

RETAILING FROM BUSINESS!

TREMENDOUS CLEARING SALE OF THE LARGE STOCK OF DRY GOODS, MILLINERY, READY-MADE CLOTHING, &C., BELONGING TO HOGG & CHANCE, GUELPH.

The Co-partnership Dissolved! Mr. HOGG retires from the Business!

The Stock to be Cleared Off at Cost Prices, commencing on Monday, the 9th of December.

GREAT BARGAINS! Families ought to take advantage of this rare opportunity of laying in their Winter supplies at once, as this Stock is very large and complete in every Department. **Actual Cost Prices** will be asked for all the Goods, and no second price or bantering. Store will be open at 9 o'clock in the morning, and close at 6 o'clock in the evening during the sale. All Goods will be sold for **Cash only**.

Guelph, 30th November, 1867.

dw-1m

HOGG & CHANCE.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers wishing to take the *Evening Mercury* by the week, or for a longer period, will please leave their names at the office, and it will be regularly delivered at their residences. Subscribers whose papers are not regularly left by the Carrier Boys, will please call at the office at once and inform us of the neglect.

Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

WEDNESDAY EV'G. DECEMBER 18.

OVER THE SNOW.

A Christmas Story.

The effort of singing seemed to exhaust the sufferer's strength, and soon, still faintly murmuring that and refrain, she sank into a heavy slumber. Her mother took advantage of the opportunity to disengage the child from her arms, and to give it some milk, which it swallowed eagerly. This done, the parents continued their quiet watch. The night waned, and the grey light of daybreak stole in at the windows; their daughter still sleeping on, so calmly and peacefully that they would have fain hoped that the worst was over, and that the dawn of renewed life might come with her waking. But one glance at the sufferer's face forbade them to cherish the sweet delusion. The bright look of youth had faded away from it, and tears had washed away its spring bloom; but in this last hour the graces of form and colour were replaced by another and higher beauty—a beauty so spiritual, so unearthly, it seemed as though the robe of clay had fallen off, and the soul alone lay sleeping there, biding the summons to spread its wings and fly to Heaven.

At last, when the sun was high in the heavens, shedding its morning glory far and wide over the crisp white snow, the sleeper awoke. The fire of delirium had given place to the calm light of reason in her eyes, and she gazed around with an inquiring look.

"Have I been ill, mother dear?" she said, faintly.

"Yes, darling; very ill."

"I don't remember falling ill," said the dying girl; "everything seems gone from me."

"A tiny cry from baby lips supplied the missing link. The white forehead crimsoned, and the blue eye flushed with tears of grief and shame. 'Remember now. Oh, mother, can you ever forgive me?'"

"A loving kiss was the mother's only answer. But it said enough."

"And father, does he know? Will he forgive me too?"

David Holt rose and stood by his daughter's bedside, looking down upon her with ineffable love and tenderness. The old love for his only child, repressed so long, now swept away all barriers; pride, self-will, resentment, all were forgotten in the deep emotion of that bitter hour.

"My darling, may God forgive me as freely as I have forgiven you all that I have to forgive!"

"If you and mother forgive me, I can feel almost happy again. Oh how nice it is to be at home! But how did I come here? Who brought me?"

The father and mother interchanged glances. "We found you on the moor last night, Ally, and brought you home."

"Last night? Last night? I don't remember. It's all gone from me. I seem mazed like; and oh, so weak! Mother dear, am I dying?"

The old woman tried to speak, but grief choked her. David answered for her, himself little less moved. "My child, life and death are in the Lord's hands. His will be done."

"Nay, David," said his wife, with an effort, "don't give the child to despair now. Ally dear, we fear—indeed, we know that—that—The mother's voice broke down, but her choking sobs told all the rest."

There was the faintest quiver of the drooping eyelids, and a single tear rolled over the wasted cheek.

"Are you afraid to die, Ally?" said her father.

"No, father dear, I don't think I'm afraid; I've longed for death many and many a time lately, and prayed to be ready to meet it; and now it has come, I don't fear much."

"But it's hard to leave you and mother so soon after I have got you back, and my poor little baby. May I have him now, please mother? It won't be very long, I think."

There was such a strange feeling of numbness coming over me."

The babe was placed in her arms, and she kissed and fondled it with passionate tenderness. "Oh, my baby! my baby! it's very very hard to leave my little wee baby all alone!"

"Not alone, darling, not alone," sobbed her mother.

"No, not alone," said the dying girl smiling through her tears; "not quite alone, after all. Mother dear, I give him to you, the last gift of your poor wayward Ally."

