

Advertisers will reach a large class of readers by inserting their business advertisements in this paper. Our daily and weekly editions are double those of any other paper in the county.

**Guelph Evening Mercury**  
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.  
FRIDAY, EVENING, MAY 1, 1868.

**The Maiden's Choice**  
OR THE LAIRD OF BIRKENCLEUCH  
A Tale of the Covenanters.

Richard rushed to the door and tried to open it, but could not, for some of the heavy stones of the front wall were bulged in, and lay against it. In desperation he put forth his utmost strength, when the wall suddenly fell inwards with a crash, and a mass of snow and stones rolled in upon them, extinguishing their fire, and nearly filling up the cave.

"Puddin' and painches, what's this o' it?" roared the Baronet, in consternation.

"Good heavens! it is the fall of an avalanche from above," replied the youth.

"Help us all! then we are buried alive!"

"Not unless it is all the more extensive," cried Richard, hopefully. "We must cut our way up."

Fortunately for them there was a spade in the cavern, and with this Richard set to work to tunnel a path through the snow, which lay in a mighty heap in front of their abode.

It was a slow and laborious operation, for the snow was so wet and heavy that it clung inwards and heaped up in every available space. The youth and Sir Gilbert laboured all that day, and night found them utterly exhausted, without their having penetrated to the outer air.

That night they had to spend in the other compartment, beside the animals, and after a few hours' repose they were up again and at work.

After three hours more of incessant toil, a dim light began to be discernible at the far end of their tunnel. This animated them with new strength, and as it was Sir Gilbert who was at the time using the spade, he made a rush with it against the face of snow.

The result was unexpected and confounding. He burst bodily through the snow, as an equestrian in a circus bursts through a paper hoop, and, blinded by the light of day into which he suddenly emerged, he rolled over and over down the slope till he stuck fast in the hollow, and his exclamation of "Puddin' and painches" was smothered in the utterance.

The Baronet lay for a moment motionless in his snowy lair, then he started up and looked round bewildered.

Richard and Helen were standing at the opening to the cave, and looking down upon him in breathless anxiety.

"Hurrah!" he shouted, at the utmost pitch of his voice. "Hurrah, ye buffers, we are free—puddin' and painches, we are free!"

And free they were in a double sense, for the south wind which had blown for the last forty hours had cleared away the snow as if by magic, and the green tops of the hills were revealed; in the hollows alone the wreaths still lay to some depth.

The sun shone brightly in a blue sky, and the balmy breath of the freshened air was grateful in the extreme to the released captives.

CHAPTER XXIX.—THE PRISONER OF THE BASS—UNLOOKED FOR VISITORS—RICHARD WATLAND ARRESTED FOR THE MURDER OF JABEZ CRINGAN.

The snow storm which passed away so rapidly from the Ochils vanished as suddenly from other districts of Scotland, and proved to be the last of that winter's triumphs of power. The south wind which chased it away was the harbinger of an early and genial spring, and within a week of the first breath of its subduing influence the landscape far and near presented that exquisite green tinge which the earth exhibits only in the spring months.

It was a marvellous transformation scene, and as welcome as it was marvellous. The imagination felt it difficult to realise the fact that but one short week ago the bleak, wintry desolation reigned over those hills and vales now so fair and verdant, and instead of that soft and balmy southern breeze the keen cutting northwind swept the uplands, and howled like an insatiable beast of prey in the valleys and among the bare trees. Yet so it was, and thousands of human hearts rejoiced in the passage of a cheering and revivifying spring whose advent was so swift and unlooked-for.

It carried its blissful influence everywhere and in no place perhaps was the change so marked or so appreciated as on the lonely and gloomy island of the Bass, which stood then as it stands still, amid the surging waters of the Forth, presenting its steep and lofty point to the far stretching German ocean.

In winter time a more dreary and dismal residence than the Bass Rock can hardly be conceived. Standing some two miles from the land, its bare and rocky top rising six hundred feet above the ocean, it is fully exposed to every blast, and its dark rugged sides for ever bear the tossing of the ocean's angry waves, which dash against them unceasingly with thunderous sound. Direct from the frozen north the frosty wind flows across the deep, and smites its rivet down now and then, and scoured by the storms of centuries, but still raised in proud defiance and lonely grandeur in the face of all the fierce assaults.

At the time of which we write this lonely sea-surrounded crag had been made the Pamos of the persecuted. Previously a place of strength, its dungeons, buildings, and fortifications admirably fitted it for the cruel purposes of the rulers who turned it into a place of captivity for the faithful adherents of the Covenant, and immersed in its damp unwholesome cells many faithful ministers who would not cease to speak in their Master's name, but in the face of Council edicts preached in the fields and among the moors, and for this contumacy were subjected to fines, bonds, and imprisonment.

