The Old Parson's Story

Eugene Judson Hall, 1881, alt.

Edwin Othello Excell, 1884

♩=85

1. They say I am old and for-get-ful, My style is as slow as a snail; My
2. For fif-ty long years I've been preach-ing, I've stu-died my old Bi-ble well; I
3. I've seen ma-ny tri-als and chang-es, I've fought a good fight a-gainst wrong; The
4. My flock has been al-ways com-plain-ing, The church was not right-ly ar-ranged, They
5. And now, to my pain and my sor-row, They say, "the old par-son must go"; I
6. I'll try to be-lieve that what hap-pens Will al-ways come out for the best; They

doc - trines are all out of fa - shion, My mind is be - gin - ning to fail; They
al - ways have felt it my du - ty To show them the hor - rors of hell; Perhaps
gals have grown up to be wo - men, The boys have got man - ly and strong; The
vot - ed to have a high stee - ple, The gal - le - ry had to be changed; They
know I am child - ish and fee - ble, My steps are un - stea - dy and slow. They
tell me my la - bor is end - ed, 'Tis time I was tak - ing a rest; I've

want a more flow - ery preach - er, More full of for - give - ness and love, To
I've been wrong in my no - tions, I've fol - lowed the Scrip - tures, I know, And
hon - est old deacons have van - ished, Their pure lives have come to a close; They
built up a fan - ciful ves - try, They bought the best or - gan in town; They
want "a more spir - it - ed speak - er," I'm told the new dea - cons have said,
lit - tle of com - fort or rich - es, I'm cer - tain my con - science is clear; And
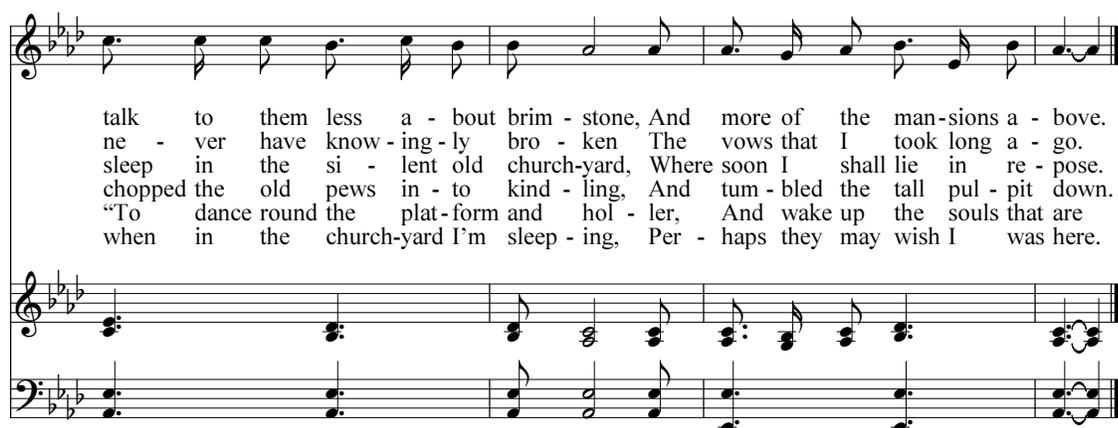
talk   to   them less   a - bout brim - stone, And   more of   the   man - sions a - bove.
ne -   ver   have know - ing - ly bro - ken The   vows that I   took long a - go.
sleep   in   the   si - lent old   church-yard, Where soon I   shall lie in   re - pose.
chopped the   old   pews in - to   kind - ling, And   tum - bled the   tall pul - pit down.
"To   dance round the   plat - form and   hol - ler,   And   wake up the   souls that are
when   in   the   church-yard I'm sleep - ing, Per - haps they may wish I   was here.