

TELEGRAPHIC.

Beecher's Statement.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 13.—Following is a synopsis of Beecher's statement:

Gentlemen of the Committee: In my statement addressed to the public on the 22d of July last, I gave explicit, comprehensive and solemn denial to charges made by Theodore Tilton against me. That denial I now repeat and affirm.

Four years ago Tilton fell from one of the most prominent editorial positions in America, where he represented the cause of religion, humanity and patriotism, and in a few months became an associate and representative of Victoria Woodhull, and a friend of her strange cause. By his follies he was bankrupt in reputation, in occupation and in resources.

It is plain to me that until Tilton fell into disgrace and lost his salary, he never thought it necessary to assail me. The charge, that he pretended to have had in his mind for six months, of an alleged domestic offense was quickly and easily put aside; but yet it was to keep my feelings stirred up to that I might, through my friends, be used to extract from Mr. Bowen \$7,000—the amount claimed in their dispute.

Moulton came first as a schoolmate and friend of Tilton, who would serve him without wounding any one. He said he saw clearly how this was to be done so as to restore peace and harmony to Tilton's home and happily end all misunderstandings. I never doubted his friendship for me. Whatever he wished me to do I did, unless it seemed wrong. My confidence in him was my only security.

When some one of my dear relations were set against me, and the battle of a crowd of malicious women, hostile to me on other grounds, was borne to my ears; when I had lost the last remnant of faith in Theodore and hope for him; when I heard with unshakeable firmness that he was wrong, though he had made matters worse; that all attempts to avert a public trial only brought scandal on me; and that his unhappy wife was under his dictation, signing papers and imprecations, and the destruction from which I have tried to save his family was poured on other families; that the church and community believed me buried under heaps of rubbish from which only my professed friend could extricate me;—believing that he could do so, I maintained the silence he enjoined until Tilton's attempt, through Frank Carpenter, to raise money from my friends by openly assailing me in a letter to Dr. Bacon. Thereupon I called for an investigation.

I first knew Tilton as reporter of my sermons. He was then a youth working on the Observer. Thence he passed to the Independent, and became a favorite with Bowen. In 1861, I became editor of the Independent. One indiscreet head out to me was that Tilton should assist me to relieve me from routine work. In this way I became much attached to him, and we became the most confidential of friends. While my family enjoyed their vacations, my duties kept me in the city. I took my meals with the families of friends, and became so familiar with their children and houses that I went in and out daily almost as if at home. Tilton often urged me to make his house my home, mentioning in extravagant terms his wife's esteem and affection for me. Finally, I began to visit his house, which he sought to make attractive. He urged me to bring my books and papers there, and do my writing at his study.

In 1863, during my absence in England, he became responsible editor of the Independent and later editor-in-chief. In 1864, on account of my Cleveland letter, he made a violent assault on me through the Independent, and my connection with the paper was severed. Though we remained friendly, yet there was a coolness between us in matters of politics.

During these years of intimacy in Tilton's family, I was treated as a father or elder brother. Children were born, children died. They learned to love me and frolic with me as if I was one of themselves. I loved them and had for Mrs. Tilton true, earnest regard. She seemed to me an affectionate mother, and devoted wife, looking to her husband as one far above the common race of man, and turning to me with artless familiarity and entire confidence. Childish in appearance, she was naturally cheerful in nature, and I would as soon have misinterpreted the confidence of the little girls as the unstudied affection she showed me. The only present of value I ever gave her was on my return from Europe in 1863, when I distributed souvenirs of my journey to some fifty or more persons, and to her I gave a simple brooch of little intrinsic value.

Mrs. Tilton often deplored the laxity of her husband's moral and religious doctrines. She implied to me that she denied the divinity of Christ, and the articles of the orthodox faith, and that his views of the sanctity of marriage were constantly changing in the direction of free love. My last visit before the trouble was in July, 1870, when Mrs. Tilton was sick. She was much depressed, and I cheered her as I best could, and prayed with her. It is sufficient to say that at no interview in nature, and I did not place upon Mrs. Tilton and me anything that might not have occurred with perfect propriety between brother and sister, father and child, between the man of honor and the wife of his dearest friend, nor did anything ever happen which she or I sought to conceal from Tilton.

In December, 1870, a young girl, whom Mr. Tilton had educated, came to me with a request to visit Mrs. Tilton at her mother's house. She said Mrs. Tilton had gone to her mother in consequence of ill treatment from her husband, and with downcast looks told how Mr. Tilton had entered her chamber and sought her consent to his wishes.

Mrs. Tilton gave me accounts of her husband's despotism, and questioned whether she should return or separate from her husband. I asked my wife to see and advise her, and she declared that no consideration would induce her to return to such a man, but being detained at home, she wrote that her advice was to separate and settle the matter of support.

