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**Guelph Evening Mercury**  
OFFICE: ... MACDONNELL STREET.  
SATURDAY EVENING, FEB. 15, 1868.

**The Maiden's Choice**  
OR, THE LADY OF BIRKENLEUCH.

**A Tale of the Covenanters.**

Marion—poor, desolate, distracted Marion—how could she leave her, how could she part from him? Oh, that by some painless, sinless process he could take her with him, and in the better world enjoy that sweet life which they had but tasted here! Alas! this could not be. He must go, and she must tarry, and the hard burden of death would divide them. This was the bitterest drop in all the bitter cup. When he pictured to his mind her loneliness, her desolation, and her grief, with no one to comfort, no one to protect her, pangs of inexpressible agony tortured his heart, and outweighed the pain of a thousand deaths.

This is a faint description of Walter's state of mind and heart, but how shall we speak of the anguish and wild distraction of Marion? She thought she could make any sacrifice in the cause of the Covenant, but in view of this, the greatest sacrifice of all, she lay under an utter prostration of sorrow. She was with Walter in his cell every moment that was allowed her, and at the hours when she was not admitted she sat on the steps of the prison, feeling nothing of the winter cold that prevailed.

And so the days passed all too swiftly, and the dread hour drew near. To the surprise and disappointment of Walter, Sir Gilbert Barton had not once visited him since the day of the trial, neither had Marion seen or heard of him. Walter was pained by this, but he concluded that the Baronet felt unable to encounter an interview, and was resolved to avoid the anguish of it. The youth doubted not that the silent parting in the Court was meant as Sir Gilbert's last farewell.

This grieved him, for he wished to confide Marion to the Baronet's care, but he resolved that one of his last acts should be to write him a letter conveying this dying request, and with his intimate knowledge of Sir Gilbert's generous nature, he was satisfied that the worthy man would accept the sacred trust.

Two days before the last, Marion brought to the prison a long letter from Mr. Gordon to Walter. It was written from Holland, where the good man had found a refuge. He had been wounded at the battle of Pentland, and the subsequent exposure had brought upon him an illness which threatened to be of long duration, but he was hopeful, patient, and serene as ever. He had heard of Walter's trial and sentence, and wrote in a strain fitted to inspire the youth with faith and courage. 'I would have rejoiced,' he wrote, 'if it had been God's will that you should not have been taken from us, but I do not mourn your departure, for the death you are to die is a glorious one. If they are blessed who die in the Lord, I cannot but think they are more blessed who die in the Lord and His cause. Your chief care will be for Marion. Our friends in Holland commission me to say that they will receive her and promote her every comfort. Farewell, my son, would to God that I could see you in your last moments, and that you are going away from the evil to come. You exchange our night of weeping for the morning of eternal joy.'

This letter gave Walter much comfort and relieved his mind regarding Marion. She would be taken far from the troubles of Scotland, and be free of annoyance from Charlie Allan.

It was the night before the execution, and Marion was with him for the last time. Few or no words were spoken, for words failed now to express the unutterable agony of their souls. Marion could only cling to him and gaze with streaming eyes upon his face. In a few hours that beautiful and manly form would have passed into the cold embrace of death; his true and noble heart would beat no more, his eyes so full of tenderness and love, would be lustreless, and his strong limbs would be the prey of worms. Shudderingly and with a bursting heart she strained her arms round him, and kissed him again and again. That parting hour revealed in fullest force the depth and intensity of her love. She, too, would eagerly have died for him or with him, for, oh, how could she survive his loss!

His luxuriant auburn hair fell in neglected ringlets over his high forehead, and without a word she cut one of them, and put it in her bosom, saying to herself that she would wear it on her heart till death came to her also, and re-visited them.

As thus in speechless agony they lay in each other's arms, footstep on footstep in the stone passage without, followed by the noise made by the jailor as he opened the door of the cell.

With a will she saw Marion started up. 'Oh, no, no; not yet!' she cried. 'Walter, they will not part us yet!'

Breathlessly they gazed at the open door, and there entered, not the jailor, but—Sir Gilbert Barton.

The Baronet was looted and spurred, and well-spattered with mud, as if he had ridden fast and far.

'Puddin's and painches, Watty, I am here!' he boisterously exclaimed, as rushing forward, he clasped both at once in his open arms. 'Ye rascal, ye've cost me and my horse a devilish gallop, but the Lord be thank'd I am here in time.'

'Ah, Sir Gilbert,' said Walter, 'you have come to bid me a last farewell?'

'Deil ken whether it were a last farewell or no. I hope not, for 'naesby seems what changes are comin'. But 'tis like to be a lang farewell, at any rate, thanks to yer wrang-headed doings.'

