

THURSDAY EV'G. APRIL 2, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LADY OF BIRKENLEUCH

A Tale of the Covenanters.

From one of the windows which commanded a view of the upland Charlie watched his rapid progress towards Brankwood, and as he disappeared over the crown of the last height he muttered—

"How I galled him. How he chafed and writhed when I showed him the danger in which Wayland stands. If I could only discover those papers my proof would be complete. I have searched everywhere, and in vain; yet the letter spoke of them having been placed by Elliott in a private drawer. I have hunted in every hole and corner I can think of without coming on the packet, must try again, for it is important to my purpose of revenge that I come into possession of the papers. Now to have a word with Sloggan and quiet his uneasiness."

And having terminated his colloquy, Charlie Allan sought the company of the trooper in the courtyard, and held with him a short and low-spoken conversation, which seemed to give that worthy no little satisfaction.

Meanwhile Sir Gilbert Barton rode on to Brankwood in a state of great trouble, depression, agitation, and anxiety. Charlie Allan's vindictive malevolence had made him suffer far more keenly than that ruffian had imagined. He could not disguise from himself that the suspicions attaching to Richard Wayland, which Allan had enumerated with such fiendish exultation, were of the gravest character, and such as the youth might find it difficult to combat. Not for one moment, of course, did one doubt cloud his mind as to the innocence of Richard, for he knew him well enough to be sure that he had too noble a soul to stain his life with such a crime. And, besides, his first conjecture had deepened into a settled conviction that the miser had been murdered, either by Allan's own hand, or at his instigation. But what of that? What would his swart-faced faith in Richard's innocence, or his settled belief in Allan's guilt, avail to establish the one or demonstrate the other, in the face of circumstances and the absence of proof? It was clear enough that Richard had been at Greytone on the day of the marriage. It was no vision which Helen had seen in the church, as at first he fancied when he listened by the side of her couch to her ravings concerning it. If Charlie Allan had reported truly that the bellman had seen him in the belfry stair, and that Jamie Tamsan had met him at midnight on the upland, then it was clear enough that he had been actually there, and Sir Gilbert could easily and easily divine for what purpose he had gone. It was to see with his own eyes the consummation of what he deemed Helen's faithfulness and perjury—to witness her sealing by a public act her deep and hopeless condemnation. He could, at the same time, easily fancy that the youth was careful to conceal himself from observation. He would have no cold, curious eyes look on his misery and wretchedness, and he had concealed himself within the church, till, at a late hour of the night, he could depart from the village and the neighbourhood unseen. Thus it was that the Charger had met him at midnight among the hills, wandering again to his unknown retreat—his brave and true heart crushed by his hopeless despair.

All this Sir Gilbert's quickened and parental feelings understood as if instinctively, but he saw, too, that the circumstances unfortunately conspired to cast the very strongest suspicion upon him. It was so easy to assign to him a motive for the commission of the deed in the fact, well enough known, that Jabez Cringan was the main cause of Helen's cruel and culpable conduct towards him, and what so likely in the eyes of those who knew him not, than that he should revenge himself by taking the old man's life and carrying off his gold—possessing himself thereby of the legacy which his marriage with Helen would have made his?

But where was Richard Wayland now?—The Baronet sighed heavily as again and again he asked himself the question. Whither had he betaken himself with his stricken heart, and how was he to be found, that the healing and reviving tidings might be conveyed to him—that Sir Gilbert might meet him with the revelation of their amazing kinship, and with the tidings which would prove more precious to him still, that Helen was not faithless, but true, that her unparalleled baseness and apostasy, which had plunged him in anguish, and driven him into exile were no more than hideous semblances of the measureless sins they seemed; that while they covered her with a garment of shame and disgrace, they in reality had a beauty of excellence and a nobleness of devotion which, now that the truth had come out, made her more worthy than ever of his admiration? Oh, it was trying and tantalizing in the extreme to have these transporting tidings to convey, and yet knew not where to find him. Six weeks had passed since that fatal marriage day, and Richard had been all that time as unheard of as if he had passed into utter oblivion. Surely if he was lurking in the district the news of Helen's flight from Birkenleuch on the marriage night would have reached him ere this, and brought him back to know its meaning. Since so many weeks had gone and he had not come it seemed as if he had wandered to some far distance beyond the reach of local intelligence, or, more dreadful still—and Sir Gilbert shuddered at the possibility—he had sought a refuge from sorrow and despair in the cold arms of death.

