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Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

MONDAY EV'NG. FEB. 24, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENCLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

Helen Cringan was too gentle, too right-minded, and too truly in love to follow this course. She went straight up to Richard as he stood immovable on the path, and, smiling sweetly and putting her hand fondly on his arm, said—

'You are angry, Richard, and have seeming cause for it; but I am not to blame. I have been in Captain Allan's company only a few minutes. We met accidentally a little way back, and entered into conversation. As I did not pause, he, much to my annoyance, dismounted from his horse, and walked by my side till I requested him to come no further. You do not doubt the truth of this, do you, Richard? You do not believe me capable of telling you a falsehood?'

He looked in her lovely face—rendered tenfold more lovely by her anxious frankness and earnest animation—and in a moment or two the awful look passed away as, with a leap, a great light of gladness came into his eyes, his broad bosom gave one mighty heave, and, with a long sigh of immense relief, he folded her in his arms, and passionately kissed her blushing lips.

'Thank God, the frightful fear was groundless,' he murmured. 'Oh, Helen, Helen, my heart turned to stone when I saw Captain Allan walking by your side, and hell itself opened in my soul. But it is gone, and heaven has come in its room.'

Thus the cloud, so sudden and so threatening, passed from between them, and the lovers went on their way rejoicing.

But, alas! into this Eden likewise had the serpent glided, and his slimy trail was soon to pass with poisonous effect between their loving hearts.

CHAPTER XVI.—A CONFERENCE BETWEEN CHARLIE ALLAN AND JABEZ CRINGAN—THE MISER VISITS BRANKSWOOD—A DAUGHTER DECEIVED.

Charlie Allan had now been for two years the possessor of Birkencleuch. He had prospered in his evil ways and succeeded in his sin. His triumph over Walter Elliot had been of a very tangible character, though he had not succeeded to the utmost of his wish and purpose. He had confidently calculated on Walter being executed, and thereafter his design was to obtain possession of Marion—a result which he deemed would not be very difficult, since by Walter's death she would be left helpless and destitute, unable, and no longer, perchance, willing to resist him. The unlooked-for pardon and banishment of the Laird of Birkencleuch overturned this part of his plan, and frustrated the latter hope entirely. By the officious meddling of Sir Gilbert Barton, Walter escaped the gallows, and he and Marion going into exile, Allan had to give up all expectation of realising his vindictive purpose concerning her.

This made him very savage for a time, but inasmuch as his passion for Marion had been of the very lowest order, the place she had occupied in his thoughts and feelings soon presented little or no trace of her image, and he came to think contentedly of the triumph and success he had gained. Marion was lost, but the estate was his, and in possessing it he had the means of all the enjoyment of which his debased nature was capable.

In his visits to Sir Gilbert Barton at Brankswood, previous to pursuing his designs against Walter, Charlie had been favourably impressed with the appearance and behaviour of Helen Cringan, who, from the position she occupied in the household, often came into contact with the Baronet's guests. Her residence in the family from a very young girl, the maternal care which had been bestowed on her by Lady Barton, and things of a like nature, made her regarded as not a menial in the household, and gave to herself a familiar, though quiet and modest bearing, which brought her somewhat prominently under the observation of those who visited at the mansion.

Thus it was that Charlie Allan had opportunity of noticing her, and having noticed he fancied her, and often during the past two years she had been in his thoughts, while the wish to see her took possession of him. He accounted it, therefore, a piece of good fortune to meet her on the upland, and the sight of her settled in him the resolution to obtain her for his wife.

Charlie was not insensible to the great difference in their station, and knew well enough that he had it in his power to form an alliance with one of the leading families in the district, but selfish gratification was the mainspring of all Charlie's doings, and whatever he set his heart on that he would take every means to accomplish. He was bent on making her his wife, and any difficulty that lay in the way only made his resolution he stronger, and induced him to take all possible means to gain his object.

A few minutes' hard riding brought him to the front of Jabez Cringan's dilapidated dwelling, and, fastening his horse's bridle to a sapling by the roadside, he traversed at a quick pace the grass-grown path which intersected the little garden, and passed in at the open door without knocking. His footstep sounding in the passage had given warning to the inmate that some one was entering, and, on stepping into the apartment, Allan caught sight of Cringan closing down with nervous haste the lid of an iron box which stood on the floor and before which the old man was on his knees.

