

report is a summary of the evidence, none of which, however, will be given to the public for several weeks. It is an entire acquittal of Beecher.

NEW YORK, 21. — The following are copies of the unpublished documents, which will appear in the statement of Frank D. Moulton, written some two weeks ago, to be published in the *Daily Graphic* this afternoon—

"New York, Apl. 2, '71,

"My dear Moulton:

"Now for the closing act of justice and duty. Let Theodore pass into your hands the written apology which he holds for the improper advances, and do you pass it into the flames of the friendly fire in your room of reconciliation. Then let Theodore talk to Oliver Johnson. I hear that he and Carpenter, the artist, have made this whole affair the subject of conversation in the clubs.

"Sincerely yours,

"SAM'L WILKESON."

Mrs. Tilton to Moulton, between April 7th and Nov. 20th, 1872:

"Dear Francis.—I did not tell you two falsehoods at your last visit. At first I entirely misunderstood your question, thinking that you had reference to the interview at your house the day before; but when I intelligently replied to you I replied falsely. I will now put myself on record truthfully. I told Mr. B. that at the time of my confession, T. had made similar confessions to me of himself, but no developments as to persons. When you then asked for your own satisfaction, 'Was it so?' I told my second lie. After you had left I said to T., 'You know I was obliged to lie to Frank,' and I now say that rather than make others suffer as I now do, I must lie, for it is a physical impossibility for me to tell the truth, yet I do not think, Francis, had not T's angry troubled face been before me, I would have told you the truth. I am a perfect coward in his presence, not from any fault of his, but from long years of timidity. I implore you, as this is a side issue, to be careful not to lead me to temptation.

"You may show this to T., or to Mrs. B., or anyone as an effort made for the truth.

"Wretchedly, ELIZABETH."

Beecher to Bowen.

"BROOKLYN, Jan. 2nd, '71.

"My Dear Bowen.—Since I saw you, last Tuesday, I have reason to think that the only cases in which I spoke to you in regard to Mr. Tilton were exaggerated in being reported to me, and I should be unwilling to have anything I said, though it was but little, to have any weight on your mind in a matter so important to his welfare. I am informed by one on whose judgment and integrity I greatly rely, and who has the means of forming an opinion better than any of us, that he knows the whole matter about Mrs. Ballard, and the stories are not true, and that the same is the case with other stories. I do not wish any reply to this. I thought it only due to justice that I should say so much.

"Truly yours,

"H. W. BEECHER."

Then comes Tilton's letter of January 2nd, '71, notifying Bowen that he authorizes Moulton to settle the accounts growing out of his services for the *Independent*, through the *Brooklyn Union*. Then the letter from Moulton to the Claffins, stating that he, Moulton, had advised Tilton to arbitrate the matter, and hoping this would meet the approval of all parties concerned.

Beecher's memorandum of the interview at Freeland's is as follows:

"February, '71.

"I have had a long interview at Dr. Freeland's house, for the purpose of having a full and final reconciliation. Mr. Bowen stated his grievances, which were all either of a business nature, or my treatment of him personally, as per memorandum in his writing. After hours of conference, everything was adjusted, we shook hands, and we pledged each other to work henceforth without far or break. I said to him, 'Mr. Bowen, if you hear anything not in accordance with this agreement of harmony do not let it rest, come straight to me at once and I will do the same by you.' He agreed. In

the lecture room I stated that all our differences were over, and that we were friends again. At this public recognition he was present and heard and expressed himself as greatly pleased with it. It was after all this I asked Mr. Howard to help me carry out the reconciliation, and to call on Mr. Bowen and remove the little difference between them. Mr. Howard called and expressed his gratification, and then it was that, without any provocation, he, Bowen, told Howard that this reconciliation did not include one matter, that he, Bowen, knew that about Mr. Beecher, which, if he should speak, would drive Mr. Beecher out of Brooklyn. Mr. Howard protested with horror, against such a statement, saying, 'Mr. B., this is terrible; no man should make such a statement unless he has the most absolute evidence,' and he said pointedly, that he, Howard, might go to Beecher, and Beecher would never give his consent that he, Bowen, should tell Howard the secret. Mr. Bowen at no time had ever made known to Mr. H. what this secret was, and the hints which Mr. Beecher had heard led him to think it was another matter, and not slander, which he now found it to be."

In the first part of the original of this memorandum the words "between Bowen and Beecher," to which follow the words "full and final reconciliation," are crossed.

Beecher's proposed card for Tilton—

"In my enthusiasm I hoped well and much of one who has proved so utterly unprincipled, I shall never again notice her stories, and now utterly repudiate her statements made concerning me and mine."

