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Guelph Evening Mercury
OFFICE.....MACDONNELL STREET.

THURSDAY EVEN'G, JAN 2, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice
OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

CHAPTER IV.—AN HISTORICAL EXPLANATION—
A "ROYAL" IDEA, AND WHAT IT PRODUCED.

In order that the reader may have a better understanding of our tale, we shall condense a period of Scottish history, previous to the evening in which it opens, which was an evening in the month of October 1668.

Many of our readers no doubt are well acquainted with that portion of the history of our country, otherwise inexplicable, that such things should have happened as we have recorded in the previous chapters.—Strange it certainly does appear that a cavalry officer should so insolently accost and interrupt a young lady and a Christian minister, and use them so roughly—nay, so brutally—as Charlie Allan did Marion Gordon and Hugh M'Kail. Strange also that when the young laird of Birkenleuch came to their rescue, discomfited the ruffian, and carried his betrothed and her companion in safety to the mansion, he should have to take such measures for the further security and protection of those who were now under his roof—these measures being the immediate marriage of Marion with himself and the providing of a secret hiding place for her father the minister of the parish, and Hugh M'Kail who was another ordained preacher of the gospel.

Supposing we had been ignorant of the state of matters in the country at this period and judged things according to the natural principles of truth and justice, we should have thought that it was Charlie Allan who ought to have been degraded the consequences of the evening's meeting on the moor, and of his lawless conduct in the affair. Yet we find that those had been his assailants, and the man who discomfited him in his wicked attempt, instead of obtaining thereby the right and power to bring him before the tribunals of justice, and have him punished and restrained from the like violence—we are convinced that not only would he obtain no redress, but were almost helplessly exposed to the open and speedy manifestation of his revenge. How is this to be explained? Only by calling to mind the political and religious position of Scotland at the time, and the struggle that was going on between the Government and a large portion of the people who were known by the name of Covenanters.

This struggle had its origin and its long existence in a doctrine believed in and contended for by the Stuart dynasty—the doctrine, namely, of the Divine right of Kings. According to that doctrine the King was supreme in everything, and accountable to no one. He might do as he pleased, govern in all matters according to his own will, and his subjects had nothing to do but obey. They had no right to complain, far less to rebel. He had his authority from God, and that authority was neither to be questioned nor disputed. The Stuarts, from James VI. downwards, stoutly asserted this doctrine in the most unqualified manner, and set themselves to govern their kingdom according to it. But unfortunately for them, though fortunately for the kingdom, a large portion of the people did not believe in anything so absurd and impious, and set themselves to resist what would have been the destruction of their liberty. Thus the struggle was inaugurated, for the King was determined, and his people were determined, and there was nothing for it but a resolute fight and opposition, the issue of which, however long protracted, could not in the nature of things be doubtful. But throughout the whole kingdom, and particularly in Scotland, it produced a long period of bloody strife, of cruelty, wrong, suffering, and death, which covers at once with glory and gloom the pages of history which record it.

Between this doctrine of James VI. and the nature of the Scottish Reformation a yawning gulf which never could be bridged over. Some nations might be spirited enough to place their necks under the yoke, but assuredly not the nature of Scotland, which had just emancipated itself from Popery, and established its Protestant Presbyterian Kirk. This Presbyterianism formed a bulwark of civil and religious liberty which was altogether incompatible with the idea of Divine right. Hence James set himself to abolish Presbyterianism and set up Episcopacy, which acknowledged the King to be supreme head of the Church, and was therefore subservient to him in all things. The essential feature of the Kirk of Scotland was its independence of royal authority, its claim to govern in all spiritual matters by Presbyteries and the Assemblies, so that to abolish the Kirk was to assail the religious faith and conviction of the people, and to rouse every energy of resistance which resided in them. Undeterred, however, by this, and actuated by his insidious idea, James forced a kind of mongrel Episcopacy on Scotland, which his son, Charles I., after his accession to the throne, attempted to develop into fuller form by sending a liturgy with an order for its adoption. This was in July, 1637, and it was then the memorable scene occurred in the High Church of Edinburgh, when the redoubtable Jenny Geddes flung her stool at the head of the Bishop for daring to say the mass at her lug. The flinging of that stool was really the flinging of Episcopacy out of Scotland for a time, for commotion of various kinds followed till the following year, when the Assembly at Glasgow declared the Presbyterian form of government to be the government of the Church. This Charles acknowledged by the treaty of Dunblair in 1639.

