The Maiden's Choice

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

CHAPTER XXVI.-THE SNOW STORM—LOST AMONG THE HILLS—THE "CANNY MAN" OF FAIRY HAUGH.

Haues.

Haues arily in the afternoon of a cold bleak winter day that Sir Gilbert Barton, and Helen riding on the pillion behind him, begin to cross the Ochil hills on their way to Glencerthie, the residence of Sir Thomas Allan. This was the second day of their journey. On the first they had ridden from Brankswood to Falkirk, and, tarrying there for the night, resumed their journey on the following morning, with the intention of reaching Glencorthie before nightfall. They crossed the Forth at Alloa, and rode directly north towards the lotty range of hills which towered in front.

towards the lofty range of mass value of in front.

A severe black frost held everything in its iron grasp, and a keen north-east wind swept through the air with piercing power. The sky presented an unvarying mass of deep lead-colour, casting a gloomy bleakness over the scene, and presaging an approaching anow-storm.

the scene, and presaging an approaching snow-storm.

From information the travellers had gathered on the way, they knew that the Pass of the Ochils which they had to traverse was about seven miles in length, and would lead them through a wild and solitary region. All accounts agreed in representing it as not a very difficult road-toilsome in many places, and at certain parts not very clearly defined, but passing at other parts over wild stretches of bare and level summit, along which they could go at a speed of their own choosing. They knew of another road they could take—a long circuitous path up Glen Deven, but by taking that road the way to Glencorthie would be more than three times longer, and for this reason the Baronet preferred the shorter route across the hills, particularly as the dry hard state of the ground made the journey comparatively easy.

As they drew near to the village, above which they were told the entrance to the Pass began, Sir Gilbert scanned with rather an uneasy eye the deepening dennity of the leaden-hued sky, which gave significant indications of approaching snow, and thought of the consequences which might ensue if they should be over taken by it on the heights. But it had been lowering in this way all day, and he thought that probably the snow would keep off till night had set in, by which time they would have reached Glencorthie, and the success or failure of their anxious mission be made known.

What's take be dune, Helen lass?' he asked,

than we dae.'
'Do you think the snow is so near at hand!'
said Helen; and the tone of disappointment
in which the words were spoken did not escape Sir Gilbert's ear.

Before answering, the Baronet raised hisbent head-bent to escape, as fa, as he could
the fury of the keen wind—and took a delibcrate survey of the sky all along the northcast quarter.

east quarter.
'We'll hae it afore the mornin',' he replied.
'I hae nae doot aboot that; but it's my opinion it will keep in the lift till after the gloaming.'

ion it will keep in the lift till after the gloaming.

By which time we will be at Glencorthic,'
Helen eagerly exclaimed.

'Deed will we, and it we stop at this clauchin intae which we are comin' we may be storm-staid for a week or maybe longer.

'Oh, Sir Gilbert, we must not think of it,' cried the girl with prompt carnestness—
Let us push forward without delay.'

'Sae be it, my brave lassie. We'll trust tae Providence, who kens the urgency of our o' cor errand. But here we are at this willage public, where entertainment is tae be had for man and beast; and while Patie eats his corn, you and I will e'en prec the landlord's larder, and swallow a stoup o' his best brandy tae keep the cauld out. Hoy, landlord. This way, and bring a chair for the leddy.

The Barconer's loud shout brought the land.

they—especially the feature of the viands with lively expressions of satisfaction.

'Hee, hee, hee, l'aughed the landlord, with a merry twinkle in his eyes. 'Wull I direct Betty tag get ready and or twa sleepin' chambers for yer use?'

'Puddin's and painches,' roared the Baronet, with a loud laugh. 'Hae ye a notion that this young bonne lassie is my wife? Is she no mair like my dochter?'

'Weel, sir, I winna say that that's no possible, 'rejoined Bontface, rubbing his hands together. 'For age pairt it micht weel eneuch be the ane or the ither.'

'Hear ye that, Helen,' cried Sir Gilbert, highly tickled with the idea. 'Hul I am thinkin', honest man, that ye hae learned the art o' flattery—a very necessary qualifther art o' flattery—a very necessary qualifther. thinkin', honest man, that ye hae tearned the art o' flattery—a very necessary qualifi-cation to ane in your line. Hooever, dochter or wife, it disna maitter as regards your question, sin' we are no gaunna sleep here the nicht. We maun e'en gang farer afore

TO BE CONTINUED.

Insolvent Act of 1864.

THE Creditors of the undersigned are notified to meet at the Law Office of Messicurs PAI-MER AND LILLIM, in the Fown of Guelph, in the County of Wellington, on TUESDAY, the WENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF APHIL, Instant, at Twelve o'clock in the forement, or receive state-ments of his faffirs, and to same an Assigne un-

Guelph, April 11, 1868. do 2w

NOTICE.

A, outstooding accounts to be paid in bank-able currency to G. B. PRASER up to the of April, any remaining unpaid then will be not Court for collection, as the books of the rm must be closed within 30 days after date.

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ielph, April 7, 1868.

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The New, Extraordinary, and Tonic Remedy

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Also, for Face-ache, Tooth-ache, Earache, Coughs all affections from Cold.

The Powders are entirely Tonic in their action giving strength and tone to the system, and in creasing the appetite.

They are tasteless and may be taken by any body with perfect safety.



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Toronto, 1st April, 1868.

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For all deposits made in this Savings Bank, the Canadian Bank of Commerce is fully responsible.

R. J. DALLAS, Cashier.

Guelph, 1st April, 1888.

4.3 Herald copy four weeks.

Toronto Advertisement

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JOHN MILLER. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.
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WHOLESALE and RETAIL

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GUELPH, ONT.

From unforeseen circumstances, I am obliged to once more plunge into the torrents of active business life. It affords me no small degree of pleasure and satisfaction to know that I am still to continue to serve and be a means of profit to the great mass of the inhabitants of the County of Wellington and its vicinity. I shall in the time to come, as in the past, make it a study and one of the leading features in my business affairs at all times to be in a position to secure Goods in the very best markets, and to the best possible advantage. My purchases will all be made for **Ready Money**—and money will command **Bargains** such as credit cunnot. This advantage will be given to my customers. It is needless to remind my numerous friends and supporters that the immense variety of every description of Goods presented to select from is a very great advantage, together with the undeniable fact that my Goods are all imported from the manufacturers direct, ensures to my patrons a saving of a fair profit over that of any other establishment in the trade. I possess great advantages this season for offering extra inducements to my customers.

tomers.
COTTON GOODS have all advanced very rapidly within the last month. During the period of panic prices I bought heavily, indeed sufficient to do my business requirements during the summer. Since an advance of fully forty per cent. has taken

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My stock now in every branch is full, and an early call from my old friends will be well repaid both as regards variety to select from and the great saving to be effected in price.
Thanking you for past favors,
I remain yours,

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JOHN HOGG.

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First an of the possitors.

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FIRST IMPORTATIONS

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It combines a Hair Dressing.
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