advertisements in this paper. Our daily and weekly editions are double those of our contemporaries.

Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

TUESDAY EV'G, APRIL 28, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENCLEUCH

A Tale of the Covenanters.

'Oh, Richard, for the love of heaven, hear us,' exclaimed Helen. 'By the love you had for me, I beseech you to listen.'

'Love!' he shrieked. 'My love is turned to hate—bitter, inextinguishable hate! Oh, faithless, perjured woman——'

'No, Richard, not faithless—not perjured. Your thoughts, your belief, wrongs me. You have cause for that—amply cause—and yet I am innocent.'

'Innocent! Great heaven! hear her! and she the wife of Charlie Allan!'

'I am not—I swear to you I am not! I am free! and my love for you has never changed.'

'Liar! I saw you with him at the altar.'

'You did; and yet what I say is truth. Only be patient, and listen, and when you have heard all, you may go if you will.'

'Yes, listen, Richie, and then gang yer ways in the deevil's name if ye wull,' gasped Sir Gilbert.

'Release me, then,' demanded the youth, sternly.

'Promise that ye'll hear us first.'

'I promise; but I warn you beforehand that all words of yours will be useless.'

'Say nae mair! say nae mair! but just answer me this—If I quit my haud wull ye stay where ye are for the next ten minutes?'

'I will. You have my word for it, and you have no reason to distrust me.'

'Nae mair have you tae distrust me or Helen either, Richie,' rejoined Sir Gilbert, as he removed his arms. 'Ye think ye have, and as maitters stand I dinna blame ye; but ye are wrang for a' that—wrang a'thegither, Richie.'

'Say on,' said the youth, folding his arms on his heaving bosom, and addressing himself to Helen, regarding her as he spoke with a withering and scornful glance, while his lip curled in bitter incredulity.

'Say on,' he repeated; 'I have nerved myself to endure this last misery. My hate and scorn sustain me. Speak, and I will watch in your face the lying demon that possesses you.'

'I can bear your hard and bitter words, Richard,' said Helen, with a gentle and forgiving smile. 'They are but the just and righteous expression of your belief, and your belief is grounded on circumstances which amply justify it. In your eyes I can be nothing but the meanest and most despicable wretch in existence, and had I the same apparent reason to estimate your character, my thoughts of you would not be less severe. But I tell you solemnly and calmly that I am guiltless of all that you suppose. In our parting scene at Brankswood and since I have suffered even perhaps more than you. But the blame rests entirely on others—on the man you know as my father, and on Charlie Allan.'

Helen paused a moment to master the emotion which struggled in her bosom.

'Go on,' said Richard, with the same air of sternest incredulity. 'You cannot surely be at a loss. You have had time enough to concoct the lie in all its parts.'

'Puddin's and painches, Richie, this is damnably angersome,' burst out Sir Gilbert, in an explosion of indignation. 'Kennin' as I dae what an angel o' guidness Helen is, it's mair than mortal man can endure tae hear ye insult her sae cruelly.'

'Patience, Sir Gilbert,' observed Helen. 'Richard is in ignorance yet. But at the risk of being incoherent, I will in a few words indicate the truth. A few hours before our last meeting and parting in the Glen, Jabez Cringan came to Brankswood in seemingly great agitation, and communicated to me a discovery he said he had made on the previous evening. He had, he said, come upon a paper in a private drawer written by my mother, confessing that you were her son, and that Sir Gilbert Barton was your father. He imposed on me an oath not to reveal, this to mortal, and fidelity to my mother's memory combined with this oath to seal my lips. I never dreamed this statement to be a lie, and there was but one thing for me to do.—When we met in the Glen I told you we must part, and I could not tell you why.—But, oh, Richard, this was but a deep plot, concocted by Cringan and Charlie Allan, who desired to marry me, and who bribed Cringan to put forth the diabolical lie. It was months after my return home ere Charlie hinted of his love, and I need not wait now to tell you how I was prevailed on to consent to be his wife. Sir Gilbert, who up to this time knew no more than you, was very wroth with me, and cherished the same hard thoughts.'

'I did,' the Baronet here put in by way of parenthesis, 'God forgie me, I did.'

'On the day of the marriage,' resumed Helen, 'he attended at the church to pay the legacy, and deliver to me a sealed packet left by Lady Barton to be given to me on my wedding day. That night, at Birkencleuch, I opened the packet, and found papers there containing several astounding things, which brought Cringan's plot to light, and made the marriage ceremony void. These papers revealed that you are the lawful son of Sir Gilbert, and that my father was not Jabez Cringan, but Captain Robert Allan, Charlie's father. Now Richard, you have an outline of the truth. There is still much to tell, many, many details to fill in, but enough has been told to enable you to judge of the possibility of your hard thoughts of me being undeserved.'

