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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 cal at the office at once and inform us of the neglect.

Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

MONDAY EV'NG, FEB. 3, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

Or, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENCLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

'Little fear that we should mistake your motive,' responded M'Lellan, with calm sarcasm. 'We well know that you relinquish them out of no good will to them or us, but to save your own lives. But time passes, and we would be gone. Be good enough then to pass the order for the prisoners to move to the front.'

'Not so fast,' rejoined Allan, 'I'm not fool enough to hand them over without stipulating for our own safety. Once you have them on the height, what is to hinder you from using your advantage, and sending us over the precipice?'

'Nothing, if we felt free to do it,' answered the other. 'But violence and bloodshed are farthest from our thoughts, and once our friends are with us you are as safe, for aught that we will do, as if you were in the streets of Dumfries.'

'What guarantee have I of that?' demanded the Captain.

'Our solemn word and promise.'

'The promise of rebels! How can we trust that?'

'The promise of men,' retorted M'Lellan, 'who respect their obligations too much to forsake the Covenant which aforetime they swore, though worldly ease would be theirs if they did. The name we fear, sir, should be to you sufficient guarantee.'

'It must needs suffice when no better is to be had. You swear then, for yourself and all who are with you, that when the prisoners are in your hands you will molest us no further?'

'We promise that—provided you return by the way you came, and not up the Pass.'

'Why not up the Pass?'

'Because a short distance would place you on the open heights, when doubtless you would pursue us, and some of us might be taken. To prevent this you must go down the Pass, which is, after all, your proper road, for you do not now require to go to Edinburgh.'

'You are very sicker,' said the Captain, biting his lip. 'This second demand I will comply with for the same reason as the former—that I cannot help myself while in this cursed place. Jackson, give the order for the prisoners to come to the front.'

This order was gladly heard and obeyed, though not without difficulty, for the prisoners had to dismount with the utmost caution and move slowly forward along the upper side of the path, making one foot sure before the other was lifted. Each trooper as they passed him eyed them anxiously, for he knew that if one of them slipped and fell he would roll among his horses' legs, and send him down likewise. They were glad, therefore, when they got safely past, as the whole six did—Mr. Gordon going first, and Walter last, for his arms were bound. He was too proud to ask the cords to be cut, but, being an expert mountaineer, he passed along the slope with a firm and steady foot, and gained the front, where the rest had already preceded him.

'You may thank your friends here for this piece of good fortune,' said Charlie to Walter as he went close past his horse's bridle. 'You escape for the present, but it will not be for long. We shall meet again.'

'Possibly we shall, when the power will not be all on your side,' rejoined Walter. 'And when that time comes,' he added, 'you may be very sure that I will remember the various obligations you have placed me under of late.'

'Are you bound Mr. Elliot?' cried M'Lellan, who was looking on from above.

'His arms are bound,' exclaimed Mr. Gordon, looking up.

Instantly a long-bladed knife came whirling through the air, and stuck in the soil at their feet. The minister picked it up and set Walter's arms free, when without further delay, they proceeded forward up the Pass to a point where the slope was less steep, and where they could scramble up to join their friends.

Charlie Allan also promptly gave the order for his men to turn, an operation which took both time and care, and while waiting till it was accomplished, the Captain looked up with a scowl in answer to the cheers which the Covenanters gave when their friends were free.

'This day's work will be heavily answered,' he cried. 'Not only you, but all the rebels in Scotland will have cause to rue this rescue at the Enterken Pass.'

'Boast not young man,' said M'Lellan calmly. 'You and your tyrant masters will be able to go only so far as you are permitted. There is One who holds you in his hand at all times more completely than we do now and you will act against us only if He wills it.'

'More rebel cant, eh Jackson?' roared Allan, with a mocking laugh.

'Egad, Captain,' replied the sergeant, 'we could not have had more of it if we had been at a conventicle. Poor Kennedy! I suppose we must leave him to the ravens?'

'Trust me, he shall be amply avenged,' muttered Allan in reply.

