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Guelph Evening Mercury
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.
FRIDAY EV'NG, FEB. 7, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENCLUECH.

At a warning from Jamie, Walter and himself had resented themselves, and assumed an air of unconcern, before the eyes of the troopers had time to light on them. They glanced round, however, and the secret anxiety of both was increased when the soldiers they recognized Sergeant Jackson and three or four more of Charles Allan's troop.

"Billie, landlord, you have guests, I perceive," exclaimed the Sergeant. "Some of those Covenanting rebels, I'll be bound."
"Oh, dear, no, Sergeant, nothing of the kind," cried the host, in nervous haste. "Ane o' them is a regular customer o' mine, weel kenned as a man, and goes to my house, the kintra—Jamie Tamsin by name, an' cadger he is called."
"Oh, ay, to be sure, so it is. We all know Jamie to be a loyal subject of his Majesty, and he is free to come and go as he pleases, but who is this fellow in the checked plaid and blue bonnet? He's the very cut of a Whigamoor. Hark ye, Sandy-pate, give us your name, and satisfy us as to your loyalty, or you must cower behind my crupper, and go before the Captain."

"Lord bless ye, Sergeant!" the Cadger hastened to interpose, "ye may speak the honest man till ye might, and he'll answer ye as ye get, for he's stane dead."
"Dead, is he? Ye warrant he has got hearing enough for conventicle preaching. But dead or dumb he must hear and answer me too. I say, Mr. What-ever-name, added Jackson, putting his mouth close to Walter's ear, and speaking at the utmost pitch of his voice, "what's your opinion of this cursed rebellion here in the west, and the barony of Peatland? Are you free to denounce it?"

"What's yer will?" inquired Walter, with a stolid expression of countenance.
"Oh, confound it, my lings will crack before he hears me. Do you approve of treason?" he shouted.
"Treason," repeated Walter, with a solemn shake of his head, "na, I dinna dae that. It's a bad thing treason, but it's a sin."

"Come, this is better than I looked for," remarked Jackson. "The fellow may be honest enough after all."
He tells us that he comes south frae the Border," explained the landlord, who, at a sign from Jamie, supported the deception that was being practiced, though he did not know the reason of it.
"Oh, well, I'll pass him without further question, but my orders are to overhaul every stranger we come across, and if they can't clear themselves of being concerned in the rising, to march them off to jail. Here, landlord, a cup o' brandy, though it's cold. We need it after our long ride in this cold night."

"Hae ye ridden far the day, Sergeant?" asked Jamie, while the landlord hastened to draw the liquor.
"All the way from Edinburgh; and devilish loath we were to leave our warm quarters there, and mix the fun that is going; we rather see the Peatland rebels stirring up in the Grassmarket than chase them over the winter moors. Wouldn't we, Inglis?"

"Twenty times over, Sergeant," replied the trooper addressed, "but we hae'nt missed all the sport either."
"Egad, neither we have. We saw several batches of the canting rascals turned over, and were on guard in the Council Room when the laird and the parson were fitted with a new boot-a-piece. By jove, how the laird yelled! The parson took it more quietly, and on my soul I was sorry for him—he looked so weak and sickly. But he did not seem to mind it a bit, and called for another stoup of ale in a tavern."

"What were they tortured for?" asked the Cadger, who knew with what intense interest Walter was listening to every word Jackson uttered.
"To make them confess all about the rising, who planned it, and how far the conspiracy extended. The Council made nothing of it, though. The prisoners were either too stubborn, or they told the truth when they said that the rebellion was not planned at all, but got up in a moment. Ah, there you are with the brandy, landlord. Hand it round, and bring a cup for honest Jamie and the deaf borderer. Here's a yellow boy to pay for it!"

"Give us a toast, Sergeant," cried one of the troopers.
"Ay, a toast! a toast!" exclaimed the rest boisterously.
"I will," said Jackson. "And here it is—The new Laird of Birkencluech; a long life and a jolly one to him."

The Sergeant's toast was received by his comrades with a storm of approval, and he drank with wild enthusiasm, in the midst of which Jamie and Walter sat staring at each other in astonishment, with their unsteady glasses before them.
"Billie, why don't you drink?" exclaimed Jackson. "The brandy is fine, and the toast is a rare good one."

"What did you say, Sergeant?" asked the Cadger. "The new Laird of Birkencluech?"
"Of course I said that. That young fool Elliot is proscribed with the rest of the Peatland rebels, and his estate is confiscated, and given to a better man."

"And who may that be?" he slowly asked.
"Who should it be but our gallant Captain?"
"Captain Allan?" repeated the Cadger.
"Has he gotten Birkencluech?"
"Ay and none better deserves it. The Commander, Sir James Turner, told the Council of his great service, and the Council got the King's charter for him. He goes this very night to take possession; and, egad, he means to take possession of Elliot's wife too. She's an old sweetheart of his, and he would have married her before, if Elliot had not cut him out. But she's his wife, and on easier terms; for, if she should prove coy, the Captain knows how to bring her to reason."

