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**Guelph Evening Mercury**  
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.  
FRIDAY EVG, MARCH 6, 1868.

### The Maiden's Choice

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

Even so, Sir Gilbert. It is a piece of rare good fortune for her; but I assure you it is quite true. The ceremony is to take place in Greystone Church this day fortnight at eleven o'clock, and I have just come along to remind you that the legacy falls to be paid on that day.

Puddin's and panches, the murder is out noo," exclaimed Sir Gilbert, holding up both his hands in the excess of his amazement. "Oh, the false deceitful buzz! This is the explanation of her conduct that Richard Wayland. She gied him the go-by that she might marry Charlie Allan. For ward's gear she has become fore-sworn, and sacrificed her peace and happiness. Oh, the silly stupid diot. Tac be taken in by the fair, but leein' tongue o' that vagabond."

It was not Jabez Cringan's cue to disabuse the Baronet of the notion he had so naturally taken up. He therefore allowed Helen's character to suffer so grievously in Sir Gilbert's estimation, though well he knew the unjust it was being done her.

"I know you have a prejudice against Mr. Allan," he remarked, "since he succeeded to the estate of your friend, Mr. Elliot."

"Prejudice, sir! Charlie Allan is the biggest scoundrel that ever came into Nithsdale, and if ye have contemnered yer dochter in her shameful treatment of poor Wayland ye'll repent it, for she and you will both rue the day that she forsook a decent honest man that loved her for a black-headed rascal like Charlie Allan."

We need not continue a subject on which we cannot agree," returned Cringan. "As her father perfectly agreed with this marriage, and no one has a right to interfere."

"Oh, I dinna doubt that ye'll agree wi' it," said Sir Gilbert, contemptuously. "Ye wad will yer ain soul, forbye the honour and happiness o' yer dochter, for siller. It bates me the ken how a lean, wizened auld stick like you and her plump, well-favoured dochter like Helen. Puddin's and panches, it doensn seem the work o' nature ava'."

Cringan's sallow visage turned absolutely white at this remark, and his skeleton hands twitched convulsively.

"Ye angerit, are ye?" added the Baronet. "Muckle care I for that. It's me that has maist reason, I think. The silly lassie, actin' nae doot at yer instigation, left my hoose at a moment's notice, and want that that the poor child Wayland took the matter sair sair ta heart that he went awa' ta, and naebody kens whaur he's gane to, and sae I'm deprived o' the services o' a forester, an' through your miserable hankerin' after gold."

"We will, if you please, confine ourselves to the business on which I have come," said Jabez.

"And what business is that?" demanded Sir Gilbert, sharply.

"The legacy. It is, as you know, payable on the marriage day."

"Weel, sir, weel, dis Helen and her precious bridegroom mean to come ta Brankwood to get it?"

"Oh dear no, sir. Mr. Allan is too much of a gentleman to take the money, and has generously allowed Helen to give it to me."

"Has he indeed? Then devil doot but ye'll clutch at it."

And the purpose of my present visit, Sir Gilbert, is to intimate to you that I shall be at Brankwood for it this day fortnight."

"Ye can save yer spindle-shank the journey," returned the other, "for ye'll no get it."

"What?" cried Jabez, in alarm. "Do you refuse to pay the legacy, in terms of the will of Lady Barton?" The law will compel you, Sir Gilbert, the law will compel you, and I will have a summons raised immediately—I will."

"Hoos, man, dinna pit yerseel into a fit. I dinna say the legacy wadna be paid, but I'll pay it only into Helen's ain hand, and get a legal discharge. As ta' ye want it to say gang after, that's nae business o' mine, and as little dae I care. The marriage is ta be in Greystone kirk, ye say?"

"At eleven precisely."

"Very weel, I'll be there, and bring the siller wi' me."

And with these words Sir Gilbert turned unceremoniously on his heel, caught up his gun, kept the fence, and strove away across the field, exclaiming as he went—

"Puddin's and panches—Helen Cringan, the wife o' Charlie Allan!"

Time passed on with its usual rapidity, and the marriage day drew near. What was the state of Helen Cringan's mind in the prospect of it? Had she any misgivings, any dark forebodings? We cannot say she had, though on the other hand she had no great satisfaction. She had no joy of love to sustain her, while the memory of the past clung to her with sad-binding effect. She had heard nothing of Richard Wayland since the evening of their separation, but often, often he was in her thoughts. The worst she had to bear was the knowledge of his scorn and loathing. He would, she knew, suppose it was for Charlie Allan she had cast him off. How mean and despicable, then, must she appear in his eyes! If he knew all he would set out her; but the truth is she could not possibly declare, and must therefore abide under his bitter wrath and curse. This was the terrible sacrifice she had to make for the sake of the memory of her dead brother, and she resolved to endure it in all its direful bitterness.

