

TO SUBSCRIBERS.  
Subscribers wishing to take the Evening Mercury by the week, or for longer periods, will please leave their names at the office, and it will be regularly delivered at their residences. Subscribers whose papers are not regularly delivered by the Carrier Boys, will please call at the office at once and inform us of the neglect.

**Guelph Evening Mercury**  
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 24.

## The Maiden's Choice

ON THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH.

### A Tale of the Covenanters.

The infuriated ruffian, disengaging one hand, drew a pistol from his belt, and was pointing it at Hugh's head, when Marion, noticing his murderous intention, flung herself on the arm that held the weapon at the very moment he was about to fire. The contents lodged harmlessly in the wall. With another oath, Allan tried to snatch the remaining pistol from his belt, but Marion with wild energy, struggled to prevent him.

So occupied were all three with their desperate struggle, and blinded by the smoke from the discharged pistol, that they did not observe a horseman galloping towards them at the utmost speed; and the first intimation they had of his presence was when a strong hand clutched the trooper by the throat, and a stern angry voice exclaimed—

'Villain, what means this outrage?' 'Walter!' exclaimed Marion, with a glad cry. 'Oh, thank God, you have come.'

And with one bound, she flung herself on the new comer's broad bosom. 'Merciful heaven! Marion, is it you?' cried the stranger, who did not till that moment recognize her. Then, as the hot blood mounted to his brow, he comprehended for a moment his grip in the trooper's throat, and with resistless strength, buried him away till he rolled several yards from them among the heather.

In his violent excitement, the rescuer was about to do the same to M'Kail, when the latter spoke. 'Walter,' he exclaimed, 'this is a merciful interposition. Providence has sent you hither to save Marion from the violence of that bad man.'

'Hugh—Hugh M'Kail!' responded Walter Elliot, for it was he. 'I took you for the companion of the miscreant.'

'Take care!' shouted Hugh, 'he is going to fire.'

Walter cast a glance towards the trooper, who was rising from the ground where he had been hurled, and saw him in the act of drawing a pistol from his belt. Quick as lightning he rushed upon him, and struck up his arm, when the pistol went off in the air, thus baffling for a second time the murderous intentions of Allan.

Then Walter grappled with him, and they being now face to face, he saw with amazement who it was.

'Charlie Elliot!' he exclaimed, releasing him in a moment, and gazing at him in utter surprise.

Without uttering a word, Allan drew his sword, and made a lunge at Walter's breast. The latter saved himself only by making a sudden spring backward, when, impelled by the impetuosity of his onslaught, the trooper fell forward on his knees, and ere he could recover himself, Walter was again upon him, wrenched the sword from his grasp, broke it in two pieces, and tossed it contemptuously from him.

'Cowardly villain, you deserve that weapon through your body,' he observed. 'But go, and be thankful that I do not use the advantage I obtained.'

'By all the fends in hell, but I will be revenged for this!' roared Allan, hoarse with passion. 'You have the better of me now, but it will not be for long. I have the power to crush every one of you, and I'll do it.'

'You have shown that you have the will at least,' returned Walter, as he turned again to Marion, and put an arm of protection around her.

'Aye, and when we meet again the power will not be wanting. Remember, I am your implacable foe, and swear to accomplish your destruction.'

'I would advise you to beware,' said Walter. 'You will not again find me so merciful as I have been to-night.'

'Ho! proud vaunter!' cried Allan, as with a mocking laugh he turned away. 'It will then be your turn to meet mercy, and by the Lord, you may consider yourself lucky if you get it.'

And, having delivered himself thus, the discomfited, disarmed, and horseless dragoon, forming with rage and mortification, strode away, taking the direction of Sanguhar.

'Marion, my own dearest Marion,' whispered Walter Elliot in the ear of his betrothed. 'This is an unexpected joy. But why did you not convey the intelligence that you were coming, and I would have taken means to secure you from outrage. Hugh is very faithful as a conveyer,' he added, smilingly, 'but his moral and spiritual armour is not of the kind to cope with the brute strength and carnal weapons of Turner's troopers.'

'It is my opinion that we would not have received such rough treatment from a common trooper, rude and licentious as they are reported to be,' observed Hugh, as he adjusted his dress, which had been disarranged in the scuffle.

'I heard only yesterday that Allan was commander of the troop at Sanguhar,' said Walter, 'and during the short time he and his soldiers have been there they have proved the most insolent and rapacious set of ruffians which a Government could ever oppress people. Now that Allan is our open and declared enemy, he may make us suffer not a little, for the soldiery seems to have received unlimited power, and are free to do as they list.'

'We had accounts of their plunderings and cruelties in Edinburgh,' rejoined M'Kail, 'and I was dubious of the propriety of undertaking this journey; but Marion, having received intelligence that her father was resolved to venture back to Greystone for a time, had a great longing to see him, and prevailed on me to be her escort. And, truth to say, I had also a special desire to see Uncle Gordon, to confer with him on the sorrowful condition of this suffering land, and the dark prospects of the Church.'

