

The People.

VOL. VII, NO. 12.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 1897.

PRICE 3 CENTS.

DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {207}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—The Socialists make a great mistake in agitating so much among the workingmen and so little among the rich people.

UNCLE SAM—In how far is that a mistake?

B.J.—Because there are more capitalists among the workingmen than among the capitalists.

U.S.—Hey? Say that again.

B.J.—You don't believe it?

U.S.—What?

B.J.—That there are piles of capitalists among the workingmen.

U.S.—No; I don't believe it. I can no more believe it than I can believe that a Zulu can be a man of Caucasian race.

B.J.—Now, there you have it. Your answer helps me to make clear my point. You Socialists draw the lines too sharp; you don't allow anything for sentiment, and what that implies.

U.S.—Make your point.

B.J.—I claim that a capitalist is a man who has the vicious instinct of a bloodsucker, a man who is anxious to live at the expense of others. That's what I call a capitalist. And for that reason I say there are lots of workingmen who are capitalists. The man who would live upon others is to all intents and purposes a capitalist.

U.S.—And the man who will make such a statement is to all intents and



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purposes a muddlehead.

B.J.—Muddlehead, yourself!

U.S.—Would you not like to be a millionaire?

B.J.—Of course I would; think of all the good tims{s} I would have!

U.S.—And why don't you take that good time?

B.J.—How you talk! How can I TAKE that good time if I have not the money of a millionaire?

U.S.—But a millionaire is a man who would like to be one. The man who would like to take a good time is to all intents and purposes a millionaire.

B.J.—Nonsense, my wishing to be a millionaire don't make me one; to be one I must own a million dollars.

U.S.—It follows that sentiment has nothing to do with {the} case?

B.J.—Nothing whatever.

U.S.—Nothing short of the hard material cash or its equivalent will make a man a millionaire?

B.J.—Nothing short of that; any fool can see that.

U.S.—And yet it seems that any fool, you among them, can't see that nothing short of capital can make a man a capitalist—

B.J.—But if—

U.S.—A capitalist is a man who lives on the sweat of the brow of others, eh?

B.J.—Certainly.

U.S.—He likes that—

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—As much as you would like the good time that a million dollars would give you?

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—Could you have that good time without the million?

B.J.—No.

U.S.—No more can one live on the sweat of the brow of others unless he owns the necessary capital. To be a millionaire, one must have the million; to be a capitalist, you must have the capital.

B.J.—That's all right. But what I mean is that the Socialists should spend more time in improving the moral sense of the workmen. Instead of spending so much

time in showing them how the capitalist skins them, they should be lectured upon the wickedness of skinning.

U.S.—What good will that alone do them?

B.J.—It will make Socialists out of them—

U.S.—There you give me the proof of how necessary it is to stick to the right terminology in order to arrive at the right tactics. Go about lecturing upon the wickedness of skinning without showing how it is that the skinning is done, and you will fail to show your hearers how to get out of this wicked system of skinning. You will be looked upon as a pretty and entertaining talker, but you won't get your hearers one inch nearer to their emancipation. Leave the Socialists alone for knowing what they are about.

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

Uploaded January 2008

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