

POETRY.

When were the Good Old Times.

When were the good old times?  
Will some one tell us when?  
For I've look'd back five hundred years,  
And I can't think they were then.  
The masks and mummery went round  
And loud rang the Christmas chimes,  
While the blazing yule-log sparkled bright—  
Those were not the good old times.

For the richer man oppressed the poor,  
And the mail-clad baron bold  
Extorted riches from the hind,  
And left him to the cold;  
And the priests of Christ were bishops stout  
Who fought and wrote love rhymes,  
And kings were ten times worse than they—  
Those were not the good old times.

When Towton's rout, and Hexham's fray,  
And Bosworth's bloody field,  
Made the land groan for many a day,  
And rent fair England's shield;  
And farther back, "neath Richard's crown,  
When England's youth rode forth  
To spear the turbulent Moslem down,  
Maid's scourges of the north.

Nor 'neath the Conqueror's iron sway,  
Or gentle Alfred's reign,  
For though he was full wise and good,  
We were pillaged by the Dane  
Nor when the Roman conqueror  
Drove Briton from these climes,  
And stopp'd the Druid's bloody rites—  
Those were not the good old times.

The good old times exist alone  
In the poet's merry lays,  
Or in our childhood's sunny dreams,  
Our boyhood's earliest days,  
When our greatest woes are healed  
With a mother's soothing kiss,  
And a painted toy, a father's gift,  
Fills our little hearts with bliss.

But onwards, ever onwards,  
By the Gospel's peaceful ray,  
Let us try to love our fellow-men,  
And be better day by day.  
So forward—oh, look forward!—  
Never backward, to repine,  
Firm in the faith that soon there'll be  
A happy good new time.

Jeannie Sinclair,

OR,  
THE LILY OF THE STRATH.

At length he had gained the seclusion of his chamber, and could indulge in something like leisurely reflection. The deed was done—Sir Fergus was dead, and nothing now stood between him and the title and estate. Nothing—yes, one thing—only one, yet he shuddered to think what it was—the gallows. The game he had been playing for the greater part of his life was played out now; the stake appeared to be within his grasp, and yet, if discovery should be made, he would lose it, and lose his life too, at the hands of the hangman. Decidedly this was no pleasant possibility to contemplate, but hardly had it presented itself than he lightly dismissed it. Discovery was, in his opinion, impossible. There was small chance of the fate of Sir Fergus ever being known, or his body found, but should it be by any extraordinary accident recovered from the well, no proof of foul play could come along with it, and it would be concluded that by accident he had fallen into the abyss. Virtually, therefore, Baigley Castle and the estate were now his. Virtually he was Sir Lynedoch Sinclair, and he had no doubt that in a short time he would shake off the disturbing thoughts and feelings which clung to him, and lose the memory of his crime in the solid rewards which it yielded.

For the present, however, he was restless and anxious in an extraordinary degree. In a few hours at latest the non-return of the Baronet at the Castle would create wonder, and as time progressed that wonder would deepen into alarm, and the conviction be produced that some untoward thing had befallen him. The news of his disappearance would spread, a universal sensation would ensue, and a search be instituted. He was even prepared for suspicion of some kind falling on himself, and trusted to his strength of will to meet it with haughty indifference and angry scorn, secure in the conviction that no proof could be had against him.

That night the slumbers of Lynedoch Sinclair were none of the soundest. He was early astir, and ascended to the top of the tower to watch there for any signs of the measures that were being taken at the Castle in consequence of the disappearance of its master. Ere long he saw, as he anticipated he should, the servants out on the moor, going in all directions, evidently conducting a search. Then, as the morning advanced, larger groups appeared, spreading themselves to and fro, with excited gestures. The Strath was aware was now alarmed, and its inhabitants had joined in the search. Ere long he expected that messengers would arrive at the Tower with the news of the Baronet's disappearance. This was a most natural thing for the people to do, seeing that he was the near kinsman of Sir Fergus, and, in the event of his death, his successor in Baigley.

