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Guelph Evening Mercury
OFFICE.....MACDONNELL STREET.
TUESDAY EVENING, JAN 7, 1888.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENCLUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters

Walter responded not, but his compressed lip and flashing eye showed that he would suffer no insult to be given to his bride. By this time he had procured a light, and conducted the fugitives to the lower parts of the mansion, traversing the passages and subterranean places which he and Andrew had explored some hours before, till they came to the large chamber, and the cell where the well was sunk.

A few explanatory words sufficed to make the ministers comprehend the nature and construction of the hiding places they were going to enter, and in a few seconds the light was lowered and everything ready for them to descend.

Hugh McKail was swung down first, and gained the aperture in safety. Walter was rather anxious about the decent Mr. Gordon, for he was a big, heavy man, and being elderly, he might want the elasticity necessary to vault into the passage to the secret chamber. The youth was, therefore, careful to give him every necessary direction, and lowered him with all watchful caution; Hugh was also ready below to assist him into the aperture, but his own firmness of nerve and physical activity were sufficient for the emergency, and he also gained the ledge, where the two groped their way into the interior to await the result.

With quick despatch Walter drew up the light, and left the troopers should find their way to the well and have their suspicions satisfied by the freshness of the rope. He was windless, he removed it and carried it away with him to a lumber close in the upper part of the house, the trap under a heap of rubbish that lay there.

This done, he was about to ascend the tower to learn of the approach of the soldiers when he was met by Marion, pale and agitated.

"Oh, Walter!" she cried, "where is your father and Hugh?"

"Where no seekers will find them, replied in a tone of smiling assurance, "where have you been, my darling?"

"Marjory has told me that Charlie and his soldiers are coming. Is it true?"

"I rather think so. Andrew and I saw from the tower more than half-an-hour ago what we took to be them. But let them come. We are all ready for them. Charlie will succeed to-day no better than he did last night. Come, let me conduct you to your chamber, and Marjory will stay with you while I confront our visitors."

Marion was naturally brave, and did in silence as Walter directed. Leaving her in the large sitting-chamber with Marjory to keep her company, the youth proceeded in haste to the tower, and found Andrew still watching.

"They came into Greystone a little syne, and hince left it yet," was his report.

"How many are of them?"

"A dozen, and Charlie Allan at the head of them. I ken him by the bold way he carries his head; and, by my faith, Maister Walter, here they come, and a black coat with them."

The youth looked down towards the village, which lay about half-a-mile from the mansion, and easily discerned about a dozen troopers issuing from it, accompanied by a rider on a pony, clad in dark clothes.

"Briar, the curate," said Walter, "that means mischief. He hears me no good will, and the report goes that he has resolved to take rigorous account of all who do not attend his ministry."

"A pair ministry his ministry," observed Andrew. "His sermons, they tell me, are as fusilous as touch-wood; and he's as mean as the sell his hens' eggs and his cows' milk."

"At anyrate we must descend to meet him," said Walter, as he left the tower, followed by Andrew.

Scarcely had they gained the ground floor when the prancing of horses was heard in what had once been the court-yard, followed by a tremendous thundering at the main door which was closed and strongly barred, the latter circumstance being something that Walter was ignorant of, else he would have given orders that its fastenings should be removed previous to the arrival of the troopers.

"Away and admit them Andrew," said the youth. "If they demand to see me, as doubtless they will, conduct them to the blue chamber. You will find me there. But of course, not a word of information to them."

"Na, na," said Andrew resolutely. "They will tak' the tongue frae the back o' my teeth afore they get a word o' information out o' me."

And off he went in some haste to the entrance for the blows upon the door were growing furious, and reverberating like thunder through the mansion, accompanied with oaths and loud imperious demands for admittance.

It was quite leisurely, and with great composure, that Andrew drew the bolts one by one, and caused the heavy door to swing round on its hinges, when immediately he was confronted by Charlie Allan and a dozen troopers at his back—the other half-dozen being still in their saddles, and holding the horses of those who had dismounted.

By the side of Allan stood a little thin man clad in rusty black, sharp-faced, black-eyed, and on the whole of an unimpressive appearance. This was the Rev Mr. Briar, the curate of Greystone.