'Aye, sorrowful and dark enough, in all conscience,' remarked Walter. 'Civil and religious liberty are alike trampled under feet. There is now no security in law, for those who are appointed to maintain the law have set the law aside, and absolute tyranny has taken its place. What is to be the end of it, God knows; but those in power seem bent on forcing a rebellion, and I often wonder the people have been so long in showing signs of resistance. But we must not tarry longer on the moor. The moon is now down, and as we will be forced to take bye-paths, our progress will be but slow.'

'I have heard that my father has reached Birkenleuch,' said Marion.

'Yes, he came from Barscob a week ago. As yet his presence seems not to be suspected by the military, but this night he comes with Allan will, no doubt, subject the Cleuch to a visitation, and the first thing to be done when we get there is to provide him with a safe hiding-place.'

'You will see us safely to Greystone?' remarked Marion.

'To Greystone, dearest? No. Greystone would not be a safe place for you. You must take up your abode at Birkenleuch. And why not? Is not your father there, and your cousin, Hugh, won't he be there likewise?'

Marion blushed, and smiled, and made no opposition. It was beautiful to see with what quiet confidence and perfect trust she reclined on the bosom of her broad-chested, strongly built lover, and gazed up into his sun-browned handsome face, so brave and open, so kind and tender in its expression. And truly his presence was such as to inspire confidence, for though he was not more than twenty-five years of age, his form, countenance, and bearing, were indicative of strength, courage, and high manly qualities, a generous nobility of nature, which could stoop to no base motive of mere selfishness, which had a firm moral basis, and a decidedly virtuous direction. His voice, in its depth and clearness of tone, declared the excellence of his character and disposition; while the fearless and magnanimity of his conduct and

Allan, proved him to be possessed of feelings and sentiments worthy of the highest admiration. We cannot wonder that the pure womanly heart of Marion Gordon fixed its choice on him in preference to Charlie Allan, who was devoid of all true manly greatness, and was the slave of vice, passion, and selfishness to a degree painfully repulsive to every well regulated mind.

Walter dressed himself of his cloak, and fixed it on the saddle of his horse, and made there a comfortable seat for Marion, who was forthwith mounted thereon; and the youth, leading the animal by the bridle, guided the way across the moor in the direction of Birkenleuch, Hugh following close in their footsteps, and thus finding a firm path through the moss, where otherwise, in his ignorance of its hags and pools, he would have sunk into dangerous places.

Their progress in this way was necessarily slow, and it would have taken them several hours to reach their destination had not a circumstance occurred which enabled them to pursue their journey at a more rapid pace.

They had not proceeded far, when Walter's quick eye caught sight of Hugh's horse browsing quietly on a heathery knoll at no great distance. Calling to Hugh to hold the bridle of his own well-trained steed, he crossed the knoll, and without difficulty secured the truant, who was forthwith made to return to his duty. The pillion was transferred from his back to that of Walter's horse, which was now to bear its owner, with Marion behind him; and Hugh, mounting his recovered charger, they set off in single file and at a smart gallop, which ere long brought them to the edge of the moor, and to a well-beaten road which traversed the cultivated district was now before them.

In another half-hour they arrived at Birkenleuch, the residence of their friend and conductor, William Elliot.

TO BE CONTINUED.

## COMMERCIAL.

### Guelph Markets.

MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH. }  
December 24, 1867. }

Flour, per 100 lbs. .... \$3 75 " 4 00  
Fall Wheat per bushel. .... 1 55 " 1 65  
Spring Wheat, ..... 1 40 " 1 42  
Oats ..... 0 45 " 0 46  
Peas ..... 0 02 " 0 05  
Barley ..... 0 80 " 0 85  
Hay, per ton ..... 9 00 " 12 00  
Straw ..... 4 00 " 5 00  
Shingles per square ..... 1 00 " 1 60  
Wood per cord ..... 3 00 " 4 00  
Wool ..... 0 27 " 0 29  
Eggs, per dozen ..... 0 14 " 0 19  
Butter (Irish), per lb. .... 0 14 " 0 16  
Lard, each ..... 0 25 " 0 26  
Turkeys do ..... 0 50 " 0 60  
Chickens per pair ..... 0 20 " 0 25  
Ducks do ..... 0 20 " 0 25  
Potatoes ..... 0 50 " 0 55  
Apples per bushel ..... 0 00 " 2 00  
Lamb per lb. .... 0 08 " 0 07  
Beef ..... 4 00 " 4 00  
Pork, per lb. .... 0 05 " 0 06  
Sheep Pelts each ..... 4 50 " 6 00  
Lamb skins ..... 0 40 " 0 40  
Hides per 100 lb. .... 6 00 " 6 00

### Money Market.

JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE, }  
Guelph, December 24, 1867. }

Gold, 133.  
Greenbacks bought at 73 to 74; sold at 74 to 75.  
Silver bought at 44 to 45; sold at 45 to 46.  
Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 95c to 96c.  
Commercial Bank Bills bought at 92c to 95c.

### MONTREAL MARKETS.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co's report by Special Telegraph to 'Evening Mercury'.  
MONTREAL, December 24, 1867.