TO BE CONTINUED.

CANADIANS IN GEORGIA.—The following extract is taken from a late Savannah paper:—"A pleasant episode in the ordinary routine of court scenes occurred to-day, by the presence of two high English functionaries in the United States District Court Rooms. These were the Hon. W. H. Draper, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench in Canada, and the Hon. W. G. Draper, District Judge of Ontario, Canada. Being in Savannah on a little tour of relaxation, they were admitted to seats on either side of Judge Erskine. After the usual courtesies on the Bench they were introduced to the members of the bar, by whom they were received with kindly greeting. The interview was one of the most pleasant kind. The incident may be thought unimportant, but these friendly greetings tend much to promote good feelings between the subjects or citizens of two great and honorable nations."

RESPONSIBILITY OF MUNICIPALITIES.—A very important case has just been decided at the Assizes for Elgin, at St. Thomas. In February last year, a man named John Sanders Balkwell, was killed on a public road in Southwold township, by being thrown out of his sleigh, in consequence of the bad state of the road, and was killed. His widow brought an action for damages against the township, and the jury gave her a verdict for \$1,750—it being held that the municipality was responsible for all accidents occurring on the highways over which they have control.

Among the obituary notices of a country paper, we recently noticed the following:—Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ of Malvern aged eighty three, passed peacefully away, on Tuesday evening last, from single blessedness to matrimonial bliss, after a short but sudden attack by Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, a blooming widow of thirty-five.

**OPENING OF 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 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.

**STEWART'S**  
DRESS GOODS.  
CHENES, CAMLETS, REPS, POPLINS, SERGES, MOHAIRS.

**STEWART'S**  
MANTLES.  
SILK, CLOTH AND VELVET.

**STEWART'S**  
JACKETS.  
SILK, CLOTH AND VELVET.

**STEWART'S**  
LACES.  
COLLARETS, TIES, FALLS, MUSLIN AND LINEN SETS.

**STEWART'S**  
PARASOLS.  
RIBBONS, FLOWERS, &c.

**STEWART'S**  
HOSIERY.  
SILK, SPUN AND COTTON.

**STEWART'S**  
GLOVES.  
KIDS, SILK AND LISLE.

**STEWART'S**  
SMALL WARES.  
BELTS, BUGLE TRIMMINGS, BUTTONS IN VARIETY.

**STEWART'S**  
PRINTS.  
BRILLIANTES, PIQUES, SHIRTINGS AND SKIRTINGS

**WM. STEWART.**  
Is now showing for the Spring Trade  
NEW DAMASKS.  
NEW REPS.  
NEW CHINTZES.  
NEW LENO CURTAINS.  
NEW MUSLIN CURTAINS.  
NEW LACE CURTAINS.

**Shoe Tools & Findings**

A COMPLETE assortment of the latest patterns 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.

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

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

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

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

**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, Adair's Carvers' Tools, Extension Lip Anger Bits, Melchior Hardware, &c. For sale at lowest prices.

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

**CASTLE GARDEN SALOON**  
MARKET SQUARE,  
**GUELPH, ONT.**

**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, Whittby.  
**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.**  
Guelph, Jan. 29, 1868. do 11

**FOR SALE.**  
SODA ASH—"Gambles," "Widnes," "Alkali Comp'y," "Garrett's."  
CAUSTIC SODA—"Gambles," "Widnes," "Alkali Comp'y," "Garrett's."  
SAL. SODA.  
CHLORIDE OF LIME.  
PALM OIL.

**W. T. BENSON,**  
Montreal, 1st April, 1868. do 40a

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, Filocole, Belt and Bonnet Ribbons, Dress Buttons, Toilet Sets, 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. do 11

**OPPOSITION LINE**  
TO CALIFORNIA  
via Panama, carrying United States mails, and also via Nicaragua.

**NORTH AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY**  
will dispatch 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 to W. WILKINSON, General Passage Agent.

**DOMINION SALOON,**  
(LATE GRAND'S SHADES SALOON,  
**GUELPH.**

**CHOICE LIQUORS,** Cigars, Oysters, &c., &c., always on hand. Meals furnished at all hours.  
**DENIS BUNYAN.**  
Guelph, December 2, 1867. daw 11

**Dissolution of Co-Partnership.**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, as general merchants, was dissolved by mutual consent on the 23rd day of March, 1868. All debts owing to the said Partnership are to be paid to Alex. McIntyre, at Guelph; and all claims against the said Partnership are to be presented to George McDonald, of Guelph; by whom the same will be settled.

