

BY TELEGRAPH.

AMERICAN.

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would bear the responsibility of this and other statements she might make, and which she communicated to my husband's enemy, Mrs. H. W. Beecher. I feel outraged by the whole proceeding, and I am now suffering in consequence more than I am able to bear.

"I am your's very truly,

"ELIZABETH R. TILTON."

"Nineteenth—That during the 1st week in January, 1871, a few days after the above letter was written, Beecher communicated to Tilton, through Moulton, an earnest wish that he, Tilton, would take his family to Europe and reside there for a term of years at Mrs. Beecher's expense. Similar offers have been since repeated by Beecher to Tilton, through the same channel, and a message of a kindred tenor was brought from Beecher to Tilton last summer, by F. B. Carpenter, as will appear from the following affidavit:

"HOMER, N. Y., July, '74.

"On Sunday, June 1st, 1873, two days after the surreptitious publication of the tripartite covenant between H. W. Beecher, H. C. Bowen and Theodore Tilton, I walked with Mr. Beecher from Plymouth church to the residence of F. D. Moulton, in Livingstone St. On the way to Moulton's house Mr. Beecher said to me that if Tilton would stand by him, he would share his fame, his fortune, and everything he possessed with him, Tilton.

"FRANCIS B. CARPENTER.

"Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 18th day of July, 1874.

"WILLIAM T. HICKKOCK,

"Notary Public."

"Mr. Carpenter, in communicating to Tilton the above affidavit, says in a letter accompanying it—

"I have no hesitation in giving you this statement, as I understood at the time that it was given for me to repeat in substance, to you, and I did so repeat it. It was at this interview that Beecher spoke to me of his apology to you."

"The charge that Tilton ever attempted to levy blackmail on Beecher is false; on the contrary Tilton has always resented every attempt by Beecher to put him under pecuniary obligation.

"Twentieth—Not long after the scandal became public, Mrs. Tilton wrote on a slip of paper, and left on her husband's writing desk the following words:

"Now that the exposure has come, my whole nature revolts to join with you or standing with you."

"Through the influence of Beecher's friends, the opinion has long been diligently promulgated that nothing was due Tilton, and that the alleged facts were a malicious invention by him to revenge himself for supposed and imaginary wrongs done to him by Beecher. Many words were spoken from time to time by Mrs. Tilton to the praise and eulogy of Beecher, which, being extensively quoted through his congregation, heightened the impression that Tilton was Beecher's slanderer, Mrs. Tilton being herself authority for the statement. In this way Mrs. Tilton and one of her relatives have been the chief causes of the great difficulty of suppressing the scandal. They have had a habit of saying that Tilton believed such and such things; and their naming these things by way of denial, has been a mischievous way of circulating them broadcast. In this way Tilton has been made to appear the defamer, whereas he has made every effort in his power to suppress the injurious tales which he has been charged with propagating. On all occasions he has systematically referred to his wife in terms favorable to her character.

"Further, Tilton would not have communicated to the committee the facts contained in the statement, except for the perverse course of Henry Ward Beecher and Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton, to degrade and destroy him in public estimation.

"Twenty-first—That one evening, about two weeks after the publication of Tilton's letter to Dr. Bacon, Mrs. Tilton, on coming home at a late hour, informed her husband that she had been visited at a friend's house by the committee of investigation, and had given sweep-

ing evidence acquitting Beecher of every charge. This was the first intimation which Tilton received that any such committee was then in existence. Furthermore, Mrs. Tilton stated that she had done this by the advice of a lawyer whom Beecher had sent to her, and who, in advance of her appearing before the committee, arranged with her the questions and answers which were to constitute her testimony in Beecher's behalf. On the next day, after giving this untrue testimony before the committee, she spent many hours of extreme suffering from pangs of conscience at having testified falsely. She expressed to her husband the hope that God would forgive her perjury, but that her motive was to save Beecher and her husband, and also to remove all reproach from the cause of religion. She also expressed similar contrition to one of her intimate friends.

