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BROKEN LOOSE AGAIN.

MOULTON'S LONG STATEMENT

He Says that Beecher Confessed to Him.

CONCLUSION OF THE SERIAL.

MRS. TILTON'S DENIAL OF THEODORE'S ENORMITIES—TILTON NEVER KNEW THAT BEECHER HELPED HIM—THE UNSAVORY WILKESON—END OF THE CHAPTER.

NEW YORK, Aug. 21.—The Daily Evening Graphic furnishes in advance of publication the proof sheets of the complete statement of Frank D. Moulton. From this voluminous document the most interesting letters and statements are given below. Mr. Moulton prefaces his statement with the following card:

To the Public:

I became a party almost accidentally in the unhappy controversy between Mr. Beecher and Mr. Tilton. I had been a friend of Mr. Tilton since my boyhood, and for Mr. Beecher I had always entertained the warmest admiration. In 1870 I learned for the first time that Mr. Beecher had given Mr. Tilton so grave a cause of offense that, if the truth should be made public, a great national calamity would ensue. I believed that the scandal would tend to undermine the very foundations of social order, to lay low a beneficent power for good in our country, and blast the prospects and blight the family of one of the most brilliant and promising of the rising men of the generation. This disastrous I deemed it and still regard it. I determined to try and avoid it. For nearly four years I have labored most assiduously to save both of these men from the consequences of their acts, whether of unwisdom or passion, which have already seriously involved them in a needless and disastrous quarrel, which is made the pretext of pouring out on the community a flood of impurity and scandal deeply affecting their own families, and threatening like a whirlpool, if not stilled, to draw into its vortex the peace of mind and good repute of the past of others. More than all, I saw that because of the transgressions of one other, innocent children would be burdened with a load of obloquy which would weigh most heavily and crushingly on their young lives. All these considerations determined me to take an active part in the transactions which have since become so notorious. This decision involved me in great anxiety and labor, for which the hope of saving those interests could be my only compensation. Even that reward has now failed me, and instead of it an attempt is made to throw on me a part of the shame and disgrace which belongs to the actors alone. One of them whom I have seriously endeavored to serve has seen fit, with all the power of his vast influence and matchless art as a writer, to visit on me the penalties of his own wrong doing, at the same time publicly appealing to me to make known

THE TRUTH,

as if it would justify his attack on me. I feel that the failure of my exertions has not been owing to any fault of mine. I worked faithfully and sincerely under the almost daily advice and direction of Mr. Beecher, with his fullest approbation, confidence and seeming gratitude, until, as I think, in an evil hour for him, he took other advice. I have failed, and now strangely enough he seems desirous to punish me for the sad consequences of the folly, insincerity and wickedness of his present counsellors. Mr. Beecher, in his statement, testifies that he brought this investigation with my knowledge or advice. Even while mourning what seems to me the utter unwisdom of this proceeding, I have done all I could honorably to avoid the catastrophe, and have kept silent, although I saw with sorrow that this silence was deeply injuring the friend of my boyhood. Prompted by a sense of duty, not to one only, but to all the parties involved, I refused the united public appeals made by Mr. Beecher and Mr. Tilton to procure the evidence in my possession, partly because I felt that the injury thereby done to Mr. Tilton was far less calamitous than the destruction which must come on all the interests I had for years, I tried to conserve, and especially on Mr. Beecher's himself. If I should comply with this request. But I stated clearly that at one contingency I should speak, namely, in defense of my own integrity of action if it should be wantonly assailed. I left Mr. Beecher unhampered by the facts in my hands to defend himself without the necessity of attacking me. By the published accusations of Mr. Beecher reflecting my character, my self-respect, the advice of friends and public justice make it imperative that the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, should now be fully declared. I give to the public, therefore,

THE STATEMENT I HAD PREPARED

to bring before the committee, without the alteration or addition of a sentence and scarcely a word, certainly without the change of a single syllable since I read Mr. Beecher's statement and evidence, or because of it. This paper I withheld from the committee when before it, in a last dispairing effort for peace, at the earnest solicitation of some of Beecher's friends, and with the approval also of some of the most valued of my own. I do not now give it to the committee but to the public, because its production concerns myself rather than the principals in the strife. It is made for my own protection against public accusations, not to aid the party to the controversy. For the needless and cruel necessity that now so imperatively compels its production I have the most profound grief, for which there is but a single alleviation, namely, that the disclosures of the facts at this time can surely work more harm to him who I at first tried to befriend by withholding them from the public, than they would have caused in January, 1871, when but for my interference the public would most assuredly have been put in possession of the whole truth. This publication to which Mr. Beecher forces me renders fruitless four years of constant and sincere efforts to save him. It leaves him and Mrs. Tilton in almost the same position in which I found them existing, in so far as their late disingenuous, baby untruthfulness in their solemn statements may lower them in the estimation of the world. I reserve to myself the right hereafter, to review the statement of Mr. Beecher, in contrast with the acts as shown by the documents herewith subjoined to others which I have at my bad, the production of which did not seem to be necessary, until some portion of the publishe evidence of Mr. Beecher demanded contradiction.

