

The People.

VOL. I, NO. 11.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1891.

PRICE 3 CENTS.

DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {2-5}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—Did you know the promenade on the Brooklyn Bridge had been thrown open, free to the public?

UNCLE SAM—I did.

B.J.—But that's a very good thing for the people.

U.S.—Yes, indeed.

B.J.—But the bridge is owned and operated by the people; and I notice the daily papers declare the ownership of the railroads by the people a bad thing.

U.S.—So indeed it is, Brother Jonathan; so, indeed, it is for the masters of those papers—the monopolists.



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

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B.J.—What do you think; the *Evening Post* quotes Benjamin Franklin and praises him; it calls him a man of robust common sense.

U.S.—And so he was!

B.J.—I know, but think of it; Franklin denied the justice of private ownership in land.

U.S.—So he did.

B.J.—And Franklin decried the excessiveness of human toil and argued that, under proper organization, four hours pleasant work, provided all worked and none loafed, would suffice.

U.S.—Ben knew what he was talking about.

B.J.—And Franklin decried luxury as the daughter of excessive wealth and the mother of immorality.

U.S.—Right he was!

B.J.—But how can the *Evening Post*, the defender of every rascality and every vice Franklin ever labored against, quote and praise our noble friend?

U.S.—Well, that editor has probably only just begun to read up on Franklin; he has not yet come across those passages; as soon as he does he'll drop him like a hot potato, and then Franklin will go the way of Jefferson, of Madison and of the Constitution and the laws of the land.

B.J.—Oh, that's it!

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B.J.—Did you notice the pack of lies in the *Sun* on Socialism?

U.S.—I did.

B.J.—Where it says the individual would have no rights, notwithstanding the well-proven fact that it is under capitalism that his individuality is swallowed up?

U.S.—I did.

B.J.—And where it says the masses would become helpless, imbruted and ferocious, notwithstanding that is just what capitalism makes out of them.

U.S.—I did.

B.J.—And where it says—

U.S.—Yes, I read it all.

B.J.—And you are not shocked at such beastly exhibition of journalism?

U.S.—Not a bit. That same writer can be bought for \$5, if not for a drink, to write as beastly an article on the other side. The capitalistic press, Brother Jonathan, the New York *Sun* especially, has become the strumpet of Capitalism. Whosoever pays her can have her.

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B.J.—I am amused, I feel like laughing, for once.

U.S.—What about?

B.J.—Why, Henry George claims his silly single tax is at the bottom of the stupendous social movement that is now seething throughout the world, and against

which the Pope issued his encyclical.

U.S.—Well, it is funny. It is the old fable of the fly on the wheel.

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Uploaded October 2007

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