

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers wishing to take the Evening Mercury by the week, or for a longer period, will please have the papers sent to the office, and it will be regularly delivered at their residences. Subscribers whose papers are not regularly left by the Carrier Boys, will please call at the office at once and inform us of the neglect.

Guelph Evening Mercury OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET. SATURDAY EV'NG. FEB. 1, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

The eagle eye of McLellan pierced the mist to detect the first appearance of the cavalcade, as he and his men lay in perfect silence on the drenched grass, but while the bare still concealed them from view, the approach of the troopers was announced by loud peals of laughter, and snatches of singing songs. Then the front of their line came dimly into view, as they slowly wended their way one behind the other, up the perilous road. One soldier who was acquainted with the district rode first as guide, and he was Captain Charlie Allan, whose whole attention was occupied in keeping a tight hand on the bridegroom and surveying with uneasy eye the warring gulf beneath, the bottom of which was hidden by the sea of mist which floated over it.

Behind the Captain, followed one-half of the escort, then the six prisoners in the centre, riding double, except the Minister and Walter Elliot, who had each a horse to himself. The rear of the line then followed, composed of the rest of the troopers.

"Confound it, Kennedy, this is as cursed a road as ever I marched on!" said Allan to the man in front. "A false step here, and man and horse go both to the devil. Are we nearly out of the Pass?"

"We are not very far from the top now, sir. Less than half an hour will bring us to the open heights and give us a fine report. But just here is the worst part of the road. The men had better look carefully to their horses' heads, and Inaiz, who is leading Birkenleuch's beast, should be told to have a care."

"No matter how should I top down the cliff," muttered Allan between his teeth, but he immediately added aloud— "Jackson, pass the order back for the men to keep steady here."

And at once the words "Keep steady here" recurred along the line like a repeated echo, till they died away in the rear.

A minute or two of silence had broken, broken only by the muffled sound of the horses' footsteps on the turf. But suddenly a loud, abrupt, startling voice came from the height above, uttering in an authoritative tone the one word, "Stand!"

Mechanically every bridle-rein was pulled, the cavalcade came to a dead halt, and the troopers looking up beheld a host of men on the height above and in front, the huge form of McLellan being in advance, and towering above the rest.

"Who are you, and what want you?" demanded Allan, in angry astonishment.

"It matters not who we are," replied Barcob, "but we are here to rescue Mr. Gordon, Mr. Elliot, and the rest. When we receive them we shall disperse quietly, but have them we must."

"Are you in open rebellion, then?" cried Allan, wrathfully.

"No, but the capture of our friends is an act of gross tyranny, and we are resolved to resist it."

"Begone!" roared Allan in a rage. "I can hold no parley with rebels. Depart, and be thankful that I allow you to do so. Don't you know, you idiots, that this foolish audacity might cost you your lives?"

"We have not come here on this errand without counting the cost," was the firm and quiet rejoinder. "We all know the zeal manifested by Captain Allan in the tyrannous service on which he has been sent into this district, and doubt not he will seek with avidity the men who deliver his captives, to bring them to the punishment which the iniquitous rulers of the land will inflict. But he may seek and not find; at all events and at all risks, we are bent on accomplishing our mission."

"Your language betrays you," cried Allan. "You are not what your dress would betoken. Misguided men, he shouted, addressing the silent group around McLellan, do not let this adventure delude you. He would draw you into the commission of treason; he would sacrifice you in the mad attempt to show his disloyalty. Away to your homes, and leave him to meet the fate he so richly merits."

"We are here for the good cause, and we will budge an inch," cried a stern voice from the group, and the rest of the Covenanters repeated the statement in a variety of forms, but with the same fixed determination.

"Then the consequences be on your rebel heads," shouted the enraged officer. "Forward!"

Advance a step and we fire!" exclaimed Barcob, drawing a pistol from his belt, while several of the others brought the muskets they carried to their shoulders.

"By heaven, Captain, these rebels must not be heard of thus," cried the trooper who rode in front; "I will spur up the steep, and disperse them."

And as he spoke he turned his horse's head with a jerk to the slope, and put his spurs into its side. It was a foolhardy attempt. The animal gave one bound upward but could not obtain a footing for a second. It fell first on its haunches, then on its side, and the next moment horse and rider rolled away with fearful velocity into the misty gulf. The trooper gave one cry, only one, but the noise of his falling could be heard after the mist had swallowed him from sight, and at last a dull heavy crash came up from the far depths, and all was still.

