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**Guelph Evening Mercury**  
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.  
TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 12, 1868.

### The Maiden's Choice

OR THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH  
**A Tale of the Covenanters.**  
Sharpe died, but the edict he had framed came into force, and from that day it may be said that the civil war had begun. The armed conventicles now assumed gigantic proportions, and an army was raised for the express purpose of putting them down.

The military men commissioned to do this work was Claverhouse—a name which has been detected in Scotland from that time to this. Attempts have recently been made to whitewash Claverhouse, but these are vain. The red stain will not disappear. The unanimous testimony of those he hunted down, the abundant and circumstantial evidence of his cruelties and butcheries, are not to be overturned and swept away by the few brief and inaccurate documents that one or two of his belated admirers have hunted up. All that can be said for him is this, that cruel and bloody as he was, he did not go beyond his commission. His employers fully authorized him to act as he did; therefore on them, as well as on him, lie the infamy and obloquy.

Drumlog was a brief but brilliant triumph to the Covenanters. It was quickly followed by the disaster of Bothwell Brig, when fearful vengeance was taken on the defeated Presbyterians, and the years which followed were, by reason of the atrocities crowded into them, called "the killing time." Then it was that Claverhouse scoured the west like a raging wild beast—he and his troopers, like so many wolves thirsting for blood. They had power to do as they listed, and what they listed would, if enumerated, make up a long, sad catalogue of indescribable horrors. It is said of the Israelites in Egypt that the more they were oppressed the more they multiplied and grew. So may it be said of the Covenanters under the Claverhouse regime. The effect intended was not produced. The Covenanters were not exterminated, but instead, they were content to die, and the blood which ultimately brought the land rest and deliverance—they publicly disowned the King, declared that he had forfeited his right to the British throne, and they no longer owned nor would render allegiance to him. The leaders in this bold decisive course did not enter on it without counting the cost. They knew that their lives would, in all probability be lost in presenting it, but seeing clearly that through it alone lay hope for Scotland, they were content to sacrifice themselves in sacrifice for the truth and freedom of the land. And for this they had not made up their minds unnecessarily. Donald Cargill, the first to speak the bold words, was executed in Edinburgh. But though they thus fell their work was done. They died, but it prospered. The sanguinary Declaration was compared to a cloud like a man's hand, which grew and grew till it spread over the whole British sky. The little leaven had leavened the whole lump—the kingdom was ripe for revolution, and in the year 1746, Renwick's martyrdom the Revolution came the Stuarts were banished from the throne, and William of Orange reigned in their stead. An utter change was produced by this event. The Covenanting struggle, in the physical sense of it, was terminated. Presbyterianism was re-established—confiscated estates were restored—ministers were brought back to their charges—and exiles came home in safety and honour.

Among those who returned to Scotland to receive the reward of their constancy and steadfastness were Mr. Gordon, Walter Elliot, and Marion. The manse and church of Greystone were Mr. Gordon's once more, and the laird of Birkenleuch received his own again. Charlie Allan had ere this fled and joined Claverhouse, who, with his troops was holding out in desperation for King James, but the hopelessness of the enterprise was so palpable that no one had the faintest expectation of its success. All obstacles, therefore, were removed to Walter resuming possession of Birkenleuch and great preparations were made by his friends in Nithsdale to receive and welcome him with enthusiastic demonstrations of gladness and rejoicing. Richard Wayland—or Richard Barton rather, for this was the name he had now long borne—was the chief promoter and organizer of this oration. The work was easy enough—for all Greystone and the neighbourhood were as eager to take part in the demonstration as he was to get it up, but his effective character required arrangement of detail, and he set himself with heart and soul to get forward all the preparations. The eighteen years which have elapsed since the marriage of Richard and Helen have brought many changes, most of them of an interesting and happy kind. Every body we then knew was now eighteen years older, and that is a period of time which produces great personal alterations. On none was the change more marked than on Sir Gilbert Barton. He was then the stout, jolly, full-chested, bouncing man of health and strength no longer. His hair had taken on a silver hue, his shoulders had begun to stoop, and his motion had lost its briskness, for his limbs had grown stiff with advancing age. But he was genial, hearty, generous, and good natured as ever, and his honest, warm heart rejoiced exceedingly at the prospect of Walter's return. Richard was now a stout-made man of forty-two, very much like what his father was when our story began. Helen was a staid and sober matron, and the happy mother of six children—four boys and two girls—who had kept Brankswood noisy with glee, and the heart of the Baronet young and tender. Sir Gilbert would have spoiled them all if their father and mother had allowed him. Among those gathered together to welcome home the laird was old Andrew Weir. We may indeed call him old, old Andrew, now for he was considerably upwards of eighty, though wonderfully vigorous still. He had been sought for and found among the recesses of Ettrick, where he had resided through all the troublous time in quietness and peace. His wife Marjory was no more. She had died years ago, and been laid in a sweet and rural churchyard on the shores of St. Mary's Loch, so that when he returned to Nithsdale, he came alone. But he came with a full and gushing heart, for it had been the dearest wish of his soul to see "Maister Walter" before his old eyes were closed in death.

