

# The People.

VOL. III, NO. 40.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1893.

PRICE 3 CENTS.

DIALOGUE

## UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN. {25-27}

By DANIEL DE LEON

**B**ROTHER JONATHAN—I am glad to see the rich are trying to relieve the misery of the poor.

UNCLE SAM—What else would you have them do? Do you think they are fools altogether? Where would they be if there were no poor; what would become of them if all these unemployed were to die? Who would be there left for them to fleece, to work for them so that they may live in luxurious idleness? Of course they must do something to prevent these people from dying outright!

B.J.—Oh, that's the scheme?!

U.S.—Yes, and that's all there is in this "charity" of the rich. They will do anything in their power to keep the poor alive—so that they can ride them. They can't ride corpses.

\* \* \*

UNCLE SAM—Dick Crocker's organs are becoming truly funny. They claim the Socialist Labor Party is the cause that so many thousands are out of work!

BROTHER JONATHAN—But what reason do they give?

U.S.—What reason? Would you have them spoil a joke by giving "reasons"?

\* \* \*

BROTHER JONATHAN—It is horrible; it is horrible!

UNCLE SAM—What aches you?

B.J.—This low per capita of circulating medium!

U.S.—What about it?

B.J.—What about it? Why, it is the cause of all this famine and wretchedness that



UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN

prevails all over the land.

U.S.—How do you make that out?

B.J.—It is plain. See here; the per capita of circulating medium is \$19 and some say it is even less. Is it any wonder people are starving?

U.S.—I don't see the connection.

B.J.—You don't? Well I do. The per capita should be raised to \$50 or more.

U.S.—Would that help you any?

B.J.—Of course, am I not better off with \$50 than with only \$19 in my pockets?

U.S.—What is the per capita of wealth—of hats, coats, shoes, food, houses, furniture, etc.—in the land?

B.J.—I understand it is about \$1,500.

U.S.—How much of that per capita do you own, dear fellow?

B.J.—Well . . . not fifteen hundred cents' worth.

U.S.—Don't you see?

B.J.—I . . . do . . . begin . . . to see!

U.S.—All this per capita talk about money is arrant nonsense. Of course, if the total wealth of a country is small the per capita share that would fall to each, PROVIDED IT WAS EQUALLY DIVIDED, would be small; but it matters not how big the per capita share of each might be if he does not get it. You see how, with a tremendous per capita of wealth in this country, the per capita you actually own is paltry. The first and most important question at present is, not how to raise per capitas but how to get the per capita due to each individual into his hands. This is the rub, and so long as this darned capitalist system lasts and the Co-operative Commonwealth is in abeyance, the per capitas of wealth may be piled up mountain high, yet the per capitas actually enjoyed by the people will be small. Ditto, ditto with money. Don't let the silver mine barons stuff you.

B.J.—Well, they did stuff me, didn't they?

U.S.—Yes, badly!

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

Uploaded October 2007

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)