

**THE SPRING TRADE.**  
Advertisers will reach a large class of readers by inserting their business announcements in this paper. Our daily and weekly editions are double those of our contemporaries.

**Guelph Evening Mercury**  
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.  
THURSDAY EV'G, APRIL 30, 1868.

**The Maiden's Choice**  
OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENCLUECH  
A Tale of the Covenanters.

The spot among the Ochils which he had thus chosen as the scene of his solitary existence was a rocky crag, and the little vale or haugh was in singular contrast to the sterile surfaces around it, for while all else was bare and desolate it was covered by a fertile soil which sent up an annual crop of luxuriant grass, and thereby gave sign that under cultivation it would produce abundant crops.

But being small in extent, and placed in the bosom of an extensive tract of bare moorland, no one had hitherto found it worth while to till this small portion of generous soil, which was further neglected on account of its character—it being regarded by the people in the district as a special haunt of the fairies, who would do harm to any one intruding on their domain.

Richard Wayland, annoyed by no such fears, saw in the haugh a piece of ground the tilling of which would yield him subsistence, and, having taken up his residence, he obtained a cow and two goats, and raised a fence round a portion in front of his cave to serve as a garden.

For many months he had dwelt thus as a recluse, secretly feared by the people near, who, as was to be expected, invested him with supernatural qualities, and did not care to come much in contact with him. Richard designed, fostered this superstitious belief, for thereby he would have less chance of being molested.

For months, we say, he had lived in his solitude, keeping green and tender, by sad, silent meditation, the deep wound of his heart, and looking forward to no life more active or useful. Different thoughts might have come upon him when time had done its usual work of easing the smart; and when he was less bowed down by his crushing sorrow the springs of his youth might have risen up to protest against the idle, useless, and joyless existence he was leading, but yet he was wrapt up in his mantle of sorrow, and was a prey to those bitter hopeless feelings which had prompted him to leave the society of his fellows and become a recluse.

But how completely was all changed now! The snow-storm which had been made the providential means of leading Helen and the Baronet to his retreat, had, as it were, obliterated for ever the grief and gloom of his heart, and dispelled the desire to live in solitude. Had some power now condemned him to remain a hermit he would like Cain, have felt it a punishment greater than he could bear. Love and hope were restored to him, and in greater measure than before he had lost them. An honorable birth, a high station were now his, and he had bid a glad farewell to the desiring gloom in which he had been enshrouded. The dense cloud which had seemed so impenetrable had vanished from his life, and the prospect had become brighter and fairer than ever.

The imprisonment in the cavern was for all three an imprisonment singularly endurable. We have all heard of love in a cottage, but here was love in a cave, and lasting as long as all day long. The presence of a third party in the person of the Baronet was not felt by Richard and Helen as a great interruption to their felicity, for Sir Gilbert could enter so warmly and heartily into their feelings that he often helped rather than hindered their outflow. At times, too, he would retire for hours together into the adjoining compartment, under pretence of going to the comfort of Fatio, and on these occasions the lovers were left together, to drink delicious draughts of their brimming cup of love.

It was altogether a sweet, romantic incarceration, and had it been wholly without alloy they would have cared little for the protracted character of the snow storm. But the sad, painful image of Walter Elliot pining in captivity of a very different kind constantly intruded itself, and made them reproach themselves for being so happy while he was suffering so severely for their sakes.

Another subject of anxiety to Sir Gilbert and Helen was the suspicion attaching to Richard of being the murderer of Jabez Cringan. Circumstances were strongly against him, and unfortunately he had no means of proving his innocence. That innocence tempted him to laugh at the matter himself, and to treat it with riser indifference, but Sir Gilbert—knowing well the vindictive character of Charlie Allan, and suspecting strongly that in addition to malicious motives he had a personal and private motive to make him answerable for the crime—had great uneasiness in his contemplation, and looked forward with considerable anxiety to the time when the youth would again openly appear at Brankswood.

"I haven't the shadow of a doubt that Allan himself is concerned in the miser's murder," observed Richard on one occasion, when the oft-considered subject came up in conversation. "I'm as sure o' it as if I had seen the deed done," returned Sir Gilbert. "But that will make him a' the mair eager ta saddle it on you."

