

THE FULL PLOT IS TOLD AT LAST. Miss Overman Completes Her Version of the Scandal.

WHY MRS. TUNNELL LEFT On Account of Her Age She Desired to Avoid All Unpleasant Notoriety.

DEACON BARNARD A WITNESS. Dr. Brown Makes a Bitter Attack on Mrs. Stockton—The Crowd Expelled for Cheering.

Mattie Overman, the young woman who has apparently sacrificed her reputation in an effort to redeem the good name of Dr. Charles O. Brown, resumed the witness-chair at yesterday's session of the council.

The night's rest seemed to have refreshed this peculiarly important witness in more ways than one. Her voice was clearer and every word uttered could be heard with distinctness throughout the council chamber.

With an unconcerned air she picked up the thread of the unfinished story of the evening previous, running it out to the end with as much nonchalance and minuteness of detail as though she were relating some choice tidbit of gossip in a sewing society.

Miss Overman did not neglect the loose ends of a narration, but with much cleverness whipped them into line until, as she said, there was nothing more to tell.

Beginning at the point where she left off Thursday night—that is, her vain attempt to recover the Tunnell letters—Miss Overman said she desired it understood that Mrs. Brown had never heard the explanation she was then making, and, further, that Dr. Brown had not known of it until Saturday night.

Running rapidly over the succeeding events the witness reached that part of her statement when she first learned of Mrs. Davidson's duplicity. Quite by chance one of the men present, a friend of the reverend gentleman, she accompanied him to the church study. There it was all the horrible details of Mrs. Davidson's wicked act explained by the Tunnell letters.

Dr. Brown brought about this revelation as gently as possible by asking if she knew Mrs. Baddin. Miss Overman disclaimed any knowledge of the person, whereupon the pastor, then laboring under the excitement, said that Mrs. Davidson had secured \$500 for the witness.

Then it dawned upon her, said Miss Overman, that Mrs. Davidson had kept her there for a purpose.

The witness related how she had brought the alleged blackmail into the presence of Dr. Brown and with threats and tears induced her to disgorge her ill-gotten gains.

"You have it in your skirts now—give it back to him, or I will have you arrested," is what Miss Overman declares she said to Mrs. Davidson. Her knowledge of the whereabouts of the coin was explained by saying that she had picked up the skirt one day and heard it rattle as she threw the dress across the bed.

The young witness then told of Mrs. Tunnell's visit to Dr. Brown's house on Sunday following Mrs. Davidson's arrest. Mrs. Tunnell came early, remained the entire day, and after dinner, when the pastor and his wife had gone to church, the scandal was explained to her.

Tunnell declared that she did not care to be brought into the scandal; that she was old and infirm, and in order to avoid any complications, she would go away—far away from the home of a friend, and there remain until she was no longer wanted.

When Miss Overman had finished this recital she declared that was the end of the story and begged the council to postpone the cross-examination for a time. The moderator gravely acceded to the request, and so Miss Overman will not be heard again until next Tuesday.

At the evening session two new witnesses were introduced—Deacon Bernard and Captain Cook. The former said that on two occasions following the payment of the \$500 to Mrs. Davidson Dr. Brown had asked this lady to lead at prayer-meetings. Captain Cook, with much earnestness, said that the pastor had introduced Miss Overman to him and others as his niece.

This created a mild sensation, which the pastor sought to quiet by asking the witness whether he had carried the title of captain. The gentleman refused to answer this question, saying, however, that he would do so before a committee.

The sensation of the evening came when Dr. Brown asked that Mrs. Stockton be called. That lady not appearing the reverend gentleman leaped to his feet and in an excited but well-ordered speech told the council that he had carried the witness and what he hoped to do.

When he had finished there was long and continued cheering. The clamor had no sooner ceased than a motion was made to carry the case to the next Tuesday.

The council will meet again next Tuesday, when the cross-examination of Miss Overman will commence.

MISS OVERMAN'S STORY. It Was Taken Up and Finished at the Afternoon Session.

Dr. Hoyt of Sacramento, Dr. Brown promptly at 2 o'clock. Dr. Brown was not in his accustomed chair in front of the middle of the platform, nor was Miss Overman to be seen, but they came in while the scribe was reading the minutes, Dr. Brown coming across the platform to his chair and Miss Overman squeezing her way through the people from the east door, where she remained out of view of the greater part of the audience until she was called to the witness-chair.

any of the facts related by her until the preceding night, last Thursday. Dr. Brown heard these facts last Friday in the presence of Dr. Williams.

