

of their despotic, disgraceful and disloyal conduct; and rest assured the people of Boston will sustain us.

## BEECHER, TILTON, BOWEN.

Very few persons have any adequate idea of the immense interests that are dependent upon the maintenance, at least to outward semblance, of the peace among this triad; but impending events justify us in calling the public attention to the possibilities of an open rupture. There are a few prominent interior facts behind the fair external seeming, now presented by this trio, which it may not be amiss to bring forward, since they have an important bearing upon what is about to transpire, and since they form the basis upon which a rotten structure has stood and seemed sound.

A few persons only know the real causes that led to the dismissal of Theodore Tilton from the editorship of the *Independent*; and we say dismissal, advisedly, in the face of the mutual admiration expressed at the time by the parties to it. And right here we cannot refrain from mentioning the fact that, wherever a fatal feud is concealed for the sake of reputation, beneath a fair exterior, the ultimate results are always more disastrous than if concealment were never attempted.

Mr. Tilton was for a long time the responsible editor of the *Independent*, and it is well known that it was his bold and brilliant articles that won for that paper the immense influence which at one time it had. It is also well known that the patrons of that paper were thunder-struck when Mr. Tilton left it; they were at a loss to even surmise any sufficient cause for such a movement, since it must have been a fearful one that could justify it to Mr. Bowen, which he has since learned to his cost.

It is not, however, so generally known that, after his resignation of the editor's chair, he was retained to write leading articles at a large salary; or that, at an equally large salary and to share in its profits, he was engaged to conduct the *Brooklyn Union*, also belonging to Mr. Bowen; and by a still less number of individuals is it known what brought this arrangement to a sudden close, which culminated in a suit at law against Mr. Bowen, that was finally arbitrated by several prominent members of Plymouth Church, acting in the interests of Messrs. Beecher & Bowen, to break the sword of justice manufactured by Mr. Bowen, but held by Mr. Tilton.

It is not immaterial to inquire why Mr. Bowen, up to the time of arbitration, should have refused to pay to Mr. Tilton what was justly his due, and why he afterward paid it with so much alacrity. Was there a consideration other than damage for breach of contract previously demanded by Mr. Bowen and refused by Mr. Tilton? In short, was there not a significant letter, written by Mr. Bowen from Woodstock, Vermont, to Mr. Tilton, damning to Mr. Beecher, which was the real bone of contention, and which the arbitration decided Mr. Tilton should pass to Mr. Bowen, upon receiving from him the payment of this demand? If this be so, what was that letter? Did it merely concern Mr. Bowen, and if so why were Mr. Beecher's friends called into the arbitration; and was personal and confidential arbitration necessary to settle a matter of which law could take no cognizance?

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That there was a letter is certain, and that the letter must have been important, is evident; but are the persons who composed the arbitration simple enough to believe that Mr. Tilton gave it up without keeping a certified copy? If so, they must indeed have a decidedly poor opinion of Mr. Tilton's wisdom, and a very exalted opinion of his veridancy.

Again, was this letter read before the arbitration, and if so, and it was important as involving Mr. Beecher, how is it that they, as prominent members of Plymouth Church,

which respect for ourselves, and for much regard for  
another, to permit any such outrage."  
being, flouted by the positive refusal of Music Hall,  
Phillips determined that free speech should not be en-  
crusted out by the Music Hall clique—friends of  
reaction—and engaged the St. James Theatre. But this re-  
fusal of license, which was utterly refused. Upon this  
an application was made to the Board of Aldermen;  
they absolutely refused to grant it, saying they did not  
whether right or wrong, this woman should not speak  
on the stage, and ordered the Chief of Police to be instructed  
not to let her dare to attempt to speak anywhere.  
After our arrival in Boston and consulting with Judge  
about the matter, the authorities were called upon and  
confronted with the lecture which was to be delivered.  
Fortunately the plot was shown them, but it made  
no difference. They would listen to nothing. They had  
made up their minds and would not be moved, and the  
Chief of Police personally informed us that, though he was  
willing to let us do as we pleased, he had orders to arrest us if we should ap-  
pear upon any platform in Boston, and that he should be  
ready to execute them if we persisted.

It becoming known that we should not be permitted to  
speak in Boston, lectures in Cambridge, Charlestown and  
Salem were offered us, but we determined to take our  
chance, being satisfied when the great masses of the people of  
Boston shall become aroused to what the authorities have  
said that they will rise and demand that the first and great  
principle of American liberty shall no longer suffer con-  
stantly at the hands of their representatives. Even the press  
of that city seemed to be fully and sincerely of the opinion  
in the truth of which they are so deeply. One paper  
one of the great number of those published was willing to  
use its columns to give the people our statement of the  
case. Alas we indeed very much desired that the press  
be rational and independent, but we were disappointed when the  
faced hypocrites are called upon to stand. It now be-  
comes that others are not threatened when we are asked  
they do not even think what is involved by their ap-  
proval or disapproval in what has been done. This outrage gives  
way to others, and will be one and then they proceed  
all they culminate in revolution.