The day wore on, however, and no one came near the Tower. Lynedoch's restlessness did not abate, for suspense mingled with it, and an intense curiosity to know what surmises and conjectures were afloat. In the afternoon John Cross had gone with the pony to Sinclairtown for provisions, and he eagerly waited for his return, expecting that he would be fully primed with the news of the extraordinary event, which must by this time be filling the Strath with consternation. In this Lynedoch was not disappointed. From his watching place he saw him far off, urging the pony homeward at greater than usual speed, and when John reached the vicinity of the Tower he found his master there, apparently sauntering aimlessly, but in reality way-laying him to obtain the expected intelligence.

TO BE CONTINUED.

HOUSE MEDICINES. — It is gratifying to know that there is at least one which has stood the test and proved itself worthy the confidence reposed in it. We know of no other article which has proved so generally successful, or given such universal satisfaction; we are confident there is more of it used than all others combined, and that it will ultimately supersede all others there can be no doubt. It is *Darby's Condition Powders* and *Arabian Horse Remedy*, we advise all who require anything of the kind to give it a trial—we know they will be satisfied with the result. Remember the name, and see that the signature of Hurd & Co. is on each package. Northrop & Lyman, Newcastle, Ont., proprietors for Canada. Sold by all medicine dealers.

M. Y. McTAGGART, M. D.—Dr. McTaggart, of the Hamilton Infirmary, will be at Coulson's Hotel, Guelph, from Monday the 12th of April till Saturday the 17th. He is eminently successful in his practice. Those who are afflicted with Chronic maladies, such as Consumption in the first and second stages, Bronchitis, Asthma, Lung Diseases of all kinds, Catarrh, Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Liver Complaints, Kidney Affections, Spinal Diseases, Epilepsy, Palsy, Scrofula, Abscess, Ruptures of all kinds, Atrophy or Wasting, or any other disease, should call upon the Doctor at once, and off a visit so long as to necessitate being told as many have been that he will give them. Undivided attention will be given to all Female Complaints and their medical and surgical bearings. Doctors will be removed without the use of knife, and permanently cured. Consultation free.

THE RIGHT OF SEARCH. — Probably no question is less understood between nations than the search, there is no general law laid down, and consequently they have to be governed by precedence which happened long ago; this is not the case with the Canadian Pain Destroyer. Ancient history does not have to be traced to find out whom it has relieved from the tortuous pains of rheumatism, sudden colds, sore throat, burns, &c. Sold by all medicine dealers at 25 cents per bottle.

Lady Young is on a visit to Niagara Falls.

G. A. D. C.

ACTING MANAGER, — THOS. H. TAYLOR.  
LEADER OF ORCHESTRA, — WM. VALE.

THE Guelph Amateur Dramatic Club take pleasure in announcing a Select

DRAMATIC

Entertainment, in the Town Hall,

On THURSDAY EVENING, 15th APRIL

when will be presented the great moral comic drama, entitled

TEMPTATION

Or, The Irish Emigrant,

together with the thrilling recitation from John B. Gough's celebrated temperance lectures, entitled *Going over Niagara Falls*, by T. H. TAYLOR, to be followed by the highly amusing farce of

TURN HIM OUT.

Admission 25c., reserved seats 50c. Doors open at 7.30, curtain rises at 8.

Guelph, 8th April. ALEX. F. PIRIE, Secretary.

New Crop Teas!



1000 Half Chests

NEW CROP TEAS

The subscribers are now receiving a large and well selected stock of NEW CROP TEAS (to which they beg to call the attention of the trade), comprising

Young Hysons and Hysons

Hyson Twankays

Twankays

Imperials

Gunpowders

Souchongs

Congous

Colored Japans

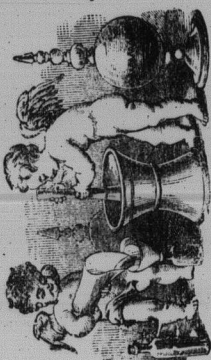
Natural Leaf Japans

Oologs

REFORD & DILLON.

Toronto, 31st March.

