

TO SUBSCRIBERS.  
Subscribers wishing to take the Evening Mercury  
may send their names to the office, and it will  
be regularly delivered at their residences. Sub-  
scribers whose papers are not regularly delivered  
by the carrier, will please call at the office at once  
and inform us of the neglect.

**Guelph Evening Mercury**  
PRICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.  
WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEB. 20, 1868.

## The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

When she entered, her father was gazing  
out of the window, and though in her haste  
she made more noise than usual, he seemed  
so absorbed in his gaze as not to notice  
her coming, and it was not till she  
touched his arm and spoke that he appeared  
to be aware of her presence.

"Helen," he whispered harshly, without  
turning round, "who is that trying up the  
tree on the lawn?"

"That?" laughed Helen. "Why that is  
Richard Wayland."

"I thought so," he observed, still keeping  
his gaze steadily fixed on the same object.  
"The resemblance is strong. I see the like-  
ness to both. It is true, too true, and yet  
what a mercy that it has been discovered  
now."

"What is it, father, what is discovered?"  
asked Helen in amazement.

"Heaven's sake, Helen, turning round, fixed  
on her a commencing look. Like all cun-  
ning persons, he was a good actor; and well  
he knew and could sustain the part he now  
sought to assume."

"Oh, father, what is it?" she asked again,  
and now anxiously, for his meaning look  
frightened her.

"Is anybody within hearing?" he inquired,  
glancing towards the door.

"Nobody," she answered. "The servants  
are in the kitchen or up stairs. We are quite  
alone. Oh, father, I fear you have brought  
bad news."

"Both bad and good, my child—both bad  
and good. They are bad in themselves, but  
good as to the time they have come. Had  
this discovery been made when you were the  
wife of Richard Wayland, how dreadful it  
would have been."

Helen turned pale, and her breath came  
quick. "Merciful heaven, what mean you?"  
she gasped. "Something about Richard?"

"So I will, my child. I have come to  
Brankswood for no other purpose, and sad at  
heart has my errand made me. But first  
you must swear never to reveal what I am  
about to disclose to you."

"Richard must know it," she exclaimed.

"Nobody must know it, and he least of all.  
Swear, therefore, never to breathe it to mor-  
tal."

"I cannot take such an oath," answered  
Helen. "Since it concerns Richard he ought  
to know it. Nay, if it is some foul slander  
against his character he shall know it, that  
he may vindicate his stainless reputation."

"Hush, Helen," rejoined her father. "Don't  
be hasty and impulsive like that. Unless I  
have your solemn promise not to divulge to  
mortal what I have to tell you, my tidings  
must remain unspoken, and what follows  
will be to you not only painful, but tenfold  
more painful because uncomprehensible."

"Do not say so, father," she earnestly re-  
turned. "It is a mistake on your part. I am  
sure it is, in seeking to impose this oath on  
me. Leave me free to act as my conscience  
will direct. If it will be wrong to tell Richard  
I will not do so, but if I feel it necessary I  
must reserve the power."

"No child, no. I tell you this cannot be.  
It is not for Richard I ask your silence, but  
for another, who should be dearer to you  
still."

"She regarded him for some moments with  
a look of painful dubiety."

"You mean yourself?" she faltered.

"No, not myself."

"For whose sake, then?" she asked.

"For your mother's sake," he slowly and  
impressively answered.

"My mother's sake?" she involuntarily re-  
peated, with mingled wonder and astonish-  
ment.

"Now," he added, "you have some clue to  
my meaning. Knowing what I know I  
should be able to judge of the necessity of  
exactness from you this solemn promise. I  
tell you Helen, it is due to your mother's  
memory—do you still refuse?"

"No," she immediately answered. "I pro-  
mise. I swear in the sight of Heaven never  
to divulge this secret."

"That will do. My lips are now unsealed.  
This Richard Wayland—you know his par-  
entage is shrouded in mystery."

"She nodded an affirmative reply, for the  
violent beating of heart deprived her of the  
power of speech."

"He was found an infant at one of the lodge  
gates. Lady Barton gave the child to the wife  
of the lodge-keeper to nurse, and charged  
himself with his upbringing. He was reared  
at Brankswood, and as soon as he was able  
to work he entered the service of the family,  
and has never quitted it."

"All that I know," gasped Helen; "but  
what has it to do with your tidings?"

"Much, as you will presently learn. Have  
you never heard a guess made at Wayland's  
parentage? Has it not been whispered in the  
servants' hall that Sir Gilbert is his father?"

"Oh, it has; but I never gave heed to the  
base and baseless slander."