The troop looked on at the catastrophe with silent horror. Allan turned pale, and his craven heart beat fast and full in his bosom.

"How are the mighty fallen and the weapons of war perished!" said the deep stern voice of McLellan from above. "Refuse to liberate your prisoners," he added, "and that will be the fate of every one of you; BUT THE FOREMOST WILL FALL FIRST."

"I'll be d—d if there's any help for it," Jackson, muttered the Captain to his sergeant.

"The rogues have us in a fix, and they know it," answered Jackson, glad to see that his officer was inclined to yield, for the fate of Kennedy had shaken his nerves, as well as those of the troopers.

"You may as well make the best of the matter," said the Laird. "You are completely in our power. You cannot move back or forward if you choose to hurry, and the prisoners we are resolved to have."

"Faith but you have chosen your opportunity well," said Allan bitterly. "It was surely the devil that tempted us to come into this trap."

"No, Captain," answered Barcob, gravely. "It was He whose servants you are making to suffer. You would drag them to prison for worshipping Him, but He has designed to deliver them, and now you cannot choose but give them up."

"The usual cant of rebel Whigs," sneered Allan. "However, I yield to the force of circumstances. You shall have the prisoners since better may not be, but I tell you plainly that had you made the demand in any place but this you would have had a very different answer."

TO BE CONTINUED.

The results of the cheap printing contract of the Legislature are that the work is so wretchedly performed that the printing is scarcely legible, and the printer suits his own convenience in executing orders. The House was compelled to adjourn at an early hour yesterday from the failure of the printing establishment to supply necessary documents in season.

POETRY.

Songs of the New Dominion.

FROM AN UNPUBLISHED VOLUME BY A. M'LAGHLEN.

NO. 1.—ELORA.

O lovely Elora, thy valley and stream Still dwell in my heart like a beautiful dream; And everything peaceful and lovely I see, Brings back to my bosom some image of thee. I've roam'd this Dominion, allured by the beam Of wild woodland beauty, by valley and stream, From lone Manitoulin, all down to the sea, But found no'er a spot, sweet Elora, like thee.

There's lone rocky grandeur away at the Sound, And down the St. Lawrence wild beauties abound; Quebec, towering proudly, looks down to the sea; And lone Gananoque, there's beauty in thee; And Harris, the lady that sits by the lake, O would I could sing a sweet song for her sake; But there in thy beauty I'm listening the fall, O lovely Elora, thou'rt Queen of them all!

If friends should forsake me, or fortune depart, Or love fly and leave a great void in my heart; O then from my sorrow, away I would flee, And hide from misfortune, Elora, in thee. Away from the world, with its falsehood and pride, For you lowly out where the still waters glide, I'd commune with nature, till death set me free, And rest, then, forever, Elora, in thee.

COAL OIL.

Another supply of No. 1 Coal Oil at 15 cents per gallon, and Tin Cans of any size with patent tops and spouts; also another supply of the new Barbers, at John Horsman's.

Note, for the future I shall keep none but the Genuine No. 1 Coal Oil JOHN HORSMAN.

Sorofula Entirely Cured!

KINGSTON, C. W. June 17, 1864.

GENTLEMEN.—It gives me much pleasure to inform you of the good effects derived from the use of Bristol's Sorofula Pills. One case in particular has been brought under my notice, in which a person was entirely cured of Sorofula by taking nine bottles, owing to delicacy of parties in not wishing their names to be printed, I will withhold them, but can satisfy any one who may wish to make further enquiries upon calling at my store.

I remain, yours very truly, ROBERT WHITE, Druggist, 42 Prince's Street.

FEBRUARY.

Really this should be noticed. We observe in the Illus. London News (which indeed is worthy the name of a scientific work) on page 12, an article headed Lacked Yessels, &c. The grand Road is for yourselves, and understand the principle upon which the great Shoshonee Remedy makes such wonderful cures of diseases of the stomach, Lungs, Liver, Kidneys, &c. One of these valuable treatise accompanies each bottle of that peculiar Indian Medicine, for sale everywhere.

Racked and Contorted by Pain.

