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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM AND BROTHER JONATHAN. {345}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—Ah, Bryan is a great man, you must admit that.

UNCLE SAM—For what particular reason, now more than before?

B.J.—Did you read his speech in Hinton, West Virginia?

U.S.—No.

B.J.—You ought to.

U.S.—What did he say?

B.J.—He simply knocked the Republicans into a cocked hat; and he did it in such an easy simple style.

U.S.—How did he do it?

B.J.—Well, the Republicans{,} you know, affect to be the particular and only friends of the negro,—

U.S.—I know they try that bunco game.

B.J.—Well, by just mentioning a certain fact, well-known, but not apt to occur to most people, and putting it in a quaint way, he disposed of the Republican false pretences.

U.S.—In what way?

B.J.—He did it in this way. He said: “The colored man has given the Republicans presidencies and received janitorships in return.” Now, be fair, isn’t that well put?

U.S.—It is, no doubt, excellently well put.

B.J.—I knew you would be fair. Now, admit that Bryan is a great man and that



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we should all vote for him.

U.S.—Not much I won't.

B.J.—Would you stand by McKinley, the candidate of the party that plays such a bunco game on the negroes?

U.S.—Indeed I won't. But—

B.J.—What, have you also “buts”?

U.S.—Yes, and mighty good ones, too. McKinley should not be voted for because his party has proved itself a bunco-steerer, as Bryan shows; it receives large gifts from the negro and returns to him little dribblets. But—what of Bryan's party?

B.J.—Well, what of it?

U.S.—Has not it also received many a presidency?

B.J.—Y—e—s—

U.S.—And could it have received any but for the workingman's vote?

B.J.—N—o—

U.S.—Right you are! Now, one more question, what did the Democratic party give the workingmen in return?

B.J.—Hem!

U.S.—Did it give them higher wages?

B.J.—No, the wages went down.

U.S.—Did it give them steadier jobs?

B.J.—No; jobs became steadily unsteadier.

U.S.—What then did the Democracy give the workingmen in return for the presidencies that they bestowed on the Democratic party?

B.J.—Hem!

U.S.—Are you stumped?

B.J.—Hem!

U.S.—Do you remember the sending of Federal troops into Illinois by a Democratic President to break the backbone of the Pullman strike?

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—What did the Illinois workingmen, and, through them, the workingmen of all the other states who gave that Presidency to the Democracy, get?

B.J. (brisking up)—They got bullets; that's true; but that was not the present

Democracy that did that; that was the old, or Gold Bug, Cleveland Democracy that did that. The present, or Bryan Democracy—

U.S.—The Free Silver Democracy?

B.J.—Yes, the Bryan or Free Silver Democracy is different. It don't do that sort of thing.

U.S.—Oho. Was it sugar-plums that the Bryan, Free Silver Governor of Idaho gave to the striking miners?

B.J. compresses his lips.

U.S.—Was it higher wages he gave those miners?

B.J. continues silent.

U.S.—Was it good jobs he gave them?

B.J. looks like a statue of stone.

U.S.—Bryan or Cleveland Democracy, it both spells the same thing. And Republican or Democratic party, they both spell the same identical word. They both receive corn from the working class, and return to it the husks. Does your Bryan still seem to you a “great man” entitled to our votes?

B.J. continues dumb.

U.S. (pulling the hat down on the ears of B.J.)—Go to! All that the Democrats say against the Republicans is true; and all that the Republicans say against the Democrats is true. The two sets of statements make a complete whole; and that whole is a true indictment of both. There is to-day but one party that the workingmen can affiliate with, and that is the party headed by Malloney and Rimmel—the Socialist Labor Party.

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

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