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Guelph Evening Mercury
OFFICE: MACDONNELL STREET.
MONDAY EVENING, DEC. 30, 1867.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUICH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

The gentle night-breeze blew upon his face, laden with the October fragrance of the ravine and the rustling of the bushes without and the noise made by the stream flowing over the rocks beneath. Casting his glance upward, he could also in a short time discern the top of the opposite ascent, and the sky full of stars gleaming above.

The iron bars being too close to let even his head pass between, he shook them to try their strength, when to his surprise they separated from their sockets, and with but little effort he pulled them out. Passing these within to Andrew, who stood behind, he passed his head and shoulders through the cleared aperture to take observations.

"Dinna be owre venturous, Maister Walter," remonstrated Andrew, as he saw him crawling forward. "There's nae doot it's the Clench that's out there, and if ye owre balance yersel'—Gracious poopers, ye will dae it!" he hastily added, in great alarm, as he saw his master's body gradually disappearing.

No attention was given by the latter to the anxious remonstrance, but the body of the young laird continued gradually to disappear. "Na, then, I see 'e'en haud on ye!" exclaimed Andrew, as he resolutely grasped his master's legs, and planted his own feet firmly against the wall in such a way that it was impossible that either could emerge further.

Walter felt the grasp, understood it, and smiled at Andrew's precaution. At the same time he had no intention of pushing himself further over, for he had discovered all that he wanted to know. As he had surmised, they were underneath the west wing of the building, and at the very foundation of it, consequently there could be no lower chambers; and if there was any truth about Andrew's dim impression concerning a well, this well must be in their present vicinity.

Withdrawing his body from the aperture, with a suddenness which laid Andrew prostrate on the floor of the dungeon, Walter resumed his lamp, and Andrew, gathering himself up, did the same, when they carefully sought about for the mouth of the well, and in their search passed through a gap of broken masonry into a larger and loftier chamber than any they had come upon under ground. It was so large, indeed, that the light of their lamps failed to show them its full dimensions, and it was only by going round it that they got an idea of its dimensions.

Along one side of it were openings to other cells or dungeons, and in one of the latter they came upon a circular cavity with a wooden frame above it, supporting a beam, round which a mauling rope was coiled, while an iron handle was fixed into one end of the crossbeam.

Here undoubtedly was the well, with the rude form of a windlass attached, which had formerly been employed for drawing water or for a kindred purpose.

Walter bent over the cavity, and held his lamp down into the black gulf, but could see no bottom. The well seemed of great depth, and to be dug through a layer of soft sandstone.

A low ledge of masonry ran round its brink, and plucking a small stone from thence, he dropped it down. They listened breathlessly, and heard it strike once or twice against the side, and at last plunge with a hollow sound into water, far, far beneath.

"There can be nae hiding-place there, at onyrate," remarked Andrew. "Preserve us! what a deepness the waul maun be!"

"But don't you observe what a current of air comes up?" observed Walter. "I feel it quite plainly on my face; and see how it makes the lamp flicker."

"That's the suction of the shaft," quoth Andrew stroking his chin very wisely. "But Walter was not satisfied with this explanation; for not only was the air strong enough to be called a current, it was also fresh, as if a direct importation from the outer atmosphere. He was, therefore, resolved to make a closer examination, and for this purpose he took a piece of stout string from his pocket, and, fixing it to his lamp, swung the latter slowly down the well, watching the sides closely as it descended. At the depth of twenty feet, so the current of air grew so strong as almost to blow the lamp out, and presently its light shone upon an opening in the side equal to about half the diameter of the shaft.

"As I thought," cried Walter triumphantly. "There is the hiding-place!"

"Mercy me, doon there," exclaimed Andrew. "It's no possible. How could onybody get into that place?"

"I will soon show you, for I mean to get into it myself," rejoined Walter. "I feel it quickly drew up the light."

He looked at the wooden frame erected above the well, and found it strong in every thing but the rope, which had become rotten. "Wait here till I go up for a rope to fasten the stables," he hurriedly added; and before his listener had time to offer any objection he was off, carrying the lamp with him, and Andrew was left alone in that eerie underground chamber.

CHAPTER III.—UNDERGROUND ADVENTURES.
When Andrew was thus left alone in that solitary underground chamber, he began to feel rather queer, and listened with increasing disquietude to the echoing footsteps of his master as they receded along the intricate passages, becoming fainter and fainter in the distance, and finally ceasing to be heard at all.

