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Guelph Evening Mercury
OFFICE.....MACDONNELL STREET.
SATURDAY EVEN'G, JAN'Y 11, 1868.

POETRY.

O, Why should the Spirit of Mortals be Proud?
The following beautiful poem appeared in the Mercury of 11th May, 1865, but at the solicitation of a number of our readers we re-publish it. It is said to have been a special favorite with the late President Lincoln, and the N. Y. Tribune attributes the authorship to a young Scotchman named Knox.

O, why should the spirit of mortals be proud? Like a writhing snake in a hot frying-pan— A flash of the lightning to his rest in the grave He passeth from life to his rest in the grave.

The leaves of the oak and the willow shall fade, De scattered around; and together be laid; As the young and the old, and the low and the high, Shall crumble to dust and together shall lie.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.
Now, Jackson, remember your instructions," said Charlie, in the grave passionate tone of a commanding officer, but his flaming face and eyes told of the enjoyment of inward triumph. "You, with these four men, are quartered here for the present, and your duty is to keep a watchful guard over Mr. Elliot. Wherever he goes within the house one of the men must follow him. Should he attempt to leave it stop him. If he becomes violent, bind him; but do not allow him to escape, as you shall answer it."

Miss Gordon, added Charlie, addressing himself to Marion, "my duty constrains me to carry you along with us."
"For what purpose?" exclaimed Walter, as he suddenly placed himself in front of Marion. "Stand aside, sir," thundered Allan, "if you dare to interfere with me in the discharge of my duty, I will order you to be laid in irons."

"I will interfere to prevent the outrage you meditate," said Walter, resolutely. You well know that you have no right to seize her under any pretence of duty."
"Of that, I, not you, must be the judge," retorted Charlie. "I am prepared to answer to my superiors for what I do, but not to a disqualified person such as the Laird of Birkenleuch is; so stand aside, or I will not stand aside," cried Walter, seizing a heavy oak chair, and standing with it in a determined attitude. "I will defend this lady with my life; I am her lawful protector, and not even a King's officer dare hamstring her."

"Mr. Gordon does not seem, at any rate, to be indebted to you for the vindication of her character. Methinks I am doing her a service in rescuing her from the equivocal situation in which a residence with Mr. Walter Elliot places her."
"These words were accompanied with a meaning smile, which he intended Walter to understand, and which he did understand, but was little moved thereby, as Charlie confidently expected he would. On the contrary, it elicited from Walter a momentary glance of triumph as he calmly replied—

warm you, stand aside and adopt a reasonable demand or I shall order you into confinement."
"By the law of Scotland," cried Walter, addressing the troopers as much as their officers. "By the law of Scotland the mutual acknowledgement which you have heard us make, is sufficient to constitute a legal marriage. But independent of that I again declare that this lady and I were regularly and lawfully united."

"When, where?" roared Charlie. "Last night, in this very room."
"How and who was the witness?" "That question I decline to answer."
"The witnesses," repeated Charlie with rapid vehemence. "Andrew Weir and his wife Marjory," was the answer.

"The Captain wheeled round towards the door, where those just named stood by the side of the soldiers."
"You fellows, is this true, he thought." "Perfectly true," replied Andrew, with provoking composure. "Your master and this lady were married last night?" "Did they?" "By whom?"

"Aha! that's another man's matter," "Speak sirrah. Tell me at once—or Or what?" demanded Andrew stoutly. "I'll make you answer."
"Will you be a cleverer man than I take you for if ye dae that?" "You—old dame, did you see this marriage celebrated?"

This question was addressed to Marjory who showed no sign of having heard it. "Are you deaf?" he yelled stamping towards her. "What's your will?" asked Marjory, with the same provoking *song*. "Did I see you here?" "Deed did I, but if ye meant it for me ye sud ha'e named me right. I'm ca'd Marjory."

"Harkee, old jade, if you would escape the ducking-pond, keep a bridle on your tongue."
"Captain Allan," said Walter, "this insolence and violence must be accounted for. Things have come to a pretty pass if a country gentleman is to have his house invaded and himself and servants treated as we are here to-day. It will be very strange if your superiors countenance your violent and intemperate conduct. Enough for you that we are married."