Flour—Fancy, \$7 40 to \$7 50; Superfine No. 1, \$7 20 to \$7 40; Welland Canal, \$7 20. Bag flour, \$5 50 to \$5 60. Oats 40c to 42c. Barley 75c to 85c. Butter—dairy 16c to 18c; store packed 14c to 16c. Ashes—Pots \$5 45 to \$5 50; pearls \$5 05 to \$5 10.

Flour receipts small; demand and sales limited but market firm. Grain—wheat slightly better; Peas no sales. Provisions—Pork unchanged; Hog fair receipts; demand steady; sales several cars at quotations. Ashes unchanged.

TORONTO, December 23, 1867.  
Flour—Receipts, 125 bbls; No. 1, at \$6 75—Wheat—at \$1 45. Peas—72c. Oats—55c to 56c. Barley—52c to 55c.

HAMILTON, December 23, 1867.  
Flour—at \$1 45 to \$1 50. Spring do—\$1 30. Oats—per bushel. Barley—70c to 73c. Oats 52c to 55c. Peas—73c to 75c.

## The Guelph Mercury

DAILY AND WEEKLY.  
OFFICE: - - - EAST MACDONNELL STREET.

**McLAGAN AND INNES,**  
PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.

## The EVENING MERCURY

CONTAINING the latest News by Telegraph up to the hour of going to press, is published at 5 o'clock every afternoon (Sunday excepted), and mailed to all parts of the country by the evening mails on the following

TERMS:  
Single copy, one penny, 6d. | Single copy, 3 mo's \$1 6 months 2 | Single do. 1 week 10c.  
Copies may also be had of the News boys on the streets, price one penny. Town subscribers are supplied at their residences by our own carriers.

In addition to the Telegraphic News given in the Evening Mercury will be found a vast amount of LOCAL NEWS, interesting articles on all the leading topics of the day. Special care will be taken to give CONSPICUOUS PLACE to

**Every Business Man** should read it.

## "The Weekly Mercury"

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY,  
IS THE LARGEST COUNTRY NEWSPAPER in the DOMINION, containing 40 columns of reading matter. Special care is devoted to THE WEEKLY MERCURY, and care is taken that none but the best and most careful reading appears in its columns. It is the **Greatest Family Paper of Ontario**; and the unprecedented additions to its subscriptions list within the last two years, and the demand still increasing, is a certain guarantee that our assertion is correct. Our facilities now for getting up a FIRST-CLASS WEEKLY are unrivalled by even the metropolitan press, and we are determined not to relax our energies.

Letters containing money, properly registered, will be at our risk.

TO ADVERTISERS.  
Business men will find THE EVENING and WEEKLY MERCURY to be unrivalled advertising mediums, as their respective circulations are in advance of any others in North Western Canada, and the ONLY means by which extensive settlements can be reached by the judicious advertiser.

Advertising rates are very moderate, and may be learned on application at the Office.

## Book and Job Printing,

Executed on short notice, at reasonable rates, and in the best style of the Art. Having every facility at our command, in this department, we defy competition as to style, quality and price.

McLAGAN & INNES, Publishers.  
Office:—Macdonnell Street, East of the Golden Lion, Guelph, Ontario.  
October 29, 1867. daw-1f.

## NOTICE

**To Debtors & Creditors.**  
THE undersigned Executors for the Estate of the late Alexander McKinnon, deceased, hereby give notice to all parties indebted to said Estate, to pay to J. W. BURT, acting Executor for the same, as he is the only person authorized to receive money for said Estate, and all parties are forbidden to pay 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, Executors.  
JAS. W. KENNEDY.

## 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,' 'Onida,' 'Hibernia,' 'Prussian,' 'Summer,' and 'Pericles,' from Liverpool.  
'Abeona' and 'Glenlivet,' 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.  
222 Bbls Currants crop 1866, VERY CHEAP.  
5175 Half Chests and Caddies Sonchong, 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. dwf

## CHRISTMAS BOXES.

WE WOULD INVITE THOSE ABOUT TO PURCHASE

## CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

to step in and examine our stock, as it is larger and more varied than ever.

Guelph, December 14, 1867. dw

## D. SAVAGE.

### APOTHECARIES' HALL,

MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH.

### UST 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. dw

## 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, shingles, doors, blinds, mouldings, &c. He solicits a share of public patronage.

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

## Valuable Building Lots for Sale

THE subscriber offers for sale, cheap for cash, two valuable building lots in the Village of Everton, being No. 132 and No. 135, 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 Disinfecting 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.

## 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, dawlly  
Guelph, December 2, 1867.

## 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 G. B. RUDD, Fruitland Plains, Guelph P.O.

## CARD OF THANKS.

THE subscriber begs to acknowledge the payment in full of his claim against the Fruitland Mutual Fire Insurance Company for the loss sustained on the 8th July last, by fire, in the destruction of his dwelling house and contents. Absence from the Township prevented his publicly acknowledging earlier the prompt manner in which the company paid his claim.

JOHN CARTER.

## 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-1f

## 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.

## GREAT SALE OF

## BOOTS AND SHOES

## PREST & HEPBURN

WILL COMMENCE

## On Monday next, 23rd Dec.,

To sell off their 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 ev

## 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.