

## BY TELEGRAPH. AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, 15.—The following letter will appear to-morrow, from Mrs. Tilton:

Mr. Ira B. Wheeler:]

Dear Sir.—A few weeks since, after long months of mental anguish, I told, as you know, a few friends, whom I had bitterly deceived, that the charge brought by my husband of adultery between myself and Henry Ward Beecher was true, and that the lie I had lived so well the last four years had become intolerable to me. That statement I now solemnly reaffirm, and leave the truth with God, to whom also I commit myself, my children and all who must suffer. I know full well the explanations that will be sought by many for this acknowledgment. A desire to return to my husband, insanity, malice, everything save the only true one, my quickened conscience and sense of what is due to the cause of truth and justice. During all the complications of these years, you have been my confidential friend, and therefore I address this letter to you, authorizing and requesting you to secure its publication.

(Signed) ELIZABETH R. TILTON.  
Brooklyn, April 13, 1878.

Frank B. Carpenter, artist, in an interview this evening, stated that there was no doubt of the genuineness of the letter. Mr. B. Wheeler, he said, had been the private legal adviser and confidential friend of Mrs. Tilton, all through the trouble. Lawyers Sherman, Morris and Price refused to be interviewed.

The *Tribune* says: Mr. Wheeler called at the *Tribune* office yesterday afternoon, with the original of the above document and submitted it for publication. There was no question of the genuine character of the document, no matter under what circumstances it had been obtained and promulgated, and at Mr. Wheeler's suggestion and wish it was put in type. A *Tribune* reporter subsequently had an interview with Mr. Wheeler, but he was very reticent. He stated that he was a distant relative of Mrs. Tilton. He said he was very reluctant to be known in any connection with the matter, and that, in fact, his only connection was in the submission of the document for publication. Mrs. Tilton had at once authorized and requested him to see that it was published. He added he did not feel at liberty to state any of the circumstances which led to the confession. About four weeks ago Mrs. Tilton had verbally made a confession in detail to Mrs. Anna M. Field and four other ladies of Plymouth Church, stating all the circumstances of the various adulteries, and about the same time she had written a letter to the same import to certain members of the Plymouth Church, probably the same persons. This letter he could not furnish, and he said it was of such a confidential character that it was not likely to be published. At the same time, or about that time, he had received a private letter from Mrs. Tilton, but could not think of publishing it. The document given now to the public was all he was authorized to publish.

"Mr. Wheeler, does not Mr. Tilton know of this confession?"

"Emphatically not."

"Mr. Tilton says truly when he states that he has not made overtures for reconciliation with his wife."

"I wish you would state this positively."

A gentleman who was prominently connected with the defence in the Beecher suit, on being shown a proof slip of the letter, after reading it carefully, without evincing any surprise, looked up and said, "Well." On being asked his opinion of it, he at first declined to express any, but subsequently remarked that Mr. Beecher's friends had expected something of the kind for some time. As to the statement of Wheeler, to whom the letter was addressed, that Tilton did not know of its existence, the gentleman remarked with a smile, "That would be the way he would go to work."

"Frequently, during the winter," said he, "Mr. Beecher has been applied to for money to aid Mrs. Tilton, the request or demand not technically coming from her, nor purporting to be made with her knowledge or consent, but for her benefit. This demand was accompanied by threats and intimations that if it was not met something would turn up. Mr. Tilton's influ-

ence over his wife is very great," this gentleman continued, "and she cannot resist it."

A gentleman living near Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Tilton, and intimately acquainted with both, says: The events of the last few months have led me to believe that arrangements for reconciliation between Tilton and wife have been completed. He frequently sent a carriage to Mrs. Morse's house for his sons, meeting them on Yates' Avenue, two or three blocks away, and after a drive of several hours the boys would return alone. On one occasion, Tilton drove back to the house, but did not alight. He has sent Mrs. Tilton money on several occasions. Mrs. Tilton went to Warwick notwithstanding Mrs. Morse's denial, and the sons are my authority for the statement that she engaged rooms there for the summer.

Mr. Beecher was out of the city to-night when Mrs. Tilton's letter was made public, and his whereabouts was not known save to a few friends.