'Ready,' was now the word that came along the line, which had got itself turned, so that the rear had become the front.

'Forward—march!' shouted the Captain, and the cavalcade began slowly to retrace its steps down the Pass, and in a short time disappeared in the mist.

By this time Mr Gordon and Walter with the other prisoners had joined their rescuers on the heights, and warmly thanked them for the bold deed which had resulted in their deliverance. But M'Lellan, knowing the importance of prompt action, dispersed his followers, and the Covenanters parted from each other, exchanging fervent wishes for the success of the good cause.

It being out of the question for either Mr. Gordon or Walter to return to Birkencleuch M'Lellan had no difficulty in persuading them to flee with him to Barscob.

Andrew Weir was therefore commissioned to carry tidings of their rescue to Marion, and the faithful fellow having bidden them farewell, shouldered his flail and departed, while the other three turned south to seek for shelter in Galloway.

TO BE CONTINUED.

GREAT DISTRESS AT COVENTRY.—A second calamity, in the form of general distress, the intensity of which is described by one of the local papers as being unprecedented, has fallen upon Coventry. The staple trade of the city, that of ribbon weaving, is in a fearful depressed state, in consequence of which thousands of hands are out of employment, and are depending entirely for their subsistence upon the assistance of their neighbours, and the scanty dole of the parish. The distress has been greatly aggravated by the recent failures of large firms. The liabilities of the bankrupts are exceedingly heavy, those of the most recent case being estimated at £100,000. Before stoppage, each of the bankrupt firms provided partial employment for their hands, all of whom are now left in a state of utter destitution.

Some Fenians who had enlisted in the Papal Zouaves having expressed sympathy with the Manchester murderers, and spoken disrespectfully of the Queen, were placed under arrest and afterwards dismissed from the service of the Pope. The British Government have expressed their satisfaction with the action of the Pontifical authorities.

COMMERCIAL.

Guelph Markets.

MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH. February 3, 1868.

Flour, per 100 lbs.	$3 75	"	4 00
Fall Wheat per bushel,	1 75	"	1 80
Spring Wheat,	1 55	"	1 58
Oats do	0 55	"	0 60
Peas do	0 75	"	0 78
Barley do	0 90	"	1 00
Hay per ton	10 00	"	13 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 15
Butter (firkin), per lb	0 13	"	0 18
Geese, each	0 25	"	0 30
Turkeys do	0 50	"	0 60
Chickens per pair	0 20	"	0 28
Ducks do	0 20	"	0 25
Potatoes	0 60	"	0 70
Apples per brls	0 00	"	2 00
Lamb per lb	0 06	"	0 07
Beef	4 50	"	6 00
Beef, per lb	0 05	"	0 00
Pork per 100 lbs	4 50	"	5 50
Sheep Pelts each	0 50	"	0 75
Lamb skins	0 40	"	0 45
Hides per 100 lbs	6 00	"	6 00

Money Market.

JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE. Guelph, February 3, 1868.

Gold, 14¾.
Greenbacks bo't at 70 to 71; Sold at 71 to 72c.
Silver bought at 4½ to 4¾ dis.; sold at 3½ to 4¾.
Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 50c. to 55c.
Commercial Bank Bills bought at 95c to 98c

MONTREAL MARKETS.

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

MONTREAL, February 3, 1868.

Flour—Fancy, $7 65 to $7 75; Superfine No. 1. $7 45 to $7 60; Welland Canal, $7 50. Bag flour, $3 60 to $3 70. Oats 46 c to 47c. Barley 90c to $1. Butter—dairy 13c to 18c; store packed 13c to 16c. Ashes—Pots $5 25 to $5 30. pearls $5 75 $5 80.

Flour, small receipts, market steady and firm, no sales, 170 obtainable. Peas none offered; Oats firm and improving; Barley quiet. Provisions—Pork unchanged; Hogs slightly improved demand Butter neglected. Ashes quiet.

