

THE OMAHA BEE

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We do not desire any contributions whatever of a literary or political character...

Our Correspondents will always be pleased to hear from, on all matters connected with the city, country, politics, and on any subject whatever of general interest to the people of our State.

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On and after October twenty-first, 1872, the circulation of the Daily Bee is assumed by Mr. Edwin Davis, to whose office all subscriptions not paid before will be payable...

THE SESSION OF THE REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE next Tuesday promises to be very interesting.

Several important questions of political economy will come up for discussion.

Noise and clamor affidavits appear to be in very brisk demand just now. Why not Mr. Pattee tell him to cunningly framed denials.

The Herald, in its covert attempt to aid the postal corruptors in these parts, intimates that Mr. Bye, who preferred the charges against them, is a displaced employe of the postal service.

The Nebraska Independents have made their debut upon the political arena. A handful of these irresponsible reformers met at the State Capitol Tuesday for the purpose of incubating a movement that is to sweep the whole country like a whirlwind.

Theodore Tiltons revolting revelations touching the alleged criminal intimacy of Henry Ward Beecher with his wife are now before the American people. They form a chapter of terrible and crushing accusations, which shock and stagger the most devoted of Mr. Beecher's admirers and friends.

For the present we prefer to withhold comment upon this greatest of modern scandals until Mr. Beecher and his defenders shall present version of the case.

The Independent movement in Indiana has already fizzled out. The cause of the premature collapse is traced to the unfitness of the leading candidate, the admirable folly of the reputation plank, and the general lack of confidence in the Bourbon politicians who manipulated the convention.

That opened the eyes of the Republican Grangers, and caused them to regard the new party with indifference, bordering on disgust.

ENGLAND is cursed with corrupt politicians, as well as America. A few days ago, the cable announced briefly that Albert Grant, Liberal Conservative Member of Parliament, had been unseated for corrupt practices, in securing the election.

When the Liberal Ministry went out, Gladstone exercised the Premier's privilege of scattering titles among his friends.

All Kidderminster makes carpets. The wily Baronet, with an eye to this fact, announced that he was about to build a spacious mansion, which would be carpeted throughout with the fabrics of Kidderminster.

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LEGALIZED LAWLESSNESS.

The first principle that should, under all circumstances, govern all law-making bodies is an implicit obedience to fundamental law.

When our City Council attempts, by a resolution, to authorize the Mayor and City Treasurer to commit an illegal act, it is a high-handed assumption that deserves the severest condemnation.

We refer to the resolution passed at the last session of the council, by which the mayor is authorized to borrow \$500 from the sinking fund, for the purpose of paying claims for consequential damages to property owners on St. Mary's avenue.

This resolution also pretends to confer authority upon the city treasurer to loan the sum of \$500, now in the sinking fund, to the mayor for the above purpose.

Now we should be pleased to know whether the Council derives its authority to tamper with the sinking fund, which is, by the express provisions of the charter, devoted exclusively to the redemption of the bonded debt of the city, and the payment of interest thereon.

If they can legally divert the sinking fund from its legitimate channel they may also assume the power to loan the school fund, which no more sacred than is the sinking fund.

Assuming that the City Council has the right to pay the damage anticipated by certain property owners on St. Mary's avenue in consequence of the proposed grade, we deny their right to take the money out of the treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation ordinance.

There is, however, another question which the council in their haste to execute their favorite scheme, have overlooked. Assuming that property owners on streets, where no grade has ever been established, may rightfully claim and collect damages before the grading on such streets can be done, are we to infer that their claims are to be paid out of the city treasury.

Are not such claims to be considered as part and parcel of the improvement of such street, and would not the other property owners be in justice, as well as in law, compelled to pay half of them, in the shape of a special tax?

Is it not preposterous to assume that the whole city is to pay these claims, when the principal benefit of the improvement is only enjoyed by the owners of property on the line of such street?

Under any circumstances we regard the tampering with the sinking fund as a most dangerous precedent, and we enter our protest against it. We contend that the Council has no right to absolve the Mayor and Treasurer from their official obligations, and those officers have no right to act upon the resolution that pretends to confer upon them authority to violate the law.