MEDICAL HALL, GUELPH.



No. 1

COAL OIL

ONLY

40c. per gallon

AT THE MEDICAL HALL.

E. HARVEY & CO.

Chemists and Druggists.

Guelph, April 7.

HAMILTON DYE WORKS.

Two doors from the Royal Hotel  
Established 1856.

Silks, Satins, Merinos, Damasks, Moresen Table Covers, &c., &c., dyed and finished. British and Foreign Shawls cleaned and pressed. Kid Gloves cleaned. Feathers cleaned, dyed and curled.

JAMES CONNER, Hamilton.

Orders left at J. HUNTER'S Berlin Wool and Fancy Goods Store, Wyndham St., will receive prompt attention. For price list and further information apply to

J. HUNTER,

Guelph, 8th Feb.

COPARTNERSHIP.

The undersigned beg to inform the public that they have entered into partnership for carrying on the business of contractors and builders, and are prepared to execute all orders for building in stone or brick.

Any Quantity of Stone on Hand and Cut to Order.

To suit purchasers. All orders left at the store of Hinch & Kennedy, Produce Merchants, West Market Square, Guelph, will receive prompt attention.

PIKE & DAVIDSON.

Guelph, April 1.

PEDDLING WAGGON FOR SALE.

For sale, the Confectionery Peddling Waggon owned by the subscriber. It is in good running order. Apply to the owner, JAMES HOBAN, Paslinch, or at the Mercury Office.

Paslinch, 3rd April.

DOWN WITH THE PRICES.

E. O'DONNELL & CO

To make room for their SPRING STOCK, just purchased, amounting to \$15,000, have decided to offer the balance of their Winter Stock at FIRST COST from now till

THE 15th DAY OF APRIL

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET BARGAINS.

SUGARS AND SYRUPS

BELOW WHOLESALE PRICES.

TEAS, TEAS!

E. O'DONNELL & CO'S

Well-known \$1 Tea for 90c. per lb.

Good 80c. Tea for 65c. per lb.

Fine Black Tea for 50c. per lb.

Splendid Mixed Tea for 60c.

A LARGE LOT OF CHEAP

CLOVER AND TIMOTHY.

Good Chewing Tobacco, 25c. per lb.

CROCKERY

A Beautiful Tea Set for \$3.

PRESSED AND CUT GLASS

Of all kinds, shapes and varieties, together with the finest assortment and best varied of Fine, Fancy and General Groceries, &c., in the County of Wellington.

Leave your orders at the Cheapest Family Grocery in Guelph.

All Goods WARRANTED to give satisfaction, if not the MONEY will be returned.

E. O'DONNELL & CO.

Guelph, 2nd April, 1899. dsw2 Wyndham Street, Guelph.

Guelph, Ontario.

We have pleasure in making known to you the arrival of all of our IMPORTATIONS DIRECT FROM THE PLACES OF PRODUCTION, for the Spring Trade, and of saying that at no previous time have we been in the same position to offer you such an assortment to select from; the Varieties of Styles, Fabrics and Novelties in the various Departments are so varied and new that they call for an immediate inspection, in order that the taste and care shown in purchasing be fully appreciated.

We are safe in saying that no other House in the business in Guelph can approach the variety of our Stock to select from; and the prices at which our entire Stock will be offered must command immediate sale.

We are desirous of impressing this fact upon all intending buyers, that it is UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE for any other House in the Trade TO COMPETE WITH US, for this reason: We have no second profit to pay; we buy direct from the Manufacturers in Britain ourselves; and as all others in the Dry Goods business here purchase their Goods at second hand from wholesale houses in Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton, paying these importers their profit (as a profit they must have) and then adding their own profit on before selling you the Goods here, it certainly cannot fail to convince you of the great truth that we assert, that our Goods must be at least twenty per cent under ordinary prices in other Stores in Guelph.

A call is respectfully solicited, when we feel confident that we will show you to your entire satisfaction that we are working for the mutual advantage of each.

Yours very respectfully,

HOGG & CHANCE.