No disease is more agonizing than Rheumatism; none more difficult to relieve; yet a case which, for thirty years, had baffled the Faculty, has it appears, been completely cured. The particulars are given with expressions of astonishment at the result, in many of the western journals. They state that John Koehs, of Cleveland, Ohio, aged fifty-six years, had for most part of his life, endured tortments of the most terrible description. His limbs had been racked and contorted by pain and muscular contractions, and his knee-joints were of the size of a man's head, and his fingers knotted and drawn up, while a scrofulous tendency in the blood was indicated by blotches and pustules on various parts of his body. In this dire condition he began to use Bristol's Sugar Coated Pills, in conjunction with that great antidote to the virus of sorofula, Bristol's Sarsaparilla. Eleven vials of the Pills, and eight bottles of Sarsaparilla, relieved him from every vestige of pain, and he is now well, cheerful, and true to his business.

TO CONSUMPTIVES.

THE REV. EDWARD A. WILSON will send (free of charge) to all who desire it, the prescription with the directions for making and using the simple remedy by which he was cured of a lung affection and that dread disease Consumption. His only object is to benefit the afflicted, and he suffers no pain in trying this prescription, as it costs him nothing, and may prove a blessing. Please address—

REV. EDWARD A. WILSON, No. 165 South Second Street, Williamsburgh, N. Y.

COMMERCIAL.

Guelph Markets.

MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH, February 1, 1868.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Flour, Spring Wheat, Oats, Barley, Hay, Straw, Wood, Wool, Eggs, Butter, Cheese, Turkeys, Chickens, Ducks, Potatoes, Apples, Lamb, Beef, Pork, Sheep Pelts, Lamb skins, Hides.

Money Market.

JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE, Guelph, February 1, 1868.

Gold, 140 1/2. Greenbacks not at 70 to 75; sold at 71 to 71 1/2. Silver bought at 4 1/2 to 5 1/2; sold at 5 1/2 to 5 1/4. Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 50 to 60. Commercial Bank Bills bought at 50 to 58. In silver full rate.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

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

MONTREAL, February 1, 1868. Flour—Fancy, \$7 65 to \$7 75; Superfine No. 1, \$7 45 to \$7 60; Welland Canal, \$7 60. Bag count, \$3 60 to \$3 70. Oats 46 c to 47 c. Barley 90 c to \$1. Butter—dairy 16 c to 18 c; store packed 13 c to 16 c. Ashes—Foss 25 c to 30 c; pearls 25 c to 30 c.

TORONTO, January 31, 1868. Flour—Receipts, 198 bbls; No. 1, at \$7 00. F. Wheat—\$1 75. Bar—58 c. Oats—58 c to 64 c. Barley—\$1 00 to \$1 05.

HAMILTON, January 31, 1868. Fall wheat, \$1 70 @ \$1 77. Spring do, \$1 55 @ \$1 60 per bushel. Barley—\$1 @ \$1 05. Oats—50 c to 55 c. Post—50 c to 55 c. Pork—\$5 50.

\$20. STAR \$100. SHUTTLE SEWING MACHINE.

Patented May, 1867.

The Star Shuttle Sewing Machine makes a stitch alike on both sides of material sewed, which will not rip or ravel. Does all kinds of work equally as well as Singer's high priced machine. Combines simplicity with durability. It is warranted for five years. It is suited alike for the dressmaker, tailor, manufacturer or family. Mr. J. SPAFFORD having been appointed General Agent for Ontario, wishes to engage a few good local and travelling agents, to whom good inducements will be offered. For machines, sample of work, or terms, address—

J. E. SPAFFORD, P. O. Box 450, Toronto.

HAY IN TRUSSES

Constantly on hand. Also Straw for beds. TERMS CASH. JOHN WEST, Guelph, July 22.

NOTICE.

The business of Messrs. BLAIR & GUTHRIE will be continued at the same office by the surviving partner, Mr. GUTHRIE. Guelph, 4th January, 1868.

HUNDRED PERSONS KILLED

James River, Hampton Roads, Lynhaven and Baltimore Oysters constantly on hand.

PERSONS KILLED

Will do well to call and examine those solid meat Oysters which I sell by measure. Bring your bowls and pails, and thus save the price of cans and canning. My Oysters are not

EATING OYSTERS

That are OYSTERS! Call and see them before purchasing elsewhere

IN GUELPH.

Solid Meat Oysters by the keg, can, or measure. Also, Finner Haddies and fresh and salt Fish of every description, wholesale and retail.

HUGH WALKER.

Wyndham Street, Guelph, nearly opposite the English Church. Guelph, 15th January 1868.

TROTTER & GRAHAM.

DENTISTS, GUELPH and BRAMPTON, Members of the Dental Association of the Province of Ontario.

(Successor in Guelph to T. Trotter.) OFFICE:

Over Mr. Higginbotham's Drug Store

REFERENCES.—Rev. Archdeacon Palmer, D.D., 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.