The following extract from the address of the Union Republican Congressional Committee was evidently written with special reference to the bummers and corruptors in these parts: "If our success has attracted to our ranks too many of the camp-followers of politics, and if our good nature has too easily permitted the entrance of the hummer element, we have hoisted these fellows out of the party whenever they were caught at their insidious tricks. The task of keeping apart pure by exposing and punishing the misdeeds of individuals, is neither as easy nor unbecomingly as smoothing things over, and refusing to let the truth be known. Yet the Republican party has striven earnestly and ardently to keep itself clean, even though it knew that every such effort, instead of being aided from without, would be made the excuse for unworthy attack and slander."

Pro-Rating. The meeting of the general freight and passenger agents of the Union and Kansas Pacific roads at St. Louis is an important one, and it is to be hoped that terms and rates can be agreed on. While the Kansas Pacific can enforce its claims, and compel the Union Pacific to reasonable rates, it would be far better were a regular schedule agreed upon, and all legal difficulties avoided. The public have suffered long enough from this long contest, and it is to be hoped that it will soon see the end of it. A mere statement of the responsibility which it properly belongs: (1) Congress passed a charter which required the Union Pacific road and branches to be operated as one continuous line, with discriminations, etc.; under this charter both roads were built; (2) the Union Pacific declined to give Cheyenne—charging as much from Cheyenne to Ogden as from Omaha to Ogden; (3) the Kansas Pacific made repeated offers of a compromise, proposing a pro-rata with the Union Pacific on freight and passengers from Omaha to Denver, in return for a pro-rata west from the Union Pacific; (4) the Kansas Pacific declined; (5) the Kansas Pacific established prohibitory rates on freights, and broke connection with the passenger trains. The retaliatory action of the Kansas Pacific has been taken with a view of compelling the Union Pacific to comply with their charter. We believe, therefore, that if there is a failure to come to terms, — the afternoon dispatches indicate — it will not be the fault of the Kansas Pacific, as their whole policy has been to come to some agreement that should be fair and just. While the running of trains upon their present time, is more convenient for the local trade, it cannot be denied that our city has been cut off from a large share of excursion travel that passes over the Union Pacific, and was accustomed to run down to Denver for a few days. The other features of the pro-rata measure, and its relations to freight, competition, and the value of Denver Pacific stock, have been discussed in former issues. Our present hope is that the Union Pacific will meet the Kansas Pacific half-way, and come to some fair understanding. —Denver News.

BEECHER CRUCIFIED.

Tilton's Version of the Terrible Scandal.

Mr. Tilton's sworn statement: Whereas, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher has instigated the appointment of a committee consisting of six members of his church and society to inquire and report upon the alleged aspersions upon his character by Theodore Tilton, and whereas, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton wife of Theodore Tilton, has desired her husband in order to operate with Beecher in a conspiracy to overthrow the credibility and good reputation of her late husband, as a man and citizen of the State of New York, being by us authorized and requested by a published demand made upon him by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, and being now and hereinafter released by the act, Mrs. Tilton from further responsibility for the concealment of the truth touching her relations with Beecher, therefore, Theodore Tilton hereby avows, under solemn oath, the following facts and testimony:

First, That on the second day of October, 1855, at Plymouth church, Brooklyn, N. Y., a marriage between Theodore Tilton and Elizabeth R. Richards, was performed by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, and which marriage, 13 years ago, and which was dissolved and violated by this clergyman, through criminal seduction of this wife and mother, as hereinafter set forth.

Second, That for a period of about fifteen years, extending both before and after this marriage, an intimate friendship existed between Theodore Tilton and Henry Ward Beecher, such a degree that, in consequence thereof, the subsequent dishonoring by Beecher of his friendship, was a crime of uncommon wrongfulness and enormity.

Third, That about one year ago Rev. Henry Ward Beecher began, and the same continued, a friendship with Elizabeth R. Tilton, and for whose native delicacy and extreme religious sensibility he often expressed to her husband high admiration, and which, from time to time, until the year 1870, when, for reasons hereinafter mentioned, he ceased such visits, and during which period, by many tokens of regard, by the many favors of Mr. Tilton, whereby, after long moral resistance by her, and after repeated assaults by him upon her mind, with over-mastering arguments, she yielded possession of her person, maintaining with her heretofore, during the period hereinafter stated, the relation called criminal intercourse, this relation being not as criminal or morally wrong, such had been the power of his arguments as clergyman, to satisfy her religious scruples, and such violation of virtue and honor.