TORONTO, February 1, 1868

Flour— Receipts, 400 brls; No. 1, at $70 0.—F. Wheat—at $1 73. Peas—88c. Oats—58c to 64c. Barley—$1 00 to $1 05.

HAMILTON, February 1, 1868.

Fall wheat—$1 70 @ $1 77. spring do—$1 55 @ $1 60 per bushel. Barley—$1 @ $1 05. Oats—60c to 60½c Peas—80c @ 82c. Pork—$5 50 to $6 25.

Liverpool & London & Globe
INSURANCE COMPANY.

Capital Surplus & Reserved Funds
$16,271,675.

DIRECTORS IN CANADA:
T. B. ANDERSON, Esq., Chairman, (President Bank of Montreal.)
HENRY STARNES, Esq., Deputy Chairman, (Manager Ontario Bank).
E. H. KING, Esq., (General Manager Bank of Montreal).
HENRY CHAPMAN, Esq, Merchant.
THOMAS CRAMP, Esq., Merchant.
G. F. C. SMITH, Esq., Resident Secrrtary.
F. A. BALL, Hamilton, Ont. } Inspectors.
JAMES SPIER, Montreal, }

Fire Insurance & Life Assurance
Policies issued at moderate rates.

This Company offers to Insurers the security of Wealth, Position, Increasing Revenue and Liberal Management.
G. F. C. SMITH, Resident Sec., Montreal.
THOS. W. SAUNDERS, Agent, Guelph.
Guelph, Oct. 28 1867. w713-d86

FAMILY KNITTING MACHINE

Manufactured by the Lamb Knitting Machine Manufacturing Company,
CHICOPEE FALLS, N. Y.

The best Family Knitting Machine extant. No other invention affords so profitable employment for women.

It has taken the Highest premium (a Gold Medal) at the Fair of the American Institute, New York, and the Exhibition of the Mass. Charitable Association, Boston, and the Provincial Exhibition at Toronto also, and the highest Premium at every State and County Fair wherever it has been exhibited—eclipsing all other machines.

It sets up its own work, knits all sizes, widens and narrows, knits the heel into the stocking, and narrows off the toe complete; it knits a yard of plain work in five minutes, a pair of Socks in thirty minutes; knits the single, double, ribbed and fancy flat webs, producing all varieties of knit goods, from an infant's stocking, mitten or glove, to a lady's shawl or hood, which no other machine in the world can do. It is simple, durable, and easily operated.

☞ Call and see the Machine worked, Lot No. 2, 3rd Con., Puslinch, opposite Cober's Carriage Shop. ☞ Samples of Knitting sent on receipt of 25 cents in postage stamps,

Agents Wanted.

JACOB N. COBER,
Sole Agent for Wellington and Waterloo Counties. Also, Agent for the BARCLAY SEWING MACHINE, manufactured in Paris, Ontario.
Address Hespeler P O 739-3m

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W. MARSHALL

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BETTER THAN THE BEST
BETTER THAN THE BEST

CALL AND SEE SPECIMENS
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CALL AND SEE SPECIMENS

AT MARSHALL'S,

Day's Block, opposite the Market,
Guelph, 13th January, 1868. dw

MRS. HUNTER'S
FANCY STORE,
West Market Square.

JUST received, a large lot of FANCY GOODS, all kinds, suitable for PRESENTS for

Christmas & New Year's

She has the LARGEST and BEST ASSORTMENT in town of

Berlin & Fancy Wools

☞ Stamping for Braiding and Embroidery.

