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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {224-227}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—There is but one issue in this campaign. It is, shall the government of this great city of New York be run by the people or the politicians? Which say you?

UNCLE SAM—Before answering you, let me understand you. Are you for Low?

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—Do you want to smash the political machine of the Republican party?

B.J.—Not at all. That's all right for national campaigns.

U.S.—One more question, is the nation less important than the city?

B.J.—Of course not. The nation is infinitely more important.

U.S.—Then what you say in giving your reasons for supporting Low amounts to this: "Although the nation is much more important than a city, nevertheless a political machine that is bad is good enough for the nation, but not good enough for the city."

B.J. looks perplexed.

U.S.—Now, you go with your Goo Goo yarns to the marines. Intelligent men can see through the swindle; they will vote for Sanial and the S.L.P. ticket straight from Cuno, for Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals down.

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BROTHER JONATHAN—To hell with reform!



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

UNCLE SAM—So say I.

B.J.—Bully boy! Then you will vote the Tammany ticket, hey?

U.S.—Not much I won't.

B.J.—What? Do you take any stock in the Goo Goo reform?

U.S.—Not a bit.

B.J.—Whom are you going to vote for?

U.S.—I'll tell you. That things are not as they ought to be, even you won't deny.

B.J.—Well, I don't know.

U.S.—But “reform” won't answer the turn. You may “reform” a house that is a little leaky; but when the roof is all broken in, and the walls are tottering, and the rats have riddled the flooring—then no “reform” will stead that house: it has to be torn down and rebuilt, or it will fall over your ears and crush you. That is the situation with the capitalist system, the house which we now live in; it is leaking all over; its walls are tottering; it is bound to come down with a crash; it makes the working class poorer, it increases misery. Now, you Tammanyites and the Tom Plattites, too, hold that this house is all right; the Goo Goos, too, hold that it is all right, but needs a little tinkering. What they want is “reform”; and THAT is why I join you in saying “to hell with reform.” But I don't join you when you mean by that, that the house is so good that it need {needs?} not even improvement. It may be good enough for Croker, who thrives in it, just as a rotten house is good enough for the rats that riot in it. But it is not good enough for the intelligent, class-conscious workers. Go soak your head. I shall vote for Sanial and the straight revolutionary ticket.

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BROTHER JONATHAN—Hooray for Henry George!

UNCLE SAM—I thought you were a Chicago platform man.

B.J.—So I am.

U.S.—But George does not stand on the Chicago platform.

B.J.—Yes he does.

U.S.—Does he say so?

B.J.—Well—n—o—

U.S.—What does he say?

B.J.—Well—he—says—

U.S.—He says he stands behind the Chicago platform. Which means that he stands for catching votes. That any one who is stupid enough to vote for him, may claim that George stands for what he wants. When you hooray for George you simply prove that you are gudgeon.

B.J.—But at any rate he stands for certain national issues.

U.S.—Which national issues?

B.J.—Don't you know?

U.S.—No, I don't; and you neither.

B.J.—But I do.

U.S.—And what are they?

B.J.—H—h—m—

U.S.—'Tis clear you don't know, and nobody else does. But even if he did, what sort of hash is his ticket anyhow. He has made a deal with the Low crowd. They deny national issues. He asserts them, according to you. So, then, his ticket is a denial and an assertion of the same thing. It is a fraud.

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BROTHER JONATHAN—Tammany is rotten.

UNCLE SAM—True.

B.J.—Low is a humbug.

U.S.—Correct.

B.J.—George is a political fraud.

U.S.—Right again.

B.J.—I'm going to vote for Tracy.

U.S.—On what platform does he stand?

B.J.—The Republican.

U.S.—Does not Sheriff Martin, of Hazleton, and the Governor of Pennsylvania, who sent the militia to protect the murderers from arrest, stand on the Republican platform?

B.J. meditates.

U.S.—On that identical platform stands Tracy. And you, a workingman, mean to vote for such a platform? Shame upon you! If you have a grain of sense you will raise the

Hammer of the Socialist Labor party ballot and let it come down with a crash upon Tracy, Van Wyck, Low and George alike. Now, think this over.

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