**Positively for Two Nights Only**  
**ENTIRELY NEW TO CANADA**

**THE GREAT ARTIST.**  
**MR. W. H. WALLACK**

**TWO PERFORMANCES**  
In the above Hall, on  
**TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY,**  
12th and 13th Instant.

**Medical Dispensary**  
For instantly removing  
**Grease, Oil, Wax, Paint, Tar**  
and other spots from **Silk, Velvet, Cloth and Kid**  
Gloves, Carpets,

**HARVEY'S**  
**BENZOLINE**  
Sole Proprietor,  
**E. HARVEY,**  
Chemist and Druggist, Wyndham-St., Guelph  
April 16.

**MONTREAL OCEAN STEAMSHIP CO'Y.**  
**GUELPH AGENCY.**

**CANADIAN LINE—Quebec to Liverpool**  
**GLASGOW LINE—Quebec to Glasgow**

**R. J. JEANNERET.**  
**WORKING WATCHMAKER**  
**AND JEWELER**  
**DAYS' BLOCK,**

**FRUITS**  
**FRESH ARRIVALS AT**  
**No. 2,**  
**Day's Block, Guelph.**

**Canned Peaches**  
" Pears  
" Plums  
" Cherries  
" Apples, &c.  
**BOTTLED JAMS**  
Strawberry  
Gooseberry  
Damson  
Currants, &c.

**E. CARROLL & CO.,**  
**THE BARCLAY SEWING MACHINE.**

**AT PARIS, ONTARIO,**  
**SALE OF TWO FARMS**  
**IN PUSLINC.**

**THE MILITIA BILL.**—It is said that Sir George E. Cartier has consented to certain alterations in the Militia Bill. Clauses nine and ten are to be assimilated, so that the period of service for both volunteers and militia shall be three years instead of two for the latter, as originally intended. The clause allowing volunteers to give six months notice of resignation, is to be struck out altogether, so that they will have to serve three years before they can withdraw from the service.

**Important Sales**  
**BY AUCTION**  
**Brewers' Stock**  
**AND UTENSILS**  
**IN THE**  
**COUNTY OF WATERLOO**  
UNDER SEIZURE FOR THE  
**Violation of Inland Revenue Laws.**

**TO BE**  
**SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION**  
**ON**  
**Thursday, 14th of May, 1868,**  
**AND FOLLOWING DAY, IF NECESSARY:**

Commencing in the Brewery premises of Joseph Spetz, situated in the Town of Berlin, County of Waterloo, the stock and utensils in said Brewery premises, consisting of large quantity Malt, quantity Barley, Hops, large quantity Beer, Copper Boiler, Fermenting Tuns, Mash Tub, Horse-power, Beer Cooler, large lot empty Kegs, Tubs, Fanning Mill, Platform Scales, Pump, Malt Mill, Steep Tub, and other miscellaneous articles.  
Immediately after the sale of the above, there will be sold by auction in the Brewery premises of GEORGE SEIP, in the Town of Berlin, quantity Malt, Hops, large quantity Beer, Beer Cooler, Mash Tub, Beer Boiler, Working Punches, Mill and Gearing, large lot empty Kegs and Beer Kegs, Tubs, Platform Scales, and other miscellaneous articles.  
And immediately after the sale of the above, there will be sold by auction, in the Brewery premises of DAVID KUNTZ, Village of Waterloo, near Berlin, large quantity Beer, quantity Hops, quantity Malt, lot Barley, Copper Boiler, Copper Worms, Mash Tub, Fermenting Tuns, Beer Cooler, Beer Strainer, Tubs, Tin Beer Coolers, Horse-power, Fermenting Mill, Cur and Gearing, Fanning Mill, empty Kegs and Punches, Wooden Pump, lot Tools and miscellaneous articles.