[Signed] FRANCIS D. MOULTON.

STATEMENT OF FRANCIS D. MOULTON.

Gentlemen of the Committee:

I need not repeat to you my great, very great sorrow to feel obliged to answer your invitation, and with the permission of the parties, to put before you the exact facts which have been committed to me or come to my knowledge in the unhappy affair under investigation. In so doing I shall use no words of characterization of any of them or of incupation of the parties, nor shall I attempt to ascribe motives, save when necessary to exactly state the facts, leaving the occurrences, their acts of omission and commission, to be interpreted by themselves. In giving conversations or narratives I, of course, can, in most cases, give only the substance of the first, and will attempt to give the words only when they so impressed themselves upon my mind as to remain in my memory, and of the latter only so much as seems to me material. I have known Mr. Theodore Tilton since 1860, intimately, in the kindest relations of social and personal friendship. I have known the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher since 1862, and then casually as an acquaintance and an attendant upon his ministrations up to the beginning of the occurrences of which I shall speak. Seeing Mr. Tilton's valedictory as editor of the Independent on Dec. 22, 1870, I inferred that there had been some difference between himself and Henry C. Bowen, the proprietor. But learning that Tilton had been retained as a contributor to that journal and as editor of the Brooklyn Union, of which Bowen was also the proprietor, I supposed that the differences were not personal or unkind. Up to that time, although I had been a frequent visitor at Tilton's house, and had seen himself and Mrs. Tilton under all the phases of social intercourse, I had never heard or known of the sightest disagreement or unkindness existing between them, but had believed their marital relations were almost exceptionally pleasant. On December 23, 1870, being at Tilton's house, he came home from an interview with Bowen and told me with a excitement of manner, that he had just had a conference with Bowen, and that in that interview Bowen had made certain accusations against Beecher, and had challenged him (Tilton) as a matter of duty to the public to write an open letter which Bowen was to take to Beecher, of which he showed me the original draft, which is as follows:

BROOKLYN, Dec 26, 1870.

Henry Ward Beecher,

SIR: I demand that for reasons which you explicitly understand you immediately cease from the ministry of Plymouth Church, and that you quit the city of Brooklyn as a residence (Signed.) THEODORE TILTON.

Tilton explained that the words "for reasons which you explicitly understand" were interlined at the request of Bowen, and he further stated he told Bowen he was prepared to believe his charges because Beecher had made improper advances to Mrs. Tilton. Surprised at this, I asked him "What?" when he replied, "Don't ask me. I can't tell you." I then said, "Is it possible you could have been so foolish as to sign that letter on the strength of Bowen's assertion and not have Bowen sign it too although, as you say, he was to carry it to Beecher?" He answered, "Mr. Bowen gave me his word he would sustain the charges, and adduce evidence to prove them whenever called upon." I said, "I fear that you will find yourself mistaken. Has the letter gone?" He answered, "Bowen said he would take it immediately." I afterward learned from Beecher that Bowen had done so, because on the first of January following, Beecher gave me the copy he preserved, as I find by memorandum made at the time on the envelop, and I find by the latter memorandum that the original draft was given to me by Tilton on the 5th of the same month. I insert here the following memorandum facts about the statement made at the time, giving the hour when it was made:

BROOKLYN, Dec. 28, 1870.

Theodore Tilton informed me to-day that he had sent a note to Mr. Beecher, of which Mr. Bowed was the bearer, demanding that he (Beecher) should retire from his pulpit and quit the city of Brooklyn. The letter was an open one. H. C. Bowen knew the contents of it and said that he (Bowen) would sustain Tilton in this demand. In a day or two after that, Tilton called on me at my house and said he had sent word to Bowen. He was going to call on Beecher within half an hour or shortly; that Bowen came up into the office with great anger and told him if he would say to Beecher what he (Bowen) had told him concerning his (Beecher's) adultery, he would dismiss him from the Independent and Union. Tilton told him that he had never been influenced by threats, and he would not be in the present case, and subsequently received Bowen's letter of dismissal. What these changes were and an account of the interview appear in the letter addressed to Bowen by Tilton, bearing date 1st of January, 1871. This letter has been often published, and opens by an allusion to the suddenness of Bowen breaking Tilton's two contracts, one with the Independent, and the other with the Brooklyn Union. On Friday evening, December 30, being the night of Plymouth Church prayer meeting, a letter came to me and said in substance that by his wife's request, he had determined to see Beecher in order to show to Beecher the

CONFESSION OF HIS WIFE

of intercourse between them, which he (Tilton) had never up to that time mentioned to him (Beecher), and the fact of the confession of which his wife had told him that she had never told Beecher, although her confession had been made in July previous in writing, which writing he (Tilton) had afterward destroyed; but that his wife, fearing that if Bowen's accusations against Beecher were made public, the whole matter would be known, and her own conduct with Beecher become exposed, had renewed her confession in her own hand-writing, which he handed to me to read, which was the first knowledge I had of its existence. Tilton did not tell how his wife came to make confession in July, nor did I at that time or ever after ask; instead, I may say here, once for all, that I refrained from asking confession of acts of all parties further than they chose to make them voluntarily for the purpose for which I was acting.

