TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers wishing to take the EVENING MERCURY by the week, or for a longer period, will please leave their names at the office, and it will be regularly delivered at their residences. Subscribers whose papers are not regularlyleft by the Carrier Boys, will please cal at the office at once and inform us of the neglect.

Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

FRIDAY EV'NG, FEB. 21, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENCLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

'I have promised to be his wife,' answered Helen, with a deep blush, yet with a glad sparkle in her bright eye.

'Immediately?' exclaimed her father, with breathless earnestness.

'No time is fixed; we are only engaged; but there is no need for haste.'

'There is need for haste, girl—pressing need for it. You can't get married too soon. Tell him so; and—yes, I must see him beforehand—I must talk to him.'

'Not about the money, father,' said Helen, resolutely. 'That is an affair which Richard and I will settle between ourselves.'

'What a silly, simple girl you are. As if he would give it up after you are married. No, no; he must be persuaded beforehand. Bless you, he'll promise anything beforehanh; but if we wait till you and it are both his, the chance is gone. Give——'

'I tell you, father, this must not be!' exclaimed Helen.

'There, there, I know, I know. Don't say any more about it, I'll make it all right.'

'Listen to me, father,' she said, in a tone the firmness and determination of which was not to be mistaken. 'If you speak to Richard Wayland about that money you shall never finger one farthing of it.'

'Eh! what? You don't mean that, Helen?'

'I do mean it.'

'No, no; you would not treat your poor father so cruelly.'

'Oh! father, father,' she passionately cried. 'Your unhappy craving for gold makes yourself miserable, and prompts you to make me miserable too. It is not cruelty this that I say, it is only what is right and just, and I stand stedfastly on what I have said. Speak one word to Richard about the money and you need never hope to see a coin of it.'

'Then I won't, I won't—there now, I won't,' he said, in anxious haste. 'But you'll get Richard to have the marriage over immediately, wont you?' he added, coaxingly.

'Most certainly not—it cannot be for some time yet. Sir Gilbert is to build a house for Richard at the end of the park, and this is to be our residence.'

The miser groaned, and wrung his hands in despair.

'But don't let us talk any more on this subject,' said Helen. 'See, here are some little nice things the house-keeper put up for you by Sir Gilbert's orders—some pies, bread, cold roast, a pair of pheasants, and two bottles of wine. The pies will make you a better supper than you were eating when I came in, and a glass of wine after them, to drink Sir Gilbert's health will do your own a deal of good.'

As Helen spoke she took the covering from her basket, and, lifting out the articles she named, laid them on the table. Her father's eye gleamed greedily as he gazed upon them and he muttered some words of intense satisfaction.

'And now, before I go,' she added, 'let me do a little cleaning for you.'

'Cleaning!' he quickly repeated. 'No, no; I don't want any cleaning. There is nothing needs it.'

'Oh dear, look at the window; it is quite covered with dust.'

'Well, all the better; it saves a curtain.'

'And the door—it sadly wants scrubbing.'

'No it doesn't—scrubbing would bring off the paint. Just let everything be; and it's time you were going The sun will soon be set, and the road to Brankswood is a long one.'

Seeing it was useless to urge him further, Helen took her leave, observing as she departed that she would walk over soon again to see him.

'That would be useless extravagance, child,' he returned. 'Walking wears shoes, and shoes cost money. Come over when you get your next wages, and be sure to bring the whole eight gold pieces.'

Oh, how true it is that the love of money is the root of all evil. It is a love which permits no rival in the heart in which it reigns. All else must go to make room for it—truth goodness, natural affection—everything that is human is eaten out, and it congregates in their room an executive of evil principles and passions which are ready at any moment to work in its service. Jabez Cringan in his life of loneliness, should have welcomed the visit of his daughter as a burst of sunshine in his solitary dwelling, and looked forward to her coming as one of the sweetest hopes of his existence. Yet he had no desire for her presence. He wished to see her only when she brought some of the yellow dross on which his heart's love was centred; and then it was the gold she brought—not the light of her countenance, the sun of her smile or the music of her voice—that made her visit pleasant to him. Alas! for Jabez Cringan, then. The idol he worships will fail him one day, and he will find himself in a state of moral bankruptcy and spiritual destitution.

