

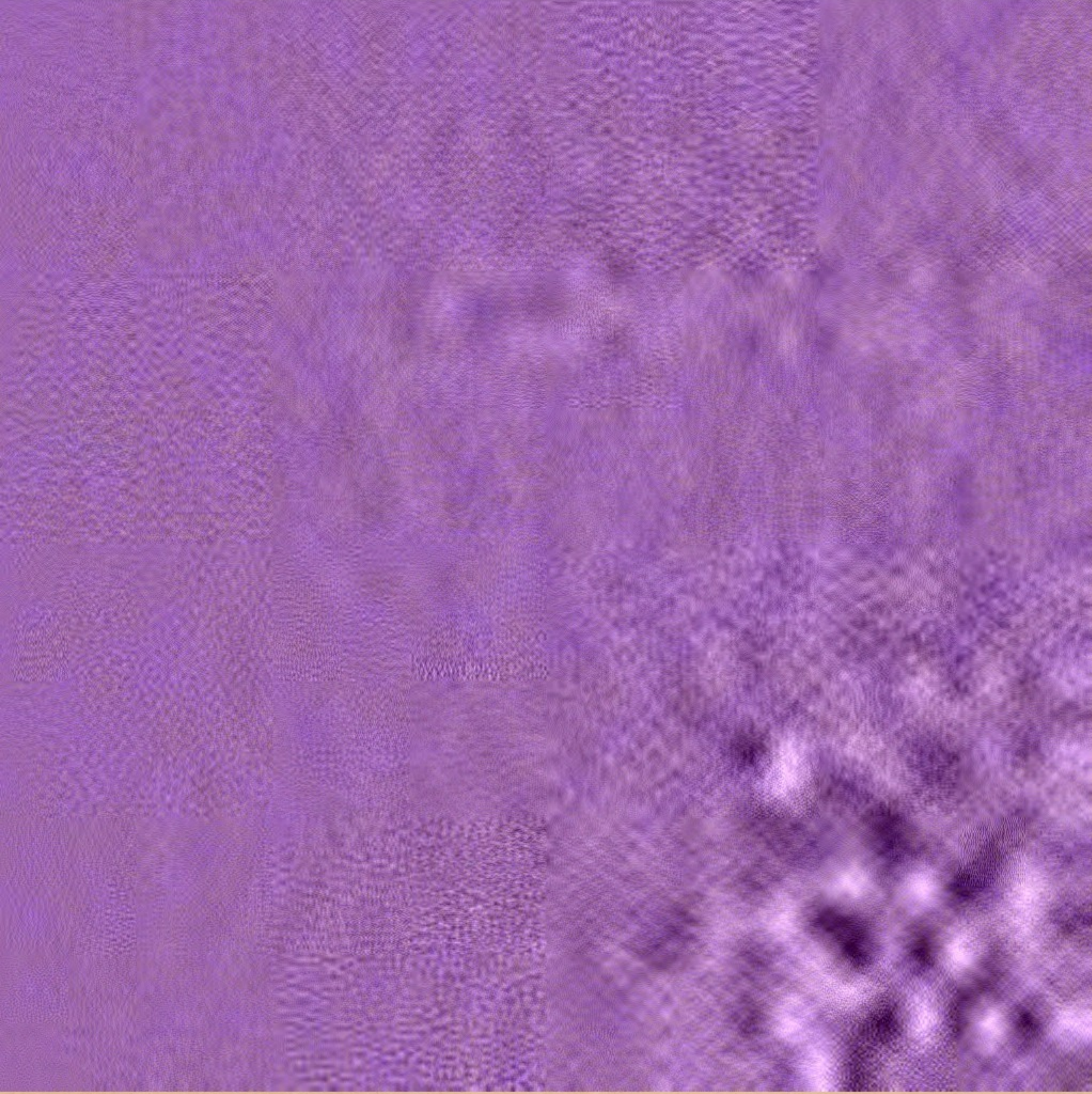
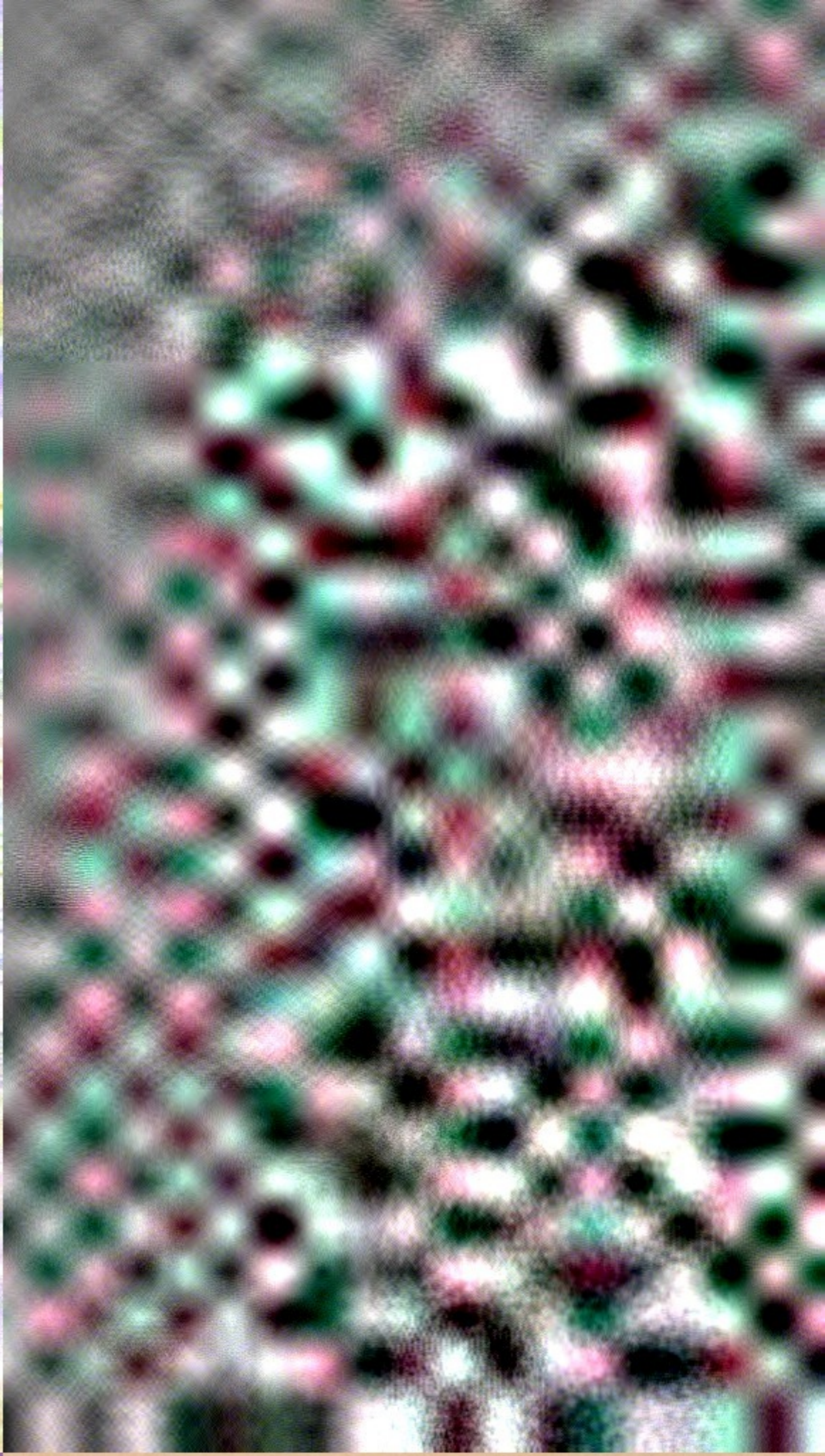
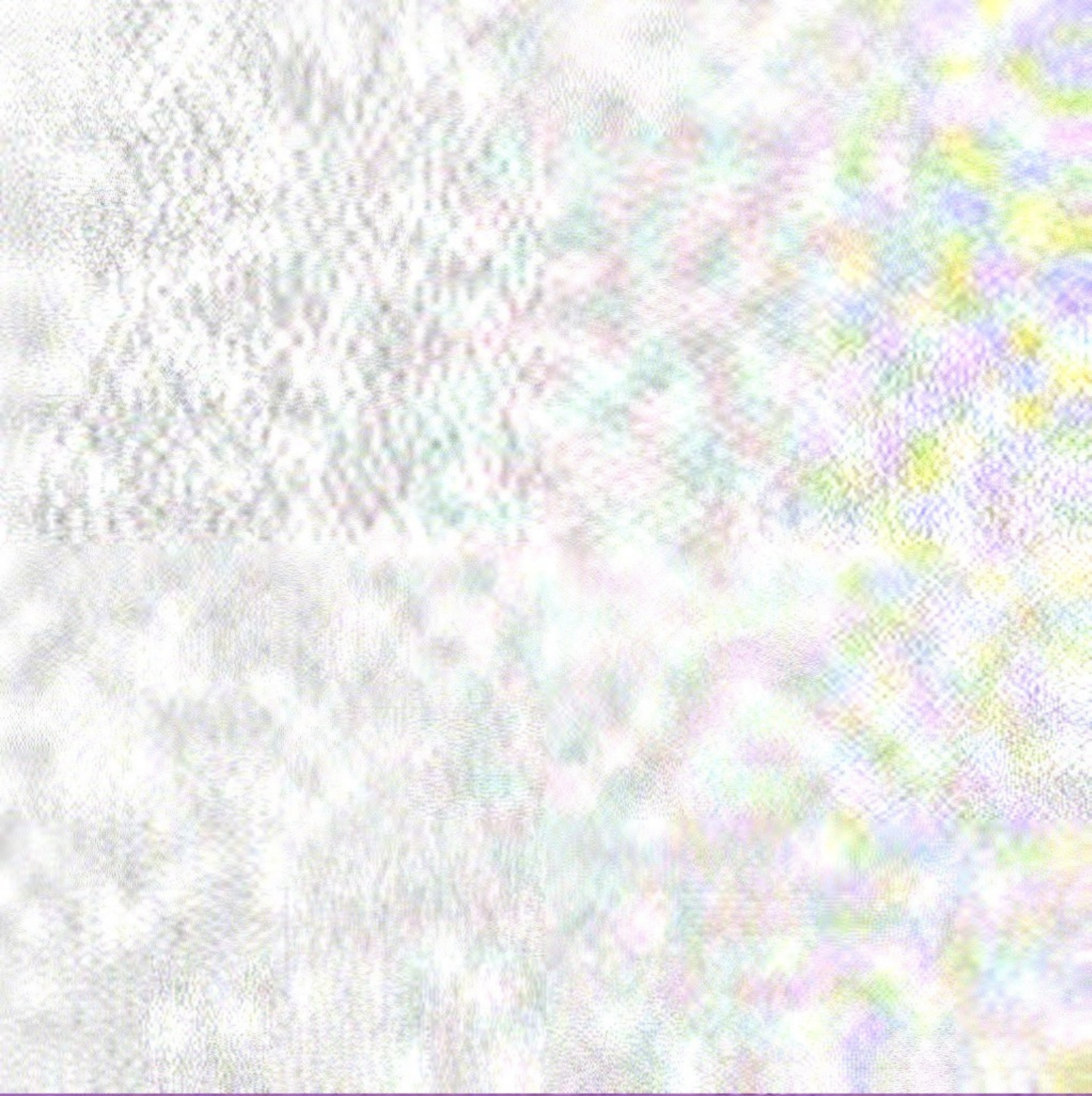
...D, D.D., LL.D.,
...FIELD, OHIO.

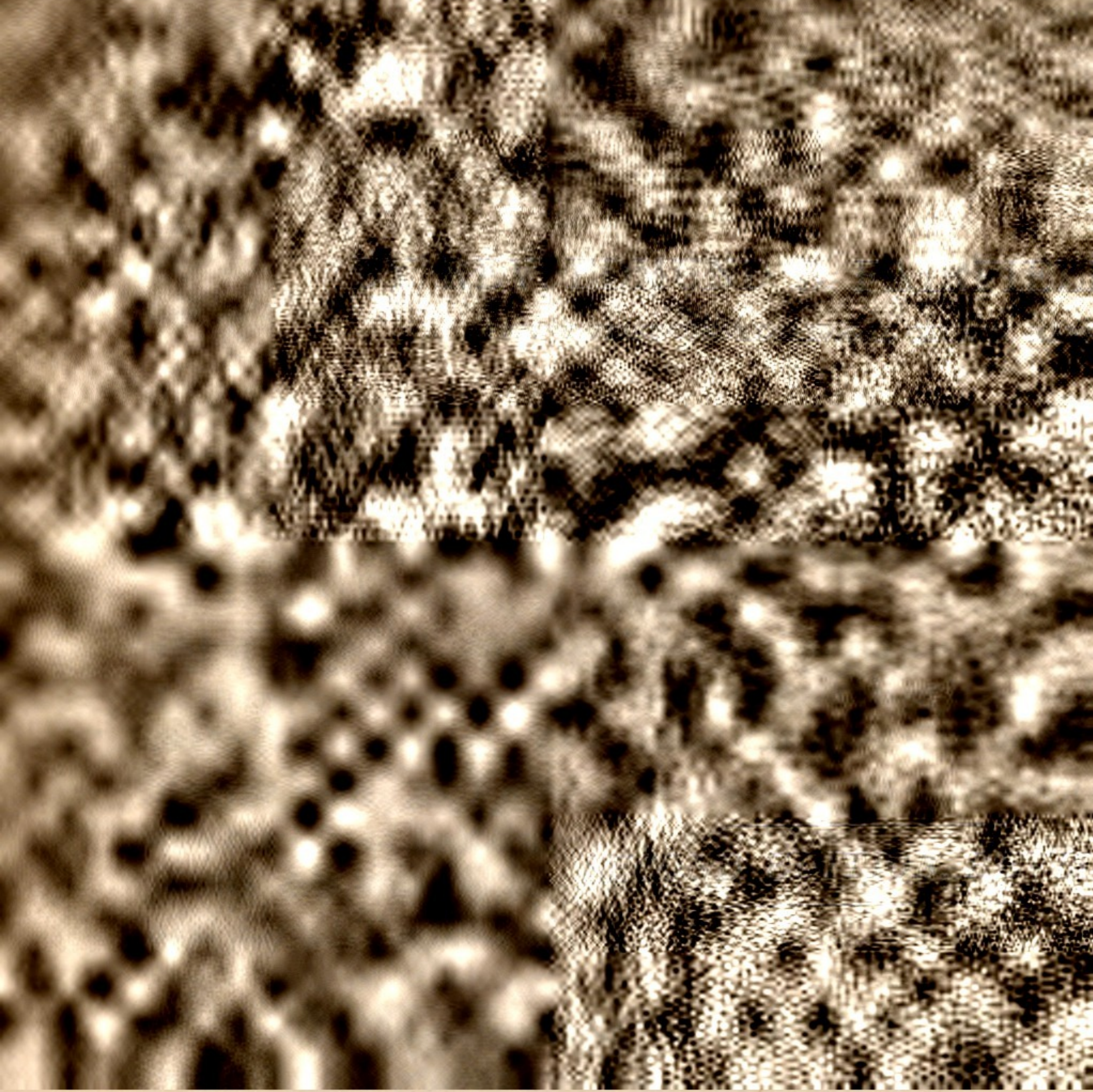
...ED.

MANSFIELD, OHIO:

L. D. MYERS & BROTHER, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

1874.

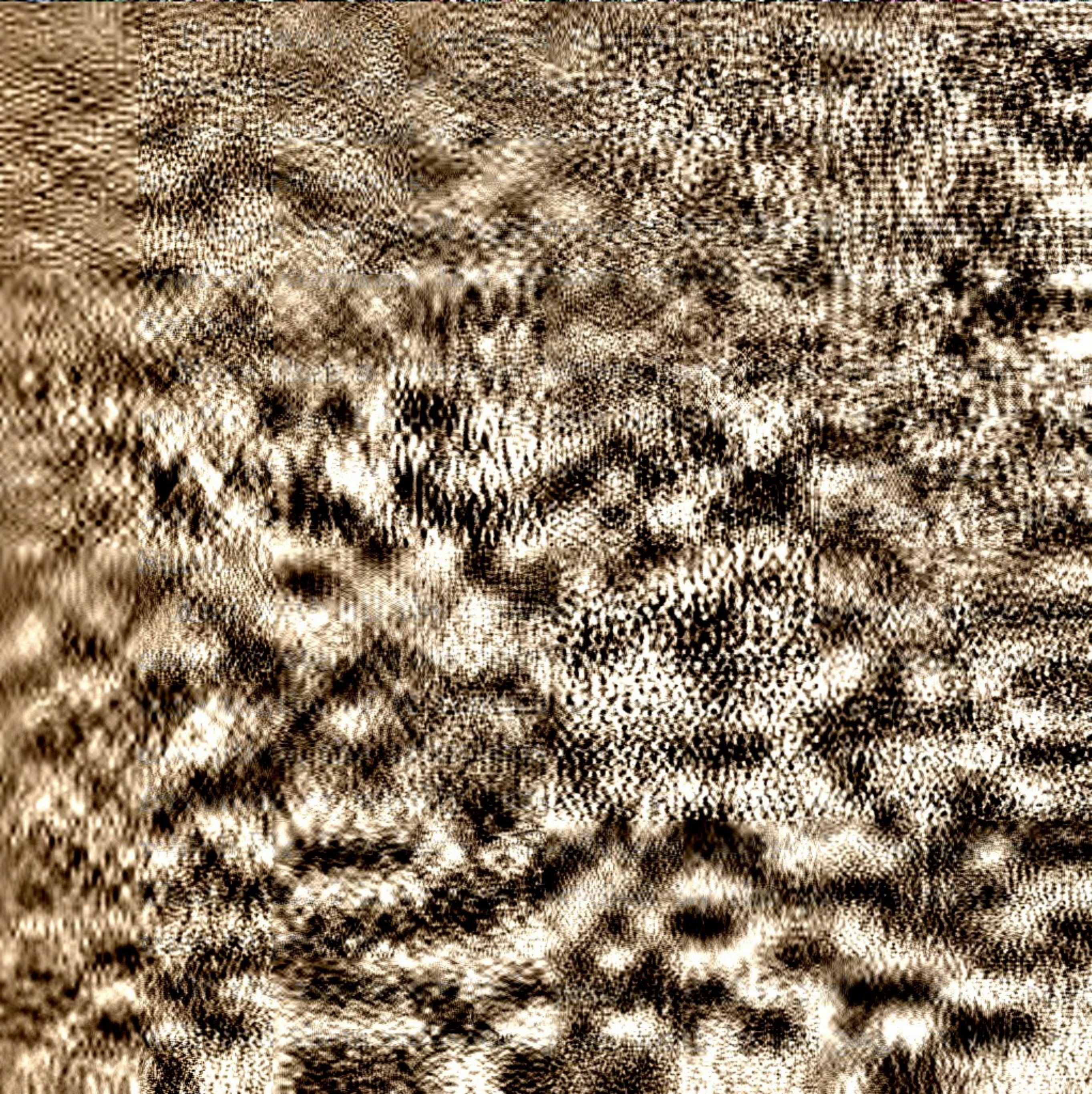
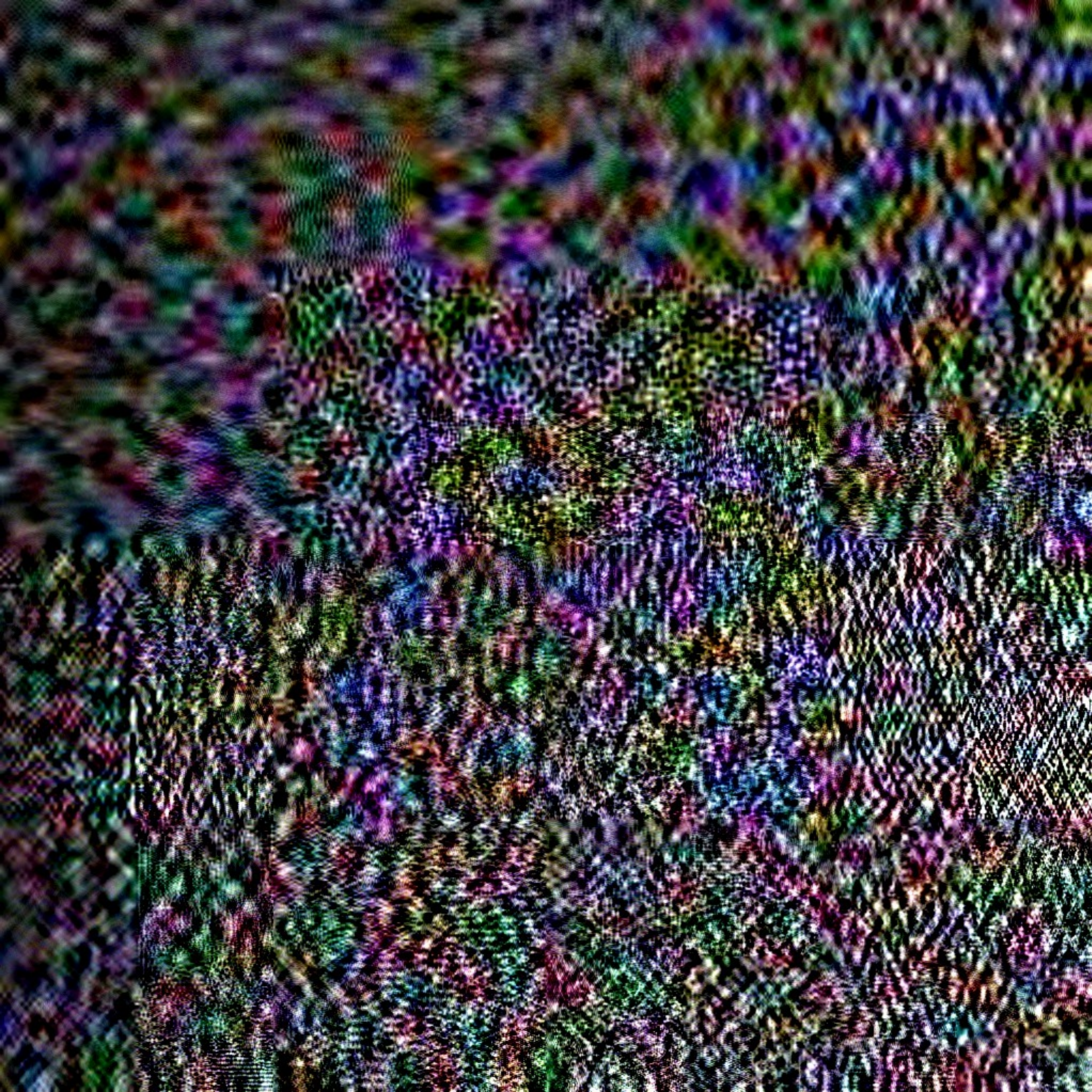




D, D.D., LL.D.,
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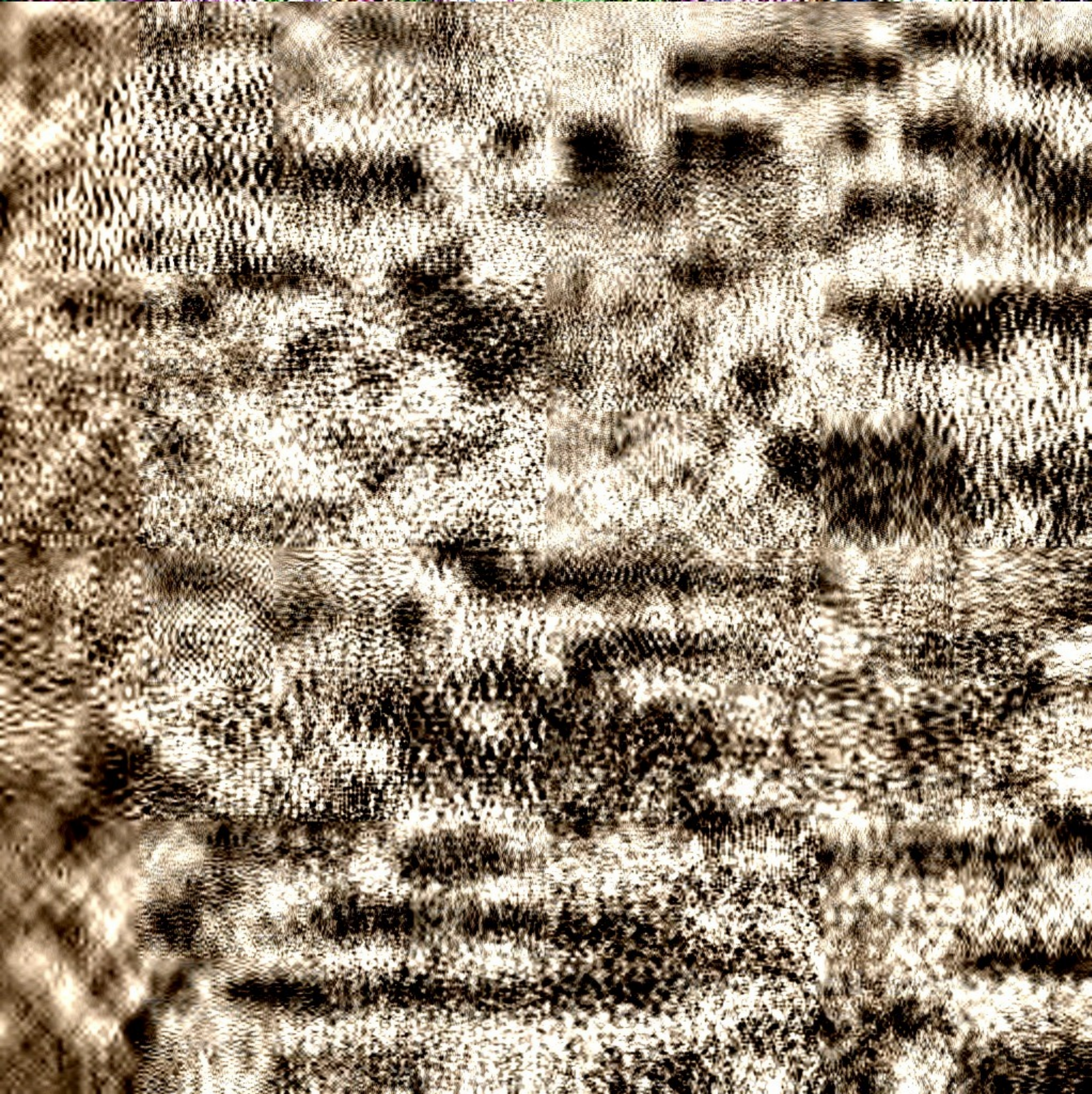
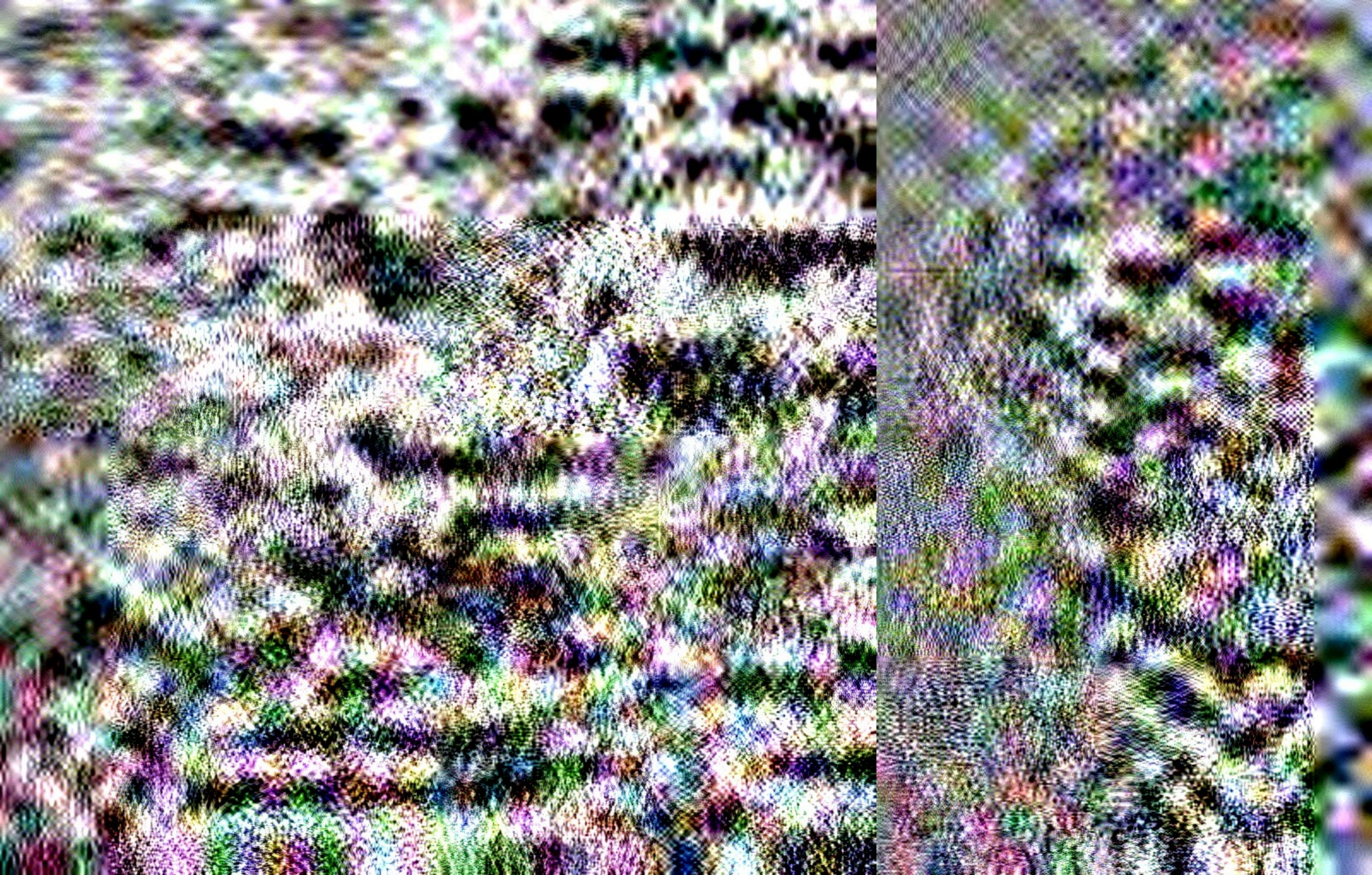
MANSFIELD, OHIO:
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1874.



for since the first edition was
raska—it is now issued in en-
ortant errors that were found
eecher's Statement, and every
y expressed in the body of the
arts of the country, thanking
t candid and intelligent men
he conclusions which are here
al reputation in Church and
Review and its author, public
been once assailed. More than
of any man's pen. Without
en, have been either entirely
hat pertained to the time at
ve been given to Mrs. Tilton.
he first edition I did not take
not here speak. The reader
before him.