NEW YORK, 21. — The *Daily Graphic* furnishes, in advance of publication, the proof sheets of the complete statement of Moulton. Moulton prefaces his statement by the following card—

"To the Public. I became a party almost accidentally in the unhappy controversy between Beecher and 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 cause of offence that if the truth should be made public a great national calamity would ensue. I believed 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. Thus disastrous I deemed it and still regard it, and I determined to try and avoid it. For nearly four years I have labored most assiduously to save both these men from the consequences of their acts, whether of unwisdom or passion, acts 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 a host of others. More than all I saw that, because of the transgression of the mother, innocent children would be burdened with a load of obloquy which would weigh most heavily and cruelly on their young lives. All these considerations determined me to take an active part in the transactions which have ultimately become so notorious. This decision involved me in great anxiety and labor, for which the hope of saving these interests could be my only compensation. Even that reward has now failed me, and instead an attempt is made to throw on me a part of the shame and disgrace which belong to the actors alone. One of them, whom I have zealously 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 the public is 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 and confidence and becoming gratitude, until, I think in an evil hour for him, he took other advice. I have failed, and now, strangely enough, he seems

to desire to punish me for the sad consequences of the folly, insincerity and wickedness of his present counselors. Mr. Beecher, in his statement, testifies that he brought this investigation without any knowledge or advice. Even while mourning what seemed to me the utter unwisdom of this proceeding, I have done all I could honorably to avert the catastrophe and I 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 denied the united and public appeals made to me by Mr. Beecher and Mr. Tilton to produce 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 tried to conserve, and especially upon Mr. Beecher himself, if I should comply with this request, but I stated clearly that in an emergency I should speak warmly in defense of my own integrity of action, if it should be wantonly assailed. I left Mr. Beecher untrammelled by the facts in my hands to defend himself."

"But the published accusations of Mr. Beecher affecting my character, my own self-respect, the advice of friends, and public justice make it imperative that the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth be now declared."

Moulton says, "I give the statement as worded before Beecher made his statement, no syllable being changed. I withheld it only as a last, despairing effort to save friends, and now give it to defend my own character. I have only one alleviation to my grief, and that is that the facts now published will be no more destructive than when they came out in January, 1871, when I took the part of mediator and attempted to restrain them. It leaves Beecher and Mrs. Tilton in almost the same position in which I found them, excepting in so far as 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 facts as shown by the documents herewith submitted, and others which I have at my hand, the production of which did not seem to be necessary until some portion of the published evidence of Mr. Beecher demanded a contradiction. (Signed)

"FRANCIS D. MOULTON."

The statement says that Moulton has been, since 1850, intimate with Tilton, and a frequent visitor to his house, and up to the 22nd of December, 1870, the day of Tilton's resignation as editor of the *Independent* had never heard or known of the slightest disagreement or unkindness existing between Tilton and his wife, but believed their marital relations were almost unexceptionably pleasant. On the 29th of December, Tilton told Moulton of Bowen's charges against Beecher, and of his hiring him to write the open letter to Beecher, demanding his retirement from Plymouth Church and from Brooklyn, for reasons which you explicitly understand, which words were, so Tilton stated, underlined in the note at the request of Bowen. Tilton at the same time told Moulton that he said to Bowen that he was prepared to believe his charges, because Beecher had made improper advances to Mrs. Tilton. "Surprised at this," he says, "I asked him what, when he replied, 'Don't ask; I cannot tell you.'" Moulton thereupon remonstrated with Tilton upon his foolishness in signing such a letter on the strength of Bowen's assertions, and not have Bowen sign it also, and further expressed his doubt as to whether Bowen would deliver the letter. He afterwards learned from Beecher that Bowen did deliver the letter and that Beecher gave Moulton a copy of it on the 1st of January. Subsequently Moulton received from Tilton a copy of the same letter. Moulton then repeats the circumstances of Bowen's dismissal of Tilton from the *Independent* and *Union*, as related to him by the latter, from which it appears that the dismissal was caused by Tilton's announcement that he was going to see Beecher.

The statement then says: "On Friday evening, December 30th, Tilton came to me and said, that by his wife's request he had determined to see Beecher, in order to show to Beecher the confession of his wife of interviews between them, which he (Tilton) had never, up to that time, mentioned to Beecher, though made in the July previous in writing. Tilton did not tell me how his wife came to make the confession in July, nor did I, at that time or ever after, ask. Indeed I refrained from ask-

ing for the confession of all parties, farther 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 statement to you in reference to your relations with his family.' We then started out to go there. It was storming at the time, and he remarked, 'There is an appropriateness in this storm,' and asked me, '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 the chamber over the parlor, where Tilton was, and left them together. In about an hour 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 Tilton's house together. On the way he said: 'This is a terrible catastrophe; it comes upon me as if I had been struck by lightning.' He went into Tilton's house and I returned home.

"When we arrived at Beecher's house he wanted me to stand by him in this emergency and procure a reconciliation if possible. I told him I would, because the interests of the women, children and families were involved, if for no other reason. That ended the interview that night. I returned to my house and had some conversation with Tilton, in which he told me that he had recited to Beecher the details 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."

Next morning, Moulton learned from Tilton of Beecher's securing from Mrs. Tilton, during his interview with her, the night before, the retraction of her confession. Tilton was furious. Moulton still counselled moderation and undertook to get the retraction away from Beecher. This he subsequently did, and gave the retraction to Tilton.

