TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers wishing to take the EVENING MERCURY by the week, or for a longer period, will please leave their names at the office, and it will be regularly delivered at their residences. Subscribers whose papers are not regularly left by the Carrier Boys, will please call at the office at once and inform us of the neglect.

Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

FRIDAY EVENING, DEC. 27, 1867.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENCLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

'I am sorry to say his presence is known to them,' remarked Elliott 'for he was seen and recognized on the moor by Captain Allan, who nearly took him prisoner.'

'Wae's me, has that devil's buckle gotten' his een on ye?' cried Andrew, in dismay. 'Eh, Maister Hugh, Maister Hugh, if they get ye it will stand hard wi' ye. Think what the murderers did tae Maister Guthrie.'

'True, Andrew,' answered the youthful preacher, as a flush came over his pale and singularly beautiful face. 'It was a foul and bloody crime they committed when they executed that eminent servant of God. But I am not a man of mark such as he was, therefore, my apprehension is not so eagerly sought after.'

'Dinna gang into their grip, sir,' said Andrew, impressively, as he again took the lamp, and prepared to lead the way. 'For ony sake dinna gang into their grip. Ye hae roosed the hatred o' that awfu' wretch Sharpe, and he'll kill ye if he can. Oh, Maister Hugh, but ye did gie him his name yon day in the High Kirk o' Edinburgh. A'body saw wha ye meant, and they tell me the Archbishop took it tae himsel'. So he micht, for he is a Judas, and his conscience tells him that.'

'Aye, and as the modern Judas, he will be known in history,' said Walter. 'But come, good Andrew, hasten forward; remember how weary and hungry our travellers are. Marjory must be put on the alert to provide hospitable entertainment for them.'

'Marjory will be fit tae gang oot o' her skin wi' joy when she sees Miss Marion,' was the response, as with alacrity Andrew now led the way along several winding passages to a lofty-roofed room, where burned a large cheerful-looking fire, and in front of it, attending to the drying of clothes, was a douce, cleanly dressed woman, wearing the white mutch and broad black ribbon which elderly women wore at that period, and for long after.

This was Marjory Weir, Andrew's 'better half,' and Walter Elliott's housekeeper. We shall not describe the demonstrativeness of her reception of Marion Gordon, how she rapidly passed through the stages of bewilderment, amazement and rapture, what exclamations she made, or how she finished off by getting the maiden in her arms, and kissing her with all the fondness of a mother's affection. It was the honest genuine outflow of a simple guileless heart, strong in her love and admiration of her minister's only child, and one whose excellencies she well knew—one, likewise, who she rejoiced to think was to become the bride of her dear master, and the mistress of his home.

Marion responded with undisguised emotion to the worthy woman's motherly welcome, and her beautiful eyes shone more beautifully through the starting tears as she returned the kiss and the embrace. It stirred the emotions of those who looked on also, and Hugh murmured as his own eyes grew liquid—

'Dear alike for her father's sake and for her own. Heaven grant that her share of the sufferings like to come upon the people of the Covenant may press lightly on her young and innocent head,'

'Amen to that, Hugh,' said Walter, as he pressed the speaker's hand. 'And surely my wish cannot be less fervent than yours, since the deepest love of my nature is centered upon her, and I have received that pure heart of hers into my keeping.'

'My friend,' said Hugh, solemnly, 'let your love for each other be subordinate to your love for Him whose cause requires to be maintained. Faithfulness to him will sanctify your affection for her, and hers for you.'

'I know it, Hugh, I know it,' responded Walter. 'I am devoted to the side of the Covenant, and will contend for the preservation of our civil and religious liberties. If they are lost, all is lost.'

'They will not be lost,' said Hugh, with a radiant look upon his fair countenance, 'It may require much suffering to secure them. You and I, and many more, may fall a sacrifice in the conflict, but the Reformation in Scotland will not have been accomplished in vain. The truth shall in the end prevail, for the promise is sure. 'I have set my king upon my Holy Hill of Zion.''

'Noo, Marjory, stir yersel', my woman,' said Andrew, breaking in upon Marjory's protracted demonstrations of joy, 'There's supper tae mak' for our hungry travellers, and a room tae prepare for Miss Marion, and anither for Mr. M'Kail.'

'An' that's true,' cried Marjory. 'I'm forgettin' mysel' a'thegether. Come awa, my dawtie, an' get aff that lang ridin' goon.'

'Not till I have seen my father,' she replied, 'Where shall we find him, Walter?'

'In a snug retreat at the rear of the mansion. Come, I will lead you both to him.'

Taking up the light which Andrew had deposited on the table, Walter took Marion's hand, and closely followed by Hugh they traversed a very labyrinth of passages, some of them narrow, some of them broad, crossed empty rooms, and ascended and descended flights of steps, till they reached a low door in one of the wings, which overlooked the ravine.

