

THE SPRING TRADE.

Advertisers will reach a large class of readers by inserting their business announcements in this paper. Our daily and weekly editions are double those of our contemporaries.

Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

MONDAY EVG. APRIL 6, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH

A Tale of the Covenanters.

It was with a thrilled spirit, but also with a sad heart and a heavy melancholy of soul, that he trod once more upon the soil of his native land, and recognized through the gloom of night the scenes of his youth. There was an unutterable oppression on his spirit at the thought that he was there as a stranger and a fugitive, that the very discovery of his presence would bring him to the scaffold, that he dared not reveal himself to old friends and acquaintances, but must steal along like a vagabond under cover of the night, as if he had been guilty of some atrocious crime.

And yet his conscience could accuse him of none such. By a false exercise of human power he had been made what he was, and his case was but representative of the suffering land and its suffering people, over which and over whom the cloud of persecution lowered more darkly and dismally than ever.

The dress in which Walter was disguised was that of a countryman. He had adopted it because it gave him an unassuming and unmarked appearance, and he had reason to know that it was perfect, because in the course of his journey he had met with those who formerly knew him well, and who treated him as an utter stranger.

In mournful silence he moved along the village street, every house of which he knew, and passed forward on the road which led to Birkenleuch. The wind blew drearily among the leafless trees, and dark, tempestuous clouds rolled along the moonless sky, blotting out the stars and intensifying the gloom. In bitter loneliness of soul Walter traversed a footpath through his own woods, and saw the lower looking above the tree tops. It was, as he judged, past midnight, and all was silent about the mansion. Not a single window gleamed with light; not a solitary form moved about the court-yard. The only sounds were the sighing and moaning of the wind-gusts, and the roar of the stream, as its foaming waters tumbled down the Cleuch.

To that sound Walter had listened a thousand times in the days of yore. It was the voice of his childhood reaching across the years of later years, and recalling sweet and sorrowful memories—sorrowful because sweet, and gone perchance for ever.

The hour had now come when the fate of his mission from Holland was to be determined. How deplorable if he had taken the long journey in vain—if the secret entrance to the mansion was closed up—or if, when he penetrated to the chamber where the packet was deposited, he should find that it was no longer there. These thoughts made him nervously anxious, but, as the result was only to be come to by action, he stood it front of the house only till he satisfied himself that no living thing stirred there, when with a quick decisive step he descended to the bottom of the ravine, and entered the Cleuch, whose rough steep sides rose high on either hand.

Without further difficulty than the difficulty of climbing the broken and rugged ascent Walter gained the cliff, and scrambled through into the rocky chamber, whose other outlet was the orifice in the side of the well. He was shrouded now in impenetrable gloom, but his previous acquaintance with the place enabled him to grope his way to the orifice. As far as he could discover everything was precisely as he had left it years ago. It remained but to find if the rope was still attached to the windlass above for if not, all his labour would be fruitless.

He thrust forward the stick he carried, and to his great joy felt the rope, and drew it towards him. He was now about to commit himself to a great risk. Hanging there for years in the damp and moist atmosphere of the well, would the rope be strong enough to bear his weight? He tugged and strained at it, and it bore his pulling; but when the full weight of his body bore upon it, would it sustain that? This was a question which could only be answered by a practical test, and it answered in the negative his destruction would be the instant result. Should the rope break he would be precipitated to the bottom of the well, where he would be either killed by the fall or drowned in the water, or if he escaped these two evils, then a worse remained—death by starvation.

It was a terrible issue to try, and we cannot wonder if the youth stood for some moments with the rope in his hand hesitating before swinging himself into the shaft. It requires courage of no common kind to do an act which may possibly involve destruction, and Walter did think with a pang of those dear ones he might never see again.—But though he paused when gravely confronting the danger, he did not shrink from proceeding, or contemplate the propriety of turning back. If the worst should follow, he should die in the discharge of a great duty, and the experiences through which he had passed had made him too familiar even with death to turn cowardly from the possibility of meeting it.

