



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Theodore Tilton correspondence and other material

1857-1875

MssCol 4647

Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2014

Summary

Creator: Tilton, Theodore, 1835-1907

Title: Theodore Tilton correspondence and other material

Date: 1857-1875

Size: .1 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1899 and purchase.

Abstract: Theodore Tilton was an American abolitionist, newspaper editor, poet, and supporter of women's rights, who brought suit against Henry Ward Beecher in 1874 for adultery with his wife Elizabeth R. Tilton. Collection consists of miscellaneous correspondence concerning personal, business and political matters; a few writing fragments; a clipped autograph; checks and a receipt signed by Tilton; and his voting proxy for New York Tribune Association director elections. Most letters, some in draft, are written by Tilton during his editorship of The Independent newspaper. Several items from 1866 concern Independent publisher Henry C. Bowen's loss of a political appointment due to Tilton's editorial stance against President Andrew Johnson. An 1869 letter from American diplomat E.D. (Ebenezer D.) Bassett to Tilton concerns Frederick Douglass and the Haitian mission. Letters to Gordon L. Ford of the New York Tribune are also present. Personal items include an 1865 invitation to celebrate the Tilton's tin wedding anniversary; a poem dated June 20, 1869, not by Tilton, celebrating the birth of the Tiltons' son Theodore; a letter dated August 6 from Tilton to Ford advising of the birth of a son; and an undated affectionate letter from Tilton to his wife. Correspondence also includes two letters by Elizabeth R. Tilton concerning a theater engagement and the address of her husband's lecture agent, as well as two letters to the Editor of the Tribune from subscribers expressing opinions on the Beecher-Tilton trial, 1875.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Theodore Tilton correspondence and other material, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2014

Related Materials:

Forms part of Ford collection.

Custodial History

Most material originally received as part of the Ford collection.

Scope and Content Note

Theodore Tilton was an American abolitionist, newspaper editor, poet, and supporter of women's rights, who brought suit against Henry Ward Beecher in 1874 for adultery with his wife Elizabeth R. Tilton. Collection consists of miscellaneous correspondence concerning personal, business and political matters; a few writing fragments; a clipped autograph; checks and a receipt signed by Tilton; and his voting proxy for New York Tribune Association director elections. Most letters, some in draft, are written by Tilton during his editorship of The Independent newspaper. Several items from 1866 concern Independent publisher Henry C. Bowen's loss of a political appointment due to Tilton's editorial stance against President Andrew Johnson. An 1869 letter from American diplomat E.D. (Ebenezer D.) Bassett to Tilton concerns Frederick Douglass and the Haitian mission. Letters to Gordon L. Ford of the New York Tribune are also present. Personal items include an 1865 invitation to celebrate the Tiltons' wedding anniversary; a poem dated June 20, 1869, not by Tilton, celebrating the birth of the Tiltons' son Theodore; a letter dated August 6 from Tilton to Ford advising of the birth of a son; and an undated affectionate letter from Tilton to his wife. Correspondence also includes two letters by Elizabeth R. Tilton concerning a theater engagement and the address of her husband's lecture agent, as well as two letters to the Editor of the Tribune from subscribers expressing opinions on the Beecher-Tilton trial, 1875.

Key Terms

Occupations

Abolitionists
Newspaper editors
Poets

Titles

Independent (New York, N.Y. : 1848)

Names

Bassett, Ebenezer D., 1833-1908
Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887 -- Trials, litigation, etc.
Bowen, Henry Chandler, 1813-1896
Ford, Gordon Lester, 1823-1891 -- recipient
Tilton, Elizabeth M. Richards, 1834-
Tilton, Elizabeth M. Richards, 1834- -- Trials, litigation, etc.
Tilton, Theodore, 1835-1907 -- Trials, litigation, etc.