Tilton wanted me to go down and ask Beecher to come up and see him at my house, which I did. I said to Beecher, "Mr. Tilton wants you to come and see him at my house immediately." He asked, "What for?" I replied, "He wants to make some statements to you in reference to your relations with his family." He then called to some one in the back room to go down and say he should not be at the prayer meeting, and we went out together. It was storming at the time, when he remarked, "There is an appropriateness in the storm," and asked me, "What can I do? what can I do?" I said, "Mr. Beecher, I am not a christian, but if you wish, I will show you how well a heathen can serve you. We then went to my house, and I showed him into a chamber over the parlor where Mr Tilton was, and left them together. In about an hour, Mr. Beecher came down and asked me if I had seen the confession of Elizabeth. I said I had. Said he, "This will kill me," and asked me to walk out with him. I did so, and we walked to Mr. Tilton's house together, and he went in. On the way he said, "This is a terrible catastrophe; it comes upon me as if struck by lightning." He went into Tilton's house and I returned home. Within an hour he returned to my house, and we left my house again together, and I walked with him to his house. Tilton remained at my house while Beecher was absent at Tilton's house and when he returned there was no conversation between them. When we arrived at Beecher's house he wanted me to stay by him in this emergency and procure a reconciliation if possible. I told him I would, because the interests of women, children and families were involved, if for no other reason. That ended the interview that night. During this evening nothing was said by Beecher as to the truth or falsity of Mrs. Tilton's confession, nor did he inform me that he had obtained from her any recantation of the confession, which I afterward learned he had done. I returned to my house, and had some conversation with Tilton, in which he told that he had recited to Beecher the details of the confession of his wife's adulteries, and the remark which Beecher made was this: "All a dream, Theodore;" and that was all the answer Beecher made to him. I then advised Tilton that, for the sake of his wife and family and for the sake of Beecher's family, the matter should be

KEPT QUIET AND HUSHED UP.

The next morning, as I was leaving home for business, Tilton came to my house and, with great anger, said that Beecher had done a mean act; that he had gone from that interview of last night and procured from Elizabeth a recantation and retraction of her confession. He said for that act he would smite him, that there could be no peace. He said, you see that what I have told you of the manners of that man is now evident. Tilton said that Beecher, at the interview of last night, had asked his permission to go and see Elizabeth, and he told him he might go which statement was confirmed by Beecher himself, and Beecher left him for that purpose. I said to Tilton: Now don't get angry; let us see if even this can not be arranged. I will go down and get that retraction from him. I was then going to my business, so that I was unable to go that morning, but went that evening, saw Beecher, and told him that I thought he had been doing a very mean and treacherous act; treacherous first towards me, from whom he wanted help, in that he did not tell me on our way to my house last night what he had procured from Mrs. Tilton, and that he could not expect my friendship in this matter, unless he acted truthfully and honorably toward me. I further said: Mr. Beecher, you have had criminal intercourse with Mrs. Tilton, you have done a great injury to Tilton otherwise. Now, when you are confronted with it, you ask permission of the man to again visit his house. You get from that woman, who has confessed you have ruined her, a recantation and a retraction of the truth for your mere personal safety; that won't save you. As that interview had admitted, with grief and sorrow, the fact of his sexual relations with Mrs. Tilton expressed some indignation that she had not told him that she had told her husband, and that in consequence of being in ignorance of the fact, he had been walking upon a volcano. He erring to what he had done in connection with Bowen and with reference to the latter's family, he said that he had sympathized with Bowen and had taken sides with him as against Tilton, in consequence of stories which were in circulation in regard to him, and especially of one specific case where he had been informed that Tilton had had improper relations with a woman whom he named and to whom a letter from his wife will make part of this statement, and had so stated to Bowen, and he told me that he would write to Bowen and withdraw these charges; and he gave me the rough draft of a letter which he wrote and sent to Bowen which letter is here produced. [See letter above.] Mr. Beecher told me that Mrs. Beecher and himself, without knowing of

THE CONFESSION OF MRS. TILTON

to her husband, had been expressing great sympathy toward Mr. Tilton and taking an active interest with her against her husband. I said, "Mr. Beecher, I want that recantation. I have come for it." "Well," said he, "what shall I do without it?" I replied, "I don't know." "I can tell you what will happened with it." He asked, "What will you do if I give it to you?" I answered, "I will keep it as I keep a confession; if you act honorably, I will protect it with my life as I would protect the other with my life." Mr. T. asked for that confession this morning and I said, "I will never give it to you; you shall not have it from my hands until I have exhausted every effort for peace." Mr. Beecher gave me back the paper. When I went home with the recantation I found Tilton there and showed it to him. He expressed his surprise and gratification that I should have been able to get it, and I then showed to him how very foolish it would have been in the morning to have proceeded angrily against Beecher. I made another appeal for peace, saying that notwithstanding great difficulties appeared in the way, if they were properly dealt with they would be beaten out of the way, and he expressed a willingness and desire for peace. When I saw Beecher I made an agreement, at his request, to go and see him. On Sunday, Jan. 1, I went to his house in accordance with the engagement. He took me in his study and told me again of his great surprise that Elizabeth should have made the confession of