This door opened by a spring, the trick of which was known only to the initiated so that no hostile foe could enter. Walter pressed the spring with his finger and the door swinging back, revealed the interior of a well furnished chamber. A lamp stood upon a table in the centre, and seated at the table, with a book before him, and deep in the study of its contents sat a fine-looking man, considerably past middle life, of most serene and benevolent countenance. A broad brow, full of thought and mental power, but traced across with lines of care and anxiety and suffering, was surmounted by a grandly rounded head, the thin silky hair of which was whitening towards a rich silver hue. A calm and pleasant gravity rested on his placid features, while a smile partly sad and partly sweet played upon his parted lips.

It is questionable if he heard the opening of the door, or if he did he was but dimly conscious of the fact, which did not in the least disturb his study of the book over which he bent. And so striking were his form and attitude, so impressive and reverend his appearance, that the three visitors involuntarily paused to gaze upon him, till a great gush of filial emotion overcame Marion, and with a sob and the exclamation of 'Father, dear father,' round his neck and lay weeping in his bosom.

He was considerably startled at first, and for a moment gazed in Marion's upturned face with speechless amazement, but so soon as his eye caught sight of Walter and Hugh he understood the manner and purpose of her coming, and folded his arms round her in holy tenderness.

'My child, I did not look for your presence at this time,' he gently whispered.

'Oh, father, I so longed to see you, and getting word that you were coming to Greystone, I prevailed on Hugh to escort me.'

'Ah but in doing so, my child, you have subjected him to great danger.—Yet I am glad, very glad to see you and Hugh, too,' he added, holding out his hand to M'Kail, which the latter advanced and shook with great warmth of affection.

He held the young man's hand in his and looked silently and wistfully into his face.

'So you have ventured back from Holland, and come within reach of our persecutors,' he said.

'Yes, uncle,' replied the young man, 'I could not remain in safety and idleness when so many of my brethren were maintaining the good cause in the midst of peril and danger. If the truth is to triumph, it must be fought for in Scotland, not in Holland.'

'Right Hugh; right. You have the spirit of the true confessor, and much I fear you will need it ere long. The fierceness of the ravening wolves that are trying to destroy the Church of Scotland increases day by day, and things will grow worse before they are better. The furnace is being heated, Hugh, and it will be heated, aye, until seven times.'

'Well, uncle, the faster it is heated the sooner will the purification be effected,'

'Meanwhile,' observed Walter, speaking for the first time, 'present danger is imminent, and must be at once guarded against.'

And forthwith he narrated their adventures that night on the moor with Charlie Allan.

TO BE CONTINUED.

COMMERCIAL.

Guelph Markets.

MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH. December 27, 1867.

Flour, per 100 lbs.	$3 75	"	4 00
Fall Wheat per bushel,	1 55	"	1 65
Spring Wheat,	1 48	"	1 50
Oats do	0 45	"	0 46
Peas do	0 60	"	0 65
Barley do	0 95	"	1 00
Hay, per ton	12 00	"	14 00
Straw	4 00	"	5 00
Shingles per square	1 00	"	1 50
Wood per cord	3 00	"	3 50
Wool	0 27	"	0 20
Eggs, per dozen	0 14	"	0 19
Butter (firkin), per lb	0 14	"	0 16
Geese, each	0 25	"	0 35
Turkeys do	0 50	"	0 60
Chickens per pair	0 20	"	0 25
Ducks do	0 20	"	0 30
Potatoes	0 50	"	0 55
Apples per brls.	0 00	"	2 00
Lamb per lb	0 06	"	0 07
Beef	4 00	"	5 00
Beef, per lb	0 05	"	0 00
Pork per 100 lbs	4 50	"	6 00
Sheep Pelts each	0 30	"	0 60
Lamb skins	0 40	"	0 40
Hides per 100 lbs	6 00	"	6 00

Money Market.

JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE. Guelph, December, 27, 1867.

Gold, 134.
Greenbacks bo't at 73½ to 74; Sold at 74 to 75.
Silver bought at 4½ to 4c. dis.; sold at 3½c to 3
Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 50c. to 55c.
Commercial Bank Bills bought at 90c to 95c.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co's. report by Special Telegraph to 'Evening Mercury.')

MONTREAL, December 27, 1867

Flour—Fancy, $7 50 to $7 60; Superfine No. 1. $7 20 to $7 35; Welland Canal, $7 25. Bag flour, $3 [illegible] to $3 60. Oats 42 c to 43c. Barley 85c to [illegible]. Butter—dairy 16c to 19c; store packed 14c to 16c. Ashes—Pots $5 45 to $5 50, pearls $5 95 $6 00.

Flour receipts moderate demand and prices generally unchanged. Grain—wheat buyers at $1 65 and more asked; Peas no sales; Oats held at 43c to 44c, no sales over 42c; Barley firm at quotations. Provisions—Pork quiet; Hogs great receipts, buyers holding off and rates nominally unchanged but more difficult to secure.—Butter unchanged. Ashes dull rates and unchanged.