Bringing his will to the point of firm and determined resolve, he set his lips hard together, tightened his grasp on the rope, and, quitting the ledge on which he stood, was next moment suspended over the abyss. The rope creaked ominously, but, thank goodness, it held, and very quickly he drew himself up, as he did on former occasions, hard over hand till he reached the windlass, and stood breathless but safe on the floor above.

He waited a few moments till his labouring lungs settled into calmer action, then cool and dauntless as ever he threaded the various passages of the subterranean chambers, and ascended the narrow stair which led to the bed chambers in the west wing. A perfect silence reigned throughout the mansion the only sounds which he heard being the sounds made by his own stealthy footsteps. He found his way without difficulty to a small room in the second storey, where, having come provided with all things necessary he struck a light, which revealed the room in its dimensions and furniture. It was a little circular tower chamber, with one narrow window set in the thick wall, and its only furniture was an oak writing-table, a high backed chair of the same material, and an ancient cabinet fixed in a recess in the wall.

TO BE CONTINUED.

JACOB HESPELER & SON

And now and in future selling their

TWEEDS

TO THE

RETAIL DEALERS

DIRECT from the MILL

—AT—

MANUFACTURERS'

Wholesale Prices and Terms

ONE PROFIT.

Hesperler, 28th March, 1868. sd2w

GEORGE PALMER

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

With the Life Association of Scotland. Agent for Guelph, WILLIAM SMITH, Manager Gore Bank.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

SELECT Boarding & Day School

MRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH purposes (D.V) to open a School for young Ladies at her residence in Wyndham Street, over the Post Office, on MONDAY, 30th April. Guelph, 27th March, 1868. dw3

ALBION HOTEL!

St. Paul-st., MONTREAL.

M. DECKER would say that having resumed the management of the Albion, he hopes by personal attention to merit a continuance of the patronage so liberally bestowed upon him during the last 12 years. L. W. DECKER. Montreal, 30th March, 1868. d

JOSEPH HOBSON,

Civil Engineer, Provincial Land Surveyor and Architect.

HAS OPENED AN OFFICE IN GUELPH, at Messrs. Davidson & Chadwick's, Town Hall Buildings. Guelph, 2nd January, 1868. w

FOR SALE.

SODA ASH—"Gamble's."

CAUSTIC SODA—"Gamble's," "Widnes," "Aikali Comp'y," "Garrett's."

SAL. SODA. CHLORIDE OF LIME. PALM OIL.

W. T. BENSON, 37 St. Peter Street, Montreal. Montreal, 1st April, 1868. dw-6m

GALLERY OF ART.

R. W. LAIRD,

Looking Glass and Picture Frame

MANUFACTURER,

79 King-st. West,

TORONTO.

The Trade supplied with Washable Gilt and Imitation Rosewood Mouldings and Looking Glass Plate. Country orders promptly attended to. Toronto, 1st April 1868. dwly.

Important to the Ladies.

BONNETS & HATS

CLEANED, &c.

Mrs. PRINGLE

HAS much pleasure in announcing to the ladies of Guelph and vicinity that on and after

MONDAY the 6th of APRIL

she will assume her old business in all its branches, and will be glad to see her old patrons, and all those requiring her services.

Residence—Next door to W. Brownlow, Undertaker, Douglas-st. MRS. PRINGLE. Guelph, 30th March, 1868. dw1

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE

W. S. G. KNOWLES will, by instruction from the Trustees for Mrs. Pooley, sell by public auction at Beelgrove,

On Thursday the 9th of April

Household Furniture, consisting of Drawing-room, Dining-room, Library, Bedroom and Kitchen Furniture, a splendid PIANO, Pictures, Books, Glass and Chinaware, Silver, Cutlery.

Also, 2 horses, 1 cow, 1 buggy, 3 sleighs, Saddle, &c., single and double harness, light wagon, hurdles. Can be seen at 9 o'clock on morning of Sale punctually at Eleven o'clock.

Horses and Cow will be sold at 3 o'clock p.m. Hoover's Carriage will leave town at a quarter to eleven o'clock on day of sale—Fare, 25c. Guelph, 3rd April, 1868. dw

TOILET SOAPS!

JUST received, a large consignment of English and other Toilet Soaps,

At Apothecaries' Hall,

Market Square, Guelph.

