

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications for this paper should be accompanied by the name of the author, not necessarily for publication, but as a witness of good faith on the part of the writer.

THE BEECHER SCANDAL.

Moulton Tells What He Knows About the Ugly Matter.

Documentary Contributions from All Parties Concerned.

Francis D. Moulton, the "mutual friend" and go-between of Beecher and Tilton, has at last unsealed his lips and given to the world all that he knows about the famous or infamous scandal, together with all the correspondence bearing upon this ugly matter which was intrusted to him.

Moulton states that Tilton was first induced to make charges against Beecher by Bowen, who promised Tilton to sustain charges and to adduce additional evidence to prove them whenever required.

"Henry Ward Beecher, Dec. 26, 1870. '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 resident.'

"(Signed) 'THEODORE TILTON.' Tilton explained that the words, 'for reasons which you explicitly understand,' were intended as the request of Bowen.

"Bowen afterward changed his mind and demanded silence on the part of Tilton, threatening that if he should say to Beecher what he (Bowen) had told him concerning his (Beecher's) adultery, he would dismiss him from the Independent and the Union.

"Tilton had him never again to be threatened, and he would not be in the present case, and subsequently received Bowen's letter of dismissal.

"In July, 1869, Mrs. Tilton confessed to her intimacy with Beecher, whose confession her husband destroyed. Subsequently Mrs. Tilton, 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, renewed her confession in her own handwriting.

"This latter confession Beecher obtained from Mrs. Tilton, and also a recantation and denial of any improper conduct by Mr. Beecher toward her, and an interview between Moulton and Beecher, in which the former demanded this paper, Beecher admitted, with grief and sorrow, the fact of his sexual relations with Mrs. Tilton, expressed some indignation that she had told him that she had told her husband, and that, in consequence of being in ignorance of that fact, he had been walking upon a volcano.

"Here follows a letter addressed by Mrs. Hooker to her brother, Rev. Thomas K. Beecher, of which the following is an extract: (Please return this letter to me when you have done with it.)

"DEAR BROTHER TOM: The blow has fallen, and I hope you are better prepared for it than you might have been but for our interview. I wrote a single line last week, thus: 'Can you help me?' and here is his reply: 'If you believe in that woman, you cannot help me.'

"She incloses to him letters from the Woodhull and from Henry Ward Beecher. In the latter's letter the following sentences occur: 'Probably you are aware that notice of any of our family, I cannot give the reason now. I am clear, still you will follow your own judgment. I thank you for your letter of some things. I neither talk nor will be talked with. You have and should notice me deeply thankful. The only help that can be grateful to me, or useful, is silence, and silencing influence on all others. A day may come for converse. It is not now. Living or dead, my dear sister, be true to me, and do not talk about me or suffer others to in your presence.'

"The underscoring," says Mrs. Hooker, "is his own, and when I read in that horrible story that he might kill himself, my mind flew back to this sentence, which suggested suicide to me. The moment I read it—'Living or dead, dear sister, be true to me, and do not talk about me or suffer others to in your presence.'

"In July, 1870, prompted by my duty, I informed my husband that Mr. H. W. Beecher, my friend and pastor had solicited me to be his agent in order that Mr. Beecher might be exactly what I had said to my husband. I wrote a brief statement, I have forgotten in what words, which my husband showed to Mr. Beecher. Late the same evening Mr. B. came to my bedside, saying, 'I have come to you and wanting to know if I meant to appear against him. This I certainly did not mean to do, and the thought was agonizing to me. I then signed a paper which he wrote to clear him in case of a trial. In this instance, as in most others, when absorbed by one great interest or feeling, the harmony of my mind is entirely disturbed, and I found on reflection that this paper was so drawn as to place me most unjustly against my husband, and on the side of Mr. Beecher; so, in order to repair so cruel a blow to my long-suffering husband, I wrote an explanation of the first paper over my signature. Mr. Beecher recovered from Mr. Beecher's statements which I gave to him in my agitation and excitement, and now holds it. This ends my connection with the case.'

