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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {6-8}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—The brave Twenty-third Regiment!

UNCLE SAM—Why “brave”?

B.J.—And they work so hard!

U.S.—How “work”?

B.J.—They do camp duty twenty-four hours at a stretch, and stand the heat like heroes.

U.S.—Why, Brother Jonathan, you have been stuffed. As to work, they never did any, and never will. As to heroism or courage, there is no enemy around. If there were, the shortest time on record in the opposite direction would be theirs, with Manwaring’s Seventh as a close second.



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

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B.J.—I am puzzled!

U.S.—What about?

B.J.—McKinley calls his tariff, which makes the rich richer, American.

U.S.—He lies.

B.J.—And Carlisle calls his free trade, which would lower wages, American.

U.S.—He lies.

B.J.—And Sherman calls his gold standard system, which was dictated by European sharks, American.

U.S.—He blasphemes.

B.J.—And Senator Stewart of Nevada calls his free coinage of silver, by which the owners of silver mines will be able to get 100 cents for 51 cents worth, American.

U.S.—He is a “clever” business man, look out for him and his.

B.J.—And Frick of the Pennsylvania coke mines, who is answerable for so many crimes and so much human suffering, calls his conduct American.

U.S.—It is as American as the devil’s doings are sacred.

B.J.—But all this confuses one.

U.S.—It ought not to. It should help you to distinguish the American. He who has the word for ever on his lips talks, but does not act American, and is none. The true American shows it by his honorable and manly conduct. He needs no tinsel.

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B.J.—Hurrah!

U.S.—What are you hurraing about?

B.J.—There is to be a revolt against Tammany this fall again.

U.S.—Tammany is an ulcer on the city’s surface; but even against Tammany a revolt is good or bad according to the make-up of the revolters. Are the revolters another gang of silk-stockings, bond-holders & tenement house rent suckers like last year?

B.J.—Silk-stockings they are not. It is the Stecklers.

U.S.—Juhillican! Let us clap our handkerchiefs to our noses.

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

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