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DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {289}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—The Socialist Labor Party is good in many things, but it is bad in quite a few.

UNCLE SAM—Which?

B.J.—It is narrow.

U.S.—For instance.

B.J.—If a man don't suit it, they won't let him in.

U.S.—When the cholera scare was on, I remember you went home with your pockets bulging with bottles containing muriatic and all sorts of other acids; what did you do that for?

B.J.—To keep the cholera microbe out.

U.S. (with mock emphasis)—Narrow man!

B.J.—“Narrow” your granny! Do you think I'm going to let those heathen things walk into my innards, and rip me all up from within? Not much, I won't!

U.S. (with increased mock emphasis)—NARROW MAN!

B.J.—“Narrow” be hanged! Would you be broad enough to let them in and experiment upon you? I would not.

U.S. (with deliberation)—I repeat it: you are a NARROW MAN. That is to say, according to your own application of the term. If it is “narrow” on the part of the Socialist Labor party to keep out “cholera microbes” from getting into its innards and ripping it all up from within; if it is “narrow” on the part of the Socialist Labor party not to allow admission to “cholera microbes” and giving them a chance to experiment upon it;—if that is NARROWNESS, then art thou narrow too for not giving such microbes a



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chance. On the other hand, if you are not NARROW for not being disposed to afford such microbes a chance of rioting in your system, then, and for that same reason, neither is the Socialist Labor party narrow for acting, as a body, upon the same principle that you do. Now take your choice: Either you are as bad as the Socialists in point of “narrowness,” or they are as good as you in point of “broadness.” Which?

B.J. sucks his thumb in perplexed silence with a got-left-again-by-Jove look on him.

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