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EDITORIAL

TAMMANY'S BROADNESS.

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THE rumor is rife, and with no little strength therein, that Controller Bird S. Coler is now Tammany's favorite for the head of the next municipal ticket. Until a few days previous, Coler was particularly detested by Tammany, at least it was so supposed. He had stood "as a stone wall" against the corrupt Ramapo Tammany deal; he had been "a watchdog of the city Treasury" against "Tammany pillaging schemes;" he had "endeared himself to all friends of good government;" etc.; etc.; and, as a consequence, he stood high on the list of possible candidates for Mayor to be run by the thrice repured {rebuked?} anti-Tammany "reformers." Owing to all this, Tammany had no love to spare for Coler. Whence the sudden revulsion? The Committee of 107 of the Citizens' Union dropped Coler's name from the list of candidates to be submitted to the "reformers" convention. No sooner was this done, than Coler stock jumped up in Tammany's camp, until now he leads all previous Tammany aspirants. What does this mean? Does it mean, that, having been turned down by the "reformers," Coler has suddenly ceased to be a "stone wall," a "watch dog," etc., in behalf of governmental purity, and thereby has re-earned the love and affection of the dirty Tammany organization? Or does it, perchance, mean that Tammany has seen the evil of its ways, has suddenly become a gentle convertite to governmental purity, and, accordingly, has turned to Coler with a penitent's contrition? Neither theory is acceptable. The theory that fits all the facts in the case is that Tammany is "broad."

What means "broadness" in political life? Tammany is contributing just now with its Coler boom valuable information on that head. "Broadness" in political life is the name of the fruit of a certain tree. The tree's name is "Get-There."

An organization of political brigands has for its one object "spoils." In order to reach that, its trusted brigands must be placed where they can indulge in plunder, which is then to be handed down. In order to place the said trusted brigands in the said places of vantage, the ticket they stand on must have the fly-paper quality of

attracting unthinking votes. It follows that a man, who stands in the Coler odor of governmental purity, would be a veritable Messiah to lead the faithful, and successfully pull them through rough places. Thus it happens that offices, held by Tammany, in this city are full of one-time rampant "anti-Tammanyites." The "Get-There" tree is best understood by its flower "Broadness," and inversely the flower "Broadness" is easily classified when it is known to be the inflorescence of the "Get-There" tree.

"Broadness" in political life spells prostitution of principles. To such prostitutes nothing comes amiss. Principle is with them squeezed into a nutshell, or spread so far as to vanish through thinness, according as occasion may demand. It is a test of political dishonor; a warning to the wise against political immorality. The flower blossoms rankly in Tammany Hall, which is the rankest exponent of political deviltry in the land; but it is seen quite distinctly in all the other pirate organizations that prowl in the present political woods of America.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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