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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM AND BROTHER JONATHAN. {349-350}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN.—Isn't Bourke Cockran a great man?

UNCLE SAM.—Why so, "great?"

B.J.—You should have heard him last Saturday denounce McKinley!

U.S.—I can't say that a man in the attitude of putting his foot into his own mouth is a great man.

B.J.—In what way does Cockran do that?

U.S.—Four years ago this identical Cockran man ran through the country urging people to vote for McKinley as the saviour of the nation, and now he denounces McKinley as the destroyer of the nation.

B.J.—Why, that's so!

U.S.—That McKinley was no good the Socialist Labor Party knew then and said so.

B.J.—Well, the Socialists must have converted him. That's rather to his credit.

U.S.—It would be to his credit if he stood by the Socialist Labor Party ticket. But the same man who boomed McKinley, the denounced of the Socialists four years ago, now booms Bryan, the equally denounced of the Socialists.

B.J.—Did the Socialists stand up against both?

U.S.—Indeed they did! Bourke Cockran stands convicted out of his own mouth. With every denunciation of McKinley, uttered by him this year, is a conviction of his this year's pet Bryan. He shows himself either a man of no judgment or a crook.



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

B.J.—You are severe. But I can't deny that there is justice in your severity. A man can't blow hot and cold that way;—

U.S.—And when he does, he proves the soundness of the Socialists. The Socialists don't blow hot and cold. Their course is steady like the sun's. This year, as last year, they assert and prove the hostility of both Democrats and Republicans to labor. And the Socialists will hew along this line until the working class have conquered the public powers and emancipated themselves from wage-slavery.

B.J.—That's right! I'll stand by those who stand firm, not by those, who, like Cockran, wobble backward and forward.

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BROTHER JONATHAN.—What an awful fight the Republicans and the Democrats are putting up?

UNCLE SAM.—It's an awful fight in appearance only. It's a sham fight.

B.J.—Why, do you believe that the Republicans don't care particularly about electing McKinley?

U.S.—No; I don't believe that.

B.J.—In what way then is it a sham fight?

U.S.—In this way; that the Democratic magnates only pretend to be for Bryan.

B.J.—For whom else are they? Do you imagine they are for Malloney and Rimmel?

U.S.—No; I don't imagine that. They are for McKinley.

B.J. (almost falling over)—What!!!

U.S.—Just as I said. From Croker down to Paddy Keenan, from Boss McLaughlin up to Chairman Jones, these Democratic magnates are going to vote for McKinley.

B.J.—But what on earth do they put up Bryan for? What on earth do they go through the trouble and expense of putting up a campaign against McKinley? What on earth—

U.S.—Very simply. If they did not set up Bryan, the workingmen, seeing their bosses united, would flock to the Socialist Labor Party standard and vote Malloney and Rimmel straight. It is to prevent that that they put up Bryan. Bryan is a decoy

duck intended to keep the workingman{s} vote divided.

B.J. (scratches his head)—Well! Well! It never struck me before! I now understand why the Social Democracy, alias Debs party, alias “Hand with a Radish{”} ticket was gotten up. It was cute, wasn’t it?

U.S.—Not so very cute. As to the “Hand with the Radish” ticket, it will fail wholly. As to the Bryan ticket, it will only help to educate by contrast. The buzz saw of the fighting Socialist Labor Party will work its way through all right in due time.

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