Fourth, That on the evening of October 10, 1868, or thereabouts, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton held an interview with Rev. Henry Ward Beecher at his residence. She being then in a tender state of mind owing to the recent death and burial of a young child, and during this interview an act of criminal intercourse took place between this pastor and his parishioner, the motive on her part being as hereinafter stated, and which was followed by a similar act of criminality between these same parties, at Tilton's residence, during a pastoral visit paid by Beecher to her on the subsequent Saturday evening, followed, also, by other similar acts on various occasions, from the autumn of 1868 to the spring of 1870, the places being the two residences aforesaid, and occasionally at other places to which her pastor would write and accompany her, or at which he would meet her by previous appointment. These acts of wrong being on her part not wanton or consciously wicked, having resulted through a blinding of her moral perceptions, occasioned by the powerful influence exerted on her mind at that time to this end by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, her trusted religious preceptor and guide.

Fifth, That pastoral visits made by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher during the year 1868 and 1869, were marked contrast with his known habit of making pastoral calls on his parishioners, which frequency he had, in his usual manner, in letters written to her husband, during his absence in the west. These letters, giving evidence that during the term of five or six weeks, twelve pastoral calls on Mrs. Tilton were made by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, and which calls became notably infrequent on Tilton's return to his home.

Sixth, That previous to the aforesaid criminal intimacy, one reason of which was Tilton's alleged, her encouragement of such exceptional attentions from Rev. Henry Ward Beecher was a fact that she had been much distressed by rumors against his moral purity and wished to console him that she could receive his kindness and yet resist the solicitation, and that she could inspire in him by her purity and fidelity increased respect for chaste and dignified and virtuous conduct.

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she voluntarily returned to her home in Brooklyn, on the evening of July 20, 1870, when, there, and within a few hours after her arrival, and after confessing to her husband a solemn promise that she would do Rev. Henry Ward Beecher no harm, nor communicate with him, she was induced to say, to him what she was about to say, she made a circumstantial confession to her husband of the criminal facts hereinbefore stated, accompanied with citations from Mr. Beecher's arguments and reasonings with her to overcome her long maintained scruples against yielding to his desires, and declaring that she had committed no wrong to her husband or her marriage vows, quoting in support of this opinion, that her pastor had repeatedly assured her that she was respected and chaste, and which she repeated to herself to be. She further stated that her husband had stated that her sexual commerce with him had never proceeded from the lower, vulgar thoughts, either hereafter released by the act, Mrs. Tilton from further responsibility for the concealment of the truth touching her relations with Beecher, therefore, Theodore Tilton hereby avows, under solemn oath, the following facts and testimony:

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On the evening of January 1, 1871. A long interview then ensued, in which Mr. Beecher expressed to Mr. Moulton great contrition and remorse for his previous criminality with Mrs. Tilton, taking to himself the blame for having misled his secret office as a clergyman, — to confess her wrongs, and at the same time expressing a determination to kill himself in case of exposure, and begging Mr. Moulton to take a pen and write for him an apology to be conveyed to Mr. Tilton, in the hope that such an apology would secure Tilton's forgiveness. The apology which Beecher dictated to Moulton was as follows: In trust with F. D. Moulton:— My dear friend Moulton, I ask through you Theodore Tilton's forgiveness, and I humble myself before him as I do before God. He would have been a better man in my circumstances than I have been. I can say nothing except that he will remember all the other things that would ache, I will not plead for myself; I even wish that I were dead; but others must live to suffer; I will die before any one but myself shall be harmed. All my thoughts are running out towards my friends and towards the poor child lying there and praying with her folded hands, and I humbly myself against and bearing the transgression of another. Her forgiveness I have and I humbly pray to God to put it into the heart of her husband to forgive me. I have trusted this to Moulton in confidence. [Signed] H. W. BEECHER.

In the above document the last sentence and signature is in the hand writing of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

Second, That Mrs. Tilton wrote the following letter to a friend: BROOKLYN, JAN. 5th, 1871. DEAR FRIEND:— A cruel conspiracy has been formed against my husband, in which my brother and Mrs. Beecher have been the chief actors. (Signed) Yours truly, ELIZABETH R. TILTON.