"Hilloa you, fellow!" roared Allan. "What the devil d'ye mean by refusing admittance to His Majesty's officials?"

"Begg' yer pardon, Maister Charles—"

"Silence, sirrah; no insolence. I am Captain Allan."

"Weel sir, I believe ye are. I meant nae offence. But ye see I'm accustomed to see ye Maister Charles, and ye lived doon by at the manse—"

"Stop your chattering, ye old fool, and remember ye are speaking to one of His Majesty's officers."

"Weel, weel, see be it Maister Charles, Captain Allan, I mean. And maybe ye'll allow me to say that we had nae intention to refuse ye admittance."

"Why then had you the door bolted and barred?"

"Just because it hasna been opened this mornin' yet," answered Andrew whose coolness increased in proportion as the insolent passion flamed up. "We are no accustomed to see visitors see early, but nae doot had Maister Walter kenned that his sould acquaintance was comin' to pay him a friendly visit, he would ha' g'v'n orders accordingly; but, ye see, at the present time there is nae muckle ridin' and rinnin'—"

"Stop your prating ye old idiot, and answer my questions," roared Allan. "Where is your master?"

"Where sud he be but in his ain parlour?"

"And how many inmates has the house at present?"

"What's yer will?"

"Doot, how many people are living in the house? How many strangers?"

"Strangers?" repeated Andrew inquiringly. "Bah, we waste time in talking to this cloddie. Lead us to your master instantly."

"Surely sir, as I said he's in the blue parlour, and will, nae doot, see ye."

"Dobson," said Allan, addressing the Corporal, who remained without with those in the saddle, "remain here with your party. Permit no one to leave the house. If anyone attempt it stop them. The rest will follow me. Now follow, lead me straight to your master, and no more praveration."

Andrew felt strongly inclined to make a dash for it, but prudently forebore, and led

GREAT DISTRIBUTION IN LONDON.—The Daily News contains deplorable accounts of the severe distress which prevails at the east end of London. Four thousand persons are at work where sixteen thousand should be employed. The tradesmen, the butchers, bakers, grocers, drapers, and publicans, who are followers of the industrial army, have shut up their shops and gone. The numbers of persons receiving out-door relief is greatly on the increase of what it was last year, and the number of cases in the books of the medical officers is more than fourfold the average of the past three years. From many houses every article of furniture has been sold.

HARD WORKED PUBLIC MEN.—How hard public men are sometimes worked in England may be judged from the performance of Mr. Gladstone the week before Christmas. That unhappy man was called on to make five speeches in two days, three at Oldham, one at Ormskirk, one at Southport, and all his constituents. They were all reported by telegraph in the London papers of the following morning, and filled seventeen columns of nonpareil type! Even in England this is thought to be an unreasonable demand upon a parliamentary representative. The Ormskirk address is a sort of reply to Disraeli's Edinburgh harangue, and is only the speech Mr. Gladstone would have delivered in Parliament at the opening of the Abyssinian session, but for the illness of Mr. Disraeli, which secured her husband an immunity from attack.

BIRTHS.

HOERN—At Fergus, on the 21st ult., the wife of Mr. Marcel Hoehn, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

HEWLETT—LAWSON—On the 18th ult., by the Rev. Daniel Anderson, Mr. Charles Hewlett, 2nd concession No. 10, to Miss Rebecca Lawson, of the same place.

MITCH—IRONS—On the 1st day, Mr. Frank Mitchell, of Salem, to Miss Dorothy Irons, of Nichol.

FOULLEY—MARSHALL—At John's Church, on the 29th day of December last, by the Rev. Charles E. Thompson, Incumbent, Mr. James Findlay, Jr., to Miss Emma Marshall, of Elora.

DIED.

—In Peel, on Saturday last, of inflammation of the bowels, Thomas Burns, Esq., J. P., and Postmaster. Aged 71 years.

OPHAM—In Elora, on New Year's day, Bertha, daughter of Mr. Robert Opham, Sec. Master, aged four years.