Yardley's, Benbow's, Trinder's Glycerine, Brown and White Windsor in cakes. Honey and pure Cast Soap, in bars. Also, Robinson's Silver Soap.

A. B. PETRIE. Guelph, 27th March 1868. dw

POTATOES!

Potatoes of all Kinds

Wholesale and Retail.

AT WEBSTER'S

Grain and Flour Store,

West Market Square, Guelph.

Guelph, March 20, 1868. do tf

DOMINION HOTEL

GEORGE BLACK

BEGS to inform his friends and the public that he has opened the above Hotel, in the

BRICK HOUSE, MACDONNELL-ST.

and immediately opposite Messrs. Sharpe's Seed Store. There is a good stable attached to the house, with good and commodious stabling. Every attention will be paid to customers in order to secure their comfort and convenience. Guelph, March 6, 1868. daw 3m

FARMS FOR SALE.

FOR SALE, Lot 22, 1st concession, Township of Kequessing, containing 40 acres, 45 of which are cleared, and in a good state of cultivation, the balance covered with hardwood timber. There is a good dwelling house and frame bank barn on the lot, both nearly new. There is a running stream through the lot. Also for sale Lot No. 1, 1st concession Township of Erin, containing 75 acres, 70 acres of which are cleared, the rest is covered with good hardwood and cedar. This lot immediately joins the other, a road only dividing them, and the two could easily be thrown into one farm. The lots will be sold separately or together, as it may suit the purchaser. Terms liberal, and may be learned on application. L. B. ZO CREWSON.

New Advertisements.

Straw Bonnet Business.

F. A. HARRISON

RETURNS her grateful thanks to the ladies of Guelph and vicinity for the liberal patronage she has received since resuming business.—Having on hand plain and fancy Straw, she is prepared to make **Bonnets and Hats** to order. Latest styles just received. Residence—Rose Cottage, Market Street, west of Dr. Howitt's. Apprentices wanted. MISS HARRISON. Guelph, 1st April, 1868. dw

WALL PAPER!

WALL PAPER.

FOR Extra BARGAINS

In WALL PAPER try

SHEWAN'S BOOKSTORE!

Next door to H. Walker's Grocery. Guelph, 27th March, 1868. dw

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, Filoelle, 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. dw tf

T. BREADON,

Painter, Glazier, Paper Hanger, &c.

BEGS to inform the inhabitants of Guelph and surrounding country that he is prepared to execute all manner of work in connection with his business at rates as low as

GOOD WORKMANSHIP

And MATERIAL will allow.

Shop, - - Douglas Street,

Next door north of Wm. Hoover's Livery Stable, and directly opposite Wm. Brownlow's Undertaking Establishment.

When not at the shop, orders to be left at Mr. Brownlow's. THOS. BREADON. Guelph, 1st April, 1868. d3m-wlm

MONTREAL

Boot and Shoe Store

SPRING ARRIVALS.

CLEAR THE TRACK! BOOTS AND SHOES.

NEW GOODS!

FASHIONABLE, SERVICEABLE, DURABLE, COMFORTABLE.

A BEAUTIFUL American Prunella Walking BEAUMONT, very stylish. Call at once and see them. Lacrosses for sale.—TERMS CASH.

JOHN McNEIL, Montreal Boot and Shoe Store, Wyndham-st. Guelph, 30th March, 1868. dw

FOR SALE.

200 lbs. Honey, Strained or Comb.

500 lbs. Boston Canned Peaches

200 lbs. Keiller's Dundee Marmalade.

50 lbs. Red and Black Currant Jelly.

100 bushels Dried Apples.

French Plums and Prunes.

Anchovy Paste.

Bloater Paste.

Maple Sugar and Amber Syrup.

AT JOHN A. WOOD'S.

Guelph, March 24th 1868 dw

Thorough-bred Durham Bull

THE thorough-bred Durham Prize Bull, bred by James Cowan, Esq., Waterloo, will serve cows this season at the subscriber's farm. Terms \$1.00. ROBERT AMO W.

New Advertisements.

PARTNERSHIP NOTICE!