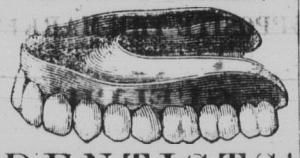
MRS. HUNTER.
Guelph, 11th Dec., 1867. dw

HAY IN TRUSSES
Constantly on hand. Also Straw for beds
TERMS CASH.
JOHN WEST.
Guelph, July 22. daw-tf

Wool, Hide and Leather DEPOT,
No. 4, Day's Old Block, Gordon Street.
Guelph, July 31, 1867 dw D. MOLTON

A
No. 1 Oyster can be had at HUGH WALKER'S Fruit and Oyster Depot by the Pint, Quart, Gallon, Tub, or by the
HUNDRED
James River, Hampton Roads, Lynhaven and Baltimore Oysters constantly on hand.
PERSONS
Will do well to call and examine those solid meat Oysters which I sell by measure. Bring your bowls and pails, and thus save the price of cans and canning. My Oysters are not
KILLED
By frost or starvation before they are opened.—My arrangements are such, that the Oysters I receive are taken from the beds, opened, packed and shipped to me the same day. I can assure those who purchase from me, that they need have no fear of
EATING
Oysters that, from causes well known to the trade, often become stale, and, in fact, totally unfit to eat,
OYSTERS
That are OYSTERS! Call and see them before purchasing elsewhere
IN GUELPH.
Solid Meat Oysters by the keg, can, or measure. Also, Finnan Haddies and fresh and salt Fish of every description, wholesale and retail.
HUGH WALKER.
Wyndham Street, Guelph, nearly opposite the English Church.
Guelph, 18th January 1868. dw

TROTTER & GRAHAM,



DENTISTS!
GUELPH and BRAMPTON,
Members of the Dental Association of the Province of Ontario.
(Successor in Guelph to T. Trotter.)
OFFICE:
Over Mr. Higinbotham's Drug Store
REFERENCES.—Rev. Archdeacon Palmer, Drs, Clarke, Parker and Herod, Guelph; A. F. Scott, Esq., County Judge; George Green, County Attorney; Dr. Pattullo, M. M. C.; Rev. Mr. Arnold—Brampton. Dr. Barnhart, Warden of Peel; Dr. Hampton, resident Surgeon Toronto Hospital.
The new anæsthetic agents used for extracting teeth without pain.
R. TROTTER. W. K. GRAHAM.
Guelph, 2nd August, 1867. (dw-1y)

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. daw 1y

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 directly 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 fo 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 Teas will be found to possess great briskness and flavour, combined with colour and strength, and to be entirely different to the flat and vapid article usually sold as Black Tea; while their Green Teas are altogether free from the deleterious mineral powder so commonly used for coloring the leaf.
PRICES: Rich, full-flavoured Tea, for family use a real genuine 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 upwards, or 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.
Observe.—All packages have the Company' trade-mark, without which none are genuine
MR. N. HIGINBOTHAM
Agent, Guelph.
Guelph, August 3, 1867 dew-1y

NEW
Oyster Rooms
Valentine Wald
BEGS to announce to the public that he has fitted up Oyster Rooms in connection with his Hotel, on MACDONNELL STREET.
The very best of Liquors, and choicest Cigars will always be kept.
The Rooms are under the superintendence of Mr. H. McCrudden, whose courteous attention, as well as his thorough knowledge of the business, will insure satisfaction in all cases.
The very best of Oyters always on hand, and served up in all styles at short notice.
TOM and JERRY, and all kinds of Fancy Drinks prepared in the most approved manner.
Guelph, 27th December, 1867 dw4t

SEED WHEAT.
FOR sale by the subscriber, a quantity of Wheat, known as "Amber," or "Platt's Midge Proof," a new variety. ☞ See CANADA FARMER, vol. 3, pages 41 and 121.
JOHN KIRKLAND, Guelph Tp.
Guelph, 29th Jan, 1868. w10