'The time we named is mair than oot, Richie,' observed Sir Gilbert, jocosely. 'Are ye still thinkin' o' takin' a race owre the hills amang the snaw?'

The Baronet was encouraged to make this sportive remark by seeing the youth stand motionless and spell-bound. The tide of a revulsion had set in upon his soul. Bewilderment, doubt, hesitation, dismay began to break like so many waves over it, and to struggle against the bitterness, the passion, the scorn, and the hate which had for many months possessed him. There had been a raging tide set in the opposite direction—a seething, boiling, full-flooded tide, sweeping and rushing towards the shore of darkness and despair. An opposing current had set in—the first beginnings of a tide setting back to the sunny shore of peace and love. But oh, that tide must be tumultuous and stormy too, for it had to sweep back by surges of remorse, regret, self-reproach, and the most stubborn self-condemnation. In proportion as he caught glimpses of the truth of things the torture of his soul increased, for in the same proporttion he saw the purity, the integrity, and heroic devotion which Helen had displayed, and alongside of these he had to contrast and measure his injustice towards her, his cruel, cutting words, his scorn, his insult. His rage and hate gave place to anguish, misery, and hopeless humiliation of spirit.

TO BE CONTINUED.

RAILWAY COMPANIES AND DRUNKEN EMPLOYES.—The Supreme Court of Massachussetts has decided, in the case of Gilman *vs.* Eastern Railway Company, that, if a flagman employed by a railway corporation is an habitual drunkard, and is usually intrusted with the management of a switch, and these facts are known, or, by the use of care, which would be known by the officers of the corporation and he through intoxication fails to adjust properly a switch, whereby an accident happens to another person employed by the corporation, the corporation will be responsible in damages. This is an important and just decision. It has been held that railway employees take the ordinary risks of the service, and cannot recover damages for injuries received. The "ordinary risks," very properly, do not include those happening from the acts or neglect of drunken switchmen, engineers, trackmen or conductors.

THE SPRING TRADE

STEWART

SPRING DRESSES, NEWEST STYLES.

SPRING DRESSES, BEST MATERIALS.

SPRING DRESSES, MOST MODERATE PRICES.

STEWART

HAS JUST RECEIVED the largest and most choice stock of New Spring Goods he has ever shown, and respectfully requests attention to the great difference in price from last year, being at least **One-third Lower.**

STEWART

HAS opened a case of White Drab and Grey Stays, that fit the body and not the body the stays. Highly recommended by the Faculty.

STEWART'S

CARPET STOCK is the largest west of Toronto, and being all this season's importations the designs and colors are new.

STEWART'S

STOCK OF TAPESTRY is large and choice. Styles are new, and will be offered very low, commencing at 75 cents.

STEWART'S

NEW SILKS. BLACK AND COLORED.

DRESS GOODS. CHENES, CAMLETS, REPS. POPLINS, SERGES, MOHAIRS.

MANTLES. SILK, CLOTH AND VELVET.

JACKETS, SILK, CLOTH AND VELVET.

LACES. COLLARETS, TIES, FALLS. MUSLIN AND LINEN SETS.

PARASOLS. RIBBONS, FLOWERS, &c.

HOSIERY, SILK, SPUN AND COTTON.

GLOVES, KIDS, SILK AND LISLE.

SMALL WARES, BELTS, BUGLE TRIMMINGS. BUTTONS IN VARIETY.

PRINTS, BRILLIANTES, PIQUES. SHIRTINGS AND SKIRTINGS

STEWART

Is now showing for the Spring Trade

NEW DAMASKS,
NEW REPS,
NEW CHINTZES,
NEW LENO CURTAINS,
NEW MUSLIN CURTAINS,
NEW LACE CURTAINS.

WM. STEWART.

Guelph, April, 1st, 1868. dw

A—of Shoe Tools, Shoe and Machine Thread, Machine Silk, Shoe Pegs, Shoe Nails, Shoe Tacks, Heel and Toe Plates, &c., wholesale and retail.

RYAN & OLIVER,
114 Yonge Street, Toronto.
Toronto, 1st April, 1868. d

TO TAILORS.