"Twenty-second—Finally, that in addition to the foregoing facts and evidences, other confirmations could be adduced if needed, to prove the whole recapitulatory statement, namely that the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, as the pastor and friend of Mr. Tilton and his family, trespassed upon the sanctity of friendship and hospitality in a long endeavor to seduce Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton; that by the artful use of his priestly authority with her, she being his pupil in religion, he accomplished this seduction; that for a period of a year and a half or thereabouts, he maintained criminal intercourse with her, overcoming her previous modest scruples against such conduct by investing it with a false justification as sanctified by love and religion; that he then participated in a conspiracy to degrade Theodore Tilton before the public, by the loss of place, business and repute; that he abused Mr. Tilton's forgiveness and pledge of protection by thereafter authorizing a series of measures by the Plymouth Church, having for their object the putting of a stigma upon Tilton before the church, and also before the ecclesiastics in council, in so much that the moderator of that council, interpreting these acts by Beecher and his church, declared publicly that they showed Beecher to be a most magnanimous man and Tilton to be a knave and a dog; that when Tilton thereafter, not in malice but for safe protection, wrote a letter to Dr. Bacon, alluding therein to the offence and apology by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, he, Mr. Beecher, defiantly appointed a committee of his church members to inquire into the injury done him by Mr. Tilton by the aforesaid allusion, and implying that he, Beecher, had never been the author of such offence and apology, and that Mr. Tilton had been a slanderer; that to make this inquiry bear grievously against Mr. Tilton, Mr. Beecher previously connived with Mrs. E. R. Tilton to give false testimony in his, Beecher's, behalf; that Beecher's course towards Tilton and family has at least resulted in the open destruction of Mr. Tilton's household and home, and the desolation of his heart and life.

(Signed) "THEODORE TILTON."

"Sworn to before me, this 20th day of July, 1874.

"THEO. BURGMAYER,

"Notary Public."

"Gentlemen of the Committee—Having laid before you the above sworn statement, which I have purposely restricted to the relations of Mr. Beecher with Mrs. Tilton, and with no other person or persons, I wish to add an explanation, due to yourselves. In the *Golden Age*, lately edited by me, a suggestion was made, not with my knowledge or consent, that your committee, in order to be justly constituted, should comprise, in addition to the six members appointed by Mr. Beecher, six others appointed by myself. To no such proposal would I have consented, for I have never wanted any tribunal whatever for the investigation of this subject; neither your committee as at present constituted, nor an enlarged committee on the plan just mentioned, nor any other committee of any kind, could, in and of itself, have persuaded or compelled me to lay before you the facts contained in the preceding statements. Distinctly be it understood, that these facts have not been evoked by your committee, because of any authority which I recognize in you as a tribunal of inquiry; nor would they have been yielded up to any other committee or board of reference, however con-

stituted, except a court of law; but on the contrary, I have divulged the above statement solely because openly published demands for it have been made directly to me by the Rev. Henry W. Beecher, aided and abetted by Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton. These two parties, and these alone, and not your committee, have by their action prevailed with me. No other authority or influences, except a court of law, could have been powerful enough to extort from me the above disclosure. For the sake of one of these parties I have continued to hide these acts in the future as I have incessantly striven to do in the past, but by a joint action of Beecher and Mrs. Tilton, I can withhold the truth only at the price of perpetual infamy to my name, in addition to the penalty which I already suffer in the destruction of the home once as pleasant as any in which yourselves dwell.

"Signed, Respectfully,
THEODORE TILTON."
WASHINGTON, 21.

A telegram was received at the White House this morning, from A. K. Davis, Lieut. Governor and acting Governor of Mississippi, stating that party feeling in Vicksburg was very high on account of the election, to take place August 4th, and asking that U. S. troops be stationed there to prevent any outbreak. The telegram was forwarded to the President at Long Branch.

Governor Davis again telegraphed the President, to-day, for troops to preserve the peace during the coming election, stating that the necessity is pressing.