The Baronet's awakened affections yearning to find the one object on which he had discovered they could be lavished, prompted him to make every effort for the discovery of Richard, but for a week longer he was kept at Brankwood pending the slow recovery of Helen. He could not leave her while she was so weak. She needed his care still, and he devotedly gave it—telling her, when he saw she could bear it, of her step-father's murder, and all that had been spoken in his interview with Charlie Allan. Helen trembled at the danger which menaced the absent one. "She no longer doubted that it was Richard himself she had seen in the church, and she saw plainly enough how the circumstances cast suspicion on his innocence—suspicions which he might have great difficulty in brushing aside, since Charlie Allan would be sure to use all the means which his malice could devise to have him convicted of the crime. Still she, too, longed that he might be found, for the glad tidings which awaited him were such as overbalanced all risk of danger arising from the suspicions which had arisen against him. She therefore strengthened and encouraged the Baronet in his resolution to search for him through the country.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Navigation is open at Kingston, and the ferry boat has commenced running to Cape Vincent.

There is trouble in the Queen's Own, at Toronto, concerning the election of officers, in consequence of which No. 5 Company has resigned in a body. Major Gilmour is blamed for the difficulty.

At the recent Kingston Assizes Mr. Justice John Wilson struck off five or six cases because either lawyers, clients or witnesses were not ready. Legal gentlemen will look out after this to have their cases prepared in time.

Lieut. Governor Stisted has invited Charles Dickens to visit Toronto, offering him the hospitalities of the Government House. "Boz" has exhibited a decided inclination to the desire of his fellow-subjects in Canada, and a few, perhaps, will feel indifferent whether he comes or does not.

The body of an unknown woman, about sixty years of age, was found in Grindstone Creek, near Waterdown, Saturday last. A portion of a letter was found in the pocket of deceased, apparently from a nephew, named E. T. Joice, of Baltimore U.S. An inquest was held by Dr. Skinner, and the jury returned a verdict of "found drowned."

Agent for Guelph, WILLIAM SMITH, Manager Gore Bank.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Bunch of Keys Found.

FOUND this morning on the Market Square, a bunch of keys. The owner can have the same by proving property and paying expenses of advertising, by applying at the Mercury Office, Macdonnell Street, Guelph, 1st April, 1868.

MONTREAL Boot and Shoe Store SPRING ARRIVALS.



NEW GOODS!

FASHIONABLE, SERVICEABLE, DURABLE, COMFORTABLE. A BEAUTIFUL American Prunella Walking SHOE, BALMORAL, very stylish. Call at once and see them. LACROSSES for sale. TERMS CASH. JOHN MCNEIL, Montreal Boot and Shoe Store, Wyndham-st. Guelph, 30th March, 1868.

TOILET SOAPS!

JUST received, a large consignment of English and other Toilet Soaps, At Apothecaries' Hall, Market Square, Guelph.

Yardley's, Beechew's, Trinder's Glycerine, Brown and White Windsor in cakes. Honey and pure Curd Soap, in bars. Also, Robinson's Silver Soap. A. B. PETRIE, Guelph, 27th March, 1868.

HORSE BILLS

PROPRIETORS and Travellers of Stallions will please note the fact that at THE MERCURY OFFICE, Macdonnell Street, opposite the Great Western Hotel Stables, second door east of the Golden Lion, Guelph,

They can get better, cheaper and handsomer Horse Bills than at any other office in the County, and printed while they wait.

Orders by post will be promptly attended to, and forwarded by the earliest conveyance. Give us a call. MCLAGAN & INNES, Evening Mercury Buildings, Macdonnell-st. Guelph, 1st April, 1868.

DOMINION HOTEL

GEORGE BLACK, BRICK HOUSE, MACDONNELL-ST.

A few doors above Higinbotham's Drug Store. There is a good stable attached to the house, with good and commodious stabling. Every attention will be paid to customers in order to secure their comfort and convenience. Guelph, March 6, 1868.

W. B. COWAN, M. D.

HOMOEOPATHIC Physician, Surgeon and A. Concher. Graduate of New York Homoeopathic College, and Licentiate of Canada. Office over Mr. Massie's new store—entrance Macdonnell Street. Guelph, 27th Jan, 1868.

Straw Bonnet Business.

F. A. HARRISON

RETURNS her grateful thanks to the ladies of Guelph and vicinity for the liberal patronage she has received since resuming business. Having on hand plain and fancy Straw, she is prepared to make Bonnets and Hats to order. Latest styles just received. Residence—Rose Cottage, Market Street, west of Dr. Howitt's. Apprentices wanted.