'Oh, Sir Gilbert, it is cruel, cruel to approach Walter now,' said Marion with vehement sob.

'Yes,' added Walter with a mournful smile. 'Especially as in a few hours I am to pay the penalty of my supposed error.'

'I will reproach ye, ye rascal,' returned the Baronet. 'Had ye listened to my advice you mornin', and g'en up a connection wi' the Covenanters, ye wad neither have left Birkenleuch nor come within the hangman's grip. But ye took yer ain way o't, an' see whaur it has landet ye. Ye have bluncked the estate into the hand o' that vagabond Charlie Allan, and a' that mortal man could dae has barely keppt yer craig out o' a hempen cravat. In the face o' these things, sir, dae ye no think ye deserve reproach?'

'In your estimation, doubtless, I do. But I would have expected that the kindness of your nature would have prevented you from disturbing my last hours with useless remonstrances.'

'Ver last' oors! Puddin's and painches dae ye no hear me say that ye had got clear o' the hempen cravat?'

**TO BE CONTINUED.**  
Very extensive ice-fields in the Atlantic, off Newfoundland, are reported by recent steamship arrivals.

A letter is published stating that a large Fenian meeting was held at St. Albans on the 12th inst.

A Mrs Harper is lecturing in North Carolina on "the colored man as a moral and political force."

**COAL OIL.**

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

**COMMERCIAL.**  
**The Guelph Markets.**  
MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH, February 17, 1868.

Flour, per 100 lbs.	\$5 75	4 00
Wheat, per bushel	1 15	1 15
Barley, do	0 50	0 50
Oats, do	0 30	0 30
Rye, do	0 30	0 30
Hay, per ton	11 00	13 00
Straw, do	5 00	5 00
Shingles per square	1 00	1 00
Wood per cord	3 00	3 50
Wool, do	0 27	0 20
Eggs, per dozen	0 14	0 15
Butter (Arkin), per lb	0 13	0 18
Butter (Arkin), do	0 25	0 20
Chickens, each	0 50	0 50
Ducks, do	0 20	0 28
Poultry, do	0 20	0 28
Apples per bushel	0 00	0 20
Lamb per lb	0 06	0 07
Beef, do	0 05	0 05
Pork per lb	0 05	0 05
Pork per 100 lbs.	5 50	6 50
Lamb per 100 lbs.	6 00	6 00
Hides per 100 lbs.	4 00	4 00

**Money Market.**  
JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE,  
Guelph, February 17, 1868.

Gold, 141	100	100
Greenbacks, 100 at 70 to 71; sold at 71 to 71 1/2	100	100
Silver bought at 41 to 42; sold at 41 to 42	100	100
Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 96 to 97	100	100
Commercial Bank Bills bought at 96 to 97	100	100

**MONTHLY MARKETS.**  
LIVINGSTONE & CO'S REPORT BY SPECIAL TELEGRAPH TO "EVENING MERCURY."  
MONTREAL, February 17, 1868.

Flour—Panic, \$7 70 to \$7 75 Superior No. 1 \$7 50 to \$7 55 Welland Canal, \$7 00 to \$7 05 to \$7 10. ...

**RECEIPTS.**  
Flour—Receipts moderate, market very quiet. Small sales at unchanged prices. Grain, no sales, rates unchanged. Provisions—Pork steady; Hogs quiet at former rate; Butter fair demand, sales at former rates; Peas neglected.

**TORONTO, February 15, 1868.**  
Flour—Receipts, 500 bbls; No. 1, at \$7 00 to \$7 05; Spring Wheat, \$7 10 to \$7 15; Barley—\$1 24 to \$1 26. Peas—none.

**HAMILTON, February 15, 1868.**  
Flour—Receipts, 500 bbls; No. 1, at \$7 10 to \$7 15; Spring Wheat, \$7 10 to \$7 15; Barley—\$1 24 to \$1 26. Peas—none.

**GUELPH LUMBER MARKET.**  
(Corrected by Messrs. Gowdy & Stewart, of Wellington Lumber Yard.)

Clean 1 1/2 and 2 inch Plank from \$20 00 to \$25 00	1 1/2 inch Boards " " " 12 00 to 16 00
" " " " " " " 15 00 to 18 00	" " " " " " " 14 00 to 18 00
Common 1 and 1 1/2 inch Flooring " 9 00 to 10 00	" " " " " " " 9 00 to 10 00
" " " " " " " 9 00 to 10 00	" " " " " " " 9 00 to 10 00
Scantling all sizes up to 16 feet " 10 00 to 12 00	" " " " " " " 10 00 to 12 00
" " " " " " " 12 00 to 14 00	" " " " " " " 12 00 to 14 00
" " " " " " " 15 00 to 22 30	" " " " " " " 15 00 to 22 30
Slings No 1 Saw " " " 1 95 to 2 00	" " " " " " " 1 95 to 2 00
" " " " " " " 1 75 to 1 75	" " " " " " " 1 75 to 1 75
" " " " " " " 1 18 to 1 25	" " " " " " " 1 18 to 1 25
" " " " " " " 1 50 to 1 75	" " " " " " " 1 50 to 1 75
" " " " " " " 0 40 to 0 45	" " " " " " " 0 40 to 0 45
" " " " " " " 1 25 to 1 50	" " " " " " " 1 25 to 1 50
" " " " " " " 4 50 to 5 50	" " " " " " " 4 50 to 5 50

