

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENHEAD.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

"Good capital!" roared Charlie, with a boisterous laugh, which a keen observer could notice was affected. "Upon my word I am flattered by the opinion you have formed of me. But I must modestly disclaim the deed, and allow the credit of it to be given to the individual whom the villagers so confidently set down as the doer of it."

"And who may that be?" asked Sir Gilbert, in a tone of incredulity.

"One whom, if I mistake not, you have a particular interest in."

"Does the laird think that Helen did it?" exclaimed the Baronet, in indignant astonishment.

"Oh, dear no. Their suspicion has more point and probability than that. One and all denounce the murderer by the name of Richard Wayland."

The Baronet gave a great start, and turned excessively pale.

"But that touches you—that makes you wince—that hits you under the fifth rib. Yes, Sir Gilbert Barton, the youth known as Richard Wayland is considered to be the murderer of Cringan, and the proof is strong against him."

"It's a lie!" cried Sir Gilbert, "a foul malicious lie, and one of your makins'."

"Sorry I can't take the credit of that either, rejoined Allan. 'Being ignorant of some of the facts, my ingenuity would have failed to light on the man whom the people so readily name; but, taking the fact as told of me, I came through the village with those I knew before, I confess to share in the common opinion."

"There's no the shadow of a reason for sin a cowardly suspicion," cried Sir Gilbert, with vehement warmth.

"There is a deal more than the shadow—there is the substance of several reasons," said Charlie. "In the first place, the young man has, I am told, fed; that is a fact you should know."

"And who knew better than you the reason of it? Did ye no, by the cruellest devilish art, rob him of his heart's treasure, and by the deception ye used, make the slow doubly crushed? Yes, Ritchie is awa', but he was awa' months afore the murder was committed, and that I can swear to."

"Can you swear that he has not been here since?"

"No, I can't swear to that."

"But others can testify to it. He was seen in the church on the day of our marriage."

"I think it, when he is caught, her testimony will go far to condemn him. 'Oh, joy! to see and hear her declare in the witness box what will send him to the scaffold. In that there will be for me a sweet and ample revenge on you all."

In spite of the most strenuous efforts the Baronet was unable to shake off the agitation which had seized him. Allan had hit him in a vulnerable part, and not all his contempt for the character of the striker could parry the blow. Charlie saw how much he was moved, and his fiendish spirit exulted in the power of torture he had obtained.

"A vision conjured up by the troubled mind of the pair, deceived victim of yer diabolical treachery will never gang tae condemn the innocent," said Sir Gilbert, speaking with apparent indifference.

"A vision!" echoed Allan. "She and you count it so, doubtless; but there is ample proof that it was no vision. The bellman saw Wayland skulking about the church on the same day. He saw him on the belfry stair, looking down on Cringan as he sat counting the gold, and, on going up to order him off, he concealed himself in one of the dark places; and some hours after, about midnight, Jamie Tamson, the cadger, met him among the hills, making his escape no doubt after he had done the deed. Reassured, Sir Gilbert, there is proof enough to convict 'yer son and heir."

"He's innocent, I tell ye," cried the Baronet, in a mingled voice of wrath and agony.

"His judges would believe that," returned Charlie, with a smile of triumph.

"They'll believe it when the murder is traced name tae the perpetrators," retorted Sir Gilbert menacingly.

"And who are the perpetrators in your estimation?" inquired the other.

"Them that had a motive in, puttin' the miser out o' the way," was the answer.

"Well who may be supposed to have a stronger motive than Wayland? Was not Cringan the father of the girl who jilted him? and was it not well known that the old man used all his influence and authority to make her to give him up? Ha! Sir Gilbert, proof and motive surround him like a net, and the moment he is caught, no one is surer of the hangman's rope."

"I'll listen tae nae mair o' yer blackhearted provokin' words," roared Sir Gilbert, stung out beyond further endurance. "Ye ken o' the discovery that has been made, and yer takin' pitfu' advantage o' it. You read and burned the paper written by my mother, settin' forth that Richard Wayland is my ain son; an' working on the knowledge ye got, ye are pitfu' not yer spite against me by this charge o' murder, that ye ha'e the best reason for kennin' is unfounded. But let me tell ye that yer venon winsna succeed. I'm as shure o' the young lad's innocence as I'm o' my ain existence; and I only hope I may soon be able to find him."

"Ah! to take him to your paternal bosom and acknowledge him as your son and the heir of Brankwood. A very fortunate turn up for the forger, no doubt, if it could be accomplished, which I doubt."

"And again Charlie Allan smiled maliciously and malevolently."

TO BE CONTINUED.

GOOD ADVICE.—The Ottawa Times stamps a nuisance as follows: "A correspondent sends us a letter inviting us to expose some of his neighbors whom he accuses of thievish propensities. We shall do nothing of the kind. Let him go to the police authorities in due form. Imagine the consequences of our describing the disturber of his domestic quiet—we shall say as 'a tall, thin man, with a sallow face.' Why, we should make mortal foes of that large and respectable class of the community, who are upon the whole, just as honest as any other class. And were we to say that the purloiner of his hen-roost was a 'middle aged gentleman, with light red whiskers and sandy hair,' we know that nearly half the town would be ready to sue us for libel! Evidently, there are some people who hardly know what newspapers are published for; and a great many more, who sneaking behind the shelter of a *nom de plume*, would recklessly be the cause of circulating a slander with just enough particulars to make it apply with equal force to any one of fifty men in any one of the five wards of the city. If our correspondent will give the information to the police direct, he will gain the object which he professes to have in view, and perhaps, save many honest people from the annoyance which the publication of his thoughtlessly conceived epistle would entail."

