

# The People.

VOL. V, NO. 50.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1896.

PRICE 3 CENTS.

DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {150}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**B**ROTHER JONATHAN—Wasn't that speech of Henry George's at Cooper Union grand against increasing our military forces, especially where he said "I'd sooner see all the cities of the United States in flames than our standing army increased"?

UNCLE SAM—And you are carried off your feet, are you?

B.J.—Yes; and you not?

U.S.—Can't say I was.

B.J.—That's just the way with all of you Socialists. You won't admire a good thing if an enemy says it.

U.S.—Enemy? I don't believe that in the whole range of schemers for Socialist support there is one who is just now fawning more assiduously upon the Socialists and trying to be friendly than that identical George. If for no other reason, he can't be called an "enemy."

B.J. Then why don't you enthuse?

U.S.—At what?

B.J.—At those fine words I just quoted from him.

U.S.—I'll tell you why I don't and no well-informed man does.

In the first place, I have heard this George utter just such words before, and then eat them up.

In the second place, because I know that George will play at the "Revolutionist" and at the "Law-abiding Citizen" according as the maggot bites him; that is to say, according



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

as he imagines it will promote his political vanity.

B.J.—Do you really think so?

U.S.—Do you remember how “revolutionary” his talk sounded before 1886 and some time after? And do you remember how limp he grew in the campaign of ’87 when he turned his back on those innocent Chicago men, called “Anarchists,” and declared that the courts having spoken the court’s fiat could not be questioned?

B.J.—I do remember something of that sort!

U.S.—Well, when he thought he could boost himself into popularity with the working class he talked radical; when subsequently he went fishing for the votes of the “respectables” he talked “law-abiding,” and as a traitor and a coward gave those innocent men over to the gallows!

B.J.— Well, did he give them over?

U.S.—Yes. You might not understand that judging from his present insignificance. It was otherwise in the campaign days of ’87. In those days George stood upon the towering pedestal of 68,110 votes. He was the most prominent man in the country and feared for his “pedestal.” A word from him might have saved those innocent Chicago men. Like a traitor and a coward he computed the effect of his utterances, and being in for “respectable” votes he went back on the working class and uttered the blasphemy that he did.

B.J.—By Jericho, I now remember it! So it was. And he was thrown down headlong and went to smash right after.

U.S.—And do you remember how, shortly after that, when a New Jersey judge gave a decision against him, in which only some money was involved, he, who just before, human lives being at stake, had bent ostentatiously before the “Law,” now pronounced the judge an “eternal ass”?

B.J.—Yes, I do. I see, after all the fellow is no good. But why is he now so radical?

U.S. (bursts out laughing)—Oh, you unsophisticated codger. Why, the fellow got the ’86 bee in his bonnet, and is now pulling the wires with the aid of every labor numskull he can get to boom himself forward once more. The fool imagines that the days of ’86 may be repeated in ’96! By talking “radical” now he calculates he can rope in people, or cause the capitalists to buy him off again as they did in ’87. He was then bought off with

promises that did not materialize. Not unlikely he is now calculating on recouping himself. But he can't take in the Socialists.

B.J.—But he'll fail in his scheme.

U.S.—Yes, he will! Jonathan, not the Judge, the District-Attorney nor the capitalist politicians who committed the judicial murder of Chicago got the heaviest part of the slap dealt out to the gang by Gov. Altgeld. The heaviest part of the slap fell upon the cheeks of Henry George, and he will carry the mark of Altgeld's fingers down into far distant posterity—the Judas of the American workers!

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

Uploaded November 2007

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)