NEW BRUNSWICK REPORTER.

Our Story.

Husband and Wife.

(Continued.)

I'm sure I'm tired enough, at any rate, not been working all these years for a said the farmer's wife.

The ironing was soon done, the negroes the benefit of our children ? went away, singing merrily, and Mrs. Graham took the baby from Helen's arms, that you say as to that, and I want no saying, You may put the supper on the wages for what I do; but I am trying to table now, daughter, while I get him to look at the matter in a business-like way. sleep. Father, please call the boys, and You say all belongs to us alike. You all of you get ready for supper.

and from these Helen took the beautiful that I must ask you for every dollar I loaves of snowy light bread-one made of spend, and must account for the use I corn-meal, the other of flour-which were make of it ? Mr. Graham's delight. He liked this Oh, well-I never thought much about bread much better when baked this way that; I'm sure you have free access to our than when it was cooked in a stove, and pocket-book at all times. it was easy to bake it thus on ironing days when good live coals were plenty.

The two eldest boys came in from feeding the horses, and the two younger ones bound to go to you for what I need to from attending to the cows and calves, spend as if you were the master, and I and all sat down to supper ere twilight your cook; fell. The warm, fragrant loaves of bread, the rich milk and butter, fresh from the husband to carry the purse and provide churn, with the bowl of crystal honey, and a dish of baked apples, made a supper fit for the choicest palate; but the tired wife and mother could not eat. She sat at the table, where her husband and children were enjoying their repast, and leaned her weary head upon her han is. Can't you eat, Mary? asked her hus-

band. 1 do not feel like eating-but I wish I

had made a cup of coffee. I'll make it now for you, mother, cried

Helen, rising quickly. But you are tired, child; don't mind-I in !

can do very well without it. Not near so tired as you, mother, for I don't believe you have stopped a minute

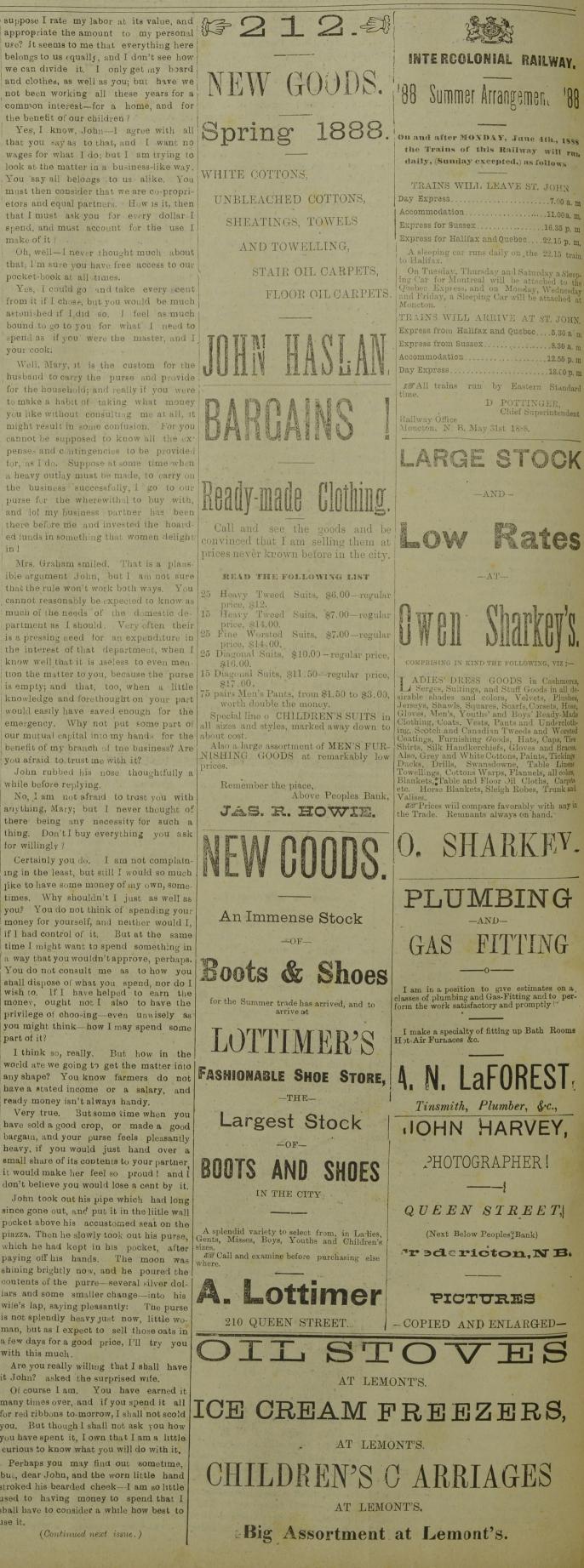
long summer day the busy house-mother had only sat down long enough to hastily partment as I should. Very often their eat a few moutbfuls of food at breakfast and dinner, to take the baby when absolutely necessary, and to ply the oldfashioned churn. First, up before dawn, cooking breakfast for her family, and the expected day laborers, who came at sun-Then milking four cows; then rise. washing dishes, making beds, sweeping floors, gathering and preparing vegetables,

fruit, etc., for dinner, setting yeast to rise, and making the bread at just the right you afraid to trust me with it? time. Then the hot afternoon's work of ironing, the churning and milking again, while before replying.