"(Signed) 'ELIZABETH R. TILTON.' The following statement of Mrs. Tilton was made and placed in the hands of Moulton: 'In July, 1870, prompted by my duty, I informed my husband that Mr. H. W. Beecher, my friend and pastor had solicited me to be his agent in order that Mr. Beecher might be exactly what I had said to my husband. I wrote a brief statement, I have forgotten in what words, which my husband showed to Mr. Beecher. Late the same evening Mr. B. came to my bedside, saying, 'I have come to you and wanting to know if I meant to appear against him. This I certainly did not mean to do, and the thought was agonizing to me. I then signed a paper which he wrote to clear him in case of a trial. In this instance, as in most others, when absorbed by one great interest or feeling, the harmony of my mind is entirely disturbed, and I found on reflection that this paper was so drawn as to place me most unjustly against my husband, and on the side of Mr. Beecher; so, in order to repair so cruel a blow to my long-suffering husband, I wrote an explanation of the first paper over my signature. Mr. Beecher recovered from Mr. Beecher's statements which I gave to him in my agitation and excitement, and now holds it. This ends my connection with the case.'

"(Signed) 'ELIZABETH R. TILTON.' This statement is made in the request of Mr. Carpenter, that it may be shown confidentially to Dr. Storrs and other friends with whom my husband and I are consulting.

"Concerning the charge of blackmail made by Mr. Beecher against Theodore Tilton, Mr. Moulton says: 'So far as Beecher is concerned, Tilton never made a demand on him for money, or pecuniary aid in any way or form. He asked only that Beecher should interfere by his influence and power to protect him from the slanders of those who claimed to be Beecher's friends, while Beecher himself, with that generosity and kindness toward Tilton which had always characterized his conduct during his whole life, insisted, through me, in aiding Tilton in establishing his enterprise of the Golden Age, for which purpose he gave me the sum of \$5,000, which I was to expend in such manner as I deemed best to help the enterprise along, and if Tilton was at any time in need personally to aid him.'

"I think proper to add, says Mr. Moulton, that Tilton more than once said to me he could not receive anything from Beecher in the way of pecuniary assistance. I remember one special instance in which the subject was discussed between us. Beecher had told me that he was willing to furnish money for the expenses of Tilton and his family in traveling abroad, in order that Tilton might be saved from the constant state of irritation which arose from the rumors he was daily hearing. I rather hinted at than informed him that if he were to do so, it would be the indication of such a thing with the utmost indignation and anger. Therefore I only undertook the disbursement of this sum at the

most earnest and voluntary request of Beecher. Prior to Sunday, March 29, 1874, a publication was made of a statement by a reporter of the Brooklyn Union, purporting to be the result of an interview with Tilton, in which he stated that Mrs. Tilton had admitted the fact (whatever that phrase may be, in which she had admitted the fact) of her adultery with Beecher, and to the statement of neither of them, for that reason, was any credit to be given. Beecher was very much annoyed at this publication, and addressed the following letter to me: 'My DEAR MRS. TILTON: There is no end of trouble? Is it to follow me in endless succession? I was cut to the heart when G. showed me that shameful paragraph from the Union. Its cruelty is beyond description. I felt like lying down and saying, 'I am tired, tired, tired of living or trying to resist the devil of mischief.' I would rather have had a javelin launched against me a hundred times than those who have suffered so much. I have changed my mind, and I have sacrificed relations into such public life with horror. But there are some slight alleviations. The paragraph came when the public mind was engaged with the Council and the case of Mrs. Beecher. It is not taken up by other papers, it will sink out of sight and be forgotten whereas, if it were assailed, it may give it a conspicuity that it never would have had. But I shall write Shearman a letter and give him my full feelings about it. I must again be, as I have heretofore been, indebted to you for judicious counsel in this new flagrant element. My utmost soul longs for peace, and it is cannot be for death. That will bring peace. My fervent hope is that this depth of grief will sink through our trial, and not prove a mortal poison. Yours ever, H. W. BEECHER.'

"I have written strongly to Shearman, and hope that he will send a letter to T. unsolicited. I am sick, head and body, but must move on. I feel this morning like letting things go by the run."