The Jenny Geddes demonstration roused the country as by a shock of electricity. All classes rushed to Edinburgh to petition, to protest, to combine, and a document was drawn out, whereby those who signed it swore to maintain the Presbyterian religion, to restore and preserve it in its purity, to adhere to and defend it. The reading and subscribing of this document in the Greyfriars Churchyard, on the last day of February, 1643, was about the grandest spectacle ever presented by a nation. It was done with solemn, deep, unanimous, universal enthusiasm by all ranks and classes, by "noblemen, barons, gentlemen, burghers, ministers, and commons." It was emphatically a national act, and was called the National Covenant. It was thus that the people of Scotland became COVENANTERS.

Time passed on. Charles adhered to his insane idea of the "Divine right," and the quarrel between him and his people in all parts of the kingdom ripened apace till it brought him to the block, and resulted in the Commonwealth. The execution of the King sent a thrill of horror and pity through all classes in Scotland, for at this time the Scottish people were, in civil matters, as staunchly monarchial as in spiritual matters they were independent. So strong did the feeling run, that those at the head of affairs found it necessary to open communication with the Prince who by the rule of descent should have been his father's successor on the throne, and the issue was that this youth was, on the first day of 1651, crowned at Scoon, in circumstances of great solemnity, and by his coronation oath he swore to support and defend the Covenant.

Subsequent events clearly showed that this subscription of the Covenant by Charles II. was a mere sham—that in his heart he hated it, and was as firm a believer in the Divine right as his grandfather or father had been. Along with this character was a great deal more. He was dissolute, selfish, and vindictive. Moral principle seems to have had none, for when the opportunity came he disregarded his oaths and engagements as if they had never been taken or entered into.

We need not here refer particularly to the war of Charles and his Scottish subjects with Cromwell and the Commonwealth. It ended disastrously for the King at Worcester, and Charles went into exile for ten years. Though during this time the Commonwealth

by no means extinct, and the Stuart family had numerous partisans and adherents, who continued to cherish the hope of Charles's restoration, and who wrought for this end to the utmost of their power. In Scotland this faction was growing daily stronger. The Covenanters were decreasing in influence, and the chief offices of State which they had formerly filled were occupied by what were called Malignants—those whose object was to effect the unconditional restoration of the King to unlimited power. The Kirk was, unfortunately leaning in that direction, for the Assembly omitted resolutions in favour of the measures adopted by the Royalists. These resolutions were strongly protested against by a minority, who had no faith in Charles, who knew how false and deceitful he was, and on this account did not desire his restoration.

TO BE CONTINUED.

COMMERCIAL.

Guelph Markets.

MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH. }
January 2, 1868. }

The market is just now moderately active. Fall wheat is very lightly supplied, only a load straying in occasionally. The receipts of spring wheat are pretty large, and although prices have varied during the week, they have now reached the quotations of our last weekly report. Barley still commands a high figure, though there has been a slight reduction since last week. The extreme is now 90c with good demand. Barley is wanted in the States, but the local requirements are such that none can be procured for shipment. Peas are not delivered in great quantities. The receipts of pork are very heavy, but prices have declined slightly within the last few days. But well fed heavy pork sells readily at \$6 25. Hay keeps the same prices, that is from about \$11 to \$13 per ton. There are no other changes worth noting.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|-------|
| Flour per 100 lbs. | \$3 75 | 4 00 |
| Fall Wheat per bushel. | 1 35 | 1 55 |
| Spring Wheat. | 1 40 | 1 45 |
| Oats | 0 40 | 0 46 |
| Peas | 0 60 | 0 66 |
| Barley | 0 90 | 0 96 |
| Hay per ton | 12 00 | 14 00 |
| Straw | 4 00 | 5 00 |
| Shingles per square | 1 00 | 1 10 |
| Wood per cord | 3 00 | 3 20 |
| Wool | 0 27 | 0 30 |
| Eggs per dozen | 14 | 14 |
| Butter (fresh) per lb. | 0 14 | 0 16 |
| Geese, each | 0 25 | 0 28 |
| Turkeys do | 0 50 | 0 55 |
| Chickens per pair | 0 20 | 0 22 |
| Ducks do | 0 20 | 0 20 |
| Potatoes | 0 50 | 0 55 |
| Apples | 0 00 | 0 00 |
| Lamb per lb. | 0 05 | 0 07 |
| Beef | 4 00 | 4 00 |
| Pork per lb. | 0 05 | 0 05 |
| Pork per 100 lbs. | 4 75 | 6 25 |
| Sheep Pelts each | 0 30 | 0 40 |
| Lamb skins | 0 40 | 0 40 |
| Hides per 100 lbs. | 6 00 | 6 00 |