Subsequently Moulton went to Beecher's house, and says: "He took me into his study and then expressed his great grief at the wrong which he had done as a minister and friend to Theodore, and at his request I took pen and paper and, at his dictation, wrote what is known as the apology, which was to be shown to Tilton only. It had reference only to criminality with Mrs. Tilton, which Beecher on that occasion confessed. On several other occasions he confessed his guilt with Mrs. T., and always in a spirit of deep grief and sorrow at the enormity of the crime he had committed, 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."

Then follows a statement as to the reconciliation between Bowen, Beecher and Tilton, the substance of which has already been published on several occasions.

Next comes a lengthy statement in reference to the tripartite covenant between Bowen, Tilton and Beecher; also the appearance on the scene of Mrs. Woodhull, and her connection with the scandal, the refusal of Beecher to preside at a lecture by Woodhull, &c., all of which has already been published in our columns.

Moulton next presents a copy of a letter from Mrs. Hooker to her brother, Thomas K. Beecher, as follows:

"Hartford, Sunday, Nov. 3d, 1872.

"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 H. a single sentence last week, thus—'Can I help you?' and here is his reply—'If you still believe in that woman you cannot help me. If you think of her as I do you can, perhaps, though I do not need much help. I tread falsehoods into the ground from whence they sprung, and go on my way rejoicing. My people are thus far heroic, and would give their lives for me. Their love and confidence would make me willing to bear far more than I have. Mean-

time, the Lord has a pavilion in which he hides me until the storm is over and past. I bide in that place, committing myself to him who gave himself for me. I trust you will give neither countenance nor credit to the abominable coinage that has been put afloat. The specks of truth are mere spangles upon the garment of falsehood. The truth itself is made to lie. Thank you for love and truth and silence, but think of the barbarity of dragging a poor dead child of a woman into this slough. Yours truly."

Mrs. Hooker continues—"Now, Tom, so far as I can see, it is he who has dragged the dear woman into the slough, and left her there, and who is now sending another woman to prison who is innocent of all crime but fanaticism for the truth as revealed to her."

She then quotes a letter from Woodhull to her, apparently with the view of proving Woodhull's sincerity in the cause of social freedom. She then expresses her fears thus: "Oh my dear brother! I fear the awful struggle to live according to law has wrought an absolute demoralization as to truthfulness, and so he can talk about spangles on the garment of falsehood, when the garment is Truth and the specks are the falsehood." She gives a copy of a former letter from Henry in quite a different vein, being very affectionate, saying: "Probably you and I are nearer together than any of our family. I thank you for your letter. Of some things I neither talk nor will I be talked with. For love and sympathy I am deeply thankful. The only help that can be grateful to me or useful is silence, and a silencing influence on all others. A day may come for converse. It is not now. Living or dead, my dear sister Belle, love me and do not talk about me or suffer others to in your presence." She expresses a fear that Henry will kill himself. She concludes with an earnest expression of sympathy for Woodhull.

Thomas, in reply, says:

"Dear Belle—To allow the devil himself to be crushed for speaking the truth is unspeakably cowardly and contemptible, and I respect, as at present advised, Mrs. Woodhull, while I abhor her philosophy. She only carries out Henry's philosophy, against which I recorded my protest twenty years ago, and parted lovingly and achingly from him saying, 'We cannot work together.' He has drifted and I have hardened like a crystal, until I am sharp-cornered and exacting. I cannot be held except by prayer. I cannot help him through Edward. In my judgment Henry is following his slippery doctrines of expediency, and in his cry of progress and the nobleness of human nature, has sacrificed a clear and exact ideal of integrity, and then my pulpit, my home, my church and my purse and heart are at his service. Of the two Woodhull is my hero and Henry my coward, as at present advised. But I protest against the whole batch, and all its belongings. I was not anti-slavery. I am not anti-family, but as I wrote years ago whenever I assaulted slavery, except because of its abominations, I shall assail the church, the State, the family and all other institutions of selfish usage. I return the papers. You cannot help Henry. You must be true to Woodhull. I am out of the circle as yet, and am glad of it. When the storm line includes me I shall suffer as a Christian, saying, 'Cease ye from man.' Don't write to me to follow the truth and when you need mercy out."

"Yours lovingly, TOM."

"P. S. Your testimony would be allowed in no court. Tilton, his wife, Moulton & Co., are witnesses. Even Mrs. Stanton can only declare her say so. If you move remember you are standing on uncertain information, and we shall not probably ever get the fact, and I am glad of it. If Mr. and Mrs. Tilton are brought into court nothing will be revealed. Perjury, for good reason, is, with advanced thinkers, no sin."

Of the above and other letters, Moulton says: "All these letters I received from Beecher, and they are those to which he alludes in communications of the 4th inst. as letters of his sister and brother, delivered to me, and which I did not believe that I could honorably give him up, because I thought, and I submit to the committee that I was right in my thinking, that they form part of this controversy, and were not as he therein alleged,

(Concluded on page 477.)