AMERICAN Shears, Trimmers, and Points of of all sizes, Squares, Carved Rules, Straight-edges, Improved Irons, English and American Crayons, Bartleets' Needles, Tapes, &c. All the best quality, and at lowest prices.

RYAN & OLIVER,
Importers of Hardware—114 Yonge-st. Toronto.
Toronto, 1st April, 1868. d

TO MACHINISTS.

STEEL Squares, Steel Rules, Centre Gauges, Vernier Calipers, Steel Caliper Rules, Caliper Squares, Ames' Umversal Squares, Self-regulating Calipers and Dividers, Stubs Files and Tools, Patent Oilers, Sheet Steel, &c. For sale by

RYAN & OLIVER,
General Hardware Merchants—114 Yonge-st.
Toronto, 1st April, 1868. d

Cabinetmakers & Upholsterers.

HAIR Seating, Curled Hair, Tow, Sofa Springs, Twine, Chair Web, Buttons, Screws, Hinges, Locks, Tacks, Flint Paper, Glue, Piano Stool screws Coffin Trimmings, Upholsterers' Needles and Regulators, Addis' Carvers' Tools, Extension Lip Auger Bits, Melodeon Hardware, &c. For sale at lowest Prices.

RYAN & OLIVER,
General Hardware Merchants—114 Yonge Street, Toronto.
Toronto, 1st April, 1868. d-1y

CASTLE GARDEN SALOON

MARKET SQUARE,

GUELPH, ONT.

THE Subscriber begs to inform the public that he has leased the above premises for a term of years, and has refitted it in a very superior and substantial manner, and hopes to share a portion of the patronage of the public.

THE BAR

will be supplied with the best

Wines, Liquors & Cigars

And the table with all the delicacies of the season. In fact no expense will be spared to make it a first-class establishment.

☞ LUNCHEON!

Every day from 1 to 3 o'clock.

OYSTERS AND GAME,

Etc. Dinner and Supper parties provided short notice, at reasonable charges.

JOHN MILLER,
Proprietor.
Late of the Commercial Hotel, Whitby.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Guelph, Jan. 29, 1868. do tf

Toronto Advertisement

W. & D. DINEEN

BEG to inform the people of **GUELPH** and surrounding country that they have the Largest, Cheapest and Best Stock of

HATS, CAPS AND FURS

Ever brought into Ontario, at **No. 80** Yonge Street, three doors north of King-st.,

Wholesale and Retail. **TORONTO.**

Toronto, 26th March, 1868. dw6t

NOT RUN AWAY YET.

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,

CORK STREET,

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.

WM. MITCHELL,
Guelph, Feb. 21, 1868. w3m-dew

HORSE BILLS

1868

PROPRIETORS and Travellers of Stallions will please note the fact that at

THE MERCURY OFFICE

Macdonnell Street, opposite the Great Western Hotel Stables, second door east of the Golden Lion, Guelph,

They can get better, cheaper and handsomer Horse Bills than at any other office in the County, and printed while they wait.

☞ Orders by post will be promptly attended to, and forwarded by the earliest conveyances.—Give us a call.

McLAGAN & INNES.
EVENING MERCURY Buildings, Macdonnell-st

Division Court Sittings

COUNTY OF WELLINGTON.

THE Division Courts for the County of Wellington, will be held as follows:—

Orangeville.....	Feb. 4,	April 14,	June 30, 186
Erin	5	15	July 1 "
Guelph	7	17	3 "
Elora	18	28	21 "
Arthur.....	19	29	23 "
Mount Forest...	20	30	23 "
Fergus.....	21	May 1	24 "
Rockwood.....	25	12	Aug. 4 "
Puslinch	26	13	5 "
Drayton.....	March 3	26	18 "
Harriston	4	27	19 "
Glenallan	5	28	20 "

By order,
ALFREDA. BAKER,
Guelph, Dec. 1867. Clerk No.

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 20th of April. Vacancies for two or three boarders.

Guelph, 6th April 1868. w

FOR SALE.

SODA ASH—"Gamble's."

CAUSTIC SODA—'Gamble's,' 'Widnes', 'Alkali Comp'y,' 'Garrett's.'

SAL. SODA.
CHLORIDE OF LIME.
PALM OIL.

W. T. BENSON,
37 St Peter Street, Montreal.
Montreal, 1st April, 1868 dw-6m

EST.ABLISHMENT.

GUELPH, ONT.

1868. 1868.

JOHN HOGG

AT IT AGAIN.

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 cannot. 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.*

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 place.

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,

JOHN HOGG.

Guelph, 3rd April, 1868. dw

GREAT ATTRACTION.