"Ha! that is the soundest game, is it?" shouted Walter, starting up like an enraged lion.
Jackson and the others were astonished.
"Egad," said the Sergeant, as he also started to his feet. "The borderer has found his hearing all of a sudden. But there is some knavery here, this pretended shepherd is disguised."
In an instant the Sergeant sprang towards Walter, and tried to seize him. The youth shook him off, but in the scuffle his bonnet and wig fell to the ground, and he stood revealed before them.
"By heavens," he Elliot himself, roared Jackson, and he and his men closed on him to secure him.

TO BE CONTINUED.
DON'T WANT THE RAILROAD.
The County Council of Grey at its meeting on Saturday last refused to petition the Legislature in favor of the proposed Toronto Grey and Bruce or narrow gauge railroad. The narrow gauge evidently is not in favour in that quarter.
Mr. Thomas Carlyle is said to be engaged on a work of an autobiographical character.
The superintendent of the Phoenix Mills, at Seneca Falls, has forbidden the girls to chew tobacco during working hours.
The nearest bit of pleasanter which the quarrel in England, between the Evangelical Churchmen and the ritualists, has given rise to, is in the assertion made by the former party, that "Eve, before she was taken to Eve's garden, had her feet washed."

The Act for the better protection of game in Ontario, which passed its third reading on Monday, makes some important changes in the old law, and as it is one of great importance we give a synopsis of its provisions. It may be said that the Committee who had charge of the Bill corresponded with leading sportsmen throughout the Province, and had their opinions before framing the Act. There is no question but there was a necessity for a change in the law, and the present Bills looked upon as a great improvement on former enactments. The present law enacts that between the first day of December, and the first of September in any year, it shall not be lawful to hunt, kill, or take any Deer, or Fawn, Elk, Moose, or Caribou.
No Wild Turkey, Grouse, Pheasant, Partridge, or Hare, shall be hunted, taken or killed, between the first day of January and the first day of September.
No Quail shall be taken or killed between the first day of January and the first day of October.
No Woodcock or Snipe shall be taken or killed between the first day of March and the first day of September.
No Wild Swan, Goose, or any description of wild Duck, shall be hunted, taken or killed, between the first day of March and the first day of September.
No Wild Turkey, Grouse, or Pheasant, Partridge, Quail, Woodcock, Snipe, Hare, or any description of Wild Duck, shall be trapped or taken by means of traps, nets, snares, springs, or other means of taking such birds or Hares, other than by shooting, at any time whatever, nor shall any trap, net, or snare, be made, erected or set, either wholly or in part, for the purpose of trapping or taking.
It shall not be lawful for any person or persons to use batteries or sunken punts in the hunting, taking, or killing of any Wild Swan, Goose, or any kind of Duck whatsoever.
No Deer or Fawn, Elk, Moose, or Caribou shall be trapped or taken by means of snares at any time whatever, nor shall any traps be set or erected for the purpose of such trapping or taking.
No person or persons shall have in their possession any of the animals or their hides, or any of the birds heretofore mentioned, within the period above respectively prohibited, without lawful excuse, the proof whereof to be on the party charged, nor shall any sale of any of the Game mentioned in this Act take place later than within fourteen days from the termination of the several periods hereinbefore respectively fixed for the killing thereof; nor shall any possession for the purpose of sale be deemed lawful, save within such periods of fourteen days.
No eggs of any kind of the birds above enumerated and hereby declared to be game, shall be taken or destroyed at any time.
In all cases, confiscation of the Game shall follow conviction; and the game so confiscated shall be given to some charitable institution or purpose, and the destruction of the convicting Justice.
Any person may destroy traps, nets, or snares set or erected, either wholly or in part in contravention of any provision of this Act.
And whereas it is desirable to prevent the destruction of certain animals at seasons of the year when their fur is of little or no value. It is further enacted that no Beaver, Muskrat, Mink, Sable, Otter, or Fisher, shall be trapped, hunted, taken or killed, nor shall any trap or snare be laid for the same or any of them between the first day of May and the fifteenth day of November in any year, and all persons violating this Section of this Act shall be liable to the same proceedings and penalties, to be enforced and recovered in the same way as are above declared in respect to game.
In order to encourage persons who have or may hereafter import different kinds of game with a desire to breed, and preserve the same on their own lands, it shall not be lawful to hunt, shoot or kill or destroy any such game without the consent of the owner of the property wherever the same may have been bred.
The penalty for contravention of this Act is a fine of not more than \$25 nor less than two for each head of game killed, to be disposed of summarily before a magistrate.

HUNDRED PERSONS KILLED EATING OYSTERS IN GUELPH.

Oysters that, from causes well known to the trade, often become stale, and, in fact, totally unfit to eat.

That are OYSTERS! Call and see them before purchasing elsewhere.

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

HUGH WALKER.
Wynham Street, Guelph, nearly opposite the Theatre, St. Charles.
Guelph, 18th January 1868. dw

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, 18th 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 Coffee's Hotel.
Do you want a good Saddle? We can supply you cheaper than ever, 15 yards from O'Quinn'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.
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 superior workmen.