READ—At Guelph, on the 2nd inst., of consumption, Emma, the beloved wife of Mr. S. Read, Carriage Maker, aged 39 years, 4 months and 18 days.

HOW—At Hillsburg, Mrs. Frances How, the beloved wife of Wm. How, Esq., merchant, aged 70 years. The Deceased came to Erin 40 years ago, when it was nearly all a dense forest.

MORTON—In Eramosa, on the 6th inst., after a severe and lingering illness, A. L. Morton aged 27 years; much respected and deeply regretted by a large number of friends and acquaintances.

COMMERCIAL.

Guelph Markets.
MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH, January 7, 1888.

Flour, per 100 lbs.	3 75	4 00
Fall Wheat per bushel	1 85	1 70
Spring Wheat, do	1 50	1 50
Oats, do	0 45	0 45
Peas, do	0 05	0 08
Barley, do	0 30	0 30
Hay, per ton	12 00	14 00
Straw, do	4 00	5 00
Shingles per square	3 00	3 50
Wood per cord	1 00	1 00
Wool, do	0 27	0 20
Linen, do	0 14	0 19
Auditor (per lb), per 100	0 16	0 18
Geese, each	0 25	0 35
Turkeys do	0 50	0 60
Chickens per pair	0 20	0 25
Ducks do	0 20	0 25
Potatoes	0 55	0 65
Apples per bushel	0 08	0 10
Lamb per lb	0 05	0 05
Beef, do	4 00	5 00
Pork per 100 lbs	0 05	0 00
Sheep Pelts each	0 30	0 40
Lamb skins	0 40	0 40
Hides per 100 lbs	6 00	6 00

Money Market.
JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE, Guelph, January 7, 1888.

Gold, 135.	
Greenbacks 60¢ at 73 1/2 to 74; Sold at 74 1/2 to 74.	
Silver bought at 43 to 44; sold at 43 to 43 1/2.	
Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 50c. to 55c.	
Commercial Bank Bills bought at 90c to 95c.	

MONTREAL MARKETS.

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

MONTREAL, January 7, 1888.

Flour—Fancy, \$7 70 to \$7 80; Superior No. 1, \$7 50 to \$7 75; Welland Canal, \$7 75. Bag flour, \$3 60 to \$3 75. Oats—No. 1 to 45c. Barley 85c to 95c. Butter—dairy 16c to 19c; store packed 14c to 16c. Ashes—Pots 35c to 45c; pearls 55c to 80c.

Flour small receipts, market higher rates, small sales at quotations. Grain no sales reported, rates nominal. Provisions firm at unchanged rates. Hogs, hockers demand higher rates, small sales at some improvement. Butter unchanged, Ashes neglected and nominal.

TORONTO, January 6, 1888.

Flour—Receipts, 170 bbls; No. 1, at \$7 00.—Wheat—\$1 53. Peas—72c. Oats—52c to 53c. Barley—\$1 60 to \$1 05.

HAMILTON, January 6, 1888.

Fall wheat, \$1 50 to \$1 55, spring do—\$1 45 to \$1 50 per bushel, Barley—\$1 25. Oats—53c to 55c. Peas—73c to 75c.

READY-MADE CLOTHING.
We have Reduced all our Ready-made Clothing
20 PER CENT.
RE GREAT BARGAINS. CALL.
HOGG & CHANCELLOR

STRAYED CATTLE.
NAME on the premises of the subscriber, about four weeks ago, three yearling Cattle. The owner, residing at Hillsburg, Ontario, will be glad to pay a reward for their recovery.

TROTTER & GRAHAM,
DENTISTS!
GUELPH and BRAMPTON,
Members of the Dental Association of the Province of Ontario.
(Successors in Guelph to T. Trotter.)
OFFICE:
Over Mr. Higham's Drug Store

Over Mr. Higham's Drug Store
References—Rev. Archdeacon Palmer, Drs. Clarke, Fackler 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 anesthetic agents used for extracting teeth without pain.
W. K. GRAHAM, (dw-ly)
Guelph, 2nd August, 1867.

STEPHEN BOULT,
ARCHITECT AND BUILDER,
Office, Woolwich Street, nearly opposite Douglas Street.