In December, 1870, Mr. Bowen left at my house a letter from Tilton, of which the following is the substance:

Henry Ward Beecher.—For reasons which you explicitly know, and which I forbear to state, I demand that you withdraw from the pulpit and quit Brooklyn as a residence.

I read the letter twice, unable to comprehend its meaning and handed it to Bowen, and a conversation ensued about the reasons for reducing Tilton to a subordinate position on the Independent. Accounts of Tilton's loose private life came pouring in, and Bowen weighed the consistency of his re-

maining even as a contributor. I spoke on this great prevention and previous revelations concerning his domestic life. Bowen ridiculed the letter, and said I might rely on him to trouble no one. I have no doubt my influence decided his final overthrow, and, thinking thus, I became very unhappy over Tilton's misfortune.

In December, 1870, Moulton came to my house in an excited manner and asked me to see Tilton at once; and believing I might obtain information concerning his letter to me I complied. Tilton received me cordially, and began to unfold me for seeking his down-fall. He said I had spread injurious rumors about him, and had advised Bowen to denounce him, that I had injured him in his family relations, had alienated his wife's affections—leading her to love me more than him himself—and corrupted her moral nature, and had made whole proposals to her. Finally, he produced a certified statement of a previous confession made by his wife to that effect six months previous, and asked me to go to his house where Elizabeth was waiting for me, and learn from her the truth of his stories.

As we went at once to Mrs. Tilton's room, she, as one in a frenzy, and gave no sign of recognition. I said: "Elizabeth, Theodore has been making serious charges and sends me to you for correction." She did not reply, and I repeated some of his allegations. She began to weep and told, feebly, how sick she had been and how she had been importuned to make a confession. She said Tilton had confessed his alien loves, and she could not bear to think herself better than him, and hoped to win him back by this course. She then denied to me all charges made by Tilton, expressed contrition for her act, and made, at my suggestion, a brief counter-statement to her husband. The next day, Moulton informed me that Mrs. Tilton had told her husband of what she did in our interview, and he (Moulton) expostulated and claimed that I had taken advantage of the permission to visit Mrs. Tilton. He was greatly excited, and opening his overcoat with some emphatic remarks, showed me a pistol. I did not blame Mrs. Tilton, for she was in a state of great distress, and yet I hold her to be the greatest wrong-doer, and yet I hold her to be the greatest wrong-doer, and yet I hold her to be the greatest wrong-doer.

My mind was in a most distressed condition. Moulton found me thus and in a sincere and kindly manner convinced me that I had been accomplishing Tilton's downfall in conjunction with Bowen. He depicted the wrong done Tilton in such strong characters that I became fully convinced that I was the cause of all the wreck in Tilton's fortune and happiness. Moulton then proposed that I should write a letter and he would prepare a memorandum of our talk. He took down what I supposed was a stenographic memorandum of my words, and I continued talking over the desolation of Tilton's family. It was not dictated and he put it in such shape as suited his purpose, and then I signed it, supposing it to contain the points of our conversation. He did not read the paper to me and I never heard of its contents until its publication by Tilton recently.

Soon after this I met Tilton at Moulton's house. Either Moulton was sick, or he was very late in rising, for he was in bed. The subject of my feelings and conduct toward Tilton was also introduced. I made a statement of the motives under which I had acted in counselling Bowen of my feelings towards Tilton's family, disclaiming with horror the thought of wrong and expressing a desire to do whatever lay in human power to remedy any evil I had occasioned, and to reunite his family. Tilton was silent and stern. He played the part of an injured man, but Moulton said to Tilton, with intense earnestness: "That is all that a gentleman can say, and you ought to accept it as an honorable basis of reconciliation." This he repeated two or three times. Tilton's countenance changed under Moulton's strong talk. We shook hands and parted in a friendly way. Not very long afterward, Tilton asked me to his house. I do not remember whether I ever took a meal after under his roof, but I certainly was invited by him to renew my intimacy, as formerly. I never resumed my intimacy with the family, but once or twice I went there soon after my reconciliation with Tilton at his request.

Mr. Beecher's concluding remarks were: "Gentlemen of the Committee: In the note accompanying your appointment, I asked that you should make a full investigation of all sources of information. You are witnesses that I have in no way influenced or interfered with your proceedings or duties. I have wished the investigation to be so searching that nothing could unsettle its results. I have nothing to gain by any policy of suppression or compromise. For four years I have borne and suffered enough, and I will not go a step further. I will be free. I will not walk under rod or yoke. If any man would do me a favor, let him tell all he knows now. It is not mine to lay down the law of honor in regard to the use of other persons' confidential communications, but in so far as my writings are concerned there is not a letter or document which I am afraid to have exhibited, and I authorize any, and call upon any living person to produce and print forthwith, whatever writings they have, of any source whatever.