Of Richard Wayland no one knew more than herself. A few days after the departure of Helen from Brankwood, he too, left that place, leaving a note for Sir Gilbert, saying that his misery was too great to allow of his remaining, and begging the Baronet not to make search for him, for he wished to be no more seen or heard of by his acquaintances. Poor hapless youth! He had been tricken prostrate by the blow. The faithfulness of her he loved had utterly quenched the light and joy of his existence. Hope and ambition were both gone from him, and he had withdrawn to some solitude or to a far distant locality where strangers could not lift the covering from his bleeding heart, or look upon his agony of soul with a pitying compassion which he could not bear. So his bright honest face and manly form were seen no more at Brankwood, and while all wondered, none could conjecture where he had gone.

It was a bright, breezy October day on which the bell of Greystone Kirk was set ringing in honour of the marriage of the Laird of Birkenleuch. The inhabitants of the village made no show of rejoicing, for they had not ceased to mourn for the exile of Walter Elliot, and he who now ruled in the mansion by the Clench had conducted himself in the midst of them in such a way as to deepen their dislike and root their aversion towards him firmly in their hearts. Little notice did they, therefore, take of the gay doings, but the troop of soldiers which Charlie never wanted at his residence, broke out in wild enthusiasm at the event, and accompanied with his numerous glee to make the Captain's wedding day a day of noise, mirth and wild festivity, and they adorned the church porch with dowerly wreaths and garlands, and kept the bell ringing to as brisk a measure as its iron clapper could be made to attain.

Brian, the curate, made his appearance in the church a little before the appointed hour, and waited in front of the pulpit the arrival of the bridal party. A few very respectable persons had assembled to witness the ceremony, and they sat in the back seats in silent expectancy.

TO BE CONTINUED.

The fashion of giving private parties in hired halls has been introduced among the elite of Boston. Which is an improvement on borrowing silver ware and furniture for such parties at home.

### New Advertisements.

Appleton's Edition  
OF THE  
**WAVERLEY NOVELS,**  
NOW PUBLISHING

From new Stereotype Plates, uniform with the new edition of DICKENS, containing all the notes of the author, and printed from the latest edition of the Authorized Text.

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PRICE—TWENTY-FIVE CENTS EACH.  
Printed on fine white paper, clear type, and convenient in size. Pronounced "A MIRACLE OF CHEAPNESS."

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On receipt of TEN DOLLARS a complete set of DICKENS (in uniform style), 17 volumes, and WAVERLEY, 25 volumes, will be sent post-paid. The cheapest Ten Dollars worth to be found in the whole range of literature. Forty-two volumes for \$40.

Extraordinary Opportunity for the Million to purchase a set of Sir Walter Scott's world-renowned Waverley Novels.

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One complete set, 25 vols. \$6; Three complete sets, 25 vols. \$16; Five sets, \$26; Ten sets, \$50. Mailed at our expense.

Any person obtaining four subscribers for the Waverley Novels, and remitting us \$24, will be entitled to a set of Dickens 17 volumes, GRATIS. Any person obtaining eight subscribers, and remitting \$48, will receive a copy of the "Waverley Gallery," containing 20 steel engravings of the Female Characters in the Waverley Novels, bound in elegant morocco. Price \$15.

Canvassers wanted in every town in the United States. A great opportunity is afforded to industrious men and women to make no fee, as every man, woman and child will purchase the Waverley Novels at this low price. For special rates, apply to the Publishers.

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CONFECTIONER, and  
BISCUIT Manufacturer.

Wholesale and Retail!

Goods are all made of the best material, and under my own supervision, and having no rent to pay, am prepared to offer to

Wholesale Purchasers

Goods as cheap, if not cheaper, than any other house in the trade.

JOHN HARRIS,  
Market Square, Guelph,  
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### 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.

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ADVANCES.

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

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

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HALIFAX, N. S.  
October 12, 1867.

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THE Subscriber begs to inform his old friends and the Public, that though several noted characters have lately been constrained to leave Guelph for the sake of their health, he is still hale and hearty, and hangs out his shingle at the old spot.

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OPPOSITE  
DEADY'S HOTEL,

Where he is prepared as formerly to make up CLOTHING of every description at short notice and in a superior style.

To Farmers!

Having had 30 years experience, and devoting all his time to the business, he can make up

Home-made CLOTH!

And trim it CHEAPER than can be done at any other Establishment in Town.

All Work carefully finished, and at Moderate Rates.

