

Advertisements to reach a large class of readers by inserting their business notices in this paper. Our daily and weekly editions are double those of any other newspaper.

Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

MONDAY EVENING, MAY 4, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

Or THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH
A Tale of the Covenanters.

As he looked he observed the officer in command of the soldiers wave the other boat back, as if intimating that it must not approach till he had landed those under his charge. The smaller boat accordingly shipped its oars, and the other moved into the landing place under the rock, where Walter could no longer behold them. A portion of his exercise time being still unexpired, he turned away from the height and strolled into an inclosure behind a high wall, where the ground had been laid out as a garden.

Meanwhile the first boat had run into the landing place of the rock, and preparations were making to draw up the prisoners. One of these lay in a reclining attitude, as if oppressed by weakness. His face was excessively pale and wan with suffering, and one of his legs, his right, was swathed in bandages. Beneath these bandages was a leg all bruised and barked for other new days before its owner had undergone the torture of the boot. This barbarity he was subjected to in order to make him confess that he had made an attempt on the life of Archbishop Sharp. The torture failed to make him criminate himself, and the poor sufferer—James Mitchell by name—was condemned to imprisonment in the Bass. His companion was Mr. Fraser of Brea, a faithful minister, who for holding convalesces, had been consigned to the same prison-house.

These two having been landed and incarcerated in the cells appointed them, the boat which had brought them departed, and the other shot in towards the landing-place.

Had Walter Elliot known how closely the occupants of this latter boat were connected with his fate and fortunes he would not have wandered away towards the garden with such indifference.

He was moving about, with folded arms, under the bare branches of the cherry trees, which flourished even in that dreary place, when his eye was caught by the flutter of a lady's dress, and his curiosity being roused by so strange a sight, he turned round to gaze upon the fair object who had so unexpectedly broken in upon his meditations.

"Great heaven!" he ejaculated, and stood paralyzed.

The form before him was that of his wife—of Marion.

He doubted not that it was a vision which had presented itself before him, and the horror of his soul froze every faculty of his being. He stood with statue-like rigidity gazing fixedly at the apparition.

And yet, if it were an apparition, it was in no way ghostly, for Marion's face was glowing with fondness, joy, and lighted up with smiles of gladdest love. With a cry of happy affection she rushed towards him and threw herself upon his breast.

Her warm, thrilling caresses roused him so far from his trance; and with a startled stare he looked into her face; but the thought was still present that the sight he saw was a conjuration of his disordered mind, and his brain reeled under the imagination which rushed upon it that his reason was deserting him.

"Walter, my dear Walter," she murmured, hanging tenderly on his neck, and gazing with eyes lustrous and beaming with gentle tenderness into his.

"What is this?" he uttered, out of his great bewilderment. "It seems so vivid, so real, and yet it must be fancy. I dream that Marion is before me, that her dear face blesses my sight, and her joyful eyes beam in gladness upon mine, and the soft, sweet accents of her voice meet my ear, that her beloved form clings to me in a warm embrace. Alas! it is a cruel mockery of fancy, for the vision will vanish, and deeper misery will be left behind it."

"My love, my love, it is no vision. I am here—here with joyful tidings. You are free—free to return with me to our dear ones in Holland."

"Puddin's and painches," exclaimed in the distance a well known voice, and presently Sir Gilbert Barton burst through the doorway of the garden wall, and rushed forward, waving a paper over his head with extravagant delight.

"I've succeeded at last, Watty lad," he cried. "Sir Thomas behaved like a gentleman, and the Archbishop couldn't refuse him. See here's the warrant for yer release frae this dreary rock, and ye'll come ashore wi' us. Gie yer old friend a hug, my lad. Lord, I maun enclose ye baith at once."

And the excited Baronet threw wide his brawny arms, and clasped them round the joyous Walter and Marion, as they stood locked together.