The New York *Tribune* telegraphed him a copy of the letter at a late hour to-night, and received the following dispatch in reply:

WAVERLY, N. Y.,  
April 15, 1878.

To Editor New York *Tribune*:

I confront Mrs. Tilton's confession with explicit and absolute denial. The testimony to her own innocence and mine, which for four years, she had made to hundreds in private and in public, before the court, in writing and orally, I declare to be true, and the allegations now made in contradiction of her solemn and unwavering statement hitherto made, I utterly deny. I declare her to be innocent of the great transgression.

Signed)

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

NEW YORK, 16.—The *Tribune's* editorial says: Mrs. Tilton's letter will be read with mingled emotions of sorrow, pity, amazement, and disgust. Beecher had made enough admissions to damn a dozen other preachers, yet the jury could not convict, and the congregation would not abandon him. Tilton had compromised himself by wringing in terms of affection to a man whom he accused of outraging his domestic sanctuary. Yet thousands believed him; and Mrs. Tilton, what story has she not told about this mystery? What hideous and impossible thing has she not done? The letter of Mrs. Tilton, like all literature of scandal, is somewhat overstrained in language and spasmodic in general tone; but in one particular, at least, it bears the appearance of sincerity. Whatever we may think of this amazing woman, whichever of her many contradictory statements we may take to be lies, there can be no doubt that she has lived seven or eight years of cruel anguish. It is impossible to think of her past without mercy, of her future without compassion. No matter who may have been the chief sinner, she has been the chief victim, and there is no possible solution of the case which can restore her to peace, happiness and her good name. The only boon she can pray for is the pardon of God and forgetfulness of man, and the best blessing which the rest of the world can implore is that it may forget.

The *Times* says, editorially, on the evidence submitted at the trial of Beecher, the *Times* reached the conclusion that he was guilty of the charge brought against him. Since that time we have seen no reason to change the opinion then recorded, though we should have shared the satisfaction of all right-minded people in finding sufficient grounds to believe in Beecher's innocence. The *Times* proclaimed the guilt of Beecher on other grounds than the confession and retraction of Mrs. Tilton. The card from her, which we publish to-day, does not, therefore, strengthen the case against him, as it has been regarded in these columns. It is worthless as legal evidence, however strongly it may confirm the moral presumption of Beecher's guilt. As for Beecher, he remains the impure and perjured man which any rational construction of his own letters proved him to be.

Mrs. Tilton's latest confession will probably not abate one jot of the attachment with which Beecher's friends have clung to him, and their implicit faith in his innocence is likely to stand a much ruder test than this. But it can hardly fail to deepen the indigna-

tion with which those convinced of Beecher's guilt regard the spectacle of the gospel of truth and purity being expounded by one who has so flagrantly defied its precepts. Were it for no other reason than the influence which this ever-recurring scandal has upon the moral tone of society, or than the insidious poison which it carries into the mind of the youth, the individual who is the source and centre must sustain in the sight of God and man the awful responsibility.

The *Herald's* editorial thinks that nothing Mrs. Tilton can say will be believed because she has been so contradictory. This unhappy woman bruised by many trials and much suffering, should be judged without harshness, for whatever may be her character, she is the victim of the sins of others. Her intellect seems to have been shattered by her trials, or her sense of utter desolation and helplessness may have made her the passive tool of others. What are we to think of a man who could extort so terrible and humiliating a confession? If all she confesses is true, why should he dishonor his children by causing their mother to confess that she is unworthy of respect? Why should he degrade himself by publishing his own shame.

The *Herald's* cable says: The *Globe* of last evening states, editorially: "Our Cronstadt correspondent writes that the scheme of fitting out privateers in America is making rapid progress. A large number of seamen, belonging to the Baltic fleet, are under orders and in readiness to proceed to the United States at a moment's notice. It is rumored that the Grand Duke Alexis will be appointed admiral of the privateer squadron, and that during his recent visit to New York the project was thoroughly canvassed in the event of war with England. The idea of forming a powerful fleet in America is very popular throughout Russia, because it is thought a severe blow can be given to English commerce at its very centre, namely, its carrying the trade from the United States. The scheme causes intense delight among all the Baltic seamen."