Guelph, March 30.

GUELPH CLOTH HALL!

SHAW & MURTON

HAVE JUST RECEIVED A CHOICE SELECTION OF

SPRING AND SUMMER COATINGS,

VESTINGS, TROUSERINGS, SILK HATS,

DRAW HATS, FELT HATS, TWEED CO

Dress Shirts, Fancy Flannel Shirts

Collars, Ties, Gloves, Cents' Hose, Braces, &c.

CUSTOM WORK.

ALL ORDERS executed in the LATEST STYLES, with the BEST OF TRIMMINGS AND WORKMANSHIP.

SHAW & MURTON,

Wyndham Street, Guelph, 7th April, 1899.

MERCHANT TAILORS. Guelph, 28th December

NO BLOWING

AT J. & D. MARTIN'S

FOR GOOD AND CHEAP

Groceries, China, Crockery & Glassware

GO TO J. & D. MARTIN'S.

POTATOES, SPLIT PEAS,

GRANULATED WHEAT AND BARLEY

ALWAYS ON HAND AT J. & D. MARTIN'S,

Wyndham Street, Guelph 3rd April.

SUCCESS,

SUCCESS, SUCCESS,

OF THE

ALMA BLOCK

RETAIL GROCERY!

SOME of his friends may think it a trifle too soon for JOHN A. WOOD to cry Success at so early a season; but this he can assure them, that

His STORES have been Filled with CUSTOMERS

from the 1st till the 31st of March. They come from Egremont, Normanby, Maryboro, Garafraxa, Nichol, Fergus, Elora, Salein, Pilkington, Woolwich, Conestoga, Waterloo, Berlin, Baden, Galt, Hespeler, Puslinch, Morriston, Aberfoyle, Puslinch Plains, Eden Mills, Rockwood, Erin, Caledon, and Eramosa, in fact the fame of JOHN A. WOOD as

BEING A SUCCESSFUL BUYER AND SELLER OF

GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, LIQUORS,

Seeds, Crockery, Glassware, Salt, Plaster, &c.

has gone abroad, and from the whole length and breadth of Wellington and adjoining Counties they come to

John A. Wood's

POPULAR STORES

To lay out their hard-earned cash.

All are grumbling about hard times, but JOHN A. WOOD, and why? Because he is satisfied with Smaller Profits and Quicker Returns than any other Grocers of Guelph are, and the public know it. He sells

SUGAR OF ALL KINDS

CHEAPER THAN ANY OTHER MAN.

He sells cheaper and better TEA AND COFFEE than any other man. In fact, he sells all his Fresh and Good GROCERIES, SALT, SEEDS, &c., at less prices than any one else can do.

He has the ball at his foot, and intends to keep it moving; therefore, my MALICIOUS FRIENDS TEAR DOWN MY POSTERS, and use every other business like means to prevent the public from being supplied with the best Goods. And you will all fall in your endeavors; for once they will, and buy they will, when they can get the Best, the Cheapest and the Freshest Stock of Goods in the Town of Guelph, and that is at

JOHN A. WOOD'S.

Guelph, April 1, 1899. daw tf

SALE BY AUCTION.

AUCTION SALE OF

Fancy Goods!

AND STATIONERY

AT CLARKE'S MUSIC STORE.

THIS EVENING.

Same to commence at seven o'clock. NO RESERVE.

Guelph, March 24. daw tf

W. WARNER CLARKE,

Market Square, Guelph

ALMA BLOCK, GUELPH.

WHOLESALE.

NOW OPENING.

Another shipment of Glassware!

CONSISTING IN PART OF

Tumblers, Goblets, Wines  
Decanters, Celery Glasses  
Butters, Sugars and Creams  
Spoon Holders, Salt Cellars  
Preserve Dishes, in great variety  
Cruet Bottles, Cruet Frames  
Bird Fountains,  
Bird Seed Boxes, Bird Baths  
Lamp Chimneys  
Special Jars, Japanned Ware,  
&c. &c. &c.

R. RAE & CO.

IMPORTERS.