HIS CRIMINAL COMMERCE

with her to her husband without telling him anything about it, making his destruction at any moment possible and without warning to him. He expressed his great grief at this wrong which he had done, as a minister and friend, to Theodore, and, at his request, I took pen and paper, and he dictated to me the paper commonly known as the apology, and all of which is in my handwriting except the words, "I have trusted this to Moulton in confidence," and the signature, which latters are in Mr. Beecher's. This was entrusted to me in confidence to be shown only to Tilton, which I did. It had reference to no other fact nor act than a confession of sexual intercourse between Beecher and Mrs. Tilton, which he at that interview confessed, and denied not, but confessed. Also at other interviews in regard to this unfortunate affair he unqualifiedly confessed he had been guilty of adultery with Mrs. Tilton, and always in a spirit of grief and sorrow at the enormity of the crime he had committed against Mr. Titton's family. At such times he would speak with much feeling of the relation he had sustained towards them as pastor, spiritual adviser and trusted friend. His self condemnation at the ruin he had wrought under such circumstances was full and complete, and at times he was so bowed down with grief in consequence of the wrong he had done that he threatened to put an end to his life. He also gave to me the letter, the first draft of which is above given, in reference to which he said that Bowen had given it to him; that he had told Bowen that Tilton must be crazy to write such a letter as that; he did not understand it; and that Bowen said to him, I will be your friend in this matter. He then made the statement which Tilton had made to me at my house of the charge that Bowen had made to him. Tilton said Bowen had been very treacherous towards Tilton as towards himself, because he (Beecher) had had a reconciliation with Bowen, of which he told me the terms, and that Bowen had never in his (Beecher's) presence spoken or referred to any allegation of crime or wrongdoing on his part with any woman whatever. He gave in general terms a memorandum which shows the terms of the reconciliation. The first is in the handwriting of Bowen, containing five items, which Beecher assured me were the terms which Bowen claimed should be the basis of reconciliation. It is as follows: First, report and publish the sermons and lecture room talks; second, new edition of the Plymouth collection in Freeland's interest; third, explanation to the church; fourth, write me a letter; fifth, retract in every quarter what has been said to my injury. The second paper is a pencil memorandum of reconciliation with Bowen in Beecher's handwriting, having an account of the affair. It is as follows: [See memorandum above.]

In that interview, Beecher was very earnest in his expressions of regret at what had been done against Tilton in relation to his business connection with Bowen, and he besought me to do everything I could to save him from the destruction which would come upon him if the story of his (Beecher's) intercourse with Mrs. Tilton should be divulged. In compliance with the directions of Beecher, January 1, 1871, I took the paper which he had dictated to me to Tilton and detailed to him Beecher's expressions of regret and sorrow; spoke to him of his agony of mind and again repeated to him to have the whole matter kept quiet, if for no other reason, for the sake of the children. To this Tilton assented. I found him writing the letter to Bowen of that date, which I have before produced. He told me also of the contracts he had with Bowen, and gave me authorization to settle his affairs with Bowen. [See authorization above.] Acting in the interest of Beecher, I told Tilton that this controversy with Bowen, if possible, should be peacefully settled, lest it might reopen the other matters in relation to Beecher's conduct in Tilton's family and

THE CHARGES MADE BY BOWEN

against Beecher. To this Tilton assented. [The correspondence between Moulton and Bowen in relation to the contracts of the latter with Tilton and their conferences are here given.] At the M. E. conference, Moulton states the following language: I then said to Bowen that I thought he was a very treacherous man, and for this reason, that I knew he had had a reconciliation with Beecher, or rather I was informed of it, which was perfected in the house of God, and that within forty-eight hours from that time he had avowed to Mr. Howard that he could, if he chose, drive Beecher out of town. I told him further, that I was also informed that prior to that reconciliation he had made no charge against Beecher's character; Beecher but only behind his back; and I said, 'Mr. Bowen, I have the points of settlement between you and Beecher in your own hand writing, and there is no reference to any charge of crime of any kind against Beecher." Mr. Bowen made no denial of these assertions, but seemed, in the contrary, seashed and dejected, and in reply to my question, "What do you say to these charges which you have made against Beecher?" he declined to say anything about them but repeated the question, "What can I do?" I answered, "I am not your advisor. I can't dictate to you what course you should pursue, but you have done great injustice to Mr. Tilton and to Mr. Beecher, and you ought to take the earliest means of repairing the injury. I should think it would but be justice for you to restore Tilton to the Independent, but don't believe he would go back if you should offer it to him." His reply was, "How can I do that now?" I told him I didn't know; he must find a way to settle his own difficulties. He again expressed a willingness to arbitrate the question of money between himself and Tilton growing out of the contract; I told him I would not arbitrate; that that a plain provision of the contract provided that he should pay what I demanded, and he must fulfil it. Mr. Bowen rose to leave, and said, before leaving, that whenever I wanted to see him he would be happy to come to my house and confer on this subject, and he did on several subsequent occasions visit me at my house whenever I sent for him to consult on this matter. The means I have of giving so accurately the conversation between myself and Bowen, and the conversations had with Tilton and O. Johnson, are that, prior to the meeting with Bowen, as I told him, I had had an interview with Oliver Johnson in the presence of Tilton, where the whole matter was discussed, and the memorandum of Oliver Johnson's statement, in which he gave his recollections of the interview of December 26, when Tilton and Johnson were present, and taken down by Tilton in short hand in my presence and copied out at the time in Johnson's presence, which memorandum has been in my possession ever since, and from it I read each statement one after the other to Mr. Bowen.