E. B. F.

MANSFIELD, OHIO, *October 15, 1874.*



r great? What are ten men,
n thousand men, compared in
famed and scandalized, much
nently is this a matter that
almost entirely to themselves.
ont The very citadel of their
al, a lawyer, or a statesman, I
. As it is, it is both my right

case with a judicial mind. I
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and conscientiousness. Had
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rely clear in my convictions, I
it is, I cannot feel justified in

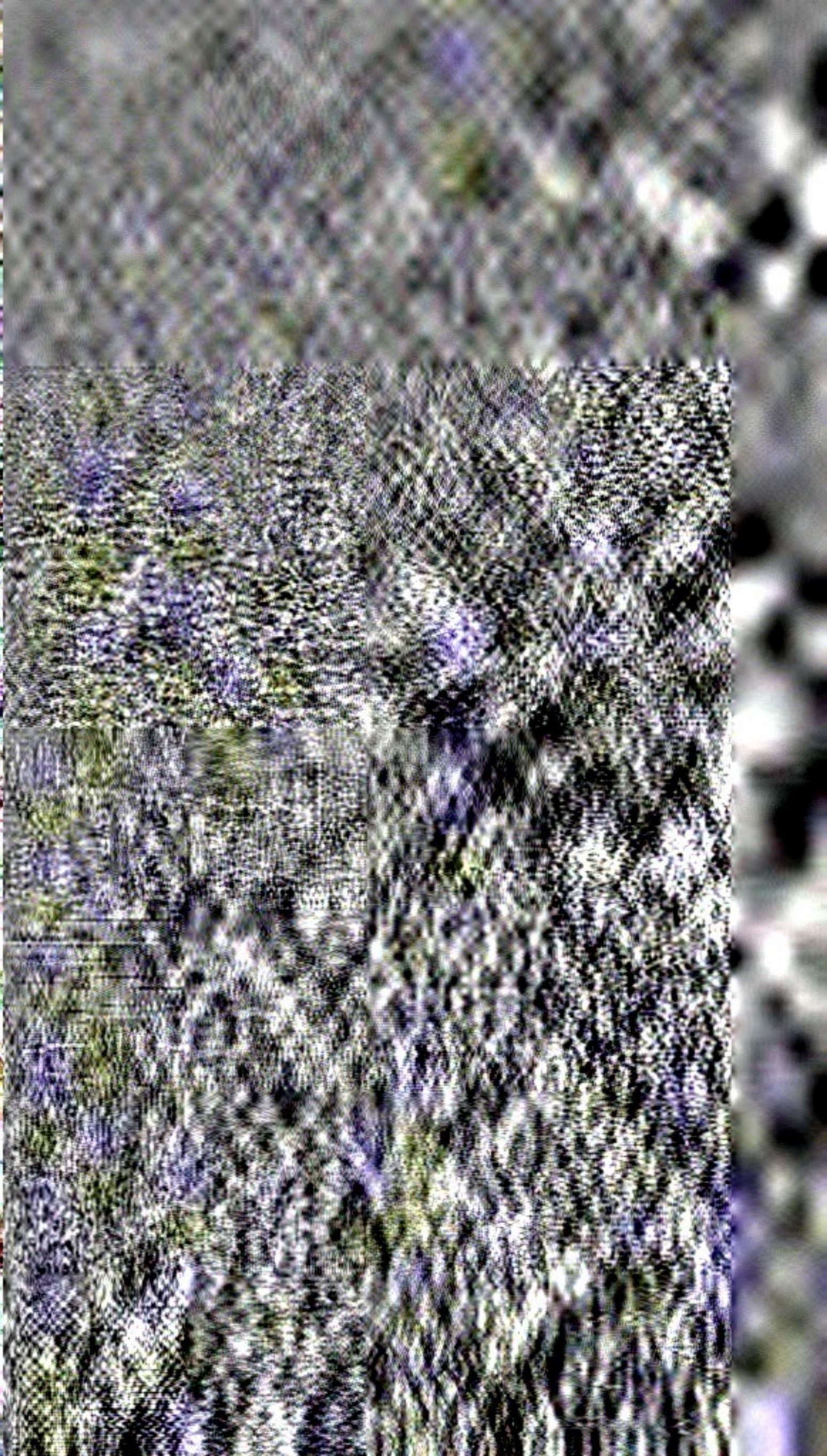
nirer and devoted friend. Of
blind; she holds even scales;
only the truth, whoever may

the indictment is true, Beecher
ached. If he is innocent, his
nd the most withering scorn.
upon the review of the case
the impartial tribunal before

the guilty accomplice. Mrs.
parties, and made it in writing
ates that that confession and
made to please and placate a

tyrannical and brutal husband, who over-awed her into the making of it! But to my mind this is a statement scarcely worthy of a serious consideration. It is, upon the very face of it, too absurd to deserve refutation. To placate an angry husband by the confession of the highest possible crime committed against himself—and the most maddening of all!—whoever can believe that, it is difficult to suggest any thing to which his credulity would not be equal. For an innocent woman to sign such a libel against herself when it was utterly false, and to write it out with her own hand—we can conceive of her doing anything else sooner than that. If this woman, being innocent, so acted, the history of the world may safely be challenged to produce a parallel.

Think of it! A woman in the city of Brooklyn, among her friends, living for four years with a husband so abusive, and brutal and tyrannical that, *for fear* of him, she confessed to him such a crime, at a time when there existed no other proof against her!



sometimes become well nigh
an understand it. Most men
rolled by Divine Grace and
is charged upon him within

h him during these years, in
herself was the guilty occasion

denies all her confessions and
and-writing, but claims they
dream of a very happy marital

which she should make such
ason now for her explaining
save, as well as she can, her
onfession must be known, and
er and her husband to live
nown it; and to avoid that
thing and save his family.

wyer knows is the uniform
he record of all our courts, a
sides with her paramour, as

n law and common sense that
ony *in favor* of himself is re-

, it is said that Mrs. Tilton is
ries no weight. But that is a
Mr. Beecher's defenders ac-
many hours in company with
r after year. Does a man of
very weak-minded women—
religious culture?

for nothing else but entirely proper, social and mental and religious culture?
By all the laws of evidence, therefore, Mrs. Tilton's confession of guilt is to be assumed to be true. It was against herself; she had no intelligible motive for making it unless it were true; her statement now that she did it under intimidation is the most preposterous of all inventions; her denial now can have little weight—it being in her own favor and prompted by every possible motive. *But notice:* She not only made this confession to her husband and made it in writing, but she made it to Mr. Moulton; she made it to Mrs. Moulton; she made it to her mother; she made it to Miss Anthony; she made it to at least one other person whose name I withhold. It will come to the public by and by, I think. And should we accept the absurd explanation which she now gives of her confessing it to her husband under intimidation, how stands the case in respect to these other parties? She certainly cannot explain her confessing it to these on any such ground, or any other ground, except the truth of it. Did Miss Anthony use any intimidation? Did her mother? Did Mr. and Mrs. Moulton?



...tion, and yet, at the ad-
dges he had never met but a
a revolver, he surrenders this

paper in these circumstances,
world's history to produce its
n outrageous crime, surrender-
pl, in his own house!

at? or can believe that it was
? No, sir, *No, sir!* Somehow
terly false and baseless charge
n, and you demand that I sur-
m your pocket and laid upon
spirited man like Mr. Beecher
all the police, when thus over-
as soon as his assailant had

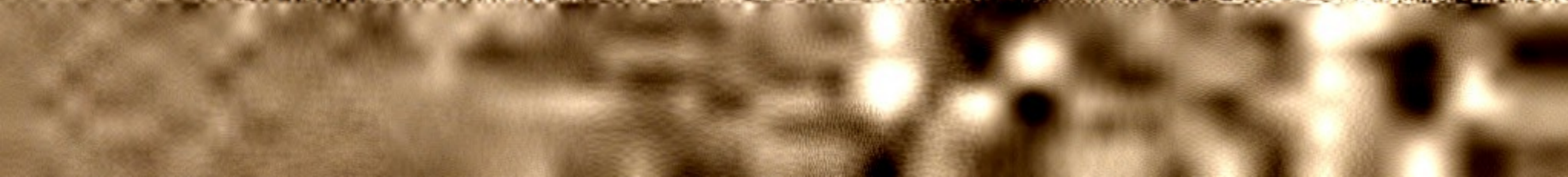
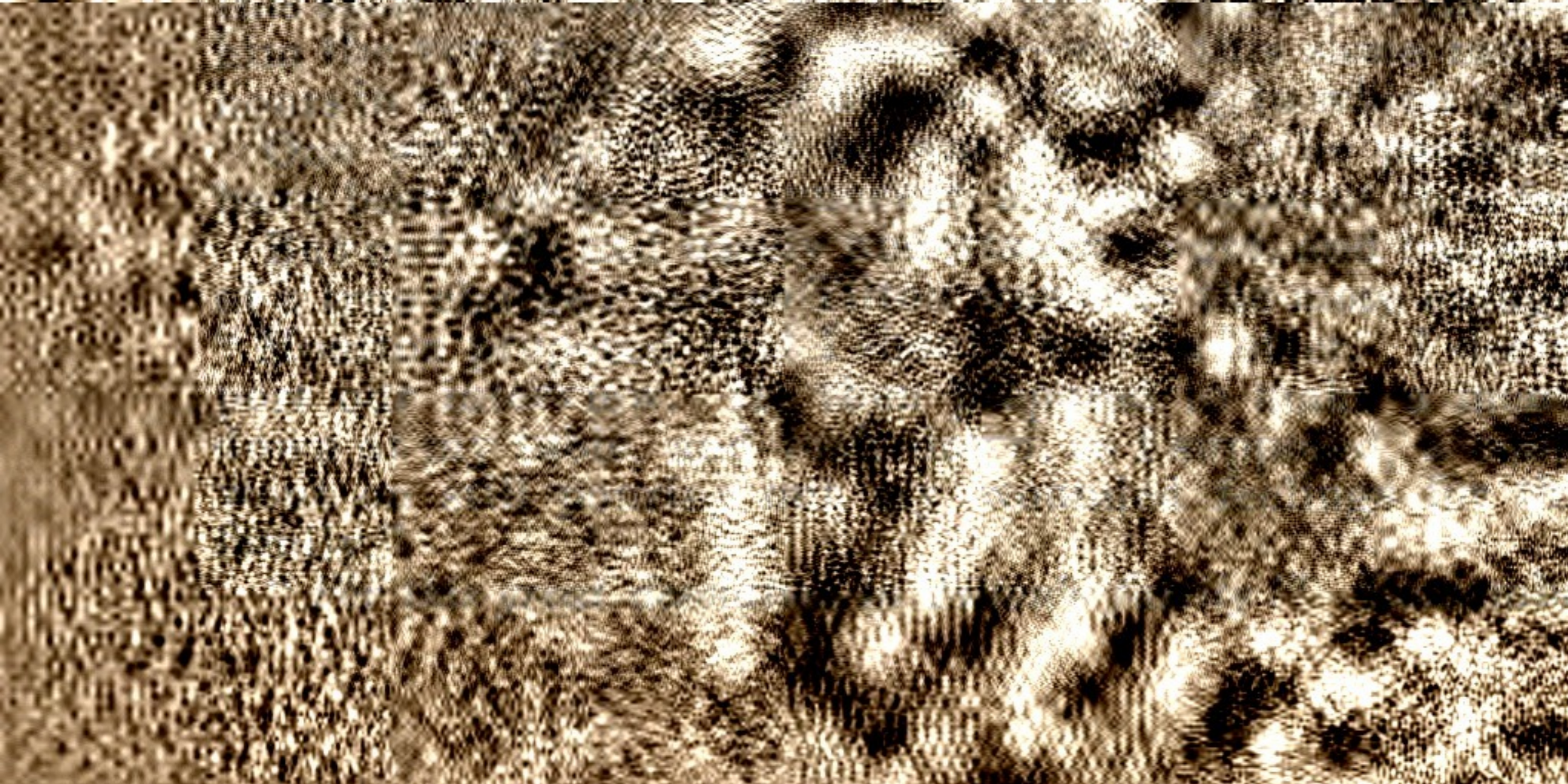
an amazing pity that he was not
mittee, it is an amazing *marvel*
oes not explain. Only the as-
Before I can be made to believe
unlearn all the lessons of my
ct!

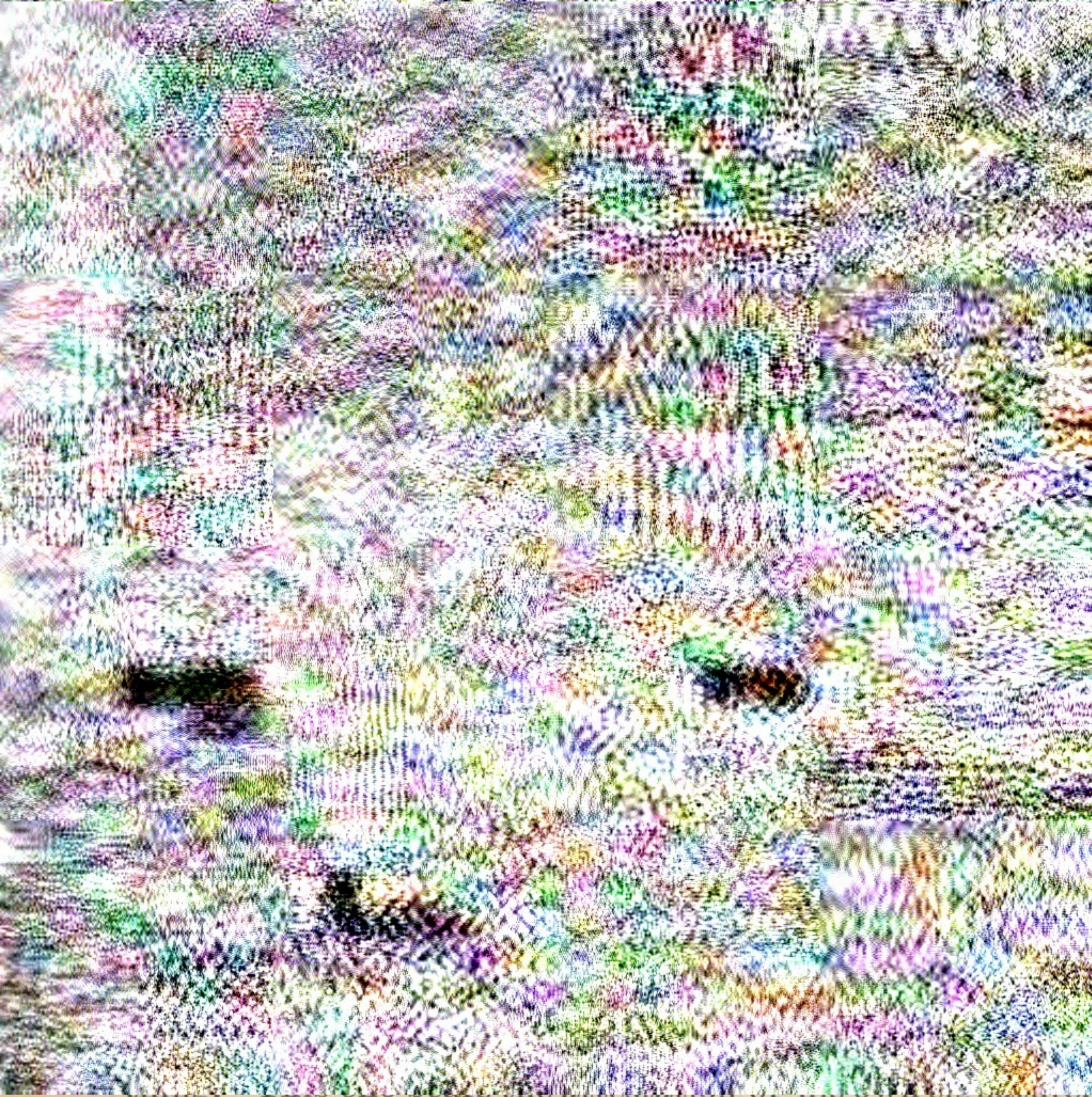
the confession of cowardice and
he wicked fleeth when no man
r he had obtained that paper
nst him was so overwhelming
his retention of it was certain
nderstand his surrender of it.

erview at his own house, with
him if he did not surrender to
he has an interview for three
epares a letter *to pacify Tilton!*
not Tilton! And so it would
truthful.

ceeded in getting, a retraction
d. He says to the committee:
ned, but said that he could re-
brandum of the talk, and sat
ensed report of my talk, for I
is great desolation in Tilton's

or that these are the words of





because it is of little consequence, with one exception, he more inexplicable upon any :

... that would ache. I will not plead suffer. I will die before any one but as my friends, and toward the poor she is guiltless, sinned against, bear-pray to God to put it into the heart-ence.

HENRY WARD BEECHER."

... ot all of it in his own hand- e take the whole matter into Moulton in confidence," is in his

... on it? Does he deny that that these which are now ex- he deny that he wrote on one would have denied the whole

... ents of which he knows noth- t entirely certain that Mr.

... these full sentences: "She is her. Her forgiveness I have. d to forgive me."

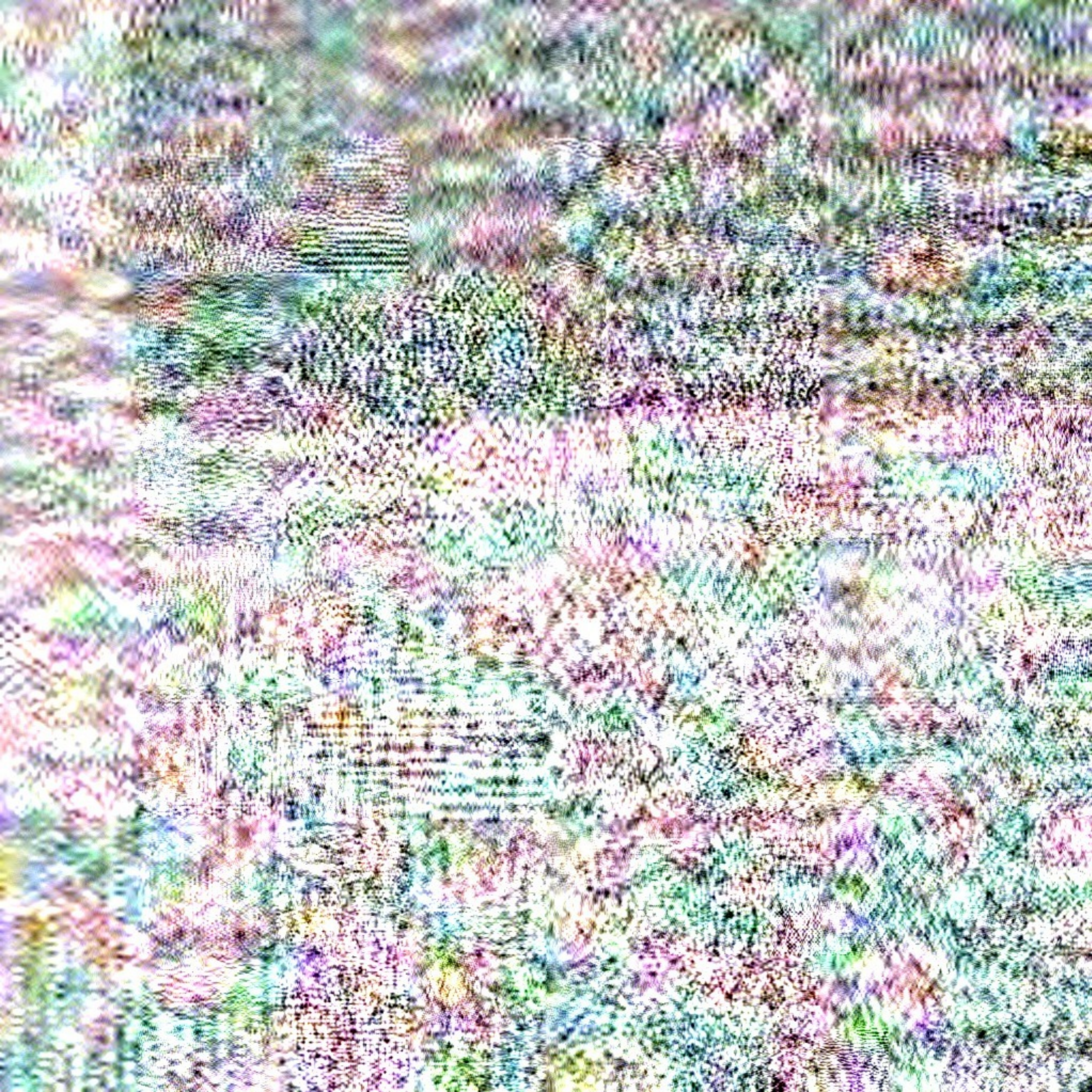
... ls? Not any! According to greatest of crimes. And yet orgiven him! He now denies e." And yet those words are ached. He might have said -written. He hints no such We may safely assume that

the whole communication was his own.

And that this paper was one of fearful import, is proved by two things :

(1.) Those *last words* : "I have trusted this to Moulton in confidence." Trusted what in confidence? Something that needed *concealment*! His own theory admits of nothing needing concealment. This whole communication, and especially that part of it in his own hand-writing, is utterly inexplicable upon the assumption of his innocence. It is easily understood upon the theory of his guilt.

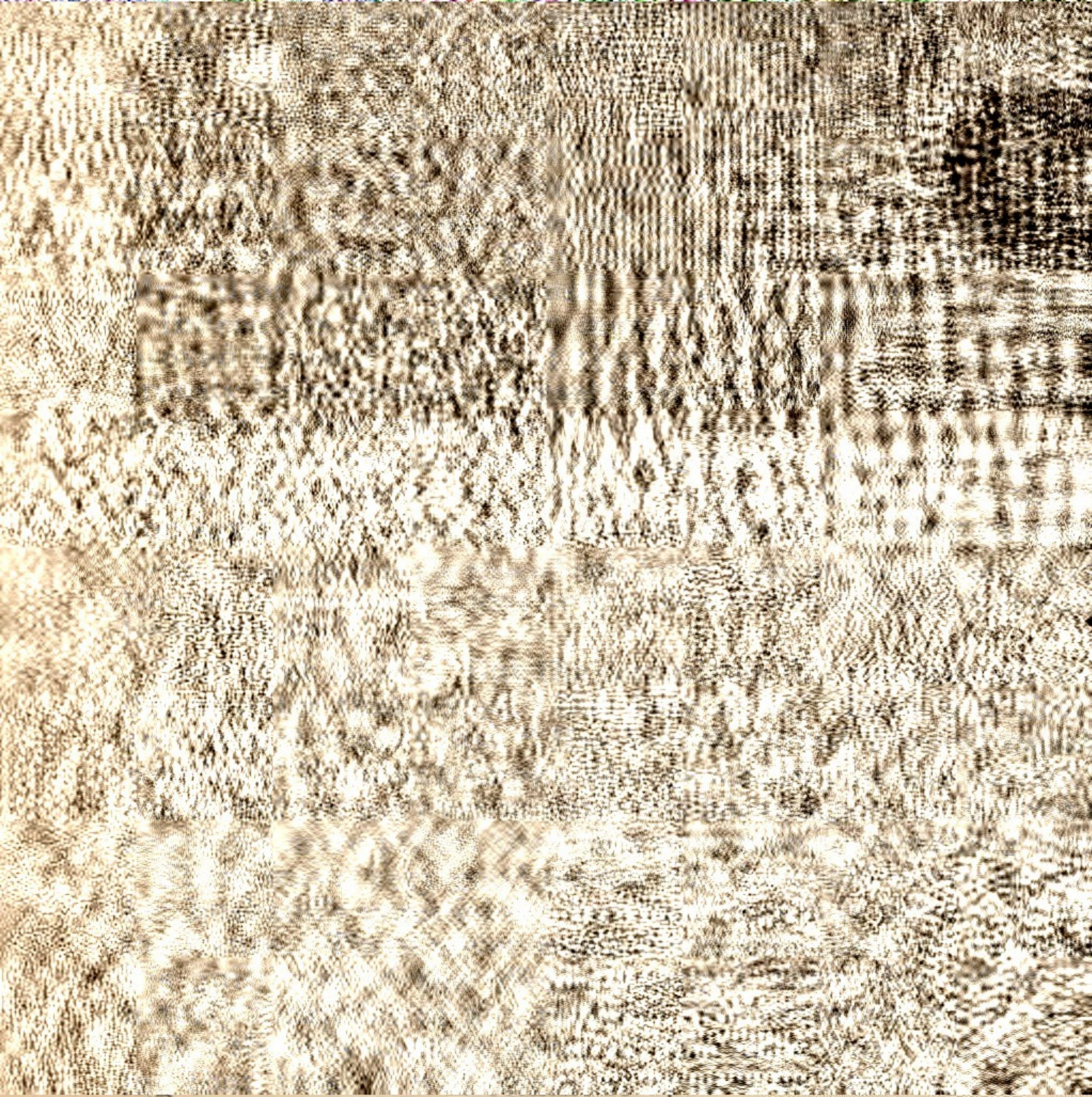
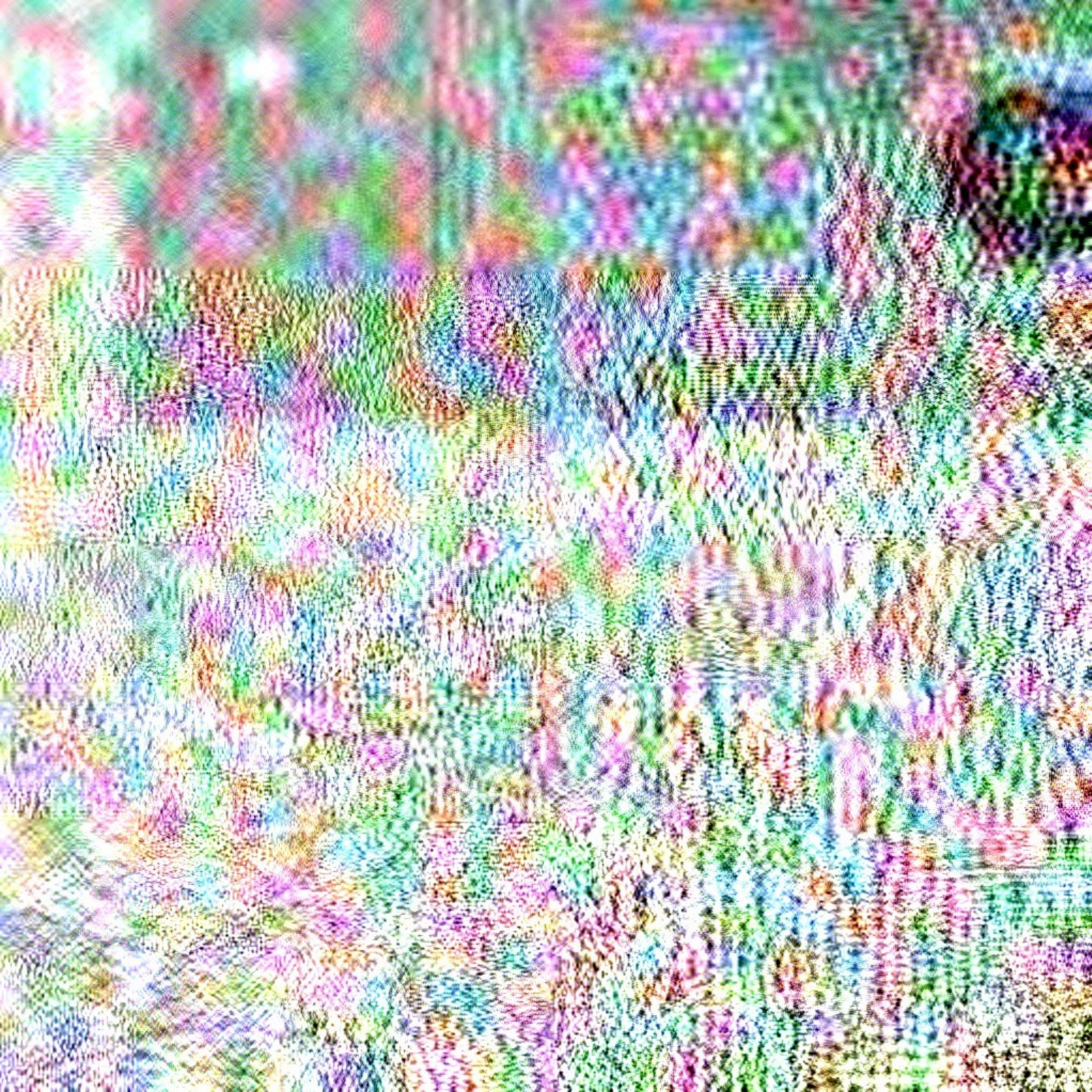
(2.) It was to be returned. Why was that paper *to be returned* if it was nothing more than he now pretends? He tells us that several times in the course of several years in his conversation with Moulton, reference was made to that paper as one that ought to be returned to him. He was anxious about it! He knew that it contained terrible testimony against him. There is no other possible explanation of his anxiety in reference to it.



...ce when this letter is quoted,
...eated in the full guilt of his
...t would ache," unless Tilton
...e very indulgent towards Mr.
...examination, and they do not
...s friends have undertaken to
...t out Mrs. Isabella Hooker's
...ut the fatal defect of that ex-
...no such opinions! And the
...ons publicly and promptly, so
...ve on that account.
...rts would ache if his guilt of
...l friends of both households,
...Tilton—recommending her to
...e felt so terribly, and in view
...public statement. But the
...nparing it with his fuller one
... . He had not then so well
...vention more severely. And
...plain this letter, and finding
...andoned it. And for a most
...ive any such advice till after
...r that in his first publication
...rtook to explain it. His ex-
...enied its authenticity. How
...s more and more clearly as we
... are harder to explain than
...liated them all had they been

But on the theory of his own innocence, it is utterly inconceivable that a peaceful interview like this should have occurred at all between him and the man who had so unjustly robbed him of the proof of his innocence but the day before; and perfectly absurd that he should have made any such statement as he admits he did make, to *placate Tilton* within forty-eight hours after he had been accused of a crime of which he was entirely innocent. Thousands have read Beecher's statements without stopping to analyze them, or trace out these dates, and thus see the utter absurdity of them. I confess that I have never read any other piece of fiction so badly constructed as this entire statement. And any history of facts at all approaching it in point of utter incredibility the literature of the last forty years may be defied to produce.

