

Was it Comedy or Tragedy?

J. F. Evans

On the Texas N W frontier, after the close of the Civil War and during the years that the Comanche ~~and~~ Indians made life precarious and herded the families of ranchmen into forts or towns that were far apart.

The hero of our sketch who had reached his seventies and given over active life, leaving ~~it~~ it to sons and ~~his~~ sons-in-law, to ride the range and protect his and their cattle interests while he rested from active labors and enjoyed the quietude and safety of a home among the congenial surrounding of a cattleman's towns and the distinction of being grandpa to the village. honored and respected.

In western communities where men were ten to one of the opposite sex, girls married ~~young~~ young, and single ~~and~~ women were led to the altar almost on arrival. Virtue ruled from necessity and scandal was a stranger to this village.

A railroad pushing its way across the state had built a metropolis 100 miles to the east to which grandpa went for medical treatment, where for several weeks he was subjected to bright lights and allurements. Whiling away dull hours, he visits its vaudeville, and taking a ~~his~~ ticket to visit backstage, fell into the hands of a charming Delilah who, pitying his loneliness, helped him to chase dull care away while she annexed loose dollars. But, the time arriving when he must return, he could not part from her. He devised a way to take her along and circumvent criticism.

She should be the niece of an old woman who lived in his village. In his buggy he and Delilah traveled to the last good town in the settlements, forty five miles from their destination, where she remained to come up ~~and~~ on the mail hack. He went home alone. Two days later on the hack, she had the company of a congenial young doctor. A lazy day together and he was acquainted with plans for her reception.

That's all. Wish he had finished this one.