

The People.

VOL. IX, NO. 24.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1899.

PRICE 3 CENTS.

DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {303}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN (with a perplexed look all over him)—Would you have thought it?

UNCLE SAM (startled)—Which?!

B.J.—Why, this Ramapo Water Company's swindle of our New York City politicians.

U.S.—And did you imagine a Republican Tom Platt or a Tammany Dick Croker above such sort of thing?

B.J.—Pooh! No! What perplexes me is that they should have been at that swindle, scheming and getting it ready, at the very time when the Mazet Investigating Committee was investigating the city politics, hanging, so to speak, the corrupt politicians. Don't that perplex you?

U.S.—No, not a bit. You know, don't you, that not so very long ago counterfeiters and circulators of counterfeit money were hanged in England?

B.J.—I know that.

U.S.—Well, it not infrequently happened that at the very time when a counterfeiter was being hanged, counterfeiters were caught passing counterfeit money among the very crowd that was witnessing the execution.

B.J.—You don't say!

U.S.—People don't counterfeit for the fun of it, but to live; neither do politicians swindle for the fun of it, but to guard against Want. Want, or fear of Want are ruthless drivers towards crime. There is no way of stopping such crime but to overthrow the



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

social system that raises Want and Fear of Want into Social Motives for activity. Strain to overthrow the crime-sodden capitalist system and to rear the Socialist Republic.

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

Uploaded February 2009

slpns@slp.org