"I wish to say," continued Miss Overman, "that I came here of my own free will and simply through a feeling of justice. If I had not been heard before the council I would have made a statement of the facts through the newspapers. I was telling the truth, and never stopped one day about a quarter past noon and finding Mrs. Davidson there with her bonnet and gloves on. She said that she was going out for a little walk. She said, 'I will tell you my dear, I will be candid with you. I was on my knees praying and the Lord spoke to me and said that I should go out and see Dr. Brown.'"

"I thought that it was a remarkable thing that the Lord should speak to me. The Lord had never spoken to me. She had spent a good deal of time in prayer. I said, 'I don't think you will find Dr. Brown in his office at this hour.' Then she appeared and said, 'I will be candid with you. I really didn't think of that. We will wait a little while.'"

"So we waited about different things until near 1 o'clock, and then I went back to school. In the afternoon, and she told me that she had had a very pleasant visit in his office with Dr. Brown, and had met Deacon Morris when she was there. There was a great burden on her mind regarding the coming of the members of the Temple League with the church. There was a kind of a separation between them and she proposed to pray for Dr. Brown until the Temple League arrived and returned.

"She seemed to be perfectly sincere in her repentance, and I never doubted it. She talked to me considerably about joining the church and I concluded that I had better do so. I had a desire to lead a Christian life. Mrs. Davidson said that she would prefer for me to wait and go into the church the same time that she did. I replied that probably I would do so. I believed that on a Tuesday."

"On my return from school that day I observed that she was regarding me very closely—in a studied manner—and I said: 'Mrs. Davidson, what is the matter? You seem to have something on your mind.' She sat down by me and took my hands in hers, and said: 'I feel very much grieved at heart for your sake at something which Dr. Brown said to-day. Well, my dear, I told me that ever since you returned to this city you have annoyed him with your attentions.'"

"I said: 'You know that it is not true; that I have always been with you, and that I cannot be true. You know that I have not seen Dr. Brown unless in your company.'"

"Mrs. Davidson then said, 'I feel quite insulted about it, and I said that I also felt insulted and that I would demand an explanation from him. She said that I would not do for me to see Dr. Brown, but that it would be better to ignore the insult and to treat him with dignity. I insisted that I would see him, and she appeared to be very much concerned about my resolve and she made me promise that I would not see Dr. Brown in relation to the matter.'"

"Yes," added Mrs. Davidson, "he is very queer at times and a great many people think that he is not a very good man, and is not altogether responsible for many things that he does and says. Of course, you can reconsider your intention of joining the church, if you want to."

"Well," said I, "you told me that it was not true and that you didn't believe him."

"When I returned from school the next afternoon the door was locked and I could not get in. She opened the door and I went in. She said that she was coming right in when she closed the door in my face and said, 'Wait a minute.' As she opened the door I caught a brief glimpse of Dr. Brown inside. When she closed the door she said to me, 'I was having a private talk with Dr. Brown and requested me to go out and take a walk for a while. She seemed to be confused. I went out and visited a lady who had been with me. I was very much offended because she had closed the door in my face and I didn't know what she could have to say to Dr. Brown that I should not hear. She said she had been effecting a reconciliation between him and the church and that she felt that Dr. Brown was not at all times in his right mind.'"

"On Thursday night at 8 o'clock she put on her bonnet and said she was going out. I didn't have a suspicion in my mind that there was anything wrong until she said that she was going to Dr. Brown to see what the Lord would change her mind. She would apologize and take back what he had said about me."

"On that occasion she was gone about an hour, and when she returned she appeared to be very much excited. Her breath was short, and she said that Dr. Brown had just raved around his office and said that the Temple League should never come into his office. I asked her why she had been so much excited, and she replied that she must get a little fresh air by walking around the block before she retired. She went out and was gone ten or fifteen minutes, at the end of which time she returned and said she felt all right. I stayed home from school the next morning to hear what she had to say, and she told me that she pleaded with her hands clasped before Dr. Brown that the church and his pastor might be united."