**STRAYED STEER.**  
CAME on the subscriber's premises in November last, a Steer rising two years old. The owner on proving property and paying expenses can take him away.  
RICH. BOYS, wrt  
Lot 1, 16th con., Nichol.

**Southern History and Biography,**  
AND OTHER WORKS.  
**20 more Agents Wanted.**

LARGE volumes, with litho portraits included in each volume, and a full record of the campaign and heroic deeds of

**GENERAL ROBT. E. LEE,**  
and his companions in arms.

**A Complete Southern History of the War.**  
Every military man should have a copy. Call at the American Hotel and see them.

**Agents are Wanted Everywhere**  
On Salary or Commission.  
Address: "Publisher," American Hotel, Hamilton, Ontario.  
Guelph, Feb. 15, 1868.

**GT. WESTERN RAILWAY**  
CHANGE OF TIME TABLE.  
ON and after MONDAY NEXT, the 17th FEB. Trains will leave Guelph, as under.

Leave Guelph 6:45 3:00 4:50  
Arrive " 10:50 11:35 8:05

For particulars see Time Bills, which can be had on application at any of the Company's offices.  
THOS. SWINYARD,  
General Manager.  
Hamilton, 15th Feb. 1868.

**CLEMENT'S PATENT CLOTHES WRINGER.**

MESSRS. J. M. BOND & CO., Guelph are the only authorized Agents for the sale and use of CLEMENT'S PATENT CLOTHES WRINGER in the County of Wellington.

**Bruce, Wellington and Peel,**  
and the City of Toronto.

**RICHARD CLEMENT, Patentee.**  
Guelph, Feb. 15, 1868.  
182 1/2

**\$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, and is warranted for five years. It is suited alike for the dressmaker, tailor, manufacturer or family.

**Dairy Farm & Mill Site**  
FOR SALE IN PUSLINCH.

FOR SALE by private contract, the rear halves of Lots 3 and 4, in the 10th concession, and broken lots 3 and 4, in the 4th Concession of the Township of Puslinch; containing 239 acres more or less.

This desirable property will be sold in one or more lots, to suit purchasers.

The soil is a good loam, and the land is magnificently watered both by the river Speed and by a creek, on which there is a GOOD MILL SITE.

**New Saddlery Shop**

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

**WHIPS, Horse Covers, Sleigh Bells**

A very large and well-assorted stock of Whips will be kept at 234, the corner 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 stock of common blankets.

**SMITH & METCALF,**  
Late Joseph Metcalf, removed by fire, adjoining the Albert Block, Guelph, 26th December 1867.

**FURS,**  
FURS, FURS.

WE have opened our stock of FURS, four Extra Dark Mink, Royal Ermine, Siberian Squirrel, River Mink, Ladies' Hoods, and a full assortment of CHILDREN'S FURS. GENTS' BOOTS and GLOVES, SLICK-HOSES, &c.

**F. GARLAND,**  
And a full assortment of CHILDREN'S FURS. GENTS' BOOTS and GLOVES, SLICK-HOSES, &c.  
Market Square, Guelph.

**The Highest Price paid for Raw Furs**  
Guelph, Oct. 1, 1867.

**INDIA & CHINA TEA COY.**  
Home Depot at London and Liverpool, Canada Dept., 23 Hospital Street, Montreal.

THE India and China Tea Company beg to call the attention of the Canadian community to their direct 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, they are enabled to offer to the public Tea of quality and flavour hitherto unknown to the general consumer. These Teas are in high repute from the deleterious mineral powder so commonly used for coloring the leaf.

**PRICES:** Rich, full flavoured Tea for family use all genuine and fine article 70 cents per lb. Pine quality procurable one dollar per lb.

Teas 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 tins of 5 lbs. and upwards from the Company's Agents in all the chief towns of Canada. All the packages are lined with tin foil paper, and the Tea will consequently retain its flavour any length of time.

MR. N. HIGINBOTHAM  
Agent, Guelph.