And what next? Here comes Mr. Beecher's letter to Moulton, five weeks later:
"MY DEAR FRIEND MOULTON: I am glad to send you a book. Many, many friends has God raised up to me, but to no one of these has he ever given the opportunity or the wisdom to serve me as you have. You

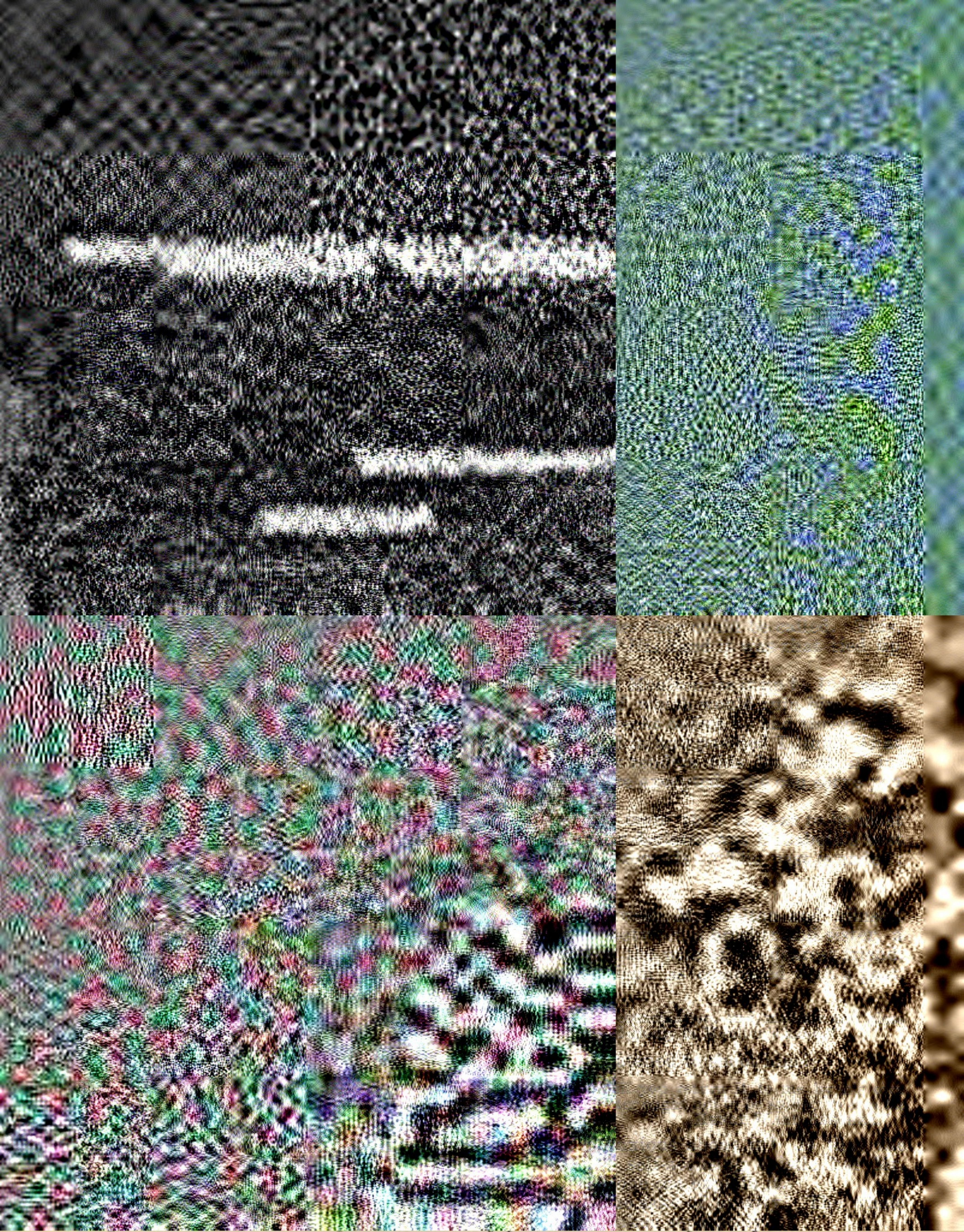


ment says, that for more than
ls, but in this letter "has he
noblest things?
his wife's. That *explains* it.
f it.
r speak with her again with-
aid to explain that? "Why,
tion.
er thus amended: "He has
f Elizabeth knows how gen-
anly jealous that I can never
nmittee seemed to feel that,
ause, and inquire, "Why do
:
mediate vicinity, Mr. Tilton, as I
of that, forbidding me ever to enter
ask him why he was forbid-
explanation into this letter
le of the noblest things? I
himself toward me? But he
stay away!" Was there ever
explain away these letters?
to that woman again without
r with the assumption of his
tion upon the assumption of
On any other assumption it is
ven more utterly overwhelm-

"MY DEAR MRS. TILTON: When I saw you last I did not expect ever to see you again, or to be alive many days."

We know the explanation which Mr. Moulton and others give of this. They affirm most unequivocally that Mr. Beecher talked repeatedly of suicide. Mr. Moulton says:

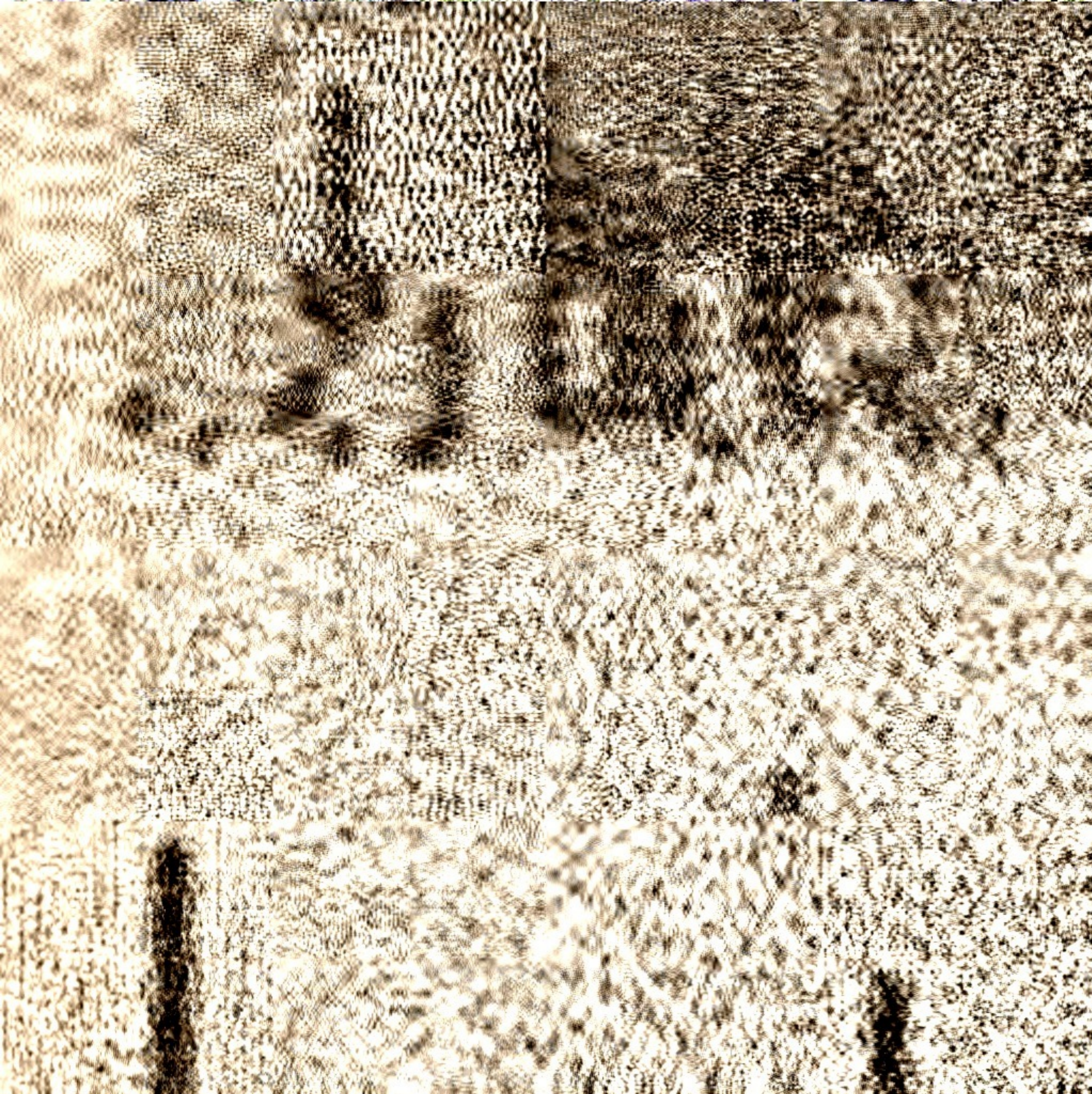
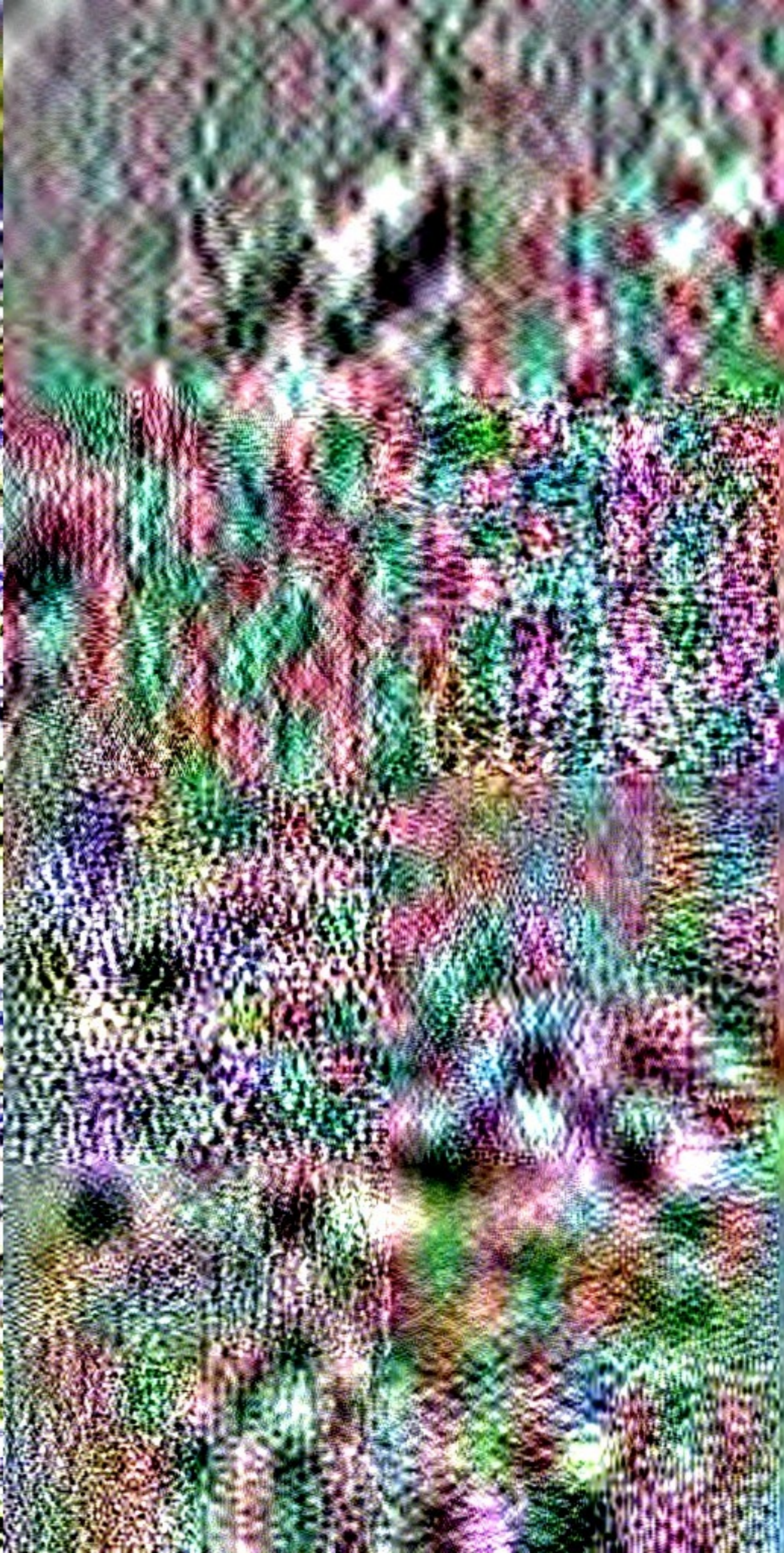
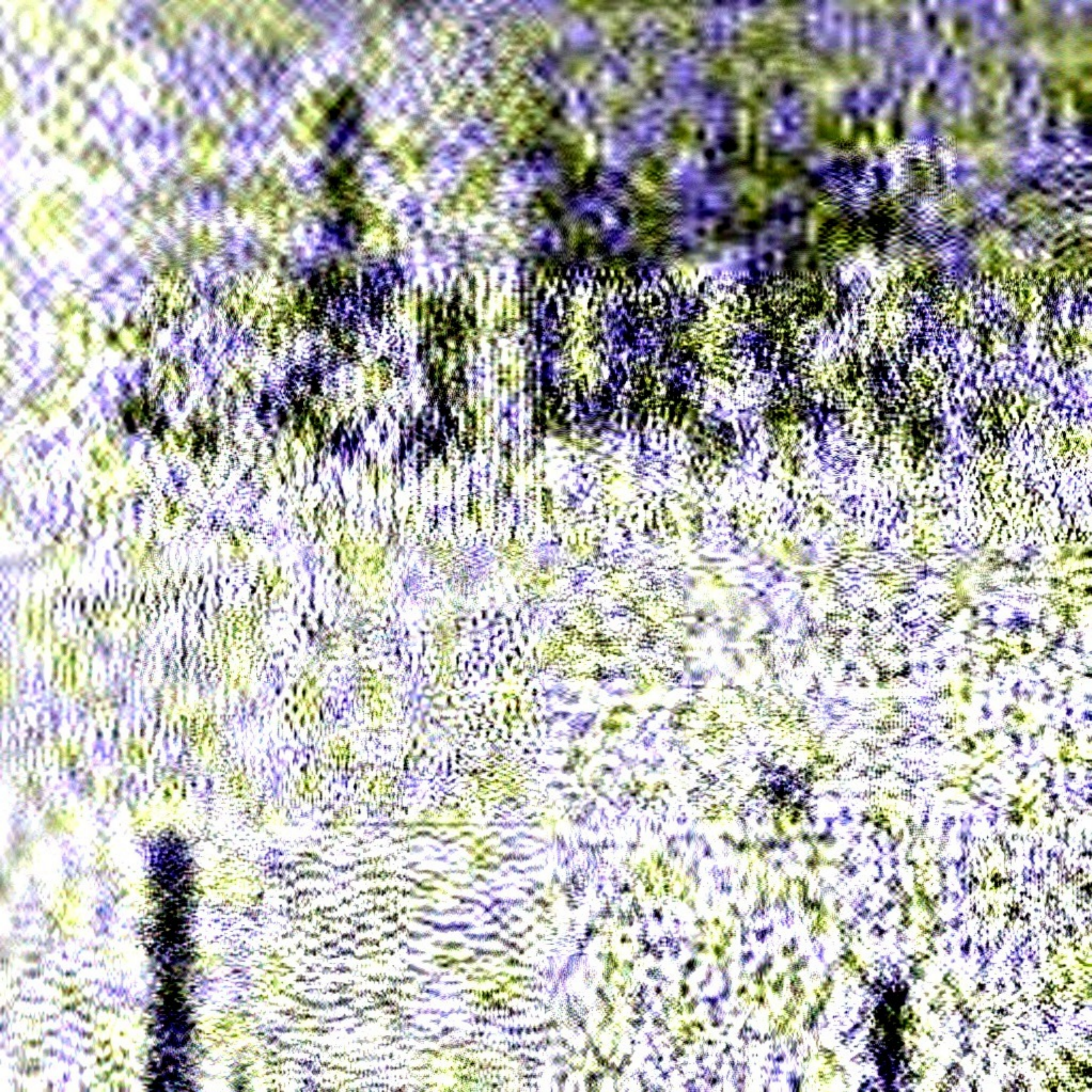
"Having made an allusion to Beecher's suicide, it may be well for me to state here the full circumstances of his confession concerning his preposed design. He told me—and repeated to another in my presence—that he had within reach, in his own study, a poison, which he would take if the story of his crime with Elizabeth should ever come to the public. He told me of a visit which he had made to a photographer's gallery, where he had learned that one of the employes had mistaken a glass of poison for a glass of water, and having taken and drunken it, had fallen dead, with scarcely time to drop the glass. Beecher said that was what he wanted for himself; and, under the plea of making some photographic experiments, he procured some of the same poison from the photographer, which he told me he intended to use if the revelation of his crime should be made. 'And then it would be simply reported that Beecher died of apoplexy; but God and you and I will know what caused my death.'"



"MY DEAR FRIEND: You cannot see or imagine my personal relations, environments, necessities, limitations, dangers, and perplexities. * * * To have the hundreds and thousands of men pressing me, each with his keen suspicion, or anxiety or zeal; to see tendencies which, if not stopped, would *break out in a ruinous defense of me*, without seeming to do it."

What does that mean? "To prevent his friends from breaking out into a ruinous defense of him." His own theory explains nothing. But now we see what it means. How did this exposure come about?

Through the well-meant defense of him by his friend Dr. Bacon, first in the Brooklyn Council and afterwards before the students at New Haven. "Brother Beecher," the Doctor thought, "ought to have more thoroughly pondered the apostolic injunction to *beware of dogs*; and his mistake was in not understanding that a puppy is an undeveloped dog." And then he likened Beecher and Tilton to Launce and his dog. Beecher was the most magnanimous of men, and Tilton mean and contemptible. This was a little more than Tilton, knowing the facts, could endure with equanimity, and he went to Beecher and

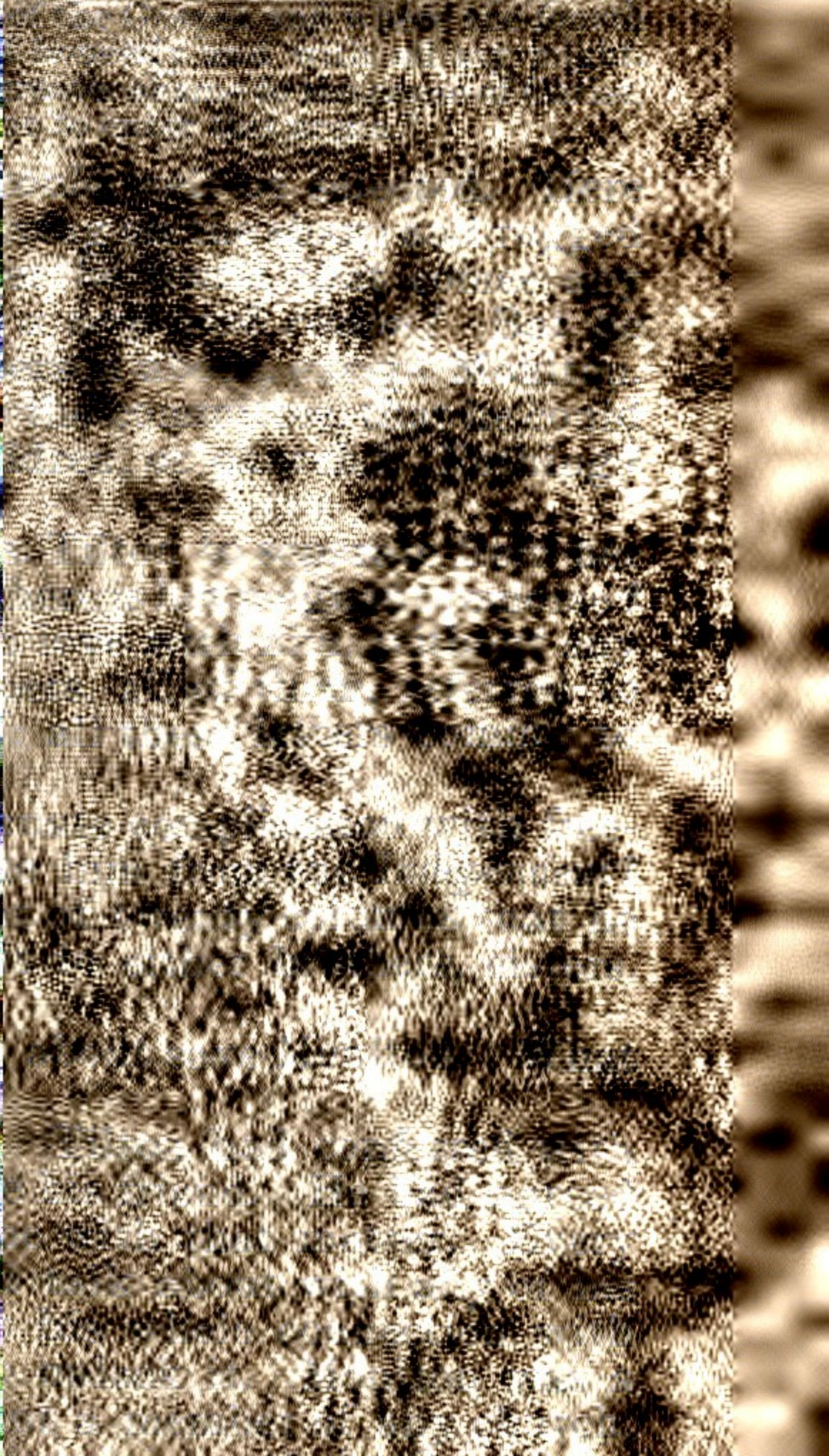
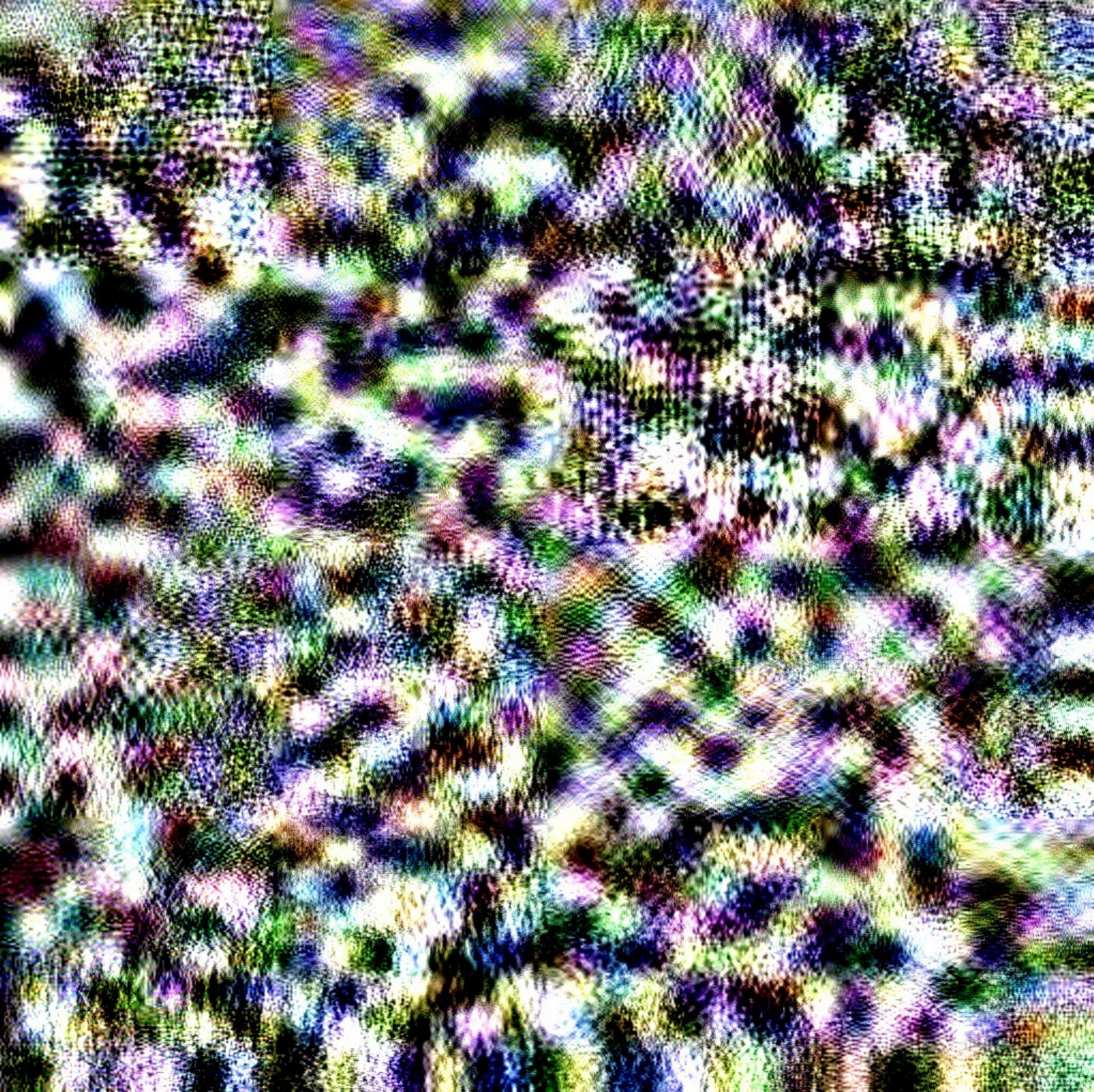
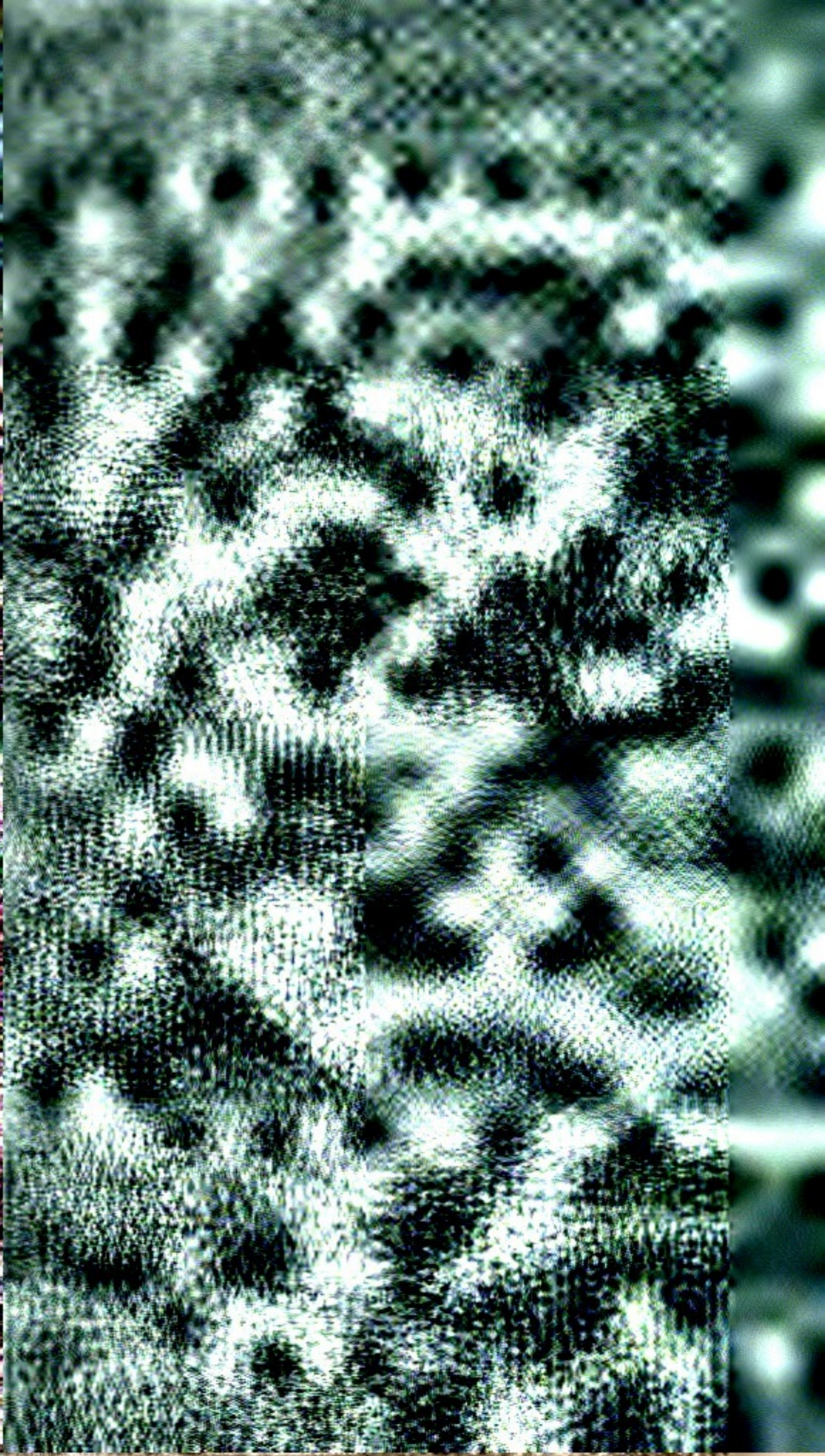
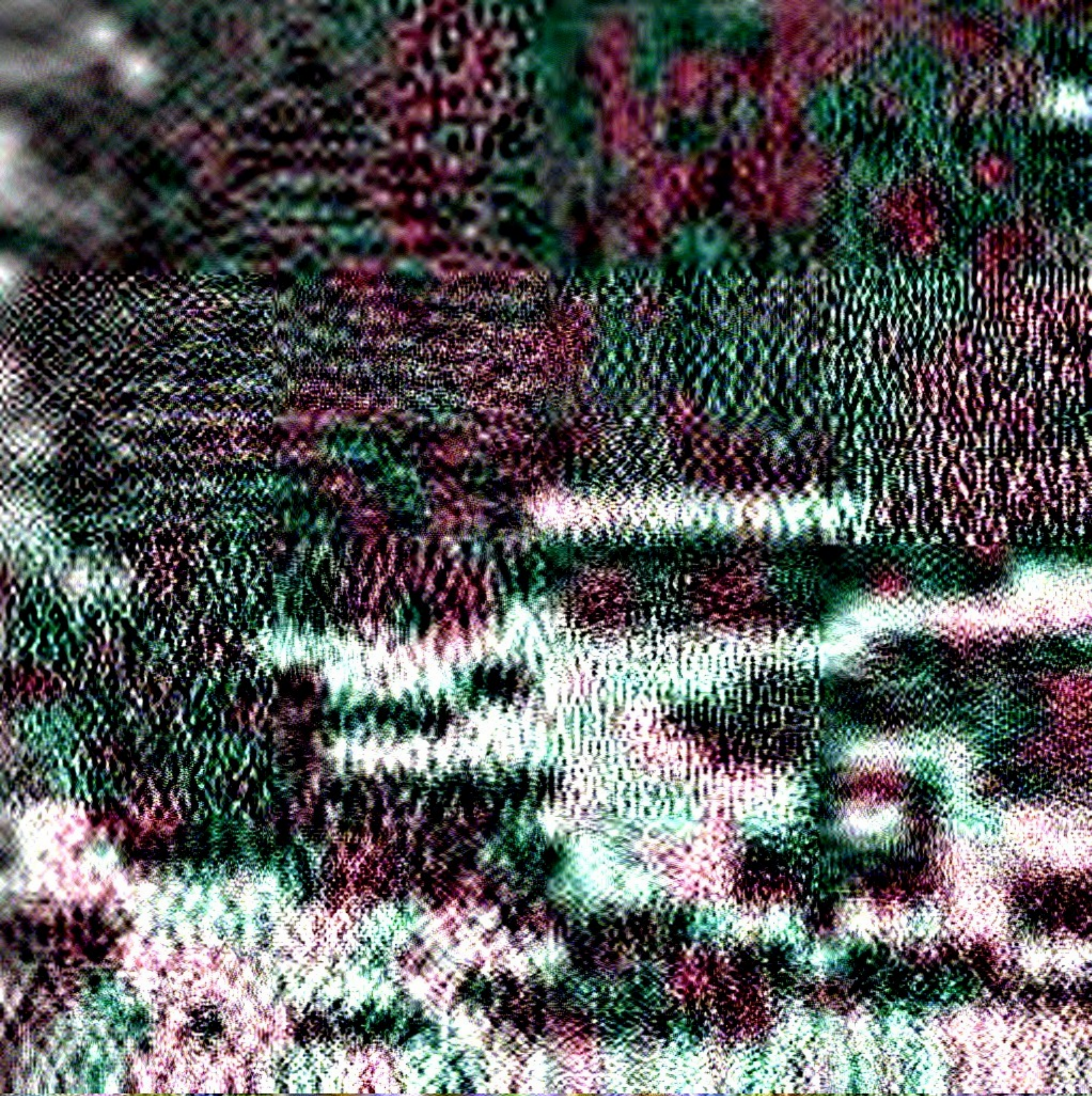


...e all advised his discontinu-
this letter speaks? And Mr.
rmed that Mr. Tilton "denied
ost of the articles of Orthodox
relations were undergoing con-
uffer such torments as these
orship of a professedly Ortho-
t say something. He has done
s for covering up sin almost
se our common judgment, and
be good. When all the facts
man was but the pupil of the
id, were done under the unfor-
his sake.