The *Star* and *Herald*, of Panama, received to-day, contains the terms of the settlement of the questions arising out of the attack on the German Consul Eisenstuck, in Nicaragua, in 1876. The terms are—first, the Nicaraguan Government is to address Vonbergen a note expressing regret for the occurrences of the nights of October 23rd and November 26th, 1876. Second, the German flag is to be saluted by Nicaragua. Third, \$30,000 to be paid as indemnity to the German Consul. Fourth, the trial of the parties who made the attack on Consul Eisenstuck, to be reopened, and these to be punished according to the laws of the country. Otherwise Nicaragua to pay an additional indemnity of \$8,000.

Members of the French commission of exploration, left behind by Lieutenant Wyse, are surveying the Panama route for a canal. The prospects are most encouraging. The congress of the United States of Columbia has provided that the nation shall, at its own expense, send to the United States, Switzerland, Germany, or England, a number of workmen of each state in proportion to its population, that they may acquire a knowledge of mechanical arts, and afterwards diffuse the same in their own country.

Forty-three Chinamen sailed from Peru for home, taking with them 200,000 soles in silver bars, the results of their savings.

The *Perusia*, the vessel which takes away the Chinamen, is expected to bring a large number on her return trip, taking them on board at Whampoa, thus avoiding Hong Kong and English interference. Over 1,000 were in readiness to embark when the *Perusia* left Hong Kong on her first trip, but were prevented by the government of that place.

ELMIRA, N. Y., 16.—Henry Ward Beecher was a passenger on the Erie Road, west, this morning, from Waverly. All efforts to get an interview with him were unsuccessful. He went direct to his hotel after the lecture, last night, and refused to see anyone connected with the press. He went from the hotel direct to the depot, this morning. When the train stopped, a reporter sought an interview, but Beecher refused to talk. He lectures at Bath, to-night.

CHICAGO, 16.—The *Tribune*, editorially, sees no reason to change

the opinions of the pro or anti-Beecher partisans. Its own convictions of Beecher's guilt are strengthened, but the celebrated case is as far from a definite settlement as ever.

The *Inter-Ocean* recalls her previous contradictory and more solemn confessions, and sees in the last one only a weakening intellect in a weak woman. It calls for particulars of circumstances under which the confession was obtained.

The *Times* says, the confession contradicts one of her statements and affirms another. It does not settle anything, and it is better that in the interests of public decency that the whole matter be dropped forever.

## FOREIGN.

LONDON, 15.—The Queen has replied to the address of Parliament, thanking her Majesty for calling out the reserves. She thanks both houses for their loyalty, and says she feels sure she can always rely upon their adopting measures for the honor of the crown and stability of the empire.

A St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs: There is said to have been an amicable semi-official interchange of views between the London and St. Petersburg cabinets. The former declares a sincere desire for a peaceful situation, and disclaims a wish to put unnecessary obstacles in the way of the negotiations, but adheres to the desire to have the whole treaty placed before the congress; the latter also adheres to its previous attitude, and cites Prince Gortschakoff's reply to Lord Salisbury, as proof of readiness to discuss even the most important clauses. In unofficial conversation the Russians still cling to the idea that England seeks to humiliate them and tear up the treaty. They will not allow the treaty to be cancelled, although they are ready to make negotiations. The preliminary conference seems to be the most promising issue out of the difficulty.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 15.—In consequence of the spread of typhus in this city, all departing vessels receive foul bills of health.

The trial of Suleiman Pasha has commenced. His condemnation is regarded as extremely probable.

The Russians have occupied Shumla.

The Volo Circassians and other irregulars under Asaf Pasha have massacred between 800 and 900 persons, of all ages and sexes, at Palatiza.

It is stated that Count Zichy, Austrian ambassador, has renewed the proposals for the eventual occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria, pointing out that unless the Porte agrees to this measure it will be impossible to bring about the return of Bosnia refugees to their homes or to establish the security of the frontier. Russia is in accord with Austria in this matter, and would consent to modify the requisite portion of the San Stefano treaty if the Porte should consent to Count Zichy's proposal. It is untrue that Count Zichy has also asked to occupy the Salonica railway.

Prince Milan is expected to start for Nisch on Thursday. He will probably issue a proclamation.