The moment Helen was gone he began eagerly to examine the contents of his basket. The broken meat he viewed with a look of discontent.

'Couldn't they have kept that out,' he muttered, 'and added another brace of pheasants or another bottle of wine. These I can sell, but the bits of meat nobody will buy, and I will be forced to eat them myself, which is horrid extravagance. There's not even a bone about them to bring money.—The birds, though, are plump and fat, and the wine seems to be the oldest in Sir Gilbert's cellar. I shall take them to Greystone to-morrow, and get the most I can for them.'

While the miserable miser was thus planning the sale of the provisions Helen had brought from Brankswood for his support, the latter was making her way over the upland in the direction of the Baronet's mansion. When she quitted her father's cottage a sadness lay upon her sorrowing spirit. The manifestation of sordidness which had been presented to her view had chilled her like a frost, and the utter want of affection for herself which her father had shown, together with his coarse selfish indelicacy, had an influence from which her sensitive nature recoiled, and produced a down-heartedness very foreign to her natural state of thought and feeling. But she had not proceeded very far till she shook off the depressing influence, and her wonted buoyancy returned to her. The gladsome aspect of the summer evening, so much in unison with her sympathies, and the state of happy assurance in which her heart dwelt, dispelled the cloud and the shadow, and as she walked along she gave herself up to the contemplation of light and pleasant things, while constantly she cast her eye forward in the path in the expectation of seeing the form of him she loved coming to meet her.

Suddenly she heard the sound of a horse's hoofs on the grassy turf behind, and on turning round found horse and rider by her side. She looked up at the latter and readily recognised him.

It was Charlie Allan.

TO BE CONTINUED.

TROTTING HORSE SOLD BY THE POUND.—The celebrated trotting stallion Bashaw, Jr., who has a record throughout the West as a "footer and stayer," was purchased by Mr. A. F. Fawcett, the former owner of Dexter, in Chicago, a few days since. It stated by a Chicago paper that Mr. Fawcett requested Mr. David Kelly, the owner of the horse, to name his price, when the latter replied jocularly that he would sell him for $14.50 per pound, after the manner of selling cattle. Mr. Fawcett immediately accepted the proposition. The horse was accordingly put upon the scales, and weighed 1,040 [illegible] amount to be paid

COMMERCIAL.

The Guelph Markets.

MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH. February 21, 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 21, 1868.

Gold, 14¾.
Greenbacks bo't at 70 to 70½; Sold at 71 to 71½.
Silver bought at 4½ to 5 dis.; sold at 3½ to 4.
Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 55c. to 60c.
Commercial Bank Bills bought at 96c to 98c full rate in silver.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

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

MONTREAL, February 21, 1868.

Flour—Fancy, $7 60 to $7 75; Superfine No. 1. $7 45 to $7 60; Welland Canal, $7 60. Bag flour, $3 60 to $3 75. Oats 46c to 47c. Barley 95c to $1. Butter—dairy 15c to 19c.; store packed 15c to 16c. Ashes—Pots $5 30 to $5 35. pearls $5 80 $5 85.

Flour—Small receipts, market very quiet; small sales at unchanged rates. Grain no transactions, rates nominally unchanged. Provisions—Pork quiet but steady; Hogs light weights unchanged, heavy improved, sales of strictly choice ranging up to $6 50; Lard neglected; Butter still active. Ashes steady.

TORONTO, February 20, 1868

Flour— Receipts, 400 brls; No. 1, at $7 05 @ $7-10 Fall Wheat—$1 79. Spring Wheat—$1 61 @ $1 63. Oats—60c. Barley—$1 24 @ $1 26. Peas—83c.

HAMILTON, February 20, 1868.

Fall wheat,—$1 70 @ $1 77. spring do—$1 55 @ $1 60 per bushel. Barley—$1 @ $1 15. Oats —62c to 65c Peas- 85c @ 90c. Pork—$6 00 to $6 50.

GUELPH LUMBER MARKET.