R. TROTTER, W. K. GRAHAM, Guelph, 2nd August, 1867.

FLOUR, GRAIN, PROVISIONS, ASHES, LEATHER, &c.

CONSIGNMENTS solicited. Highest prices realized, and returns promptly made. Every desirable information afforded, consignors in reference to the Markets, Packing of Pork, Manufacture, &c., as required.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co., MONTREAL.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & More, HALIFAX.

ADVANCES.

DRAFTS authorized against Consignments to Montreal and Halifax may be made at the option of Consignors, on either City. Cash advances made on shipments to our Correspondents in Foreign Markets.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co., MONTREAL.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & More, HALIFAX.

FISH, OILS, &c.

ORDERS for Fish, Oils, or West India Produce carefully and promptly executed.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co., HALIFAX, N. S. daw 1/2

Dominion Store!

(Late Post Office Store.)

MRS. ROBINSON

HAS on hand a varied stock of GENERAL GROCERIES for Christmas & New Year

consisting of Almonds, Brazil Filberts, Figs, Dates, Raisins, Lemons at 25c per dozen.

Don't forget the stand, next to the Wellington Hotel, where you can get the best and cheapest lot of FANCY GOODS in Guelph.

MRS. ROBINSON, Upper Wyndham Street, Guelph, Guelph, Dec. 17th, 1867. daw

Funerals, Funerals!

NATHAN TOVELL has to intimate that he is prepared to attend Funerals as usual. His Steam Planting 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

MRS. HUNTER'S FANCY STORE,

West Market Square.

JUST received, a large lot of FANCY GOODS, all kinds, suitable for PRESENTS for Christmas & New Year's

She has the LARGEST and BEST ASSORTMENT in town of

Berlin & Fancy Wools

Stamping for Binding and Bookbinding.

MRS. HUNTER, Guelph, 11th Dec., 1867. dw

CHEAP Photographs

W. BURGESS

DEGS leave to inform his friends and the public of Guelph and surrounding country that he having received a large lot of FRAMES suitable for

Christmas Presents,

he will through the HOLIDAYS furnish all kinds of Photographs at greatly

REDUCED PRICES,

Parties wishing to make presents of Photographs to their friends should call at once.

PICTURES

of all kinds furnished in the first style of the art.

Gallery above John A. Wood's Grocery Store. W. BURGESS. Guelph, 15th December, 1867. dw

New Saddlery Shop

Do you want a set of Harness, double or single, light or heavy, call at the new shop, next door to Coffey's Hotel.

Do you want a good Saddle? We can supply you cheaper than ever, 15 yards from O'Connor's Wellington Hotel.

Everybody in want of a good Trunk, Valise, or Travelling Bag, can be supplied at the new shop, two doors from the Post Office.

WHIPS, Horse Covers, Sleigh Bells

A very large and well-assorted stock of Whips will be sold at 25c on the dollar of our former low prices, 50 yards north of St. George's Church.

We have a few pairs of imported made up Horse Covers, made to order, also a nice lot of common blankets.

What is more cheering than the merry Sleigh Bells? We can supply you. Call at the new shop, next door to Mr. Hoover's Livery Office.

We have on hand all kinds of articles, and will make up on the shortest notice anything you want in the Saddlery line, a few doors South of the Registry Office.

Brushes, Combs, Spurs, Bits, in endless variety. REPAIRING done as usual.

In consequence of the present premises being too small for our large stock, we will for a short time have to sell at a reduced price, to keep our present staff of workers.

SMITH & METCALF, Late occupiers of the premises destroyed by fire, adjoining the Alma Block. Guelph, 20th December 1867. dwf.

Gold & Silver Plating

A. HOWIE & CO.

Royal Hotel Buildings, James-st., HAMILTON.

Watches, Chains, Rings, Penicil Cases, and all kinds of Jewelry Plated in Gold.

Tea Sets, Cake Baskets, Knives, Forks, Spoons, &c., Plated at reasonable rates.

Also, Door Plates & Carriage Trimmings of every description done to order with neatness and dispatch.

Orders from a distance punctually attended to. Hamilton, November 23 1867. dwia

NATIONAL Steamship Company.

(Incorporated.)

STEAMERS Weekly from Liverpool and New York, calling at Queenstown.

A Steamship of this line, consisting of the Queen, England, Virginia, Fall Whistler, and Boston.

