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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {262}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—Thanks heaven we'll now have peace soon!

UNCLE SAM—On what do you base the prediction?

B.J.—On McKinley's own statement.

U.S.—And what did he say?

B.J.—He said: "I hope for a speedy peace now."

U.S.—Is that all you got to bank on?

B.J.—Isn't that enough, when the President himself says so?

U.S.—Didn't he say two years ago that, if elected, prosperity would forthwith follow?

B.J.—He did.

U.S.—And did it follow?

B.J.—Can't say it did.

U.S.—You have no more reason to take stock in his present prophecy, or hope.

B.J.—Well, don't you see—

U.S.—Yes, I do see; but you don't. Let me help you to see.

The southern port of Cuba that supplies Havana with provisions is left unblockaded; in the meantime we are spending \$500-a-shot pounding sand banks where it does no good. Now, then, if you have eyes to see you will realize what these two facts mean. They mean that the stock-holders of powder and other such factories have not yet made money enough; it means that, while holding the appearance of wanting peace, our capitalists who are running the war have an interest in carrying it on—



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B.J.—Then you don't believe that their purpose was the humane one of liberating the Cubans—

U.S.—“Liberating the Cubans”! What a back number joke that is!

B.J.—A joke?!

U.S.—Yes, a joke. Don't you read the papers of these capitalists themselves?

B.J.—I do.

U.S.—When Santiago fell, did they put it in the hands of the Cuban insurgents?

B.J.—I don't think they did.

U.S.—Guess not. General Garcia was sent to the right about, despite the demand of the “Cuban patriots.” And that's not all. The papers begin to beam with an abuse of the insurgents whom only the other day they were praising to the skies. These insurgents then were “noble patriots sacrificing their lives for freedom's cause,” they were “valiant champions of liberty,” now they are “valiant eaters of American provisions”; then they were “daring patriots, braving death for their island's liberation from Spanish cruelty,” now they are “daring skulkers behind the American lines, patriotically protecting themselves from Spanish Mauser bullets.” These are facts. The “liberation” is a joke, a stale joke on the part of our capitalists who set it afloat, altho', as far as the deluded masses of our liberty-loving and generous working class are concerned, it was taken seriously.

B.J.—This is pretty tough!

U.S.—And likewise a joke, tho' not yet stale, is this other about peace being at hand and desired by McKinley. He and his mill do all they can to protract war and thus lengthen the period when the capitalists “in the ring” can make money. Put that in your pipe and smoke it.

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

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