"On Tuesday we went to Deacon Dexter's office, and I was there introduced to Captain Cook, who stepped in. I was angry with the pastor because he put his hands on the table and said that Dr. Brown had to go. I asked him if he was a member of the church, and he said no, but that he had influence, and that Dr. Brown would have to go. I tell this incident for a purpose."

Miss Overman proceeded to relate how Mrs. Davidson became more attached to the Bible. She said that instead of losing time for the breakfast to be served she would read the Bible. Miss Overman did not approve of this innovation, because although she liked to read the Bible she also liked to read the morning papers for the news. That was between November 22 and December 19."

Dr. Brown interrupted the witness at this moment to ask whether Mrs. Davidson's visit to his office about the Temple League matter was before or after she received the \$500 from him, and Miss Overman replied that it was after that event.

The witness next related how Mrs. Davidson had talked on the street with Mrs. Mason, one Sunday morning for about an hour on religious matters, but the witness had not uttered a dozen words herself on that occasion. Mrs. Davidson said: "I have proof that Dr. Brown has reconsecrated himself to the Lord." They did not agree, Mrs. Mason not seeming to be inclined to take Mrs. Davidson's word for it. Mrs. Davidson, on her part, thought that Mrs. Mason had showed a wrong spirit, and she said a good many things against Mrs. Mason that Miss Overman did not care to repeat before the council.

The next episode in Miss Overman's very minute narrative occurred about the afternoon of the 19th of December. It was between 3 and 4 o'clock, and she saw Dr. Brown in the school looking through the glass partition at her. She did not pretend to see him, and when it came time for her to go she went out through the California Market, and when she reached the corner of Kearny and Pine streets she found Dr. Brown waiting for her.

"I asked him to explain why he had stepped up to him and shaking hands with him, and I added, 'I want to have a little conversation with you.' He said, 'Perhaps we had better walk up Pine street.' We did this so, and he asked, 'Do you know anything about a lady named Mrs. Baddin?' I said 'No,' and he said, 'Are you sure?' I replied, 'I am positive; I never knew a lady of that name.' Then he said, 'Do you know that Mrs. Davidson obtained \$500 from me in your name?' I said, 'I almost screamed 'What a!!!' I said, 'What do you mean?'"

"We walked up the hill and I could not realize it—I could not grasp what he had said to me as a tool. Dr. Brown and I had seen her \$500 and he replied: 'She came to me in your name and the name of Mrs. Baddin and told me a story, and he repeated a little of the story. I asked, 'When did this happen?' He had been with Mrs. Davidson a long time and could not realize it. Then it dawned on me that Mrs. Davidson had deceived me about the plot we had made months before, and that she had kept me in the dark until she had secured the \$500. I said, 'I don't want to see you again. You mean to tell me that you paid Mrs. Davidson \$500 in my name?' He said, 'Yes, I paid it to her and I have her receipt for it.' I said, 'We will go and see Mrs. Davidson about it.' Then I decided to wait till the evening."

"Miss Overman then told about her going home and making up her mind not to say anything about the matter to Mrs. Davidson until the proper time arrived, because as she was guilty it might put her on her guard. When Miss Overman got home she found Mrs. Davidson very much excited over her late arrival, and Mrs. Davidson asked her, 'Where did you go and what have you been?' Miss Overman replied that she had remained in the schoolroom for some time after the close of school. Mrs. Davidson remarked that Mattie had delayed longer than usual and Mattie answered that she had.

"Then," continued the witness, "I suggested that as it was late we had better dress in a hurry, but she didn't seem in a hurry, and she let me have it. I asked her, 'Mrs. Davidson, when I am at home I am at liberty to go when and where I like and people don't usually say anything about it. I have a right to do anything about it then because I didn't want to spoil her dinner. I told her that we had an engagement to meet Dr. Brown in his office in the church at 8 o'clock that evening. I had been very excited, and I said, 'What for?' and I told her she ought to know what for."