JOHNSON'S STATEMENT.

At the interview of Dec. 26, Wilton street, No. 90, Mr. Bowen voluntarily pledged his word to Mr. Johnson that he (H. C. Bowen) would take no further measures in regard to Mr. Tilton without consultation with Mr. J. Mr. Bowen had likewise said substantially the same thing to Mr. Joenson previously, during a private conversation between those two persons. There was no obligatory confidence imposed on any of the parties concerning anything said at this interview, save an especial pledge, mutually given, that nothing should be said concerning Mr. Beecher's demonstrations toward Mrs. T. Mr. O. J. says that Mr. Bowen's statement in regard to H. W. B. were not intimations of H. W. B.'s adultery, but plain and straightforward charges of the same. H. C. B. stated that he knew of four or five cases of Mr. B.'s adulterous intercourse with women. O. J. says that H. C. B. at this interview plainly declared that H. W. B. had confessed his guilt to H. C. B. H. C. B said, I can not stand it any longer. You and I owe a duty to society in this matter. That man ought not to stay another day in his pulpit. It is not safe for our families to have him in this city. The allusion to the widow was made by Theodore Tilton, and Henry C. Bowen said that he had no doubt that her husband's death was caused by his knowledge of her improper intimacy with Henry Ward Beecher. I have no doubt about it whatever. To make an end to the statement as to the controversy between Tilton and Bowen, I further state that various negotiations were made between Bowen and myself, which resulted finally in an arbitration in which H. B. Claflin, Charles Storrs and James Freeland were referees. There was a very considerable delay arising from my own absence south in the early spring on account of sickness, Mr. Bowen's absence during the summer, and Tilton's absence during the fall and winter on a lecturing tour, so that the arbitration did not terminate until April 2 or 3, 1872. This arbitration was determined on by me, and my determination was given to Mr. Claflin in the following note. [See Moulton's letter above.] Tilton, Bowen, and myself appeared before the arbitrators, and all made statements. After a full hearing, nothing having been submitted to the arbitrators except the business differences of Tilton and Bowen, the arbitrators made an award that Bowen should pay Tilton $7,000, for which Bowen drew his check on the spot, and the contracts were given up to him. After the above settlement a paper, which has since been called the tripartite agreement, was signed by Bowen and Tilton, Beecher signing it subsequently. The inducing cause to this arbitration was the fact that Tilton had commenced a suit against Bowen, and prepared an article for the Golden Age, in which he embodied his letter to Bowen, and a statement of the circumstances submitted to me, and I begged him to withhold it from publication. I also brought Beecher and Tilton together, and Beecher added his entreaties to prevent its publication, and to close the suit which might work injury to Beecher and others. I agreed to submit Tilton's claim to arbitration, to which I had been invited before by Bowen, but which I refused as before stated in this interview between Beecher, Tilton and myself. I said perhaps we can settle the whole matter, if we see Mr. Claflin, he knows Bowen well and understands the importance of all these interviews. Beecher said he would send Claflin to me and I might confer with him on the letter. At the conclusion of the arbitration, the parties signed the "tripartite covenant," which was drawn up as I understand by Samuel Wilkinson.

Here follows certain brief letters between Beecher and Moulton in relation to the settlement of the scandal. These are omitted to give the letter of

MRS. HOOKER TO BEECHER.

HARTFORD, Nov. 1, 1872.