HOUSE TO LET.

Enquire of MISS HARRISON, Guelph, 1st April, 1868.

THE BARCLAY SEWING MACHINE.

WITHOUT any exception, the Barclay Sewing Machine, manufactured by the British American Sewing Machine Company, AT PARIS, ONTARIO, is the best in the Dominion of Canada for general purposes. An examination is merely requested, which will be to the advantage of those intending to purchase. All machines warranted. Also, agent for the DUTTON KNITTING MACHINE, one of the best machines in the market. Apply to MOSES BECHTEL, General Agent for the County of Wellington, Blair Post Office.

Agent for Guelph: MRS. HUNTER, Fancy Store, Market Square, Guelph, Jan. 22, 1868.

POTATOES!

Potatoes of all Kinds Wholesale and Retail, AT WEBSTER'S Grain and Flour Store, West Market Square, Guelph. Guelph, March 20, 1868.

FOR SALE.

200 lbs. Honey, Strained or Comb. 500 lbs. Boston Canned Peaches. 200 lbs. Keiller's Dundee Marmalade. 50 lbs. Red and Black Currant Jelly. 100 bushels Dried Apples. French Plums and Prunes. Anchovy Paste. Bloater Paste. Maple Sugar and Amber Syrup. AT JOHN A. WOOD'S, Guelph, March 24th 1868.

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.

FRESH ARRIVAL

Messina Oranges AND LEMONS. THE subscriber has this day received 200 boxes of choice Messina Oranges and 50 boxes choice Lemons. Also, a large supply of Fresh Cocoa Nuts, Pea Nuts, Turkey Dates, Together with a general assortment of Figs, Filberts, Almonds, Brazil Nuts, Prunes, Sardines, Lobsters, &c. Also, 20 barrels of choice CRANBERRIES, and a general assortment of APPLES. Orders from Fruit Dealers respectfully solicited. All orders from the country will receive prompt attention, and Fruit warranted in good order. P. S.—We intend to keep a large supply of FRUIT on hand during the Fruit season. We are also determined to sell Fruit as low, if not lower (as usual), than any fruit dealer in the Dominion. As we only sell Fruit by wholesale, it is impossible for our customers to have any refuse fruit packed in our boxes, therefore dealers in fruit can depend on obtaining first-class Fruit at all times from us, and at as low a price as possible, as we purchase at all times first-class Fruit, and from first hands in New York and Boston markets.

A. MILLIGAN & CO.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, City Hall Buildings. Toronto, 26th March, 1868.

Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies.

CHURCH-ST. - - - GUELPH MISS W. OHTMAN begs to announce that her school will re-open (D.V.) on the 6th of January. Vacancies for two or three boarders. Guelph, 26th December 1867.

PARTNERSHIP NOTICE!

THE undersigned have entered into Co-partnership under the firm of BUCHANAN & CO., Hamilton, Ontario, and of PETER BUCHANAN & CO., Glasgow, Scotland. ISAAC BUCHANAN, ANDREW BINARY, PETER F. BUCHANAN.

Hamilton, Ontario, February, 1868.

1868. SPRING IMPORTATIONS. 1868.

THE Subscribers have received and are NOW OPENING a portion of their

SPRING IMPORTATIONS

OF—

BRITISH AND FOREIGN DRY GOODS,

And will have an excellent assortment opened out by the 25th inst., as also of Canadian and American Manufactures.

BUCHANAN & COMPANY.

Hamilton, 19th March, 1868.

ESTABLISHED 1849.

JOHN MACDONALD & CO

TORONTO, Have now a very

Large and Complete Stock!

To which, throughout the Season, ADDITIONS WILL BE MADE WEEKLY

JOHN MACDONALD & CO. Nos. 21 and 23, Wellington Street, and Nos. 25 and 30, Front Street, TORONTO. No. 105 King Street, Manchester, England. Toronto, 25th March, 1868.

GORDON, MACKAY & CO.,

Importers, Manufacturers, and General Warehousemen, Have now in stock one of the most magnificent assortments of

Staple & Fancy Dry Goods

In the Dominion. A large assortment of

Home and Foreign Woollens!

AND TAILORS' GOODS AND TRIMMINGS. They are constantly receiving Leading Styles from the various places of production.—Terms Liberal. 17 Lybster Mills Sheetings 33 and 36 inches. Also, Lybster Mills YARNS and BATTING. Toronto, 26th March, 1868.