"We got in the cars and rode up to the church, and when we had just reached the front of the church she turned around and said, 'I won't go a foot farther. Dr. Brown is crazy sometimes and might kill us.' I said, 'Of course, I would not think of letting you go in there alone.' We went in and we found Dr. Brown waiting for us. As soon as we got inside he said, 'Excuse me for a moment, while I see if the outside door is locked.' When he had gone outside Mrs. Davidson said, 'I don't like this locking of doors on the outside.' I said, 'That's all right. She looked at me and said that I had learned something which she didn't intend I should know. Then Dr. Brown came in and said, 'You told me all the time Miss Overman was in the plot with you, but that is not the fact. I want to know why you got this money from me and used her name?'"

"While Dr. Brown was talking Mrs. Davidson was as pale as death around the mouth and nostrils; her face was flushed and her ears were burning. Dr. Brown went on and told that three or four weeks before that time Mrs. Davidson had told him that she had learned that a woman of the name of Baddin and myself and some one else had told her the whole story that Dr. Brown and I had gone into a lodging-house; that this woman had watched us and had seen many things that she should not see. Mrs. Davidson did claim that she came to him as a friend to interfere with this Mrs. Baddin for Dr. Brown."

"When I heard this statement I was almost too indignant to live. I sprang to my feet and said to Mrs. Davidson, 'You have done a horrible thing. Have you agreed to go to Dr. Brown in my name?' I had believed all along in her sincerity in repenting of the plot, and the revelation made by Dr. Brown made me almost too indignant to live. I said, 'You take me to this so-called Mrs. Baddin; I want to face her.'"



CAPTAIN COOK IN THE WITNESS-CHAIR.

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went to Mrs. Tunnell's room for the purpose of finding and destroying the falsified letters, but none of Mrs. Tunnell's effects were there, so she went to Oakland, where she remained for some time, just ready to start for San Francisco. To Mrs. Tunnell Mattie told what Mrs. Davidson had done, and the good lady was very much astonished.

"I didn't know anything about any of my wickedness in the past," added Miss Overman.

She came to San Francisco with Mrs. Tunnell and had lunch with her in the Congregational Room, and after that, on that evening. The next morning Dr. Brown sent up his card and made a stop of only a few moments, explaining that he had merely called for the purpose of seeing Mrs. Davidson, and that he and his wife and they talked about Mrs. Davidson and her abuse of Mattie's name.

"That evening Mattie went back to the Pierpont, at 425 Geary street.

"I came home from church Sunday morning," resumed the witness, when she was interrupted by Moderator McLean, who asked what time of the month was it.

As Miss Overman hesitated Dr. Brown prompted her with, "The 23d."

"The 23d" inquired Miss Overman of the doctor.

"Sunday, December 22," returned the doctor.

"That morning Dr. Brown called upon her and she told him that if Mrs. Davidson was not arrested she, Miss Overman, would expose her to the world 'even if I had to go down with her,' she added. 'I should have been just the same; I should reveal her hypocrisy to the world.'"

On Monday Miss Overman declared to Dr. Brown, in the presence of Mrs. Brown, that the only thing to do would be to prosecute Mrs. Davidson. "Although I really hoped in my heart that she would get away," said the witness.

"The next day I called on Mrs. McDonald by appointment. She seemed very reluctant to talk, and so after a brief stay I returned home. Very soon Mrs. Brown came down and requested that I come up to her house. This was on Thursday. I am now telling that part of the story which I have already stated in the presence of Mrs. Davidson. On Saturday morning I went down to 225 Geary street and heard that Mrs. Davidson had returned. I at once told Dr. Brown, and he said that he would have to leave her arrested. I then called on Mrs. Tunnell to tell her of the contemplated arrest of Mrs. Davidson."

"Brown—Now is a good time, Miss Overman, to tell of the meals you took at the Woodhams restaurant.

"Woodhams—I think that is proper cross-examination and had better come in later. Dr. Brown—All right."

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"Mrs. Tunnell and I" continued Miss Overman, "when I was called on the door, where Mrs. Tunnell was sitting, and the landlady she did not know when she would return. We took a long walk, and I told her of Mrs. Davidson's contemplated arrest. The next morning the scandal appeared in the papers, and I was arrested. Seeing that the papers had it I called Vally, Dr. Brown's son, and asked him to take a note to Mrs. Tunnell. He readily agreed to do so, with the result that Mrs. Tunnell called and spent the day in my room. Not once did she ask me to go to her house. She decided to remain until Dr. Brown and his family came from church."

