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DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {53-54}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**B**ROTHER JONATHAN—The A.P.A. is going to swamp the country.

UNCLE SAM—Not much!

B.J.—Why, its Grand Commander announces that the A.P.A. already has four million enrolled voters, that it will have seven million by the next presidential elections, and that it has already selected the next President.

U.S.—That fellow must have been trained in the school of “Pure and Simple” trade unionism.

B.J.—Is he a workingman?

U.S.—Guess not.

B.J.—How, then, could he be a Pure and Simplifier?

U.S.—Inasmuch as he can see visions that never will be realized, and can blow about the number of his followers like a patent bellows.

B.J.—Is that “Pure and Simplifiedom?”

U.S.—That is one of its features. “Pure and Simplifiedom” is distinguished for the coolness with which it will lie about its numbers. That is one of the points in which it is distinct from New Trade Unionism, which, not meaning to deceive anybody, does not lie about its membership.

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BROTHER JONATHAN—I feel puzzled about a term that I frequently hear nowadays.



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

UNCLE SAM—Which?

B.J.—“Non-partisan politics.”

U.S.—(After recovering from a roaring fit of laughter.) Guess it is a puzzling term.

B.J.—As I take it, politics must be partisan; but Harry White, Frank K. Foster, Terry Powderly, Gompers, Barondess, Harry Lloyd, Reichers and all these people talk about “non-partisan politics;” what on earth can they mean? Do you know?

U.S.—Guess I do.

B.J.—Well tell me; do tell me.

U.S.—It means politics after the fashion of Jay Gould. It means to be Republican in the company of Republicans, Democratic in the company of Democrats, Populist in the company of Populists, Prohibitionist (don’t smile), yes, Prohibitionist in the company of Prohibitionists—

B.J.—And Socialist in the company of Socialists?

U.S.—Exactly, and Socialist in the company of Socialists. It means to talk free trade to a free trader, protection with a protectionist—

B.J.—And free coinage with silver bugs?

U.S.—Yes; and anti-free coinage with gold bugs—

B.J.—And straight New Trade Unionist, or Socialist politics with enlightened workingmen?

U.S.—Yes: and “no politics” or, which is the same, crooked politics, with the “Pure and Simplers.” It means to be all things to all men, a veritable political egg dance.

B.J.—(On whose eye a twinkle had been growing brighter and brighter.) Is that all?

U.S.—(Not quite understanding the twinkle.) Isn’t that enough?

B.J.—No; I miss something; something that is inseparable from such political harlotage—

U.S.—(Clapping Brother Jonathan on the shoulder.) Why certainly, I forgot the essential feature, the very soul and spirit of “non-partisan politics,” namely, that is to say, and to wit: To cultivate a receptive palm for all the political jobs, crumbs, bones, etc., that the capitalist parties may be stupid enough to drop into it.

B.J.—Now I understand the thing!

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