Nothing like fear had come upon him till then, for so long as he had the brave, courageous youth by his side, it never struck him that the place was either lonely or dangerous. But no sooner was he left amid the silence and darkness than his heart began to beat faster than its wont, his ear became unpleasantly conscious of the silence that reigned around, and his eye set itself to penetrate furtively the intense darkness which the dim light of his lamp rendered only the more profound.

The very looks he cast around him betrayed the fears that were creeping into his soul, for they were looks of inquiry and dread expectation of seeing more than the damp black walls and yawning doorways. He was not particularly superstitious; but, on the other hand, he was by no means sceptical of supernatural existences, chiefly of an evil kind, who when opportunity offered, might be tempted to do mortals harm. On a far hill side, in the light of day, he was not troubled with imaginations of this kind, but down there at the midnight hour in that subterranean region, separated from the upper world by numerous chambers and passages, out of which he could never make his way, his spirit had an accession of terror such as he had never before experienced, and he fervently wished that he had been in any other situation.

Just as this current of nervous fear had set in full tide, he distinctly heard a noise at the far end of the chamber, or in one of the cells that opened from it, which made his heart leap to his mouth, and the hand which held the lamp to start violently.

lowed the lamp, and lay prostrate on the ground, expecting to be seized in the grasp of the unearthly visitor, whom he had no doubt was the Devil.

He was there helplessly at his mercy. He could not make his escape, and had neither power nor courage to defend himself.

"Lord help me, if I could only mind a prayer!" he thought to himself, but though he was no neglecter of devotion, his thoughts were at the moment so paralysed by terror, that he could not frame one sentence, but lay groaning and sweating in very agony.

The moments passed, and the talons of the Evil One did not fasten on him. This gave him sufficient courage to raise his head, and gradually to open his eyes, when he expected to find the chamber illuminated by some red lurid light, but all was dark as before, and he began to indulge in the hope that the Devil had fled, when his wandering gaze again encountered the two large round fiery eyes glaring fiercely upon him.

"Oh Lord! Oh Lord! there he is yet!" ejaculated Andrew, with increased terror. The eyes winked at him and opened again immediately, and to his inflamed imagination they seemed approaching to where he lay. He even thought he felt volumes of hot sulphurous breath upon his face, and expected every instant to be in the grasp of the fiend, holding out his hands at the same time in instinctive but hopeless self-defence.

COMMERCIAL.

Guelph Markets.
MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH, December 30, 1867.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|-------|
| Flour, per 100 lbs. | \$3 75 | 4 00 |
| Fall Wheat per bushel | 1 45 | 1 50 |
| Spring Wheat | 1 48 | 1 50 |
| Oats | 0 45 | 0 46 |
| Peas | 0 60 | 0 65 |
| Barley | 0 90 | 0 95 |
| Hay, per ton | 12 00 | 14 00 |
| Straw | 4 00 | 5 00 |
| Shingles per square | 1 10 | 1 15 |
| Wood per cord | 3 00 | 3 50 |
| Wool | 0 27 | 0 30 |
| Eggs, per dozen | 0 14 | 0 15 |
| Butter (Irish) per lb. | 0 14 | 0 15 |
| Cheese, each | 0 25 | 0 35 |
| Turkeys do | 0 50 | 0 60 |
| Chickens per pair | 0 25 | 0 30 |
| Ducks do | 0 20 | 0 30 |
| Potatoes | 0 50 | 0 55 |
| Apples per bushel | 0 06 | 0 08 |
| Lamb per lb. | 0 06 | 0 07 |
| Beef | 0 08 | 0 09 |
| Pork, per lb. | 0 05 | 0 06 |
| Pork per 100 lbs. | 4 50 | 5 00 |
| Sheep Pelts each | 0 30 | 0 40 |
| Lamb skins | 0 40 | 0 45 |
| Hides per 100 lbs. | 6 00 | 6 50 |

Money Market.
JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE, Guelph, December 30, 1867.

Gold, 133.
Greenbacks bought at 74 to 74 1/2; sold at 74 to 75.
Silver bought at 44 to 45; sold at 43 to 44.
Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 50c. to 55c.
Commercial Bank Bills bought at 50c. to 55c.

MONTREAL MARKETS.
Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co.'s report by Special Telegraph to "Evening Mercury."

Flour—Fancy, \$7 50 to \$7 60; Superfine No. 1, \$7 20 to \$7 35; Welland Canal, \$7 25. Bag Flour, \$3 55 to \$3 65. Oats 42c to 43c. Barley 85c to 90c. Butter—dairy 16c to 19c; store packed 14c to 15c. Ashes—Foss 45 to 50; peat 35 to 40.