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

New Saddlery Shop
DO you want a set of Harness, double or single, light or heavy, call at the new shop, next door to Coffee's Hotel.
Do you want a good Saddle? We can supply you cheaper than ever, 15 yards from O'Connor's Wellington Hotel.
Everybody in want of a good Trunk, Valise, or Travelling Bag, can be supplied at the new shop, two doors from the Post Office
WHIPS, Horse Covers, Sleigh Bells
A very large and well-assorted stock of Whips will be sold at 25c. on the dollar of our former low prices, 50 yards north of St. George's Church.
We have a few pairs of imported made up Horse Covers, made to order, also a nice lot of common blankets.
What is more cheering than the merry Sleigh Bells? We can supply you. Call at the new shop, next door to Mr Hoover's Livery Office.
We have on hand all kinds of articles, and will make up on the shortest notice anything you want in the Saddlery line, a few doors South of the Registry Office.
Brushes, Combs, Spurs, Bits, in endless variety. REPAIRING done as usual.
☞ In consequence of the present premises being too small for our large stock, we will for a short time have to sell at a reduced price, to keep our present staff of superior workmen.
SMITH & METCALF,
Late occupiers of the premises destroyed by fire, adjoining the Alma Block.
Guelph, 26th December 1867. dwtf.

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

NATIONAL
Steamship Company.
(LIMITED.)
STEAMERS Weekly from Liverpool and New York, calling at Queenstown.
A Steamship of this line, consisting of the

Queen	*England*	*Virginia*
Erin	*Louisiana*	*and*
Helvetia	*Pennsylvania*	*France.*

Leaves NEW YORK from Pier 47, North River, every Saturday, and Liverpool on Wednesday of each week, calling at Queenstown each way.
The size of those Steamships admits of very spacious state-rooms, all opening directly into the Saloon. The accommodation and fare are unsurpassed, and the rates lower than by any other line.
The accommodation for steerage passengers are large, and plenty of deck room is allowed, whilst the fare is of the best quality, well cooked and ample.
An experienced Surgeon on each ship, free of charge. Tickets are issued in this country to parties wishing to prepay the passage of their friends from Liverpool or Queenstown (Ireland), for $35, American money.
For tickets, special berths, and all information, apply to
J. W. MURTON,
General Passage Agent, No. 9, James Street Hamilton.
Hamilton, 28th Nov. 1867 w1y

FURS,
FURS, FURS.

WE have opened our stock of FURS, of our own manufacture, which we will sell at LOW PRICES, viz:
Extra Dark Mink,
Royal Ermine,
Siberian Squirrel,
River Mink,
Ladies' Hoods,
And a full assortment of CHILDREN'S FURS. GENT'S MUFFLERS and GLOVES, SLEIGH ROBES, &c.
F. GARLAND,
Market Square, GUELPH.
The Highest Price paid for Raw Furs
Guelph, Oct. 31, 1867. 88d w782

$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,
Ponsonby P. O.
Reference—Rev. E. A Healy, Stratford P. O., or Box 450, Toronto

NOTICE.
THE business of Messrs. BLAIR & GUTHRIE will be continued at the same office by the surviving partner, Mr. GUTHRIE.
Guelph, 6th January, 1868. dwlm

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN
MAGAZINES.

ENGLISH MAGAZINES.

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All the Year Round	$3 00	25c
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etc. etc. etc.

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Atlantic Monthly	3 00	25c
Lippincott's Magazine	3 00	25c
Blackwood's "	3 00	25c
The Reviews, each	2 00	50c

	per year.	per copy
Godey's	$3 40	20c
Mde. Demorest's	3 00	25c
Frank Leslie's	3 00	25c
Our Young Folks	2 00	20c

etc. etc. etc.

☞ Can supply any Magazine published (not on this List.)
☞ All the American Daily and Weekly Papers kept constantly for sale.

Orders for any of the above Magazines received, and will be supplied regnlar.

AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE,
Opposite the Market, Guelph.
Guelph, 18th January, 1868. dw

GREAT CLEARING SALE
The Great Clearing Sale of
DRY GOODS!
IS STILL GOING ON AT
WM. STEWART'S,
Guelph 11th December, 1867. dw

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,' 'Chandiera,' 'City of Hamilton,' 'Glenborie,' from London.
'Avon,' 'Ghelda,' 'Hibernia,' 'Peruvian,' 'Summer,' and 'Peticles,' from Liverpool.
'Abeona' and Glenliffer,' 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 Sugars to come 1868, VERY CHEAP.
5375 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.
Toronto, 6th November, 1867. dwtf