It is time, for the sake of decency and public morals, that this matter be brought to an end. It is an open hole of corruption, exhaling deadly vapors. For six weeks the nation has risen up and sat down upon a scandal. Neither a great war nor a revolution could more have filled the newspapers than this question of domestic trouble magnified a thousand fold, and like a sore spot on the human body, drawing to itself every morbid humor in the blood. Whoever is buried with it, it is not he but his abomination he buried below all such or power of restitution."

NEW YORK, AUGUST 11.—Beecher, in his cross-examination yesterday, explained how he was induced to contribute \$7,000 to extricate Tilton from pecuniary difficulties. This was effected through the agency of Moulton. In explanation of certain letters and parts of letters heretofore published, Beecher said:

Q.—In the same letter of 7th February you say: "Of course I can never speak with her again without her permission, and I do not know that even then it would be best." Why did you say that?

A.—Because either at the time of that letter from Mr. Bowen, or in its immediate vicinity, Tilton, as I have an impression now, sent word by Bowen, though I cannot be sure of that, forbidding me ever to enter his house again.

Q.—Nothing else?

A.—No; I know I frequently said I wish I was dead, and Theodore Tilton came and said he was dead, and Mr. Moulton was frequently in a state in which he wished he was dead, and Mrs. Moulton said: "I am living among friends, everyone of whom wishes he were dead," or something like that. I do not know but it was smarter than that, but she put it in a way that was very ludicrous. Every one of us used to be echoing the wish that we were dead and plained, and I used

the familiar phrase, "I wish I was dead."

Q.—Outside gossip is that you referred in that line to contemplated suicide.

A.—It was not so. My general purpose was this, and I kept it as a matter of life by patience continuance in well-doing, to put to shame those who falsely accused me. I meant to put down and stretch down this trouble. Of course, in my dismal moods, I felt as though the world had come to an end.

Q.—You say in the same letter, "His head had been enjoyed most earnestly and solemnly not to betray his wife." In what respect?

A.—Not to betray this whole difficulty into which his household had been cast. Consider how it is. I appeal to every sensitive man and cultivated nature in the world if any greater evil can befall than a woman and a wife and mother made a subject of investigation as respects her moral character, for no greater harm can befall a woman than to be talked about from house to house with discussion as to the grade of the offense and the cause of the offense, and everything about it. You must remember I was aware that in addition to the trouble involving my name, Tilton had also in an act of jealousy accused his wife of criminal intimacy with several gentlemen, of whom I was one. He has asserted in the presence of witnesses that all her children, except the first, were children of these gentlemen, respectively. In his decent moods he was very anxious to have such accusation unknown to the world, as a man of honor would cast an insupportable blot upon his children.

Q.—I saw a strange feeling upon me that I am spending my last Sunday and preaching my last sermon. Do you refer to the same condition of health and mind that you have described?

A.—I refer to the fact simply that that was my state of mind during this great trouble, although, if you were to collect all the language I have used at various times, it might produce an impression that I had wallowed in a sea of unparalleled distress. I have had stormy days and have suffered more from this than all other causes in my life put together. Taking the years together I have had more religious peace and more profound insight into the wants and sufferings of man since I have become acquainted with trouble and despair. I have had experience in other spheres of Christian life. It is worth all the sorrow and suffering that I have had to go through to get it.

Q.—Are you clear in your recollection that you never met Woodhull more than three times?

A.—I am perfectly clear. On one occasion I was walking with Mr. Moulton in the direction of Tilton's house, when he said Mrs. Woodhull was going to be there. I at first hesitated, and he said: "Come in and just see her." I said very well. I went in, and after some conversation down in the parlors, I went up stairs into the famous boudoir room where she sat writing, and like a spider to the fly, she rushed to me on my entrance, and reached out both her hands with the utmost earnestness, and said how rejoiced she was to see me. I talked with her about five minutes and then went down stairs. My second interview with her was at a meeting of literary people which was at the head of the city, near Mrs. Moulton, Mrs. Woodhull was next to me, or else she was first and I was next, I do not remember which. At that table she scarcely deigned to speak to me. I addressed a few words to her from politeness during the dinner, but there was no sort of enthusiasm between us. My third and last interview was at Moulton's house. She had addressed to me a threatening letter saying that she would open all the scandal if I did not reside at Stenley Hall and in reply Moulton advised that instead of answering her letter I should see her and say without witnesses what I had to say. I did so. She brought with her her great subject. It was in type and my policy was to let her talk and say little, which I did, and she went on saying, "You know you believe" so and so, until I was placed at the head of the table, near Mrs. Moulton, Mrs. Woodhull was next to me, or else she was first and I was next, I do not remember which. At that table she scarcely deigned to speak to me. I addressed a few words to her from politeness during the dinner, but there was no sort of enthusiasm between us. My third and last interview was at Moulton's house. 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