"My darling, I take him, not as a gift, but as a precious trust—a trust to keep for his mother in heaven."

There was a long quiet pause, in which nothing was heard save the heavy breathing of the dying girl, and the hard tick of the clock on the mantelpiece, counting her life away.

The solemn stillness was broken at last, by a voice so faint and low, the listeners had to bend forward to catch the parting words.

"Mother dear, where are you? I can't see you! How dark it is getting—Hark! they are calling to me."

The dying arms drew the baby closer in a last embrace. "Mother dear—baby—don't forget. God bless—"

And then the soul flew away with the blessing on its lips, and sped to finish its loving prayer at the foot of the great white Throne.

A corner of the window-curtain had fallen aside, and through the opening a stray sunbeam crept in, and fell, quartered by an intersection of the lattice, upon the white coverlet. Was it an omen? Was it chance?

The lifeless form, with a smile on its silent lips, lay sleeping UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS.

And now as the freed soul shook the earth from its wings, and spread its pinions for its heavenward flight, the church-bells burst forth with their chime of joy and gladness, in honour of the Christmas morn.

The sound of the joyous peal floated into the death-chamber, and brought sweet hope and peace to the aching hearts within.

longing had passed away. "God knows best. I don't know. Without this bitter cup, mayhap we wouldn't have had peace and good-will in our hearts to-day. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be His name!" Amen! Amen!

A Christmas story—say you? Is it so? Perhaps it is; but there are Christmas tears as well as Christmas smiles. The very holly, the token of mirth and merriment, is but the symbol of the Saviour's crown of thorns; the crimson berries the type of the blood-drops on His brow. And shall we, born to trouble as the sparks fly upward, never feel a prick in our Christmas crown?

Not so! to many, to most, it shall occur to be at some time in their lives, in the valley of the Shadow on Christmas day; the season of joy to Christendom shall be to them the hour of mourning and deepest sorrow. To them (ill grace bring balm) music shall have no melody; even the song of peace and good-will shall be like sweet bells jangled, out of tune and harsh. But to happy ones whose loss they mourn, far otherwise. To their truer sense, attuned to the harp of heaven, all universe shall join in harmonious chorus with the sweet angel-song, whose echo is faintly heard on earth at this Christmas season. The peace on earth, imperfect at the best, and the goodwill among men, so often marred by earthly passion, shall fade into nothingness before the 'unspeakable gift,' the 'perfect peace,' of Heaven.

A. J. L.

THE END.

BRITISH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.

PRIZE PENMANSHIP!

Superior Advantages Offered!

THE attention of young men looking forward to mercantile life is earnestly requested to the internal arrangements of this College, which afford every possible advantage and facility for acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of business life and business habits. The great characteristic of this institution is its actual business system. It is not only the first College in British America in which the system was established, but likewise the only one in which the system is rationally, practically and efficiently carried out. The result is that any youth who passes carefully through the course is ready on getting his diploma to take his place behind the accountant's desk. Both, therefore, by right of priority and unexampled success this institution has secured in fact what by its name it professes to be—THE BRITISH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.

One of the direct means of attaining and holding this high position has been the constant and wary selection of thoroughly competent, conscientious and energetic teachers in each department. In the Writing department the First Prizes for Business Penmanship were awarded to us at the Provincial Exhibitions of 1863, 1866, and 1867, the only occasion on which we competed. As this honor undoubtedly places this College at 'the top of the wheel,' we shall always strive to maintain that superiority in this, as in all other branches of study which are characteristic of the institution. Plain legible business writing is a style to which we have ever given the most prominent place, our motto being 'a business hand for a business man.'

The time required to complete the full course varies considerably according to the attendance, attention and ability of each student. Young men, however, are earnestly cautioned against the injurious practice of hurrying through the course from the mistaken idea that they will thus be gainers by the saving of money in the item of board. Infinitely more advantageous would it be to the student, since his full course of tuition is already paid for, to incur comparatively small additional expense of a few weeks' board in order to make himself completely master of the course, and thus by a small present outlay, qualify himself for another lucrative situation. The consequence of such haste entails is highly detrimental not only to the student himself, but also to the College where he graduates, and besides it brings prohibition on Commercial Colleges generally. The common practice, therefore, of holding out this crowding system as an inducement to students is most deceptive and highly reprehensible.

For penmanship, circulars, &c., address

MUSGROVE & WRIGHT,

Toronto, 6th Dec. 1867. dw Toronto.

INDIA & CHINA TEA CO'Y.

Home Depot at London and Liverpool.

Canada Depot, 23 Hospital Street, Montreal.

