

# VENNING vs. HUNTER.

The circumstances which led to this action are all well known to our readers, and it will only be necessary for us to state that it is brought by Mr. W. N. Venning against Mr. Robert Hunter to recover for the expenses attending the maintenance of Mrs. Hunter, his daughter, during the time of her residence with him, after separating from her husband. Hon. J. H. Gray and A. R. Wetmore, Esq., appeared for Mr. Venning, and S. R. Thompson, Esq., for Mr. Hunter.

Mr. Wetmore in opening the case for the Plaintiff made a very few remarks, stating, in substance, that he would be able to prove to the jury that Mrs. Hunter had received such treatment at the hands of her husband as rendered it impossible for her to remain in his house and accordingly she had left, and having done so she had a legal right to enter into engagements for her maintenance for which her husband would be responsible. He then called Mrs. Hunter as the first witness. She was examined by Mr. Gray.

## MRS. JULIA HUNTER'S EVIDENCE.

Mrs. Julia Hunter was duly sworn, and stated as follows:—I am the daughter of the Plaintiff and always lived with him previous to my marriage. I am the wife of Robert Hunter. Was married to him in Sept. 1860. Previous to our marriage, Hunter said he wished me to go to live with his mother and sisters after our marriage, and I objected, as he said nothing about it at the time of our engagement. After our marriage we were absent from Saint John for a while. We visited a portion of the United States and Canada. On board of the boat, on our way from Toronto to Montreal—about a week after our marriage—a difficulty occurred between Mr. Hunter and myself. I asked him if he would come to the side of the boat, I would like to see the rays of light reflected on the water, from the paddle wheels. He replied that it was very silly and childish of me, one part of the boat was as good as the other, I was a married woman now and must give up this childishness and nonsense. I replied, that I thought it was a simple request and he might grant it. My husband appeared very much annoyed and I said no more. Some time after I felt cold and chilly and asked him if he would be kind enough to bring my shawl from the State Room. He went for it, and when

he returned he said he would like to have a little conversation with me. He said that I appeared annoyed at what he had said, and he wished me to understand that he was always in the habit of speaking his mind; before his mother and sisters and they didn't get annoyed, and he intended to do so now to me. He said if I got annoyed I might get pleased again the best way I could; and when I was silly and childish—as now—he intended to tell me of it. I replied I was not silly, many persons older than myself were pleased with the appearance of the water, &c. I thought it unkind in him not to comply with my request. He remarked that if he had treated me unkindly it would be a different thing. Nothing more occurred until our return to St. John. We went to reside with Mr. Hunter's mother and sisters, at his house adjoining the Institute. The sisters are named Mary and Isabella. Mary is very old. I do not know Bell's age, should judge she was four or five years older than myself. Had not been there long before I found it was no home for me. Instead of having only my husband to please, I had his mother and sisters to please, and they found fault with everything. I informed my husband of this difficulty. My husband was present at the first difficulty. Miss Hunter found fault with my dress and told me none but bad characters wore such things—she referred to a mantle I wore,—I had been out walking, and called at the store and returned home with my husband. I replied that I was not afraid of that, I liked the dress and should wear it. Afterwards, when in my room, my husband said he was surprised at my answer to his family, his sister had excellent taste about dress, and I should consult her, in future, about my dress. I looked after the house affairs, and the family constantly found fault in presence of my husband and at other times, and then he would find fault with me. There was a continual bickering caused by the interference of his family. My husband then requested me to let his mother give directions about dinner, as it would be amusement for her, and I consented but felt hurt; he said he was surprised at my neglect; I told him they might do as they liked, they found fault and I could not please them. Previous to this I was invited to Mrs. Sancton's, with my sister. I asked my husband to come after me, but did not ask him to come to tea. I did not ask him to come to tea because, on a previous occasion, he told me he had his business to attend to, and had no time to go out to tea. I went to