SMITH & METCALF,
Late occupiers of the premises destroyed by fire, Wellington Hotel, 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 Jewellery 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. dw3m

HAY IN TRUSSES
Constantly on hand. Also Straw for beds
TERMS CASH.
JOHN WEST.
Guelph, July 22. dw4f

BOARDS.
Two or three gentlemen can be accommodated with good rooms in a first-class private house. A gentleman and his lady not objected to. For information apply at the Post Office, or at this office.
Guelph, 25th January, 1868. dw

EMPLOYMENT WANTED
By two men willing to act in any capacity as labourers or general servants. Character excellent. Apply at this office, or to N. Higginbotham, Druggist.
Guelph, Jan. 24th, 1868.

STORE for SALE
In the Village of Stirton.
A GOOD STORE for general business, with commodious Dwelling House attached, and Stable in rear. Also, a BLACKS WITH SHOP with two forges. The shop is a feet; connected with this shop is a good Dwelling House. The buildings are all of frame, and put up within the last three years. These two properties will be sold together or separately for Cash or on Credit. The Post Office is kept on the premises. For terms apply to
LEMOS & PETERSON, Guelph or to
JOHN LUXSON, Proprietor, Stirton P.O. Guelph, August 29 1867. 123-1f

STEAMSHIP COMPANY.
DEPARTERS Weekly from Liverpool and New York, calling at Queenstown.
A Steamship of this line, consisting of the Queen, England, Virginia, and Erin, Louisiana, and Florida, leaves NEW YORK for Liverpool, 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 prices lower than by any other line. The accommodation for storage 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 passengers 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, 2nd Nov. 1867. dwly

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. Higginbotham's Drug Store.

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 Pork, Manufacture, &c. as required.
Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co., MONTREAL.
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ADVANCES.
DRAFTS authorized against Consignments to Montreal and Halifax may be made at the option of Consignors, on sight City. Cash advances made on shipments to our Correspondents in Foreign Markets.
Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co., MONTREAL.
Kirkwood, Livingston & More, HALIFAX.

FISH, OILS, &c.
ORDERS for Fish, Oils, or West India Produce carefully and promptly executed.
Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co., HALIFAX, N.S. daw 1v
October 12 1867.

FURS, FURS.
WE have opened our stock of FURS, from our own manufacture, which we will sell at LOW PRICES.
Extra Dark Mink, Royal Ermine, Siberian Squirrel, River Mink, Ladies' Hoods, GENTS' MUFFLERS and GLOVES, SLEIGH ROBES, &c.
F. GARLAND, Market Square, GUELPH.

INDIA & CHINA TEA CO'Y.
The Highest Price paid for Raw Furs
Guelph, Oct. 31, 1867. dw 1111

THE India and China Tea Company beg to call the attention of the Canadian community to their directly 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 favour in England and France, and a single trial will prove their superiority.
The Company supply two qualities only, either Black, Green or Mixed. Their Black Teas will be found to possess great briskness and flavour, combined with colour and strength and will be entirely different to the flat and vapoury article usually sold as Black Tea; while their Green Teas are altogether free from the deleterious mineral powder so commonly used for coloring the leaf.
PRICES: Retail full-blown Teas for family use a real genuine and fine article 70 cents per lb. First quality procurable, one dollar per lb.
The 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 tin canisters of 5 lbs. and upwards from the Company's Agents in all the chief towns of Canada.—N.B. All the packages are lined with tin foil paper, and the Tea will consequently retain its flavour any length of time. Desires.—All packages have the Company's trade-mark, without which none are genuine.

MR. N. HIGGINBOTHAM
Agent, Guelph, Guelph, August 3, 1867. dw 1-1

MURPHY & DAY SCHOOL
for Young Ladies.
CHURCH-ST. - - - GUELPH.
MISS WIGHTMAN begs to announce that her school will re-open (D. V.) on the 6th of January. Vacancies for two or three boarders.
Guelph, 26th December, 1867. dwly

NOTICE.
PERSONS having claims against the estate of the late Hon. A. J. Ferguson Blair will please send particulars of them to D. Guthrie, Esq., Barrister, Guelph, for adjustment.
G. D. FERGUSON, Executor
Guelph 24th January, 1868. dw2

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GREAT CLEARING SALE
The Great Clearing Sale of
DRY GOODS!
IS STILL GOING ON AT
W. M. STEWART'S,
Guelph, 11th December, 1867. dw

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," "Peruvian," "Summer," and "Pericles," from Liverpool.
"Albion" and "Gleniffer," from Glasgow.
"Agnes" from Charente. And are daily expecting the arrival of
Fresh New Crop Fruit and Mediterranean Cargo
Ex. "Diodora," "Cathy Scott" and "Mary Ann," from Malaga, Marseilles and Genoa.

JUST RECEIVING IN STORE.
303 Hbls and Tierces of Barbadoes, Porto Rico and Cuba Sugars.
522 Hbls Currants crop 1866, VERY CHEAP.
5175 Half Chests and Cakes Souchong, Congou, Java, Gunpowder, Young and Old Hyson Teas.
With a full assortment of Tobacco, Refined Sugars, Wines and Liquors and Dry Groceries. All 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. dwf