There was a manifest uneasiness on Sunday and Monday lest the Russians should attempt a *coup de main* against Constantinople. The suspicion is only traceable to the general discontent of Russians at the prolonged uncertainty.

VIENNA, 15.—According to Berlin advices, Germany will only really attempt a pacific intervention when all is prepared on both sides, so as to insure almost certain success. The first step in the direction of mediation seems to have been the obtaining of some authority to undertake the task, and all these preliminary difficulties seem to be overcome. There is more confidence in the meeting of the congress.

BERLIN, 15.—The Roumanian agent here officially denies the report that Prince Gortschakoff has requested the recall of the Roumanian agent at Vienna.

Preparations are making in Russia for the organization of a general levy. Passports will only be issued to persons over 46 years of age.

LONDON, 16.—A strike of cotton operatives would stop 5,750,000 spindles in one district, and 1,500,000 in another, and the feeling of the masters and men is becoming stronger. The masters at Burnley, last night, resolved to co-operate in enforcing

the reduction of wages. The card-room hands at Blackburn, after hearing the report of the deputation which waited upon the masters, unanimously resolved to resist the reduction. The Weavers Association advise that the masters be requested to withdraw the notices of a reduction, when the weavers would continue to work.

In the House of Commons, this afternoon, Sir Stafford Northcote, Chancellor of the Exchequer, replying to an inquiry of Mr. Foster, said the situation is an anxious one, but nothing has occurred to aggravate it, or to diminish the hope of a satisfactory arrangement. Nothing justifies the assertion that England will be isolated. A circular is expected from Turkey to the Powers. There is a good prospect of an arrangement in Thessaly and Epirus, through the good offices of England.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* states that negotiations with England and Austria are progressing.

A special from Vienna says: News has reached here that the Grand Duke Nicholas returns to Petersburg, and that General Todleben goes to San Stefano to assume chief command. This is considered a conciliatory step.

The fact that the cabinets at London and St. Petersburg have resorted to a semi-official intercourse seems to indicate that official expressions would only have intensified their differences. The result of the interchange of views is not hopeful, Russia repeating her former answer and England reaffirming the principles originally laid down.

The reports of an Austro-Russian agreement, under pressure from Bismarck, is denied by Andrassy's friends, who declare that Bismarck's attitude has been one of neutrality, as between Russia and Austria, he well understanding that the margin for mediation is exceedingly narrow.

The reports about Russia having sent a reply to Austria's objections are contradicted. It is stated in Vienna that the Emperor and the military are stronger than Count Andrassy, and will not support his anti-Russian policy. Among a large class of Austrians the belief prevails that Austria has nothing to gain by peace or war, because Hungary would resist the annexation of the Slav countries; but that action will be forced on the monarchy, if the Russians attempt to disarm or occupy Roumania. Bismarck's reported answer to the Roumanian prime minister is confirmed by the statement in the *Norddeutsche Zeitung*, as follows: Bratianu must have known, before his arrival here, that Germany is not disposed to subordinate her own relations to Russia to regard the wishes of Roumania in the Bessarabian question which does not touch German interests.

Pro-Russian advices from Constantinople say: The situation is strained to its utmost, that the Grand Duke Nicholas is much depressed, and that the impression prevails that affairs are surely drifting to war.

Eleven failures, chiefly of stock brokers, are announced to have taken place yesterday: liabilities aggregating \$800,000.

BERNE, 16.—Switzerland has accepted the proposal of the United States to participate in the International Congress to fix the relative values of gold and silver.

When a railroad train gets within an eighth of a mile of the terminus, then arises every passenger as one man, rushes to the platform, blocks the door, crowds the aisles, and nobody ever gets out half so quick as would be the case if each person retained his seat until the train stopped. This is an American peculiarity.

A clergyman in one of the Hudson River towns united a German couple in marriage. When the knot was tied, the bridegroom said,

"Dominie, I've got no monish, but I'll send you von leetle pig."

It was done, and the circumstance was forgotten by the clergyman. Two years afterward he met the German in another town, for the first time since the marriage ceremony was performed.

"Dominie," said the German, "you remembers you married me, and I gave you von leetle pig?"

"Yes."

"Vell, if you'll unmarry me, I will give you two leetle pigs."—*Editor's Drawer in Harpers Magazine for April.*