**SPAFFORD'S**  
**"BARCLAY" SHUTTLE**  
**Sewing Machine.**

**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 and well-known stand on Cadogan Street, near 'old lie'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 shoeing shoe, the public can rely on getting all work in that line done in a satisfactory manner.

**STANDARD**  
**Life Assurance Company**  
**DAVIDSON & CHADWICK,**  
**ALBION HOTEL!**

**THE THOROUGH-BRED COACH HORSE**  
**"Young Norval"**

**WILL** travel this season through the Townships of Erin, Brantford, Nichol, Pilkington, and Garafraxa, and will be at Lindsay's Hotel, Guelph, every Tuesday night. He will be at Elora every Thursday night, and at Berqua every Friday night. He travelled the same route last season, and was admitted by all that he is a splendid horse and sure footed.

**1868. KINGSTON PENITENTIARY 1868.**  
**BOOT AND SHOE STORE.**  
**NEW GOODS**

Suitable for Spring and Summer Wear, among which will be found all the Latest Styles.  
**INSPECTION INVITED!**  
These Goods have been selected from the best makers in the Dominion, and can be confidently recommended as equal, if not superior to any in the market, and at

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**  
**GRAND OPENING OF**  
**SHOW ROOM**  
**AT THE**  
**BRADFORD HOUSE**  
**PHILIP BISH,**  
**FRIDAY, the 24th of APRIL, 1868,**  
**MANTLES & MILLINERY**

**PHILIP BISH,**  
Bradford House, Wyndham Street, Guelph, April 23, 1868.

**THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH,**  
**AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH.**  
**BOOTS AND SHOES.**

**THE RIGHT PLACE** to find the Largest and Most Fashionable Stock of Ladies and Gents' Boots and Shoes, is at  
**JOHN McNEIL'S.**  
**THE RIGHT PLACE** to find all New Goods, and best selected Stock of Misses and Children's Boots and Shoes, is at  
**JOHN McNEIL'S.**  
**THE RIGHT PLACE** to find the best value for your READY MONEY, in any line of Boots and Shoes, FRENCH, AMERICAN, CANADIAN or HOME MANUFACTURE, is at  
**JOHN McNEIL'S.**  
**THE RIGHT PLACE** to find Gents' Sewed Gaiters and Balmorals—all of Home Manufacture—is at  
**JOHN McNEIL'S.**  
**THE RIGHT PLACE** to find a nice Boot, a good Boot, or a HOME MANUFACTURED BOOT is at  
**JOHN McNEIL'S.**  
**THE RIGHT PLACE** to find that I MANUFACTURE and can sell Boots and Shoes CHEAPER than any other Establishment, Wholesale or Retail in the County of Wellington, is to call one and all, at  
**JOHN McNEIL'S.**

**No. 1, Wyndham Street, Guelph.**  
**JAMES CORMACK,**  
**TAILOR AND CLOTHIER,**

**CLOTHS AND CLOTHING**  
**GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS, &c.,**

**Large Display of Hats & Caps**  
**English, French and American Styles.**

**Try those Splendid New Figs**  
**AT THIRTY CENTS PER BOX.**  
**Oranges and Lemons!**  
**Walnuts, Filberts, Almonds, Chocolate Creams, Gumdrops**  
**and every other Nicety.**

**Shoe Tools & Findings**  
**TO TAILORS.**

**TO MACHINISTS.**  
**Cabinetmakers & Upholsters.**

**TORONTO SAFE WORKS.**  
**J. & J. TAYLOR'S**  
**PATENT FIRE PROOF SAFES,**  
**Fire & Burglar Proof**  
**COMBINED.**  
**TAYLOR'S**

**Savings Bank.**  
**BANK OF COMMERCE**  
**OPEN** a Savings Bank Department at their Branch in Guelph this day.

**TROTTER & GRAHAM,**  
**DENTISTS!**  
**GUELPH AND BRAMPTON,**

**PAINTING,**  
**CLAIZING, & CO.**  
**THOMAS BREADON**  
**PAINTER, GLAZIER, PAPER HANGER, &c.**

**NATIONAL**  
**Steamship Company.**  
**STEAMERS** weekly from Liverpool and New York, calling at Queenstown.

**Well, but where is all this to be got? Why, where would you expect to get them first-class but at**  
**H. BERRY'S**