

# The People.

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DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {125}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**B**ROTHER JONATHAN—I have been reading a book that has enlightened me a good deal.

UNCLE SAM—God knows you need enlightenment!

B.J. (*testily*)—Well{,} I did get the enlightenment.

U.S. (*looking sweet*)—Won't you shed some of it upon me?

B.J.—Certainly{,} here it is: The gold bug is the biggest thief out. He expends about \$100 on labor in his gold mines and he gets his stuff coined and that becomes \$200! How do you like that?

U.S.—That gold bugite is a skin.

B.J.—Good! The biggest skin out.

U.S.—Hold on! Not the biggest, but a skin just as big as all the other employers of labor.

B.J.—Preposterous! None does that sort of thing! None gets its good coined!

U.S.—Whether the others get their very goods coined or not makes no difference provided they get the coin.

B.J.—Nixy! None does that!

U.S.—Here are the census figures: For every \$100 that the shoe manufacturer pays in wages, his shoemakers produce \$200. One half or even more is stolen from them.

B.J.—What, in the shoe industry?



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U.S.—Yes. And for every \$100 that the weaving bosses pay in wages their workmen produce \$200. One half is taken from them.

B.J.—There too!?

U.S.—Yes. And for every \$100 that the coal boss pays as wages his men produce \$200. One half he pockets.

B.J.—Well, well, I never thought of that!

U.S.—And for every \$100 that the silver mine baron pays as wages to his miners, they produce \$200, one half or more is here again pocketed by the boss.

B.J. (*disconcerted*)—Hem!

U.S.—Thus you see that the gold mine baron, big skin though he is, is no worse a skin than all the other employers. They all skin their workers of fully one half of what these produce. The case is identical with all.

B.J. (*remains pensive*)

U.S.—If you understand that, you will realize that the one deserves being expunged no more than the other; that all should be quietused. Then you will begin to see the trees in the woods, so to speak, and you will understand that to overthrow any one of the skins you must have the co-operation of all the workers, and that to get that you must attack ALL the skins. Whatever book points out one skin, and sets you up against that one, and tells you it will be all right then, instead of spreading light spreads darkness. Dump that book that you were so proud of into the nearest ashbarrel.

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

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