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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {15–17}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—Is it true, as the *Sun* implies, that the Socialist Labor party looks into the daily conduct of its members?

UNCLE SAM—To a certain extent it is; and right it is to do so. It does not hanker, for instance, after pimps, “free” lovers and such-like riff-raff. When it finds them out, it is apt to kick them over board. This is rough on the kickees, but is well for the kickors.

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B.J.—What effrontery on the part of Lord Salisbury to claim that his Government has done much for the working classes!

U.S.—It is cheeky; but not any more so than similar claims put forth here by the Republicans and Democrats, both of which ride on the backs of the working class, and live off the sweat of the brow of labor. As Capital is international, so is Capitalist Cheek.

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B.J.—What a big row that was in the Central Labor Union last week!

U.S.—Quite a shake-up.

B.J.—And what a row is going on in Typographical Union No. 6!

U.S.—They are raising quite a dust!

B.J.—But what is it all about?

U.S.—Politics, boodle politics, Brother Jonathan.

B.J.—What, *Politics*? I was under the impression that politics was excluded from



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their platforms.

U.S.—Well. . . . yes. . . . and yet not so. The plain truth, shortly told, is this: Politics cannot be excluded from labor organizations. The very ones who insist loudest upon doing so, proclaim in the same breath a platform that cannot be carried out without politics; and they know it. But the “Exclusion of Politics” has come to have a special meaning in the mouths of the professional workingmen; it means exclusion of independent, honorable, straightforward politics to emancipate labor. This is tantamount to leaving the doors open for boodle or capitalist politics. As a result, rows and dissensions follow in the organizations, and labor is split up. The splitting up of labor is the policy of the capitalists. Hence the “professionals” want the “Exclusion of Politics”—it is money, or coppers, in their pockets. . . . Do you see?

B.J.—Yes, I see!

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

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