Witness: GEORGE McDONALD, ALEX. MACINTYRE,  
D. McEACHREN, Guelph, April 8, 1868. do 11

**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, 20th March, 1868. do 11

**NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.**  
**ALE AND CIDER!**

**JUST RECEIVED**  
**AT H. WALKER'S,**  
100 Doz. Magnificent Sparkling

**CANADIAN ALE!**  
in Prime Order, at \$1.50 per dozen. Also,

**Penner's Champagne Cider,**  
in Pints and Quarts at \$2.00 and \$3.00 per dozen.

**HUGH WALKER,**  
Wholesale and Retail Fruit dealer Wyndham-St., Guelph.  
Guelph, April 28, 1868.

**JACKSON & HALLETT**  
(SUCCESSORS TO JOHN L. LEWIS,  
No. 7, Wyndham-st., GUELPH.)

The Subscribers having purchased from JOHN L. LEWIS the whole of his extensive  
**GROCERY AND LIQUOR BUSINESS!**  
ARE PREPARED TO CARRY IT ON IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

Having made the purchase on the most favorable terms for cash, they are enabled to offer SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS, and complete with any house in the trade. Will pay particular attention to Country Trade, and will continue to pay, to any extent, \$22

**CASE FOR PRODUCE**  
Their Stock of Liquors will be found heavy, well selected and assorted.

The Subscribers feel compelled to state, with Mr. JACKSON'S ten years' experience in the trade of Guelph, and the establishments of both Messrs. Halbert and Lewis, they will give entire satisfaction to all who may favor them with their support.

**DANIEL JACKSON.**  
Guelph, 20th April, 1868.

**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 artist. 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 11

**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. daw 11

**Savings Bank.**  
**THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE**

OPEN a Savings Bank Department at their Branch in Guelph this day.

The rate of interest allowed on all deposits will be four per cent. per annum, to commence from day of deposit, and five per cent. on all sums remaining in the Bank six months from 3rd of June or 31st of December.

The terms in other respects have been made as favorable as possible to depositors.

Further information will be given upon application at the office of the Bank in Guelph.

For all deposits made in this Savings Bank, the Canadian Bank of Commerce is fully responsible.

**R. J. DALLAS, Cashier.**  
Guelph, 1st April, 1868. do 11  
Herald copy four weeks.

**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,**  
**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.**  
Guelph, Feb. 21, 1868. WM. MITCHELL, wsm-dw

**R. J. JEANNERET.**  
From England,  
(Established in London, Ont., 1842, and in Guelph 1863.)

**WORKING WATCHMAKER**  
AND JEWELER,  
**DAYS BLOCK,**  
Opposite the Market, Guelph.

FOR sale cheap, best quality of English and other Fine Gold Wedding Rings, also, a fine assortment of Ladies' English Dress Rings.  
Guelph, 21st April, 1868. do

**K. GALBRAITH**  
**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. Jeanneret, 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. do 11

**NEW BLACKSMITH SHOP**  
THE subscriber begs to inform the people of Guelph and surrounding country that he has leased and fitted up the Blacksmith Shop, being that old well-known stand on Cardigan Street, near Goldie's, formerly known as the People's Mills, where he intends to carry on the Blacksmith business in all its branches.

**HORSE SHOEING.**—Particular attention paid to Horse Shoeing. As the subscriber intends to keep none but a first-class horse-shoer, the public can rely on getting all work in that line done in a satisfactory manner.

**IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.**—The subscriber begs to intimate to farmers that he is now manufacturing, and has for sale first-class Steel Mould Board Ploughs, (Gray's pattern) Ploughs of other patterns ready to order. Wagons and all kinds of Farm Implements made to order and repaired on the most reasonable terms.

**WOOD WORK.**—A first-class wood worker kept in connection with the shop.

The subscriber having had long experience in the above business, hopes by strict attention to the wants of his customers to merit a share of public patronage.

Don't forget the Stand, near Goldie's Mills.  
Guelph, 24th April, 1868. CALEB CHASE, clm-dw

**STANDARD Life Assurance Company**  
(Established 1825.)  
Accumulated Fund £3,700,005 1s. 4d. Stg

**DAVIDSON & CHADWICK,**  
Agents at Guelph.

THE STANDARD strongly advocates the Bill now before the House under which Insurance Companies are required to make certain deposits with the Government. The STANDARD is ready and willing to make any genuine required, thus guaranteeing to the fullest extent the Policy Holders. Every information to those desirous of insuring will be given at the office of

**DAVIDSON & CHADWICK,**  
Guelph, 18th April, 1868. Town Hall Buildings. do

**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 29th of April. Vacancies for two or three boarders.  
Guelph, 6th April, 1868. do