No, I am not afraid to trust you with the care of pigs and poultry, etc.,-to the end of the chapter, and all with only anything, Mary; but I never thought of Helen to help-it had been a ceaseless there being any necessity for such a strain on nerve, muscle and brain-all thing. Don't I buy everything you ask day long. She thought of it all as she sat for willingly?

on the porch to rest after supper, in the Certainly you do. I am not complaincool of the dying day. John leaned back ing in the least, but still I would so much l in his easy chair near her, with his feet on like to have some money of my own, somethe banister, and the well-beloved pipe times. Why shouldn't I just as well as you? You do not think of spending you:

My crop of oats is all right now, he said, money for yourself, and neither would I, all saved in fine weather, and it cost me if I had control of it. But at the same only a few dollars in money. Those hands time I might want to spend something in



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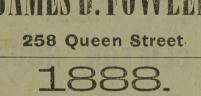
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use? It seems to me that everything here belongs to us equalls, and I don't see how we can divide it. I only get my board and clothes, as well as you; but have we

common interest-for a home, and for

Yes, I know, John-1 agree with all must then consider that we are co-propri-On the hearth stood two large ovens, etors and equal partners. How is it, then

Yes, I could go and take every cent from it if I chose, but you would be much actunished if I did so. I feel as much

Well, Mary, it is the custom for the for the household; and really if you were to make a habit of taking what money you like without consulting me at all, it might result in some confusion. For you cannot be supposed to know all the expenses and contingencies to be provided for, as I do. Suppose at some time when a heavy outlay must be made, to carry on the business successfully, I go to our purse for the wherewithal to buy with, and lo! my business partner has been there before me and invested the hoard-

Mrs. Graham smiled. That is a plaus ible argument. John, but I am not sure that the rule won't work both ways. You This was near the truth. For in that cannot reasonably be expected to know as much of the needs of the domestic de- 15 know well that it is aseless to even menis empty; and that, too, when a little knowledge and forethought on your part would easily have saved enough for the our mutual capital into my hands for the about cost. benefit of my branch of the business? Are John rubbed his nose thoughtfully a

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PHENIX SQUARE, F'TON, wages for your work? If it comes to that,

A TO HOLLOworked well to-day. But I tell you, Mary,
KNOWN MAKERS.a way that you wouldn't approve, perhaps.IMPORTED DIRECT FROM THE BEST
KNOWN MAKERS.it is the last crop I expect to cut with the
You do not consult me as to how you cradle. Next year I shall have better shall dispose of what you spend, nor do I machinery than that. I shall be able to money, ought not I also to have the buy it with this year's cotton crop.

in his mouth.

John? asked his wife. Fifty cents each-and they earned it.

And they were boarded besides. If they were to get such wages the year round, they would have-well, say a hundred and fifty dollars each, I wish I could earn that.

You? laughed John, knocking the ashes from his pipe, and what do you want with it?

Oh, I could find a use for it. And I have been thinking to night that I have worked as hard to-day, according to my strength, as any hand you had in the field; and 1 do it day after day, year in and year out. And what are my wages?

What do you mean, Mary? Have you pocket above his accustomed seat on the need, in return for your work?

that my work is worth to you?

yours as much as it is mine?

plate has oeen bought with your money a few days for a good price, I'll try you money you made by your own laborand with this much. management, while I washed, cooked, sewed, and saved for you, besides nursing it John? asked the surprised wife. your children, who are growing up to out of the question ?

I don't know, Mary, but nobody could long. But for all that, I do not understand you. Do you want me to pay you use it.

privilege of choosing-even unwisely as How much did you pay those women, you might think-how I may spend some part of it?

> I think so, really. But how in the world are we going to get the matter into have a stated income or a salary, and ready money isn't always handy.

> Very true. But some time when you have sold a good crop, or made a good bargain, and your purse feels pleasantly heavy, if you would just hand over a small share of its contents to your partner. it would make her feel so proud! and I don't believe you would lose a cent by it. John took out his pipe which had long since gone out, and put it in the liitle wall

not a good home, and everything you piazza. Then he slowly took out his purse, which he had kept in his pocket, after Yes; you give me plenty to eat and paying off his hands. The moon was

wear, and a place to stay in. Is that all shining brightly now, and he poured the contents of the purre-several silver dol-

Oh, no, Mary; but what in the world lars and some smaller change-into his are you driving at? Is not everything here wile's lap, saying pleasantly: The purse is not splendly heavy just now, little wo-No, I think not. Everything on the man, but as I expect to sell those oats in

Are you really willing that I shall have

Of course 1 am. You have earned it work for you also; and I get my board and many times over, and if you spend it all clothes. What do you suppose it would for red ribbons to-morrow, I shall not scold cost you to hire some one to do my share you. But though I shall not ask you how of the work-that is, leaving the children you have spent it, I own that I am a little

curious to know what you will do with it. Perhaps you may find out sometime, be hired to take care of these things as but, dear John, and the worn little hand you do, and I'm afraid I could not be able stroked his bearded cheek-I am so little to hire even my cooking and washing, used to having money to spend that I shall have to consider a while how best to

(Continued next issue.)