

By Telegraph.

AMERICAN

CHICAGO, 24.—A special says that when Tilton first came before the committee, he made the proposition that if Beecher would retire from the pulpit, he would prepare a card vindicating him, and his removal from suspicion. The committee ridiculed the idea, and Tilton, in a passion, exclaimed, "Beecher is an old coward," whereupon Mr. Sage, chairman of the committee, said, "If Mr. Beecher is a coward, the committee are not, and they intend to sift the matter thoroughly, without compromise, and somebody must suffer." Mr. Beecher has been very busy collecting proof that on the day of his alleged first adultery with Mrs. Tilton, he was at Peekskill; another discrepancy will be shown in Tilton's statement where he speaks of Mrs. Tilton as suffering, then mentally, because of the death of a young child; the death took place subsequently. The committee state that the examination of Mr. Beecher will be much more complete than that of any other person who has been called. He will be required to give the fullest explanation to every circumstance.

CHICAGO, 25.—A New York special says that Victoria Woodhull and Tinnie C. Claffin have arrived in New York from their western lecturing tour. In conversation with a reporter the former said that Tilton had begun the battle nobly, and when his strength failed him she would take it up. She said both sides had told horrible lies about matters; not that she cared for Beecher's relations with Mrs. Tilton, but she could and would show that he was as much a free-lover as Theodore, and when the time came for her to speak out the world would stand aghast at the hypocrisy of Beecher.

NEW YORK, 25.—An endeavor to interview Mr. Beecher this morning resulted in obtaining from him only the declaration that the charges were absolutely false, and that he would in good time make that apparent; he added that he was entitled to the right accorded to ordinary criminals at least—the right of being heard before he was condemned. Mr. Tracy says Mr. Beecher's fault was venial, and the stupidity that induced concealment was damnable. General Butler says he has no connection with the case, and is not counsel for Mr. Tilton or Mr. Moulton. Of Mr. Tilton's statement, the General adds, "I think it a most unfortunate thing that it should ever have been made public. I advised very strongly against its being given to the world; it is a miserable business."

The following is all that has transpired to-day in connection with the Beecher-Tilton affair: Mrs. Tilton, to-day, stated that in the article recently printed expressions are put into her mouth which are more like those of Mr. Tilton than any she would use. It was true that Mrs. Susan B. Anthony had visited her home, and unfortunately too many of her class, to contribute to the unhappiness of that home. It was in consequence of such visitors that her old and intimate friends ceased to call upon her and left her alone. Since her separation from Tilton she says she has received numerous letters from her old friends in all parts of the country, congratulating her on her withdrawal from the circle of those who had made her home objectionable to them, and professing renewed friendship and esteem. She has not the faintest recollection of any such scene as the one described as having occurred in the presence of Mrs. Susan B. Anthony. Mrs. Tilton is calm in her demeanor, and expresses her entire confidence in the inevitable result of the present investigation.

Mr. Ovington has stated that the committee are determined to put Mr. Beecher through a most vigorous and searching examination; he believes, however, that Mr. Beecher will come out of this trouble brighter and stronger than he ever was, and when his detailed answer to the specific charges contained in Mr. Tilton's complaint is published the community will be fully able to arrive at a just verdict.

H. B. Claffin, one of the committee, says the investigation will end soon, and all the proceedings, cross-examinations and everything will be given for publication just as it occurred.

Victoria Woodhull said she came straight here from San Francisco to take part in this fight, as she looked upon this as her own battle for the principle she advocates. She said in an interview, to-day, "I know very well why this great pressure has been brought to bear to hush the truth, it is because many persons are frightened to death from a fear that all the facts will be made known, and yet what have they to be frightened about? Let them come out and withstand public opinion. I have read Tilton's statement, and every word of it is true; the only fault that I find is that Theodore has only told one-third of what he ought and might have told. He wants to shield some one else. He has been a sorely abused and injured man; he ought to speak out. See the charity which he displayed in living with his wife four years when he knew all. Let me tell you the sentiment in the West, and I have had excellent opportunities for judging it. The current is turning strongly in favor of Mr. Tilton. Of Frank Moulton she said he has stood between Tilton and Beecher throughout this affair, and he has done his duty to both. I do not believe he will shirk now. His testimony will be of the utmost importance, all that Tilton has said will be proven. He has the letters in his possession, and I know he will produce them. Without Frank's evidence I think they would crush Tilton, for so many influential members of Plymouth Church are bent on doing it. Only the other day when I met Moulton, he said, 'Theodore shall not be crucified,' and he meant what he said. Yes, I know something of the history of this affair, and when they are done I shall speak, I shall give some truths which are not now known, and some facts, which are not now understood."

