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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {164}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—I have it here straight; you Socialists might as well give up the fight. You haven't a ghost of a show to succeed.

UNCLE SAM—Quite sure?

B.J.—Quite!

U.S.—What makes you feel so sure?

B.J.—Look ye here. Judge Grosscup delivered last month an oration to the students of Wittenberg College in Springfield, O.; and there he said quite emphatically: "There is no hope in any kind of Socialism; as a remedy it is unscientific, and, what is much more, impractical." That settles it; he is an intelligent man.

U.S.—Hem!

B.J.—Don't that settle it?

U.S.—Let's see. Do you remember what our traitor Tories used to say when our Revolutionary war was on?

B.J.—They said a good many devilish things.

U.S.—One of the things they said was: "The rebel colonists cannot succeed; their scheme is unpractical, it is besides ungodly to raise shrewd steel against the Deputy anointed of the Lord." Did that "settle it"?

B.J.—Not much it did.

U.S.—The "unpractical" and "ungodly" Revolutionary Fathers shot into shreds the



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opinion of the traitor Tories, eh?

B.J. (enthusiastically)—They did, by Jericho!

U.S.—And do you remember what the copperhead slave holders¹ used to say about the abolition movement?

B.J.—The darned rascals!

U.S.—What they said was: “Abolitionism will never triumph on our American soil; it is against all the laws of nature and of man, and has the direct sanction of God.”—Did that “settle it”?

B.J.—“Settle it”?! How could such ranting settle anything.

U.S.—The North walked down upon the copperhead South and trampled slavery out, eh?

B.J.—Clean out.

U.S.—Now, Jonathan, was it ignorant, or uneducated people who pronounced our Revolution and our republican project “unpractical”? Was it dunces and the lowly who declared abolitionism “unnatural”?

B.J.—Why, no; they were very cultured and educated people. Take them on the whole they had more book-learning than there was on the other side of the question.

U.S.—How do you explain that?

B.J. (scratching his head behind his ear)—Don’t think I could explain it.

U.S.—Then let me explain it for you. The Tory traitors who thought our Revolution to be impossible and the copperheads who roundly denounced abolitionism as unnatural were all people who had a direct material interest in keeping things as they were. The Revolution was harmful to those who had a “pull” in the court of St. James; abolition was harmful for those who owned niggers. It was, in each case, the interest of these people who spoke; and no interest ever believes the opposing interest {to} be possible, or godly, or “American.” So now with the Grosscups. It is not their intellect that speaks, but their pockets.

B.J.—Has he an interest in keeping Socialism away?

U.S.—Certainly. The Judges and all other officials to-day live from the hand of the

¹ [Copperheads were primarily Northern Democrats who sympathized with the South during the American Civil War of 1861–1865. By “copperhead slave holders” De Leon probably meant slaveholders in the “Border States” of Kentucky, Maryland and Missouri, which did not secede.—R.B.]

capitalists. If the capitalists did not keep these fellows in office they would have to earn their living digging potatoes, or drumming for beer, or peddling obscene literature, or doing some such thing.

B.J.—You don't say!

U.S.—To determine the chances of Socialism one must consider whether it is inevitable or not. It is inevitable. The capitalist system of production has eaten up its own head. It necessarily gathers all the wealth in few hands, leaves the working masses in poverty and places them at the disposal of the idle rich. Men will not submit to such conditions. Social order is established for the welfare of the people. When the people are held to misery by a social system they are bound to overthrow it. Progress has been made in the teeth of the Grosscupps from time immemorial; its wheels have flattened them up as it rolled over them at each recurring revolutionary epoch.

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

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slpns@slp.org