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DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {118}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**B**ROTHER JONATHAN—Do you know how the Socialists sometimes look to me?

UNCLE SAM—Well, how?

B.J.—They look to me as though they were the worst enemies of Socialism.

U.S.—How do you make that out?

B.J.—If you want to promote a thing do you try to make or do you try to avoid making enemies?

U.S.—I try to avoid making any.

B.J.—And you would even make friends wherever you could?

U.S.—Wherever I could.

B.J.—Now, the Socialists go about it just the opposite way. They stir enmities everywhere; they turn people who were their friends into bitter enemies. That's why I sometimes think the object of the Socialists is to prevent Socialism, rather than promote it.

U.S.—To understand you well I would want some illustrations.

B.J.—I'll give you some. Foster, McNeill, Gompers, Lennon and so many others were their friends—at least, they were friendly; now they are their bitter enemies. They became such because they were personally hostilized.

U.S.—Now I understand you.

B.J.—And you agree with me?

U.S.—No, sir!

B.J.—You don't, notwithstanding you certainly must grant my premises to be



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correct?

U.S.—Now, let me ask you a few questions.

B.J.—Go ahead.

U.S.—If you wish to promote a cause do you consider him a “friend” who befriends you and opposes your cause?

B.J.—No.

U.S.—When we talk of friendships we must always distinguish between the lovers of men and the lovers of causes.

B.J.—Very well.

U.S.—If you are devoted to a cause, would the friendship tendered to you personally blind you and make you oblivious of the hostility shown to your cause?

B.J.—N—n—o.

U.S.—If it did, then your cause would be less to you than yourself?

B.J.—Yes, that’s all true.

U.S.—Now, then, all these men whom you mentioned had love only for individual Socialists and hatred for Socialism itself.

B.J.—Indeed!

U.S.—Yes; nor is that the worst of it. I doubt whether, indeed, any of them ever felt actual friendship for any individual Socialist. They feigned friendship. Their purpose was, by so doing, to lame the effectiveness of the work of the Socialists.

B.J.—How could they do that?

U.S.—I’ll tell you. By keeping up friendship with the Socialists these fakirs accomplished several things.

First. They added prestige to themselves by seeming to have the support of the Socialists. Thereby they could impose much more effectively upon the workers and keep them quiet for the capitalists to skin.

Second. They, through their pretenses of friendship, caused the Socialists to hope they could be eventually converted and made useful members in the revolutionary army. Thereby they caused the Socialists to defer their agitation and wait for the time when those “leaders” were converted.

B.J.—Now, that’s a new light to me.

U.S.—In view of all this, the Socialists have not MADE any, not one enemy. All they have done is to unmask the enemies of Socialism.

B.J.—Then it is well.

U.S.—Look at the difference between now and then.

Then the fakirs were fighting Socialism the same as they do now, only more powerfully, because they seemed to have the backing of the Socialists.

Now they fight Socialism with less power, because they can no longer fool any one with the statement: “I am a Socialist, too.”

The Socialists had these men against Socialism always. Now these men are much more harmless, just because they have been unmasked. Consequently the conduct of the Socialists is the very wisest.

B.J.—I should think so!

U.S.—Just as soon as you find out that a fellow is using your friendship to defeat your purposes, you can do no better than—it is the highest statesmanship—to turn sharp upon him. If you don’t you have two men to fight, him and yourself, through the prestige you give him; if you do, you have only him to fight.

B.J.—That’s just what I do every time.

U.S.—And the principles we apply in many a matter of daily life stand upon a philosophy that is applicable to matters of broader import. The making of enemies, the deliberate making of them, is an art the excellent qualities of which are not yet fully understood. The Socialists do understand them. Do you still think they act foolishly or are deliberate adversaries of themselves?

B.J.—No; I don’t now. Every rascal must be fought. Yes, the more of such enemies the better for a cause. Hit ’em!

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