

THE DEMOCRAT.

MONROE, AUGUST 6, 1892.

Selling Chickens to the Legislature.

While the Legislature of Missouri was in session, a few years ago, a green fellow from the country came to Jefferson to sell some chickens. He had about two dozen, all of which he had tied by the legs to a string, and this being tied equally, and thrown across his horse or his shoulder, formed his mode of conveyance, leaving the fowls with their heads hanging down, with little else of them visible except their legs, and a promiseous pile of out-stretched wings and ruffled feathers. After several ineffectual efforts to dispose of his load, a wag, to whom he had made an offer of sale, told him that he did not want chickens himself, but that perhaps he could sell them at that large stone house over there (the capitol), that there was a man over there buying on speculation for the St. Louis market, and no doubt, he could find a ready sale.

The delighted countryman started, when his informant stopped him. "Look here," says he, "when you get over there, go up stairs, and then turn to the left. The man stops in that large room, and is now engaged with a number of fellows buying chickens. If a man at the door should stop you don't mind him. He has got chickens himself for sale, and tries to prevent other people from selling theirs."

Following the directions, our friend soon found himself at the door of the Hall of Representatives. To open it and enter was the work of a moment. Taking from his shoulder the string of chickens, and giving them a shake, to freshen them, he commenced his journey towards the Speaker's chair, the fowls, in the meantime, loudly expressing, from their bodied presence, and their sense of bodily pain.

"I say, sir," Here he had advanced about half down the aisle, when he was seized by Major Jackson, the doorkeeper, who happened to be returning from the Clerk's desk. "What the devil are you doing here with these chickens? get out, sir, get out," whispered the doorkeeper.

"No you don't though, you can't come that gate over me. You've got chickens yourself for sale, get out yourself, and let me sell mine. I say, sir, (in a louder tone to the Speaker) are you buying chickens here today? I've got some prime ones here."

And he held up his string and shook his fowls until their music made the walls echo. "Let me go, sir (to the doorkeeper), let me go, I say. Five large chickens (to the Speaker), only six bits a dozen."

"Where's the Sergeant-at-Arms?" roared the Speaker—"take that man out."

"Now don't, will you, I ain't hard to trade with. You let me go (to the doorkeeper) you've sold your chickens, now let me have a chance. I say, sir (to the Speaker, in a louder tone), are you buying chickens to-day?"

"Go ahead, at him again, that's right," whispered some of the opposition members, who would command gravity enough to speak, "at him again." "He'll buy them." "He only wants you to take less—at him again."

"I say, sir (in a louder tone, to the Speaker) was your picture, let me go—fair play—two men to one ain't fair, (to the Speaker and Sergeant-at-Arms) let me go; I say, sir, you put there (to the Speaker), you can have 'em for six bits—won't take a cent less. Take 'em home and eat 'em yourself before I'll take. Don't your hides, don't shove so hard, will you, you'll hurt them chickens, and they have had a level of it to day, anyhow. I say, sir, you put there."

Here the voice was lost by the closing of the door. An adjournment was moved and carried and the members, almost frantic with mirth, rushed out to find our friend in high altercation with the doorkeeper about the meanness of selling his own chickens, and letting nobody else sell theirs, adding, "that if he could just see that man up there by himself, he'd be bound they could make a trade, and that no man could afford to raise chickens for less than six bits."

The members bought his fowls by a poxy purse, and our friend left the Capitol, saying, as he went down the stairs.

"Well, this is the damndest roughest place for selling chickens that ever I came across, sure."—Spirit of the Times.

J. J. Johnson City Mo.

Health Insurance. A thin, cadaverous looking German, about fifty years of age, entered the office of a health insurance company, in Indiana, a few days ago and inquired—

"Is he dead in vat insurances do people's healths?"

The agent answered, "I attend to that business."

"Different prices," answered the agent, "from three to ten dollars a year. Pay ten dollars a year and you get ten dollars a week in case of sickness."

"Well, said Myrheor, I want ten dollar worth."

The agent inquired his state of health.

"Well, I fish sick all the time. I don't out to bed two, three hours a day, and to doctor says he can't do nothing more good for me."

"If that's the state of your health," returned the agent, "we can't insure it. We only insure persons who are in good health."

"At this Myrheor bristled up in great anger.

"You must think I'm a lam fool. You put ten dollars a year and you get ten dollars a week in case of sickness."

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