"In the evening we talked over the entire matter. She said to me, 'My dear, I am old and nervous and do not care to be brought into this. In fact there is no occasion for it. I can stay with friends in the country. If I can help you in any way let me know.'"

"Mrs. Tunnell added that her friend was some distance away, but she would truthfully tell where, so I could answer truthfully where she was. When Dr. Brown and Mrs. Brown were called about 10 o'clock Mrs. Tunnell had her hat on ready to go. She did leave a few moments later, giving me a good-bye kiss."

"On the following Sunday—I think it was about a week after she had left—Mrs. Brown, though I did not know his mission until afterward, Dr. Brown asked me if I had ever written any letters I did not care to have the public see. Without hesitating I answered, 'Yes, I had written like a flash I thought of Mrs. Tunnell's letters, and it made me sick at heart. When they were published I secured a copy of the paper, and after marking the parts marked, to Dr. and Mrs. Brown I returned to my room and thought, 'What on earth will I do about those letters?'"

"I was miserable and in despair. Then I prepared a statement which purported to be the whole story, and read it to Dr. Brown and his wife. The former was very much excited, but accepted my explanation as all right. Then some friends came in, and I read the same statement to them, apparently for the first time. Then I was called for concealing these things at the time was because I wanted to save myself—you can't blame me. I hoped the explanation would do, but later results showed it would not. I felt that I had been deceived."

I was in the conspiracy with Mrs. Davidson. On February 5 or 6 Dr. Brown came home very much downhearted. He said that he had read the letters in their entirety, and he let me have it. I asked my mind to tell the whole truth and suffer the consequences. I told Dr. Brown that at the proper time I would tell it all. I thought of running into the newspapers, but I was so terrified that I told the whole world how I was deceived. I had been."

"After I made up my mind to tell the truth I felt very much relieved. I never gave Mrs. Brown any but the first explanation, and she could not hear that. The plot was over. I have not been to the first time last Saturday night. Mr. Woodhams was present at the time. At first Dr. Brown would not allow me to tell it, but I told him that I would give it to the public, and he was content. I do not know where Mrs. Tunnell is. She sent for her clothing by a man, and I have received one or two letters from her, but I do not know her present whereabouts."

"This I think is the principal part of my story. If there are points I have not fully covered I shall be glad to make explanation at the proper time."

Dr. Brown said he would like to read certain letters received by Miss Overman while in Tacoma from Mrs. Davidson, and so would postpone the cross-examination until the evening session.

Certain witnesses have been present here and that I have refused to allow them to testify. There was certain testimony which came from Mrs. Davidson's papers. This testimony can come under rebuttal. This testimony is adverse to Dr. Brown. I will resist any pressure brought against me. However, I will answer the witness.

The moderator—Does Mr. Woodhams pass on these questions without consulting the committee.

Woodhams—I have consulted the committee. Dr. Brown—With regard to the peculiar position of the witness, I would like to see a family I wish to state that when we foresaw what we were to pass through we asked her to return to Tacoma. She said her evidence would doubtless be needed so she consented to remain in any hotel in the city. She had been housed by the newspaper reporters. We—my wife and I—believe in a religion that has no regard for the money, and we recognize the nobility of Miss Overman's conduct.

Captain W. F. Cook was called. He testified as follows: I reside at 132 McAllister street. Lived in

at the evening session Dr. Woodhams read a letter from Mr. Thurston, saying: 'I never had any thought of injuring Dr. Dille, and the statement that I am a minister to any minister of the Gospel is a mistake.'"

Dr. Brown—I suppose this opens up the way for me to put my witness on the stand.

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Woodhams—I have consulted the committee. Dr. Brown—With regard to the peculiar position of the witness, I would like to see a family I wish to state that when we foresaw what we were to pass through we asked her to return to Tacoma. She said her evidence would doubtless be needed so she consented to remain in any hotel in the city. She had been housed by the newspaper reporters. We—my wife and I—believe in a religion that has no regard for the money, and we recognize the nobility of Miss Overman's conduct.

Captain W. F. Cook was called. He testified as follows: I reside at 132 McAllister street. Lived in

at the evening session Dr. Woodhams read a letter from Mr. Thurston, saying: 'I never had any thought of injuring Dr. Dille, and the statement that I am a minister to any minister of the Gospel is a mistake.'"

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