"Baseless? I never saw the youth till to-  
day—never till my eye lighted on him from  
the window—and yet, Helen, before you told  
me who he was, I guessed it from his resem-  
blance to Sir Gilbert."

"Father, you are dreaming," exclaimed  
Helen. "There is not the slightest resem-  
blance between Richard and Sir Gilbert."

"You may not see it, but I do. Why child  
it is strong—it is unmistakable; but there is  
also in his face another resemblance which I  
can trace—alas! only too plainly."

"To whom?—to whom?" she breathlessly  
asked.

"To his mother!"

"You know, then, who she is?"

"I know who she was. I have learned it  
since last night, and neither you nor I can  
be thankful enough the discovery was made  
in time."

"Who then was his mother?" faltered Hel-  
en. "Do not hesitate to tell me. She may  
have been an outcast, worthless, abandoned,  
but Richard is not answerable for that—  
were she the vilest of the vile, it does not  
affect his goodness and nobleness, nor can it  
make the slightest difference in our relation  
to each other. I would disprove myself, and  
would deserve to be despised by all, if I loved  
him less because his mother's character  
was frail. But tell me who she was."

"First, let us speak of your mother," said  
Origan, deliberately.

"My mother?" echoed Helen. "Good heav-  
en, father, what connection has my mother  
with this matter?"

"Much, alas much," he replied. "You re-  
member a few minutes before she died, when  
you knelt by her bedside, she made a great  
effort to say something to you."

"Oh! yes, yes. I remember it," said Helen  
her eyes filling with tears. "She made an  
anxious and painful effort to say something,  
which she evidently wished me much to  
know; but strength and life failed her, and  
she died with the words unspoken. One  
faint whisper was all I could catch, and in  
that whisper was the name of Lady Barton."

TO BE CONTINUED.

"PASS IT ROUND." The steamer Nova  
Scotian, which arrived at Portland on Mon-  
day, brought a family of seven children from  
Ireland—Margaret, aged 18; James, 17;  
Mary Ann, 15; Elizabeth, 14; Agnes and Sarah,  
twins, 4; and John, 3. Their mother started  
with them, but at the last moment went  
ashore to post a letter, and the steamer sailed  
without her. The mother had lost all the money,  
and the children were left with only passage  
tickets. The children have forgotten the  
name of the town in Canada West where  
their father lives. His name is Wm. Owens,  
and has been in America three years.  
They had a brother, Robert Owens, at Nor-  
val, C. W. A cousin of their mother's, James  
Moffat, they think, is employed as a carter  
at Toronto. The Presbyterian will take them  
back to Ireland next Saturday, unless their  
Irish friends in Canada are found

## A Big Difficulty on Ice.

The Niagara Falls correspondent of the  
St. Catharines Journal relates an inci-  
dent of rather a laughable and exciting  
as well as dangerous nature, which oc-  
curred there lately. The spray from the  
American fall, being dashed against the  
bank, has formed a heavy column several  
feet in height, down which the boys have  
been sliding for some time—but none  
but boys accustomed to the business can  
get along at it. An elderly Yankee and  
his two sons were here seeing the sights  
and amongst the rest noticed the boys  
operating on this column of ice, alongside  
of which there is a means of getting up,  
but none, excepting sliding down the  
column of descending. The three  
ascended, and having got to the top they  
couldn't get down. Here was a fix.

They couldn't remain where they were,  
and were afraid to follow the boys. How-  
ever, the old man, having a cane in his  
hand, determined on making the venture  
and he started on the seat of his pants-  
looms, holding his head and feet up, and  
his stick out in front. The old fellow  
descended with inconceivable velocity  
and in safety till he got about half-way,  
when the stick hit an obstruction, which  
caused him to wheel about like a top, and  
he arrived at the middle of the river all  
safe but the seat of his unmentionables,  
which the ice had ground off, with a por-  
tion of the native soil. The old chap  
rubbed the lacerated part, after picking  
himself up, and then, finding that the  
corners had no claim on him, he beckoned  
for his progeny to follow suit. The  
first that tried thought he would improve  
on dad's mode, and started to go down  
on his stomach, feet first. He miscalcu-  
lated, however, and, meeting an obstruc-  
tion, was turned round, and went down  
head foremost, incapacitating his nose  
for handkerchief exercise for some days.

—The third calculated that he had seen  
enough to show him how to get down,  
and he started head first, allowing, when  
he reached the ice on the river, that the  
slide was just a "liddle gol darndest  
queerest institution I ever see'd." I be-  
lieve the trio start for home to-morrow  
perfectly satisfied with all they have seen  
and felt here.

## COMMERCIAL.

The Guelph Markets.  
MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH,  
February 20, 1868.

