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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM AND BROTHER JONATHAN. {340}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN (swaying from right to left and half seas over, espies Uncle Sam on the other side of the street in the 16th Assembly District, totters across, and holds Uncle Sam by the arm)—I (hic) wanted to (hic) see you?

UNCLE SAM (with disgust in his eyes and face)—What can a loafer like you want to see me about?

B.J.—Never mind, I (hic) want to ask you to be sensible—

U.S.—“Sensible!”

B.J.—Yes. I’m (hic) told that you are going to vote the Socialist Labor Party (hic) ticket, and—

U.S.—So I am! Make it short.

B.J.—And for De Leon too, for the Assembly (hic)?

U.S.—Correct! I propose to vote the Socialist Labor Party ticket straight, from top to bottom. Get out of my way, you loafer!

B.J.—Don’t be so harsh! Now, I (hic) wanted (hic) to (hic) show you that we would be very foolish to vote for De Leon and that the man we should vote for is Sam Prince—

U.S.—Sam Prince! That labor fakir, who helps the Judge Freedmans enjoin the cigarmakers, and who in Albany votes for increased appropriations for gunpowder and bullets to enable the militia to shoot down the workingmen!?! Not much, Sir! Get out of my way!



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

B.J.—Never mind (hic) that,—

U.S.—What, then, should we mind?

B.J.—You know De Leon don't live in this district—

U.S.—I know that.

B.J.—And Sam (hic) Prince does; he lives right here on Fifth street (hic)—

U.S.—What of it?

B.J.—I'll tell (hic) you. If De Leon is elected, and anyone here gets himself into trouble, he will have to travel all the way up to Seventy-ninth street for De Leon to help him (hic)—

U.S.—Well?

B.J.—But if Sam Prince is elected, we could have him handy (hic)—

U.S.—To do what?

B.J.—To (hic) get (hic) us out (hic) of trouble—

U.S.—See here you confounded loafer, do decent men “get themselves into trouble?” Do workingmen “get themselves into trouble?” No! The people who “get themselves into trouble” are the Tammany toughs like yourself and the Tammany brothel and dive-keepers. These people get themselves into trouble; they roll drunk into the gutter, as you are about to do; they break into houses; they assault women on the street; THEY are the fellows who “get themselves into trouble.” The workingmen and all other decent people in the District—THEY “don't get themselves into trouble.” THEY don't need the Labor Fakir Sam Prince at their elbow!

B.J.—(Hic) but (hic)—

U.S.—The only place where the decent element of the District need their Assemblyman is in Albany.

B.J.—Yes (hic) but (hic)—

U.S.—At Albany, Mr. Sam Prince is the guardian of the brigand capitalist class, and votes them appropriations for their militias;—

B.J.—But (hic) listen—

U.S.—Here in the District, Mr. Sam Prince is the guardian of the Tammany toughs;—

B.J.—Yes (hic, hic, hic) but—

U.S.—So that the workingmen and the decent elements of the District are not in it! That’s the situation in a nutshell, and that is what your Sam Prince candidacy means to keep up. Get out of my way!

B.J.—But (hic) when we are in trouble—

U.S.—Stay in trouble! The Socialist Labor Party is not there to guard and encourage the scum of society. The Socialist Labor Party is there to emancipate the working class from the chains of wage slavery and redeem the human race. If I had my way, I’d put you in a cage, label the cage: “The Symbol of Tammany in the 16th Assembly District,” and put up the cage at every Socialist Labor Party meeting. You have made an excellent argument why Mr. Prince should be dumped, and dumped hard. And that’s what’s bound to happen. Now, you get out of my way or I’ll kick you aside!

B.J. slinks off to take another drink and “get himself into more trouble.”

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