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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {269}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—Have you registered?

UNCLE SAM—Bet your life!

B.J.—And you will vote sensibly, I trust?

U.S.—Bet yer life, again!

B.J.—Bejabbers that means one more vote for the Dimmicratic party!

U.S.—It does, eh? Does it? Not much, it don't!

B.J.—Do you mean to tell me that, with all your experience of that bloody Republican party, you are going to vote for it again?

U.S.—Say I did, would that be more stupid than for you to go on voting for that equally bloody Democratic party?

B.J.—How can you say it is “equally bloody”?

U.S.—Because it is!

B.J.—No, it ain't!

U.S.—It isn't? Let's see. Here is the Democratic platform (showing it to him); and here is the Republican (holding it up). Read them. Look at them. What says this Democratic platform? It charges the Republican party with having done this, and having done that, and having done the other, and it charges it with not having done this, and not having done that, and not having done the other;—

B.J.—And those charges are true.

U.S.—Every one of them.

B.J.—Well, there you have it!

U.S.—But mind you; ONE thing this Democratic platform does not charge the



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Republicans with, and that ONE thing is the most important of all.

B.J.—And what is that?

U.S.—Let me “Yankee” you by answering a question with another: You knew Billy Tweed?

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—Suppose I charge him with having a bottle-nose, Bright’s disease of the kidneys and ignorance of the French language;—all that would have been true, eh?

B.J.—Yes.

U.S.—But all that would have been of little importance; the important thing would have been to charge him with being a corrupt politician. Now, what would you think of the man who would have charged Billy Tweed with not being a beauty, with not being healthy, with not knowing French, and said nothing about his corruption?

B.J.—I would say that he would have omitted the most important item.

U.S.—No more?

B.J.—Isn’t that enough?

U.S.—No. He would thereby show that he APPROVED of Tweed’s corruption. Now to answer your original question. When the Democratic party enumerates the deeds of the Republicans that are to be condemned, and it don’t mention other deeds that means that it APPROVES of them.

B.J.—Well, even so.

U.S.—Now, then, by condemning some of the acts of the Republicans and not saying a word against the Republicans for sending the militia and military, and the gatling guns on paper against the workers, the Democratic party attests that it APPROVES of such acts; its approval makes it identical with the Republicans on the only question that can interest us workingmen. It shows that it has no fault to find with the sending of the strong arm of the State against us every time the capitalists force a conflict upon us. It shows that the Democrats would do the same thing, and, indeed, they have done so. It shows, therefore, that the one party is as bloody as the other. You bet yer life. I’ll vote sensibly:—S.L.P. straight from top to bottom.

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

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