

**THE PASTOR'S RESIGNATION.**

BY L. EDGAR JONES.

The said pastor bowed his head within the altar railings; His hands were tremulous with age, his sight and hearing failing; For forty years he was striving hard to right away his fears; But yet his head was sore and sad and sought repose.

For forty years his tongue proclaimed to all salvation's story; For forty years to all who came he offered hope of salvation; For forty years the bell that echoed now from the steeple Proclaimed here his warning voice had tidings for his people.

But now the leaders of the church—an influential clan—Had called on him to yield his place to hold a younger man; His energies had long been spent, was meet he should retire.

And here was an easy way to members in the meeting—

Discouraging in familiar tones of change they were Anxious to see him to make remarks, although his heart was breaking.

But yet he spoke—as oft before—his voice aglow With quivering voice gave response to friends who offered greeting.

While his eyes faded, furrowed face slow tears were softly steaming.

A holy heart pervading all, as though an angel Had rested on them, as he rose to bid his flock farewell.

He spoke of memories sad and sweet, of dinn and distant days. Of forty years of constant toil, of pain and praise—

Of children reared by his hand—who stood before him still;

While some repose beneath the flowers upon the earth.

And his voice sank sad and low—for there his wife and child had left him lone to live his laboring life.

For many years they he once had known, who death the willows slept,

Than they who sat before him now, and o'er their memories wept.

For he prayed as fathers plead for children who had loved him.

But all once again joined in God's above above.

And then in voices replete with tones of love and fond caressing.

He raised his trembling hands aloft and gave to all his blessing.

The saddened people silent sat as he resumed his chair.

While rays of sunshine softly fell and played upon his white hair.

And rested there with light caress, as though a golden chain.

With "Rock of Ages," old, yet new—majestic, grand, and stately.

Well up the angel choir above its quivering notes prolong.

The people rose to be dismissed; their pastor turned still.

And suddenly stood upon the graves that crowned the distant hill;

But when they sought with gentle touch to lay them, they found that death had called him hence; their pastor had resigned.

**OUR NEIGHBORS.**

Go where you will in Southwestern Kansas, there is almost always a coyote or two or far away. And when one of these animals begins howling at night, or just before daybreak in the morning, a person not accustomed to their noise would think there were a dozen of them, for every coyote is so gifted that he howls in a sharp, three-folded voice; first a yelp, then a falsetto howl, then a dog-like bark, and then all three at once, blended in one wild outcry.

The sudden bursting forth of these cries in the silence of the night is at once startling and incomparably doleful. The first time I heard them, the wild, dissonant, doleful sounds fairly made my heart sink. It was the night after we were on to the new stock farm, and, being late, I was obliged to stop for the night.

One gets used to their noise, and, strange as it may seem, sometimes actually comes to enjoy it. If one of these animals is about, you always know, at least, when to get up in the morning; for a daybreak Mr. Mayo is pretty sure to lift up his many melodious voices in a long polyglot howl. It is the cock-of-the-pains.

The Kansas coyotes—and coyotes are not always the same along the West, I am told—always seem to be in the middle-temperate between the gray fox and the timber wolf. They remind one of the fox, not only in their rusty gray coats, but in their movements and habits; and yet they seem somewhat wolfish.

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The coyotes did not come back to their holes. Perhaps we had made it too damp for his health. He used still to call on us nights, and, take what was left unprotected. We got a glimpse of him now and then, and, after a time, he had settled in a large hole, on the opposite side of the creek, half a mile apart.

He had crawled and trampled each other.

We had a small stove, with a funnel ten or twelve feet high, and a big storm set on it, to keep the wind from blowing it over. We should never have made a "dig-out" at all, but for a tornado, which tore the "schooner" in pieces, toward the last of the second spring we were there.

About a hundred rods farther up the creek, in the bluf-like bank, a coyote had his burrow. It was a hole some-what like that made by a fox, a little larger, perhaps, and there were three or four entrances leading into it.

One of these entrances, or outlets, was the very top of the bank, where the crevices crept up the head and took a survey of the vicinity. Another was down the side of the bank, a kind of back-door, opening toward the water; and still another emerged beside a rock, twenty yards or more, further up the bank.

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Zoë left us in the latter part of June. Where we went we did not know; nor did we know where he was going. But we learned afterward that he went to Las Animas, and after a time got a job digging holes for telegraph-posts, along the new railway, not very far from that place.

They had a way of digging these holes that may be new to one. Instead of putting an Irishman to work with a spade, they sent one man along with an iron crow, to punch holes in the ground three feet and a half deep, at the places where the poles were to be set.

Behind the man with the crowbar came a second man with a bucketful of dynamite cartridges. On coming up to a hole, he lighted the fuse of a cartridge, dropped it to the bottom of the hole—and moved on.

Presently there came an explosion, which blew out the earth all about the hole, leaving a pit as big as a flour barrel. The men with the posts had now only to heel them in and fill in the dirt.

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