We give quotations this week as they stood  
on Saturday. During the last three days  
of last week there was but little produce on the  
Market, and this week so far, all that was  
brought in was one load of wheat. It was  
offered on Monday, being of indifferent  
quality the owner could not get an offer to  
suit him, and so he stored it and went home.  
Consequently what grain would fetch to-day  
we have no means of knowing.

Flour, 100 lbs. .... \$ 2.75 @ \$ 4.00  
Fall Wheat, 10 bush. .... 1.65 @ 1.85  
Spring Wheat 10 bush. .... 1.52 @ 1.57  
Oats 10 bush. .... 0.55 @ 0.58  
Peas, do. .... 0.40 @ 0.45  
Barley do. .... 1.00 @ 1.10  
Hay 10 ton. .... 11.00 @ 13.00  
Straw, 400 ..... 2.00  
Shingles, 10 square ..... 1.00 @ 1.50  
Wood, 10 cord ..... 3.00 @ 3.50  
Ducks, do. .... 0.27 @ 0.30  
Eggs, 10 dozen ..... 0.15 @ 0.18  
Butter, firkin, 10 lb. .... 0.25 @ 0.30  
Cheese, each ..... 0.25 @ 0.30  
Turkeys, each ..... 0.20 @ 0.25  
Chickens, 10 pair ..... 0.20 @ 0.25  
Ducks, do. .... 0.20 @ 0.25  
Potatoes ..... 0.20 @ 0.25  
Apples, 10 barrel ..... 2.00 @ 2.00  
Lamb, 10 lb. .... 0.06 @ 0.07  
Beef, 10 lb. .... 0.05 @ 0.06  
Pork, 10 lb. .... 0.05 @ 0.06  
Sheep Pelts, each ..... 0.50 @ 0.75  
Lambskins ..... 0.00 @ 0.45  
Hides ..... 0.00 @ 0.60

Money Market.  
JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE,  
Guelph, February 20, 1868.

Gold, 100 ..... 111  
Silver, 100 ..... 70  
Selling at 70 to 70 1/2; Sold at 71 to 71 1/2.  
Bought at 4 1/2 to 5 dis.; sold at 4 to 4 1/2.  
Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 56c to 60c.  
Commercial Bank Bills bought at 56c to 60c.  
Full rate in silver.

MONTREAL MARKETS.  
Kirkwood, Livingston & Co's report by Special  
Telegram to "Evening Mercury,"  
Montreal, February 20, 1868.

Flour—Fancy, \$7.00 to \$7.75; Superfine No. 1,  
\$7.45 to \$7.99; Wallcut Canal, \$7.00. Bag Flour,  
\$5.00 to \$5.75. Oats 46c to 47c. Barley 55c to  
\$1. Butters—dairy 15c to 20c; store packed 15c  
to 20c. Ashes—Pots \$5.35 to \$5.40; pearls \$5.50  
to \$5.80.

Flour small arrivals, market stagnant, rates  
nominally unchanged. Grain nominal, no sales.  
Provisions—pork slightly firmer; Hogs unchang-  
ed; Butter good demand at former rates. Lard  
improving. Ashes unchanged.

TORONTO, February 22, 1868.  
Flour—Receipts, 160 bbls.; No. 1, at \$7.05  
to \$7.10; Fall Wheat, \$1.75; Spring Wheat, \$1.00  
to \$1.02; Oats 29c; Barley \$1.24 to \$1.52.  
Peas—55c.

HAMILTON, February 25, 1868.  
Fall wheat, \$1.70 to \$1.75; Spring wheat, \$1.55  
to \$1.60 per bushel; Barley—\$1.21 to \$1.25; Oats  
—62c to 65c; Peas—55c to 60c; Pork—\$5.90  
to \$6.50.

GUELPH LUMBER MARKET.  
(Corrected by Messrs. Gowdy & Stewart,  
Wellington Lumber Yard.)

Clear 1 1/2 inch Plank from \$23.00 to \$25.00  
" 1 1/2 " " " 12.00 " 10.00  
" 1 1/2 " " " 15.00 " 18.00  
Common 1 1/2 and 1 1/4 in. Flooring 14.00 00.00  
1 in. boards and 2 in. plank 9.00 00.00  
Santling all sizes up to 16 feet 10.00 00.00  
and Joisting from 18 to 20 12.00 00.00  
" 22 to 30 15.00 00.00  
Samples No. 1 Sawed ..... 1.95 @ 2.00  
" " Cut ..... 1.70 @ 1.75  
" " 2 Cut and Sawed ..... 1.30 @ 1.35  
" Split ..... 1.50 @ 1.75  
Laths 6 feet ..... 0.40 @ 0.45  
Water Line per barrel ..... 1.87 @ 1.90  
Plaster (Celleme) ..... 4.50 @ 5.50  
Guelph, Jan. 30, 1868.