...est desire in my efforts to prepare a
fold. If my destruction would place
own statement explain that?
were the facts, as he now set
ment to the committee be ac-
magnanimously, for the good
s destruction, then, be at all,
ne, suffering in his family, in
administrations, and had been
g against him, because, ever
stor; in all these ways Tilton
o gravest reason for trying to
posure of the facts could aid
ily couldn't be kept together,
even if Beecher confessed his transgression. And so he labored! and so he struggled!
Poor man! No wonder that he should go on to write, in this same epistle:

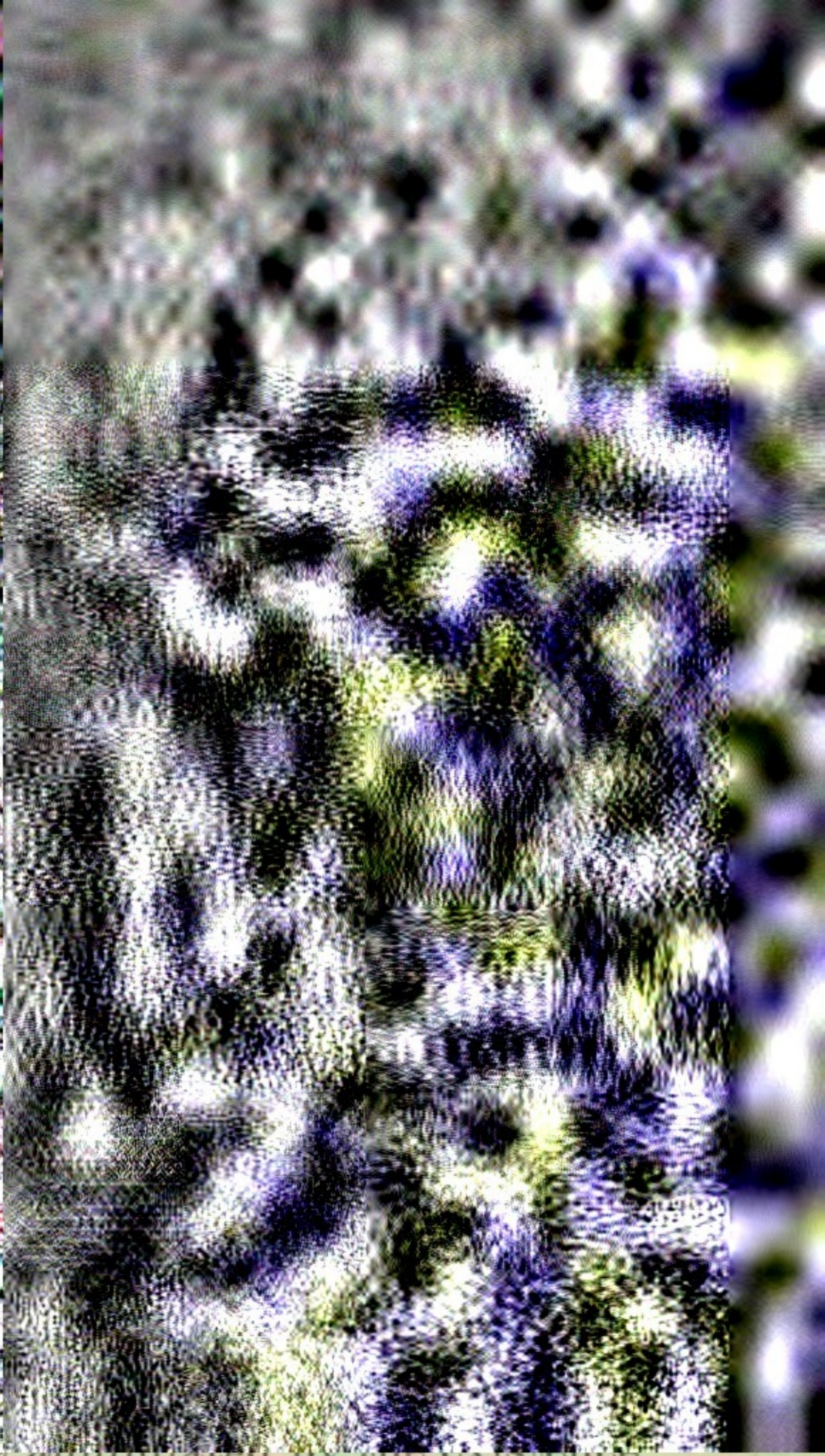
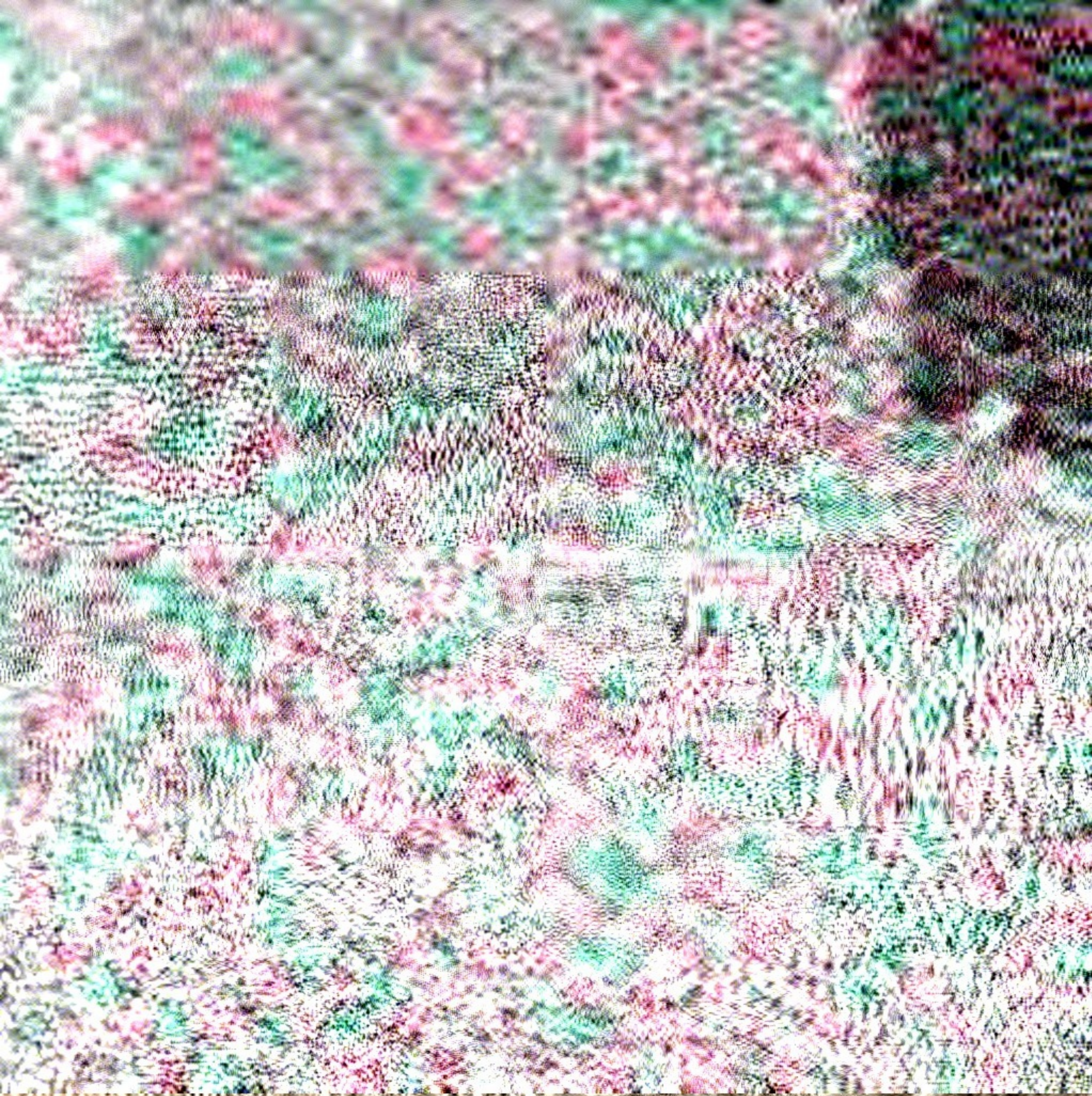
"Nothing can possibly be so bad as the horror of that great darkness in which I spend much of my time. Life would be pleasant if I could see that rebuilt which is shattered, but to live on the sharp and rugged edge of anxiety, remorse, fear, desperation, and yet to put on the appearance of serenity and happiness, cannot be endured much longer." "If you cease to trust me, to love me, I am alone. I have not another person in the world to whom I could go."

Could you believe that that was written by Henry Ward Beecher? Had it been in Moulton's handwriting, have you a doubt that he would have declared it a false representation of what he said? But it is in his own hand. And not one word of it does his statement explain! Was he afraid of being falsely accused? A bold, true, innocent man, afraid of being falsely accused? Who of us may not be falsely accused? What do you think I would say; what would you say, did somebody threaten to accuse you falsely of such a crime? Do you suppose I would lose any sleep? Would you? And yet he tells



a heathen — he calls himself. And yet for some reason this minister of the Gospel becomes so intimate with him that he writes him such letters as elsewhere can scarcely be found for warmth of friendship and intimacy of confidence, in the English tongue! This man *Moulton* whom Mr. Beecher himself speaks of as a profane man, quoting from him a profane expression with which I will not disfigure my manuscript, becomes the most intimate friend of this pastor of a great church. With this “heathen man and publican” he spends more hours in private than with any ten of his church members, year in and year out. What explanation can be given of this? Only one. *He can manage Tilton.* He can keep the terrible secret hushed. And he did manage it well: to keep it so far hushed for more than three years and six months.

With this man he deposits those papers which he dare not keep in his own house, lest they should reach the eyes of his wife, who was ordinarily his private secretary. And for this reason it was that that letter read a little while ago was to have been returned by *Theodore's own hand*, and so saved from any chance of miscarriage!

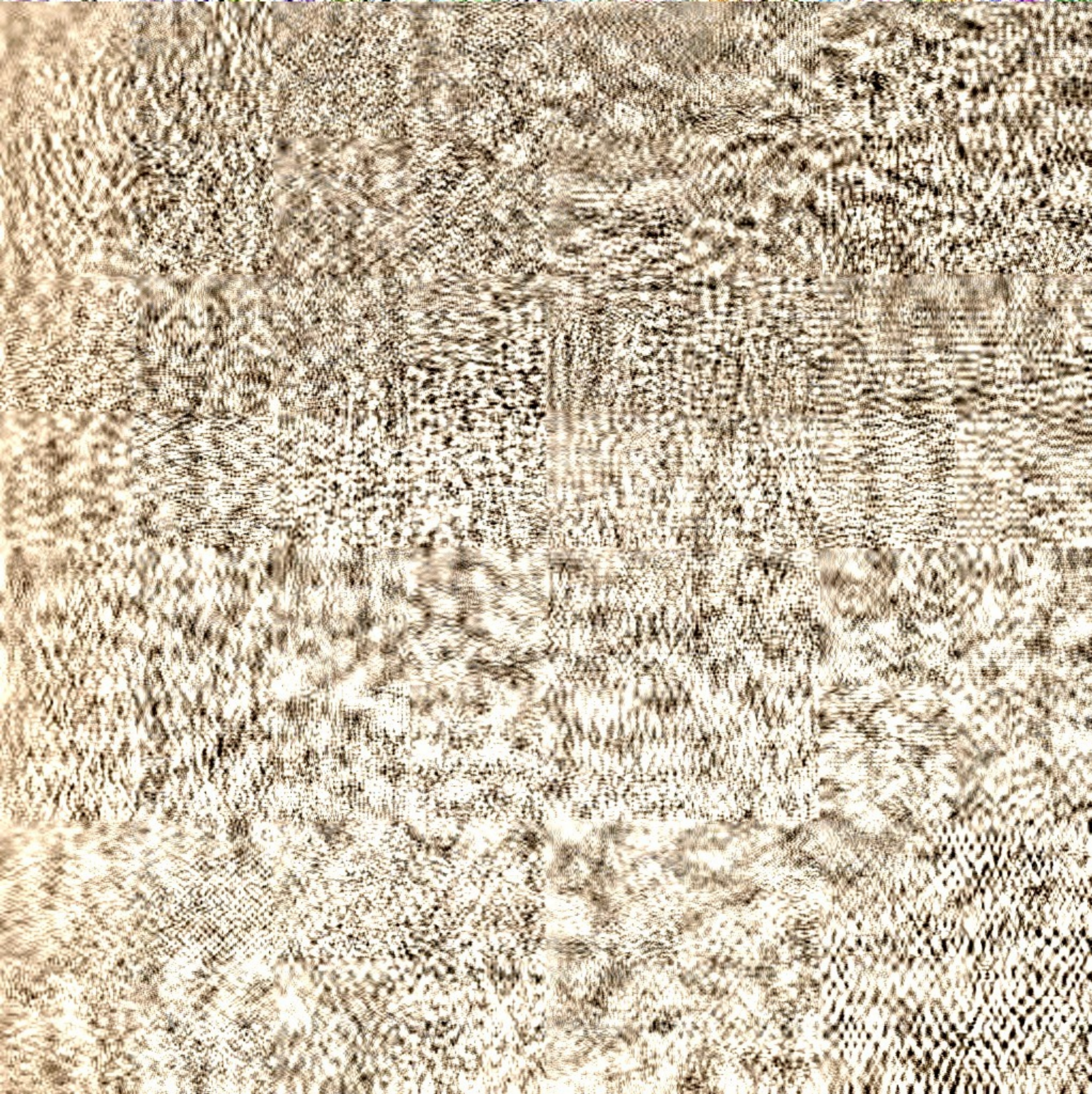
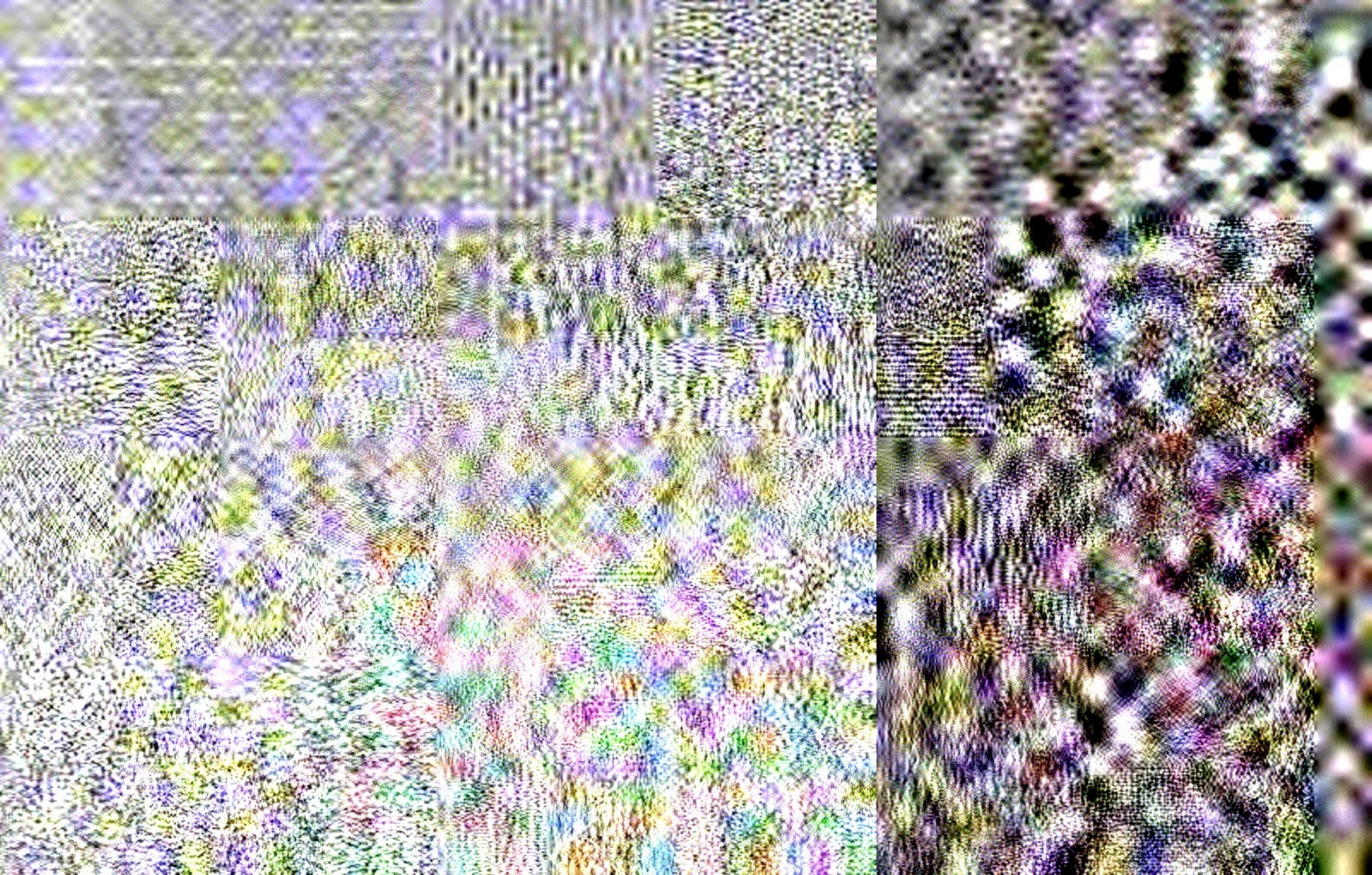


annihilated by the existence
ery chief of the conspirators!
absurd. For men do not act
t motive had Mr. Tilton?
ped Henry Ward Beecher as
olitical speeches and letters,
hat criticism might possibly
a, it could not at all explain
then, whoever will read over
Beecher. And all the subse-
at cause. There was no rup-
cher speaks himself of their
passage at arms. In his con-
es for his portrait in 1869—
al ventures. For whom was
paid for? Theodore Tilton.
After this revelation of 1870
ouse, and it was taken to Mr.
its being there at all is some-
eecher's advocates of Mr. Til-
five years past, is refuted by
rs ago, and especially its re-
he assumption of the truth

a conspiracy to ruin Beecher?
tion absolutely without proof.
is that there was at one time
r time the fuller accusation is
d Moulton, charge them with
It would be incredible that
ontaining any thing so weak
authenticity.

These men at first only charged the lesser offense, therefore the accused could never have been guilty of the greater! Such logic is novel enough to deserve a patent! Must a man, then, always be accused of all that he has done, or else the accuser be denounced as a conspirator? Must a criminal always confess his or her full crime, or else the confession be accounted as false?

A fellow-passenger of mine from New York to Liverpool attended a mock auction in London soon after our arrival; and the tricks of the company got \$20 out of him. I afterwards heard several times of his describing the way in which they attempted to swindle him—never of his confessing it—several times of his virtually denying it. Now, suppose that subsequently he owns the thing up, as he did to me; why these six gentlemen would by their logic prove that there was not a word of truth in the whole story, because he had not always told the same thing, and from the beginning confessed the worst! He had a reason for concealing a part of it. He said to me: "You are the first man to whom I have owned up, for I did not want any body to know that I was so



not deny" And the public
s consent," and the uncontra-
r. Tilton's only method of con-
led the whole thing most em-

but he soon found that these
en to the last resort, and, in-
cessful covering up, and he,
st fully to Mr. Beecher—to do
e did in fulfilling that pledge,
o ruin this man whom he has
ice of his being a conspirator!
Was ever any thing more pre-
d fifty years—known of such
when they came into court,
the lawyers of this country,
ness worthy of impeachment,

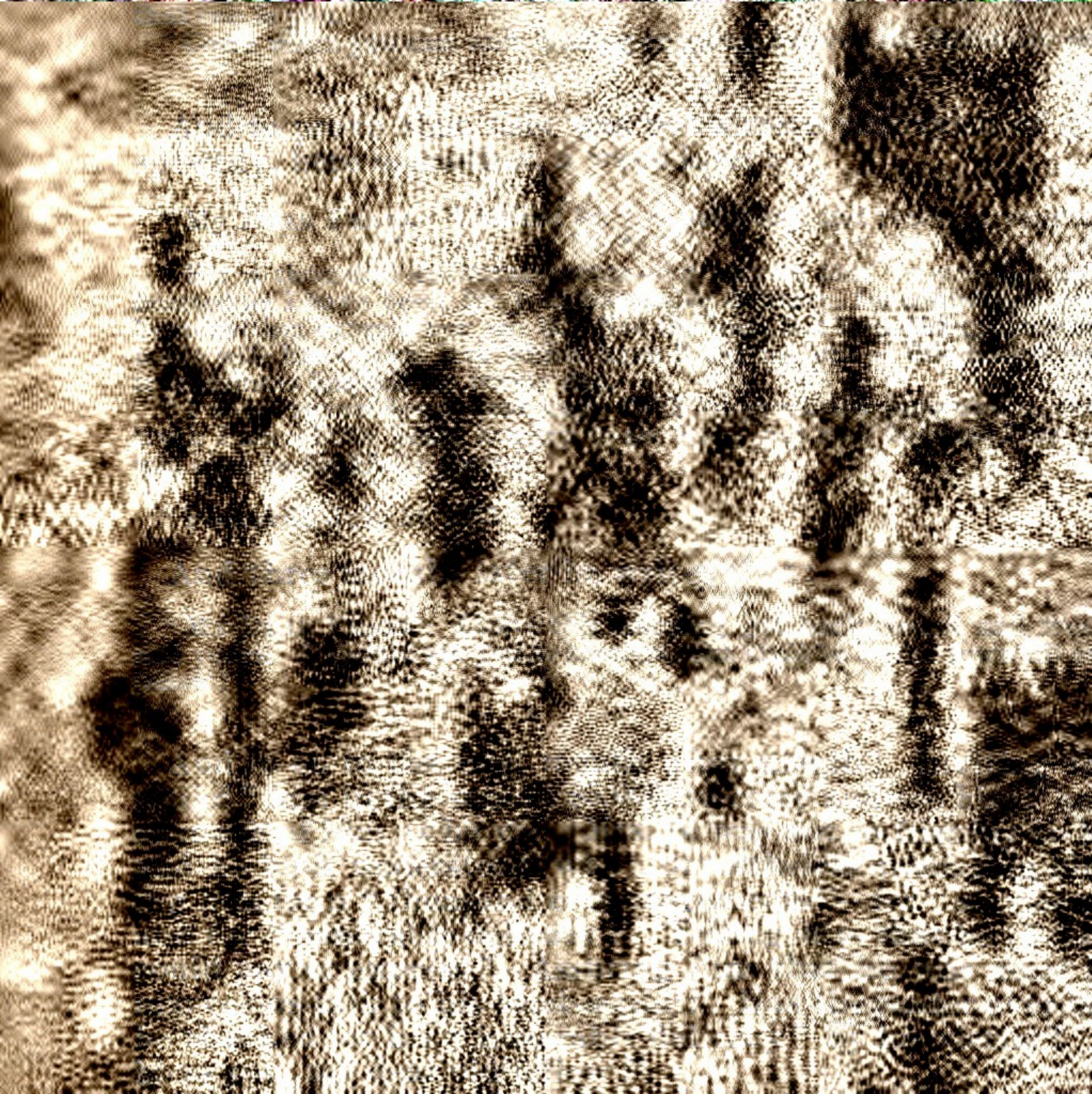
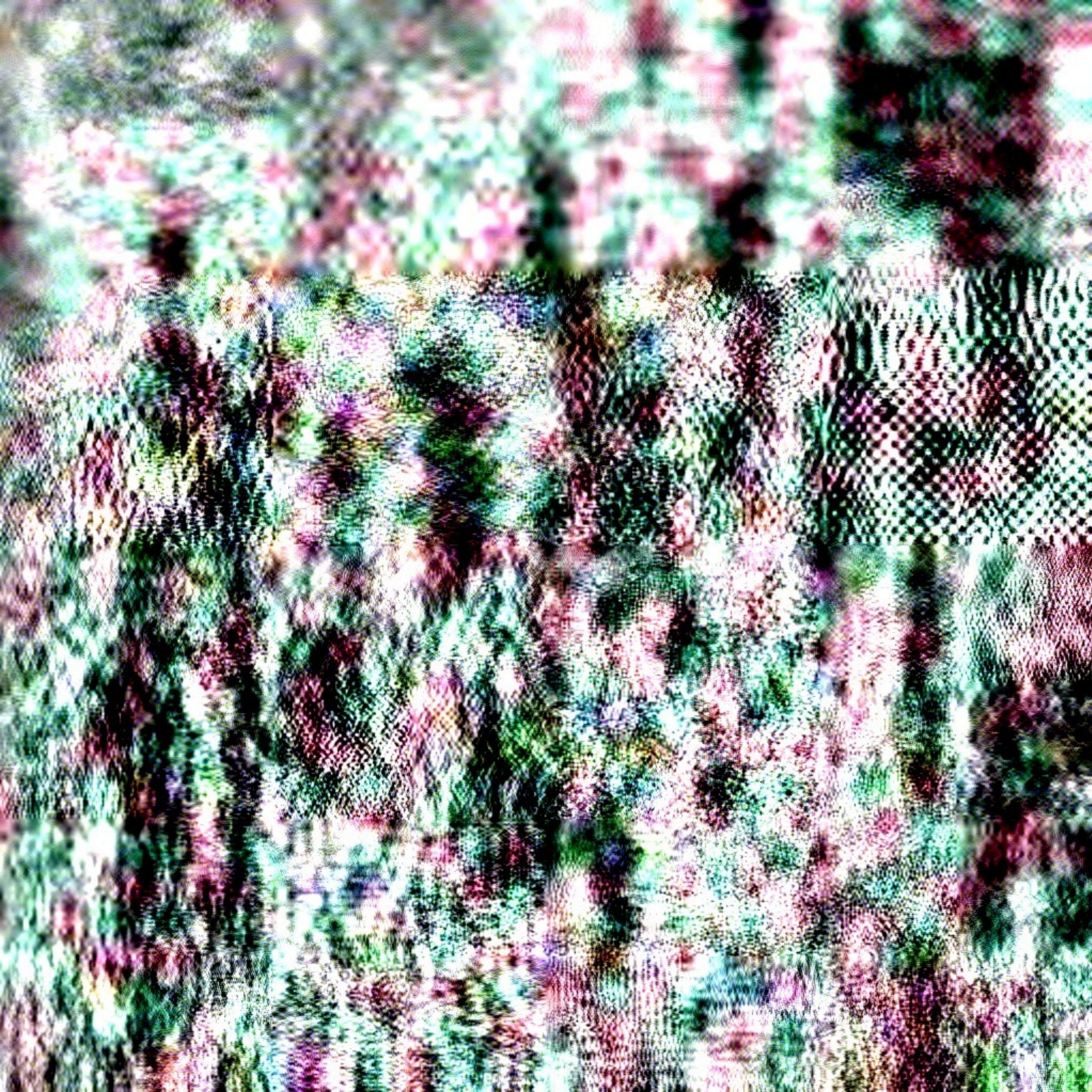
undertaking to cover up such
," and could not be hid. Mr.
er the magic of his influence,
r. Beecher's innocence to the
n's friendship could not go so
he could not any longer evade
y himself, or commit perjury.
Beecher declares to his com-

at in that one particular of fidelity

rkable words of Mr. Beecher

"When Mr. Tilton's letter to Bacon was published, and Moulton, on my visiting him in reference to it, proposed no counter operations, and no documents, and no help; I was staggered. And when Tilton subsequently published his statement, after he came to this committee, when that came out, I never heard a word from Moulton. He never sent for, nor visited me, nor did a thing. I waited for him to say or do something, for I had said to Moulton within the last year—"As things are coming, you are never going to manage Tilton. He is going to manage you." I have said to him once or twice: "Theodore is longer headed than you are, and he has outwitted you;" and I have said to him: 'The time is coming in which I see distinctly, you have got to choose between his statement and mine.' He said: 'There never will be, but I will stand by you till the death.' He said that in the last conversation I had with him "

What a mortifying revelation does this make! Plotting! Planning! Managing! There is a light shining through all this that Mr. Beecher did not intend. It is the light that comes through a trap-door, revealing an underground council chamber, the necessity of which does not at all appear from any statements that he has made to his committee! But it reveals another thing—that he had looked to this friend for some denial



d affectionately yours.
"H. W. B."