Helvetia, Pennsylvania and France. Leaves NEW YORK from Pier 47, North River, every Saturday, and Liverpool on Wednesday of each week, calling at Queenstown each way.

The size of these Steamships admits of very spacious state-rooms, all opening directly into the Saloon. The accommodation and fare are unsurpassed, and the rates lower than by any other line.

The accommodation for stowage passengers are large, and plenty of deck-room is allowed, whilst the fare is of the best quality, well cooked and ample.

An experienced Surgeon on each ship, free of charge. Tickets are issued in this country to parties wishing to prepay the passage of their friends from Liverpool or Queenstown (Ireland), for \$25, American money.

For tickets, special berths, and all information, apply to

J. W. MURTON, General Passage Agent, No. 9, James Street Hamilton, 28th Nov. 1867. w1y

Oyster Rooms

Valentine Wald

BEGS to announce to the public that he has fitted up Oyster Rooms in connection with his Hotel, on MACDONNELL STREET.

The very best of Liquors, and choicest Cigars will always be kept.

The Rooms are under the superintendence of Mr. H. Macdonnell, whose courteous attention, as well as his thorough knowledge of the business, will insure satisfaction in all cases.

The very best of Oysters always on hand, and served up in all styles at short notice.

TON and JERRY, and all kinds of Fancy Drinks prepared in the most approved manner. Guelph, 27th December, 1867. dwia

FURS, FURS.

WE have opened our stock of FURS, from our own manufacture, which we will sell at LOW PRICES, viz:

Extra Dark Mink, Royal Ermine, Siberian Squirrel, River-Mink, Ladies' Hoods, Fur Caps, &c.

And a full assortment of CHILDREN'S FURS, GENTS' MUFFERS and GLOVES, SLEIGH ROBES, &c.

F. GARLAND, Market Square, GUELPH.

The Highest Price paid for Raw Furs. Guelph, Oct. 31, 1867. 884 w782

Wool, Hide and Leather DEPOT,

No. 4, Day's Old Block, Gordon Street. Guelph, July 31, 1867. dw D. MOLTON

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN MAGAZINES.

ENGLISH MAGAZINES.

Table with 3 columns: Magazine Name, per year, per copy. Includes All the Year Round, Army List, Art Journal, Astronomical Register, Aunt Judy's Magazine, Albany, Bow Bells, Boys of England, Broadway Magazine, Bailey's Magazine of Sports, Baptist Magazine, Beau Monde, Belgravia, Bentley's Miscellany, Bookworm, Boy's Journal, Own Magazine, Monthly Magazine, British Controversialist, Friend, Journal of Dental Science, Cassell's Magazine, Chambers' Journal, Chess Player Magazine, World Magazine, Christian Advocate and Review, Observer, Society, Spectator, Treasury, World Magazine, Churchman's Magazine, Civil Engineer and Architect's Journal, Colburn's United Service Magazine, Colonial Church Chronicle, Contemporary Review, Cornhill Magazine, Cutters' Monthly, Day of Rest Magazine, Dublin University Magazine, Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, Englishwoman's Magazine, Family Friend, Treasury, Herald, Follet, Le, Fortnightly Review, Fraser's Magazine, Gentleman's Magazine of Fashion, Gentleman's Magazine.

AMERICAN MAGAZINES.

Table with 3 columns: Magazine Name, per year, per copy. Includes Harper's Magazine, Atlantic Monthly, Lippincott's Magazine, Blackwood's, The Reviews, Godey's, Mde. Demorest's, Frank Leslie's, Our Young Folks.

ENGLISH PAPERS.

Table with 3 columns: Paper Name, per year, per copy. Includes The Illustrated London News, Bell's Life, The Field, Sporting News (Illustrated), Sporting Life (S.W.), London Weekly Times, Lion's Weekly, The News of the World, The Lady's Own Paper, London Journal, Family Herald, Reynolds' Miscellany, Cassell's Paper.

AMERICAN PAPERS.

Table with 3 columns: Paper Name, per year, per copy. Includes The News of the World, The Lady's Own Paper, London Journal, Family Herald, Reynolds' Miscellany, Cassell's Paper.

Can supply any Magazine published (not on this List).

All the American Daily and Weekly Papers kept constantly for sale.

Orders for any of the above Magazines received, and will be supplied regular.

AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE,

Opposite the Market, Guelph.

Guelph, 15th January, 1868. dw

GREAT CLEARING SALE

The Great Clearing Sale of DRY GOODS IS STILL GOING ON AT WM. STEWART'S, Guelph