Weekly Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1875.

TILTON-BEECHER.

A Brief Resume of the Great Scandal Suit.

Exactly at a quarter-past 11 Mr. Morris rose to his feet, and, waiting a moment, like some adventurous swimmer on the edge of a vast and angry sea, launched out into his

OPENING ADDRESS TO THE JURY.

He began in tones so low, so calm and so passionless, that only the jury and half of the reporters heard him. Some of these latter did not realize that the trial had actually commenced until his voice grew clearer, and louder and more earnest. Then, indeed, there was a nimble scratching of belated pencils, so that, in a few minutes, the sheets began to fly like autumn-leaves. It is not my business to report or to criticise Mr. Morris' remarkable speech. I shall be content, therefore, to say that, when it began to flow in greater volume, gradually every intelligence was drawn into current, and then floated on its undulating rhetoric with serene attention to the end.

When the speaker's voice had shaken off the fetters of his cold, and melted into a fluent and resonant stream, it was terrible to see

THE HUNGRY ANGER

with which Mrs. Beecher stared at him. He was so lost in the contemplation of his subject that he did not see the kindling eyes out of which there seemed to flash a constant succession of lightnings. The wife would have palsied the lawyer with every pulsation of her hate; but the husband, thus terribly impaled, only grew redder and toyed with a note book.

IT WAS A HISTORIC PICTURE.

The father, on whose gray head the torrent of invective fell in a constant and venomous stream, seemed to be less concerned than the motionless Judge on the Bench. The mother, in all her fierce dignity, which a face so pale that the red flush on each cheek was almost frightful, sat like a Roman widow at the bier of her dead soldier,—a mask of deadly indifference veiling the anger and anguish of her heart. The son, now flushed with shame, now whitened with rage, now bent his head, now stole a glimpse of his mother's crucifixion. Framing this tortured household were all the other faces in Court bleached with interest.

However masterly Mr. Morris might sway that craving and palpitating audience, however fiercely he might hiss his fervid sentences into the eager ears of the jury, however terrible might be the laceration of the Beechers, there was one man

WHOSE FACE NEVER CHANGED

its expression of calm but profound sadness, whose eye never kindled, whose head never followed the gestures of the lawyer. That man was Tilton, as, revived by his counsel's ardent genius, the picture of his desolate life passed in procession before him, and he contemplated, lonely among his fellows, the ruin "which not even Almighty God can repair."

LITTLE BUNCH OF ROSES.

The court-room, or rather that part reserved for the counsel, was fragrant with odors of hot-house plants. For several days past, the table near Mr. Beecher's seat has been decorated with choice flowers from the conservatories of friends. A beautiful bouquet of violets was placed in a vase yesterday morning, and a similar bouquet was presented to Mrs. Beecher. The wife of Theodore Tilton had no sooner taken her seat, and removed the heavy lace veil which covered her face, than a member of Plymouth Church handed her a delicate cluster of violets and white rosebuds. The flowers were presented with a graceful compliment. That little bunch of flowers had a significance to her which few in the court-room appreciated. It was an intimation that she was still kindly remembered in Plymouth Church. Her thanks were expressed very unaffectedly. There were many present who smiled sardonically, and saw in the presentation an attempt to produce a dramatic effect, but such were evidently not her thoughts. The display of flowers on the "Plymouth side of the house," as it is designated by the spectators, was very marked and gave rise to many complimentary and uncomplimentary criticisms. Naturally, under the circumstances, when a magnificent and showy bouquet of roses, violets, lilies and albatus was brought to Mr. Tilton, it attracted the attention of the entire audience, counsel not excepted. The plaintiff blushed like an innocent schoolboy as he detached the cord attached to the floral tribute and read the inscription: "To Theodore Tilton, with the compliments of his friends." Immediately afterward a hat-box was handed to Mr. Tilton, and, removing the cover, he drew a bouquet if anything more conspicuous than the first. By this time the counsel and witness on the stand ceased to attract the attention of the spectators, and Mr. Tilton and his counsel were the principal objects of attention. The plaintiff had scarcely deposited his gift upon the table at which he was sitting before two additional bouquets were passed over to him, the largest one being for ex-Judge Morris. Mr. Tilton's face turned crimson, and a smile ran around the court room. Gen. Pryor moved uneasily on his seat, Mr. Shearman appeared much amused, ex-Judge Beach looked solemn, and Mr. Fullerton, although busy examining Moulton, stopped for a moment, and gave a quizzical glance at these sentimental offerings, which seemed so strongly out of place in the court-room. From one of the bouquets Mr. Tilton drew a note written on tinted paper. He read the contents with an appearance of gratification, and then placed it in his pocket.

BEECHER AS AN ACTOR.

"Mr. Beecher, with a good-natured smile and his usual genial manner, left his own counsel and stepped across the room to the table at which Mr. Tilton's counsel sat, and reaching across it, saluted Mr. Beach, and then shook his hand. Mr. Tilton, with a stern expression upon his face, stood at this moment within two feet of the clergyman, but did not look in his direction, although he must have heard every word that was uttered.