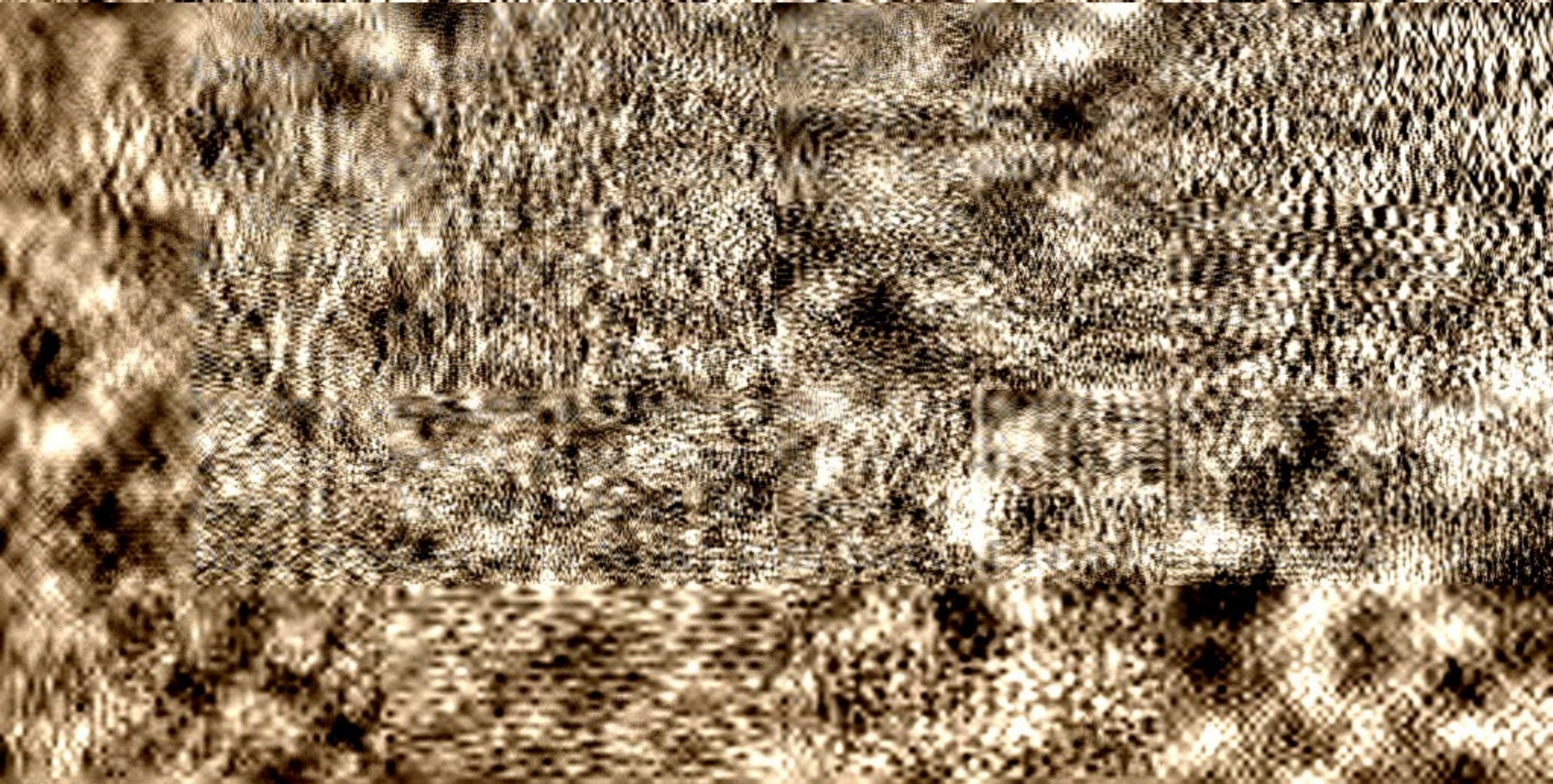
Good feeling that passed away

note this morning—Monday.

appreciate who has not been as sore-
l affection—I owe you so much that
ted kindness and trust which your
often, though sometimes her clear

at I may not *miss* you, for to tell the
pressed, but because I love you, and

"HENRY WARD BEECHER.

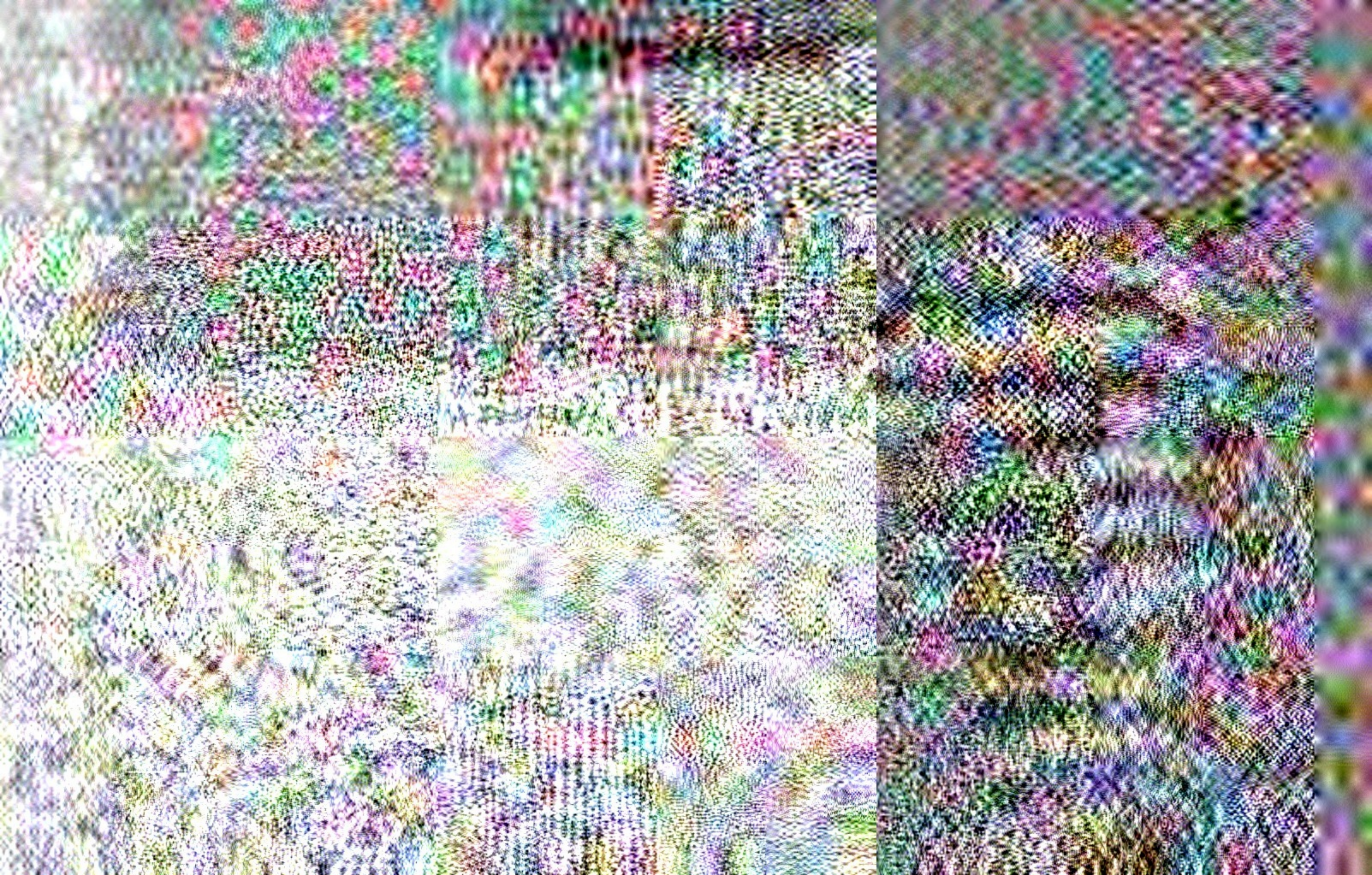


h, and want to send my love to you
ening. God bless you, my dear old

"H. W. BEECHER."

he man who had just "*black-*
d even if others did not think
Mr. Moulton—but Mr. Beecher
n special attention! Thank-
hat only he could appreciate,"
wed him (M.) "more than he
hungry to see him! Isn't this
efore known a black-mailer to
And to be written to—"God

t of this \$5,000, is too prepos-
f six even do not presume to
s statement, it has been the
an almost anything else.
fact itself is a very dark affair
it was entirely false. *Credat*
Mr. Beecher at one time paid
Tilton. He was sorry for his
keeping the *Golden Age* along.
ains both the statement and
uld not accept any thing from
so he did.



use was to keep him moving stand that. Mr. Beecher himself was friendly; in adversity and envy. No! the true have given you.

and absurd. Did Mr. Moulton hastened this communication long

oved more than a year before. the last of them June 1, 1873. 71. If Mr. Moulton had from head long since?

tion of a long drawn out con- to reason has been suggested last year. Never was a more need not declare his continued the very fact that he did not so, is *proof positive against* this direct, that make up this terrible a full year ago.

years, and so he has an infer- r. Why didn't he use it, then, ee-lover is another two-edged and has Mr. Beecher made this and is there any truth in the

What, then, shall we say of her will do well to think twice as against Mr. Moulton. The al pains to say that they find r, is itself a rather suspicious st obviously not a conspirator

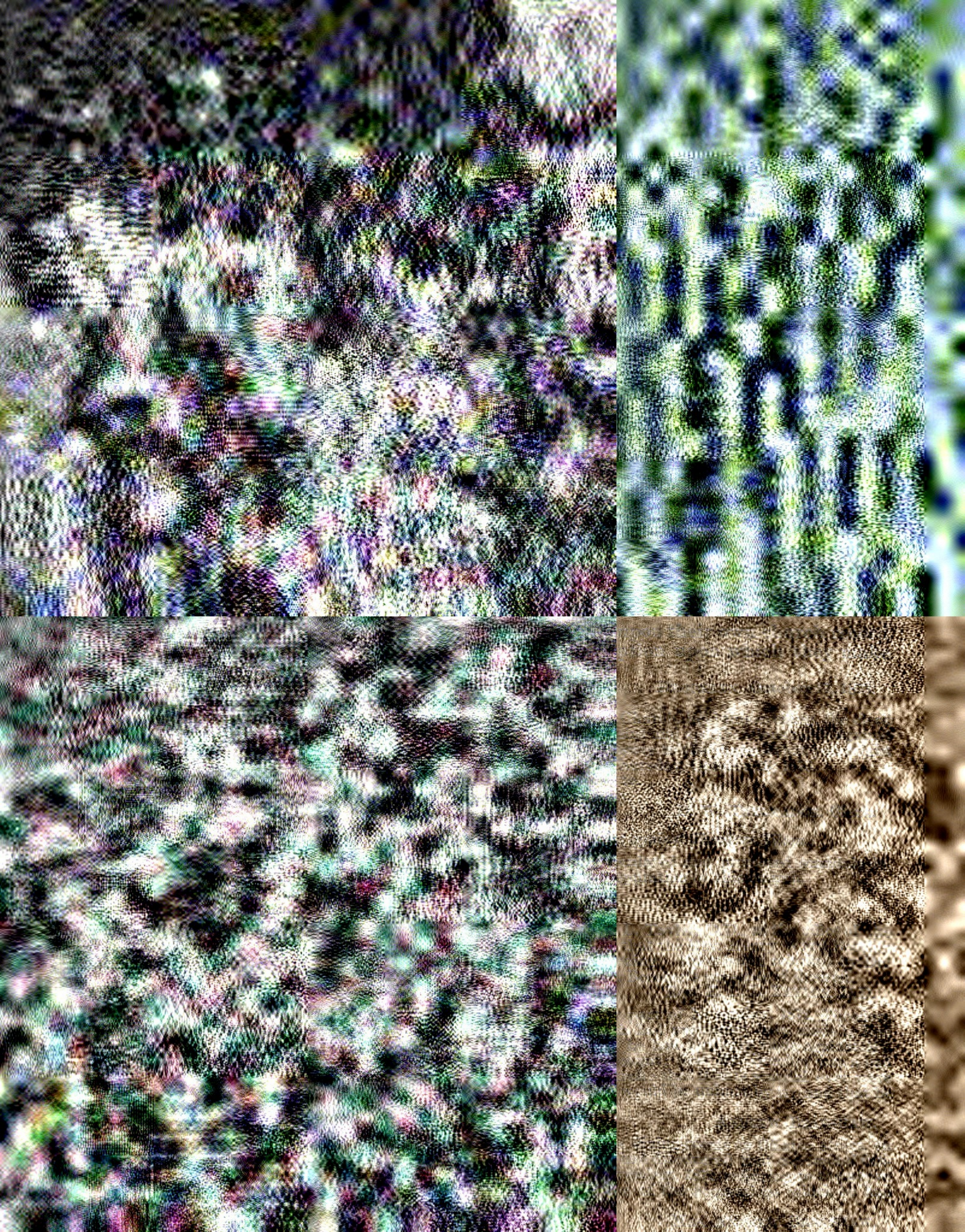
against Mr. Beecher.

And if Mr. Moulton is not a conspirator, then Mr. Tilton is not, for it takes at least *two* to form a *conspiracy*!

But why should not Mr. Tilton as well as Moulton have brought this thing to a head a great while before? Has he gained any thing by waiting? Did he determine at the cost of every thing, wife and children included, to ruin Mr. Beecher? Why not, then, have allowed the volcano to burst in November, 1872, when there came that terrible upheaval of red-hot lava in Mrs. Woodhull's vile sheet? No evidence has accumulated since, that materially adds to the strength of their case.

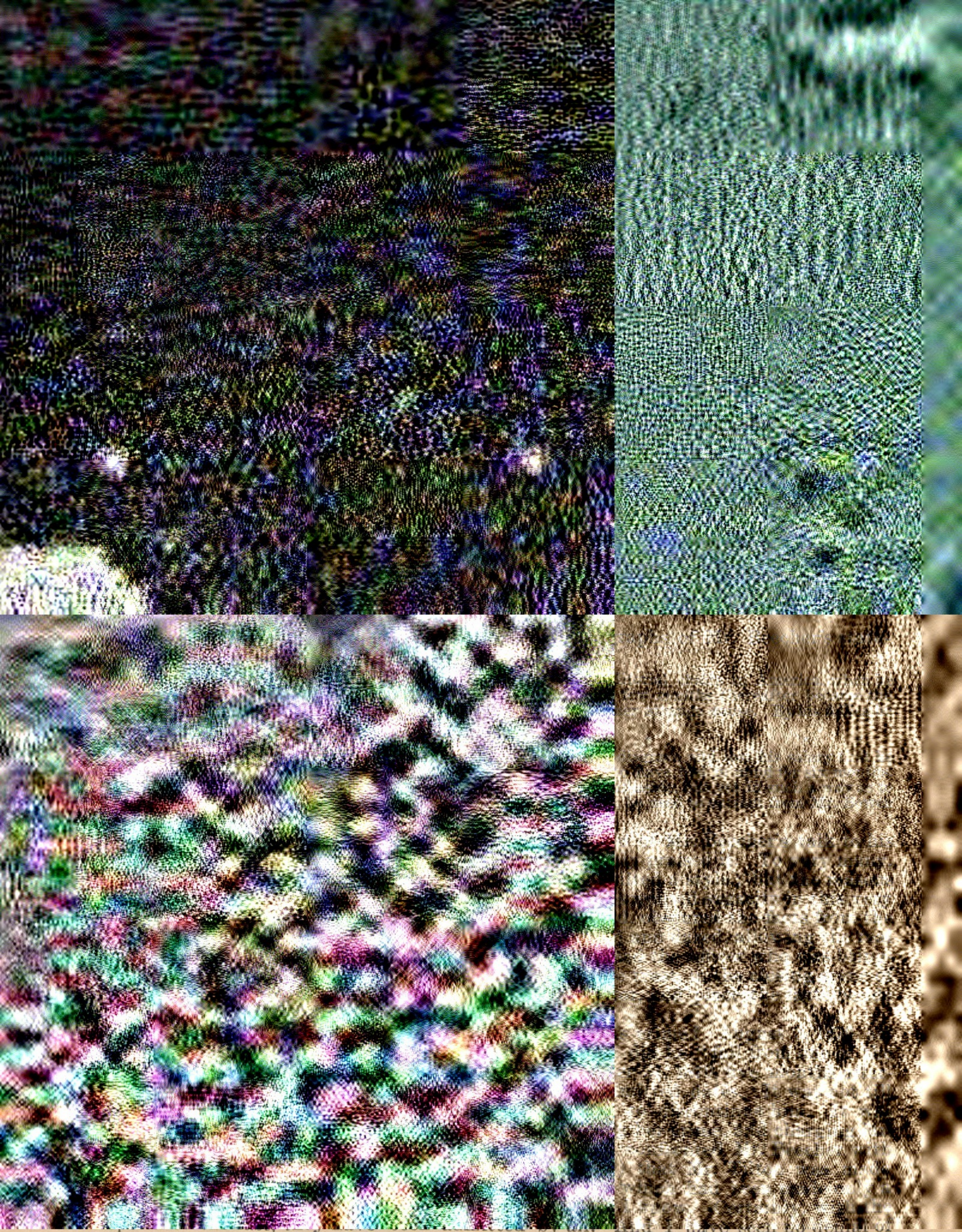
The charge is absurd! If these men have been conspirators to ruin this man, *being innocent*, it has been begotten of malice absolutely fiendish, deep as perdition. And yet that malice has slumbered, for the most part quietly, at least one full year after every thing was ready for the explosion!

And yet this absurd charge, absolutely unsupported by one particle of evidence, direct



Attention is specially invited to the third specification. In the committee's report they ask: "What is the proof that the charge in the first instance was adultery?" The papers report that this sentence, with several others like it, were pronounced with very effective elocution!

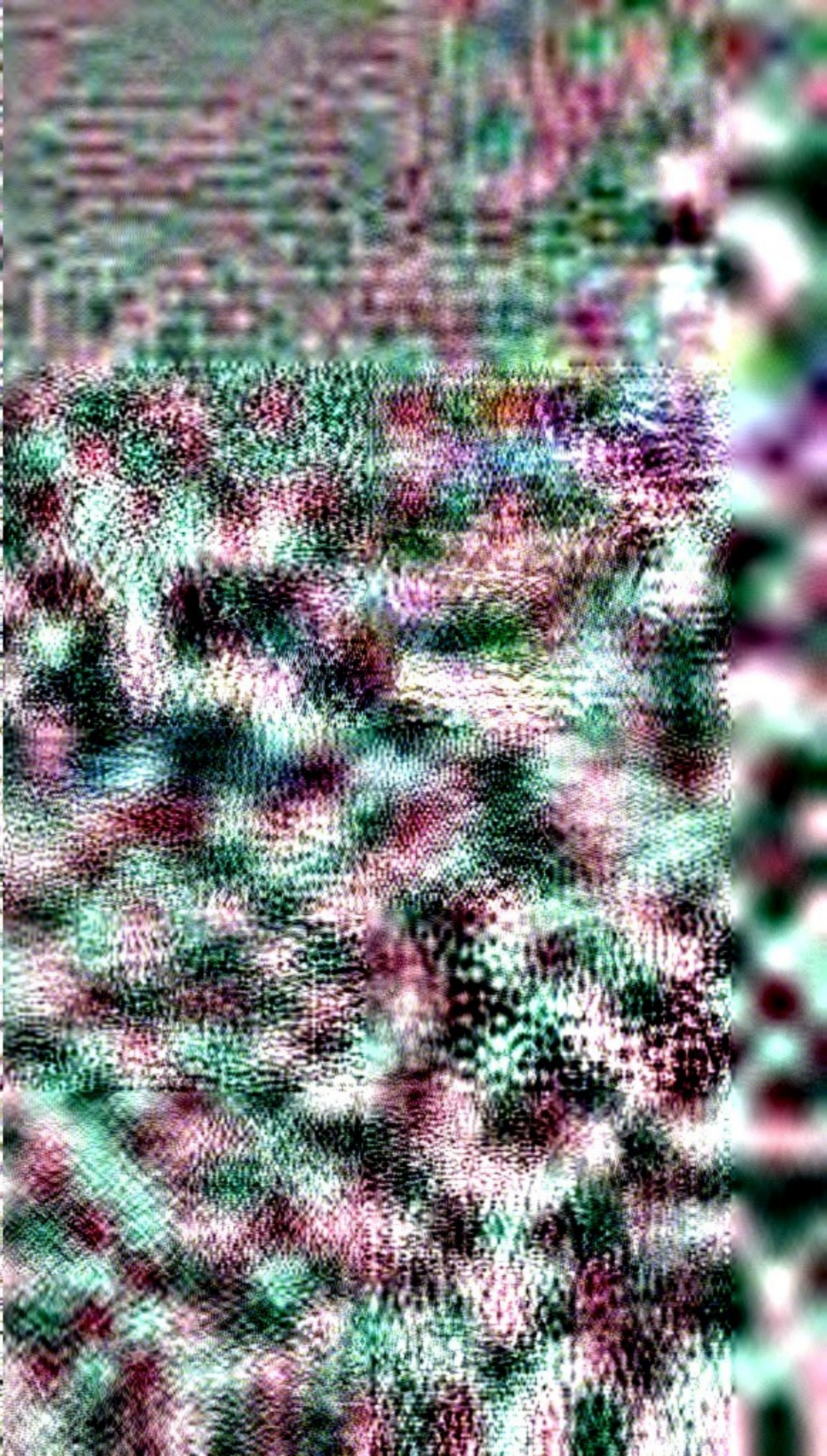
Here is the answer in their own church record, made last October, in which Mr. Tilton is charged with having said *three years and two months before*, and repeated nearly a year before, that adultery had been committed; and yet the committee declare to the world in August, 1874, that Mr. Tilton's testimony is not to be received, because he had never, until recently, made any accusation of that sort! And the church clerk, Mr. Shearman, acting as Mr. Beecher's counsel, and in constant intercourse with the committee! Was there ever a more astounding blunder committed by any six men? Every reader of that report knows well that they made their whole case to rest on this arch, excluding utterly Mr. Moulton's and Mr. Tilton's testimony on this ground alone! And yet, under



that.

“Is it plain” to Mr. Beecher now “that it was not until Tilton had fallen into disgrace and lost his salary that he thought it necessary to assail him with these charges,” when, from the record of his own church, it is shown that the charges had been made five months before the salary was lost, and before his fall from that proudest of all editorial chairs? It was the very occupant of this chair that accused him, in August, 1870, “in Thompson’s Dining Rooms on Clinton street.” It was the occupant of this same chair that confronted him with this charge on the 30th of December, at Frank Moulton’s.

And how about the \$7,000? It is now claimed that this was according to the contract with Mr. Bowen—that either party was at liberty to dissolve the agreement between them by paying to the other a half year’s salary. And it being proved that \$7,000 was the amount thus due, it was accordingly paid. So that, in fact, if this



ned—a family that had been
man whom, in the hour of his
at—bearing the transgression
had “thrust her affections on

January 1, 1871, and see the
his man. Now charging upon
n: “I humble myself before
man in my circumstances than
art to forgive me.”
s presented in the letters and
on of his defense would leave

HOOD. Take, for example, a
which deserves fuller statement.
hen made public, Mr. Beecher
a specific explanation of the
vice to Mrs. Tilton to separate
public generally are still pos-
or make most emphatic appeal
rwards made so deep an im-
noticed that in that first com-
ess of that apologetic letter;
tion of it.

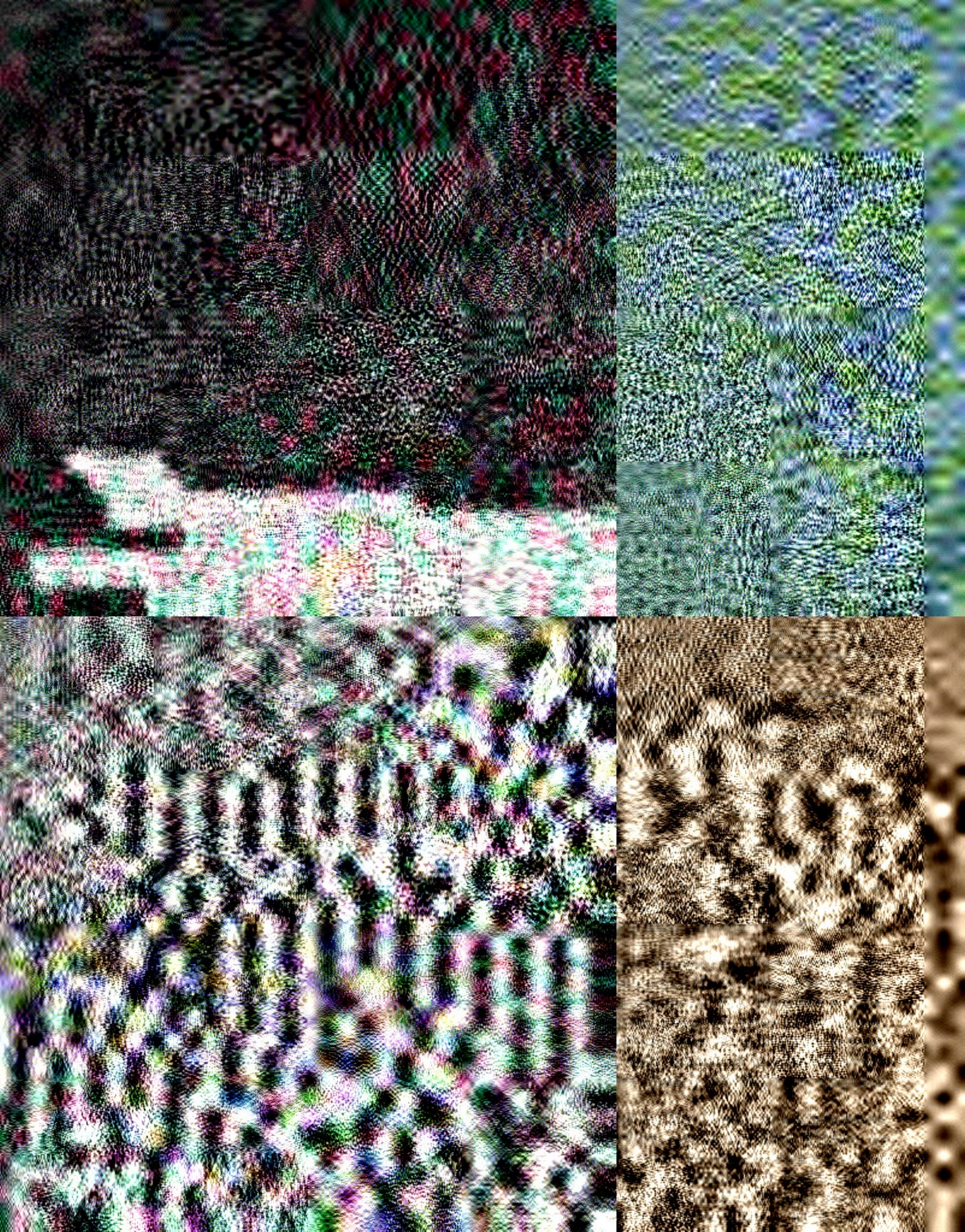
d—indeed I have seen in none
oved by uncontradicted testi-
Beecher certainly, and proba-

ners” is and always must be
But here he has transcended
that was not committed till
osophy will not this man’s ex-

perience yet develop! When we come to know all the facts in the case, we shall find out that he himself never gave that advice at all! And then Mr. Beecher’s first public statement will be seen to involve the marvel of this poor man’s suffering unutterable contrition in January because of the mistaken advice which he never had given and never was to give! A man who can thus suffer the “torments of the damned” for the sins of his whole congregation, not only, but also in view of mere errors of judgment, *not yet committed*, must be deserving of the profoundest pity that ever moved the soul of mortal or immortal!

And now for the proof that Mr. Beecher had never given any such advice prior to the writing of his letter of apology January 1, 1871. The main points of it are as follows:

(1.) Mrs. Tilton’s own letter of January 4, 1871. In it she says: “I indignantly deny that I ever sought separation from my husband—as I have declared it a hundred times before. The story that I wanted a separation was a deliberate falsehood, carried



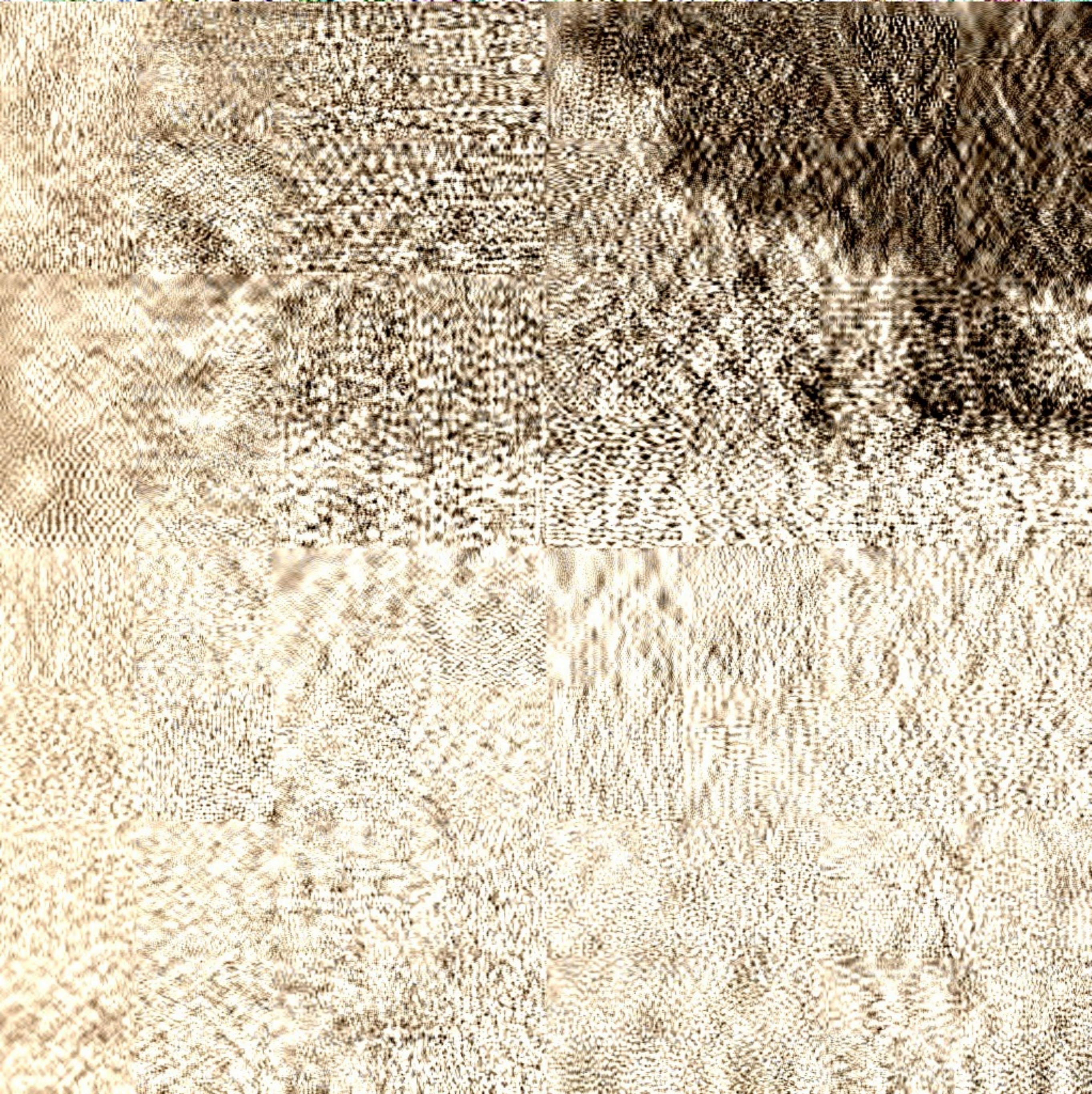
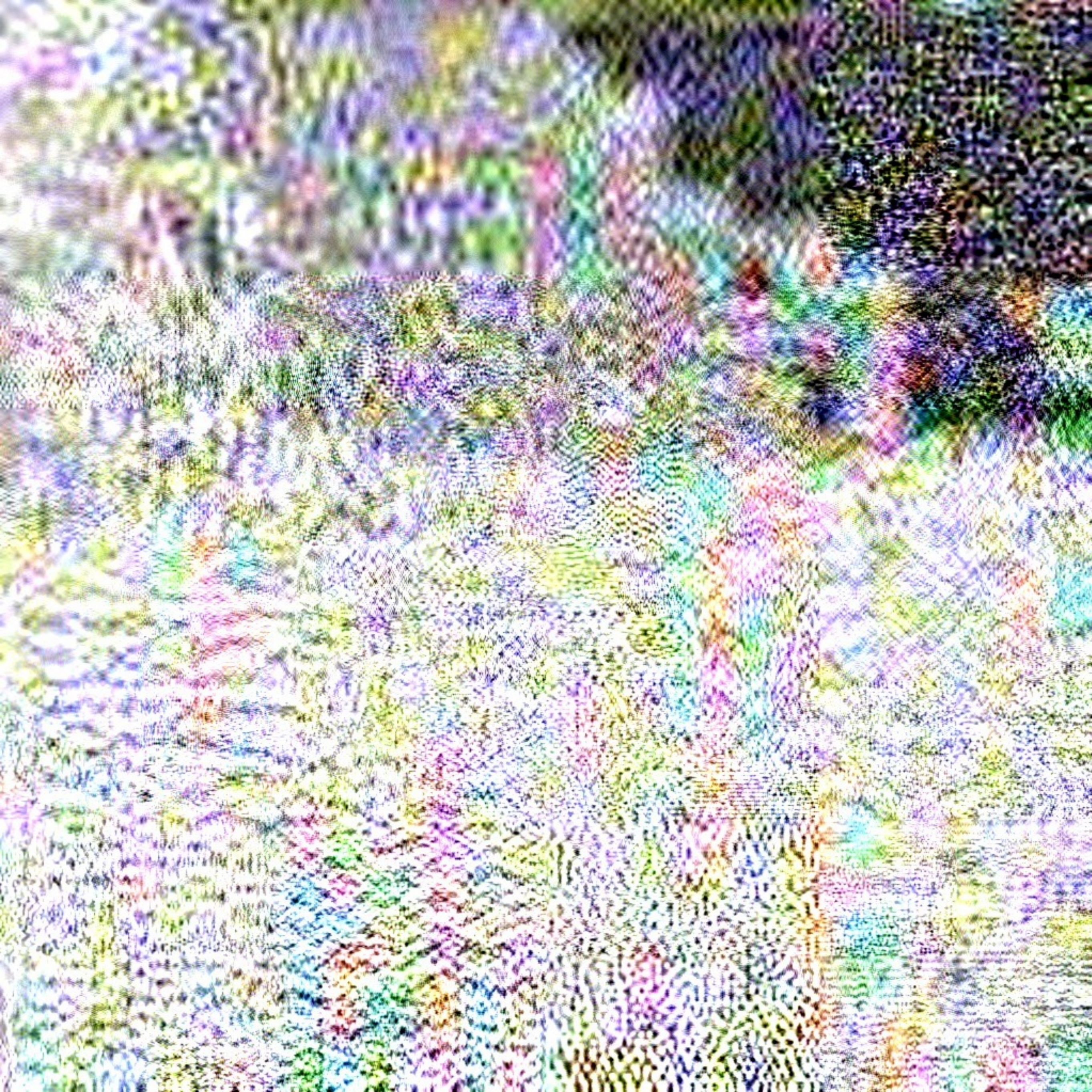
this had grown the letter of apology.