"The letter of retraction proposed by Tilton in this case, to take such measures as should result in an apology from Shearman to Tilton. Accordingly carried to him a copy of the paper having the article, and laid it upon his desk. He said he would look it over, and if he did not want to read it, and would not read it. I then left him. Afterwards I saw Tilton and told him what I had done, and he said he would go together, which we did, and met Mr. Shearman at a meeting. His attention to the statement in the Brooklyn Union as having come from him (Shearman) concerning himself and his wife, that one was crazy and the other subject to medicaments, and that he was not to be trusted, is true, and if you are not correctly reported, your simple duty is to say so; and if you have made such a statement, I demand that you retract and apologize. If you do not, I shall have your responsibility taken care of, and an injurious statement. This confession brought about an explanation from Shearman. Tilton refused to accept, and Shearman two days afterward sent him another letter of explanation, in which he said, 'I am satisfied that what I did say was erroneous.'

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has confessed you have ruined her reputation and extraction of the truth for your mere personal safety—that won't save you.

"At that interview he 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 that fact he had been walking upon a volcano.

"I said: 'Mr. Beecher, I want that recantation I have come for it.' 'Well,' said he, 'what would I do with it?' 'I replied: 'I don't know. I can tell you what I will do with it.' He asked: 'What will you do if I give it to you?' 'I answered: 'I will keep it as I keep her confession. If you act honorably, I will protect it with my life. I would like to see it in the hands of another man. Mr. Tilton 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 means to get it back. Mr. Beecher gave me back the paper.'

"Having now placed before the committee my statement of facts concerning Mrs. Tilton and documentary evidence that I have to support them, and as they are diametrically opposed to nearly all that Mrs. Tilton has declared in her published statement, I deem it my duty to myself and my position in this terrible business, to say that during this affair Mrs. Tilton has more than once admitted to me, and to another person to my knowledge, that she had arranged a meeting with Beecher, and she has never once denied them other than in the written papers prepared for a purpose which I have already explained. In the contrary, the fact of such criminal intercourse being well understood by Beecher, Tilton, and Mrs. Tilton to have taken place, my whole action in the matter was based upon the existence of that fact, and was an endeavor faithfully carried out by me in every way possible to protect the families of both the parties from the consequences of public disclosure of Mrs. Tilton's admitted infidelities to her husband.

"It was needed that I was endeavoring to the latest hour to prevent the publication of all these documents and that I retained the confidence of at least one of the parties in that endeavor. I produce a letter of July 13, 1874, in which Mrs. Tilton arranged a meeting with myself and Beecher in regard to this controversy: 'July 13, 1874. 'My DEAR FRANK: I will be with you at 7, or a little before. I am ashamed to put a word upon you, and have but a single conclusion—that the matter cannot distress you long, as it must soon end. That is, there will be no more anxiety about the future, whatever regrets there may be in my past. Truly yours, and ever, 'H. W. BEECHER.'

"How King Theodore of Abyssinia Died. A few unarmed Abyssinians, attracted by the clamor of music and shouting, mustered courage enough to approach the standard which waved so gallantly in the mountain gale; and on beholding one of their countrymen on the ground, they bent over the body, but quickly recoiled with fearful dismay at their faces, exclaiming, 'Todros! Todros!'

"The words attracted the attention of every one, and together they strode toward the body, joining each other in the endeavor to obtain a glimpse of him the natives styled 'Todros, Negus, Negasi of Itiopia.'

"And what did they see? The body of a native seemingly half famished, clad in coarse upper garments, dingy with wear and ragged with tear, covering underraiments of clean linen!

"The face of deep brown was the most remarkable one in Abyssinia; it bore the appearance of one who had passed through many anxious hours. His eyes, now overspread with a deathly film, gave evidence yet of the piercing power for which they were celebrated. The mouth was well defined and thin-lipped. The lower lip was well adapted to express scorn, and a trace of it was still visible. As he gasped his last, two rows of whitish teeth were disclosed. Over his mouth two strong lines arched to a high aquiline nose. The nostrils expanded widely as he struggled to retain the breath which was rapidly leaving him. The face was broad, high cheek-boned, with a high, prominent forehead and overhanging eyebrows.