The appearance of the Baronet broke the spell under which Walter was laid. He saw now it was no vision. Fancy might have imagined the presence of Marion, but assuredly it could not conjure up the substantiality of Sir Gilbert. nor the vigorous squeeze to which his body was being subjected. So very strong indeed was Sir Gilbert's pressure that Walter had to use his own arms to prevent Marion from being suffocated.

"I am amazed, bewildered," exclaimed the youth. "How is Marion here, and you?"

"Puddin's an' painches, didn't we come frae the shore in a wee boat?"

"Yes; but how is Marion in Scotland?"

"I came to see you, dear. When the dreadful news reached us that you had been taken and confined in the Bass, fancy might have yond conception, and I could not rest night or day. I longed to be in Scotland, to see you in your imprisonment, to share your cell if they would allow me. For weeks the storms of winter prevented the journey. I reached Leith only two days ago; and oh! how wistfully I gazed on this rock as we sailed past it! I pleaded with the captain to land me, but he said this would be no use—that I would not be admitted—and that I must procure an order from the Council to visit the island. I was making my way into the presence of the Council to make my application, when I was met by Sir Gilbert with the joyful intelligence that you were to be liberated."

"And here's the order," shouted the Baronet, flourishing the paper he held in his hands. "I have but the present it tae the Governor, and ye are free tae leave this dolefu' jail. He's busy enow wi' twa pair ministers that has been brocht tae their dungeons, but I'll see him belyve."

"They listened to you at length, did they?" said Walter, who received the news of his release with quiet composure.

"Deevil a ane o' them," replied Sir Gilbert, in a heat. "Naething that I could dae or say had any effect, but I got word that Sir Thomas Allan o' Glencourtie was hand and glove wi' the Archbishop, and tae him I resolved tae go, along wi' Helen. We had a pull on him through her, ye ken."

"And you succeeded?"

TO BE CONTINUED.

SOLDIERS MARRYING WITHOUT LEAVE—A general order has been issued at Montreal, in which it is stated that the wives of all British soldiers serving in North America, whether married with or without leave, will be allowed free passes with their husbands to England, but hereafter it is to be distinctly understood, that under no circumstances will such passages be granted beyond the extent, and under the conditions laid down in army circular, No. 8, clause 50, and that soldiers who marry without the consent of their commanding officer, will have no claims whatever upon the public.

Fish spawn is now sent safely by mail. A package of 200 trout spawn mailed from Munford, Munroe county, New York, on the 6th of March, reached Fort Saunders, Dakota, on the 13th with only six spoiled. By April 2, nearly all the eggs were hatched out and the fish doing well.

OPENING OF THE SPRING TRADE

STEWART

SPRING DRESSES,
NEWEST STYLES;
SPRING DRESSES,
BEST MATERIALS;
SPRING DRESSES,
MOST MODERATE PRICES.

STEWART

HAS JUST RECEIVED the largest and most choice stock of New Spring Goods he has ever shown, and respectfully requests attention to the great difference in price from last year, being at least **One-third Lower.**

STEWART

HAS opened a case of White Drill and Grey Stays, that fit the body and not the body stays. Highly recommended by the Faculty.

STEWART'S

CARPET STOCK is the largest west of Toronto, and being all this season's importations, the designs and colors are new.

STEWART'S

STOCK OF TAPESTRY is large and choice. Styles are new, and will be offered very low, commencing at 75 cents.

STEWART'S

NEW SILKS.
BLACK AND COLORED.

DRESS GOODS.

CHENES, CAULETS, REPS,
POPLINS, SERGES, MOHAIRS.

MANTLES.

SILK, CLOTH AND VELVET.

JACKETS.

SILK, CLOTH AND VELVET.

LACES.

COLLARETS, TIES, FALLS,
MUSLIN AND LINEN SETS.

PARASOLS.

RIBBONS, FLOWERS, &c.

HOSIERY.

SILK, SPUN AND COTTON.

GLOVES.

KIDS, SILK AND LISLE.