'Well, Cringan,' observed Allan, 'have you been busy counting the money in your strong box? Nay man, don't look scared. I have not come to rob you.'

'It is very little money I have, Captain,' Jabez hastened to answer. 'Very little, indeed. I am poor—miserably poor.'

'Ah, indeed; you are richer than you care for people to know, and also richer than you yourself know. Do you take me?'

'No—no. Indeed you are mistaken, Captain. I am not rich; no, no—poor, poor.'

'Stuff! Look you here, Cringan! Every man has his whim, his passion, and yours is a thirst for gold. You obtain your pleasure in the possession of that. I obtain mine in the possession of something else. So we clash, and I rather think we can help each other. I will give you gold—gold in abundance—if you help me successfully in the object I have in view.'

'Gold—in abundance—did you say abundance, Captain?' asked Cringan with trembling eagerness.

'In abundance,' repeated Allan.

'And what am I to do?—get information about the Covenanters again?'

'No. Something easier and more profitable than that. Look you here. I love your daughter Helen, and want her for my wife.'

These words made Jabez Cringan actually gasp for breath, and for some moments he could do nothing but stare at the speaker with his great hollow eyes, struggling as it were to comprehend the meaning of what he had said, and then, when he had caught a glimpse of it, being overwhelmed by its amazing import.

TO BE CONTINUED.

WHERE IS THAT INSURANCE MAN?—A few days ago an agent of an accident insurance company entered a smoking car on a western railroad train, and approaching an exceedingly gruff old man, asked him if he did not want to "take out a policy?" He was told to get out with his policy, and passed on. After riding about half an hour an accident occured to the train, and the smoking car ran over the sleepers, causing much consternation among the passengers. The old man jumped up, and seizing a hook at the side of the car to steady himself, called out. "Where is that insurance man?" The question caused a roar of laughter among the passengers, who for [illegible] their danger.

A NEW RAILWAY PROJECT.—A meeting was recently held at Meaford, in the County of Grey, to promote the construction of a wooden railway to connect that village with Collingwood. The meeting is described as large, influential and enthusiastic in favor of the wooden railway. The meeting passed resolutions recommending the construction of the railway, and recommending, too, that the township of St. Vincent, in which Meaford is situated, should, if necessary, give $30,000 towards the enterprise. The statement was made that the road from Meaford to Collingwood could be built without the stations for $40,000. Assurances were given that Mr. Cumberland, of the Northern Railway, would agree to put on the rolling stock and keep it in repair, if the townships interested would build it. A committee was appointed to act in concert with the committees representing the townships of Euphrasia and Collingwood to forward the interests of the proposed wooden railway. It is claimed that these wooden railways can be built very cheap—in some localities as cheap as $1,000 per mile—and that a speed of 15 or 20 miles can be attained upon them.

The consequence of the strike of last summer in Chicago have been such as to reduce many families to poverty, owing to the stagnation of business caused by the turn-out. It is said that there are 25,000 unemployed men in that city, and that 19,000 of them are recipients of charity.

MARRIAGES.

MERCER—FETHERSTONHAUGH—At Guelph, on the 24th inst., by the Rev. John Hogg, Mr. George Graeme Mercer, to Miss Fidelia Emma, eldest daughter of the late George Fetherstonhaugh, Esq., all of Guelph.

HEFFERNAN—KELLEHER—At Guelph, on the 18th inst., Mr. Patrick Heffernan, of Eramosa, to Miss Joanna Kelleher, Guelph Township.

DIED.

THORP—In Guelph, on Monday, the 24th inst., Harriet S., the wife of Mr. James A. Thorp.

[The funeral will take place from the residence of her husband, Woolwich street, on Wednesday next, at 3 p.m. Friends and acquaintances are invited to attend without further notice.

COMMERCIAL.

The Guelph Markets.

MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH. February 24, 1868.