"He can't succeed," cried the youth. There is no positive evidence against me. "Nothing but circumstantial evidence, and that has hanged a man afore now, Richie."

"Oh, Sir Gilbert, this is dreadful to think of!" exclaimed Helen, in dismay. Richard laughed at the fears of both, and would not believe that justice was so blind as to punish the innocent for the guilty.

**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 Drab 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.**

**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.

**TO TAILORS.**  
AMERICAN Shears, Trimmers, and Points of all sizes, Squares, Carved Rules, Straight-edges, Improved Irons, English and American Crayons, Barbers' Needles, Tapes, &c. All the best quality, and at lowest prices.  
RYAN & OLIVER,  
Importers of Hardware—114 Yonge-st. Toronto.  
Toronto, 1st April, 1868.

**TO MACHINISTS.**  
STEEL Squares, Steel Rules, Centre Gauges, Vernier Calipers, Steel Caliper Rules, Calliper Squares, Ames' Universal Squares, Self-regulating Calipers and Dividers, Stubs Files and Tools, Patent Oilers, Sheet Steel, &c. For sale by  
RYAN & OLIVER,  
General Hardware Merchants—114 Yonge-st. Toronto, 1st April, 1868.

**Cabinetmakers & Upholsterers.**  
HAIR Seating, Curled Hair, Tow, Sofa Springs, Twine, Chair Web, Buttons, Hinges, Locks, Tacks, Flint Paper, Glue, Piano-Stool screws, Coffin Trimmings, Upholsterers' Needles and Regulators, Adair's Carvers' Tools, Extension Lip Auger Bits, Melodeon Hardware, &c. For sale at lowest prices.  
RYAN & OLIVER,  
General Hardware Merchants—114 Yonge Street, Toronto, 1st April, 1868.

**CASTLE GARDEN SALOON**  
MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH, ONT.  
THE Subscriber begs to inform the public that he has leased the above premises for a term of years, and has refitted it in a very superior and substantial manner, and hopes to share a portion of the patronage of the public.

**THE BAR**  
will be supplied with the best Wines, Liquors & Cigars  
And the table with all the delicacies of the season. In fact no expense will be spared to make it a first-class establishment.

**LUNCHEON!**  
Every day from 1 to 5 o'clock.  
**OYSTERS AND GAME,**  
Etc. Dinner and Supper parties provided short notice, at reasonable charges.  
JOHN MILLER, Proprietor.  
Late of the Commercial Hotel, Whittby.  
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.  
Guelph, Jan. 29, 1868.

**FOR SALE.**  
SODA ASH—"Gambell's."  
CAUSTIC SODA—"Gambell's," "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.

1868. NEW GOODS. 1868  
**Mrs HUNTER**  
HAS pleasure in calling the attention of the ladies of Guelph and vicinity to her extensive and well selected stock of  
**BERLIN AND FANCY WOOLS**  
Slippers and Slipper Patterns, Crochet, Knitting and Mending Cottons, Corsets, Braids, Frillings, Edgings, Sewing, Purse, and Embroidering Silk, Floss, Filocelle, Belt and Bonnet Ribbons, Dress Buttons, Toilet Sets, and

**GENERAL FANCY GOODS**  
Juvenile Clothing, Infants' Robes, &c.  
**STRAW MILLINERY!**  
Bonnets and Hats cleaned, dyed and re-made in the newest styles. Hair Hats and Bonnets renewed.  
STAMPING from the newest designs.  
Remember the Stand—Wyndham Street, next door to Harvey's Drug Store, and opposite the English Church.  
Guelph, 1st April, 1868.

**OPPOSITION LINE**  
TO CALIFORNIA  
via Panama, carrying United States mails, and also via Nicaragua.  
North American Steamship Comp'y  
will dispatch one of their Fast and Elegant Steamships from NEW YORK.  
Every Ten Days.  
Rates for First, Second and Third Cabin VERY LOW.  
For Special Berths, Tickets, &c. apply  
J. W. MURTON,  
General Passenger Agent.

