Guelph Evening Mercury TUESDAY EVENING, NOV. 11, 1873.

The Rival Clansmen :

A Scottish Vendetta.

CHAPTER VI. THE PLOTTERS AND THEIR VICTIMS-IAN SPURNED BY FLORA-CAMERON JUBILANT-SURPRISED !

Hestor returned the look calmly, and

"Because I can perhaps suggest a way more simple than you may have thought ot." "You suggest a way for me to escape!" exclaimed Heetor, in surprise. "Exactly ; do you care to hear it ?" M'Leod was apazed; he could scarce-ly believe he heard aright. The idea of the man who held him prisoner propos-ing a scheme by which he might escape ! It appeared ridiculous, preposterous-ah, but there might be conditions statched. He had not thought of that. "Yes, I will hear yon," he replied. "Then permit me to say that the mem-bers of the band have already decided on your case, and their decision is that you are to be left entirely in my hands, to be treated as I deem fit. Now, I believe that, in the matter in which you have crossed me, you have acted as much from youtful indiscretion as from badness of heart, and I do not intend to deal harshiy with you. But I suppose you are aware that the principal object for which the Caterans of Bene-ethri are banded to gether is the acquisition of wealth-mon-ey; and I must in my dealing with you act in harmony with that object. What I have to propose to yon, then, is that yon write a note, with yeur own hand to M'Leod of af-Leod as I shall dictate; and upo2 condition that he complies with the fequest that I have to make, I shall per-mit you to leave this place." "What is the nature of the letter you wish me to write ?" "I wish you write your father stat-ing that he will accede to my desire." "What do you desire my father to do?" "I simply wish a ransom for giving you up; but it is one of my conditions that you write the nate in jumorance of the

do?" "I simply wish a ransom for giving you up; but it is one of my conditions that you write the note in ignorance of the details of this." 'ror a moment Hector reflected. He could not comprehend this proposal. He could not altogether trust Cameron. Could it have any reference to further dealing with Flora or himself? "Does the request or the ransom in any way effect Miss Macgregor or myself?" he asked. "I in no way affects Miss Macgregor."

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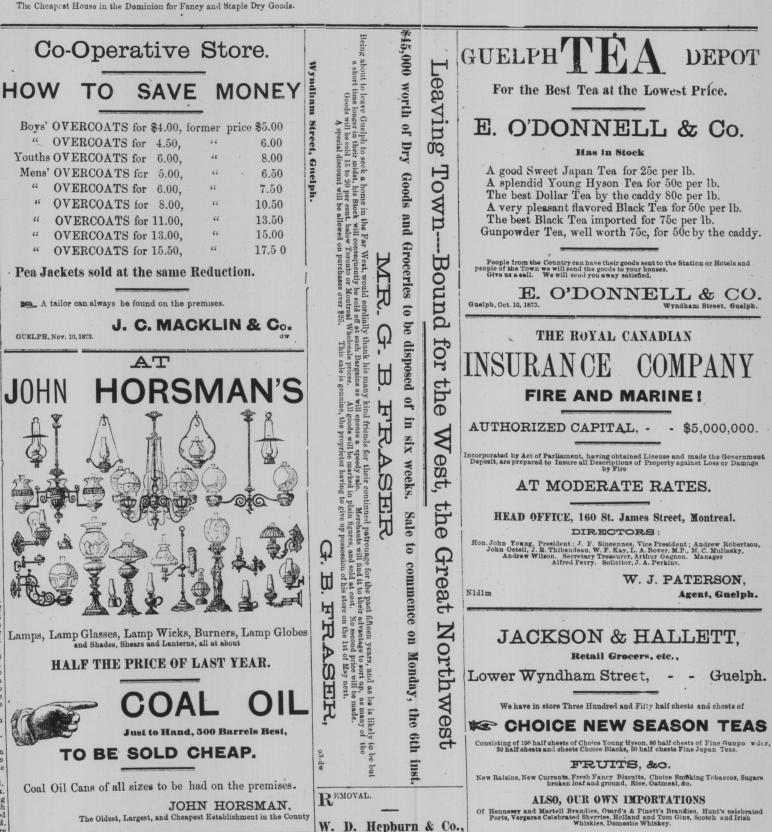
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