A. R. McMASTER & BRO.

Are now opening out their

Spring Importations!

And will be glad to see their customers and friends at

32 Yonge-st., Toronto.

Toronto, 26th March, 1868.

FOR WALL PAPER!

GO TO

ROBT. CUTHBERT'S.

Guelph, 9th March, 1868.

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

H. BERRY'S.

Guelph, 27th March, 1868.

Agricultural Books

FOR SALE AT

DAY'S BOOKSTORE,

OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH.

A MERICAN Pomology Apples. By Dr. T. J. Warden, with 200 illustrations. Price \$2; by mail \$2.50.

THE American Gardener's Assistant, in three parts. Containing complete practical directions for the cultivation of Vegetables, Flowers, Fruit Trees and Grape Vines. By Thos. Bridgman. New edition, revised and enlarged. Illustrated by S. Edward Todd. Price \$1.50; by mail \$1.65.

SORGHUM and its Products. An account of recent investigations concerning the value of Sorghum in Sugar production, together with a description of a new method of making Sugar and Refined Syrup from this plant. Adapted for common use. By J. L. Stewart. Price \$1; by mail \$1.10.

SHEEP, their management and diseases. By W. J. Youatt, with illustrative engravings to which are added remarks on the breeds and management of Sheep in the United States, and on the culture of fine wool. Price 75c; by mail 85c.

NEWLY revised throughout. Containing the result of thirty-five years experience, and directions for using the movable and box-hive, together with the most approved method of propagating the Italian Bee. New illustrated edition. By M. Quimby, Practical Bee Keeper. Price \$1.25; by mail \$1.35.

THE Canadian Horse and his diseases. By D. McEachren, M.R.C.V.S., and Andrew Smith V.S. Price 75c; by mail 85c.

THE Modern Horse Doctor, containing Practical observations on the causes, nature and treatment of disease and lameness in horses, with illustrations. By George H. Dodd, Veterinary Surgeon. Price \$1.25; by mail \$1.30.

THE Illustrated Horse Doctor, being an accurate and detailed account of the various diseases to which the equine race are subject, together with the latest mode of treatment, and all the requisite prescriptions, written in plain English. By Edward Mayhew, M.R.C.V.S. Illustrated with more than 400 pictorial illustrations. Price \$2; by mail \$2.25.

SMALL Fruit Culture. By S. Fuller, Practical Horticulturist, Ridgewood, Bergen Co., N. Y. Price \$1; by mail \$1.10.

TRAINING for Profit and Draining for Health. By George E. Waring, Engineer of Drainage of the Central Park, New York.—Illustrated.—Price, \$1; by mail, \$1.10.

T. J. DAY, Bookseller, Guelph, Guelph, March 21st, 1868.

R. J. JEANNERET,

From England, (Established in London, Ont., 1842, and in Guelph 1862.)

WORKING WATCHMAKER

AND JEWELER, DAYS' BLOCK, Opposite the Market, Guelph.

FOR sale cheap, SETH THOMAS' CLOCKS, by the best maker in America. Also, Periscope Tinted SPECTACLES. Guelph, 19th March, 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, Whitty, GOD SAVE THE QUEEN. Guelph, Jan. 29, 1868.

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 Liquors, and choicest Cigars will always be kept.

The Rooms are under the superintendence of Mr. R. McCruden, whose courteous attention, as well as his thorough knowledge of the business, will insure satisfaction in all cases.

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

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

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 state that 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 entire produce of some of the best plantations in Assam and on the slopes of the Himalayas, and by a judicious blending of these 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 powders commonly used for coloring the leaf.

PRICES: Rich, full-flavoured Teas, 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 their flavour and strength, and be as fresh as when first packed.

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

MR. N. HIGINBOTHAM, Agent, Guelph, Guelph, August 3, 1867.

NOTICE.

HAVING sold out my stock at "Bradford House" and Book-accounts to Mr. Phillip. Bish, all parties indebted to me on book account will pay the amount to Mr. Bish.

GEORGE JEFFREY, Guelph, 6th March, 1867.

WITH reference to the above, I have much pleasure in stating that I have purchased the whole stock in trade, also the accounts, &c., of Mr. Geo. Jeffrey. The business will be carried on as formerly in all its branches, trust for a continuance of that patronage which was so liberally bestowed on my predecessor. For further particulars see future advertisement.

F. BISH, N.B.—All accounts not satisfactorily settled will be placed in first court for collection. Guelph, March 6th, 1867.