**DOMINION SALOON,**  
(LATE GRAND'S SHADES SALOON,  
OPPOSITE THE MARKET,  
GUELPH.  
CHOICE LIQUORS, Cigars, Oysters, &c., &c. Always on hand. Meals furnished at all Hours.  
DENIS BUNYAN,  
Guelph, December 2, 1867.

**Dissolution of Co-Partnership.**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, as general merchants, was dissolved by mutual consent on the 23rd day of March, 1868. All debts owing to the said Partnership are to be paid to Alex. McIntyre, at Clifford; and all claims against the said Partnership are to be presented to George McDonald, of Clifford; by whom the same will be settled.  
Witness: GEORGE McDONALD,  
D. MCINTYRE, ALEX. MACINTYRE.  
Clifford, April 8.

**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.

**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.

**JACKSON & HALLETT**  
(SUCCESSORS TO JOHN L. LEWIS,  
No. 7, Wyndham-st., GUELPH.)  
The Subscribers having purchased from JOHN L. LEWIS the whole of his extensive  
**GROCERY AND LIQUOR BUSINESS!**  
ARE PREPARED TO CARRY IT ON IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.  
Having made the purchase on the most favorable terms for cash, they are enabled to offer SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS, and complete with any house in the trade. Will pay particular attention to Country Trade, and will continue to do so, to any extent.  
**CASE FOR PRODUCE**  
Their Stock of Liquors will be found heavy, well selected and assorted.  
The Subscribers feel confident that, with Mr. JACKSON'S ten years' experience in the trade of Guelph, at the establishments of both Messrs. Rutherford and Lewis, they will give entire satisfaction to all who may favor them with their support.  
**DANIEL JACKSON.**  
Guelph, 28th April, 1868.

**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 not 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.  
**PHILIP BISH.**  
Bradford House, Wyndham Street, Guelph, April 23, 1868.

**GREAT ATTRACTION.**  
THE GREATEST ATTRACTION OF THE SEASON IS THE DISPLAY OF  
**NEW HATS & CAPS**  
AT  
**THE GUELPH CLOTH HALL**  
A. THOMSON & CO.

**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.

**NOT RUN AWAY YET.**  
THE Subscriber begs to inform his old friends and the Public that through several noted characters have lately been constrained to leave Guelph for the sake of their health, he is still hale and hearty, and hangs out his shingle at the old spot,  
**CORK STREET,**  
OPPOSITE  
**DEADY'S HOTEL,**  
Where he is prepared as formerly to make up CLOTHING of every description at short notice and in a superior style.  
**To Farmers!**  
Having had 36 years experience, and devoting all his time to the business, he can make up  
**Home-made CLOTH!**  
And trim it CHEAPER than can be done at any other Establishment in Town.  
**All Work carefully finished, and at Moderate Rates.**  
WM. MITCHELL,  
Guelph, Feb. 21, 1868.

**R. J. JEANNERET.**  
From England,  
(Established in London, Ont., 1842, and in Guelph 1868.)  
**WORKING WATCHMAKER**  
AND JEWELER,  
**DAYS BLOCK,**  
Opposite the Market, Guelph.  
FOR sale cheap, best quality of English and other Fine Gold Wedding Rings, also a fine assortment of Ladies' English Dress Rings, &c. Guelph, 8th April, 1868.

**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. Jeanneret, 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 Despatch.**  
Guelph, April 8, 1868.

**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.  
**HORSE SHOING.**—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. Waggon 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.  
CALEB CHASE.  
Guelph, 24th April, 1868.

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

**Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies.**  
**CHURCH-ST. GUELPH**  
MISS WIGHTMAN begs to announce that her school will re-open (D. V.) on the 20th of April. Vacancies for two or three boarders.  
Guelph, 6th April 1868.

**AGENTS WANTED!**  
FINE 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 960, Chicago, Ill  
Guelph, 9th April, 1868.

**POTATOES!**  
Potatoes of all Kinds  
Wholesale and Retail,  
**AT WEBSTER'S**  
Grain and Flour Store,  
West Market Square, Guelph.