SMALL WARES.

BELTS, BUGLE TRIMMINGS,
BUTTONS IN VARIETY.

PRINTS.

BRILLIANTES, PIQUES,
SHIRTINGS AND SKIRTINGS

STEWART

Is now showing for the Spring Trade

NEW DAMASKS,

NEW REPS,

NEW CHINTZES,

NEW LENO CURTAINS,

NEW MUSLIN CURTAINS

NEW LACE CURTAINS.

WM. STEWART.

Guelph, April 1st, 1868. dw

SHOE TOOLS & Findings

A COMPLETE assortment of the latest patterns of Shoe Tools, Shoe and Machine Thread, Machine Silk, Shoe Pegs, Shoe Nails, Shoe Tacks, Heel and Toe Plates, &c., wholesale and retail.

RYAN & OLIVER,
114 Yonge Street, Toronto.
Toronto, 1st April, 1868. d

TO TAILORS.

AMERICAN Shears, Trimmers, and Points of all sizes, Squares, Carved Rules, Straight-edges, Improved Irons, English and American Crayons, Bartlett's Needles, Tapes, &c. All the best quality, and at lowest prices.

RYAN & OLIVER,
Importers of Hardware—114 Yonge-st. Toronto.
Toronto, 1st April, 1868. d

TO MACHINISTS.

STEEL Squares, Steel Rules, Centre Gauges, Vernier Calipers, Steel Caliper Rules, Caliper Squares, Am' Universal Squares, Self-regulating Calipers and Dividers, Stub Files and Tools, Patent Oilers, Sheet Steel, &c. For sale by

RYAN & OLIVER,
General Hardware Merchants—114 Yonge-st. Toronto, 1st April, 1868. d

Cabinetmakers & Upholsterers.

HAIR Seating, Curled Hair, Tow, Sofa Springs, Twine, Chair Web, Buttons, Screws, Hinges, Locks, Tacks, Flint Paper, Blue, Piano Stool screws Coffin Trimmings, Upholsterers' Needles and Regulators, Addie Carvers' Tools, Extension Lip Anger Bits, Melodeon Hardware, &c. For sale at lowest Prices.

RYAN & OLIVER,
General Hardware Merchants—114 Yonge Street, Toronto.
Toronto, 1st April, 1868. d-ly

FRUITS

FRESH ARRIVALS AT
No. 2,
Day's Block, . . Guelph,

Canned Peaches
Pears
Plums
Cherries
Apples, &c.

BOTTLED JAMS
Strawberry
Gooseberry
Damson
Currants, &c.

A choice lot of Stilton and Pine Apple Cheese.

E. CARROLL & CO.,

No. 2, Wyndham Street.
Guelph, April 20, 1868. daw

Toronto Advertisement

W. & D. DINEEN
BEG to inform the people of GUELPH and surrounding country that they have the Largest, Cheapest and Best Stock of

HATS, CAPS AND FURS
Ever brought into Ontario, at No. 80 Yonge Street, three doors north of King-st.,
Wholesale and Retail. TORONTO.
Toronto, 20th March, 1868. dw6t

STANDARD
Life Assurance Company
(Established 1825.)
Accumulated Fund £3,700,005 1s. 4d. 5/16

DAVIDSON & CHADWICK,
Agents at Guelph.

THE STANDARD strongly advocates the Bill now before the House under which Insurance Companies are required to make certain deposits with the Government. The STANDARD is ready and willing to make any deposit required, thus guaranteeing to the fullest extent the Policy Holders. Every information to those desirous of insuring will be given at the office of

DAVIDSON & CHADWICK,
Town Hall Buildings.
Guelph, 18th April, 1868. dw

INSOLVENT
Stock of Groceries,
FOR SALE.