These new facts, then, which so lifted Mr. Tilton out of the deep shadows, and inspired Mr. Beecher with so much higher respect for him, as to awaken in his soul the agony and remorse which the apology was intended to express—these new facts were all learned in the four days which intervened between December 27, 1870, and January 1, 1871.

What were they? What new light—according to his own statement—had dawned upon his mind in this interval?

Why, simply this! That on the 30th of December he had been confronted at the house

* On the 26th of September, in my rejoinder to Prof. Raymond through the Mansfield Herald, I called on him to produce any proof that Mrs. Tilton had so stated to the Committee, promising to recall this statement publicly. He has presented none whatever, in any form, either to myself or the Herald, up to this date (Oct. 23), and we may, therefore, safely assume that no such proof exists.



of forgiveness, and I humble myself
in my circumstances than I have

other man living besides Mr.
ch and so suddenly improved
consummate villainy? And
ute to Mr. Beecher's peculiar
ondriac, and that trouble with
embers of his soul! Very pecu-
r to accept his own explana-
her husband to be a true one,
and natural."

the accusation of Mr. Tilton
sband, and that Mr. Beecher
nd yet he writes this letter of
his same man: "Has he not
der if Elizabeth knows HOW

y five weeks before the most
hat man his wife's pastor and

which she never committed!
we look for one adequate to
elf toward me!" How? In-
e of which I was perfectly in-

Tilton is in Mr. Beecher's own
rge of extorting the letter of
s a strong one, and one well-

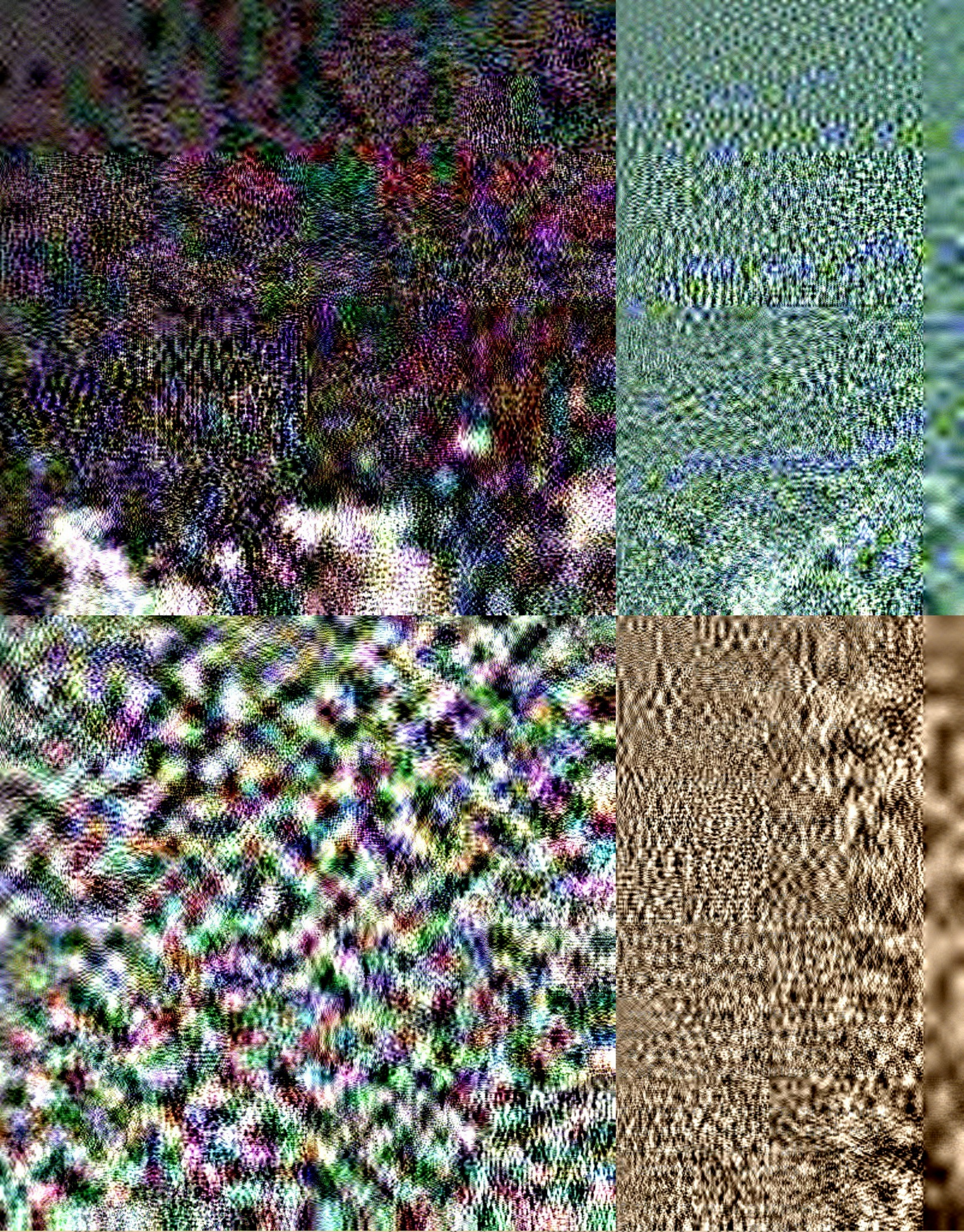
Isn't it entirely certain that
ality those people show that

they will accept of such absurdities! Never before did I have any adequate conception
of my power to practice imposition upon an indulgent community!"

And in connection with this interview of December 30th with Mrs. Tilton, another
question has arisen

Mr. Tilton and Mr. Moulton testify that Mrs. Tilton's paper of the 29th was a confes-
sion and an accusation of the full crime now alleged. Mr. Beecher asserts that it was
only a charge against him of improper advances. In this there is a plain conflict of
testimony. Is there any internal evidence to indicate which is the true story and which
is the false? I think there is. Mr. Beecher's own statement of his interview with Mrs.
Tilton, respecting her accusation against him, is in these words:

"She opened her eyes, and began in a slow and feeble way to explain how sick she had been; how wear-
ied out with importunity; that he had confessed his own alien loves, and said that he could not bear to
think that she was better than he; that she might win him to reformation if she would confess that she
had loved me more than him, and that they could repent and go on with future concord."



gation;" and every intelligent man understands that such a jury is in the habit of receiving all testimony *against* the accused with the largest generosity. So that, instead of rejecting testimony which a petit jury would be required to receive, they give *the fullest weight* to the evidence of the accuser. So that if even there be a *prima facie* case against the accused, he may be indicted and put on trial. Mr. Tilton and Mr. Moulton stand thus indicted to-day before the courts upon the testimony of Mr. Beecher alone.

In view of all these facts, it was long ago seen and felt that the report of this committee could make but little impression upon the great public. Its mode of appointment, and its whole method of procedure, alike forbade that its report should produce any very sensible effect upon the mind of any body.

And every careful reader of it is struck with the fact that it is throughout but little else than Mr. Beecher's own statements revamped. They might about as well have summed up their seven columns in one single sentence: "We accept in full the theory



Beecher says in his letter to
not in haste. I shall write for
gment day.”

at that statement is to be that
intimate in the letter that
whole letter is very different

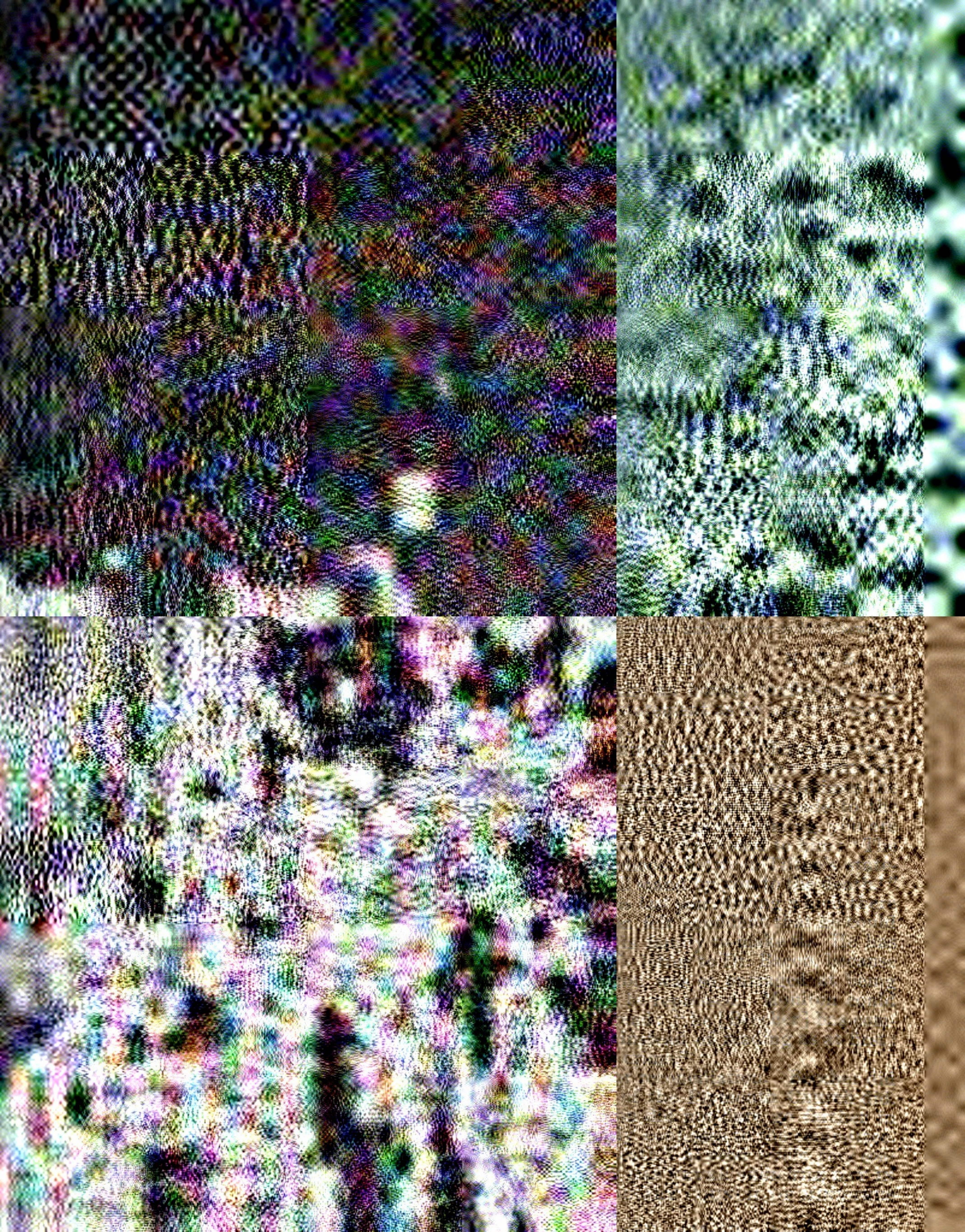
ll suggest that this statement
ne that would exculpate him-

of the vain efforts to cover up
tter by making a clean breast
rpretation plain. “It is all a

serene, as befits one who has about
ore resistance. Theodore’s temper
lutely worthless, filled with abrupt
ultify all the devices by which we saved

The true statement makes it
ncealment was impossible; he
nstantly to be compelled to
cover it up. Only a month
th Tilton. But just now the
him up, because in it he had
reement was interpreted by
is against Mr. Beecher. Mr.
et the whole thing come out.
wife’s fault; he had enjoined
o betray his wife, nor leave his

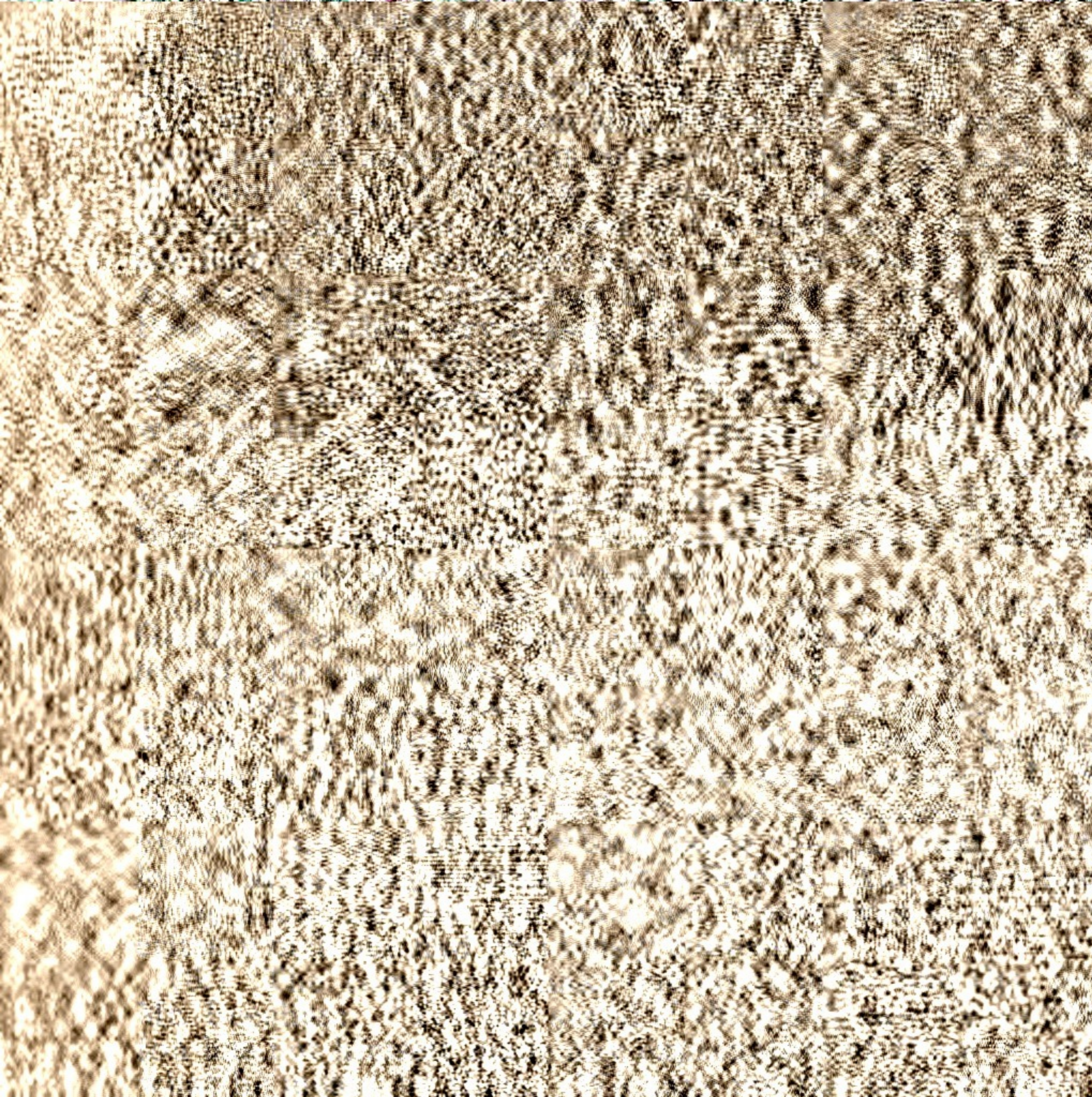
What does that mean? Has Mr. Beecher told us? He certainly has not told us any thing that makes this at all intelligible. He has told us that Mrs. Tilton was one of the purest women that ever lived. One of the truest wives; and that she had become very warmly attached to her pastor. But the attachment was a perfectly proper one, and nothing had ever occurred between them that might not, with perfect propriety, occur between any man and the wife of another man. By the way, had Mr. Beecher forgotten when he penned this, that vile letter that this woman had sent him? A letter too vile except for the purpose of testimony in vindicating the truth, to find its way into any decent newspaper. I will not defile my manuscript nor these pages by copying it. Is that such a letter as a pure man would be likely to receive? Or if he did, would he hasten to declare to forty millions of people that the writer of it was one of the purest women that ever lived? Is that this man’s ideal of “an angel of purity?” And yet he so affirms her to be in his most emphatic and glowing style. What, then, was the fault



(5). Another of the points on which the committee, as well as Mr. Beecher, lay great stress, is the fact that Mr. Tilton's statement involves what they regard as the absurdity of his wife's confessing to him in July, and his saying nothing about it to Mr. Beecher till December, 1870.

But this point in the statement of Mr. Tilton I regard as one of the strongest proofs that the whole statement is a true account. The theory of the committee is that it is a pure fiction. And that is the theory of all Mr. Beecher's defenders.

Now, whatever else may be said of Mr. Tilton, it is entirely certain that he is a man of some sagacity. And if he had been studying up a fiction, to be accepted as a fact, he would have seen at once that that part of the statement would strike everybody as hard to believe. That interval of six months is just such a thing as would never have entered into a fictitious account. Never! No man of the sagacity of Tilton would have invented that. Everybody admits that that six months of quietness after having his wife's confession is the most incredible part of the whole story. Mr. Beecher ridicules it; the com-



m of Mrs. Tilton's retraction
ld never have been charged.
o! Didn't Mr. Beecher know
he had never even made any
more thoroughly than if she
y see at a glance that if only
—or the council of ministers,
id: "This is not enough to
was gone!" And didn't Mr.
t, *with her full name*, so as to
ught the very first principles
inslow, (who is said to have
s, and he denies having ever
his denial as broad enough to
the simplicity of my illustra-
pacity of the committee, who

n allusion to the "Catherine
h Catherine Gaunt appears as
the committee, finding that
her husband, agree that Mrs.
t one who has *stolen* a purse,
he had long before confessed
ve felt. Now she came to see
he fatal beginning which had
came to see the sin of even
gh certainty to include the

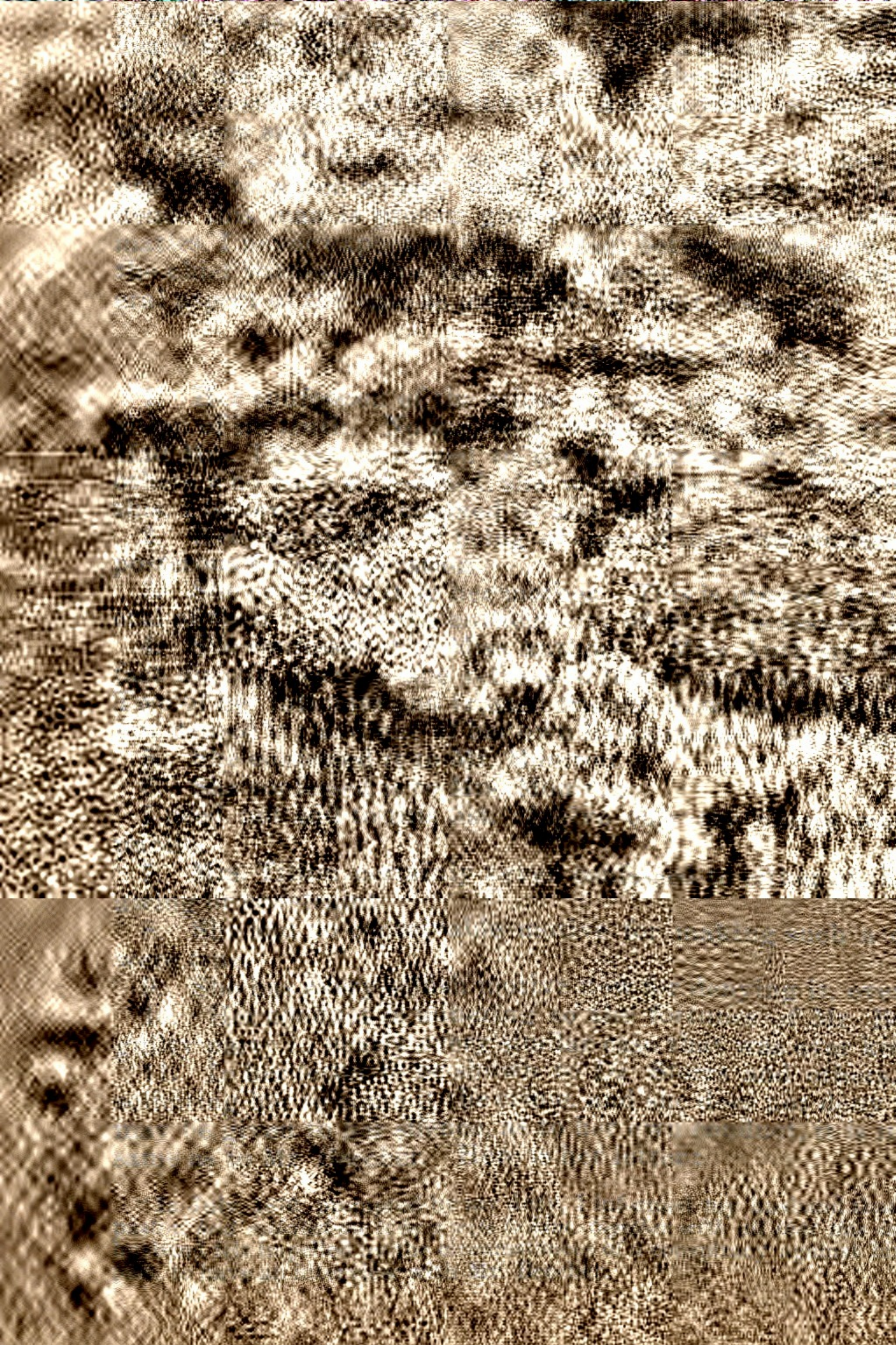
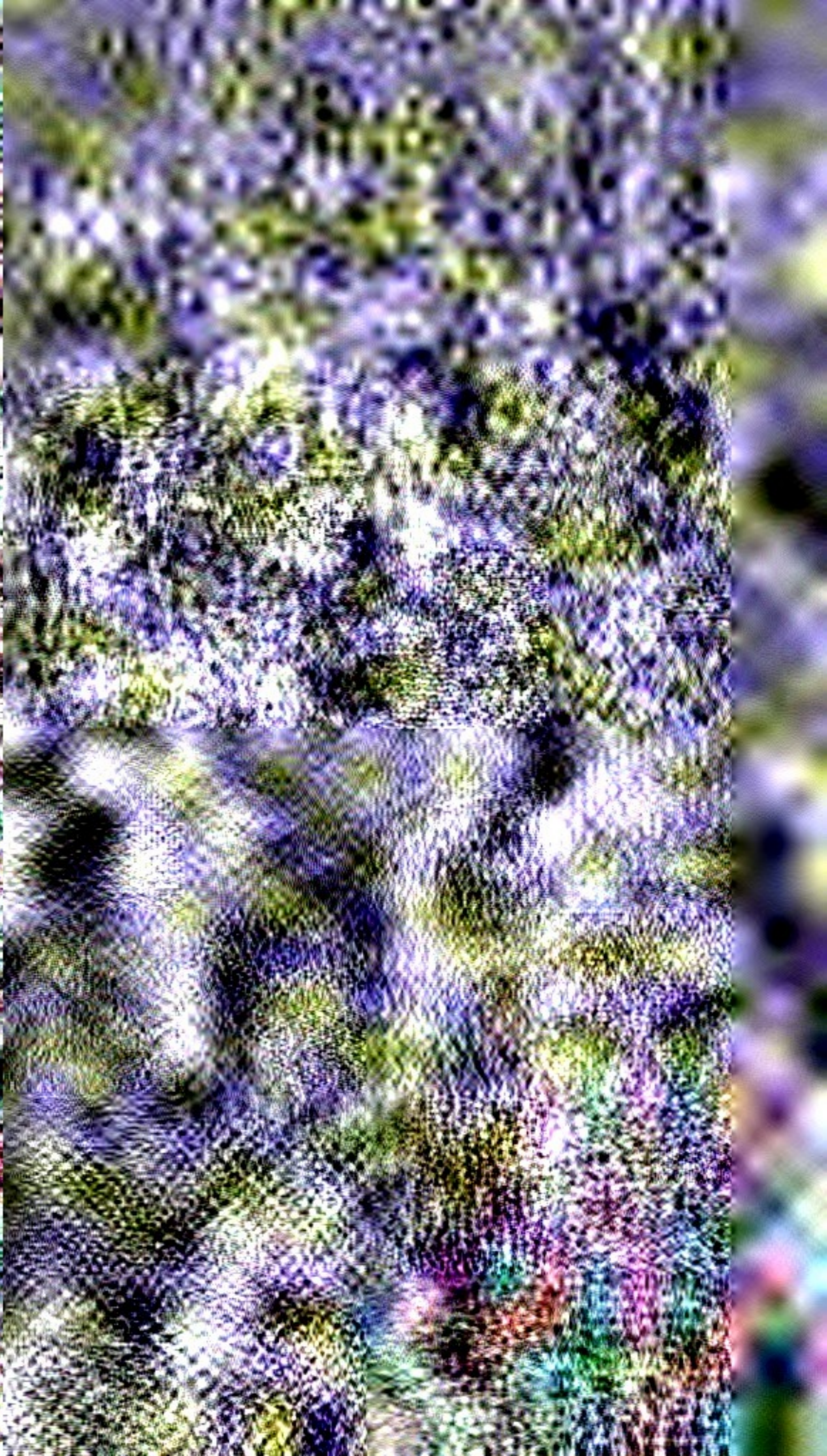
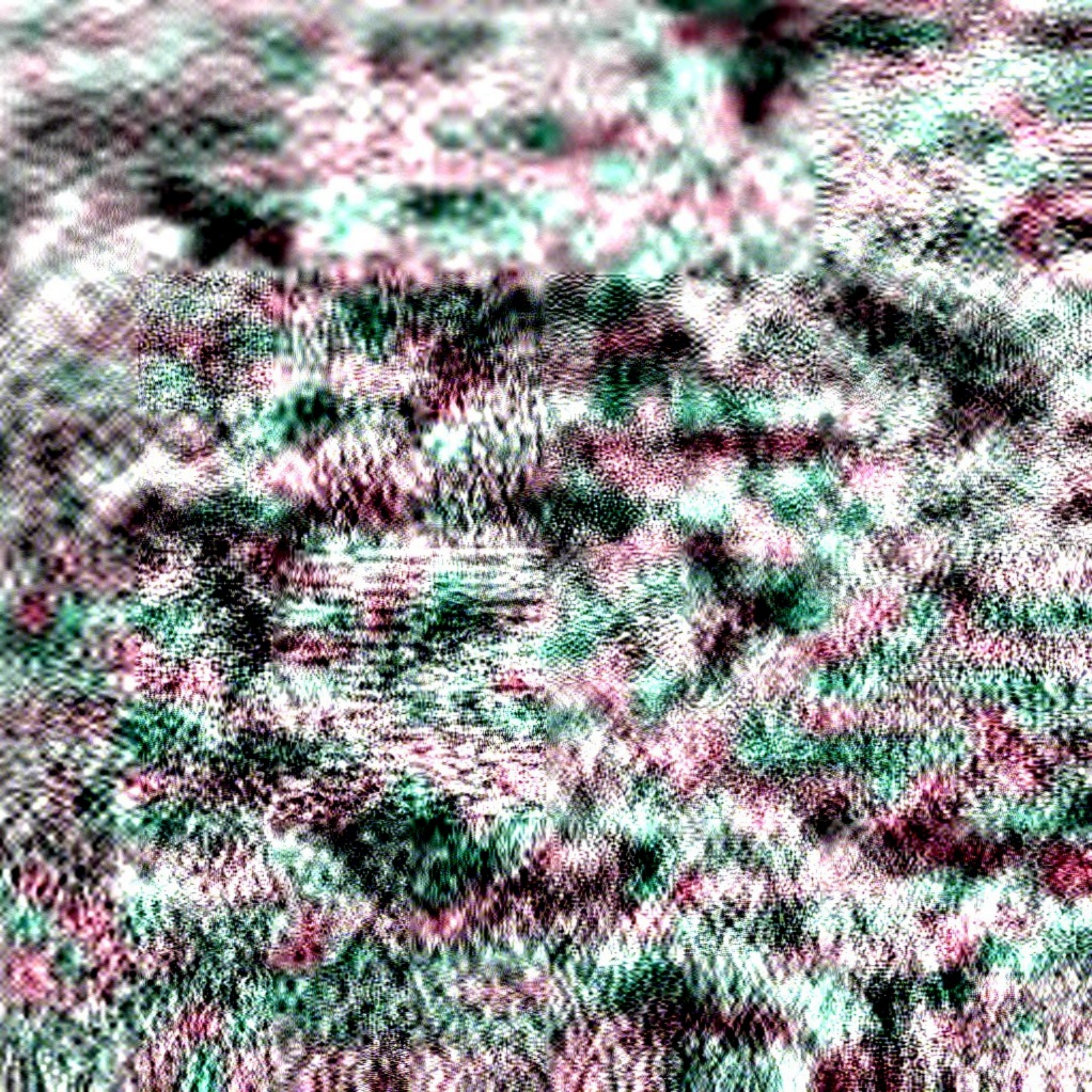
he declaration of Moulton to
shed to-morrow!" Mr. Moul-
and so I can only conjecture
which to judge. I can easily

understand them in the light of recently occurring facts. The whole case has been published, and, as if it were to be fated that the committee themselves were to fulfill Moulton's prophecy, they report in favor of the good standing of this man; and the church, as well as the committee, stand by him! Mr. Moulton judged well of the future in this prediction, if such was his meaning, as I think it must have been.

