Medical.

CHATHAM, N. B.

Married in Spite of Himself.

BY MRS. SUMNER HAYDEN. There was the widow Smith; she would go out house keeping sometimes, although she didn't care to go where there was very hard work, having herself to look out for, which means that she must provide herself with another husband, since her first husband had died and left her without any money. Everybody said that the widow Smith would play her best cards to catch the widower Brown, for whom she was to

But the wise little woman kept her

own counsel, as all wise women do. And, according to promise, she went one Monday morning to the house of the widower in the capacity of housekeeper and maid of all work.

To be sure, you wish to know who Brown is. I'll tell you.

He was a farmer, middle-aged, and quite well off. His wife had died quite unexpectedly a few months before he saw the widow Smith, and spoke to her about keeping house for him.

He had two grown-up children, a son and a daughter. John Henry, the son, was an old bachelor, close-fisted and grasping. Sarah Jane, the daughter,

mother died, was because there was no one left to do the housework, inasmuch as Sarah Jane was too everlastingly lazy to wait upon herself, even to the making of her own bed or dusting her own room.

With Mr. Brown it had been different, and, having been devotedly attached to his wife, he mourned her loss most dutifully : and when John Henry and Sarah Jane declared that no other woman should ever come into the family work between them.

The fact was John Henry was afraid that his father would marry again, and thus entitle his second wife to a share of the property, which would other wise be equally divided between him self and his sister. He communicated his fears to his sister, and they decided to do the work between themselves rather than place temptation before their father.

"He'll be just as likely as can be to marry any housekeeper we may get here," said John Henry. "He has no eye for beauty, and if we get a young girl to do the work, and he gets married to her, there's no knowing how many shares the property will be cut up into. Shares enough, no doubt.

" And there'll be nothing left for us John. But we'll fix him! the scheming old man'that wants to get married before our dear mother getscold in the ground!' whined Sarah Jane.

"Who says he wants to get married? I'm for fixin' things so that he shan't want to marry again. He hasn't said anything about it, and if you know which side of your bread's buttered you won't put any sich notion into his head," replied this dutiful son.

Mrs. Brown had been a superior housekeeper, and dying, left her house in excellent condition, Consequently, the housework was not very hard, for awhile, and John Henry and Sarah Jane managed to get along nicely with it for a few weeks; but after a while the closets became dirty, and the paint showed the marks of dirty fingers, and the dust was gathering in quantities everywhere

The spring farming was coming on, and John Henry must be out of doors and at work. Housekeeping was getting to be an old story to Sarah Jane, also, and retiring within her old pretence of illness, she allowed household matters to take their own course.

The consequence of all this was that a day came when Brown had nothing cooked for dinner, and no clean clothes to put on.

"What are we going to do, Sarah Jane ?"asked Mr. Brown, who had suffered much from seeing the house in such disorder, and sadly missed the bountiful meals so regularly prepared by the departed.

"Do? Why as everybody else does, get somebody to do the work. I've worked myself sick now trying to save the expense of a housekeeper."

This was enough; and after a dinner of crackers and milk, Mr. Brown proceeded to look up a housekeeper.

never heard of Samuel Weller, the Elder, nor his advice to his son Samivel, he at once went to the house, and engaged her to do his housework, and come upon the following Monday.

We have seen how she kept her appointment, and if ever a house took a thorough cleaning, it was Mr. Brown's farm-house, after the widow Smith came to live in it.

There was no more cold victuals or milk dinners for Mr. Brown after that, and it really seemed as if the old reign of order and neatness prevailed, and he was getting to be quite contented and quietly happy again, when a new source of commotion arose.

Asked John Henry one day: "Sarah Jane, have you thought any-

thing about father and the widow Smith ?"

"Pshaw! I mean have you thought that the old man may be had a notion of gettin' married again-

"What?" screamed Sarah Jane-"what? my father marry that good-fornothin' widow Smith! We must not allow it, John Henry! Marry her, indeed! I tell you, John, there'll be precious little peace for me if the widow Smith once gets the reins; why, she told me to-day that I should have to wait upon myself or go without being waited on if I was her daughter; and she just the same as told me to go down cellar and get my own luncheon or go without. If father should marry her, I would not

stay home another minute." "I don't know who'd want you, if you mean to be as lazy as you are now right along," growled John Henry.

"But you ain't in favor of the match. are you, John?" asked Sarah Jane, in father needn't think of marrying again.

phatic answer.

Sarah Jane," "Yes, you said you would-" "You know father's sister, Aunt Je-

"Good gracious! I should think I'd orter. She's pulled my hair and pricked my ears often enough, when I was a child." "She's a master hand at makin' a

match or breakin' up one, either" her to come here a visitin', and set | smart. father against the widder?"

for nothin', more than a couple of weeks, prepared for her. should we John.

it won't take her that time to fix things so's the widder won't have no chance at just as well as though she owned the all. Meanwhile we mustn't be idle. We must tell her the farm is mortgaged, and make her think we are as poor as Job's turkey. You can fix that, and I'll a-going to marry the widow Smith, send for Aunt Jemima."