"'If,' said Mr. Beecher to Judge Beach, laughingly, 'if I get out from between the paws of two such lions as you and Fullerton, I'll believe that I am innocent, and that is what I came here to find out.'

"'You forget,' said Mr. Beach, pointing to Mr. Evart, 'the Daniel standing among the lions, and closing their mouths.'

"Mr. Beecher placed one hand on Mr. Shearman's shoulder, and the other on Mr. Evart's, and remarked in a jocular way, 'my lions are very harmless animals.' Then turning to Mr. Morris he said:

"'Let me present myself to you, Judge Morris.'

"The ex-Judge very coldly replied, "Mr. Beecher.'

"The pastor of Plymouth Church was not to be repulsed in this way, and continued:

"'I notice that you lawyers, like preachers, know how to deliver long sermons.'

"There was a slight tinge of sarcasm in Mr. Morris's tones as he retorted, 'Yes, sir; I had a long story to tell.'

"Mr. Evarts joined in the conversation at this moment, and playfully said:

"'Mr. Morris, I noticed that you expatiated only on those things which were against our side.'

"Mr. Morris answered in the same pleasant manner:

"'I thought you could attend to the other things much better than I.'

"By this time the counsel were surrounded by a large crowd of curious listeners, among the number Mrs. Beecher and several members of Plymouth Church. Mr. Morris was on the point of leaving when Mr. Beecher again addressed him:

"'Judge Morris, you should have come to me for a point or two. I could have "put you up" to some things which would have made your speech appear very different.'

"Mr. Morris made no reply, and Mr. Tilton for the first time shot a quick glance, in which mingled hate and scorn were expressed, at the speaker."

TO BE ENVIED.

The people to be envied are those who belong to Plymouth Church, and who have come to rally round their friend and Pastor. As soon as they enter they are taken in charge by a handsome and courteous old gentleman, whose button-hole is adorned with enormous tea-roses, and who seems to be master of the ceremonies for the church people. He greets them warmly as they enter with cordial words and hearty handshakings, leads them up to Mr. and Mrs. Beecher, and then provides them with seats among the three rows of chairs devoted to Plymouth Church. These chairs are placed in rear of the table occupied by the counsel on both sides. In the center of the front row is Mr. Beecher, with his wife upon his left hand. His sons are sometimes with him, and some times their places are taken by brother clergymen or by personal friends. Yesterday the place of honor on his right side was occupied by Jackson S. Schultz, who listened to the sparring matches between Judge Fullerton and Mr. Evarts with the keenest interest. He seemed to enjoy himself very much, indeed, and his jolly, robicund visage was lighted up by frequent smiles. Mrs. Tilton and Mrs. Field occupy precisely the same position as on former days, but do not now attract much attention, the public interest centering very much on the lawyers and the parties to the suit.

It was noticeable yesterday, that Mr. Beecher listened with the gravest, sternest attention to Mr. Moulton's evidence. On the previous day he had been careless and abstracted, and had given but little heed to what was passing, sitting with his head thrown back, his fore-finger meditatively on his lips, his thoughts being evidently afar. But yesterday he seemed in a more earnest mood. His head was erect, his eyes fixed upon the witness, and his features contracted to a frown. If his face relaxed it was only when his wife bent over and whispered something to him, or when he was addressed by some friend sitting immediately behind him. There was some comment upon this among the audience during recess.

THE TESTIMONY.

A letter from Mrs. Tilton to Mr. Moulton was next read, where she requests Mr. Moulton to return her the letter dictated by Mr. Beecher, and also the one to Mr. Moulton, "as they both ought to be destroyed." During the reading of these letters and subsequent ones, the extreme intimacy existing between Mr. Beecher and Mr. Moulton was made strongly manifest. Just at this point, when Mr. Moulton, interrogated by Mr. Fullerton, was about describing the meeting with Mr. Beecher and Mr. Tilton at his house concerning a letter of Mrs. Morse's, quite an argument took place in regard to the rules of evidence, Mr. Evarts and Mr. Beach participating, the latter deprecating the interrogation. The question sprung was, whether a sentence in the letter or the whole of the letter should be read. Mrs. Morse's letter stated that Mr. Tilton had made statements, the following sentence being the important one, to wit: "I know the publicity that he (Tilton) has given to this recent and most crushing of all troubles, is what is taking the life out of her (Mrs. Tilton.) I know of twelve persons whom he has told." Mr. Beecher, the witness said, had declared to him "that Mrs. Morse was a dangerous woman." After a long dispute over the admittance of the whole letter, the one from Mrs. Morse to Mr. Beecher was read. The conclusion of the letter stated that Mrs. Tilton was in actual want. In conversation with Mr. Beecher Mr. Moulton testified that Mr. Tilton was not in want, having money with his firm to his credit. Afterward, in conversation with Mr. Tilton as to the number of persons he had told his story to, Mr. Tilton stated that he had not told it to twelve persons. Two parties only were mentioned as having been the recipients of Mr. Tilton's story, Mr. Johnson and Mrs Bradshaw. Mrs. Morse, being a dangerous woman in Mr. Beecher's estimation, had to have a kindly letter sent to her. This letter was produced, where both Mr. and Mrs. Beecher are of a mind "to leave to time the rectification of all the wrongs, whether they prove real or imaginary."