Plans, Specifications & Estimates,
Supplied, and work superintended in all its branches.

STEPHEN BOULT having succeeded to the old established Lumber Yard of Thos McCrae, Esq., begs a continuation of public patronage. All kinds of Lumber band—Prompt attention given to all orders.

Planing Done to Order,
AND ALL KINDS OF
Mouldings, Sashes, Doors, Blinds, and Machine Joinery Work.

CHEAP Photographs
W. BURGESS
BEGS leave to inform his friends and the public of Guelph and surrounding country that having received a large lot of FRAMES suitable for

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

FAMILY KNITTING MACHINE
Manufactured by the Lamb Knitting Machine Manufacturing Company,
CHICOPEE FALLS, N. Y.

Funerals, Funerals!
NATHAN TOVELL has to intimate that he is prepared to attend Funerals as usual Collins always on hand, and ready to hire. His Steam Planting Machine in constant operation. All kinds of lumber, doors, blinds, mouldings, &c. he solicits.
NATHAN TOVELL,
Guelph, 27th Aug. 1867. Nelson Crescent

COW LOST.
STRAYED or Stolen from the Fair ground on Fair Day, a White Cow. Had small horns, and was in good condition. Any person returning it to the owner, or giving such information to me or at the MERCURY office will lead to her recovery will be rewarded.
WM. HAPPER,
Lot 25, 3rd Concession, Nassauwayne,
Guelph, 3rd January, 1868. 3dw3

Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies.
CHURCH-ST. GUELPH.
MISS WIGHTMAN begs to announce that her school, vacated for two or three scholars, Guelph, 20th December, 1867. wly

Valuable Building Lots for Sale IN EVERTON.
THE subscriber offers for sale, cheap for cash, two valuable building lots in the Village of Everton, being No. 132 and No. 133, as laid out on the map made by Wm. Haddock, Esq., P. L. S. There are two-fifths of an acre of land in the two lots, and being close to the Discipline Meeting House, and in a central part of the Village, form a desirable site for building.

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 despatch.
Orders from a distance punctually attended to at Hamilton, November 23 1867. dw3m

Excellent Farm
For Sale in Eramosa.
FOR sale that valuable farm, composed of the West-half of Lot No. 28, 3rd Concession, Eramosa.
HENRY HATCH, Guelph, Guelph, 10th December, 1867. w3m

One Hundred Acres!
with about 70 acres cleared. Land of excellent quality, and well watered. There is a good Two Storey Stone House containing nine rooms, pantry, and cellar the whole size of house.
The building is nearly new. There is also a large FRAME BARN nearly new, and a thriving young orchard of the best grafted fruit. This property will be sold cheap. For terms and particulars apply to
HENRY HATCH, Guelph, Guelph, 10th December, 1867. w3m

Kingston Penitentiary
BOOT AND SHOE STORE.
Men's Coarse Boots!
FORMER PRICES—No. 1, \$3.00; No. 2, \$2.75; No. 3, \$2.50.
PRESENT PRICES—No. 1, \$2.75; No. 2, \$2.50; No. 3, \$2.25.
Boys' Boots from \$1.70; Youths' Boots from \$1.35; Women's Boots from \$1.10.
with a large variety of everything in the line at equally low prices.
Don't forget the place—Kingston Penitentiary Boot and Shoe Store.
All work warranted.
J. CRIDIFORD,
Guelph, 4th November, 1867.

BOOTS & SHOES
At Wholesale Prices.
HAVING a large stock of BOOTS and SHOES, which must be sold during the NEXT TWO MONTHS, I will offer the same during that time at Wholesale Prices. Note prices and be convinced that you will save from 25 to 50 per cent. per pair by buying at the

FURS, FURS.
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' Hooded,
And a full assortment of CHILDREN'S FURS, GENTS, MUFFLERS and GLOVES, SLEIGH ROBES, &c.
F. GARLAND,
Market Square, GUELPH.