[This last paragraph I have left just as it was in the first edition. Since then Mr. Moulton has given his own explanation of it, in which he says:

"I did believe that if he had made, as he was advised to make, a full and frank confession of the whole truth, as he had done to me, accompanied by such expressions of contrition and repentance as he had made to me, his church and the world would have forgiven him, and he would have stood."

This was Mr. Moulton's belief. I am very much inclined to believe that he would have found himself mistaken. I very much fear that the majority of Plymouth Church



one in a thousand who had any doubt of his guilt.

capable of understanding and content to interpret Mr. Beecher's

it is a simple truism which is old that by all the laws of evidence outside of the domain of mathematics. Let us recur for a moment to explicitness—and to the gen-

licable except upon the supposed herself *unless she were insane*. or, no doubt, in common with and with insanity ; but as it is,

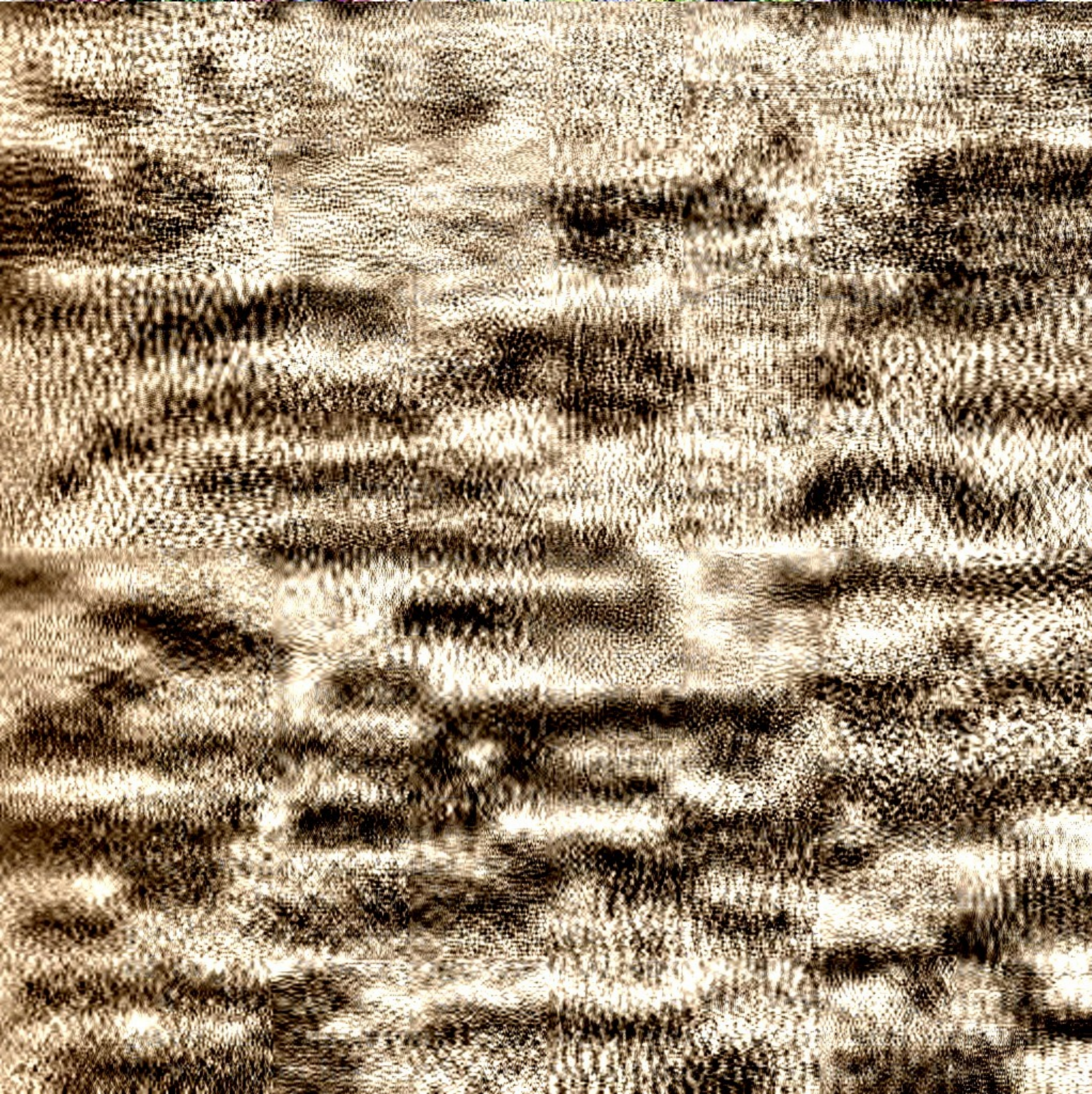
tion by her husband is too pre- and reasonable question by several by the lithographed copies. is not herself testified to this led to do it by legal process. stated to the public ; she has substantially proves it.

ch have been brought to the these four last under any over- confession originally unless it a though it is true.

Beecher now is just that of the own.

Mr. Beecher is charged with that she did. Whatever force a moral point of view all the

“DECEMBER 16, 1872.
Mr. H. W. Beecher, my friend and applied. Six months afterwards my n, in which Mrs. Beecher had taken



icate Mr. Beecher against all other
e he said with pain that my letter
ead and ended his usefulness.
l grant a speedy end to all further
nately,

ELIZABETH."

her previous confession *to at*
core of her letters to different
ithographed, and the authen-
ials, as against all this, weigh

sion of this crime, but other
etails that mark a true narra-

ough all these years, even up
at reluctance.

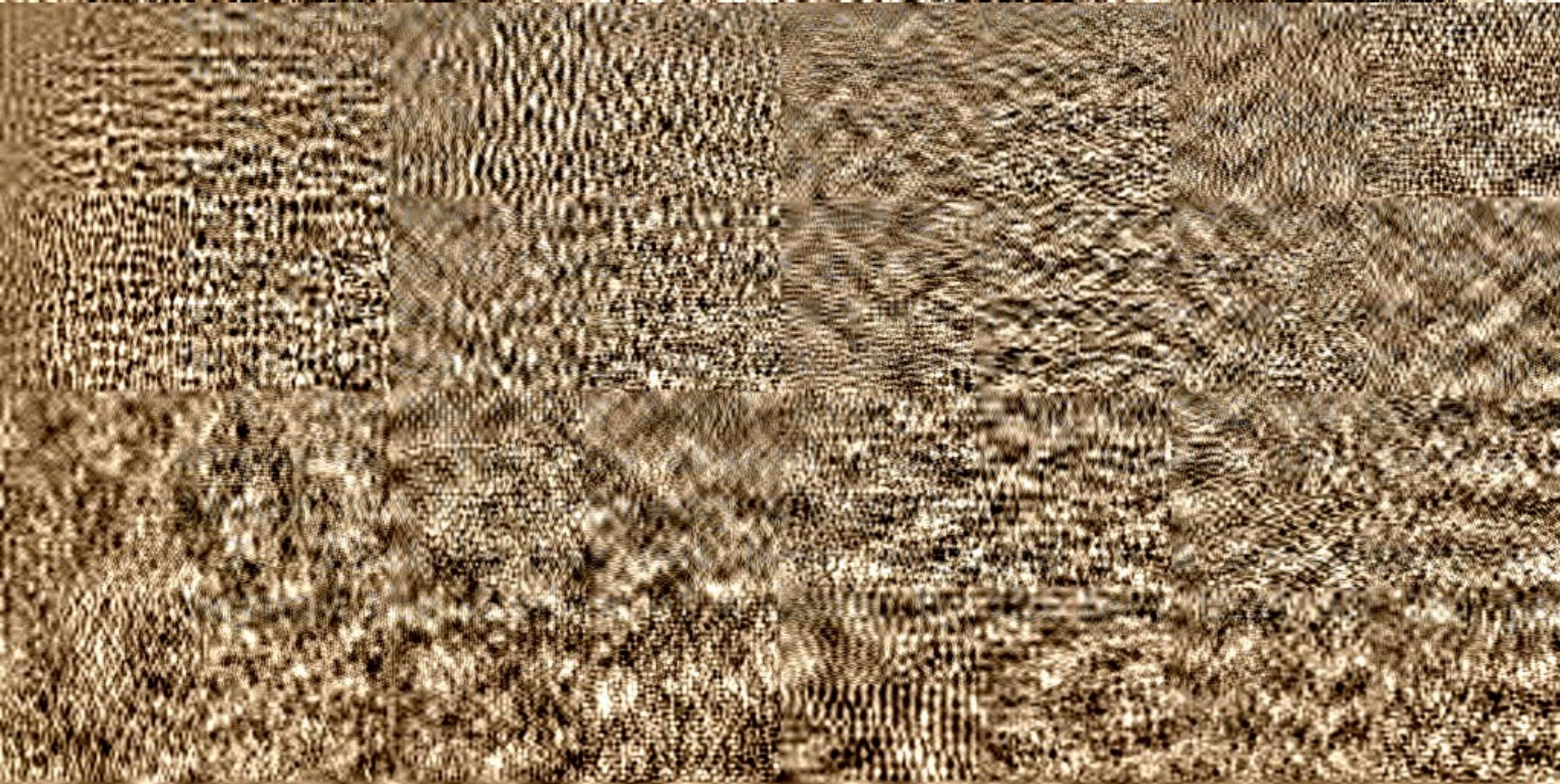
is that he now bears testimony
utterly that even Mr. Beech-

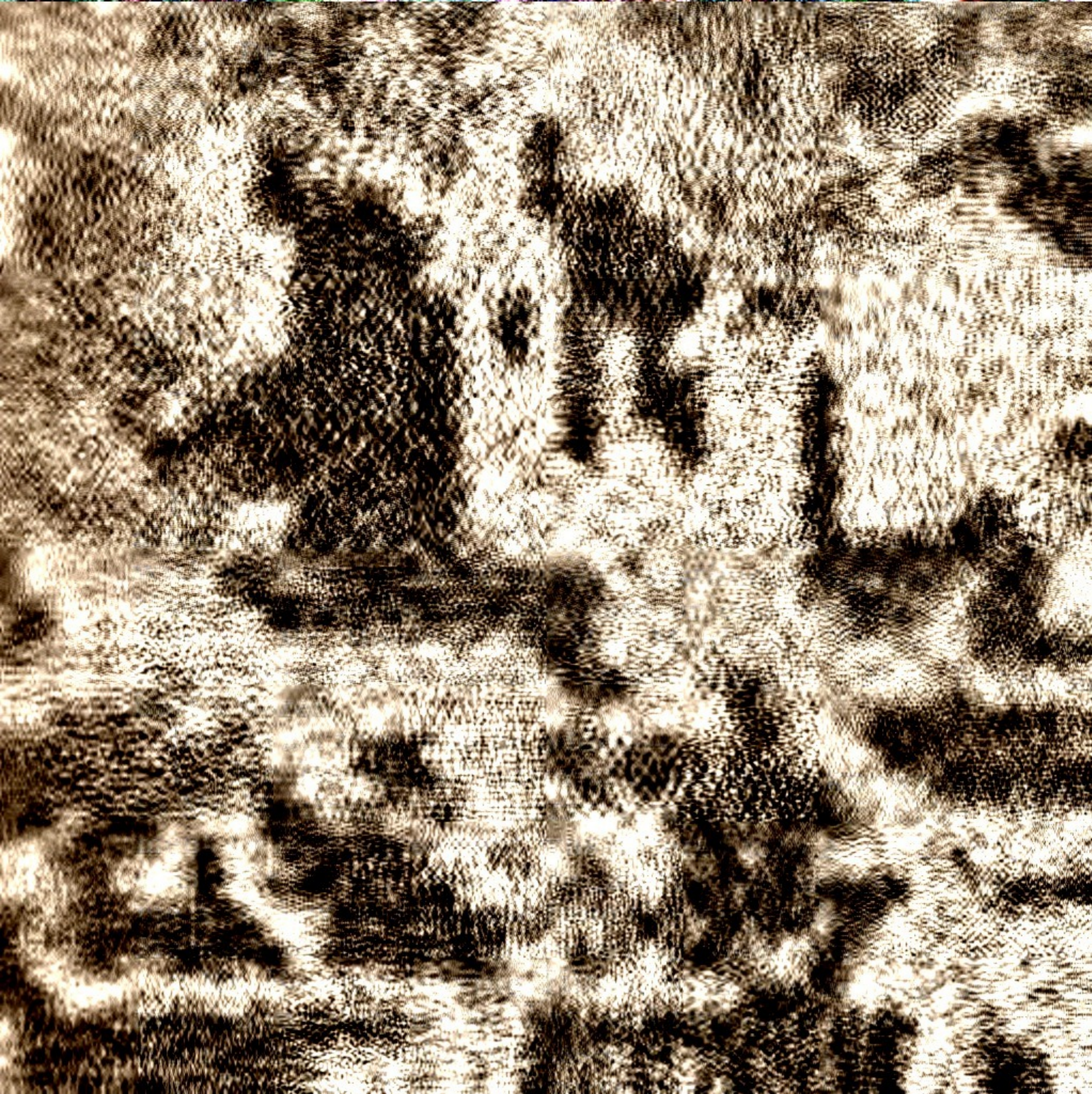
months—after the \$5000 was
didn't know it! And the idea
r any thing else but derision.
her side. He knew when he
a awaited him. He brought
est corporation in this land—
an any other. His testimony

cept upon the score of *pure*
argument on that point runs
pure malice, and the proof of
e scrap of evidence—not one
so much as brought forward
ing this testimony.

ars of familiarity, proves the
re asked to accept—and so

ainst Mr. Beecher is proved
of for Mr. Beecher's destruc-

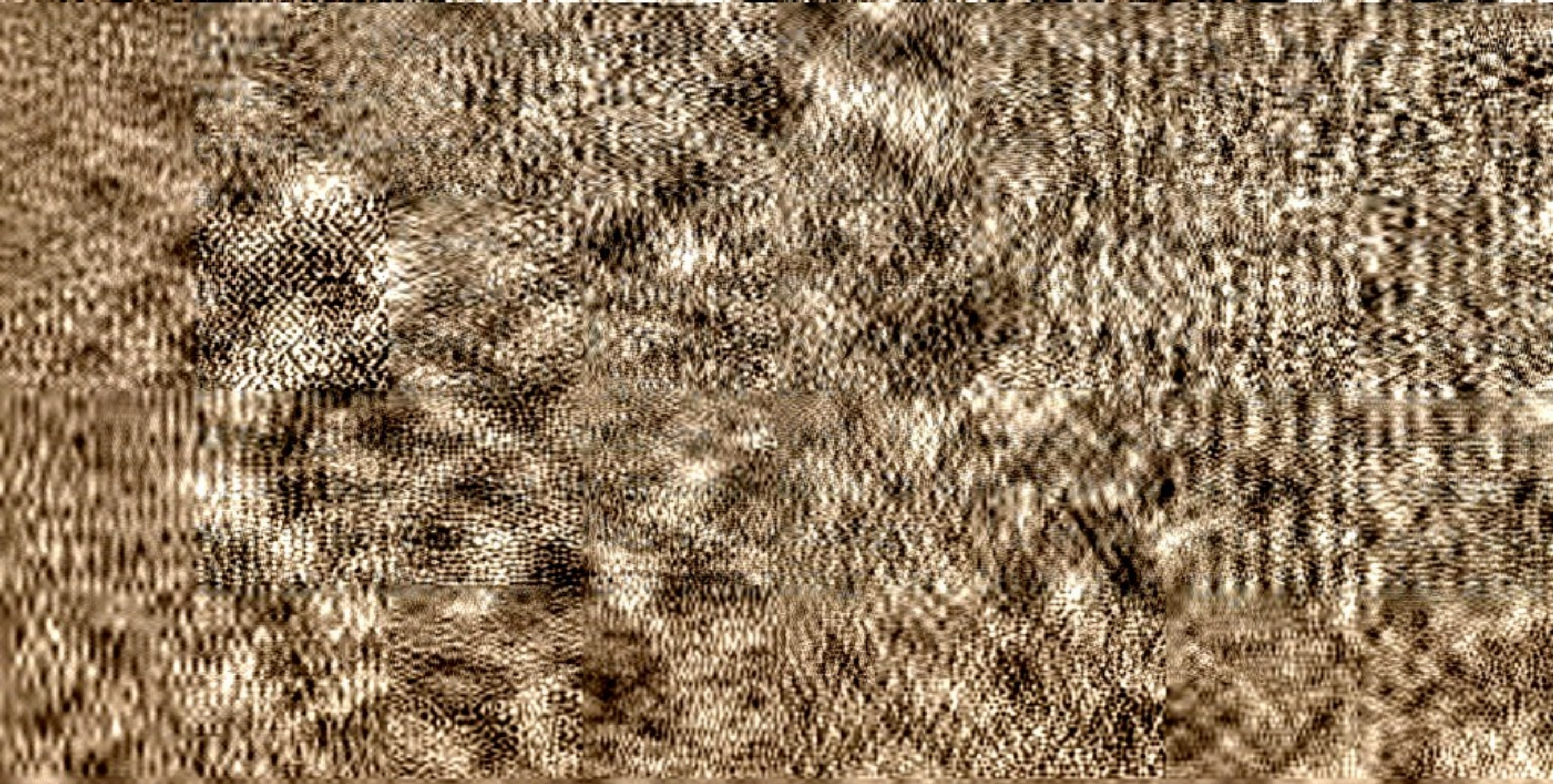




se that 'THE SECRET OF HER LIFE,
bring it up, as you must have suffered.
Do you know I think it strange you
could, in safety to yourself and all
n?

'MOTHER'

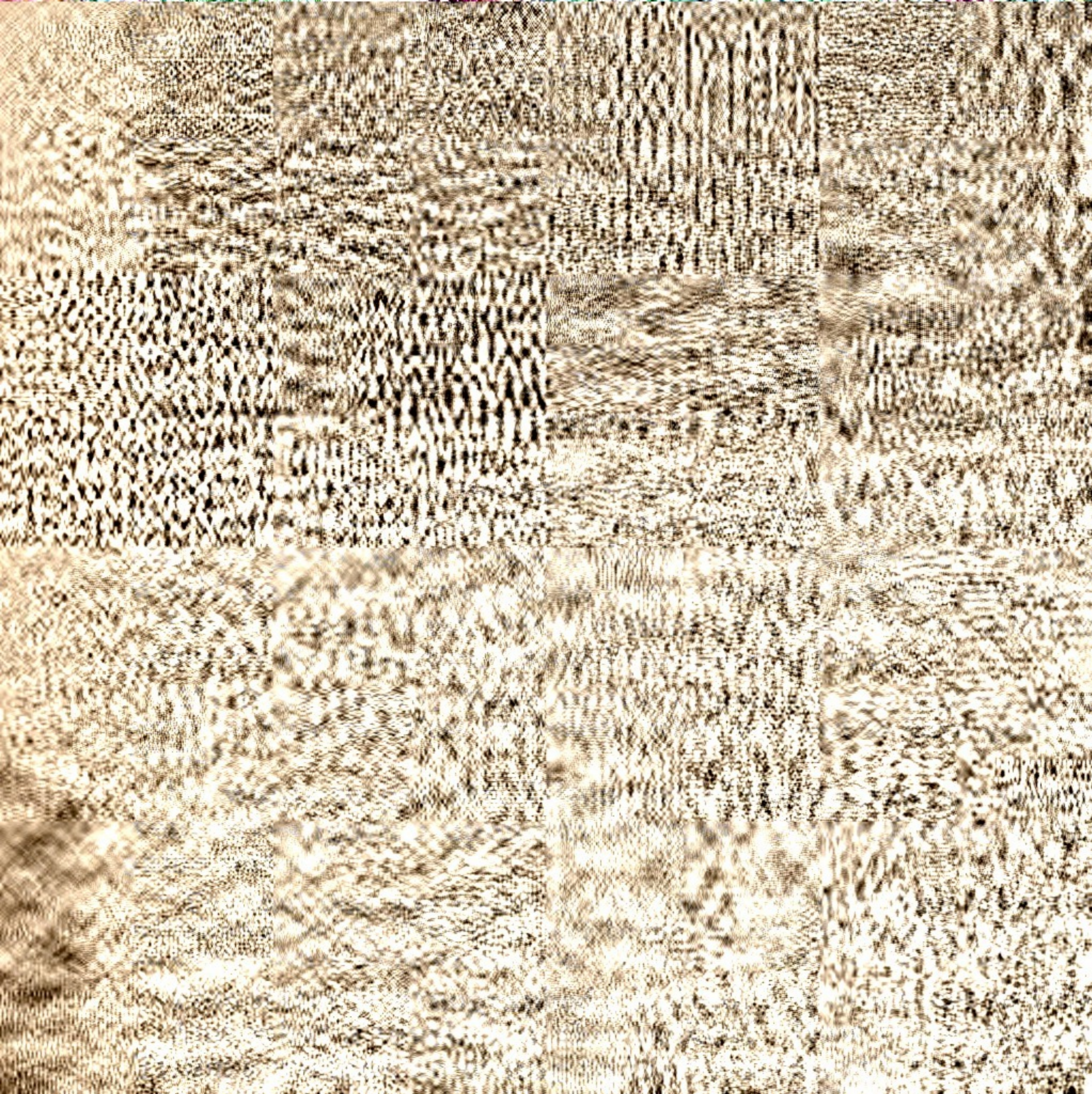
that all this can have. It is
le in which these persons, in
ognize each other. They did
Mrs. Tilton's life that was at



Not that the others are not
been tried for such a crime
t. Tilton, Mrs. Tilton (at the
r giving any such testimony
r testify *to repeated confessions*
so confessing it to more than

logy, what he calls in writing
ilton, at the time of the agree-
d had a year." I need not go
ond edition a friend has sent
Lord of the Supreme Court of

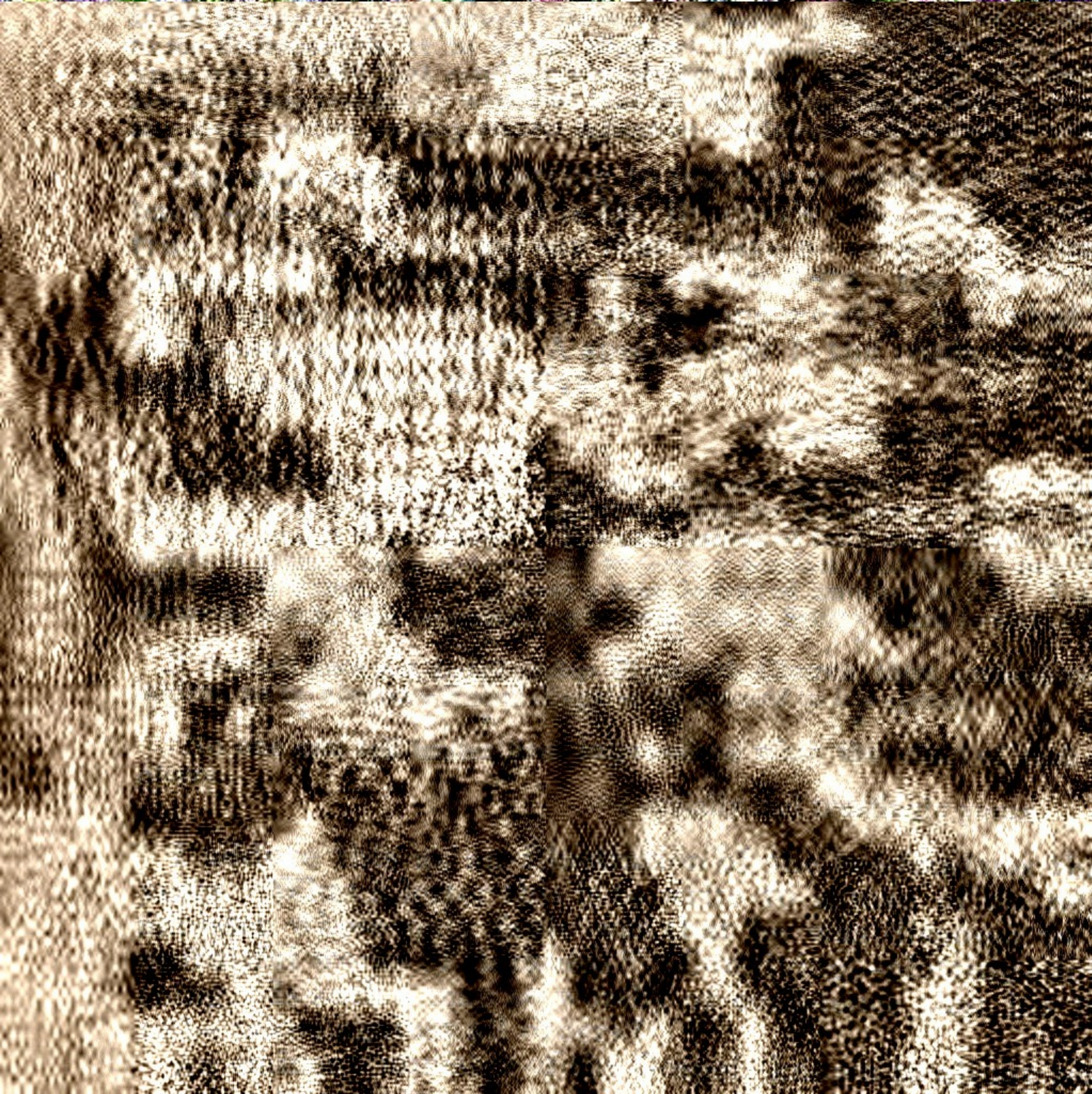
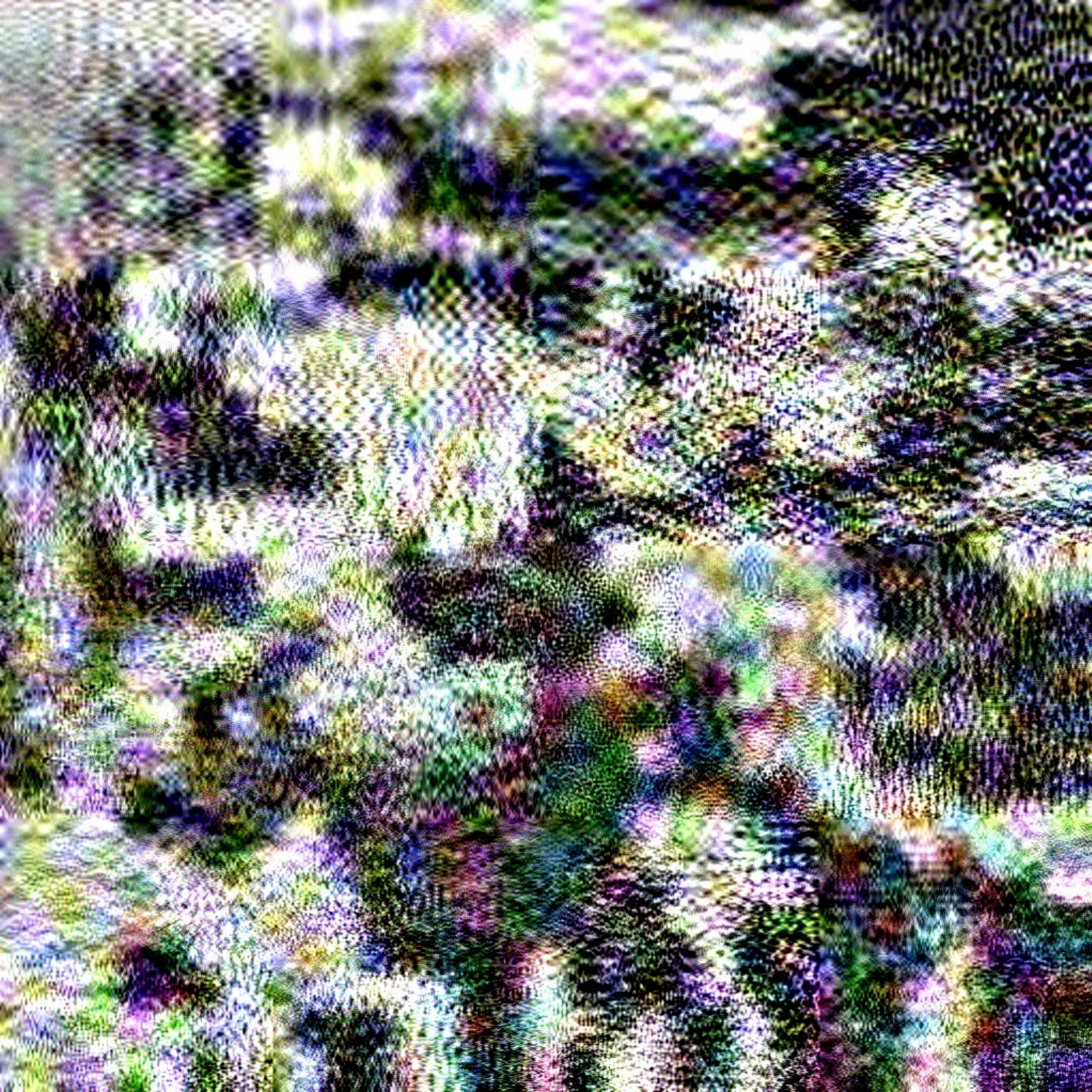
ultery upon him, goes upon a
is first communication to Til-
riend Moulton, I ask, through
before him as I do before my
rst word intended for his ear
been a better man in my cir-
cher has said of Tilton's char-
ve other than one interpreta-
the other breasts that would
on Beecher could make other
were dead ; but others must
ng himself, with this terrible
n of sense can see any more
bers that it is Beecher's first
else but myself is inculpated.
toward the poor child lying



ing but Mr. Beecher's own feelings.
his anxiety to *conceal* something, his innocence, involve him in
can only be interpreted upon a background full of scandalous rumors. To suggest to Mr. Tilton, with whom he might have all the influence to bear upon a pending investigation, which would lead to a long and painful trial. In saying this I do not rely upon the testimony of those whom I have mentioned, but upon his own letters, and upon his own conduct. It is the fact that it was not had, that he was an adulterer, and that he was an adulterer. And Mr. Tilton's suggestion, to prevent it. Witness his
less action in the case. It will only
There are already complexities
ary withdrawal, so as to prevent it, he says at the close of this
? If a letter is written [a letter of
being withdrawal, and perhaps with
you?"]
review save those that are.
with his pretended interest for
represents himself as bearing
every burden conceivable for the sake of Tilton—trying to keep him in the church, lest he should become utterly lost if he got out! Here plotting with an outsider to get him out without an investigation upon the charges which Mr. Tilton had made, and was repeating from time to time against himself! How different a picture this from that of the simple hearted, sympathetic, self-sacrificing, long-suffering friend of Tilton which he painted for the eyes of the committee! For his own sake, trying to get Tilton to withdraw, provided, always, it should be done with an expression of "kind wishes," and that the letter should be "short." He was afraid that Tilton, in withdrawing, would say a little too much to suit him.

