

# The People.

VOL. VI, NO. 34.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1896.

PRICE 3 CENTS.

DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {177}

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**U**NCLE SAM—You look dazed.

BROTHER JONATHAN—I feel dazed and dizzy.

U.S.—Hast been out aspreeing, and turned thy innards topsy-turvy?

B.J.—Not aspreeing, but my innards are rather mixed just now; at least the innards of my head.

U.S.—(with a suggestive twinkle in his left eye)—Come, lay thy head upon my buzzum, and confide to me your latest caper, or the latest brand thou hast been indulging in.

B.J.—I have not been acapering, nor yet asampling brands. I'll tell you. Can you imagine a thin whipcord wound closely around you like a top, and then whipped off?

U.S.—Guess I can.

B.J.—You would feel as though you had been spinning like a top, and would not be quite certain whether you stood on your head, or your feet, or on your beam-ends.

U.S.—That would be about my case. But whence all this thusness with you?

B.J. (shaking his head meditatively)—I'll tell ye. It comes from the way Bryan was beaten in the Eastern and industrial States, and McKinley elected.

U.S. (starts up)—Eh?

B.J.—Let me explain. In these Eastern and middle States, the working class preponderates overwhelmingly. Don't they?

U.S. (playfully)—They does.



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

B.J.—Now, then, all the elements that have oppressed, browbeaten, outraged them, stood solid for McKinley. The press that has hounded them at their strikes, the bosses who have lowered their wages and turned them into galley-slaves, the Governors who have sent the militia upon them to shoot them down like dogs, the Judges who have enjoined them of almost the right to breathe—all of these joined in whooping it up for McKinley. Meseems that should have been the strongest propaganda for Bryan wherever there was no Socialist ticket, and yet he was licked hollow. That's what throws the innards of my head topsy-turvy, and makes me dizzy.

U.S.—Naturally enough, because you look only at that side of the question. If you looked closely at the arguments of the Bryanites, you would see that they made the strongest possible propaganda for McKinley, and that they it is who really elected him.

B.J. (amazed)—You puzzle me.

U.S.—See here. If I specify to workingmen and tell them to make me rich and they will thereby fare better, if I preach to them that labor depends upon capital and that the more wealth I have the better off they will be, what would be the natural result?

B.J.—Why, you would have been talking nonsense.

U.S.—That's true; but that is not to the point. What would be the effect?

B.J.—The effect would be to mix the men all up.

U.S.—True again, but that's not what I mean. What would be the practical effect as far as the voting is concerned?

B.J.—I don't know.

U.S.—Don't you see that, if I preach to workingmen the theory that they depend and must depend upon their bosses for their living, every workingman who believes me will cling all the closer to his boss?

B.J.—Why, yes.

U.S.—It follows that by that sort of argument I may rivet my own workingmen to myself, but, at the same time, I rivet also the other workingmen to their bosses, not so?

B.J.—Certainly.

U.S.—By the same argument that I clinch my workingmen to myself I also strengthen the arm of all other bosses in their efforts to clinch their workers to themselves, eh?

B.J. (beginning to see)—Why, that's so!

U.S.—Accordingly, my argument, in preaching as natural the dependence of labor upon the employer, has for its effect to drive from me and my candidates all the workers whom I don't employ, and to drive them to the candidates of the bosses who do employ them, eh?

B.J. (smiting his hands)—Just so!

U.S.—Now, suppose I have only 10 workingmen whom I skin, and my political adversary has 100 workingmen whom he skins, where am I?

B.J. (strikes his forehead with the palm of his hand)—Right you are!

U.S.—My line of political argument would defeat me, lick me hollow, eh?

B.J.—Of course it would.

U.S.—And that is just what the Bryanites did. They thought they were very acute and practical, but proved themselves dull and most impractical. All the combined rascality of the McKinley supporters could not outweigh the effect of the Bryanite argument about improving the condition of the workers by first improving the condition of the employers. For every 1 workingman whom the silver mine barons and the middle class have, the McKinley crew have 1,000. Bryanism pulled to itself those ones, and drove out with a lash those thousands to McKinley. It dug its own grave.

B.J.—By Jericho, now it is clear.

U.S.—The Socialist position and tactics alone can wrench the workers from their bosses. When the workingmen once understand that their present dependence upon the employer is merely the result of a vicious system, and that the welfare of the boss means only the increased misery for the workers, they will not flock to the standard of the bosses' candidates, but will give these a kick and throw them overboard. Bryanism has proved that only the revolutionary tactics of Socialism can dethrone Capital. Is your head now clear?

B.J.—Yes; and not only that, the fountain of hope flows afresh. The sky is no longer dark overhead. I see the chance and with it the certainty of salvation.

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

Uploaded December 2007

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