This evening several deacons of Plymouth Church, with Mr. Shearman, Mr. Ross and Gen. Tracy, met at Mr. Beecher's residence, and after a council, lasting about three hours, drew up the following statement of Mr. Beecher's for publication:

"I do not prepare, at this time, a detailed examination of the remarkable statement of Theodore Tilton, made before the committee of investigation; and which appeared in print July 21st. I recognize many reasons which make it of transcendent importance to myself and Church and the cause of public morality that I shall give a full answer to the charges against me; but having requested the committee of investigation to search this matter to the bottom, it is to them I must look for my vindication. But I cannot delay for an hour to defend the reputation of Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton, upon whose name, in connection with mine, her husband has attempted to pour shame. One less deserving of such disgrace I never knew. From childhood she has been under my eye, and since reaching womanhood she has had my sincere admiration and affection. I cherish for her a pure feeling, such as a gentleman might honorably offer to a Christian woman, and which she might receive and reciprocate without a moral scruple. I reject, with indignation, the imputation which reflects upon her honor or my own. My regard for Mrs. Tilton was perfectly well known to my family when serious difficulties sprang upon her household, and it was to my wife that she resorted for counsel, and both of us, acting from sympathy, and as it subsequently appeared, without a full knowledge, gave unadvised counsel, which tended to harm. I have no doubt that Mr. Tilton found that his wife's confidence and reliance upon my judgment had greatly increased, while his influence had diminished in consequence of the marked change in his religious and social views, which was taking place. During those years her mind was greatly exercised lest her children should be harmed by views which she deemed virtually false and dangerous. I was suddenly and rudely aroused to the reality of the impending danger by the disclosures of domestic distress, of sickness, perhaps unto death, or the likelihood of separation and scattering a family, every member of which I had tenderly loved. The effect on me of the discovery of the state of Mr. Tilton's feeling and the condition of his family surpassed, in sorrow and excitement, anything I had ever experienced in my life. That my presence, influence and counsel had brought to a beloved family sorrow and alienation gave, in my then state of mind, poignancy to my suffering, which I hope no other man may ever feel. Even to be suspected of having offered, under the privileges of a peculiarly sacred relation, inde-

corum to wife and mother, could not but deeply wound anyone who is sensitive to the honor of womanhood. There were peculiar reasons for alarm in this case on other grounds, inasmuch as I was then subject to certain malignant rumors, and a flagrant outbreak in the family would bring upon them added injury derived from these shameless falsehoods. Believing at the time that my presence and counsels had tended, however unconsciously, to produce a social catastrophe represented as imminent, I gave expression to my feelings in an interview with a mutual friend, not in cold, cautious, self-defending words, but eagerly taking the blame upon myself, and pouring out my heart to my friend in the strongest language overburdened with the exaggerations of impassioned sorrow. Had I been the evil man Mr. Tilton now represents, I should have been calmer and more prudent. It was a jealousy of my honor to which this evil was imputed, that filled me with morbid intensity, at every shadow upon it. Not only was my friend affected generously, but he assured me that such expressions, if conveyed to Mr. Tilton, would soothe wounded feelings, allay anger, and heal the whole trouble. He took down sentences and fragments of what I had been saying, to use them as a mediator. The full statement of the circumstances under which this memorandum was made I shall give to the investigating committee. That these apologies were more than ample to meet the facts of the case is evident, in that they were accepted, that our intercourse resumed its friendliness, that Mr. Tilton subsequently ratified it in writing, and that he has continued, for four years and until within two weeks, to live with his wife. Is it conceivable that if the original charge had been what is now alleged, he would have condoned the offence, not only with the mother of his children but with him whom he believed to have wronged them? The absurdity as well as falsity of this story is apparent when it is considered that Mr. Tilton now alleges that he carried this guilty secret of his wife's infidelity for six months, locked up in his own breast, and then he divulged it to me only, that there might be a reconciliation with me. Mr. Tilton has since, in every form of language, and to a multitude of witnesses, orally and in written statements, and in printed document, declared his faith in his wife's purity. After the reconciliation of Mr. Tilton with me, considerations of propriety and honor demanded that family troubles should be kept in that seclusion which domestic affairs have a right to claim as a sanctuary, and to that seclusion it was determined that they should be confined. Every line and word of my private and confidential letters, which have been published, is in harmony with the statements which I now make. My published correspondence on this subject comprises but two elements, viz., the expression of my grief and my desire to shield the honor of a pure and innocent woman.

