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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {307}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN (with black rings around his eyes)—'Tis simply shameful; and 'tis sad!

UNCLE SAM.—Meseens you are in great pain. Is it bodily, or is it mental?

B.J. (with an I-don't-quite-trust-your sympathy look)—'Tis bodily, too; but 'tis mainly mental.

U.S.—Come, come! Unbosom!

B.J.—Well, you see, it is this way: Socialism is so beautiful—

U.S.—Correct!

B.J.—The Socialist Republic is so grand—

U.S.—Correct, again.

B.J.—The whole conception is so noble, so exalting, so humane; think of everyone who wants to work having a chance, and not being plundered, but keeping the fruits of his labor; “grand” is no word for it.

U.S.—You are wonderfully correct to-day. Now what are you carrying up your sleeves. Out with it!

B.J.—Yes, I will out with it. It is simply scandalous how the Socialists are marring this beautiful idea with their ranting about “classes”—

U.S.—Ah!

B.J.—And “struggles”—

U.S.—Aha!



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

B.J.—And with all such theories of turbulence and war—

U.S.—Hah!

B.J.—You don't need to be "ahaing." Why, only last night I heard a Socialist getting up at a meeting, and lambasting a lovely Christian Socialist, who had just delivered a most sweet address on Socialism.

U.S.—Was he "lambasted" for that?

B.J.—No; not for that;—

U.S.—What for, then?

B.J.—He lambasted him for saying that the tactics, methods and ways of the Socialist Labor Party could only keep Socialism away, and that the way to bring Socialism on was the Christian Socialist way.

U.S.—And did he say what that way was?

B.J.—Oh, yes: Just preach Socialism; just show people the iniquities of the capitalist system, and contrast them with the beatitudes of Socialism. In that way the people's hearts would be captured; capitalism would drop of its own accord, and—

U.S.—And hocuspocus, the Socialist Republic would be thar, eh?

B.J.—Why, of course; it couldn't help being there.

U.S.—Well, that "Christian" Socialist deserved the lambasting that he got.

B.J.—(throws up both his arms in mute despair)—There you have it. You are like all of them.

U.S.—Your "Christian" Socialist is an impostor.

B.J.—Yes, yes, yes; always calling good people names! Always denouncing those who don't think just like you! Always—

U.S.—A truce with your lamentations. See here: Would I be "calling you names" if you declared you were as thin as a rail and I said you were a liar?

B.J.—No.

U.S.—Why not?

B.J.—Because I am just the opposite of "thin as a rail."

U.S.—For the same reason your "Christian" Socialist is an imposter.

B.J.—How so?

U.S.—Why do you imagine he calls himself a "Christian" Socialist?

B.J.—Because he is a Christian first, and would have Christian methods to bring

about the change.

U.S.—And what are those Christian methods?

B.J.—Sermons, good example and constant preaching of the Good Word.

U.S.—In other words, he holds out the idea that Socialism should be brought on by the methods that Christianity was brought on, eh?

B.J.—(rejoiced)—Just so!

U.S.—And it is for just saying that and then preaching the gospel of “sermons and declamations” as the means of bringing on Socialism that I call him an impostor.

B.J.—That’s wrong!

U.S.—Let’s see. Just answer me this question: Do you imagine we would have Christianity to-day if only sermons and declamations had been used to introduce it?

B.J. looks stumped.

U.S.—The most absurd name to take by those who denounce the tactics of the Socialist Labor Party as violent, is “Christian Socialist.” Christianity had to be sabred into the heads of the “heathens;” Charles, named the Great, had 30,000 of them killed to clear the way for his Christianity; it was with sword in hand, and in full armor, that Constantine, before him, hewed the path for his Christianity; it was fire, and sword, and carnage that laid the foundation for the Christian structure of brotherly love. The Socialist Labor Party may or may not be right in its tactics; I leave that aside for the present; but it is the height of impostorship to denounce these tactics as harsh, and then to preach the tactics of the “Christian Socialists” Christianity.

These people are doubly impostors—

B.J.—But—

U.S.—These people are doubly impostors. They are impostors in that they insinuate false history; and they are impostors in that they know that the capitalist hyenas would want nothing better than to have the Socialist Labor Party “preach” and act like a moon calf; preach and let the capitalists in quiet enjoyment of their ill gotten powers. That’s why I call them impostors. Now, what have you got to say?

B.J.—(After a long pause)—They are impostors.

U.S.—Might is the midwife of Right, and the upholder of Right. Be you ever so right, if you have not the might to enforce it, or, having such might, won’t use it, Wrong will trample on you. But this much I tell you, I would not be marching towards the Socialist

Republic with the happy heart that I do, if I imagined that its enforcement would require the carnage that the enforcement of Christianity has required. Fie upon the oily tongued, double faced “Christian Socialist” denouncers of the S.L.P.

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