THE India and China Tea Company beg to call the attention of the Canadian community to their directly imported Teas, which for purity and excellence will be found unequalled.

The Company have made arrangements whereby they have secured the finest produce of some of the best plantations in Assam and on the slopes of the Himalayas, and, by a judicious selection, have secured the most magnificent Teas with the best varieties of China produce, they are enabled to offer to the public Teas of quality and flavour hitherto unknown to the general consumer. These Teas are in high favour in England and France, and a single trial will prove their superiority.

The Company supply two qualities only, either Black, Green or Mixed. Their Black Teas will be found to possess great brilliancy and flavour, combined with colour and strength, and to be entirely different to the flat and rapid article usually sold as Black Tea; while their Green Teas are altogether free from the deleterious mineral powder so commonly used for coloring the leaf.

PRICES: Rich, full-flavoured Tea, for family use, a real genuine and fine article 70 cents per lb. Finest quality procurable, one dollar per lb.

The above can be had either Black, Green or Mixed.

To be had in packets of Quarter Pound Half Pound, One Pound, and upwards, or in tin canisters of 5 lbs. and upwards from the Company's Agents in all the chief towns of Canada.—N.B. All the packages are lined with tin foil paper, and the Teas will consequently retain its flavour any length of time.

OSKREVE.—All packages have the Company's trade-mark, without which none are genuine.

MR. N. HIGINBOTHAM.

Guelph, August 3, 1867. Agent. dw-1v

CARD OF THANKS.

THE subscriber begs to acknowledge the payment in full of his claim against the Puslinch Mutual Fire Insurance Company for the loss sustained on the 8th July last, by fire, in the destruction of his dwelling house and contents. Absence from the Township prevented his publicly acknowledging earlier the prompt manner in which the Company paid his claim.

JOHN S. SUTTON.

CORDWOOD.

IMPORTANT to the FARMERS

Near ACTON, ROCKWOOD, GUELPH, SHANTZ, BRESLAU, and BERLIN.

CORDWOOD in quantities from Five Cords upwards will be received at the above stations, or anywhere along the track of the G. T. R., at greatly advanced prices. Payment,

CASH ON DELIVERY

or as soon as wood is in a shape to measure.

MEN WANTED

Good Steady Choppers will always find constant employment. Apply to

ALEX. NAIRN,

Rockwood, Oct. 2, 1867. Rockwood, G.T.R. 6d-w3m

(Berlin Journal to copy one month.)

TEAS. TEAS.

A LARGE Lot just received of New Crop

TEAS.

A SPLENDID ARTICLE.

AT 75 CENTS,

Equal to any sold at 87 1/2 Cents!

E. CARROLL & CO.

No. 2 Day's Block.

Guelph, Nov. 13, 1867. dawf

Liverpool & London & Globe

INSURANCE COMPANY.

Capital Surplus & Reserved Funds

\$16,271,675.

DIRECTORS IN CANADA:

T. B. ANDERSON, Esq., Chairman, (President Bank of Montreal.)

HENRY STARNES, Esq., Deputy Chairman, (Manager Ontario Bank.)

E. H. KING, Esq., (General Manager Bank of Montreal.)

HENRY CHAPMAN, Esq., Merchant.

THOMAS CRAMP, Esq., Merchant.

G. F. C. SMITH, Esq., Resident Secretary.

F. A. BALL, Hamilton, Ont., Inspectors.

JAMES SPIER, Montreal.

Fire Insurance & Life Assurance

Policies issued at moderate rates.

This Company offers to Insurers the security of Wealth, Position, Increasing Revenue and Liberal Management.

G. F. C. SMITH, Resident Secy., Montreal.

THOS. W. SAUNDERS,

Guelph, Oct. 23, 1867. Agent, Guelph. w713-d86

H. HOGG'S

FLOUR AND FEED STORE

Opposite the Market Shed.

CONSTANTLY ON HAND, all kinds of Mill

Feed, Chopped Peas, Middlings, Shorts, Bran,

Cornmeal, Oatmeal, Flour!

Bacon, Sugar-cured Hams, and Potatoes.

Guelph, 28th August, 1867. dw-4f

THE RED MILL.

GRISTING & CHOPPING

THE Subscriber begs to inform the farmers and the public that his Mill on the Waterloo Road is now in running order, and that he is prepared to do **Gristing and Chopping** on short notice.

FLOUR AND FEED

FOR SALE AT THE MILL.

GEORGE BALKWILL.

October 24, 1867. 2

STRAYED PIG.

CAME on the subscriber's premises, about two months ago, a large white hog. The owner on proving property and paying expenses can take it away.