THE GREATEST ATTRACTION OF THE SEASON IS THE DISPLAY OF

NEW HATS & CAPS

AT

THE GUELPH CLOTH HALL

A. THOMSON & CO.

Guelph, 4th April, 1868. d aw y

THE CO-OPERATIVE STORE.

FIRST IMPORTATIONS

OF

NEW SPRING GOODS!

WILL BE OPENED

ON WEDNESDAY, THE 8TH INST.

☞ The Subscribers are now paying the Third-half yearly dividend.

W. MACKLIN & CO.

Guelph, April 7, 1868. daw

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

GRAND OPENING OF

SHOW ROOM

AT THE

BRADFORD HOUSE

PHILIP BISH,

WILL SHOW ON

FRIDAY, the 24th of APRIL, 1868,

Some of the **Greatest Novelties** in

MANTLES & MILLINERY

Ever exhibited in Guelph, which for extent and quality is not surpassed in the Province.

Ladies should Call at once and Examine the Pattern Bonnets and Mantles.

The above Department is superintended by a first-class artiste. Ladies can rely on having every attention by calling at the **BRADFORD HOUSE,** Guelph.

PHILIP BISH.

Bradford House, Wyndham Street, Guelph, April 23, 1868. daw tf

TAILOR,

ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE, GUELPH,

In rear of the English Church,

BEGS to inform the inhabitants of Guelph and vicinity that he has rented the premises lately occupied by Mr. Jeannicret, Watchmaker, where

Parties Furnishing their Own Goods

Will always find him on hand ready to attend to their orders. All work carefully executed and on reasonable terms.

Garments Altered, Repaired and Cut with Neatness and Despatch.

Guelph, April 8, 1868. dtf wlm

Medical Dispensary

HARVEY'S

PATENT

BENZOLINE

For instantly removing

Grease, Oil, Wax, Paint, Tar and other Spots from Silk, Velvet, Cloth and Kid Gloves, Carpets,

And all kinds of fabrics, without injuring the most delicate colors. Price 25c per box.

Sole Proprietor,
E. HARVEY,
Chemist and Druggist, Wyndham-St., Guelph.

April 16. daw tf

1868. **NEW GOODS.** 1868

Mrs HUNTER

HAS pleasure in calling the attention of the ladies of Guelph and vicinity to her extensive and well selected stock of

BERLIN AND FANCY WOOLS

Slippers and Slipper Patterns,
Crochet, Knitting and Mending Cottons,
Corsets, Braids, Frillings, Edgings,
Sewing, Purse, and Embroidering Silk,
Floss, Filoselle, Belt and Bonnet Ribbons,
Dress Buttons, Toilet Setts, and

GENERAL FANCY GOODS

Juvenile Clothing, Infants' Robes, &c.

STRAW MILLINERY!

Bonnets and Hats cleaned, dyed and re-made in the newest styles. Hair Hats and Bonnets renewed.

STAMPING from the newest designs.

☞ Remember the Stand Wyndham Street, next door to Harvey's Drug Store, and opposite the English Church.

Guelph, 1st April, 1868 dw tf

FRUITS

FRESH ARRIVALS AT

No. 2,

Day's Block, - - Guelph,

Canned Peaches
" Pears
" Plums
" Cherries
" Apples, &c.

BOTTLED JAMS

Strawberry
Gooseberry
Damson
Currants, &c.

A choice lot of Stilton and Pine Apple Cheese.

E. CARROLL & CO.,

No. 2, Wyndham Street.

Guelph, April 20, 1868. daw

OPPOSITION LINE

TO CALIFORNIA

via Panama, carrying United States mails, and also *via* Nicaragua.

North American Steamship Comp'y

will despatch one of their Fast and Elegant Steamships from NEW YORK,

Every Ten Days.

Rates for First, Second and Third Cabin VERY LOW.
For Special Berths, Tickets, &c., apply
J. W. MURTON,
General Passage Agent.

WALL PAPER!

WALL PAPER.

FOR Extra BARGAINS

In WALL PAPER try

SHEWAN'S BOOKSTORE!

Next door to H. Walker's Grocery.

Guelph, 27th March, 1868 dw

DOMINION SALOON,

(LATE GRAND'S SALOON,

OPPOSITE THE MARKET,

GUELPH.

CHOICE LIQUORS, Cigars, Oysters, &c., &c., always on hand. **Meals furnished at all Hours.**

DENIS BUNYAN.

Guelph, December 2, 1867. dawly