Flour moderate receipts, market quiet but very firm. Grain—Wheat prices slowly improving. Buyers at quotations; other grains nominal. Provisions—Pork dull at former rates; Hogs arrivals 1,100, buyers holding off; consumptive enquiry and rates barely maintained; Better unchanged—Ashes no demand for either sort.

TORONTO, December 23, 1867.
Flour—Receipts, 100 bbls; No. 1, at \$6 75—Wheat—\$1 50; Peas—72c. Oats—55c to 55c. Barley—82c to 81c.

HAMILTON, December 23, 1867.
Fall wheat, \$1 50 @ \$1 55. Spring do—\$1 45 @ \$1 50 per bushel. Barley—\$1 @ \$1 25. Oats—53c to 54c. Peas—73c @ 75c.

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 direct 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 Tea 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 Tea will be found to possess great briskness 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 Tea are altogether free from the deleterious mineral powder so commonly used for coloring the leaf.

PRICES: Each full-flavoured Tea, for family use a real gem 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 up to 5 lbs. 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 Tea will consequently retain its flavour any length of time.

MR. N. HIGINBOTHAM, Agent, Guelph, August 3, 1867. dsw-13

FLOUR, GRAIN, PROVISIONS, ASHES, LEATHER, &c.

CONSIGNMENTS solicited. Highest prices realized, and returns promptly made. Every possible information afforded consignors in reference to the Markets, Packing of Pork, Manufacture, &c., as required.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co., MONTREAL.
Kirkwood, Livingston & More, HALIFAX.

ADVANCES.

DRAFTS authorized against Consignments to Montreal and Halifax may be made at the option of Consignors, on either City. Cash advances made on shipments to our Correspondents in Foreign Markets.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co., MONTREAL.
Kirkwood, Livingston & More, HALIFAX.

FISH, OILS, &c.

ORDERS for Fish, Oils, or West India Produce carefully and promptly executed.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co., HALIFAX, N. S. dsw-14

PRESENTS FOR CRISTMAS

To the Inhabitants of Guelph and surrounding Country.

FOR a very large assortment of the cheapest and best

FANCY GOODS

And Christmas Presents call

AT SHEWAN'S Bookstore

Next door to Hugh Walker's Grocery Store.

M. S. has imported some of the most choice articles of the above direct from England, Germany and France. Call and see.

WALL PAPER selling at a sacrifice. Must take room for Spring Stock. Call and look at the endless variety. The trade supplied on the most liberal terms.

THE GROCERY & WINE TRADE.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT.

FRANK SMITH & CO.

77 Front Street, Toronto.

DEG to intimate to their Western friends and the public generally, that they have now received a large portion of their Fall supply of

Fresh English Groceries, Wines, Brandies, &c.,

Ex. "Plains," "Chandler," "City of Hamilton," "Glenborie," from London. "Avon," "Onida," "Hibernia," "Peruvian," "Summer," and "Pericles," from Liverpool. "Abena" and "Gleniffer," from Glasgow. "Agnes" from Charente. And are daily expecting the arrival of

Fresh New Crop Fruit and Mediterranean Cargo

Ex. "Deodara," "Canny Scott" and "Mary Ann," from Malaga, Marseilles and Denis.

JUST RECEIVING IN STORE.

303 Bbls and Tierces of Barbadoes, Porto Rico and Cuba Sugars.

2175 Half Chests and Caddies Souchong, Congou, Japan, Gunpowder, Young and Old Hyson Teas. With a full assortment of Tobaccos, Refined Sugars, Wines and Liquors and Dry Groceries. All of which will be submitted to the trade, equal to and below Montreal prices.

Inspection invited. Terms Liberal. Cash and prompt paying customers desired.

Ontario, 6th November, 1867. dwtf

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, Imperials, 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,

COMPRISED Pale and Dark Brandies, Hollands 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, Toronto, Nov. 1, 1867. dwt-2m

Funerals, Funerals!

NATHAN TOVELL, has to intimate that he is prepared to attend funerals as usual. Coffins always on hand. Hearse to hire. His Steam Planing Mill is in constant operation. All kinds of lumber, ashes, doors, blinds, moldings, &c. He solicits a share of public patronage.

NATHAN TOVELL, Guelph, 27th Aug. 1867. Nelson Crescent

Valuable Building Lots for Sale IN EVERTON.