TORONTO, December 26, 1867

Flour— Receipts, 000 brls; No. 1, at $6 75.—Wheat—at $1 50. Peas—72c. Oats—55c to 55c. Larley—82c to $1 00.

HAMILTON, December 26 1867.

Fall wheat,—$1 45 @ $1 50. Spring do—$1 30 @ $1 35 per bushel. Barley—70c @ 73c. Oats —52c to 52c Peas- 73c @ 75c.

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 make room for the Spring Stock. Call and look the endless variety. The trade supplied on the most liberal terms.

Guelph, h Dec, 1867.

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 authorised 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, Livingstone & More, HALIFAX.

FISH, OILS, &c.

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

Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co., HALIFAX, N. S

October 12 1867. dawly

NOTICE

To Debtors & Creditors.

THE undersigned Executors for the Estate of the late Alexander McKinnon, deceased, hereby give notice to all parties indebted to the said Estate, to pay to J. W. BURT, acting Executor for the same, as he is the only person authorized to receive money for the said Estate, and all parties are forbid paying to any other person. All parties having claims against the Estate are hereby notified to send in the same to the undersigned on or before the expiry of six months from the date of this notice.

J. W. BURT, ARCH. THOMSON, JAS. W. KENNEDY, } Executors

THE GROCERY & WINE TRADE

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT.

FRANK SMITH & CO.

77 Front Street, Toronto,

BEG 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. 'Planet,' 'Chaudiere,' 'City of Hamilton,' 'Glenborie,' from London.
'Avon,' 'Oneida,' 'Hibernia,' 'Peruvian, 'Summer,' and Pericles,' from Liverpool.
'Abeona' 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 Denia.

JUST RECEIVING IN STORE,

303 Hhds and Tierces of Barbadoes, Porto Rico and Cuba Sugars.
522 Bbls Currants crop 1866, VERY CHEAP.
5175 Half Chests and Catties 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.

Toronto, 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 Uncolored 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 ½ Butts), and

WINES & LIQUORS,

COMPRISING

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. dw-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, sashes, doors, blinds, mouldings, &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 on 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 GRAND'S SHADES 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,

Cornmeal, Oatmeal, Flour!

Bacon, Sugar-cured Hams, and Potatoes.

Guelph, [illegible] 1867. dw-tf

CHEAP

Photographs

W. BURGESS

BEGS leave to inform his friends and the public of Guelph and surrounding country that having received a large lot of **FRAMES** suitable for

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

THE BARCLAY

SEWING MACHINE.

WITHOUT any exceptions, the Barclay Sewing Machine, Manufactured by the British American Sewing Machine Company,

AT PARIS, ONTARIO,

are 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 DALTON KNITTING MACHINES, one of the best machines in the market.

Apply to MOSES BECHTEL, General Agent for the County of Wellington

Blair P O., Dec. 4th, 1867

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

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, Puslinch Plains, Guelph P O

Guelph, 9th December, 1867. w4

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.

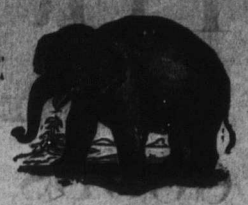
Orders from a distance punctually attended to.

Hamilton, November 23 1867. dw3m

GEORGE PALMER

BARRISTER and Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor in Chancery, Notary Public and Conveyancer. Office, No. 2, Day's Block, Guelph

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-tf

DIRECT IMPORTATIONS

OF STAPLE AND FANCY

DRY GOODS!

AT THE BRADFORD HOUSE.

GEORGE JEFFREY

Has much pleasure in announcing the arrival of his

FALL AND WINTER STOCK!

WHICH WILL BE FOUND ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE IN CANADA. HE WOULD PARTICULARLY DIRECT ATTENTION TO A FEW DEPARTMENTS:

SILKS, Black and Coloured.
REPS, PRINCESS' CLOTHS,
MANTLE CLOTHS,
Some things Quite New.

And every other description of Goods will be shown as they appear in the Market.

GEORGE JEFFREY.

Guelph, September 21st 1867. d

GREAT SALE OF

BOOTS AND SHOES

PREST & HEPBURN

WILL COMMENCE

On Monday next, 23rd Dec.,

To sell off the entire Stock of Imported Goods

At Cost and Under!

and will continue until the whole is CLEARED OUT, as they intend in future to keep nothing but their **own manufacture.** This will be the best opportunity ever offered in the Town of Guelph to buy cheap Boots and Shoes, as the

Whole Stock will be sold without Reserve for Cash only.

PREST & HEPBURN.

Guelph, 16th October. 1867.

☞ **Come and See the Bargains at the** ☜

RUTHERFORD HOUSE!

DRY GOODS, CLOTHING

And a Cheap lot of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Underclothing,

All of which we are determined to sell cheaper than any house in the town, and our

Groceries, Crockery and Liquors are Cheaper than ever

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. daw-