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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {235}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—What's all this we are hearing about "the partition of China"?

UNCLE SAM—Not unlike what our fathers heard about "the partition of Poland."

B.J.—Nonsense! Poland was a turbulent neighbor. The safety of her neighbors was constantly endangered by her disorderly conduct. They had to quell her riotous disposition. The best way to do that was to cut her up, partition her among themselves. But that's not the case with China. Neither Germany, France nor England are at her frontiers. Why should they go out of their way to partition her? I don't understand that.

U.S.—That comes from your not being able to see the identity of things despite difference of appearance.

B.J.—"Appearance"? "Identity!"—I see nothing of the sort.

U.S.—Whether a person is so near to you that he troubles you, or whether you move so near to him that his ways inconvenience you—it is all the same. German, French, English and other merchants and their missionaries who deal in China are as near to the Chinese as the neighbors of Poland were to Poland. See?

B.J.—But that is a rascally way of justifying a rascality.

U.S.—I am not justifying anything. I'm only stating the facts, and explaining the pretexts for "partitions." If a brood of robbers want a pretext to rifle your pockets they will find it. The "riotousness" of old Poland is of a piece with the complaints against China.



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

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