



the parish who sided with the reforming element. Mr. Davis was ambitious for Tilbury and all in it, and he prided himself somewhat on being able to entertain new ideas...

My mind wanders back to that time when as a child I listened to the stentorian tenor voice leading the singing from the choir loft of the ancient Congregationalist church.

The years turned steadily along and Hezekiah overcame every difficulty that choir leaders are subjected to. He pacified the jealous sopranos, raised up new basses, sung four consecutive Sundays all alone when the choir deserted him in high disunion because he refused to approve of a new anthem book...

The first manifestation of revolution came in a division of opinion in the parish over the choice of a new organ. Mr. Spenser had begun to feel that he was somewhat in the way, and he resigned before the people were fully aware that they wanted to have a new voice.

"I know," he said; "you don't want to tell me I'm too old. But, praise the Lord! I'll not stand in the way of the parish's good. I resign right here."

The celebration of the kindly festival began with a musical service on Christmas eve. The new quartet was in place and Hezekiah sang to the accompaniment of the organ...

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into a row. He sat down in the darkness a long time, his head sunk forward in his hands. A half-hour may be passed, before he sprang up, with determined step to the choir loft, and up the stairs to the organ gallery. He found a match in his pocket and lit the lamp that hung near the bench, where Hezekiah for more than fifty years had sung God's praises and caught the voices and spirits of the congregation with him.

Hezekiah looked about the bench in vain for the book he had placed there. He glanced at the clock. Taking the lamp from the bench he looked to the door, and presently drew forth the ancient collection of anthems, every tune in which he knew by heart, so sacred to him, and yet so speedily hidden away where it should serve nobody.

At last he sank into a chair, and with a great pang at the heart he saw upon the bench beside the volume of new-fangled tunes a little book of manuscript music. When he was a young man of not more than 50 Hezekiah had taken it into his head that he would write music, and the several anthems that he had composed in pure harmony, but with crude progressions, had been laboriously copied into books, and had been used occasionally ever since in church service.

Now that the chorister knew that there was a feeling that his services were not required, the parish committee hoped that he would relieve them of discomfort by resigning voluntarily; but weeks passed and Hezekiah retained his place without a word. So at last it was determined that he must be approached in a Christian, neighborly spirit, and induced to consider the matter in the right light.

"Feel'n' tolerable well these days, 'Kiah! Hay!" "I've been enjoy'n' good health all summer, Mr. Davis," responded Hezekiah with dignified severity.

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Perrin's Odontine advertisement (repeated): 'For cleaning and preserving the Teeth, rendering them beautiful...'.

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