An Association, to be called the 'Order of the Pen,' is about to be founded among the literary men of New York, from which men are to be excluded, but which is gradually to extend its operations among female writers all over the country. The badge of the order will be a gold quill, to be worn as a brooch or other ornament, and the members will lunch together once a month at Delmonico's."

New Advertisements.

SELBOT Boarding & Day School

MRS. PETERSTONHAUGH purposes (D.V.) to open a School for young Ladies at her residence in Wyndham Street, over the Post Office, on MONDAY, 20th April.

Guelph, 27th March, 1868. dw3

School Teacher Wanted.

WANTED for School Section No. 1, Township of Erin, a 1st class male teacher, to commence immediately.

ALEX. SCOTT, DONALD McKECHNIE, MALCOLM McLAIDLAN, Trustees. Erin, 9th March, 1868. 4tdw

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. Toronto, 29th March, 1868. dw6t

GUELPH EVENING MERCURY.

DON'T fail to subscribe to the GUELPH EVENING MERCURY.

VERY latest Telegraphic, Local and other News in the MERCURY.

MORE and better selected Reading Matter appears in the Evening Mercury than any other paper in Guelph.

EVERY Merchant and Business Man should advertise in this paper.

REPORTS of all Local Proceedings up to three o'clock appear daily in this paper.

THE Standing Circulation of the EVENING AND WEEKLY MERCURY is 6,400 copies, a circulation which no other journal in this section of Canada can lay claim to.

TRADE SALE.

JOHN BOYD & CO.

WILL offer for sale at Public Auction

On Wednesday, April 8, 1868.

a large and well assorted stock of

GROCERIES,

WINES and LIQUORS,

SUGARS, TOBACCOS, TEAS, RICE, COFFEES, FRUIT

And general Goods required by the Trade.

LIQUORS:

PORT and SHERRY WINES, CHAMPAGNE, Cases BRANDY, DEKUYPER'S OLD, BERNARD'S GOLD TOM, JAMAICA RUM, BLOOD'S DUBLIN PORTER, Pints and Quarts, DOW'S ALE.

CIGARS:

HAVANNA, GERMAN and DOMESTIC, various brands and qualities.

FISH:

CODFISH, HERRINGS, MACKEREL, LOBSTERS, SARDINES, &c.

Sale at half-past Ten A. M. Toronto, March 29, 1868. daw 2

NEW BOOKS!

Spiritual Wives,

By William Hepsworth.

Massacre of St. Bartholomew

By Henry White.

The Irish in America,

By John Francis Maguire, M. P.

NORWOOD,

By Henry Ward Beecher.

Five Hundred Pounds,

A NOVEL. By A. Barrister.

DR. SMITH'S Smaller History of England.

At Day's Bookstore,

Opposite the Market, Guelph. Guelph, March 27, 1868. daw 4f

DOMINION HOTEL

GEORGE BLACK

BEGS to inform his friends and the public that he has opened the above Hotel, in the

BRICK HOUSE, MACDONNELL-ST. and immediately opposite Messrs. Sharpe's Seed 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. daw 3m

Newsboys Wanted.

TO SELL the "Evening Mercury." Boys making an average \$1.50 per week. Apply at the office. Guelph, March 10th, 1868. dtf

REMOVAL.

Mrs HUNTER

HAS REMOVED

HER Berlin Wool and Fancy Goods Store to the premises lately occupied by

MR. JAS. CORMACK

Wyndham Street, next door to Harvey's Drug Store, and opposite the English Church. Guelph, Feb. 16 1868. dtf

TEA COMPANY

A LARGE SUPPLY

CELEBRATED TEA

FOR FAMILY USE.

Just received at the

MEDICAL HALL.

N. HIGINBOTHAM,

Sole Agent for Guelph. Guelph, 19th March, 1868. dw

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. dw

POTATOES!

Potatoes of all Kinds

Wholesale and Retail.

AT WEBSTER'S

West Market Square, Guelph. Guelph, March 20, 1868. do M

INSOLVENT ACT OF 1864.

In the matter of Andrew Lightbody, AN INSOLVENT.

SALE OF LANDS.

NOTICE is hereby given that in pursuance of the powers vested in me as assignee of the estate and effects of the above named insolvent, I will offer for sale by Public Auction, at the Court House, in the Town of Guelph,

On Friday, 22nd May, 1868, at 12 o'clock, noon all the estate, right, title and interest of the said insolvent, in and to the following property, namely:

1st—Lots numbers 48, 49, 50, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

2nd—Lot No. 41, on the corner of St. Patrick and Queen Streets, in the said village of Douglas.

Terms made known at time of sale.

F. M. WILLSON, Official Assignee Hamilton, 19th Feb, 1868. w12

Insolvent Act of 1864.

In the matter of Thomas M. Grier, AN INSOLVENT.

COUNTY OF WELLINGTON, BY virtue of the authority vested in me as Assignee of the Estate of the above-named insolvent, under the provisions of the above Act, I shall offer for sale at the Town Hall, in the Village of Morriston, in the said County,

On Friday, 11th April, 1868, at two o'clock in the afternoon of that day, all the right, title and interest of the