

# A FLOOD OF LIGHT ON THE CHURCH SCANDAL

## Mrs. Thurston Reveals Dr. Brown's Relations With Mattie.

### PRESENTS, KISSES, HUGS.

### The Pastor Said to Have Squeezed Her Hand and Gave a Gold Watch.

### MET IN A LODGING-HOUSE.

### Mrs. Baddin and Mrs. Tunnell Traced Oakland Ministers Take Action—Opinions.

"You and God for it, Mattie," is what Mrs. Thurston declares she said to Miss Overman, when the latter mentioned her proposed trip to Tacoma in the company of Dr. Brown.

Mrs. Thurston, the Oakland evangelist, tells a startling story in today's CALL, which corroborates in every detail the charge made by Mrs. Davidson against Dr. C. O. Brown of immorality.

In a graphic way she describes Miss Overman and her professions of Christianity, gradually leading up to the alleged relations existing between Dr. Brown and her young friend, as confessed by the latter.

Mrs. Thurston says that she went with Mrs. Tunnell to the room of Miss Overman's sister, on Market street, between Sixth and Seventh, and there found Mattie and her sister, the latter being somewhat in deshabille.

"I was surprised to find Mattie in the room with a gentleman," she continues. "He was introduced to me as Dr. Brown."

"Mattie told me Dr. Brown gave her all the little attentions a woman likes so well. She said he would come to her room and build a fire for her and do other things, all of which Mrs. Brown did not approve."

"Mattie told me that it was necessary for her to attend all Dr. Brown's sermons as he could not preach as well when she was not before him."

"She also said she had been out on the beach with Dr. Brown; that Mrs. Brown had to go poking out there, too, and that some people did not know enough to stay at home when they were not wanted."

In closing her remarkable statement Mrs. Thurston declares Dr. Brown to be "one of the most hardened sinners who has ruined the life of an innocent girl."

It transpired yesterday that the Ministerial Union of Oakland is pursuing a quiet investigation on its own account into the charges against Dr. Brown. For some days this has been going on, but nothing definite has been learned of the investigations.

Since the first published story from Mrs. Thurston in Thursday's CALL the ministers have been decidedly anxious to have Dr. McLean meet Mrs. Thurston. Thursday, A. D. Coplin, a well-known lay preacher of Oakland, called on Mrs. Thurston and tried to pave the way for Dr. McLean to hear what she might tell.

Mrs. Thurston was not anxious to talk, and yesterday Mr. Coplin made a second visit for the same purpose. As Mrs. Thurston goes on the stand this morning it is likely that the ministers will not require further testimony than that given by the lady under oath.

Dr. J. K. McLean is the head of the Congregational Seminary, and is the oldest minister of that creed on the coast.

It is surmised that a certain amount of credence to the charges made against Dr. Brown is given by his brother ministers when it should be considered worthy of engaging the time of so busy and influential a man as Dr. McLean.

The preliminary examination of Mrs. Davidson will be resumed in Judge Campbell's court this morning.

### MRS. THURSTON TALKS.

### Goes Into Minute Details Concerning the Brown-Overman-Davidson Case.

Mrs. C. E. Thurston of Oakland is probably the only woman who knows the whole truth concerning the scandal in which Rev. C. O. Brown and Miss Overman are involved. Last night she consented to tell the facts to THE CALL representative and her story will no doubt prove a revelation to everybody on this coast, where the various parties are so well known.

Mrs. Thurston is a woman beyond reproach and is of middle age. She has, with her husband, been engaged in active evangelical work in this State for many years. From Eureka to San Diego Mr. and Mrs. Thurston are known as models of uprightness and as earnest Christians. Scores of ministers and thousands of reputable people would be only too willing to



MRS. STOCKTON TELLING HER STORY TO A "CALL" REPORTER. [Sketched from life.]

testify to the unimpeachable character of these earnest people.

It is from a strict sense of duty that Mrs. Thurston told her story. Every effort to induce her to speak had been in vain. She only consented to give her sensational story to THE CALL because she considered the time had come when it would become plain to a professing Christian, to hold her peace. She has known the history of the case since the fall of 1894, when she was residing with her husband at 715 Gough street, San Francisco.

"When I saw that the attorneys were making every effort to convict Mrs. Davidson regardless of the facts, for the purpose of shielding one of the most hardened of sinners, who has ruined the life of an innocent girl, I became agitated and decided it was time to speak and let the world know what kind of a man was being dealt with," said Mrs. Thurston.