The following question was asked of Mrs. Woodhull—

"Did Mrs. Tilton ever confess to you that she had been faithless to her marriage vows?"

"I won't answer," exclaimed Mrs. Woodhull impulsively, then after a moment's hesitation, she added, "When I first published the statement that I knew of two eminent persons who were living in concubinage, and preaching from their pulpits, I was not acquainted with Theo. Tilton, I had never met him, I supposed him to be a clergyman. The day after the announcement he called upon me and showed me the extract, and asked me if it referred to him. I told him it did. In two or three days' time he invited me to his house, and introduced me to his wife. What would he have done that for if not to say, 'Elizabeth, here is one who knows all.'"

"Then you did not get your first information from Mr. Tilton?"

"No, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Isabella Hooker told me. The matter had been talked over between these ladies before I gave it to the public."

The *Daily Graphic* gives out the line of Beecher's forthcoming defence, derived from parties who profess to thoroughly understand the situation. The *Graphic* says the document will be a very powerful and startling one, and will make some confessions which will create as much surprise as did Tilton's now famous presentation of his alleged personal grievances. Beecher will acknowledge that, since the beginning of his ministry, he has been beset by letters addressed to him from women, expressing great personal admiration and adoration of him as a man and as a minister; he will show that communications of this nature are constantly received by every noted man in the community, and it is the special fate of clergymen, poets and actors to be the recipients of these abnormal demonstrations. After the general statement Mr. Beecher will allude to the case of Mrs. Tilton, who, it seems, conceived for him the most extravagant passion. Knowing the lady from childhood, having married her to her husband, and having been on terms of close relationship with them both, he was led by a strange infatuation to submit to her blandishments, and an intimacy was formed, which, while it was not criminal, was reprehensible; or at least put him in a position which made him seem to do great wrong to Theodore Tilton. He will confess that both he and Mrs. Tilton were very emotional, given to exaggeration in sentiment, and that the correspondence which passed between them was not what

should have existed between a pastor and a lady, and that lady the wife of his friend. But the peculiarity of the case was that Mrs. Tilton complained bitterly of her husband's self-sufficiency, want of kindness to her and possible infidelity, and she looked up to Mr. Beecher to give her that affection and sympathy which she failed to find at home. Beecher will acknowledge that he was tried with the temptation, that he allowed kindness and expressions of sympathy and tenderness by Mrs. Tilton, and that he reciprocated them to a great degree, so much so that while not actually guilty of any wrong to Theo. Tilton he so far compromised himself and the lady as to render necessary, as it appeared to his mind, the letters which he subsequently wrote to Mr. Moulton and Mr. Tilton, humbling himself before the latter as before God for his extravagant demonstrations of affection for the wife of his friend.

Oliver Johnson, to-day, stated to a reporter, that Tilton, in 1870, in conversation with him, charged Beecher with making improper advances to Mrs. Tilton, which she resisted, but Tilton never accused Beecher to him of adultery. Johnson subsequently spoke of the charges to Mr. Beecher himself, and he denied them, but entered into no explanation, nor did Mr. Johnson press him for away.

NEW YORK, 26.—The *Tribune* furnishes the cross-examination of Mr. Tilton before the Beecher Investigating Committee. It is prefaced by the following letter from Sage:

"Tilton's direct testimony having been published without the knowledge or consent of the Committee of Investigation, and fragmentary and contradictory reports of his testimony and cross-examination having been published by means unknown to the committee, and without its consent, whereby it is said that Mr. Tilton feels that injustice has been done to him, it is believed that, in fairness to all parties, the whole of Mr. Tilton's testimony should be made public at once."

"H. W. SAGE, Chairman.

"BROOKLYN, July 23, 1874."