DEAR BROTHER: In reply to your words, if you still believe in that woman, etc., let me say that from her personally I have never heard a word on this subject, and when nearly a year ago I heard that when here in this city she said she had expected you to introduce her at Steinway, I wrote her a most indignant, rebuking letter, to which she replied in a manner that astounded me, by its calm assertion that she considered you as true a friend to her as I myself. I inclosed this letter to Mr. Tilton, asking him to show it to you if he thought best, and to write me what it all meant. He never replied nor returned the letter to me, as I requested. But I have a copy of it at your service. In the month of February, after returning from Washington, I went to Mrs. Stanton's to spend Sunday. At Jersey City I met Mrs. W., who had come on in the same train with me, it seemed, and who urged me in a hasty way to bring Mrs. Stanton over on Monday for a suffrage consultation as to the spring convention. Remembering her assertion of the friendship between you, and of her meeting you occasionally at Mrs. Moulton's house (I think this is the name), I thought I would put this to the test, and replied that if I could be sure of seeing you at the same time I would come. She promised to secure you, if possible, and I fully meant to keep my appointment. But on Sunday I remembered an appointment at New Haven, which I should miss if I stopped in New York, so I passed by dropping her a letter by the way. Curiously enough, sister Catharine, who was staying at your house at this time, said to me here casually the latter part of that same week, "Belle Henry went over to New York to see you last Monday, but could not find you." Of course my inference was that Mrs. W. either had power over you or you were secretly a friend. During that Sunday Mrs. Stanton told me precisely what Mr. Tilton had said to her. When on my return I made my discovery he fled to the house of Mrs. "Blank," and before them both narrated the story of his own infidelities as confessed to his wife, and of hers as confessed to him. She added that not long after she went to Mr. Moulton's, and met you coming down the front steps, and on entering met Tilton and Moulton, who said: "We have just had Plymouth Church at our feet, and here is his confession," showing a manuscript. She said that Mrs. Tilton had made a similar statement to Miss Anthony, and I have since received from Miss A. a corroboration of this, although she refused to give me the particulars, being bound in confidence, she thinks. From that day to this I have carried a heavy load. You may be sure I could not share it with my husband, because he was already overburdened and alarmingly affected in the brain, but I resolved that if he went abroad, which he probably must, I would not go with him, leaving you alone, as it were, to bear whatever might come of revelations. I withstood the entreaties of my husband to the last and sent Mary in my stead, and at the last moment I confided to her all that I knew and felt and feared, that she might be able to sustain her father should trial overtake them. By reading the accompanying letters you will see that from outside evidence alone she had come to conclusions which I reached only through the most reliable testimony that could be furnished in any case, and against any predisposition of my own soul. Fearing that they would hasten home to me and thus lose all the benefits of the journey, for owing to his and other anxieties of business, John had grown worse rather than better up to that very time, though the air of the high Alps was beginning to promote sleep and recreation, I telegraphed by cable: "No trouble here. Go to Italy." And by recent letters, I am rejoiced to hear of them in Milan in comfortable health and spirits. From the day these letters came the matter has not been out of my thoughts an hour, it seems to me. An unceasing prayer has ascended that I might be guided with wisdom and truth, but what is the truth I am further from understanding this morning than ever. The tale as published is essentially the same as told me; in fact it is impossible but that Tilton is authority for it, since I recognize a verisimilitude, and, as I understand, Mrs. Tilton was the sole revelator. The only reply I made to Mrs. Stanton was that, if true, you had a philosophy of the relation of the sexes too far ahead of the times; that you dare not announce it, though you consented to live by it; that this was, in my judgment, wrong, and God would bring all secret things to lightin his own time and fashion, and I could only wait. I added I had come to see that human laws were impotent, but could get no further, though I could see a glimpse of a new science of life that at present was revolting to my feelings and my judgment; that I should keep myself open to conviction, however; should converse with men, and especially women, on the whole subject, and as fast as I knew the truth I should stand by it, with no attempt at concealment. I think Dr. Channing probably agrees with you in theory, but he had in courage to announce his convictions before acting on them. He refused intercourse with an uncongenial wife for a long time, and then left her and married a woman whom he still loves, leaving a darling daughter with her mother, and to-day pays a photographer to keep him supplied with her picture as often as they can be procured. I send you the article he wrote when abandoned by these friends. He and his wife went to the West and stayed years, crushed by calumny and abuse. To-day they are esteemed more highly than ever, and he is in positions of public trust in Providence. You will perceive my situation, and by all that I have suffered and am willing to suffer for your sake, I beg you to confide to me the whole truth, then I can help you as no one else in the world can. The moment I can know this matter as God knows it, He will help you and me to bring everlasting good out of this seeming evil. If I could say truthfully I believe this story to be a fabrication of Mr. and Mrs. Tilton imposed on a credulous woman, a mere medium, who is susceptibility to impressions to spirits in the flesh and out of it, is to be taken into account always, the whole thing dies; but if it is true, there is but one honorable way to meet it in my judgment, and the precise method occurred to me; in my bed this morning, and I was about writing to you to suggest it when your letter came. I will write you a sisterly letter expressing my deep conviction that the whole subject needs a most earnest and chaste discussion; that my own mind has long been occupied with it, but is still in doubt on many points; that I have observed for years that your reading and thinking have been profound on this and kindred subjects, and now the time has come for you to give the world, through your own paper, the conclusions you have reached and the reasons therefor. If you choose, I will then reply to each letter, giving the woman's view, for there is surely a man's and a woman's side to this, beyond everywhere else, and by this means attention will be diverted from personalities and concentrated on social philosophy, the one subject that now ought to occupy all thinking minds. It seems to me that God has been preparing me for this work, and you also for years and years, I send you a reply I wrote to Dr. Todd long ago, and which I could never get published without my name, which I for the sake of my daughters, I wished to withhold, although Godkin of the Nation, Holbrook, of the Herald, of Hearthward of the Independent, and every mother to whom I have read it all tell me it was the best thing ever written on the subject, and the men said they would publish it if they dared, while Mrs. (Blank) urged me to give my name and publish it. She said she would rather have written it than anything else of its length in the world, and if it were hers she would print it without hesitation. I send also a copy of a letter I wrote John Stuart Mill on his sending me an early copy of his "Subjection of Women," and his reply. I am sure that nearly all the thinking men and women are somewhere near you, and will rally to your support if you are bold, frank and absolutely truthful in stating your convictions. Mrs. Burleigh told Dr. Channing she was ready to avow her belief in social freedom when the time came. She was weary now, and glad of a reprieve, but should stand true to her convictions when she must. My own conviction is that the one radical mistake you have made is in supposing that you are so much ahead of your time, and in daring to attempt to lead when you have everything to concede. Do not, I pray you, deceive yourself with the hope that the love of your church, or any other love, human or divine, can compensate the loss of absolute