"And by the outlawed traitor Hugh McKill," hissed Allan white with rage, "it needs not that any of your minions should tell me. It could not be, but he, and this is proof that you have sheltered him. My duty now is to take you both prisoners, and carry you before Sir James Turner. Jackson bring them along."
"And having given this order with a vehemence which brought the foam from his mouth, he rushed from the chamber, and along the passage, with impetuous strides towards the courtyard."

Then he mounted his horse in hot haste, and bidding those of his men who still kept their station without, join the escort of the prisoners, he put his spur into his horse's side, and dashed away under the trees into the high road.
"Curse him, he has baffled me after all," he hoarsely muttered. "I securely counted on making her mine, and triumphing in his defeat. But his is the triumph, mine the mortification. But may the fiend take me if I am not yet amply avenged. The chance will come through his Whiggery. That has brought him into a scrape already, and worse will follow. I have but to watch him closely, and crush him when the opportunity offers, and this I can do and serve my own interests at the same time, for I can easily have it set down for zeal to the elements. Oh, to have him convicted!"

Turned up—Escape from Starvation in the Wilderness.
The London *Prototype* tells the following tale—Some anxiety was expressed in this city and Toronto a few days ago for the safety of Edward Perry, it being feared that he had either been starved to death on an island in Lake Superior, or drowned while attempting to escape through the ice to the north shore. Mr. Perry has been engaged during the summer and fall in the white and lake trout fishery on some islands near the north shore, and for this purpose he purchased an extensive limit from the government, carrying on the fishery with the assistance of a number of Indians, and forwarding the products to the Chicago markets. He was also superintendent of the lighthouses erected along the coast, and when the season came to a close, proceeded with his men to one of them, with the intention of signalling the steamer *Algona* while on her way down the lake from Port William to Sicte Ste Marie and Collingwood. The weather was then rather cold; winter in that comparative high latitude having set in as here, at an unusually early period. The Indians and the lighthouse-keeper, in view of the large sheets of ice which had already formed, became alarmed, and refusing to remain by Mr. Perry until the 6th December, the period up to which the lights had to be kept up, in accordance with the contract with government, the Indians put off in a boat to the *Algona*, which then proceeded down on her last trip for the season. Mr. Perry was then left alone, and as he only had provisions for a week by him in the lighthouse, much anxiety was naturally felt for his safety. An expedition was consequently fitted out for Sault Ste. Marie for the purpose of taking him off, but when it arrived at the island he had disappeared, and no trace of him could be discovered. It therefore had to return without any clue to the object of its search, but it is very probable that an Indian who formed part of the expedition and who struck off in another direction, was more fortunate, for a telegram was received yesterday stating that Mr. Perry had arrived within fifteen miles of a Hudson Bay Company's post—which was not stated. He has then escaped a fearful fate, and deserves credit for the pluck with which he stood by the lighthouse and failed a contract—the result of which might have caused a great disaster. Persons aware of the iron-bound, desolate condition of the wilderness through which he had to pass in his way to food and shelter, will be in a position

TO BE CONTINUED.

COMMERCIAL.

Guelph Markets. Market Office, Guelph, January 11, 1868. Flour, per 100 lbs. 77 1/2. Spring Wheat, 1 5/8. Oats, 1 1/4. Barley, 1 1/4. Hay, per ton 9 00. Straw, 1 1/2. Potatoes, 1 1/2. Apples per bushel, 1 1/2. Butter, 1 1/2. Eggs, 1 1/2. Doves, 1 1/2. Chickens, 2 1/2. Ducks, 2 1/2. Geese, 3 1/2. Lamb, 4 1/2. Hides, per 100 lbs. 60 00.

Money Market. JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE, Guelph, January 11, 1868. Gold, 135. Greenbacks, 77 to 77 1/2. Silver, 48 to 50. Canadian Bank Bills, 90 to 90 1/2.