**Medical Dispensary**  
**Hair Brushes,**  
**Tooth Brushes,**  
**Nail Brushes.**

**Soaps & Perfumery,**  
of every description.

**No. 1 WHITE COAL OIL**  
Only 15 cts. per Gallon.

**E. HARVEY**  
Chemist and Druggist,  
Opposite the English Church, Wyndham-st. Guelph, Ontario.  
Guelph, 25th Jan. 1868.

**Valuable Property!**  
FOR SALE LOW.

**TOWN OF GUELPH.**  
1.—Lots 7, 8 and 9, Perth Street, with large frontage on the E. corner. Large buildings. Lots extend to the river and situated for manufacturing purposes, and in the heart of the town.

2.—Lots 19, 20 and 21, Hubbard's Survey, fronting on Woodwich and Norwich Streets. Two good houses. Let to good tenants. Plenty of shade trees and good gardens.

3.—6 Lots known as the Poplars, having a close border, fronting on Woodwich Street, London Road and Mill Street.

4.—One lot adjoining on Mill Street, with good Frame House, being Lot 5, McCartney's Survey.

5.—Two Warehouse Lots at the junction of the Great Western and Grand Trunk Railways, Grand's Survey.

6.—A choice farm of about 53 acres, with never failing brook, situated on the Town Line; bounded on the west by the farm of T. Southlands, Esq., on the east by the G. W. R., admirably adapted for a gentleman's residence, with all the benefits of the town without its taxes.

7.—A nice farm of over fifty acres, situated on the Town Line of Eira, being the S. W. half of Lot No. 2, 1st Con., Nichol.

**EAST FLAMBORO.**  
8.—A good mill privilege, 14 feet fall, on the 13 mile Creek, East Flamboro', with good building, 7 acres of land, several houses. Now occupied as a Last and Peg Factory.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. NICHOL.

**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. Higinbotham's Drug Store.

REFERENCES: Rev. Archibald Palmer, D.D., Clerk, Parker and Herod, Guelph; A. F. Scott, Esq., County Judge; George Green, County Attorney; Dr. Pattullo, M. D.; Rev. Mr. Arnold—Brampton; Dr. Barnhart, Warden of Penit. Dr. Hamilton, resident Surgeon Toronto Hospital.

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

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

**Kirkwood, Livingston & Co.,**  
Kirkwood, Livingston & More,  
HALIFAX.

**ADVANCES.**  
DRAWN 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, Livingston & Co.,**  
Kirkwood, Livingston & More,  
HALIFAX.

**FISH, OILS, &c.**  
ORDERED for Fish, Oils, and Wax India Produce carefully and promptly executed.

**Kirkwood, Livingston & Co.,**  
HALIFAX, N. S.  
Oct. 12 1867.

**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,**  
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.

**Gold & Silver Plating**  
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.

**SPECIAL NOTICE.**  
**CANADIAN National Series of Reading Books,**  
Authorized by the Council of Public Instruction for Ontario.

**NOW READY FOR DELIVERY.**  
PRICES:  
First Book, with 31 illustrations, strongly bound in limp cloth—five cents.

Second Book, 26 illustrations, strongly bound in limp cloth—ten cents.

Third Book, 41 illustrations, strongly bound in cloth boards—twenty cents.

Fourth Book, 45 illustrations, strongly bound in cloth boards—forty cents.

Fifth Book, 50 illustrations, strongly bound in cloth boards—fifty cents.

Stocks kept on hand at the lowest Toronto wholesale price for cash only.

**T. J. DAY,**  
Opposite the Market, Guelph,  
Guelph, 6th January, 1868.

**THE BARCLAY SEWING MACHINE.**  
WITHOUT any exception, the Barclay Sewing Machine, manufactured by the British American Sewing Machine Company, is the best in the Dominion of Canada for general purposes. An examination is merely needed, which will be to the advantage of those desiring to purchase. All machines warranted.

**ENGLISH AND AMERICAN MAGAZINES.**

**ENGLISH MAGAZINES.**

Good Words	per year.	per copy	1 10	12 1/2
Illustrated London Magazine	3 50	30c		
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Companion	3 50	30c		
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and Paris Fashions	3 50	30c		
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New Monthly Magazine	12 25	10c		
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Routledge's Boys' Magazine	1 75	15c		

St. James' Magazine	3 00	25c		
St. Paul's Magazine	3 50	30c		
Sharp's Magazine	3 50	30c		
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Sixpenny	1 75	15c		
Sporting	8 75	75c		
Sporting Review	8 75	75c		
Sportman	8 75	75c		
Stamp Collector's Magazine	1 50	12 1/2c		
Sunday at Home	1 50	12 1/2c		
Sunday Magazine	1 50	12 1/2c		
Sunday Reader	1 75	15c		

Temple Bar	3 00	25c		
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Victoria Magazine	3 50	30c		
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