TRUTHFULNESS

to your own mental convictions. I have not told you the half I have suffered since February, but you can imagine, knowing what my husband is to me, and that it was no common love that I have for you, and for the truth, and for all mankind, women as well as men, when I decided to nearly break your heart, already lacerated by the course I had been compelled to pursue, by sending him away to die, perhaps, without me at his side. I wish you would come here in the evening some time—to the Burton cottage, or I will meet you anywhere in New York you appoint, and at any time. Ever yours, BELL.

Following this are several letters passing between Thomas K. Beecher, H. W. Beecher, Mrs. Hooker and other parties relative to the settlement of the great domestic trouble. These are omitted to give place to Moulton's continued statement:

Meanwhile, Mrs. Morse, the mother-in-law of Mr. Tilton, who was from time to time an inmate of his family in Livingstone street, had, as I was informed both by Mr. and Mrs. Tilton, learned from her daughter the criminal relationship heretofore existing between Beecher and herself, and who could not understand why that matter had been settled, and, who had not been told how it had been adjusted, and who had a most bitter quarrel with Tilton, accusing him of not having so carried his affairs as to keep what fortune he had, and who had called upon Beecher about the relations between Tilton and Mrs. Tilton, and who had, as Beecher had informed me, filled the minds of Mrs. Beecher and himself with stories of Tilton's infidelity and improper conduct to his wife, wrote the following letter to Beecher, under date of January 27, 1871, which he delivered to me the next day, as appears by my memorandum thereon, together with the draft of an answer which he said he proposed to send to Mrs. Morse. Her letter and Beecher's draft of reply are as follows: "Mrs. Morse to Beecher, received January 27, 1871. Received from H. W. B., January 28, 1871.

MR. BEECHER: As you have not seen fit to pay any attention to the request I left at your house now over two weeks since, I will take this method to inform you of the state of things in Livingston street. The remark you made at your door was an enigma and every day adds to the mystery. Mrs. Beecher had adopted the child. What child? I asked. You replied, Elizabeth's. Now, I ask, what earthly sense was there in that remark? Neither Mrs. B., yourself, nor I can have done anything to ameliorate her condition. She has been for the last three weeks with me a very indifferent girl. T. has sent —— with the others away, leaving my sick and distracted child to care for all the children night and day, without fire or furnace, and nothing like nourishment in the house. She has not seen any one. He says she is mourning for her son. If this be so, one 24 hours under this treatment, I think, is enough to atone for a life-long sin, however heinous. I know that any change in his affairs would bring more trouble upon her and more suffering. I did not think for a moment, when I asked Mrs. B. as to your call there, supposing she knew it, of course, as she said you would not go there without her. I was innocent of making any misunderstanding. If there was any, you say, keep quiet. I have all through her married life done so, and we now see our error. It has brought him to destruction, made me utterly miserable, turned me from a comfortable home and brought his own family to beggary. I don't believe if his honest debts were paid he would have enough to buy their breakfast. This she could endure and thrive under, but the publicity he has given to this recent and most crushing of all troubles is what has taken the life out of her. I know 12 persons whom he has told, and they in turn have told others. I had thought we had as much as we could live under from his neglect and ungovernable temper, but this is the death blow to both of us, and I doubt not Florence has hers. Do you know when I hear of your cracking your jokes from Sunday to Sunday and think of the misery you have brought upon us, I think with the Palmist there is no God, admitting all he says to be the invention of his half-drunken brain. Still the effect upon us was the same, for all he has told. Believe it now. He makes a target of her night and day. I am driven at this extremity to pray for her release from all suffering by God's taking her Himself, for if there is a heaven I know she will go there. welcomed. Oh, my poor child, how my heart bleeds over you in thinking of your suffering. Can you do anything in the matter? Must she live in this suffering condition of mind and body with no assistance? Sir, you or anyone else who advises her to live with him when he is doing all he can to kill her by slow torture is anything but a friend. I don't know whether you can understand a word I have written, but I am relieved somewhat by writing. The children are kept from me and I have not seen my dying, sick child but once since his return from his home. I thought the least you could do was to put your name to a paper to him. Relinquate my brother in the custom house. Elizabeth was as disappointed as myself; he is still without employment with a sick wife and five children to feed behind with rent and everything else behind-hand. If your wife has adopted "Lib," are you sympathizers with her. I pray you do something for her before it is too late. He is as cold as soon as her breath leaves her body, I will make it is whole thing public, and this prospect I think is one thing which keeps her living. I know of no other. She is without nourishment for one in her state, and in want—actual want. They would both deny, no doubt, but it is true.

