

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.

But the little widow 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, was about the same type, only more so.

Their greatest grief when their poor 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 Mrs. Brown it was 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 to take their dead mother's place, he willingly consented to the arrangements they made for doing the housework 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 otherwise be equally divided between himself and his sister. He commiserated 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, there's no knowing how many shares the property will be cut up into.

"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 gets into the ground!" whined Sarah Jane.

Sarah Jane, "Yes, you said you would." "You know your father's sister, Aunt Jeannina?" "Good gracious! I should think I'd ordered. She's pulled my hair and pricked my ears often enough, when I was a child, more than a couple of weeks, should we John."

"What kind of a housekeeper have you got, brother?" she asked. "Tip-top! Looks after everything just as well as though she owned the whole farm. I like her!"

"Self-convinced" thought his sister. "I have heard reports that you were going to marry the widow Smith, 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 Jeannina?"

"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 ain'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, I don't! Remember all I have told you about her," pleaded Jeannina. "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 house, with a basket of vegetables for dinner. "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, Jeannina Brown, Mrs. Smith." 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 any one?" "No, sir; I am not!" was the decided reply. "Will you marry me?"

"I will, if you want me," she answered, quietly. "I do want you, although I never knew it until my good sister here put the idea into my head. When will you become Mrs. Brown?"

Traveler's Column. D. T. JOHNSTONE. Chatham Livery Stables. Regular Coaches to trains leaving and arriving at the CHATHAM RAILWAY STATION.

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1880. TIME TABLE. 1880. International Steam Ship Company. TAKING EFFECT 1st JUNE 1880.

1880. TIME TABLE. 1880. International Steam Ship Company. FROM INTERCOLONIAL R.R. VESSELS AS UNDER.

1880. TIME TABLE. 1880. International Steam Ship Company. TO INTERCOLONIAL R.R. VESSELS AS UNDER.

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Medical. JOHN M'CURDY, M.D., PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, CHATHAM, N. B.

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