Guelph Evening Mercung

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

FRIDAY EV'NG, JAN'Y 17, 1868

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENCLEUCH. A Tale of the Covenanters.

ere?"

'What is their quality and what their ofence? inquired Sir James, stroking his chin
o.conceal a smile.
And forthwith Charlie made his report of
ais visit to Birkencleuch, and seizure of Waler and Marion, showing the matter of course
n the worst light possible for them, but givng no indication of his own personal feelngs or motives.

his visit to Birkeneleuch, and seizure of Walter and Marion, showing the matter of course in the worst light possible for them, but giving no indication of his own personal feelings or motives.

Sir James, however, tidi as he said he would—he read the Captain's report in the light of the information supplied by Bir Gilbert Barton, and without showing that he knew more than his officer had just communicated, he stood for some moments as if musing, then he shook his head dubiously.

If fear Allan, he observed, "your zeal has carried you rather far in this business. You had sufficient ground for supposing that Marine as your search was fruitless, we lack evidence against Elliot and his bride, whose first until hours you so roughly disturbed. I will, however, examine the prisoners—give orders that they be brought into the great hall immediately.

Walter from the grated window over the entrance, had observed the arrival of the horsenan, and by his appearance judged him to be Sir James Turner. He therefore a precent some such summons as was now brought, and was prepared for the interview. It was with a bold, lofty, stern demeasour that he entered the arched chamber in which he he had he he had he was the highest military official in the district and therefore the guardian of individual register with a bold, lofty, stern demeasour that he entered the arched chamber in which he district and therefore the guardian of individual registers and inferties, he was resolved to take very different position from that he had assumed towards Charlie Allan.

Sir James could not forbear giving a start of surprise when his eve fell on the tall, strongly-made form of Walter, who advanced towards him, with an air not only fearless and undamnted, but with lofty dignity and expression which indicated a sense of deep injury. If the man of power expected to see an abashed and nervous prisoner, he was mightily mistaken, and one glance at Walter see spressive countenance and intellectual brow convinced him that he had to do with one who was

his sergeant to take prisoner mysen and my wife.'

'I have received Captain Allan's report,' returned Sir James. 'It seems he has good reason to believe that you have harboured and concealed an outlaw hamed M'Kail'.'

'Suppose I had, there was a legal way of proceeding against me. But Captain Allan all liberty from me to search my premises; he did so, and found no trace of the man he sought. There is, therefore, not the slight-est excuse for the commission of the out-rage.'

ne du so and the series, therefore, not the slightest excuse for the commission of the outrage."

'Captain Allan, no doubt, acted to the best of his judyment. The present, as you must be aware, is a time of disaffection and incipient rebelion. The troops are here for the purpose of suppressing it, and it cannot be expected that the work can be done without occasional roughness and arbitrary proceedings. If you are a friend of the Government you will not regret having suffered inconvenience by an act that ha! for its object the restoration of order and loyalty in the country. If you are not a friend to the Government, then you cannot complain.

'Sir James Turner,' said Walter, firmly, the people of Scotland are under the idea that their personal and individual freedom is sacredly respected; but if such treatment as we have been subjected to is sanctioned, this idea is a delusion. If the people, whether high or low, are at the mercy of those who are governed by their own unholy passions, then you can only expect that disloyalty will rapidly increase. But, sir, I demand from you our instant liberation—aye, demand it as our right. You can deal with the author of this outrage as you see fit. He is worthy only of my contempt.

'By heaven, Sir James, this touches my honour if exclaimed Allan, as, pale with rage, he laid this hand on his sword.

'Forbear, I command you,' said Turner, imperiously... 'For you, Mr. Elliot, you and your lady are free to depart, but I warn you that it is considered you have covenanting sympathies, and unless you clear yourself from suspicion by conduct different from what you have hitherto pursued you will be made to suffer more than a few hours' imprisonment. You are now at liberty to depart.

what you have interior pursues. You are now at liberty to depart.