"I do not propose to analyze and contest, at this time, the extraordinary paper of Mr. Tilton, but there are two allegations which I cannot permit to pass without special notice. They refer only to two incidents which Mr. Tilton pretends to have witnessed personally. One an alleged scene in my house while looking over engravings; and the other the chamber scene in his own house. His statements concerning these are absolutely false, nothing of the kind ever occurred, nor any semblance of any such thing. They are now brought to my notice for the first time. To every statement which connects me dishonorably with Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton, or which in any wise would impugn the honor and purity of this beloved Christian woman, I give the most explicit, comprehensive and solemn denial.

(Signed)

"HENRY WARD BEECHER.

"Brooklyn, July 22, 1874."

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., 22.—This afternoon the wife of a hand organist was beaten to death by a party of tramps, while resting herself by the road side between Norwalk and Darien; her husband had gone ahead. The whole party, three men and a woman, are under arrest.

New York, 23.—Tilton says of his

statement: "I would not have had it published for \$100,000. Augustus Maverick—his friend—copied the original and published it first in his Brooklyn paper, out of friendship for me. When I heard of it I went to my room in the Astor House, and threw myself on my bed in despair." Yesterday Maverick received the following note:

"My dear Maverick: From no other person save either yourself as my copyist, or from the committee's short-hand writer, or from some member of the committee, could my sworn statement have got into print. My heart is bowed and bleeding at seeing these facts spread before the world. How could you have taken such an awful, dreadful, horrible responsibility without counseling me in advance? There now remains no possibility of peace or silence; nothing but everlasting woe. Explain yourself. You must do it both to me and to the public. Yours in grief,
(Signed,) Theodore Tilton."

Maverick in publishing the note says: "As one of his (Tilton's) staunch friends, loving and knowing him to be a long abused man, and that he often shrank from hurting others, in order to shield himself I resolved that this defence should be published, and I published it. I did so without his knowledge or consent, and I did right, and stand by the act as an act of justice to the man who has been wronged, and the community that has the right to know all the facts."

A gentleman, whose official business has led him to receive and open much of Beecher's correspondence, said last evening: "In Beecher's love letters you would be surprised to know how foolishly some women write to him. Every once in a while a woman gets a little crazy and writes to Beecher to tell him how much she adores him. The letters used to go to the *Independent* office and Tilton, under orders from Beecher, opened many of them. He made copies and to-day has the manuscript, and names, and copies of letters, all connected with respectable ladies, who have foolishly written to Beecher all about their love for him. He receives love letters by the ream and cord, and the joke of it is, that his wife takes care of all letters that come to him. She reads the love letters before he sees them. Mrs. Tilton's letters to Beecher were affectionate and enthusiastic, expressing deep, pervading love for him. Mrs. Beecher read them all before he saw them, and they are all in her possession now. When the scandal was noised about Mrs. Tilton, Mrs. Beecher looked up the letters, and at Mrs. Tilton's request has preserved them for her. You cannot convince Mrs. Beecher that her husband is guilty of anything that Tilton charges. She says if all the women in creation swear that Beecher had been unfaithful she would not believe them."

New York, 23.—The following is the statement of Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton:

"To pick up anew the sorrows of the last ten years, the stings and pains I had daily schooled myself to bury and forgive, makes this imperative duty as called forth by the malicious statement of my husband the saddest act of my life. Besides, any thought of following my Master, contradicts this act. My pen and sense, perhaps my life and faith, almost compel me now to stand aside till God himself delivers, yet I answer this wanton attack; it is an urgent call from which I shrink not. To reply in detail to twenty-five articles of arraignment I shall not attempt at present, yet, if called upon to testify to each and all of them I shall not hesitate to do so. Suffice it for my purpose now that I reply to one or more of the most glaring charges touching the feigned sorrow of my husband's compulsory revelations. I solemnly avow that long before the Woodhull publication I knew him by insinuations and direct statement to have repeated to my very near relatives and friends, the substance of these accusations which shock the moral sense of the entire community this day. Many times, when hearing certain persons had spoken ill of him, he has sent me to chide them for so doing, and then and there I learned that he had been before me with his calumnies against myself, so that I was speechless. The reiteration in his statement that he had persistently striven to hide these so-called facts is utterly false, and his hatred to Mr. Beecher and his deter-