MONTREAL MARKETS. Kirkwood, Livingston & Co's report by Special Telegram to 'Evening Mercury', Montreal, January 11, 1868.

Flour—Fancy, \$7 50 to \$7 75. Superior No. 1, \$7 00 to \$7 25. Welland Canal, \$7 55. Bag Flour, \$3 50 to \$3 70. Oats \$2 40 to \$2 45. Barley \$2 40 to \$2 45. Butter—dry, 16c to 16 1/2c. Store packed 14c to 15c. Ashes—Foss \$3 40 to \$3 45, penals \$3 40 to \$3 45.

Flour, limited receipts, market stagnant, holders disposed to hold off. Grain no sales noted, quotations nominal. Provisions generally unchanged; Pork quiet; hogs unactive; Butter, good alone wanted.

TROTTER & GRAHAM, DENTISTS. GUELPH and BRAMPTON. Members of the Dental Association of the Province of Ontario.

Over Mr. Higinbotham's Drug Store. REFERENCES—Rev. Archdeacon Palmer, Drs. Clark, Parker and Reed, Guelph; J. P. Scott, Esq., County Judge; George Green, County Attorney; Dr. Pattullo, M. D. C.; Rev. Mr. Arnold—Brampton; Dr. Barnhart, Warden of Peel; Dr. Hanson, resident Surgeon Toronto Hospital. The new anæsthetic agents used for extracting teeth without pain.

STEPHEN BOULT, ARCHITECT AND BUILDER, Office, Woolwich Street, nearly opposite Douglas Street.

Plans, Specifications & Estimates, Supplied, and work superintended in all its branches. STEPHEN BOULT having succeeded to the old established Lumber Yard of Thos McCrae, Esq., begs a continuation of public patronage. All kinds of Lumber on hand—Prompt attention to all orders.

THOS. HOBSON & Co., Produce Commission Merchants, 48 and 48 1/2 PAUL STREET, MONTREAL.

D. KRIBS' HONEY SYRUP For the various affections of the LUNGS & THROAT. Such as Colds, Coughs, Hoarseness, Bronchitis, Asthma, Influenza, Consumption, &c.

Funerals, Funerals! NATHAN TOVELL has to intimate that he is prepared to attend funerals as usual Coffin always on hand. Hear to hire His Steam Planing Mill in constant operation. All kinds of Lumber, shingles, doors, blinds, mouldings, &c. He solicits a share of public patronage.

Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies. CHURCH-ST. GUELPH.

THE GROCERY & WINE TRADE.

A. HOWIE & CO. HAMILTON. Watches, Chains, Rings, Jewel Cases, and all kinds of Jewelry. Also, Door Plates & Carriage Trimmings.

Excellent Farm For Sale in Eramosa. One Hundred Acres!

Two Storey Stone House containing nine rooms, pantry, and cellar the whole size of house.

BOOTS & SHOES At Wholesale Prices.

Kingston Penitentiary Men's Coarse Boots!

FURS, FURS. We have opened our stock of FURS, four own manufacture, which we will sell at LOW PRICES, viz:

The Highest Price paid for Raw Furs. \$20. STAR \$100. SHUTTLE SEWING MACHINE. Patented May, 1867.

THE Star Shuttle Sewing Machine makes a stitch alike to both sides of material sewed, which will not rip or ravel.

FAMILY KNITTING MACHINE. Manufactured by the Lamb Knitting Machine Manufacturing Company.

CHICOPEE FALLS, N. Y. It is the best Family Knitting Machine extant.

CORWOOD for SALE IN GUELPH. GOOD, cheap Corwood for sale at BROWN'S WOOD YARD.

Agents Wanted. Sole Agent for Wellington and Waterloo Counties, Agent for the BARCLAY'S SEWING MACHINE, manufactured in Paris, Ontario.

THE LIFE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS BY FRANK H. ALFRIEND, of Richmond, Va., formerly Editor of the "Southern Literary Messenger," and well known both during and after the war, from his connection with the Richmond press.

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