

The People.

VOL. VII, NO. 32.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1897.

PRICE 3 CENTS.

DIALOGUE

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {228}

By DANIEL DE LEON

BROTHER JONATHAN—If I were two hundred pounds lighter I would skip, and I would jump, and I would turn somersaults, so happy am I.

UNCLE SAM—And why all that?

B.J.—Would you not be glad of the prospect of a good work and high wages?

U.S.—I would.

B.J.—And would you not be glad to enjoy personal liberty?

U.S.—No doubt.

B.J.—And that's why I am glad. Now that Tammany Hall has won, we may look to good work, high wages and personal liberty.

U.S.—As to "personal liberty," will you be able to work when you like, and at what you like, now that Tammany has been elected, any more than before?

B.J.—Well—

U.S.—You will just as before have a job to be able to live provided a boss capitalist is willing to employ you, just as before, eh?

B.J.—Yes, but—

U.S.—And, as to high wages, will the election of Tammany stop the introduction of machinery, and thereby prevent the displacement of labor, and thereby increase the demand for labor over the supply, and thereby raise the price of labor, and thereby raise your wages?

B.J.—Well—n—



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

U.S.—Or will the election of Tammany destroy the machinery we have now, which causes the supply of labor now to be so far above the demand that wages are low? Will it, eh?

B.J.—No—but—

U.S.—Consequently the election of Tammany leaves the wages and the labor question just where they were before election. You will have no more personal liberty, and your wages will continue to go down. Capitalism deprived you of personal liberty and lowered your wages; capitalism remains untouched—Tammany or no Tammany—; what have you gained?

B.J.—Hem!

U.S.—Those, who like you are now happy at Tammany's victory, and the others who would have been happy at Low's or Tracy's elections, will find yourselves ground down henceforth as before. Possibly you may learn, but possibly you may have to die and make room for more intelligent workingmen, who{,} occupying the space you now occupy, will use it to better purpose than you do. In the meantime don't blame anyone but yourself if you starve.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded February 2008

slpns@slp.org