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Only 15 cts. per Gallon.

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Next door to Telegraph and Express Office.  
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Fresh Codfish.  
Fresh Haddocks.  
Sea Herrings.  
Finnan Haddies.  
Yarmouth Bloaters.

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Guelph, Feb. 16, 1868. 4H

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SHUTTLE SEWING MACHINE.

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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, tail-maker, manufacturer or family. Mr. J. SPAFFORD has 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 or work, or terms, address—

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We have opened our stock of FURS, from Montreal and Halifax, 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, GENTS' MUFFLERS and GLOVES, SLEIGH ROBES, &c.

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The Highest Price paid for Raw Furs  
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CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY, \$1.88,  
Containing Chapters on

The Holy Scriptures, their divine authority, The Holy Trinity, The Person and Office of Christ, The Personality and Godhead of the Holy Spirit, The Original State of Man and Human Depravity, The Atonement of Christ, Election and Reprobation, Justification by Faith, The Witness of the Holy Spirit, The Doctrine of Regeneration, The Doctrine of Purgatory proved uns Scriptural, The General Resurrection, Eternal Re-tribution, The Christian Sabbath, The Christian Ministry, The Ordinance of Baptism, The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper, Also, The Duty, \$1.50; Shaktina, \$1.25; Explanations of difficult passages of Scripture, \$1.13; The Intercession of Christ, of the Holy Spirit and of the Church, 30c., &c.

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### 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. McCURDIE, whose courteous attention, as well as his thorough knowledge of the business, will insure satisfaction in all cases. The very best of oysters 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.

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AT MARSHALL'S,  
Day's Block, opposite the Market.  
Guelph, 13th January, 1868. w

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DENTISTS!

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R. TROTTER, W. K. GRAHAM,  
Guelph, 2nd August, 1867.

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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 of quality and favour hitherto unknown to the general consumer. These Teas are in high favour in England and France, and a single trial will prove their superiority.

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Orders.—All packages have the Company's trade-mark, without which none are genuine.

MR. N. HIGINBOTHAM,  
Guelph, August 13, 1867.  
Agent, Guelph, 14-w-15

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CLOTHES WRINGER.

MESSES. J. M. BOND & CO., Guelph are the only authorized Agents for the sale and use of CLEMET'S PATENT CLOTHES WRINGER for the Counties of

Bruce, Wellington and Peel, and the City of Toronto.

RICHARD CLEMET, Patentee  
Guelph, Feb. 13, 1868 182 lm

### NEW CLOTHING STORE.

REMOVAL!

### JAMES CORMACK

BEGS to notify his friends and the public that he has removed to

### THE SPLENDID NEW STORE

Next the Hardware Store of JOHN HORSMAN, ESQ.  
On hand, a large Stock of first-class

### READY-MADE CLOTHING,

CLOTHS AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS,

### At a Tremendous Reduction

In order to make room for the Spring Stock. ALL ORDERED WORK done up as usual in first-class style. A perfect fit and the best of workmanship guaranteed.

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Guelph, 14th February, 1868. dw  
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### SCHOOL BOOKS

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Salmon Trout and Herring!

Also, 70 half Barrels Salmon Trout,  
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Two cases of Finnan Haddies just arrived.

Guelph 15th January, 1868 dw

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Where did you get those delicious OYSTERS?

Why, at BERRY'S to be Sure!

WHY BERRY? WHY?

The Confectioner on Wyndham-st

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CLOCKS AND JEWELLERY REPAIRED?

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Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies,  
CHURCH-ST. --- GUELPH.

MISS WIGHTMAN begs to announce that her school will re-open (D. V.) on the 6th of January. Vacancies for two or three boarders.

Guelph, 20th December 1867. w1

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OFFICE: over the Bank of Commerce, opposite the Market, Guelph. w

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Chairs, &c., re-stuffed, Church Seats re-trimmed, Picture Hanging, &c. on short notice, and at moderate rates.

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### RONDELETIA!

AN ELEGANT PERFUM

for the Handkerchief and Toilet.

Prepared by Breidenbach,  
Perfumer and Distiller of Flowers to Her Majesty.

N. HIGINBOTHAM.  
Guelph, 24th Dec. 1867 dw

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N. HIGINBOTHAM.  
Guelph, 24th Dec. 1867 dw

### AT SAVAGE'S.

Guelph, February 6, 1868. dw

Greenbacks,  
U. S. Bonds,  
Gold and Silver,  
and Exchange

BOUGHT AT TORONTO RATES

AT  
Higbee's Exchange Office  
WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.  
Guelph, Feb. 24, 1868. dw