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THE GROCERY & WINE TRADE.
OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT.
FRANK SMITH & CO.
77 Front Street, Toronto,
DEG to intimate to their Western friends and the public generally, that they have now received a large portion of their Fall supply of
Fresh English Groceries, Wines, Brandies, &c.,
Ex. 'Planet,' 'Chandler,' 'City of Hamilton,' 'Glenborie,' from London.
'Avon,' 'Onida,' 'Hibernia,' 'Perrivan,' 'Summer,' and 'Pericles,' from Liverpool.
'Abona' and 'Gleniffer,' from Glasgow.
'Apostle' from Charleston. And are daily expecting the arrival of
Fresh New Crop Fruit and Mediterranean Cargo
Ex. 'Deodars,' 'Canny Scott' and 'Mary Ann,' from Malaga, Marseilles and Denis

JUST RECEIVING IN STORE.
308 Hhds and Tierces of Barbadoes, Porto Rico and Cuba Sugars.
522 Bbls Currants crop 1866, VERY CHEAP.
5175 Half Chests and Caddies Souchong, Congou, Japan, Gunpowder, Young and Old House, &c.
With a full assortment of Tobacco, Refined Sugars, Wines and Liquors and Dry Groceries. All of which will be submitted to the trade, equal to and below Montreal prices.
Inspection invited. Terms Liberal. Cash and prompt paying customers desired.
Toronto, 6th November, 1867. dw1

REMOVAL!
GRAND CLEARING SALE!
JAMES CORMACK,
HAVING leased that large and next to JOHN HORN'S, he has determined to dispose of the balance of a large stock of first-class
READY-MADE CLOTHING,
CLOTHS AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING
At a Tremendous Reduction
OF PRICES. As the Goods are all new, the Clothing well cut, well made and of the public will find this one of the best and cheapest sales ever offered in Guelph.
Goods booked charged the regular price.

JAMES CORMACK,
Guelph, 31st December, 1867. WYNDHAM-ST., GUELPH.
CHRISTMAS BOXES.
WE WOULD INVITE THOSE ABOUT TO PURCHASE
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS
to step in and examine our stock, as it is larger and more varied than ever.

D. SAVAGE,
Guelph, December 14, 1867.
GREAT SALE OF
BOOTS AND SHOES
PREST & HEPBURN
WILL COMMENCE
On Monday next, 23rd Dec.,
To sell off the entire Stock of Imported Goods
At Cost and Under!
and will continue until the whole is CLEARED OUT, as they intend in future to keep nothing but their own manufacture. This will be the best opportunity ever offered in the Town of Guelph to buy cheap Boots and Shoes, as they

DRY GOODS & GROCERIES.
G. & A. HADDEN.
Would invite the special attention of the public to their very large stock of
SEASONABLE DRY GOODS!
Comprising a full assortment of every description of Goods suitable for the Fall and Winter Trade, No old, much eaten bankrupt stock, but all Fresh New Goods, which they are determined to sell off at such a reduction in price as cannot fail to give entire satisfaction to the purchasers.

GROCERY DEPARTMENT
They would call particular notice to a large and choice assortment of Fresh New Season Tea, consisting of Pique, Moyunes, Imperial Gunpowder, Japan, Souchong and Congou, which for strength, fragrance and price are not excelled by any house in Guelph. Bright Muscovado and Refined Sugar, Loaf Sugar, Green and Roasted Coffee, Fine Chewing and Smoking Tobacco, New Layer, Valencia and Seedless Raisins, Prime New Zante Currants, Eleme Figs, Almonds, Filberts, &c.
A large stock of choice Wines, Brandies and Liquors, warranted genuine. Crockery, China and Glassware in great variety. Also, a full assortment of FAMILY GROCERIES of the best quality and at the lowest price.

Men's Coarse Boots!
FORMER PRICES—No. 1, \$3.00; No. 2, \$2.75; No. 3, \$2.50.
PRESENT PRICES—No. 1, \$2.75; No. 2, \$2.50; No. 3, \$2.25.
Boys' Boots from \$1.70; Youths' Boots from \$1.35; Women's Boots from \$1.10.
with a large variety of everything in the line at equally low prices.
Don't forget the place—Kingston Penitentiary Boot and Shoe Store.
All work warranted.
J. CRIDIFORD,
Guelph, 4th November, 1867.

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