Water drew himself proudly up. 'I do not feel constrained to thank you, sir, he remarked, 'for an act of bare justice, in circumstances when I might well demand ample reparation. But I camot go without making some reply to the words you have taken it upon you to address to me. Know this, Siz James Turner, that I claim to act from duty and convictions as well as you've any one. and I have as good a right to warn you as you have to warn me. Know also that I will be true to my convictions whatever these may be, and when rulers are mad enough to seek to destroy the conscience of a people, on them be the responsibility of the dire consequences that will surely follow.

And having delivered himself thus, Water tarried on his heel, and, with a lofty independent air, quitted the presence of the man whose oppressions were at the moment leading the people to the verge of insurrection. He made no reply to Walter's during, language, but gave orders to the sergeant.

Water drew himself proudly up. 'I do not feel constrained to thank you, sir, he remarked, 'for an act of bare justice, in circumstances when I might well demand ample reparation. But I camot go without making some reply to the words you have to warn you as you have to warn me. Know also that I will be true to my convictions whatever these may be, and when rulers are made enough to seek to destroy the conscience of a people, on them be the responsibility of the dire consequences that will surely follow.

And having delivered himself thus, Walter tarried on his heel, and, with a lofty independent air, quitted the presence of the man whose oppressions were at the moment leading the people to the verge of insurrection. He provides the provided that the provided to settle on or before the 25th January, the provided that the provided that the provided that the provided to settle on or before the 25th January, the impressions were at the moment leading the people to the verge of insurrection. GEORGE WI

double dangerous. And, harkee, y please me much if you can find that him which will justify his imprisonm a fellow of his stamp going at large mischief of the worst kind. You

Thus, it was that Walter and Marion had for the last mile, or two of their journey bean rid of Charle's presence altogether, for he had galloped forward considerably in advance of the troop, and when they entered the courty and of Sanquhar Castle, he appeared only to give a few orders to Jackson, and vanished again without so much as noticing the prisopers.

Little more than half the time appointed for the bivonace had passed when a single borseman was seen coming at a brisk pace along the Dumfries road, and great was the sensation produced in the garrison when the person of the Commander-in Chief was recognised. Captain Allan was hastily sought out and informed of his approach in time to receive him in the court-y-ard.

Sir James Turner acted as if he had come direct from Dumfries, and was ignorant of the Captain's exploit that morning. He greeted him in his usual brusque, abrupt manner.

Good morning, Captain Allan. Didn't expect a visit from me I suppose. I have fiden up to I would be supposed to the company of the land the state of your district!— I the does not bit James, and will not so long as the rebels have the countenance of the land to great the state of your district!— I the countenance of the land to great the state of your district!— I would be a supposed to the land of the land

COMMERCIAL.

Guelph Markets. MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH.
January 17, 1868.

ounding 11, 1	000.	,
Flour, per 100 lbs, \$3 75	,,,	4 0
Fall Wheat per bushel, 1 70	. 11	1 7
Spring Wheat 1 55	**	1 6
Oats do 0 48	"	0 5
Dans do 0.66	"	0.7
Oats do 0 48 Peas do 0 66 Barley do 0 90	. 11	1 0
Barley do . 0 90	"	11 0
		5 0
Straw 4 00		
Shingles per square 1 00	"	
Wood per cord 3 00	"	3 8
Wool 0 27		0 2
Eggs.per dozen 0 14	"	0 1
Butter (firkin), per th 0 16	"	0 1
Geese, each 0 25	"	0.5
Turkeys do 0 50	"	0 F
Chickens per pair 0 20	"	0 2
Ducks do 0 20	. "	0 5
Potatoes 0 50	11	0 6
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Beef 4 50	11	6 (
Beef, per lb 0 95	"	0 (
Pork per 100 lbs 5 50		6
Character 100 108 5 50	,,	0
Sheep Pelts each 0 30		
Lamb skins 0 40		0
Hides per 100 lbs 6 00		6 (

JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE. Guelph, January 17, 1868. Gold, 1884. Greenbacks bo't at 70 to 71 (Sold at 71 to 72c. Silver bought at 4g to 5c dist; sold at 3g to 3 Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 50c. to 55 Commercial Bank Bills bought at 90c to 95c.

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Hamilton, January 16, 1868

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