UPHOLSTERY  
CHAS. FIRESTONE  
Quebec-st., near Howard and Jones.  
Is prepared to execute orders for all kinds of Up-  
holstering in a neat and expeditious manner.

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

Remember the place—Quebec-st., Guelph.  
Guelph, 15th Feb. 1868.

CASH. CASH. CASH!  
Our reasons for adhering to  
the Cash System are:

1st—Systematic Credit has nothing to do  
with Goods purchased for our own  
Consumption.

2nd—The Cash System gives the rich no  
advantage over the poor.

3rd—It is wrong to charge profits to those  
who pay to balance the loss of those  
who don't pay.

4th—A large proportion cannot or will  
not pay when they agree to; feel no  
rose when asked to pay, cross to the  
other side of the street when they see  
their creditors coming, lose self-res-  
pect, feel and are demoralized.

5th—It is worth fifteen per cent. to collect  
small bills.

6th—It is wrong to indulge customers in  
dishonesty.

7th—I won't do any such thing.

If you want to see the largest, best and  
cheapest stock of Boots and Shoes West of  
Montreal, call at the Montreal Boot and  
Shoe Store, Wyndham-st., Guelph.

JOHN MCNEIL.

## MERCURY PRINTING HOUSE!

MACDONNELL STREET, GUELPH.

CHEAP, NEAT AND TASTY

## PRINTING!

FOR THE CHEAPEST AND BEST.

## Book and Job Printing

Go to the Mercury Printing House, Macdonnell-st.

## McLAGAN & INNES

HAVE spared neither labor nor expense in fitting up their extensive premises on Macdonnell-st.,  
(East of the Golden Lock), with EVERY MODERN IMPROVEMENT requisite to the success-  
ful carrying on of one of the largest Printing Houses in the Dominion.

## OUR JOB DEPARTMENT

We have supplied with the most ELEGANT and

## The Newest Styles of Type

AND THE LATEST AND MOST

## IMPROVED JOB PRESSES!

Enabling us to turn out specimens of work justly considered models of Typographical Beauty. In  
NEW PRESSES we have Machines from all the celebrated makers, such as

Hoe's Railway Cylinder Press.  
Hoe's Hand Press.

Gordon's celebrated Segment Job Press, and  
Gordon's Card and Bill Head Press,

A novelty, and acknowledged to be the STURTEVANT'S Ultra of Treadle Presses. In addition to the above  
valuable and highly improved Printing Machines, we have a very large  
and complete assortment of

## BOOK & JOB TYPE

Comprising every known Style, Size and Variety,

And are constantly receiving from Type Foundries in Great Britain and the United States such new  
and useful, Plain and Ornamental faces as correct taste and enlightened experience may dictate, and are  
therefore prepared to execute all orders entrusted to us

From the Finest and most Delicate Card to the  
Attractive and Mammoth Poster.

MORE PROMPTLY, NEATLY, AND

## AT CHEAPER RATES!

Than can be done by any other establishment in the County. Being practical Printers of long-  
experience, and having a thorough knowledge of the wants of the community  
of this section, employing none but

## The very Best of Workmen!

AND USING THE BEST OF MATERIAL,

We are in a position to turn out work in

THE HIGHEST STYLE OF THE ART!

And at such Prices as set competition completely at defiance.

We can Supply on the Shortest Notice:

BUSINESS CARDS,  
BLANK AND TAG CARDS,  
NOTE AND LETTER HEADINGS,  
CIRCULARS AND BILL HEADS,

PROGRAMMES,  
BALL TICKETS,  
PAMPHLETS,  
RECEIPTS,  
LAW BLANKS,

BRIEFS,  
CATALOGUES,  
BILLS OF FARE,  
POSTERS,  
HAND BILLS,

LABELS,  
BY-LAWS,  
CHARTERS,  
CERTIFICATES,  
CONSTITUTIONS,

AND ALL KINDS AND STYLES OF

## LETTER PRESS PRINTING!

Orders from any part of the country will receive prompt attention, and as soon as executed will be  
forwarded by the earliest possible conveyance.

Orders Solicited, and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

McLAGAN & INNES,

Mercury Buildings, Macdonnell-st., Guelph.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE!

GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE

## of the AMERICAN WATCH

THE American Watch Company of Waltham, Mass., being determined to place their several grades  
of Watches at prices within the reach of all parties, and to effectually shut out all Swiss com-  
petitor Watches, have decided from this date to supply their Watches in the Dominion of Canada at  
the net Gold value of American Currency. The Company by this paying all duty,  
costs, and charges on their Watches into Canada, will supply to the people of the Dominion the

## Cheapest Watches in the World.

The Watches are of all grades, from the finest Gold Watch made, adapted to any climate from the  
Tropics to the Poles, at a price to suit the wealthy connoisseur or for presentation, to the Cheap  
rivalry Lever, strong and serviceable, regulated to minutes, suitable to the Mechanic and Farmer, and  
Sale as low in price as any moderate quality Swiss Watch. Our grades of Extra Heavy Cased  
Watches for Railway Engineers and Lumbermen deserve particular attention in Canada, as no-  
thing can equal them for the purpose. Our leading Watches in 18 Carat Gold Cases for Ladies  
and Private Gentlemen, at medium prices, will also be found very desirable.

We frequently asked why we don't advertise prices. We reply that as we only supply the trade  
and as our Watches are now kept by most respectable houses, the public can rely on being served at  
a fair advance on the Manufacturer's List. Our trade marks are AMERICAN WATCH CO., APPLETON  
TRACY & CO., WALTHAM WATCH CO., P. S. BARTLEY, Wm. ELLERY, HOME WATCH CO. Guaranteed  
in all cases, by special certificate (except the HOME CO., which is warranted by the seller. The pur-  
chaser should always require the guarantee, as there are Swiss counterfeits for sale in some places.

ROBBINS & APPLETON, New York, } General Agents.  
ROBERT WILKES, Toronto and Montreal. }  
D. SAVAGE, Agent, Guelph.

December 10th, 1867.

## Commercial Union Assurance Co'y.

STATEMENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ACT OF PARLIAMENT, 23rd  
Vict., Cap. 33, Section 11.

THE Capital of this Company is £2,500,000 sterling, divided into 50,000 shares of £50 each.  
The number of shares issued is 50,000.  
Calls to the amount of £5 per share have been made, under which the sum of £250,000 have been  
received.

THE LIABILITIES of the Company on the 1st day of July, 1867, were:

On Notes and Bills ..... £ 25,148 24  
On Estimated Liabilities, including Duty, Fire, Life, and Marine Losses ..... 30,999 08 04  
£56,147 32 28

THE ASSETS of the Company on that day were:

Government Securities—  
Consols ..... £58,787 15 4 £54,652 0 6  
Bills 3 per cents ..... 35,900 0 0 35,560 17 11  
£94,687 15 4 £90,212 18 5

Other Securities—  
Madras Railway Debentures ..... £ 9,000 0 0  
Lancashire and Yorkshire Debentures ..... 2,750 3 3  
Baltic Railway Stock ..... 15,358 1 9  
Ceylon Company's Debentures ..... 10,000 0 0  
Great Southern of India Railway Shares ..... 29,870 5 7  
Canada 5 per cent. Stock (Inscribed) ..... 10,000 0 0  
£78,950 10 7

Freehold Offices in Cornhill ..... £5,863 00 0  
Due from Agents, &c. .... 38,729 14 8  
Losses on Mortgage, &c. .... 174,576 0 0  
£487,914 12 2

Amount of Losses due and unpaid ..... £12,805 0 0  
do do on suspense ..... 800 0 0  
Payment retained ..... 18,095 0 0

Amount of Premiums—  
Earned during the Year ..... £22,753 8 1  
Unearned ..... 25,800 9 6  
£48,553 9 7

I, JAMES ROSE, of the City of Montreal, merchant, one of the General Agents for Canada of the  
Commercial Union Assurance Company do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and be-  
liever, the foregoing statement is correct and true.

Sworn before me, at the City of Montreal, this 30th day of January, 1868.  
A. M. DELISLE, J. P.

Agents for Guelph, McLAGAN & INNES.  
Guelph, Feb. 12th, 1868.

## PLASTER, PLASTER

THE SUBSCRIBERS HAVE AT PRESENT A FULL SUPPLY OF

## GROUND PLASTER

And while shipping is good, farmers should get their supplies. By advice from Paris, York, and  
Caledonia, we learn that all that can be produced is already engaged, and that the demand  
will far exceed the supply. We have been able to secure only

## 300 TONS.

Instead of 500, and we would therefore advise those requiring any to purchase early.

## A small lot of very fine Clover Seed on hand

JAS. MASSIE & CO.

Guelph, 17th January 1868.

## GREAT CLEARING SALE

The Great Clearing Sale of

## DRY GOODS!

IS STILL GOING ON AT

## WM. STEWART'S,

Guelph, 11th December, 1867.

## 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 Sets, Cigar 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