BEECHER TO MRS. MORSE.

Mrs. Judge Morse:

MY DEAR MADAM: I should be very sorry to have you think I had no interest in your troubles. My course toward you hitherto should satisfy you that I have sympathized with your distress, but Mrs. Beecher and I, after full consideration, are of one mind, that under present circumstances the greatest kindness to you and to all will be, in so far as we are concerned, to leave to him the rectification of all wrongs, whether they prove real or imaginary. Mrs. Morse says Tilton has sent her with the others away. I purposely omit the name of this young girl. The reason why it was desirable she should be sent away from Brooklyn, as given me by Mr. and Mrs. T., was this. She had overheard conversations by them concerning Mrs. T.'s criminal intercourse with Beecher, and she had repeated these conversations to several friends of the family, being young and not known. In consequence of her prattling, it seemed, proper for the safety of the two families that she should be sent to a distance to school, which was accordingly done. She was put at a boarding school at the West, and the expenses of her stay there were probably paid through me by Beecher, to whom I had stated the difficulty of having the girl remain in Brooklyn. She agreed with us that it was best that she should be removed, and offered to be at the cost of her schooling. The bills were sent to me from time to time as they became due, a part of them through Mr. Tilton. Previous to her going away she wrote the following letters to Mrs. T., and they were sent to me by Mrs. T. as a part of these transactions:

TO MRS. TILTON,

BROOKLYN, Jan. 12, 1871.

MY DEAR MRS. TILTON: I want to tell you something. Your mother, Mrs. Morse, has repeatedly attempted to hire me by offering money and presents, to go to certain persons and tell them stories injurious to the character of your husband. I have been persuaded that the kind attentions shown me by Mr. Tilton for years were dishonorable demonstrations. I never at the time thought that Mrs. T.'s caresses were for such a purpose. I do not want to be made use of by Mrs. Morse, or any one else, to bring trouble on my two best friends, you and your husband. Bye-bye. "BLANK."

These notes are in Mrs. T.'s handwriting and on same paper used by her in correspondence with me.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

JAN. 12.

To My Dear Mrs. Tilton:

The story that Mr. Tilton once lifted me from my bed and carried me screaming to his own, and attempted to violate my person, is a wicked lie. Yours truly, BLANK.

While this young lady was at school she did inform a friend of Mrs. T.'s (Mrs. H.) of the family relations. These stories were written to Brooklyn, and came to the knowledge of my friends, creating an impression upon their minds unfavorable to Mr. T. and might possibly lead to the reopening of the scandal. I therefore took pains to trace them back and found they came from Mrs. H. to whom the school girl had told them. I, therefore, called upon Tilton and asked if these stories could not be stopped. Soon afterward he showed me a letter dated the 8th of November, 1872, written by Mrs. T., with a note to me on the back thereof to disabuse Mrs. H.'s mind as to this girl's disclosures.

MRS. TILTON TO MRS. P.

BROOKLYN, November 8, 1872.

MY DEAR MRS. P.: I come to you in this fearful extremity, burdened by my misfortunes, to claim your promised sympathy and love. I have mistakenly felt obliged to deceive. * * * * "These two years that my husband has made false accusations against me, which ne never has to her or any one, in order that he may not appear on his defense, thus adding the terrible exposure of lawsuit. Will you implore silence on her part against any indignation which she may feel against him, for the one only ray of light and hope in this midnight gloom is his entire sympathy, and co-operate in my behalf? A word from you to Mr. D. will change any unfriendly spirit which dear mother may have given him against my husband, and you know I have no mother's heart that will look charitably upon all save you. Affectionately your child, ELIZABETH.

Of course you will destroy this letter.

Mrs. Tilton sent to me a year afterward for money for the purpose of paying this young person's school expenses, and also a statement of accounts and a letter of transmission and a note acknowledging the receipt for the quarter ending June, 1871, from the principal of that school. All these sums were paid by Beecher, and I forwarded the money to settle them through Mrs Tilton, or sent the money directly to the principal of the school