RETIRING FROM BUSINESS!

TREMENDOUS CLEARING SALE OF THE LARGE STOCK OF

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.

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Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE :..... MACDONNELL STREET

MONDAY EV'NG. DECEMBER 16.

OVER THE SNOW.

A Christmas Story.

as ever. When he spoke it was slowly and distinctly.

'I don't know of whom you speak; I had a child o' that name once, but she brought shame upon us. Take her who will, she's none o' mine.'

ed to the door.

As she reached it, David rose slowly.—

Well. missus, if you're bound to go, I reckon I'll have to go too. But mind ye this;
I'll give the light o' love, food and shelter
this one night, but never more—never more,
remember.

remember.

'I'm her mother, David; I remember that,'
said the old woman, her affection for her
child overcoming even her wonted awe of her
husband. 'And I remember nonght else to-

Iful wench has gone?'
The Lord guide us!' said the old woman

wilful wench has gone?

The Lord guide us? said the old woman, despairingly.

The two stood still on the wild moor, uncertain which way to turn; all around them, far as the eye could see, a broad white sheet of snow. Their own cottage was the only dwelling near them, and the remaining houses of the village lay beyond it, quite in the opposite direction to that which the object of their pursuit had taken. They gazed around them in all directions, driving snow obscured their vision. Not a trace was to be seen of the object of their search, and there seemed no alternative but to give up 'the quest. But the quiek woman's wit, outstripping the man's slower sense, leapt to a solution of the difficulty. With the eagerness of renewed hope, the old woman exclaimed—'We'll find her yet, Davy; wi' God's help we'll find her yet, Dack to the cot, maister, wi'll 'ee; and gi' me the light.'

Harricelly the pair retraced their steps.—As they neared the porch, the old woman held the lantern close to the ground, carefully examining the snow. After a few moments' search, she exclaimed—'Here 'tis, sure 'nough, the print of Ally's little feet; I'd know 'em in a hundred. Now, maister, we're in the right track, thanks be to the ground Lord that sent the snow

mister, we're in the right track, thanks be to the good Lord that sent the snow.
Holding the lantern low, and guided by its unsertain light, they followed the track of the small flootsteps, alrendy becoming blurred and ididistinct under the still falling snow.

Fearful of losing the trace before they could overtake the wanderur, they pressed on,

wavering in their onward course. They had reached a considerable distance from the cottage, but still no sign, save the still advancing footmarks of her they sought.

Still pressing onward, David spoke, with a strange trenor in his voice. 'Tell 'ee what missus, there's some'at wisht about thiswhere can the maid be going o' this side o' the moor? There's never a house for miles.'

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Northern Post publishes an article upon Napoleon's speech on the opening of the French Chambers. It says:

—"Europe, and especially France, in a state of armed peace is a condition of things much to be regretted. It is necessary to take measures for patting an end to this situation as speedily as possible. It would be desirable that France, considering her great influence in European politics should begin the example, and concentrate her attention on internal reforms. Without the fulfilment of this condition no one could view as serious the promise of the Emperor Napoleon to extend trade liberties, which M. Girardin fears, on the contrary, are to be curtailed."

A Christmas Story.

As he spoke, she laid her burden on the table, and letting fall the thick wollen cloak in which it was wrapped, disclosed a baby of three or four months old, whose wide open eyes seemed to testify the utmost astonishment as to how he got there. With motherly instinct, the good soul took the child in liker arms, pressing it to her bosom with murmurs of endearment. But David's brow was black as night. 'A pretty thing, the shameless jade, to saddle honest folk wither hove-brat; but I'll find her out, I warrantary, that I will, if it costs me twenty poundal.' Nay, Davy, don't ee be too hard on the poor soul. There's never a sin without sorrow; and she must have had a weary sight o' pain and misery before she'd be willing to part with her child.'

'And serve her right, the baggage? replied her husband. 'If there's law or justice in the parish, I'll have her in the stocks before amother week's out.'

Davy, Davy? 'p leaded the good wife.—

Davy, Davy? 'p leaded the good wife.—

Davy, Davy? 'p leaded the good wife.—

David was about to make a stera rejoinder, when his wife caught sight of a small locket of gold and blue enamel, which was baung about the child's neck by a ribbon.—

With a cry as fishe had received a blow, she gasped, 'Oh, David, David, look at this! It's hers, it's Ally's, our own child's:'

A flash of indescribable emotion passed for a moment over David Hol's face, and ling and eyelid quivered. But it was only for a moment, and the stern face hardened again, as hade paler, perhaps, but dark and stern as ever. When he spoke it was slowly and distinctly.

'I don't know of whom you speak; I had a child o' that name once, but she brought shame upon us. Take her who will, she's none o' mine.'

'I'll E India and China Tea Company beg to call the attention of the Capadian com-

"I don't know of whom you speak; I had child o' that mame once, but she brought shame upon us. Take her who will, sie's none o' mine."

'She is our own flesh and blood, David, pleaded the old woman in an agony of tears. The Lord made her that, and bitter words won't alter it. Oh! to think that she should have been here, close by our door, and out in the storm! Davy, won't you—won't you fetch her back?

David sat silent, sullenly gazing into the fire.

'Davy, you call yourself a Christian man, you wouldn't turn a dog to door on such an inght as this, and yet you'll suffer your own the hand in the sundanger of the sullent of the sundanger of the sullent of the sundanger of the sullent of the surface her own father and mother, 'ud seek shelter o' strangers.'

As she spoke she opened the cottage door, which, the moment the latch was raised, was slung back heavily by the wind, and a torgent of snow poured in. Like the timid bird, valiant in defence of her fiedglings, the moils per lib. Finest quality procurable, one of sperific per law of the superiority.

PRICES: Rich, full-lawoured Tea, for family use a real gonuine and fine article To family use a real gon night as this, and yet you'll suffer your own child to be wandering on the moor, without a place to lay her head.

She can ask for shelter.

She can ask for shelter.

She can ask for shelter.

As he spoke she opened the ottage door, which, the moment the latch was raised, was flung back heavily by the wind, and a torrent of snow poured in. Like the timid bird, valiant in defence of her fledglings, the mother's gentle nature rose to arms, and battled on behalf of her child.

Oh David, shame on you! Have you the heart of a man to sit there like a stone image, when your own flesh and blood may be perishing o' cold and wet? Lord help me, I'm but a feeble old woman, but my only child shan't die outside my door, an' me sitting by the fire within.

With cager haste the old woman fetched a pillow, and placing it upon the hearthrag, laid the child upon it. Then her finger trembling with excitement, she lighted the candle in an old horn lantern, and throwing a thick shawl over her head, snatched up the cloak in which the baby had been wrapped, and rushed to the door.

As she reached it, David rose slowly.—

Well, missus, if you're bound to go, I reck.

Well, missus, if you're bound to go, I reck.

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