"The hair was divided into three large plaits extending from the forehead to the back of the neck, which latter appeared to be a very powerful strength. The body measured five feet eight inches, and was very muscular and broad-chested. There was a character about the features denoting great firmness or obstinacy mingled with ferocity; but perhaps the latter idea was suggested upon remembering the many cruelties ascribed to him. And thus it was that we saw the remains of him whom men called Theodore, Emperor of Abyssinia, the Descendant of Menelik; Son of Solomon, King of Kings, Lord of Earth, Conqueror of Ethiopia, Regenerator of Africa, and Saviour of Jerusalem, now dying—dead by his own hand!

"The Irish soldiers took hold of his leg and roughly dragged him to a hammock, where, after two or three gasps, he breathed his last.—Stanley's Campaign at Magdala.

A Lesson in Adjectives. 'Well, my son, you have got into grammar, have you?' said a proud sire to his thickest chip the other night. 'Let me hear you compare some adjectives.'

Chip—'All right, dad. Little, less, least; big, least, now, more, most—'

Proud Sire—'Hold on, sir; that's not right; you—'

C.—'Too, tore, toast; snow, snore, snout; go, goer, goat; row, row, root.'

P. S.—'Stop, I say; those adj—'

C.—'Drink, drank, drunk; chink, chank, chank—'

P. S.—'You infernal little fool! Want in thumper—'

C.—'Good, better, best; wood, water, wet; bad, wasser, worst; bile, biler, bilcrut; sew, sewer, sew; pew door, pouprach; O! gemini! da! o-o-o-w!'

"The outraged parent had broken into the recitation with a bootjack.

Changing the Pay-Day. Some of the largest manufacturing firms in England have changed pay-day from Saturday to Monday, and are represented as being very satisfied with the results of the change. The object is to remove from the workmen the temptations of a "holiday" immediately after they have been paid their weekly wages, and having work waiting for them on the morning following pay-day. M. Godin, of Guise, France, has improved on this system by dividing his workmen into sections, with different pay-days for each. He relies upon the moral example of their fellows working steadily on to prevent those who have just been paid from wasting their money in dissipation.

Partisan Theories of Government. In discussing the issue of the political campaign, a Democratic exchange says: 'The Republican party believes religiously in the doctrine and theory of paternal government. The fundamental principle of the Democratic party is, "That government is best that governs the least."

"This is a fair statement of the distinction difference in the underlying and all-pervading theories of the two parties. It might well serve as a key to the understanding of the respective records. Whatever has been the issue before the public during the co-existence of the parties, they have taken sides in accordance with this distinction in fundamental principle.

"Twenty years ago the Republican party was born, having for its motto "No more slave territory." It proposed to exercise paternal supervision over the territorial portion of the Union, excluding from it the deadly curse of African slavery. The Democratic party said on the contrary, "Let slavery be voted up or down in the territories; it is, not for the Government to interfere." Then, as now, "paternalism" was undemocratic. A few years later came the supreme test. Some of the States wanted to secede. The Republican party "paternally" objected; the Democracy again said, in effect, that the Government had no right to interfere. The war over, the Southern States attempted to restrict suffrage to the whites. The Republicans insisted that the Government should once more exercise paternalism by inserting a clause in the Constitution guaranteeing the elective franchise to all, without distinction of race, color or previous condition of servitude. As a matter of course, the Democrats fought against the amendment. There have been three great conflicts on the paternal line of battle, in each one of which each party has been thoroughly true to its fundamental principle, and the people have repudiated the absurd idea that "that Government is best which governs the least." The truth is that the test of a Government is in the quality rather than in the quantity of its rule, and true statesmanship consists in applying legislative remedies when really applicable, and only then. Some evils are too deep and subtle for political agency to reach them. As well attempt to hold water in a sieve as to regulate the conscience by statute. Between vice and crime there is a broad distinction. The former is beyond the reach of legislation; the suppression of the latter is the especial province of law. To adopt the do-nothing theory of Democracy would be like disbanding the Fire Department, and trusting to private effort to stay the flames of a rising conflagration. The disreputable record of the Democratic party has grown out of its false premise as a logical and inevitable sequence.

"In the matter of finance there has not been much opportunity for anti-paternalism. In this regard the Democrats have not dared to be consistent. No convention of the party since the present banking system came into vogue has demanded that the Government should go out of the banking business. In