The testimony makes ten columns of the *Tribune*. The following are the principal points of interest: In answer to questions by General Tracy, Tilton said he could not give the date of the transaction which he said he witnessed at Mr. Beecher's house at the time of examining the engravings with his wife. He continued to attend Plymouth church after that transaction, but not regularly. About the time that he ceased to be editor of the *Independent* he made a distinct allegation to Bowen against Beecher, of an offense he had committed against him, and a letter was agreed upon between him and Bowen, demanding that Beecher should quit the Plymouth pulpit. The examination proceeded as follows:

QUESTION.—"And was that agreement the result of his statement of offences against Mr. Beecher, which he and you knew of?"

ANSWER.—"On the part of Bowen, yes."

Q.—"On your part?"

A.—"Yes, I made one statement, and he made many."

Q.—"Will you state what offence you stated against Beecher to Bowen on that occasion?"

A.—"Mr. Johnson having introduced the subject, Mr. Bowen said to me, 'Mr. Tilton, you do not say as much in Plymouth Church as in a Brooklyn paper; should you not go there? Why do you not go?'"

Q.—"I asked you what offence you stated against Mr. Beecher to Mr. Bowen?"

A.—"I must answer your question in my own way. I came to tell the truth, and not fragments of the truth. Bowen wanted me to speak more in the paper of Plymouth church. Mr. Johnson said, perhaps Mr. Tilton has a reason for not going to Plymouth church, and thereupon Mr. Bowen was curious to know the reason. I, in a solitary phrase, said there was a personal domestic reason why I could not go there consistently with self respect, that Beecher had been unhandsome in his approaches to my wife. That is the sum and substance of all I have ever said on this subject to the very few people to whom I have spoken of it."

Being asked when he first learned that Mr. or Mrs. Beecher had in any way communicated the facts to Bowen, which inflamed him in the matter of his (Tilton's) dismis-

sal, witness said, "I learned that from Beecher himself, on the day after the apology was written, on the second, or possibly on the third, of January. It was in Moulton's room. Beecher came in. It was an unexpected meeting. Beecher burst out in expressions of sorrow and said he hoped the communication he sent witness by Moulton was satisfactory. He then and there told Moulton he had done wrong, not so much as some others had, referring to his wife, who had made statements to Bowen which ought to be unmade, and he volunteered to write a letter to Bowen concerning the facts he had misstated. Mrs. Tilton had told witness of a visit that Mrs. Beecher made her, and the testimony they wanted to get. Mrs. Tilton spoke a number of times of the enmity which Mrs. Beecher had for some stronger reason connected with Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Tilton's mother. There was a conspiracy between Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Beecher. The truth is Mrs. Tilton's confession was made also to her mother, who naturally wanted to protect her daughter, and she made a kind of an alliance with Mr. Beecher and Mrs. Beecher, to be the tool of the party in it. There was a desire on their part to protect Elizabeth. Mrs. Tilton thought witness' retirement from the papers was due, in some way, to Mr. Beecher, and as witness was very indignant against Bowen, she thought that unless there was some reconciliation between Beecher and her husband her secret would be exposed. She begged witness to have an interview with Beecher, and wrote a note to that effect. The purpose of that interview was that Mrs. Tilton felt that Beecher and witness were in danger of a collision, and for her sake and at her request it took place. Tilton's dismissal from the Union was two days after that interview; the interview had nothing to do with it."

Being asked why the difficulty with Bowen would involve the exposure of his family secret, which he obtained from Mrs. Tilton six months before, witness said—"It was not through fear of exposing it. Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Beecher were sometimes in collision, and Mrs. Tilton always made me believe that Mr. Beecher knew the secret until, in December, she told me. I took it for granted all Summer long that she had told him what she had told me, and that she had told her mother, and I supposed Mrs. Beecher was co-operating with Mrs. Morse."

Q.—"Did you not complain to Mr. Beecher for not aiding you to remain in the *Independent*?"

A.—"No, sir, I would have scorned it." Tilton continued, he never told Saml. Wilkeson that Beecher had not befriended him in that matter, and that he had been unjust to him and saying he ought to be turned out. In further testimony, witness said he accepted the apology Beecher made, and forgave the offence with as much largeness as he thought it possible for a Christian man to assume. His relations, thereafter, with Beecher were not friendly, but they were not hostile. They were relations which Moulton forced with an iron hand. Witness had taken pains to have it appear in all quarters that Beecher and himself were not in hostility. He suppressed his self-respect many times in doing it. He never stated the offence of Beecher to Dr. Storrs. He showed Dr. Storrs the letter which Elizabeth and himself wrote, and which he still preserved; he did not charge Beecher with any offence at all.