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

Clear 1½ and 2 inch Plank from	$20 00	@	$25 00
" 1 inch Boards ..... "	12 00	"	16 00
" 1½ " Flooring ..... "	15 00	"	18 00
Common 1½ 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.

INDIA & CHINA TEA CO'Y.

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, [illegible] enabled to offer to the public Tea, fo[illegible] and flavour hitherto unknown to the general consumer. These Teas are in high favour in England and France, and a single trial will prove their superiority.

The Company supply two qualities only, either Black, Green or Mixed Their Black Teas will be found to possess great briskness and flavour, combined with colour and strength, and to be entirely different to the flat and vapid article usually sold as Black Tea; while their Green Teas are altogether free from the deleterious mineral powder so commonly used for coloring the leaf.

PRICES: Rich, full-flavoured Tea, for family use, a real genuine and fine article 70 cents per lb. Finest quality procurable, one dollar per lb.

☞ The above can be had either Black, Green or Mixed.

To be had in packets of Quarter Pound Half Pound, One Pound, and upwards, or in tin canisters of 5 lbs. and upwards from the Company's Agents in all the chief towns of Canada.—N B. All the packages are lined with tin foil paper, and the Tea will consequently retain its flavour any length of time.

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

MR. N. HIGINBOTHAM
Agent, Guelph.

Guelph, August 8, 1867 dpw-1y.

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

NOTICE.

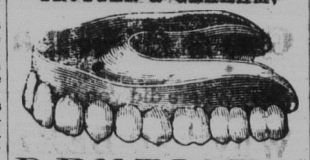
MR. CHAS. GRUNDY who has been my Book-keeper for several years in Guelph, is authorized to collect all debts due to me, and to grant receipts in my name for all payments that may be paid to him on my account. Also, to adjust and pay any accounts due by me.

OFFICE: In the store of Messrs. John M. Bond & Co., Corner of Wyndham and Cork-Sts.

HENRY MULHOLLAND

Guelph, 22nd January, 1868.

TROTTER & GRAHAM,



DENTISTS!

GUELPH and BRAMPTON,

Members of the Dental Association of the Province of Ontario.

(Success in Guelph to T. Trotter.)

OFFICE:

Over Mr. Higinbotham's Drug Store

REFERENCES.—Rev. Archdeacon Palmer, Drs, Clarke, Parker and Herod, Guelph; A. F. Scott. Esq., County Judge; George Green, County Attorney; Dr. Pattullo, M. M. C.; Rev. Mr. Arnold —Brampton. Dr. Barnhart, Warden of Peel; Dr. Hampton, resident Surgeon Toronto Hospital.

The new anæsthetic agents used for extracting teeth without pain.

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.

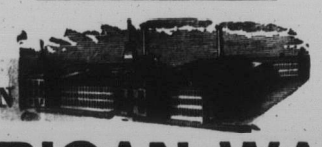
Orders from any part of the country will receive prompt attention, and as soon as executed will be forwarded by the earliest possible conveyance.

Orders Solicited, and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

McLAGAN & INNES,

Publishers, 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 quite 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, } General Agents.
ROBERT WILKES, Toronto and Montreal. }

D. SAVAGE, Agent, Guelph.

December 10th, 1867 dw

GREAT CLEARING SALE

The Great Clearing Sale of

DRY GOODS!

IS STILL GOING ON AT

WM. STEWART'S,

Guelph 11th December, 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 0	
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		13,358 1 9	
Ceylon Company's Debentures		10,000 0 0	
Great Southern of India Railway Shares		29,876 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. dawt

R. B. MORISON & CO.

Have now determined to dispose of the balance of their Fall and

Winter Stock of Dry Goods

And Ready-made Clothing,

AT COST AND UNDER and are offering GREAT INDUCEMENTS to their customers and the public generally.

Hardware in great variety, Groceries, Fresh Fruits, &c.

a new supply of that excellent 50 cent TEA that has astonished the neighborhood. Just to hand, a supply of Crockery and Glassware.

Morriston, 3rd December, 1867. w R. B. MORISON & CO.