Flour, ℔ 100 lbs	$3 75	@	$4 00
Fall Wheat, ℔ bush	1 65	@	1 68
Spring Wheat ℔ bush	1 52	@	1 57
Oats ℔ bush	0 55	@	0 56
Peas do	0 75	@	0 80
Barley do	1 00	@	1 10
Hay ℔ ton	11 00	@	13 00
Straw	4 00	@	5 00
Shingles, ℔ square	1 00	@	1 50
Wood, ℔ cord	3 00	@	3 50
Wool	0 27	@	0 20
Eggs, ℔ dozen	0 14	@	0 15
Butter, firkin, ℔ lb	0 13	@	0 18
Geese, each	0 25	@	0 30
Turkeys each	0 50	@	0 60
Chickens, ℔ pair	0 20	@	0 28
Ducks, do	0 20	@	0 25
Potatoes	0 60	@	0 70
Apples, ℔ barrel	2 00	@	2 00
Lamb, ℔ lb	0 06	@	0 07
Beef	4 50	@	6 00
Beef, ℔ lb	0 05	@	0 06
Pork, ℔ 100 lbs.	5 00	@	5 25
Sheep Pelts, each	0 50	@	0 75
Lambskins	0 40	@	0 45
Hides	6 00	@	6 00

Money Market.

JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE. Guelph, February 24, 1868.

Gold, 142½.
Greenbacks bo't at 69½ to 70; Sold at 70 to 70½.
Silver bought at 4½ to 5 dis.; sold at 4 to 4½.
Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 55c. to 60c.
Commercial Bank Bills bought at 95c to 98c full rate in silver.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

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

MONTREAL, February 22, 1868.

Flour—Fancy, $7 60 to $7 75; Superfine No. 1 [illegible] $7 60; Welland Canal, $7 60. Bag flour, [illegible] $3 75. Oats 46c to 47c. Barley 95c to $1. Butter—dairy 15c to 20c; store packed 15c to 20c. Ashes—Pots $5 35 to $5 40, pearls $5 80 $5 85.

Flour and Grain no transactions, sales generally unchanged. Provisions—Pork steady, with fair consumptive demand; Butter fair enquiry at quotations. Ashes pots good demand; pearls neglected.

TORONTO, February 22, 1868

Flour—Receipts, 160 brls; No. 1, at $7 05 @ $7 10 Fall Wheat—$1 79. Spring Wheat—$1 60 @ $1 62. Oats—59c. Barley $1 24 @ $1 52. Peas—83c

HAMILTON, February 22, 1868.

Fall wheat,—$1 70 @ $1 77. Spring do—$1 55 @ $1 60 per bushel. Barley—$1 @ $1 15. Oats—32c to 65c Peas—85c @ 90c. Pork—$6 00 to $6 50.

GUELPH LUMBER MARKET.

(Corrected by Messrs Gowdy & Stewart, of Wellington Lumber Yard.)

Clear 1¼ and 2 inch Plank from	$20 00	@	$25 00
" 1 inch Boards	" 12 00	"	16 00
" 1¼ " Flooring	" 15 00	"	18 00
Common 1¼ and 1½ in. Flooring	" 14 00	"	00 00
" 1 in. boards and 2in plank	" 9 00	"	10 00
Scantling all sizes up to 16 feet	" 10 00	"	00 00
" and Joisting from 18 to 20	" 12 00	"	14 00
" " " " 22 to 30	" 15 00	"	16 00
Shingles No 1 Sawn	" 1 95	"	2 00
" " 1 Cut	" 1 70	"	1 75
" " 2 Cut and Sawn	" 1 10	"	1 25
" Split	" 1 50	"	1 75
Laths 6 feet	" 0 40	"	0 45
Water Lime per barrel	" 1 87½	"	0 00
Plaster (Calcine)	" 4 50	"	5 50

Guelph, Jan. 30, 1868.

UPHOLSTERY

CHAS. FIRESTINE

Quebec-st., near Howard and Jones,

IS prepared to execute orders for all kinds of Upholstering 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. 1m

Medical Dispensary

JUST RECEIVED

A fresh supply of that best

COAL OIL

Perfectly colorless and

FREE FROM SMELL

Only 15 cts. per Gallon.

LAMP GLASSES and WICKS

Always on hand.

E. HARVEY

Chemist and Druggist,

Opposite the English Church, Wyndham-st, Guelph, Ontario.