"Send her a strong message, John Henry; one that'll fetch her without delay," continued Sarah Jane, as she went to the kitchen."

The widow Smith was paring apples for the next day's baking, and Mr. Brown sat near her, looking wonderfulwas about of the same style, only more | ly unconscious of the charms of the fair widow, who had donned her best after-Their greatest glief when their poor noon dress before sitting down, and who looked unusually smiling.

Mr. Brown arose and left the room, when his daughter entered; and finding the coast clear, Sarah Jane commenced: "Mrs. Smith, couldn't you take off

a little from your wages this season?" "Take less than two dollars and a half per week for doing all the work here? I'd sooner put on half a dollar,"

was the cheering reply. "But Mrs. Smith, you cannot understand our circumstances. We are poor. to take their dead mother's place, he The farm is covered with mortgages, willingly consented to the arrange- and we can scarcely get a living off the ments they made for doing the house- farm. Father is worried to death by bills to pay, and he can scarcely afford me a new dress twice a year. We are

really very poor, Mrs. Smith." "Why don't you go to work, then, and save the expense of hiring help at all? Your father would appreciate sympathy of this kind, and you could earn a new dress four times a year.

Try it." "But my health-" began Sarah

"Your health would improve, without persisted the hard-hearted

Sarah Jane was wrathy. "There's one thing about it, Mrs. Smith: my father will not marry again until after the mortgage is paid off?" she blazed.

"There's nothing certain about that," coolly replied the widow Smith.

"You don't mean to say-"I do mean to say that there's plenty of girls, old maids, and widows who would have your father for a husband, even if there were a mortgage on him.' "Well, they'd have a pretty tough time of it, if they tried to boss me or John Henry about! I'd like to see the woman that could live here as my out!"

like you do, in case the woman was like me, for instance-strong and healthy like me?" smilingly asked the widow. "I'd fly at you like this! I'd scratch your eyes out, and pull every spear of hair out of your carroty head !" screamed Sarah Jane, maddened by the coolness of the widow. And flying at her, she would have put her threat into instant execution had not the widow calmly set down the basin of apple-parings, and taking Sarah Jane by the shoulders, shook her until she was glad to ask her

to let her off. "Just to show you what your father' second wife might do, my dear," smiled the widow, opening the doors and pushing Sarah Jane into the sitting-room, where John Henry sat, reading over the letter he had written to Aunt Jemima.

"She almost killed me, John Henry!" wailed Sarah Jane, with an attempt to act like a grieved child, although the was thirty-five years old that very day. And she went on to relate the story of Mrs. Smith's abuse:

"Let her act ; Aunt Jemima'll fix her. when she comes," was the consoling

And Sarah Jane took up the letter

"MY BELOVED AND RESPECTED AUNT -You must come down here, right He chanced to be fortunate enough to away, to-morrow. There's somethin' ma. hear of the widow Smith, and having awful the matter, and dad's enamost gone up! Come right away.

"This from your beloved and respected nephew, "John Henry Brown. The next morning Miss Jemima arrived. Puffing and out of breath, she burst into the sitting room, where John

Hen: 7 and Sarah Jane awaited her "You've come !" they both cried to-

"Yes; and now do tell me the particulars. I have been on pins and needles ever since I got your letter.

The old man's livin', I s'pose?" "Yes, and likely to live a spell The matter is, there's a widow afterhim: and we want you to break up the

match," said John Henry. " Is that all? Hain't there nobody dead, nor goin' to die? was no bones broken? was nothin'?" asked Miss "Yes, What?" was the intelligent Jemima, with a despairing, disappointed

"That's all," was the reply

"Then why didn't you say so in your letter? I put my black dress and veil into my bandbox, and had to buy pair of black gloves to wear to the funeral, in case there should be one ! It ain't right to deceive, children," she father

"We were afraid you wouldn't come, we didn't scare you a little,' said

"Well, now I'm here, I may as well do what I can, though that new black veil is very becoming to my style of face, when I wear it throwed back, a-la-mode. State the case,' said Miss Jemima, with the air of a judge.

"That's not much to tell. Only the widow Smith is determined to marry father. She gave me a real pounding vesterday, because I only hinted that She actually told me that she'd be glad "Not if I know myself," was the em- to marry my father, and said we didn't know anything about what was further "Well, what are we going to do, calculated on! She said she'd have rother?"

him if he was mortgaged worse than
any farm. And we want you to manAgency for Lazarus and Morris's "Perfected Spectacles."

age to set father against her, some way or nother!" This was Sarah Jane.