THE undersigned have entered into Co-partnership under the firm of BUCHANAN & CO., Hamilton, Ontario, and of PETER BUCHANAN & CO., Glasgow, Scotland. IRAC BUCHANAN. ANDREW BURNAY. PETER T. BUCHANAN. Hamilton, Ontario, February, 1868.

1868. SPRING IMPORTATIONS. 1868.

THE Subscribers have received and are NOW OPENING a portion of their

SPRING IMPORTATIONS

—OF—

BRITISH AND FOREIGN

DRY GOODS,

And will have an excellent assortment opened out by the 25th inst., as also of Canadian and American Manufactures.

BUCHANAN & COMPANY.

Hamilton, 19th March, 1868. dw

1868. The First Importations this Season. 1868

JUST RECEIVED.

Choice Messina Oranges and Lemons, Cocoa Nuts, Dried Cherries, Peaches, Apples, Imperial Prunes, etc.

Wholesale at City Prices

HUGH WALKER,

Wholesale and Retail Fruit dealer, Wyndham-St., Guelph. Guelph, March 31 1868. daw y

ESTABLISHED 1849.

JOHN MACDONALD & CO

TORONTO,

Have now a very

Large and Complete Stock!

To which, throughout the Season,

ADDITIONS WILL BE MADE WEEKLY

JOHN MACDONALD & CO.

Nos. 21 and 23, Wellington Street, and Nos. 28 and 30, Front Street, TORONTO. No. 108 King Street, Manchester, England. dwlm

GORDON, MACKAY & CO.,

Importers, Manufacturers, and General Warehousemen,

Have now in stock one of the most magnificent assortments of

Staple & Fancy Dry Goods

In the Dominion. A large assortment of

Home and Foreign Woollens!

AND TAILORS' GOODS AND TRIMMINGS.

They are constantly receiving **Leading Styles** from the various places of production.—Terms Liberal.

Lybster Mills Sheetings 33 and 36 inches. Also, Lybster Mills YARNS and BATTING. Toronto 26th March, 1868. dw-lm.

A. R. McMASTER & BRO.

Are now opening out their

Spring Importations!

And will be glad to see their customers and friends at

32 Yonge-st., Toronto.

Toronto, 26th March, 1868. dw-ly

JUST OPENING

AT THE

BRITANNIA HOUSE

A Splendid Assortment of

SPRING FURNISHINGS

2 & 3 PLY CARPETS,

Tapestry, Brussels, Hemp, Felt, &c.

Muslin and Lace Curtains, Damasks, Fringes, &c.

HEPHERNA

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. dw4

Herald copy four weeks.

DAY'S BOOKSTORE.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

In consequence of the rapid increase of the subscriber's business within the past few years, he has pleasure in intimating to his numerous patrons, and the Trade in general, that he has

THIS DAY REMOVED

To a much larger and much more commodious store,

One Door West of the Old Stand,

And directly opposite the front door of the Market House, where he will be enabled to carry on his business on a much more extensive scale, and will be in a position to serve his customers to better advantage to them and to himself.

T. J. DAY,

Bookseller, opposite the Market, Guelph. Guelph, April 2, 1868. daw tf

HORSE BILLS

PROPRIETORS and Travellers of Stallions will please note the fact that at

THE MERCURY OFFICE

Macdonnell Street, opposite the Great Western Hotel Stables, second door east of the Golden Lion, Guelph,

They can get better, cheaper and handsomer Horse Bills than at any other office in the County, and printed while they wait.

Orders by post will be promptly attended to, and forwarded by parties desirous of tendering. Give us a call.

MCLACAN & INNES. EVENING MERCURY Buildings, Macdonnell-st. Guelph, 1st April, 1868. dw

GUELPH, ELMIRA & PEEL GRAVEL ROAD

SEALED TENDERS

FOR the construction of the Guelph, Elmira and Peel Gravel Road through the Township of Woolwich and Pilkington will be received till

FRIDAY the 17th of APRIL

by the undersigned, who will be at Elmira on FRIDAY the 10th inst, and at his office in Guelph on Monday and Tuesday, 13th and 14th instant, for the purpose of giving any information that may be required by parties desirous of tendering. The work will be divided into six sections, and offers will be received for either the whole or any single division.