He tells us in his statement that he objected to excluding him from the church, hoping that he might yet be won back from his heresies; but in this letter he says:

"Since the connection [Tilton's connection with the church] is really formal, and not vital or sympathetic, why should it continue, with all the risk of irritating measures?"



... years, one single thing that looked
I have leaned my whole confidence
called upon to follow me to the gal-
sidered to be his duty, and not from
e, Dec. 3, 1873.

... had some agency, beginning
all the world agrees that it is
instance with Dr. Storrs. Mr.
gregational pastor of Brook-
is his private talk in reference
ind in his lithographed letter

... se has been an unspeakable outrage,
d against him in the most venomous
r me are hollow and faithless. His
f us to destroy the other if possible.
n in hopes that Theodore, who has
t a friend.

* *
ly, Storrs will go off into Presbyter-

* *
a speech will be. *It ought to damn*

H. W. B."

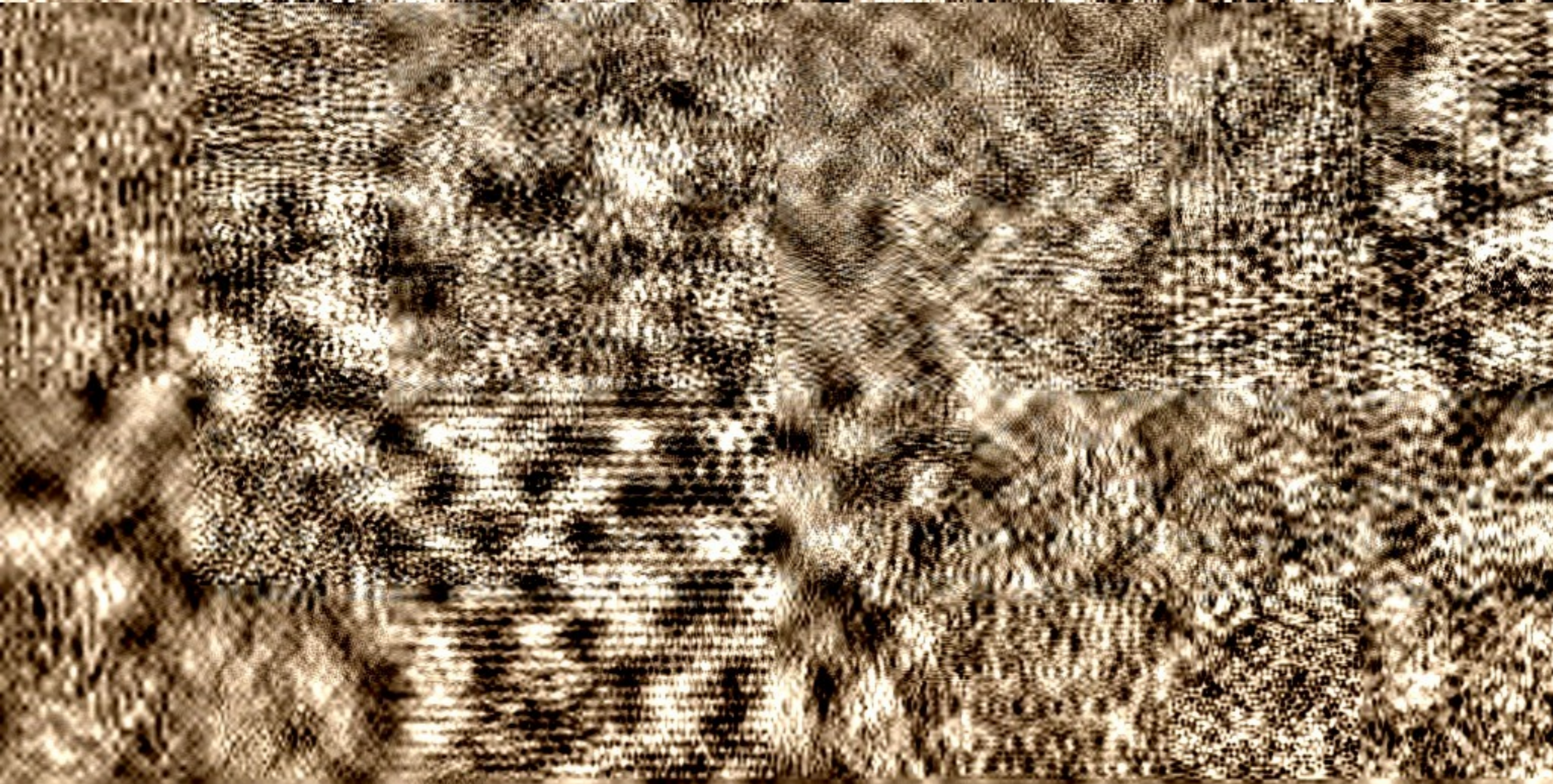
... at has characterized all these
gious profession respecting a
'have no fellowship with the
l of devices to cover up some-
stimony, in his own favor, is

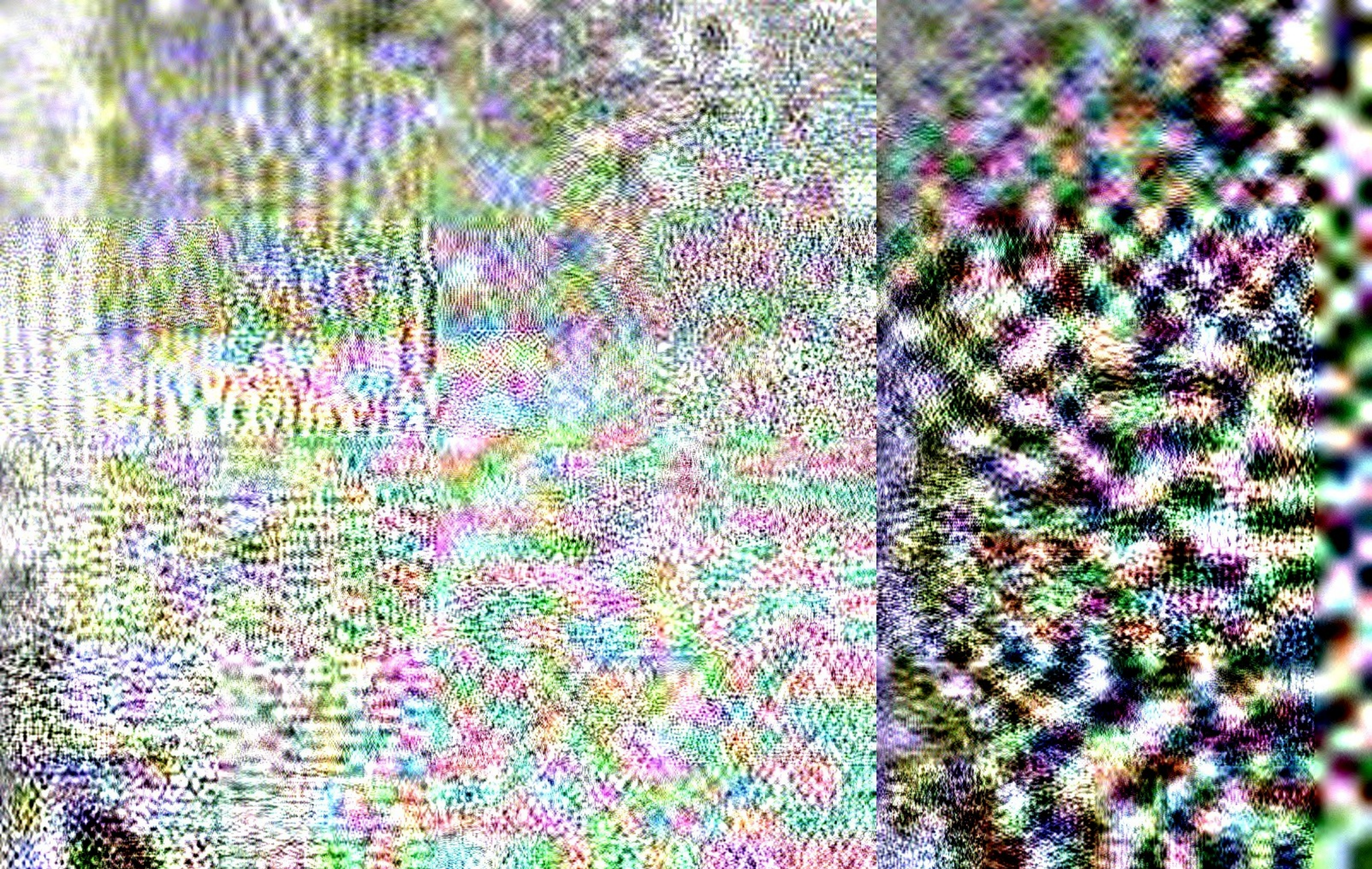
... ders, and millions besides, in

... sed me much in this Beecher matter.
eal. This led him to adopt a course
used a poor spiritually blind uncon-
crime was, these efforts at conceal-
forts were crime enough. Who can

... —and acts is against him. It
ow it, and guilt indeed of the

... ecause it may be claimed that
y be set down as an offset to
e striking difference between





mobbed. The accused denied
in asseverations that ever fell
peated day after day in the
horrors of hell got hold upon
tribution. And he then con-
but the undoubting belief of
to confess”

his accomplice sitting before
reiving from his hand each two

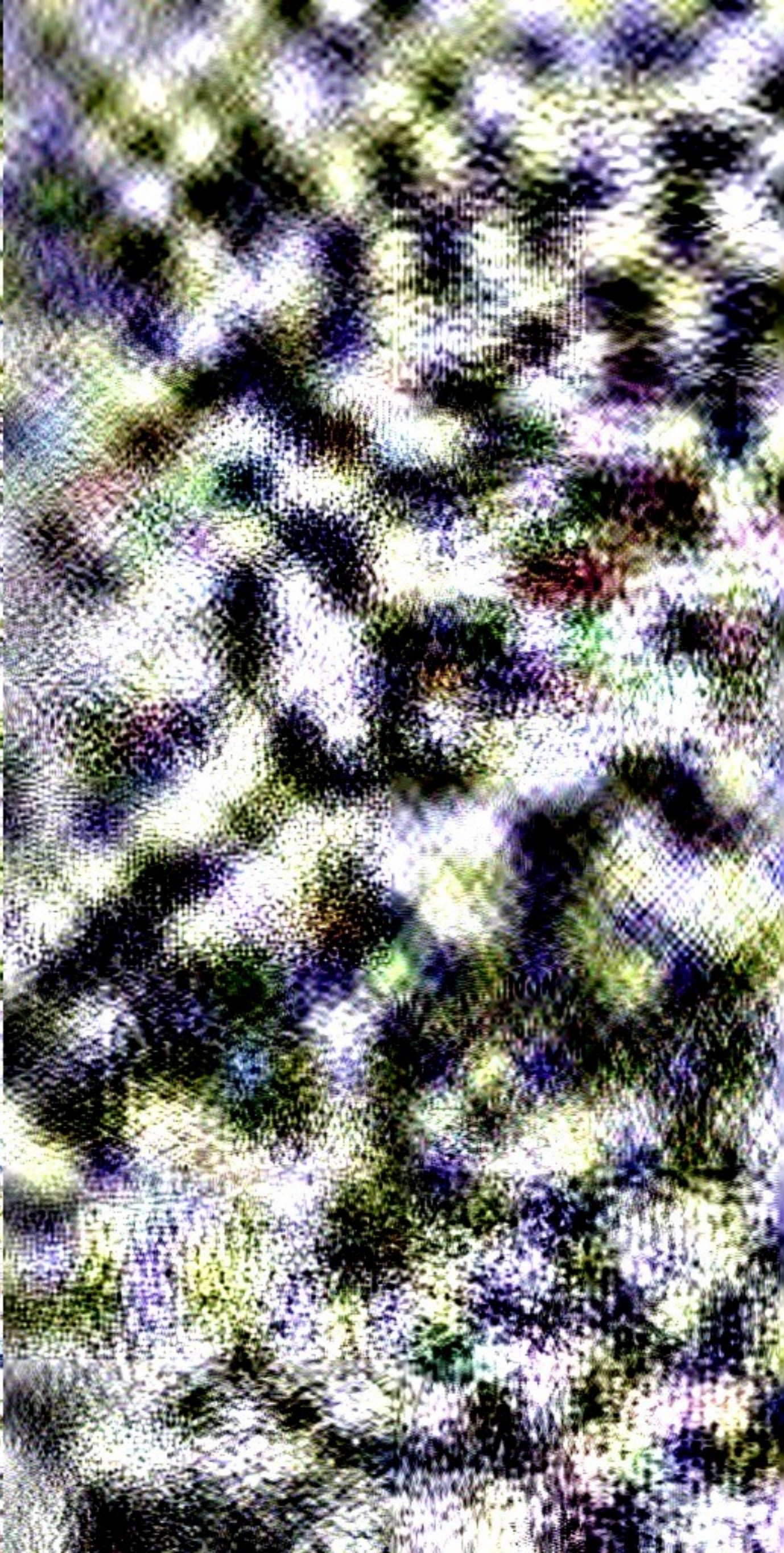
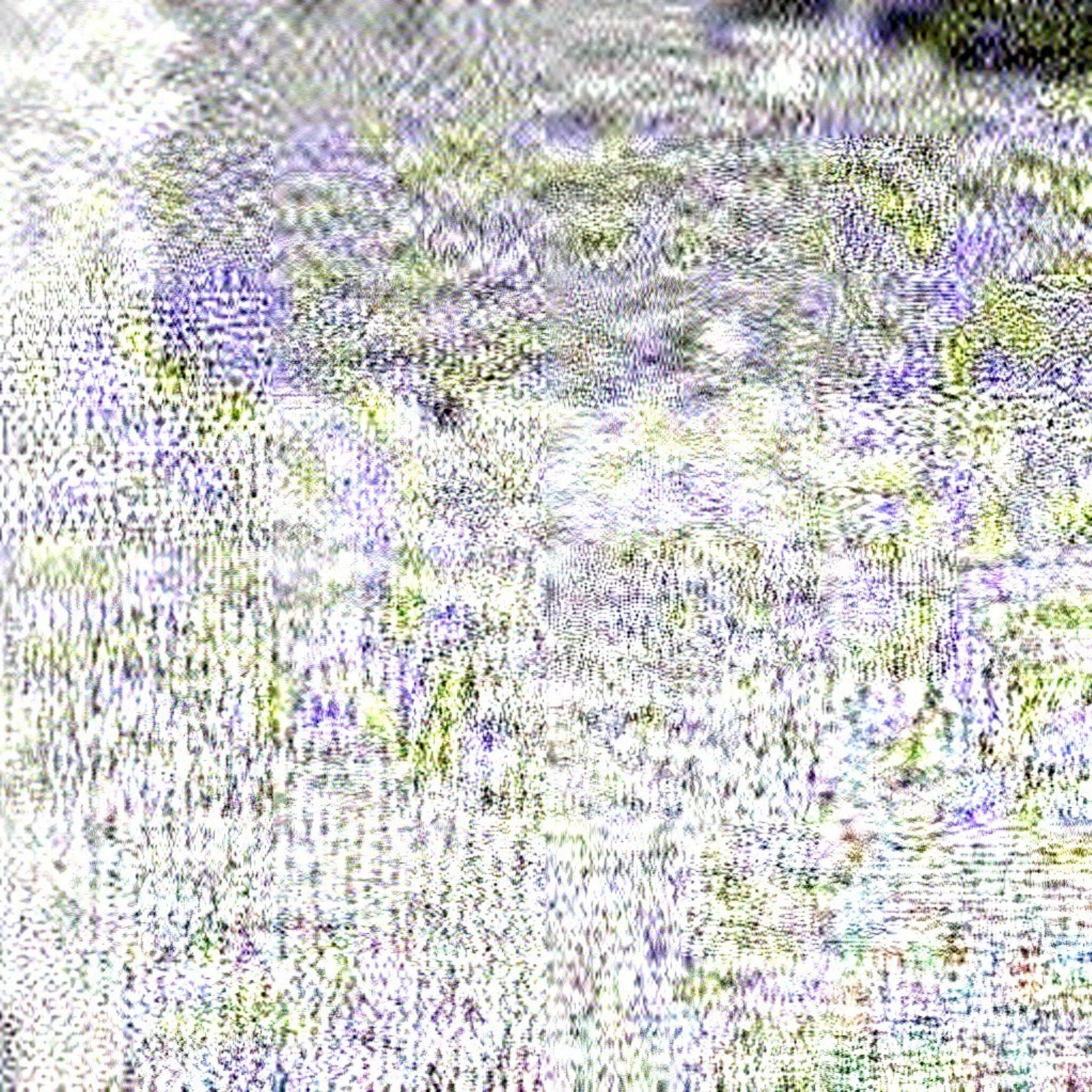
th fervor, and “pray like an
more beautiful religious sen-
ed, from all the evidence, that
eacher. It is not sentiment-
that can settle the question of
e: “*He that doeth righteousness*

iving, to be overcome by suf-
e, then I never saw testimony

After the fearful indictment
cher himself, I saw no way of
he whole world waited till he
umns. I read them—re-read
I found his own explanations
absurdities, then I was com-
e has most certainly stated a
or he had every possible means
s a plain and palpable case of

er. Nothing could be further
her side. But the overwhelm-

ing evidence has entirely conquered them. A man's prejudices, if he is honest, must yield to truth. I stood by this man till the last lingering doubt evanished. And now, in common with others, I have been assailed with all sorts of calumnies, and charged with “malice,” “malignity,” “personal animosity,” and “clerical jealousy.” This by Prof. Raymond, of the Plymouth Church. And, in connection with this last charge, he speaks of “clerical jealousy finding its source and field of operations mainly in the West.” This is rather an unfortunate mistake for a “Professor” to make. For jealousy, as any English dictionary will show, implies competition and rivalry. There might be some plausibility in charging some of Mr. Beecher's neighbors in Brooklyn with jealousy, were it not that the noble company of ministers resident there are men of too large soul and heart to be justly obnoxious to such a charge. And yet I know very well that this charge has been a thousand times reiterated against the grandest men on this con-



honor, and complicity with a
r which Mr. Beecher's friends
ing him an atrocious offender,
three years past.
y motives for condemning this
xplain my conduct?
arge? I have never had any
against him. And my friend-
as well-nigh my own father's
arm and strong from boyhood
any possible motive that I
ominational pride was against
was against it. Every thing

? Now, if they do not know
). Everybody outside of that
y *earthly motive* for defending

gth of that motive myself. It
against those whom we have
one man say: "If this man is
ated that at least one of the
this power of personal friend-
their eyes to facts. And "none

y strong in Plymouth Church
and many of their Church have
is man, as Mr. Beecher's chief
ong action of the committee,

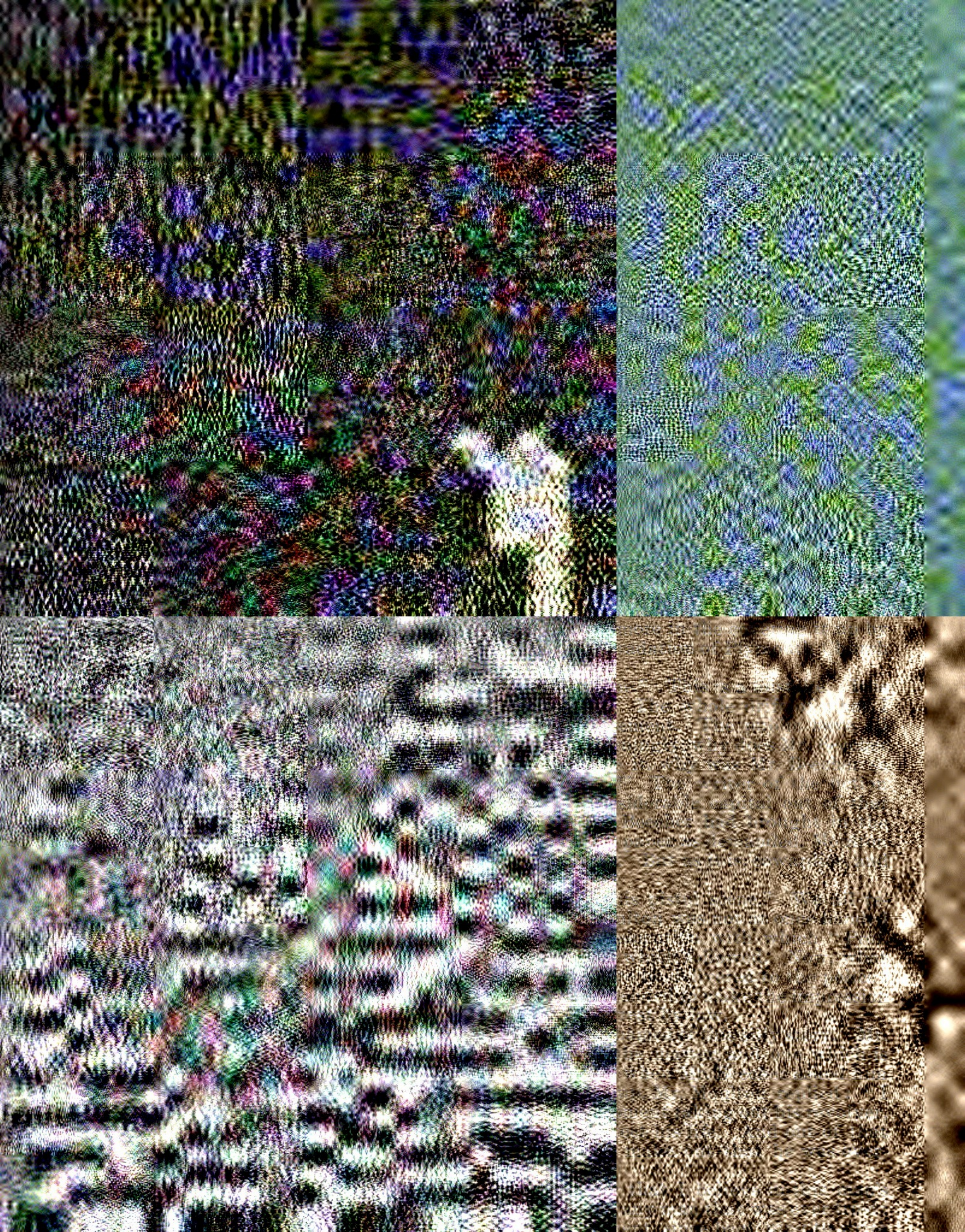
their pastor. And such pride
h in America. It is very hard

to overcome such pride, and see the truth in spite of it.

4. They have been, financially, a very successful church. Their income has been without a parallel.

And thus everybody sees that in defending Mr. Beecher, *friendship, prejudice, pride and self-interest* conspire to blind their judgment. The strongest of all earthly motives press upon them to lead them to a wrong decision, in upholding and vindicating him in spite of the clearest proof of guilt.

It is well known that in a court of law any one of these four considerations would exclude a man from serving on a common jury. A blood relative of the accused—even though there be no proof of friendship—is excluded, because his family pride would stand in the way of a fair verdict. Their family pride in their pastor, and their natural vanity and ambition as the most popular church on the continent, is a motive quite as



this paragraph, received a long letter from an eminent jurist, whose name I must withhold, because his letter is strictly private. The reader would recognize the name if I should give it. But, private as the letter was intended to be, I think I can be justified in giving some extracts from it, withholding all that is strictly personal to the writer. He says:

“Beecher’s guilt, in my judgment, can be conclusively established by that evidence alone which has the sanction of his own name or his own admission. And the evidence as it now stands, aside from his own writings, and without a word of confession from him—tried by any acknowledged test of truth, is *equally conclusive*. It seems most extraordinary that so large a portion of the public is still willing to receive him as a teacher, both in the pulpit and upon the platform. It is not by reason of belief in his innocence, but notwithstanding his guilt; thereby manifesting a very lamentable condition of the public mind. For what does guilt in his case imply? Not adultery simply nor even principally. Nor indeed is the hypocrisy of an eminent christian professor the greatest crime. There is also falsehood, perjury, subornation of perjury, together with wanton and ruthless attempts at destruction of the good name of every person who happens to have knowledge on the subject. *No greater moral monster is conceivable than Beecher stands to-*

two phrases, one of which is almost a truism, though it comes from the experience of many years, 'If you have before you a bunch of keys, and find one that opens the lock, it is the key to that lock.' There is but

no occasion for a discussion, which is wholly foreign to the character of a minister of the Gospel, one of a minister who, by giving the sanction of your name and authority to an ill-omened day to your profession, would be guilty of a villiany as this case exhibits, that would have been a great power, and so had

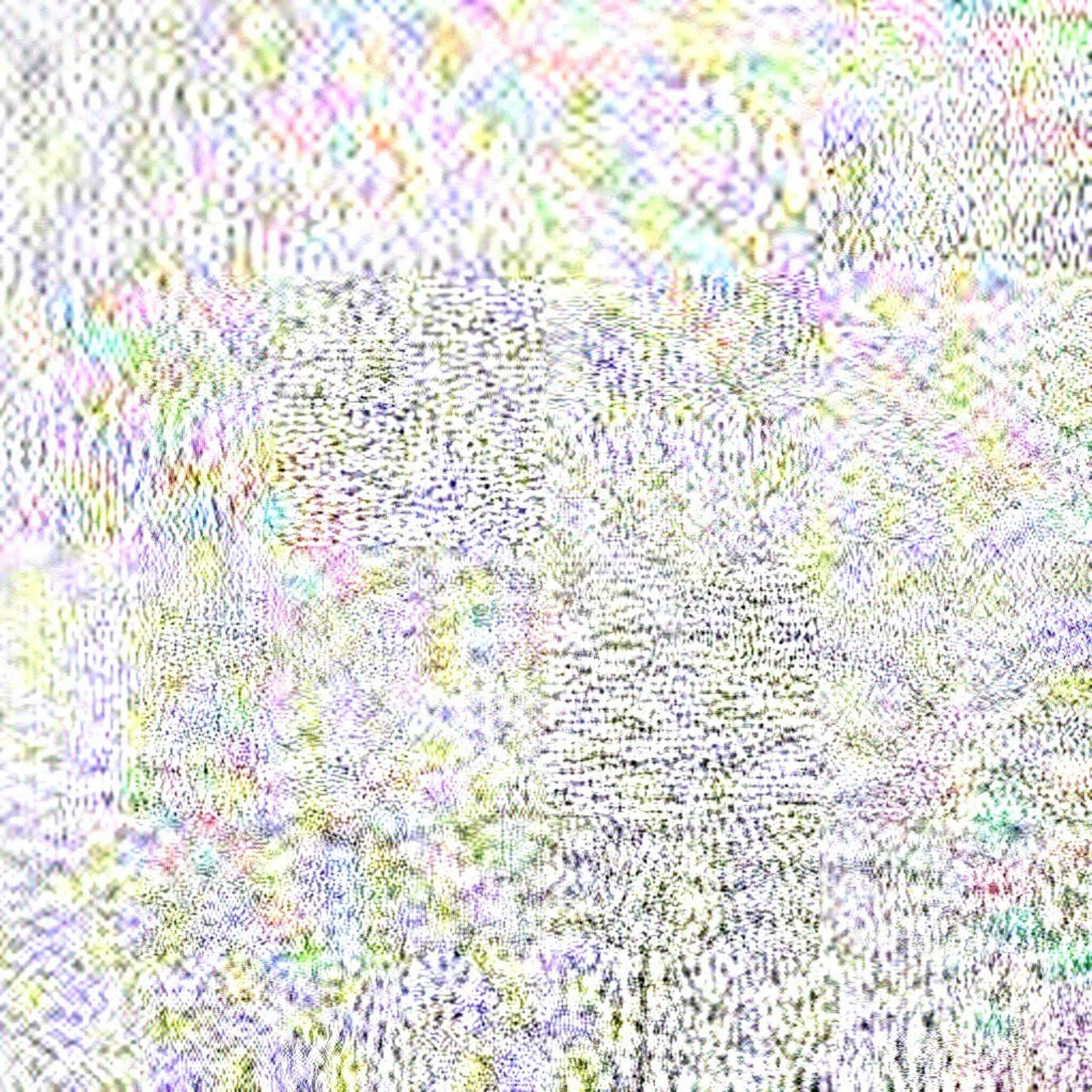
— — — — —
Thanks for the manly and independent

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the length of it, nor I the reader, would be so much to the purpose. I have known his name, and his name appears in the clear logic, and in the plain and simple language. And when the reader is identified with the trial of this man, this is no partisan view of the case, but the view of the most eminent judges in the

Dr. Young has said, there are no honest, Christian men in the case justifying the strongest suspicion of the depth of his guilt that saves an intelligent man sees that if he were not guilty, and so many resolutely refuse to believe it here, I have not spoken or written uncharitably. "Charity re-

joiceeth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth." I have accepted the conviction of this man's guilt with unutterable reluctance. I resisted it to the last. But the time came in my investigations when I had not the slightest remaining doubt of it, and when I was compelled to stultify myself by rejecting all the laws of evidence, or else admit that he was guilty beyond a question. I have not here arrayed all the proofs; scarcely one-half of them. But I have arrayed enough. In all the cases of similar charges which have come to my knowledge in thirty years of service in the ministry, I have never found another in which to my mind the proofs were so absolutely overwhelming. I might, perhaps, have had large credit for charity had I still refused to believe him guilty. But sometimes such credit can be gained only by a ruinous discount upon a man's sagacity, or at the peril of being, with some good reason, accused of complicity with the guilt.

"But on what ground are you called to speak at all?" it may be asked. I answer: on many grounds. This case belongs to the public; it is before the world. It is not the



let us give ear to something
all of which I respond with all
his man continues in the min-
stituted ecclesiastical court.
blic conscience.
eminent services, are to secure
against him is all, and more
an from the sacred office, then
d church, and gathering very
ghteous judgment."
o shall ascend into the hill of
hath clean hands and a pure
of soul that this case has cost
ed did not affect me a tithe as
rs his portrait has hung in the
ady. Only Washington's and
ored place of the three. And
from sight, it was with such
my mind the case had become
ir dealing. They are not now
ent is turned away backward,
scandal upon the whole min-
istian Teacher, a man against
gation to the Master than in
God help me! Amen."