"I'll do it," replied the old maid. Mr. Brown, reading his daily paper under the shade of the locust-tree by the sitting-room window, heard every word of the conversation between his sister and his children. He had never thought of marrying

the widow Smith. She seemed too "Wouldn't it be a jolly idea to get young for him and a great deal too But the new idea was very pleasant "First rate, John Henry, only we aud when Miss Jemima came out from

shouldn't want her to be livin' on us, the locust-tree to speak to him, he was "What kind of a housekeeper have "If she's as smart as she used to be, you got, brother?" she asked.

"Tip-top! Looks after everything whole farm. I like her!" "Self-convicted" thought his sister.

brother ; is it so ?" "I declare, I should like her for a wife, If she'd have me. But I never thought a breath about it before this morning. Do you s'pose she'd have

me, sister Jemima?" "No! you're old enough to be her father; and folks do say that she's engaged to a man down to the city, and she's dreadfully in debt, and hain't no better than she ought to be. And I should feel dreadfully to have you take such a critter for your second wife, even if she wasn't engaged to that other man.

You say you never had no idea of her?" "As true as I live, I never thought of marrying Mrs. Smith until your words suggested the idea. But I believe I'll think of it now," he replied.

"Oh, ! don't Remember all I have told you about her," pleaded Jemima. But you don't believe it all, do you?" "Every word of it, John!" solemnly

lied this sister. Mrs. Smith was just going into the

"Mary, come here for a moment," called Mr. Brown. She put down her basket upon the edge of the step, and came toward him.

"This is my sister, Jemima Brown, The two women shook hands, and Mr. Brown continued

"Mary"-he had never called her Mary" before-"I want you to answer me a few questions. First, are you contented to live here?"

"Yes," replied the widow. "Are you engaged to be married to

"No, sir; I am not!" was the decided

"Will you marry me?" "I will, if you want me," she answer-

knew it until my good sister here put the idea into my head. When will you become Mrs. Brown?" "As soon as you can get the certifi-

cate," she said. "Well, Mollie, give me a kiss now, and then run along and get dinner ready. We'll ride over to the village, father's second wife, if my strength held | after tea, and see about sister Jemima's idea. She will mention it to John "What could a delicate, feeble girl Henry and Sarah Jane."

The widow Smith obediently kissed Mr. Brown with as much coolness as she would have bitten the stem from the ripe pear, she held in her hand, and then went back to the kitchen.

"You'll be sorry," began Miss Jemi-"And so will you if you don't treat my second wife well," he answered, significantly.

"Your first wife was a good woman.

"I know it, and that is the very reason I want another. I'm greatly obliged to you, sister, for putting the idea into my stupid old head. I believe I'll get the papers to-night, and have the minister come down to-morrow."

And he did; and Miss Jemima, instead of coming to a funeral, came to a wedding. After the minister had gone Mrs. Brown turned to her step-children,

"It depends upon you whether we are good friends or not. Your father Barnaby River to Weldhas made me the mistress here; and of you, John Henry, I only ask kind treatment. You, Sarah Jane, must share with me the labors belonging to the household. To you, dear husband, I promise to be a loving, obedient wife." "She was cunning enough to get him to side with her," whispered Miss Jemi-

But Sarah Jane exclaimed :

"I will not work; and you shan't boss me; I'll go home with Aunt Jemima first; and I'll pack my trunks this very minit."

"You needn't do no such a thing, for won't have you lazing about my house !" replied her aunt. "Oh, Aunt Jemima!" sobbed Sarah

"And what's more," continued the old maid, "I ain't going home yet. You sent for me to come down and try to strike up a match with your father's housekeeper and him, and I've done it; and now I'm going to stay and see whether I've done the right thing or

The end of all this was, that Brown's second wife proved as good as the first one, and Sarah Jane was obliged to earn her own living.

John Henry, however, predicted well when he said that the property would be most 'awfully divided if his father married again, for when, at last, Mrs. Brown was left a widow for the second time, she had three blooming sons and a fair daughter to claim their share of the wealth of the elder Brown, their Steamers and Rail to all parts of the United States.

And eventually, John Henry, dying, left his share to those same children, who had also been made the heirs of Sraah Jane's wealth. It fell to the lot of the widow Smith to close the eves of all the Browns who were living when she went to be Brown's housekeeper, and with her children to enjoy the wealth of them all. So much for plotting against

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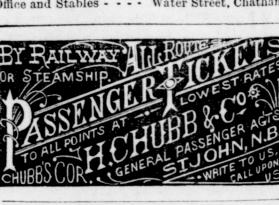
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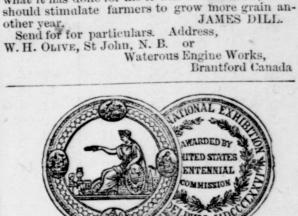
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