

The People.

VOL. IV, NO. 50.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1895.

PRICE 3 CENTS.

DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {105}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—I believe in a unification of reform forces.

UNCLE SAM—So do I; but that can't be until and unless they are agreed upon a common cause.

B.J.—But they are now.

U.S.—Not much!

B.J.—Would not the Socialist like to see the banker abolished?

U.S.—Yes.

B.J.—Very well. And does not the Populist want to down the banker?

U.S.—Guess he does.

B.J.—We don't need to go any further. Here you have two reform forces agreed upon downing one and the same thing or person. Why not join forces?

U.S.—Capt. Kidd was a big pirate, wasn't he?

B.J.—And no mistake.

U.S.—He used to capture merchant vessels and smaller piratical concerns than himself, didn't he?

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—I remember one of your fishing smacks was one day captured by a little pirate called Holmes.

B.J.—But the scoundrel did not keep it long; it was next day taken from him by Capt. Kidd.



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

U.S.—Just so. Now, suppose Capt. Holmes, the little coasting pirate, had thereupon come to you and spoken as follows:

“Mr. Brother Jonathan, that big filibuster, Kidd, has robbed you many a time; he has robbed me, too; you and I have a common cause; you want to abolish piracy; Kidd is a pirate; I, too, want to abolish Kidd, only I don’t want to go quite as far as you; you are too radical; you see, we have a common cause and a common enemy; we are reformers; let us join forces.” What would you have done?

B.J.—I would have kicked him within an inch of his life, and would have handed him over to be tried and hanged.

U.S.—You would not have taken any stock in his claims that he, too, was a reformer because he was down on Kidd?

B.J.—Certainly not.

U.S.—And you would have seen clear through his sophistry that you and he stood on substantially the same ground?

B.J.—Most assuredly.

U.S.—Now, old boy, the banker is Capt. Kidd; the small farmer who employs farm hands or the small middleman who hires workers are each of them a Capt. Holmes. They are robbed, no doubt, by the modern Capt. Kidd, but each is robbed mainly of what, like Capt. Holmes, he robs his workers of. This middle class is best typified by the Raleigh *Progressive Farmer*, which says common laborers are to be procured as one procures pork and beef; or by Senator Peffer, who declares the boycott to be an illegal interference with the rights of a firm, and that the employer may employ and dismiss at will. These are the genuine Populists. If you add to them the silver mine barons, who work their miners for less than \$1 a day, the case is still clearer. Socialists, the working class, have no more in common with such gentry than you have with Capt. Holmes. Neither will they fall into a blunder that you would have steered clear of.

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

Uploaded October 2007

slpns@slp.org