it did. And it must be admitted that the fact that the Chicago bomb thrower has never been found, while peaceable men were railroaded to the gallows and prison by a packed jury, gives no little color to that theory.

S. D.



What the World Lost.

Those hero worshippers who tried so hard to make Theodore Roosevelt President a third time, and who defended the breaking of a century and a quarter of precedents by saying there was no reason why we should not retain a President in office as long as he was of service to the country, must keenly regret that the United States has been deprived of his unique services since 1912. Had he handled the Mexican question in the same cavalier manner in which he disposed of the Panama trouble, the American flag would to-day be well on its way to the Isthmus. And were he now in the President's chair there would be none of this molly-coddle neutrality that is so humiliating to gentlemen of blood and iron. He would long ago have

righted the wrongs of Belgium; and war zones and blockades would have been swept away as fast as the effete statesmen of Europe could commit them to paper.



There is, however, this melancholy reflection: There was a time when Mr. Roosevelt, because of a clever and dramatic stroke in opposition to Privilege, and the consignment of a few gentlemen to membership in the Ananias club, would be acclaimed the champion of liberty; and would be looked to as the Moses who was to lead us out of the land of bondage. But that enthusiasm has waned; and the number of those who once acclaimed him has dwindled to a pitiable remnant. Are we to conclude from this that the people are fickle, that they do not recognize the true prince when he appears among them; or that Mr. Roosevelt does not ring true when tested by fundamental democracy? One does not have to stretch his imagination to infer from his latest book that if he were now in the White House there would be red fire burning all along the coast.

S. C.



"Our Country, Right or Wrong."

The Chicago Tribune defiantly carries at the head of its editorial column Decatur's words: "Our country! In her intercourse with foreign nations may she always be in the right, but our country, right or wrong." For this the Tribune has been much criticized, but so long as it actually holds such sentiments it is better that it openly express them. There seems no escape from the conclusion that a paper which will knowingly support wrong in one case is likely to support it knowingly in another. Since The Tribune does not hesitate to urge support of "our country wrong," it is just as likely to urge support of "our party wrong," or of any individual, group or organization endeavoring to perpetrate a wrong. It reveals itself as a dangerous guide with no scruples against using its influence in behalf of what it may know to be wrong. Persons who do not wish to help an evil cause must be extra careful in accepting the Tribune's advice. It may well know the policy to be wrong which it urges. It has itself declared that moral considerations are not of supreme importance. It has confessed itself to be unworthy of confidence.



Decatur's words are in themselves contradictory. "May she always be in the right" is a truly patriotic wish deserving of commendation. But the