Guelph, 22nd Feb, 1868 dw

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 LION), with EVERY MODERN IMPROVEMENT requisite to the successful 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 NE PLUS ULTRA of Treddle 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 Founders 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 lengthened 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,	BRIEFS,	LABELS,
BALL TICKETS,	CATALOGUES,	BY-LAWS,
PAMPHLETS,	BILLS OF FARE,	CHARTERS,
RECEIPTS,	POSTERS,	CERTIFICATES,
LAW BLANKS.	HAND BILLS,	CONSTITUTIONS,

AND ALL KINDS AND STYLES OF

LETTER PRESS PRINTING!

☞ ORDERS BY MAIL. ☜

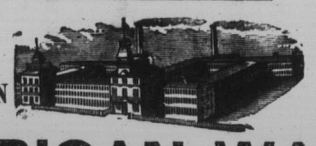
Orders from any part of the country will receive prompt attention, and as soon as executed will be forwarded by the earliest possible conveyance.

Orders Solicited, and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

McLAGAN & INNES,

Guelph, 21st February, 1868. 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 counterfeit Watches, have decided from this date to supply their Watches in the Dominion of Canada at **the nett Gold value of American Currency.** The Company by thus 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 Silver Lever, strong and serviceable, regulated to minutes, suitable to the Mechanic and Farmer, and Suite as low in prices as any moderate quality Swiss Watch. Our grades of **Extra Heavy Cased Watches** for Railway Engineers and Lumbermen deserve particular attention in Canada, as nothing can equal them for the purpose. Our leading Watches in **18 Caret Gold Cases** for Ladies and Private Gentlemen, at medium prices, will also be found very desirable.

We are 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. BARTLETT, WM. ELLERY, HOME WATCH CO. Guaranteed in all cases by special certificate (except the HOME CO., which is warranted by the seller. The purchaser should always require the guarantee, as there are Swiss counterfeits for sale in some places.

ROBBINS & APPLETON, New York, ROBERT WILKES, Toronto and Montreal } General Agents.

D. SAVAGE, Agent, Guelph.

December 10th, 1867 dw

THE

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 14s 3d
On Estimated Liabilities, including Duty, Fire, Life, and Marine Losses			30,000 0s 0d
			£30,025 14s 3d

The ASSETS of the Company on that day were:

Government Securities—			
Consols	£58,787 13 4	£54,652 0 6	
New 3 per cents	35,000 0 0	31,560 17 11	
			86,212 18 5
Bills (Drafts not matured)		£13,193 8 3	
Cash at bankers and office		7,806 4 3	
Stamps in hand		482 15 9	
On deposit at bankers, &c.		23,000 0 0	
			44,482 8 6
Other Securities—			
Madras Railway Debentures		£ 9,000 0 0	
Lancashire and Yorkshire Debentures		2,786 3 3	
Delhi Railway Stock		15,358 1 9	
Ceylon Company's Debentures		10,000 0 0	
Great Southern of India Railway Shares		20,876 5 7	
Canada 5 per cent. Stock (Inscribed)		10,030 0 0	
			78,050 10 7
Freehold Offices in Cornhill			65,863 00 0
Due from Agents, &c.			38,729 14 8
Loans on Mortgage, &c.			174,576 0 0
			£487,914 12 2

FIRE BRANCH.

Amount of Losses due and unpaid	£12,895 0 0	
do do on suspense	nil	
Payment resisted	800 0 0	
		13,695 0 0
Amount of Premiums—		
Earned during the Year	£52,753 8 1	
Unearned	35,000 9 6	
		87,755 17 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 belief, the foregoing statement is correct and true.

JAMES ROSE.

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 sleighing is good, farmers should get their supplies. By advices 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. daw t

GREAT CLEARING SALE

The Great Clearing Sale of

DRY GOODS!

IS STILL GOING ON AT

WM. STEWART'S,

Guelph, 11th December, 1867. dw

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. 3mdw

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

NATHAN TOVELL.

Guelph, 27th Aug. 1867. Nelson Crescent

GEORGE PALMER

BARRISTER and Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor in Chancery, Notary Public and Conveyancer. Office, No. 2, Day's Block, Guelph.