THE Undersigned is prepared to receive up to **Tuesday Next, 5th May**, offers of so much in the dollar for the stock of GEORGE WILKINSON, an Insolvent, consisting of

GROCERIES, LIQUORS,
—AND—
SHOP FURNITURE
As per Stock Book, now ready for inspection at the office of Messrs. JAMES, MASSIE & CO., Guelph.

J. J. FOSTER,
Assignee.
Guelph, April 30th, 1867.

W. H. JACOMB

HOUSE AND SIGN
PAINTER,

Paper Hanger,
Glazier, &c.

Shop on QUEBEC STREET, near Mr. Howard's Store and Tin Depot

All orders from the Town and Country will receive prompt attention.
Guelph, April 23, 1868. daw m

FOR SALE.
SODA ASH—"Gambles,"
CAUSTIC SODA—"Gambles," "Widnes," "Alkali Comp'y," "Garrett's,"
SAL. SODA,
CHLORIDE OF LIME,
PALM OIL.

W. T. BENSON,
37 St. Peter Street, Montreal.
Montreal, 1st April, 1868. dw-5m

GALLERY OF ART.
R. W. LAIRD,
Looking Glass and Picture Frame

MANUFACTURER,
79 King-st. West,
TORONTO.

The Trade supplied with Washable Gilt and Imitation Rosewood Mouldings and Looking Glass Plate. Country orders promptly attended to.
Toronto 1st April 1868. dwly.

NEW Advertisements. ALE AND CIDER!

JUST RECEIVED

AT H. WALKER'S,

100 Doz. Magnificent Sparkling
CANADIAN ALE!

in Prime Order, at \$1.50 per dozen. Also,

Penner's Champagne Cider,

in Pints and Quarts at \$2.00 and \$3.00 per dozen.

HUGH WALKER,
Wholesale and Retail Fruit dealer Wyndham-St., Guelph.
Guelph April 28, 1868. daw y

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

GRAND OPENING OF SHOW ROOM

AT THE
BRADFORD HOUSE

PHILIP BISH,

WILL SHOW ON
FRIDAY, the 24th of APRIL, 1868,

Some of the Greatest Novelties in

MANTLES & MILLINERY

Ever exhibited in Guelph, which for extent and quality is no surpassed in the Province.

Ladies should Call at once and Examine the Pattern Bonnets and Mantles.

The above Department is superintended by a first-class artist. Ladies can rely on having every attention by calling at the BRADFORD HOUSE, Guelph.

BRITANNIA HOUSE

WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.

ANOTHER CHEAP LOT OF GREY AND WHITE COTTONS!

500 PIECES NEW
Canadian Tweeds, very Cheap

HEFFERNAN BROS.
JUST ARRIVED AT
Guelph, 28th April, 1868. daw tf

No. 1, Wyndham Street, Guelph.

JAMES CORMACK,

TAILOR AND CLOTHIER,
HAS NOW RECEIVED at his New Store, next to John Horsman's, in Mr. Hogg's New Block, one of the Largest, Cheapest and Best assorted Stock of

CLOTHS AND CLOTHING GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS, &c.,

EVER OFFERED IN GUELPH.
Large Display of Hats & Caps
English, French and American Styles.

And the Newest received Monthly.
JAMES CORMACK,
Guelph, 15th April, 1868. dw Wyndham-st., Guelph

Try those Splendid New Figs AT THIRTY CENTS PER BOX. Oranges and Lemons!

Walnuts, Filberts, Almonds, Chocolate Creams, Gumdrops and every other Nicety.
Well, but where is all this to be got? Why, where would you expect to get them first-class but at
Guelph, 27th March, 1868. dw H. BERRY'S.

Savings Bank.

THE CANADIAN
BANK OF COMMERCE
OPEN a Savings Bank Department at their Branch in Guelph this day.

The rate of interest allowed on all deposits will be four per cent. per annum, to commence from day of deposit, and five per cent. on all sums remaining in the Bank six months from 3rd of June or 31st of December.

The terms in other respects have been made as favorable as possible to depositors.