GEORGE A. OXNARD.

THOS. GRIFFITH & CO.,

Wholesale Grocers,

39 Front-st., TORONTO.

ARE now receiving Ex. S. S. Nova Scotian, Moravian, and other vessels.

Boxes New Valencia Raisins

" New Layer do

" Very Prime West End Layer Raisins

Bbls English Crushed Sugar

" New Currants

Bags and Pockets choice Java Coffee

Qr Casks and Cases Dunville Irish Whiskey

Cases Kinahan's L. L. do

Chests, Half Chests, and Caddies New Season, Ping Suey, Young Hysons, Gunpowders, Congous, Souchongs, Color'd and Uncolor'd Japans, Imperial, Twankay, Orange, Pekoe, &c., &c.

Bags superior Arracan Rice

Cases English Thumb Blue Bbls Brazil Nuts

Bags S. S. Almonds

" Walnuts

" Filberts,

Cases Pearl Tapioca,

" Thin's Pickles

" Booth's, Betts' and Barclay's Old Tom

John Bull Bitters

Crates Wine, Beer and Whiskey

Bottles

Cases Orange, Lemon & Citron Peel

Boxes Valencia and Jordan Almonds

Cases Table Salt, in glass jars do Liquorice, &c. &c.

AND DAILY EXPECTED

Crosse & Blackwell's Pickles, Sauces, Preserves.

The above, together with a large stock of

GENERAL GROCERIES,

INCLUDING

Raw and Refined Sugars, Bright and Dark Tobaccos,

(in Caddies, Butts and 1/2 Butts), and

WINES & LIQUORS,

COMPRISING

Pale and Dark Brandies, Holland and Old Tom Gin, Jamaica Rum

Pale and Deep Golden Sherries, Champagnes, &c.,

Will be sold at unusually Low Prices to the Trade.

TERMS LIBERAL.

THOMAS GRIFFITH & CO.,

WHOLESALE GROCERS,

39 Front Street. dw-2m

Toronto, Nov. 1, 1867.

TROTTER & GRAHAM.

DENTISTS!

QUELPH and BRAMPTON,

Members of the Dental Association of the Province of Ontario.

(Successor in Guelph to T. Trotter.)

OFFICE:

Over Mr. Higinbotham's Drug Store

REFERENCES.—Rev. Archdeacon Palmer, Drs. Clarke, Parker and Herold, Guelph; A. F. Scott, Esq., County Judge; George Green, County Attorney; Dr. Pattullo, M. M. C.; Rev. Mr. Arnold—Brampton. Dr. Barnhart, Warden of Peel; Dr. Hampton, resident Surgeon Toronto Hospital.

The new anæsthetic agents used for extracting teeth without pain.

R. TROTTER. W. K. GRAHAM.

Guelph, 2nd August, 1867. (dw-1y)

OCEAN STEAMSHIP CO'Y.

1867

1867

GUELPH AGENCY.

Steam to Liverpool, London and Glasgow.

Steamship MORAVIAN, Portland to Liverpool, 7th December, 1867.

Tickets to and from the Old Country, Passage Certificates to bring friends out, Return Tickets for six months, issued at reduced rates. State rooms secured, and every information given on application. Insurance Policies for the voyage issued at the low rate of \$1 per 1,000 up to 10,000.

Apply to

GEORGE A. OXNARD.

BLANKETS

150 PAIRS

of Superior Home-made Twilled Blankets, extra heavy, for sale at half-price.

Guelph, December, 12th 1867.

A. O. BUCHAM.

CHRISTMAS BOXES.

WE WOULD INVITE THOSE ABOUT TO PURCHASE

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

to step in and examine our stock, as it is larger and more varied than ever.

D. SAVAGE.

Guelph, December 14, 1867.

DIRECT IMPORTATIONS

OF STAPLE AND FANCY

DRY GOODS!

AT THE BRADFORD HOUSE.

GEORGE JEFFREY

Has much pleasure in announcing the arrival of his

FALL AND WINTER STOCK!

WHICH WILL BE FOUND ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE IN CANADA. HE WOULD PARTICULARLY DIRECT ATTENTION TO A FEW DEPARTMENTS:

SILKS, Black and Coloured.

REPS, PRINCESS' CLOTHS,

MANTLE CLOTHS,

Some things Quite New.

And every other description of Goods will be shown as they appear in the Market.

GEORGE JEFFREY.

Guelph, September 21, 1867.

Come and See the Bargains at the

RUTHERFORD HOUSE!

DRY GOODS, CLOTHING

And a Cheap lot of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Underclothing,