THE subscriber offers for sale, cheap for cash, two valuable building lots in the Village of Everton, being No. 132 and No. 133, as laid out in the map made by Wm. Haskins, Esq. P. L. S. There are two-fifths of an acre of land in the two lots, and being close to the Disciples' Meeting House, and in a central part of the Village, form excellent sites for building on. For terms apply at the MERCURY Office, or (if by letter post-paid) to DUNCAN ROBERTSON, Everton P. O. Guelph, Nov. 15th, 1867. wtf

DOMINION SALOON,

(LATE ORAND'S SHADDS SALOON.) OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH.

CHOICE LIQUORS, Cigars, Oysters, &c., &c. always on hand. Meals furnished at all hours. DENIS BUNYAN. Guelph, December 2, 1867. dawly

H. HOGG'S

FLOUR AND FEED STORE

Opposite the Market Shed.

CONSTANTLY ON HAND, all kinds of Mill Feed, Chopped Peas, Middlings, Shorts, Bran, &c.

Corneal, Oatmeal, Flour!

Reason, Sugar-cured Hams, and Potatoes.

NOTICE!

Opposite the MARKET. Opposite the MARKET.



1,000 MEN WANTED

At the ELEPHANT Clothing Emporium

TO FILL THOSE

OVERCOATS and PEA JACKETS

which range in price from \$3.50 upwards. During the present month

SMITH & BOTSFORD

will sell their CLOTHING at prices much lower than that of any other house in Guelph. It is now generally admitted that this is the only Store in town where real Bargains can be obtained.

Commercial Bank Bills taken at par.

SMITH & BOTSFORD.

Guelph, 11th December, 1867. dw-4f

Christmas Presents,

he will through the HOLIDAYS furnish all kinds of Photographs at greatly

REDUCED PRICES.

Parties wishing to make presents of Photographs to their friends should call at once.

PICTURES

of all kinds furnished in the first style of the art.

Gallery above John A. Wood's Grocery Store.

W. BURGESS.

Guelph, 18th December, 1867. dw

\$20. STAR \$100. SHUTTLE SEWING MACHINE.

Patented May, 1867.

THE Star Shuttle Sewing Machine makes a stitch alike on both sides of material sewed, which will not rip or ravel. Does all kinds of work equally as well as Singer's high-priced machine. Combines simplicity with durability, and is warranted for five years. It is suited alike for the dressmaker, tailor, manufacturer or family. Mr. J. SPAFFORD having been appointed General Agent for Ontario, wishes to engage a few good local and travelling agents, to whom good inducements will be offered. For machine, sample of work, or terms, address—

J. E. SPAFFORD, P. O. Box 450, Toronto.

Apothecaries' Hall,

MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH.

JUST RECEIVED

A large supply of

SYDNEY BROWN'S

PERFUME

WATCHES!

Superior to either the "Russell" or "American" Watch, containing as it does a new and

DELIGHTFUL PERFUME

for the Handkerchief, unrivalled for the sweetness of its odour and lasting properties.

Price Twenty-five Cents each

ALEX. B. PETRIE, Chemist, Market Square, Guelph, Dec. 7 1867. dw

Gold & Silver Plating

A. HOWIE & CO.

Royal Hotel Buildings, James-st., HAMILTON.

Watches, Chains, Rings Pencil Cases, and all kinds of Jewelry Plated in Gold.

Tea Setts, Cake Baskets, Knives, Forks, Spoons, &c., Plated at reasonable rates.

Also, Door Plates & Carriage Trimmings

of every description done to order with neatness and despatch.

Orders from a distance punctually attended to. Hamilton, November 23 1867. dwsM

DEVON BULL FOR SALE

FOR sale by the subscriber, the Devon Bull "Prince William," 4 years old. He has taken eight premiums at the Provincial and County Shows, and also at the last New York State Fair. He is the best bull of the Devon breed in Canada. Apply to

GEO. RUDD, Fulwith Plains, Guelph P. O. Guelph, 9th December, 1867. wt

GEORGE PALMER

BARRISTER and Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor in Chancery, Notary Public and Commissioner of the Peace, Guelph, Ontario.

Commercial Bank Bills taken at par. Guelph, November 14, 1867.

Just Arrived from Newfoundland

100 Barrels Latest Caught Labrador Herrings, 100 Half Barrels Latest Caught Labrador Herrings, which can be confidently recommended as the best imported this year.

Commercial Bank Bills taken at par. Guelph, November 14, 1867.