Further information will be given upon application at the office of the Bank in Guelph.

For all deposits made in this Savings Bank, the Canadian Bank of Commerce is fully responsible.

R. J. DALLAS, Cashier.
Guelph, 1st April, 1868. dw-tf

NEW BLACKSMITH SHOP

THE subscriber begs to inform the people of Guelph and surrounding country that he has leased and fitted up the Blacksmith Shop, being that old and well known stand on Cardigan Street, near Goldie's, formerly known as the People's Mills, where he intends to carry on the Blacksmith business in all its branches.

HOSE SHOEING.—Particular attention paid to Horse Shoeing. As the subscriber intends to keep none but a first-class horse-shoer, the public can rely on getting all work in that line done in a satisfactory manner.

IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.—The subscriber begs to intimate to farmers that he is now manufacturing, and has for sale first-class Steel Mould Board Ploughs, (Gray's pattern.) Ploughs of other patterns made to order. Wagons and all kinds of Farm Implements made to order and repaired on the most reasonable terms.

WOOD WORK.—A first-class wood worker kept in connection with the shop. The subscriber having had long experience in the above business, hopes by strict attention to the wants of his customers to merit a share of public patronage.

Don't forget the Stand, near Goldie's Mills.
Guelph, 24th April, 1868. CALEB CHASE. dw-5m

TORONTO SAFE WORKS.

J. & J. TAYLOR'S
PATENT FIRE PROOF SAFES,
Fire & Burglar Proof
COMBINED.

The only real security against
FIRE AND BURGLARS!

Remember the best is the cheapest. We also manufacture every description of Fire and Burglar Proof Securities, such as Vault Doors, Locks, &c., &c.

Please send for a Price List.

J. & J. TAYLOR,
Manufacturers, 198 & 200 Palace-St., Toronto.
Toronto, April 11, 1868. daw tf

INDIA AND CHINA TEA COMPANY

A LARGE SUPPLY
OF THIS
CELEBRATED TEA
FOR FAMILY USE.

Just received at the
MEDICAL HALL.
N. HIGINBOTHAM,
Sole Agent for Guelph.
Guelph, 19th March, 1868. dw

NEW Oyster Rooms

VALENTINE WALD
BEGS to announce to the public that he has fitted up Oyster Rooms in connection with his Hotel, on MACDONNELL STREET.

The very best of Oysters always on hand, and served up in all styles at short notice.

TON and JERRY, and all kinds of Fancy Drinks prepared in the most approved manner.
Guelph, 27th December, 1867. dwfm

R. GALBRAITH TAILOR, ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE, GUELPH,

In rear of the English Church,
BEGS to inform the inhabitants of Guelph and vicinity that he has rented the premises lately occupied by Mr. Jeannerey, Watchmaker, where

Parties Furnishing their Own Goods
Will always find him on hand ready to attend to their orders. All work carefully executed and on reasonable terms.

Garments Altered, Repaired and Cut with neatness and Dispatch.
Guelph, April 8, 1868. dtf wim

AGENTS WANTED!

FIVE good men wanted in every Township, to sell on salary, CLARK'S PATENT SASH LOCKS and CAN OPENERS. Address, enclosing \$1 for samples and terms. If Agents cannot sell, return samples and get your money back.

A. KENNEDY & CO., Box 900, Chicago, Ill
Guelph, 9th April, 1868. d6w

ALBION HOTEL!

St. Paul-st., MONTREAL.
MR. DECKER would say that having resumed the management of the Albion, he hopes by personal attention to merit a continuance of the patronage so liberally bestowed upon him during the last 12 years.

Montreal, 30th March, 1868. L. W. DECKER. d

W. B. COWAN, M. D.

HOMOEOPATHIC Physician, Surgeon and Acupuncturist. Graduate of New York Homeopathic College, and Licentiate of Canada. Office over Mr. Massie's new store—entrance Madison Street.
Guelph, 27th Jan. 1868. dw