In giving out the story which follows she explained that she did it out of a sense of duty and unrestrainedly with minute details that "there might be no chance for the guilty to slip out of the net which they have wound about themselves, and without any attempt to let justice be done to all." She said:

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"I next met her at the Friends' mission on McAllister street. After this she called at my house with Mrs. Tunnell and we formed quite a friendship and became quite intimate. It was some little time after this, how long I don't know, before I heard anything about Dr. Brown. It was during the month of a party of several of us were en route to the city."

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side of Market street, between Sixth and Seventh. She occupied a room on the third floor. Mrs. Tunnell brought Mrs. Ashby to my room, and I introduced her. Some days later Mrs. Tunnell requested me to go over to Oakland to visit Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Allen. I consented, and we started on Wednesday. We reached Market street on Friday. Mrs. Tunnell said she wanted to get an address from Mrs. Ashby. She took me up on the elevator and went direct to Mrs. Ashby's door. As she knocked, I started back rapidly. Mrs. Ashby appeared in rather deshabille, only opening the door a little. When she saw who it was, she said: 'Oh! It is you. Come in.' Mrs. Tunnell went in as the door was opened, and I followed her.

"I was surprised to find Mattie in the room with a gentleman. He was introduced to me as Dr. Brown. It was not later than 10 o'clock. It was the first time I ever met him, and I was rather surprised to find him. There was only one room. Mattie looked haggard, careworn and worn out. Mrs. Tunnell said to Dr. Brown she was soliciting for the poor. She put his hand into his pocket and drew out a silver dollar, giving it to her. She kissed Mattie as we left and told her to be a good girl. We left them all in the room as we found them."

"When Mattie came to my house on Gough street was one afternoon about 4 o'clock. She said she had been at the beach with Dr. Brown. I believe she added, 'and his family.' I am not sure, however, about this. She was greatly agitated and very nervous. She was usually so, and appeared to be greatly troubled. She made the remark, 'Some people do not know enough to stay at home when they are not wanted.' Mrs. Brown had her go poking out to the beach."

"When she departed I went to the door with her, and she said she had to be home and dressed for dinner by 5 o'clock. I looked at her and said, 'Mattie, you have lost that sweet smile of yours, and look like an innocent child's. Where is your Christianity? Have you lost all that sweet peace which used to shine in your face?' She replied, 'I think so, and dropped her eyes as I spoke.'"

"Mrs. Tunnell came to me after this and said Dr. Brown and Mattie wanted to know what I meant when I said to Mattie in Mrs. Ashby's room in the Market-street hotel that day. 'I told her to go poking out to the beach. I told her to tell them that I meant just what I said.'"

"About this time Mrs. Ashby joined her husband and the names of Eastern Nevada. I moved to 215 Gough street. There was only one room. Mattie looked haggard, careworn and worn out. Mrs. Tunnell said to Dr. Brown she was soliciting for the poor. She put his hand into his pocket and drew out a silver dollar, giving it to her. She kissed Mattie as we left and told her to be a good girl. We left them all in the room as we found them."

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MRS. THURSTON. [Reproduced from a photograph.]

ready I went to the door to go out and opened it. I was standing face to face with Mrs. Tunnell. I invited her in, and we three had lunch. Mrs. Ashby invited us all to her place for dinner. We went down and I went to the Mission. Mrs. Tunnell told us she was going to leave the next morning for Tacoma. We met in the evening at Mrs. Ashby's and had dinner together. Mrs. Tunnell stayed the night with a Mrs. Smith of Hyde street. She is a school teacher and was in town to-day attending the Teachers' Association. Mrs. Tunnell did not have anything to say regarding her trip or its purpose.

"Mrs. Ashby told me Dr. Brown was to pay all of Mrs. Tunnell's expenses while she was gone and \$10 extra. The papers the next day said Mrs. Tunnell had gone to Central America. Mrs. Ashby told me Dr. Brown had published that Mrs. Ashby went north herself about two weeks later."

"Mrs. Ashby told me that Mrs. Davidson was a most faithful woman, and a friend in whom Dr. Brown confided most implicitly. I asked her one day if Mrs. Davidson could be trusted. 'Oh, yes,' she said, 'she is an honorable woman and a good Christian. I never saw Mrs. Davidson but three times that I now recall, and what I say is only to do justice.'"

"I met Mrs. Tunnell often after she returned from Tacoma. One day in May last month she said Mattie had returned to the City and was attending Heald's Business College. I met her again in November. She broached the subject of Mattie by saying the girl's health was failing again. I asked her who she was and a friend in whom Dr. Brown confided most implicitly. I asked her one day if Mrs. Davidson could be trusted. 'Oh, yes,' she said, 'she is an honorable woman and a good Christian. I never saw Mrs. Davidson but three times that I now recall, and what I say is only to do justice.'"

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