Our readers begin to realize what a revolt the heretics,  
charlatans and the Hypocrites are in over the progress  
of the social revolution. Every one of them fears that his  
rule may be the next to fall. What else can it be that  
drives them to all their desperate deeds, their continuous  
struggles upon the fundamental principles of liberty? Do  
they forget the teachings of their professed Master; that if  
we things be "of the devil," they will come to nought  
if it is ever thus. In the days of the Nazarene it was not  
different from what it is now. The same divisions and spirit  
are everywhere and at all times present, but related to differ-  
ent and higher broader and deeper questions. Those of to-  
day are upon the most fundamental and vital that ever ex-  
isted—individual freedom, and will be administered with a

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## ABOUT OURSELVES

have made no movement to vindicate him, or to inquire into the case to determine if he were worthy to continue in its pastoral charge? These things are very significant when it is understood that Mr. Bowen was wont to say that he had only "to open his batteries on Mr. Beecher, to drive him out of Brooklyn in twenty-four hours," and that since the settlement he has been one of his most ardent supporters and advisors, as witness his weeping on Mr. Beecher's neck at the recent silver wedding to Plymouth Church.

When we consider the various circumstances that envelope this case in present darkness, we cannot help exclaiming: Is it possible that all those members of Mr. Beecher's church, being cognizant of the real difficulty between Mr. Tilton and Mr. Bowen, conceal it, because they are involved in something of the same sort sufficiently well known to make suppression impossible if a "break" once begin? If this be so, then indeed is Brooklyn sleeping on a volcano; and it is no wonder that herculean efforts are being made by those aware of the danger to prevent an eruption that would arouse the sleepers to a comprehension of what had existed for so long a time under their very eyes, unheeded or unknown.

Violent convulsions always precede great changes, let them be in whatever department of nature, and great changes usually occur simultaneously in the several departments. Wherever we now look over the face of the earth, whether it be to the earth itself, or the elements themselves, there is confusion or spasmodic convulsions, fire, flood or tempest to its inhabitants as nations, to their intellectual, moral, industrial, or social capacities, there is the uncertainty that forbodes coming changes everywhere present, and the earnest efforts of iconoclastic revolutionists, urged by unseen forces, they scarcely know why or whence, precipitate them.

In the past history of the world there have been earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, islands submerged and thrown up; there have been tempests, hurricanes and electrical convulsions; there been war, pestilence, famine and flood; there have been revolutions in religion, politics, scientific deduction and philosophic formula; but until now there has been nothing that could be called purely a revolution in social matters disconnected from other questions. In the relations of individuals to each other and to society, the right of sovereignty has gradually ascended without rapidity from the one supreme control to the very verge of perfect individual control; and it is here, on this very verge, that the enlightened portion of the world is now hesitating, half in fear and half in doubt, as to what may follow the leap, but nevertheless venturing, as individuals, to take it, when it can be done and a return made secretly. We reiterate that we believe "the conscious and well-calculated interference of the spirit-world has forecast and prepared the very events" that have occurred and that are to occur in Plymouth Church, with which to usher in the grand and final social revolution which must precede complete individual freedom.

## FLOATING LIES.

We have numerous inquiries regarding certain statements that are circulating through the press about the alleged de-

Agreeably to many urgent requests we be print extracts from letters and articles having reference to ourselves, with the view of showing who know us best have from time to time recorded no other circumstances than such as exist at we have consented to do this; but some, who have spoken well of us, having claimed a change we hereby invite them to explain the causes of to which we will gladly give space in the *Woman's Journal*. We are aware that many think we have made unwarranted confidences in the Beecher Article; but, as we article, we possessed no confidences except forced for the very purpose for which the *Journal* is published. Moreover, this is a great cause in which we were and required all the weight of testimony that we could command; and though some of it involved the disclosure of facts not have chosen to be known in the matter, and we are now deprecate what has been done, still we believe that, in the not-distant future, they will come to the front and eagerly engage in the moving revolution, and fully justify our course. We are not aware that we are different from what we were when the extracts given below were written, except in the Beecher Article. If it be that which has caused us to be held in less esteem than formerly, we will endure the censure, since we know the future will vindicate our course and regain the favor we have lost. If causes exist, we trust that they who have been disposed toward us in the past, and who have been so public in such graceful and (to us) grateful testimony, will do that same public justice by showing to it what they have discovered. This is a duty owed to ourselves and the public, and we hope, if any of the facts below set forth are now obsolete in the *Journal*, we received them, that their writers will avail themselves of this column to rectify their previous errors of judgment and correct too hastily formed opinions.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 10, 1854.  
BRAVO! MY DEAR WOODHULL: Your letter of the 1st inst. and telegram of the "Majority and Minority Report" of the "old Ben!" He is surely going to pronounce on the woman question; just as he did on the negro question.

Everybody here chimes in with the new cry that we are already free. But how absolutely dead, the *Woman's Journal* and *Revolution*; one would think they were in a Rip Van Winkle sleep. It is beyond my power to say how anybody can be so dull—so behind the times.

Mrs. Livermore, in her speech here, said, "I have never said (not Victoria C. Woodhull in Congress and the National Woman's Suffrage Convention) that the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments enfranchised women. She could afford to tell them that they are as 'dead as door nails' to the gospel."

I have never in the whole twenty years of my life and hope, I know now that Mr. Train's prediction—that women would vote for the new constitution—be realized. I am sure that you and I will vote for it. Their or Victoria's