In answer to the question, "How was a knowledge of the offence started?" Tilton said—"It began this way: on a certain day in the summer of 1870, Mrs. Tilton made a statement to her husband that Mr. Beecher had asked her to be a wife to him, together with all that this implies; she was very solicitous to make it appear that she did not accept his proposition, and happily, in reading, those who saw it naturally inferred that she did not, and that it was a perfectly correct statement. Witness read the statement to Beecher, who objected to it, and witness made no further use of it. He, however, prepared a document on his relations with Bowen, in which Elizabeth's letter was stated, as well as a letter of apology, which he put in. Not wishing to make the offense more than that, he was solicitous not to have the worst known. This was also read to S. Storrs, to whom the

witness went in great distress, wanting counsel."

Q.—"And so, to get correct counsel, you misstated the case?"

A.—"It was a statement necessary to be made after Mrs. Woodhull's statement. I was out of town, and the thing had filled the country, and Beecher had taken no notice of it. It was seven or eight days, and I went to Dr. Storrs for counsel. He asked me about the story. I said, 'Do not ask for that. He said, 'Give me some facts by which I can judge, give me that which can be proved, and so I gave an account of my affairs, very largely about Mrs. Woodhull, and also the origin of that document, and told him I was seeking for something that would put before the public a plausible answer to the Woodhull tale; and I conceived that by a chain of facts we might perhaps explain it away. I read it to Mr. Beecher, and he burst into a long sigh. I saw that he would not, or could not, stand upon it, and Elizabeth burned or tore it to pieces."

Q.—"Why did you abandon the document?"

A.—"Because there was no success in it."

Q.—"Why was there not? Because he did not accept it?"

A.—"Because he did not accept or reject it, he wanted no statement to be made, and so the thing was buried."

Q.—"Have you not frequently asserted the purity of your wife?"

A.—"No, I have always made a strange technical use of words. I have taken pains to declare that she was a devoted Christian woman. That necessarily carried the other, and it was a like statement that I carried to Dr. Storrs. I do not think he caught the idea of that statement as he took it. I do not think it covered the whole. I have said that Elizabeth was a tender, delicate, kindly, Christian woman, which I think she is."

Q.—"Have not you stated that she was pure?"

A.—"No."

Q.—"Have you not stated that she was pure as an angel?"

A.—"No. Mr. Halliday says I said that; he asked me in Mrs. Bradshaw's presence whether or not I had not said that my wife was pure as gold? No, I said, Mr. Halliday, the conversation to which you allude was this: I said, 'Go and ask Mr. Beecher himself, and he will say that she is as pure as gold, it is an expression which he used. I have sought to give Elizabeth a good character, I have always wanted to do so, I think she deserves a good character, I think she is better than most of us, better than I am; I do not believe that in point of actual moral goodness, barring some drawbacks, there is in this company a person whiter than Elizabeth Tilton.'

Q.—"Did you not state that in substance to one or more gentlemen with whom you were lunching?"

A.—"In substance, yes; I state it in substance now, but I did not use the phrase, 'She had never violated her chastity.'"

Q.—"Did you not say that she was pure?"

A.—"No."

Q.—"Did you not use expressions which you intended to be understood as meaning the purity of women?"

A.—"I did exactly. There are many ways in which you can produce such impressions, and I have written this document to produce the same impression."

Tilton was next examined in relation to the Wilkinson statement, and explicitly contradicted several points therein, stating that the conversation between himself and Wilkinson was about Bowen, whose charges against Beecher it was desired should be withdrawn. Witness expressed gladness to have this done, for he thought every charge against Beecher endangered his wife, but when the paper was brought him to sign he found that it was a rose-colored compliment to Beecher, in which witness was to look up to Beecher with filial respect and he said—"I won't sign that to the end of the world," and he cut out a few lines and would not use them. If Wilkinson communicated the impression that witness ever wanted money from Beecher it was false. Beecher had communicated through Moulton requests that witness would be assisted by him, but he would not take a penny of Beecher's money if he suffered from hunger or thirst, and said that if, directly or indirectly, Moulton communicated to him any of Beecher's money it would break their friend-