CONTINUATION OF MR. MOULTON'S TESTIMONY.

Mr. Moulton was on the stand as a witness in the Beecher trial during the whole of yesterday's sessions, and his direct examination is not likely to end before the adjournment to day He and Mr. Fullerton, who was the inquisitor, were the only important actors in the proceedings. Mr. Moulton was dressed in broadcloth that fitted him, and was consequently, as to clothing, more genteel than in the gray business suit which he wore on Wednesday. His manner was cool, deliberate, and free from the nervousness which had before bothered him. He sat easily in the elevated revolving chair, sometimes folding his arms, sometimes crossing his legs, and at all times unconstrained in his demeanor. His replies were given with distinct enunciation, and loud enough to be heard in the gallery. He chose words carefully, stopping occasionally to select a phrase, but always making sentences in good English and apparently expressive of exactly what he wanted to say. Seldom if ever has a witness testified to so much in so short a time. He did not need the customary amount of questioning, nor much guidance, as he kept within the bounds of the rules of evidence so well that he was rarely interrupted by the opposing counsel. A single question was enough to bring one a whole chapter of scandal history, related with the manner of a man who understood the case in all its bearings. The few times that Mr. Evarts checked him for drifting into hearsay, he stopped at once, unruffled, and in nearly every instance readily put the disputed testimony in phraseology that could not be objected to. This legal knowledge was an aid to rapid progress and a saver of argument by the lawyers. Every document handed to him for explanation or identification was examined in a thorough business like way. That he was fully enlisted in Tilton's cause was no much shown by his bearing as by his readiness to be full and explicit in his testimony.

THE OTHER ACTORS.

There was little of newness in the gathering yesterday. Mrs. Tilton was there again with her father and Mrs. Field. She spent five minutes before the opening of the morning's session in reading a letter, and laughing with Mrs. Field about the contents. Although she and her husband were several times brought close together, there was no sign of recognition. She was a close listener to the reading of the scandal documents with which Mr. Moulton's testimony was interspersed, but the extent of her exhibition of emotion was a slight flushing of her cheeks.

Mr. Beecher was surrounded by his family—wife, sons, and brother—and influential members of his church. His demeanor was a marvel of successful suppression, else he is callous beyond belief. Some of the spectators thought that they detected in him signs of painful interest, but certainly his mobile face seemed unusually unexpressive to those who have often seen him in his pulpit. While Mr. Fullerton was reading his letters with remarkable power and pathos, he paid close heed, but often with a look of amused admiration.

Mr. Tilton's face was flushed much of the time, and his mouth was drawn—almost contorted—into lines of intense feeling whenever the testimony bore hard upon his wife. His play of features was an evidence of deep emotion or of clever mimicry.

The little talking done for the defence, with the excepsion of a single remark by Mr. Porter, was wholly by Mr. Evarts. Mr. Tracy was idle all day, and the rest of Mr. Beecher's lawyers busied themselves silently.

On the other side Mr. Fullerton often took suggestions from Mr. Pryor, Mr. Tilton, and Morris, and Mr. Beach occasionally joined in combating Mr. Evarts.

The Biter Bitten.

A dried-up old man, of apparently about sixty years, strolled into a billiard-parlor into this city, yesterday afternoon, and taking a seat watched the players with some interest. After he had remained in the chair for some time he was approached by a hanger-on, on the outlook for a greenhorn with whom to play and save the cost of paying. "Hello there, old man, do you ever swing the cue" said he? "Wal, stranger, I used to prance around a little on a three-cornered table fifteen years ago, but I don't s'pose I could hit the first ball on this new-fangled thing," said the old man "Well, I'm no player myself; you'd beat me easy enough, I know; just take a stick," replied the accomplished "beat." "Wal," said the old innocent. "I'll play just one game to see if I can "scratch," and they both "banked" for the first shot. The old man had singularly good luck, for he got the first shot and made a run of fifteen points. The other looked on in astonishment, while the player of "fifteen years ago" was at work, and when he ceased and counted up, the challenger muttered an oath, took off his coat and went to work in earnest. He made five points only, and the next time the old man ran out the game. "I swow," said he, "I've had the allfiredest luck; you will try another?" No, not by a darned sight, you old fraud!" said the sport, and he walked off to pay for the game amid the roars of his companions and a smile from the old man, who remarked, "It is strange how I remember to play so well."—*Binghampton Republican.*

Poor Pang

Newspaper high moralists are crawling out of the bush. Donn Piatt held out his hat and caught $6,000 of the Pacific Mail issues, and now comes the immaculate "Pang," of the Kansas City *Times*, with his hip pockets stuffed full of "preferred stock slush," gathered at Topeka. Pang, born as thou sunest to be to the good things of earth, "gather them in, gather them in.'—*St. Jo. Herald.*

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