

world—(hiccup)—and no mistake. (Loud laughter.) He is the oldest sheep—(hiccup)—both dead and alive—(hiccup)—that ever was. (Renewed laughter.) I—I hope I don't intrude. (Ironical maaing.) It is my opinion that our worthy ch—ch—chair-sheep is dead-drunk—and no mistake. (Continued laughter.) No—no offence, I hope. I suppose I am as good a sheep as any of you. (Hiccup.) I am ready to—to—to fight any sheep here—(laughter)—or the chair-sheep, if he chooses—(laughter)—or every one of us, if we like—(Cries of bravo.) With these few words—(hiccup)—I second—to beg the road—(hiccup)—of the left hand of the motion—(hiccup)—and no mistake.—(Loud laughter and ironical maaing.)

The chair-sheep rose and said, that it had been moved and seconded that they should all go by the left-hand road, and asked if any one had any other motion to make. On this, *Bob the Adviser*, another young sheep, got up and said—

'Mr. Chair-sheep and Friends—I move that we all take the right-hand road. (Hear, hear.) Neither the mover nor the seconder of the other motion spoke to the point. The one said there was a great deal of fun on the left-hand road; and the other gave us a sample of the sort of fun to be had there. (Laughter.) But the question is not, whether there is more fun on the left than on the right-hand road, but which of the two roads is the safer—(hear, hear, hear)—the safer, not for one portion of the community, but for every class, condition, and age? (Great ma-a-a-ing.) The weakest is as much to be cared for as the strongest. (Hear, hear.) We ought to choose the road that will be the safer for the youngest lamb as well as the oldest sheep in this great empire. (Maaing.) Where the weak are free from danger, the strong must be safe; but where the strong alone are safe, the weak must be in danger. (Hear, hear, hear.) Now, the weakest of the weak may go safely by the right-hand road, but the strongest of the strong is in danger of losing his life on the left-hand road. (Hear, hear.) I speak these things, not from what I have heard others say, but from what I have seen. Though young, I have walked both of the roads; but the sheep who would have us to take the left-hand road, have never been on any other. (Hear, hear.) No sheep was ever hurt or killed because of its being on the right-hand road. (Hear, hear, hear.) All the sheep who went by the right-hand road got safely to the place they were going to. There are hedges on each side of the road all the way, so that no sheep ever goes astray. But on the left-hand road there are neither hedges nor dykes at any part of it; so that the sheep are never sure whether they are on the road or not. (Hear, hear.) The right-hand road is level and straight; the left-hand road is crooked and uneven. The road to the right is free to all—that to the left must be paid for step by step. If we go by the left-hand road, many of us will be killed; but if we go by the right-hand road, we and our lambs will get in safety to our journey's end. I, therefore, do most earnestly beseech of you all to travel on the right-hand road.' (Great maaing.)

This speech had a great effect on the meeting. After a little, the chair-sheep asked if any one would second the motion just laid before them, and there rose at once about a score of sheep, all willing to second the motion. But they all gave way to *Zaccheus the Earnest*, the oldest of their number, who, after the maaing had stopped, began to speak, and said—

'Mr. Chair-sheep and Friends—There are precipices on the left-hand road, where the bones of thousands are bleaching in the sun; and there are deep ravines and dreary wilds, where myriads have perished. It may appear strange that rational beings, such as sheep are, should thus destroy themselves. But the cause of it all is the singular kind of air on that road which makes the sheep first giddy—then stupid—then reckless—and then cruel. In this state, they kill one another, and throw their little lambs over the rocks. Then remorse comes upon them, and then they go down to the low swamps, where the intoxicating air gathers, and breathe it again. And thus they go on till death, or disease, or accident, puts an end to their lives. Let us avoid the left-hand road, and take the one to the right, where we can all travel safely, and where there are neither pits, nor traps, nor snares, nor air that steals away the reason of sheep.' (Enthusiastic maaing.)

The chair-sheep said, there were two motions before them, and he would now take the sense of the house.

*Young Hiccup*—'The house has no—s—sense.' (Laughter and hisses.)

Mr. Chair-sheep—'I call you to order, sir.' (Cries of chair, chair.)

Mr. Hiccup—'You are all an—an—an—ass—(vehement disapprobation)—and no mistake.' (Loud cries of put him out)—whereupon Mr. Hiccup was carried out and laid on his back in a dry ditch; and order being restored, the chair-sheep said—

'Brothers and Sisters—This is not a question to be trifled with. It involves the welfare of us all. Let us vote as reason dictates. I will put the last motion first. Let those who vote for the right-hand road stand up.' And instantly every sheep stood up, except *Old Rugged*, who would not, and *Young Hiccup*, who could not. The maaing rent the air again, and again, and again. The chair-sheep was about to declare the right-hand road carried, when he was called upon to put the left-hand road to the vote; and though there was no use for this, he was obliged, because of the clamour, to put it to the vote. So, after all the sheep were once more upon the grass, the chair-sheep called upon such as wished to vote for the left hand road, to stand up; and the only one who tried to rise was *Old Rugged*, but his limbs were stiff, and he expired in his attempt to get up. And though the sheep had been merry at *Old Rugged's* expense, they were sorry for his death, and made a neat grave for him, in the space between the two roads, and shed tears over the aged victim's tomb. *Young Hiccup* was reclaimed, and longed to travel by the right-hand road. The meeting, before breaking up, unanimously resolved that *Bill the Commissioner* should send a report of the proceed-