Third, That after the above named confession by Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton, she desired her husband to await such action by her husband as he might see fit to take, whereupon, after consideration, the chief one being that she had not voluntarily consented to her husband being artfully misled through her religious reverence for Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, as her religious faith, and being now and hereinafter released by the act, Mrs. Tilton from further responsibility for the concealment of the truth touching her relations with Beecher, therefore, Theodore Tilton hereby avows, under solemn oath, the following facts and testimony:

First, That on the second day of October, 1855, at Plymouth church, Brooklyn, N. Y., a marriage between Theodore Tilton and Elizabeth R. Richards, was performed by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, and which marriage, 13 years ago, and which was dissolved and violated by this clergyman, through criminal seduction of this wife and mother, as hereinafter set forth.

Second, That for a period of about fifteen years, extending both before and after this marriage, an intimate friendship existed between Theodore Tilton and Henry Ward Beecher, such a degree that, in consequence thereof, the subsequent dishonoring by Beecher of his friendship, was a crime of uncommon wrongfulness and enormity.

Third, That about one year ago Rev. Henry Ward Beecher began, and the same continued, a friendship with Elizabeth R. Tilton, and for whose native delicacy and extreme religious sensibility he often expressed to her husband high admiration, and which, from time to time, until the year 1870, when, for reasons hereinafter mentioned, he ceased such visits, and during which period, by many tokens of regard, by the many favors of Mr. Tilton, whereby, after long moral resistance by her, and after repeated assaults by him upon her mind, with over-mastering arguments, she yielded possession of her person, maintaining with her heretofore, during the period hereinafter stated, the relation called criminal intercourse, this relation being not as criminal or morally wrong, such had been the power of his arguments as clergyman, to satisfy her religious scruples, and such violation of virtue and honor.

Fourth, That on the evening of October 10, 1868, or thereabouts, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Tilton held an interview with Rev. Henry Ward Beecher at his residence. She being then in a tender state of mind owing to the recent death and burial of a young child, and during this interview an act of criminal intercourse took place between this pastor and his parishioner, the motive on her part being as hereinafter stated, and which was followed by a similar act of criminality between these same parties, at Tilton's residence, during a pastoral visit paid by Beecher to her on the subsequent Saturday evening, followed, also, by other similar acts on various occasions, from the autumn of 1868 to the spring of 1870, the places being the two residences aforesaid, and occasionally at other places to which her pastor would write and accompany her, or at which he would meet her by previous appointment. These acts of wrong being on her part not wanton or consciously wicked, having resulted through a blinding of her moral perceptions, occasioned by the powerful influence exerted on her mind at that time to this end by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, her trusted religious preceptor and guide.

Fifth, That pastoral visits made by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher during the year 1868 and 1869, were marked contrast with his known habit of making pastoral calls on his parishioners, which frequency he had, in his usual manner, in letters written to her husband, during his absence in the west. These letters, giving evidence that during the term of five or six weeks, twelve pastoral calls on Mrs. Tilton were made by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, and which calls became notably infrequent on Tilton's return to his home.

Sixth, That previous to the aforesaid criminal intimacy, one reason of which was Tilton's alleged, her encouragement of such exceptional attentions from Rev. Henry Ward Beecher was a fact that she had been much distressed by rumors against his moral purity and wished to console him that she could receive his kindness and yet resist the solicitation, and that she could inspire in him by her purity and fidelity increased respect for chaste and dignified and virtuous conduct.

Previous to his return in 1868 she maintained with christian firmness towards her pastor. This position of resistance she always maintained, refusing his amorous pleas, which were strong and oft repeated. The letter to her husband, dated February 8th, 1868, she wrote as follows: "To love is praiseworthy, but to abuse the gift is a sin, here I am strong, no demonstrations and fascinations, because me to yield my womanhood."

On the next day, namely, December 31st, Mr. Moulton, on the above named transaction by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher called upon me this morning and asked me if I would defend him against any accusation in the council of ministers, and I replied, "I would defend him against any accusation, save only your own." I was rather dead, and ended his address. You and I are pledged to do our best to avoid publicity. God grant the speedy end of all further anxieties. Affectionately, ELIZABETH.

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