

# The People.

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DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {66-67}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**B**ROTHER JONATHAN—If these papers keep it up this way they will yet make my head spin like a top.

UNCLE SAM—Why, what, how?

B.J.—See here. This paper tells how the decision “in favor of star chamber proceedings to investigate the Senate scandals is receiving sound condemnation,” and that “the whole country has the right to know what its servants are doing.”

U.S.—I would call that good.

B.J.—So would I, if only this same paper did not the other day spew its indignation upon the man through whom the disgraceful extradition treaty with Russia became public. At that time this same paper declared: “State papers are secret papers and should not be opened to every inquisitive eye. The Senate considered the treaty in secret session. Whoever revealed the secret of that session has been guilty of a gross violation of law.”

U.S.—(Shrugs his shoulders and winks with the left eye.)

B.J.—Now, look you here. King Alexander of Servia overthrew the established government; this paper says upon that subject: “The free constitution that Servia enjoyed has been thrown overboard by a tyrant, who places in its stead the old constitution of 1869, under which the suffrage becomes a mockery, seeing that the King has the power to appoint one-third of the deputies.”

U.S.—I would call that too good.

B.J.—So would I; If only this blasted paper did not in this same issue propose a



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virtual disfranchisement of the people by means of rare elections, and a pile of property qualifications for the electors.

U.S.—(Shrugs his shoulders and winks with the right eye.)

B.J.—Now, look at this: here is a paper that announces in notes of joy that the owners of Pennsylvania mines are trying to replace their striking American miners with Italians; and that they have already contracted for 1,000 Italians to be put immediately into the mines.

U.S.—I admire the frankness of the statement.

B.J.—(Getting angry)—Why, I, too, “admire” the “frankness” of the statement; but it is not the question. Here is this same paper talking up A.P.A.-ism, and declaring that “America must be for Americans, cleansed forever and forever of the blot of European hoodlumism.”

U.S.—(Grunts audibly; shrugs his shoulders, winks with both eyes, and shuts them both up.)

B.J.—Then, also, here is this other paper. It pompously announced the other day that in this country the people were all equal. “Here,” it said, “capital and labor are on the same footing; whatever their relations may be elsewhere to the law of the land, here they are the peers of each other, standing on a perfect equality before the American Constitution, and the laws that emanate from it.”

U.S.—(Throwing open both his eyes)—That’s a damned lie!

B.J.—I am waking you up, am I? Now, look at this choice little item in this same paper: “About twenty-five coal operators were present at the meeting in the Supreme Court rooms this morning.”

U.S.—If it had been twenty-five coal miners—

B.J.—They should not have been allowed inside.

U.S.—Or, if they had got inside, they would have been fired out heels over head.

B.J.—Just so. In one breath this paper declares the workers and the idlers, labor and capital, are peers before the law, and in another—

U.S.—It proves they are not; is that it?

B.J.—And is not that, are not such contradictions enough to make a man’s head spin?

U.S.—Well, they are tough. But look you here, Brother Jonathan, if you keep up that way, thinking close, keeping your eyes open, watching the lies of the capitalists, taking notice of the way the working people are treated; if you cultivate that habit your eyes will peer through all the sophistries of American capitalism, and you will become a red-hot Socialist.

B.J.—Guess I am getting to be one fast.

U.S.—Every intelligent man is!

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BROTHER JONATHAN—Bourke Cockran is giving us news.

UNCLE SAM—And what may that be?

B.J.—He says Michael Augustine Archbishop Corrigan is a patriot; that in the whole citizenship of the United States no better patriot could be found than he.

U.S.—That is news.

B.J.—Bourke Cockran, the Crokerite, thus vouches for Corrigan.

U.S.—But who will vouch for Bourke, the Crokerite?

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