

CONTENTS

Publisher's Note, 9
An Introduction by Jim Moloney, 11
About the Man from Corpus Christi, 13
About the Author, 19
Corpus Christi, Texas in 1887, 22
Camp on the Nueces, 23
Map of Priour & Peirce's Travels Through South Texas, 27

ABSALOM, 25

IN WHICH WE GET ACQUAINTED, 27
Nueces Flats—In a Labyrinth—Crossing the Ferry

"I'M FROM CORPUS CHRISTI", 33
Our Initial Catastrophe—Absalom is a Snooker—Burrowing Owls
"I'm From Corpus Christi"—We Evacuate—The Valiant Absalom

IN WHICH WE BUY SOAP, 41

Absalom's Wonderful Memory—Papalote—A Mysterious Substance
Absalom on Guard—A Chance for Talk—A Bird Haunt

IN WHICH ABSALOM FINDS THE STEW PAN, 49
The San Antonio Bottoms—Where They Live on Air & Water
One Way to Climb a Tree—Mr. Priour Weeps for His Pet

THE EPISODE OF THE SOAP, 55

Pigs in the Tent at Midnight—Absalom Bears Scars of Conflict
An Adventure with a Cake of Soap—Mr. Priour in Distress
A Rare Bird Up a Tree—He Does Not Bring the Bird

THE RETURN OF THE MISSING, 63

Tells a Straight Story—A Ferocious Canine—Perhaps a Pterodactyle?
Absalom as a Collector

PLOUGHING A STRAIGHT FURROW, 69

"Texana's About That Range"

RUNNING DOWN SOMETHING ALIVE, 71

Wanted to Converse—An Appetite Unappeasable—Absalom Helped—In the Dark
Conchoway Creek—We Turn Bridge Engineers—The Knowing Absalom

IN WHICH WE COLLECT BRIDGE TOLL, 83

We Post as Inspectors—We Take Toll—Absalom is Fastened
Mr. Priour in a New Role—Absalom's Lost Opportunity

LOOKING FOR STRAYED HORSES, 89

I Shoot a Heron—Queer Place for Horses—Absalom Restrains Himself
A Texas Signboard—Priour Assumes Dignity—Always Take Your Hat Off

ABSALOM AND THE JABSSNAKE, 97

I Experiment

IN WHICH WE FIND OUR HORSES, 99

I Am Not Hospitable—We Find the Steeds

TALK AND COFFEE, 103

Coffee That is Coffee—A Feminine Accomplishment

IN THE CANEY BOTTOMS, 107

Lucid Directions—I Fall into the Mire—The Devil's Mouth
I Excite Levity—We Give a Show

IN WHICH I GO DOWN A WELL, 113

Caney Store—Taking the Census—The Lake is Elusive—In a Hot Place
I Afford Mirth—Mr. Priour Frees His Mind

ABSALOM SHOWS ME THE WAY, 123

I Conjure Up Terrors—Guiding Signals—All Well that Ends Well

A CANINE SPOOK, 127

Quicker Than Sight—An Expert on Spooks

I AM LOST AGAIN, 131

Mr. Priour Guards the Camp—Absalom Foils Us—Dodger is Rescued
We Sail Down the River—Bound for the Gulf

IN WHICH I HAVE A VISION, 139

Texas Mosquitoes—Smoking Them Out—Fast Goers

WE BUILD A FIRE, 147

Alligators as Retrievers—Our Little Lantern

JAM, 153

Snakes—The Much Enduring Absalom

A NEW USE FOR CHURCH BELLS, 157

We Strike a Mill Race—Columbus & Civilization—A Progressive People

IN WHICH WE RETURN HOME, 163

A House on the River—The Last Push of the Trip

A CRUISE ON THE MUD FLATS, 169

The Crew Goes Overboard—In the Doldrums—We Start Again
I Have Faith in Priour—The Chips Tell the Story—Steamboating

HARD-EARNED DUCKS, 179

Spider Tactics—How to Milk a Goat—Snakes Galore—We Dine on Turkey
I Heed the Lesson