Money Market.

JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE. }
Guelph, January 2, 1868. }

Gold, 133 1/2.

Silver bought at 43 to 44; sold at 44 to 45.

Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 50c to 55c.

Commercial Bank Bills bought at 90c to 95c.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co's report by Special Telegram to 'Evening Mercury.'

MONTREAL, January 2, 1868.

Flour—Fancy, \$7 50 to \$7 60; Superior No. 1, \$7 20 to \$7 35; Welland Canal, \$7 25. Bag flour, \$3 55 to \$3 65. Oats 42c to 43c. Barley 53c to 54c. Butter—dry 16c to 18c; store packed 16c to 16c. Ashes—Pot 35c to 45c; pearls 35c to 36c.

TORONTO, January 1, 1868.

Flour—Receipts, 269 bbls; No. 1, at \$6 55; Wheat at \$1 50. Peas—72c. Oats—55c to 56c. Barley—82c to \$1 00.

HAMILTON, January 1, 1868.

Flour—\$1 50 @ \$1 55; spring do—\$1 45 @ \$1 50 per bushel. Barley—\$1 @ \$1 25. Oats—70c @ 75c.

INDIA & CHINA TEA CO'Y.

Home Depot at London and Liverpool, Canada Dept, 23 Hospital Street, Montreal.

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 favour 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 to be entirely different to the flat and rapid article usually sold as Black Tea; while their Green Teas are altogether free from the deleterious mineral matter so commonly used for coloring the leaf.

PRICES: Rich, full-flavoured Tea, for family use a real genuine and fine article 70 cents per lb. Finest quality procurable, one dollar per lb.

The above can be had either Black, Green or Mixed. To be had in packets of Quarter Pound or 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 foil paper, and the Tea will continue to retain its flavour any length of time. Oursave.—All packages have the Company's trade-mark, without which none are genuine.

MR. N. HIGINBOTHAM, Agent, Guelph, Guelph, August 3, 1867. ds-w-13

LUMBER, LUMBER.

GOWDY & STEWART

Wellington Lumber Yard, Guelph.

BEG to inform retail dealers and the public generally that they have started a seasonal

on the Grand Trunk Railway, where they will keep constantly on hand all kinds of Lumber, Lath, Shingles, &c. Also, cut to order, all kinds of bill stuff, and shipped to any station on the line of railway.

will be carried on as usual, under the superintendence of Mr FRANCIS SMALL, where everything can be found in the shape of Lumber that is kept in a retail yard.

Flour and Feed as Usual.

The subscribers trust that by strict attention to business and moderate charges that they will receive in the future, as in the past, a liberal share of public patronage.

All orders for Lumber to be sent to any station but Guelph must be addressed to Georgetown, where Mr Gowdy can be seen personally from Monday morning to Thursday evening, and in Guelph from Friday morning to Saturday evening.

GOWDY & STEWART.

Guelph, 20th June, 1866 712

PRIZE DENTISTRY.

DR. R. CAMPBELL

DENTIST

OFFICE, No 10 door to the ABERDEEN office

WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.

REFERENCES.—Drs. Clarke & Orton, Mc Guire, Herod, McGregor and Cowan, Guelph; Drs. Buchanan & Phillips, Toronto; Drs. G. M. Elliott and W. Myers, Dentists, Toronto.

Teeth Extracted Without Pain

Guelph, 20th June, 1866 ds-w-13

Insurance at Moderate Rates.

WESTERN

Assurance Company.

CAPITAL, \$400,000.

ESTABLISHED 1851.

FIRE AND MARINE.

Head Office, Church Street, Toronto.

HON. JOHN McMURRICH, President.

CHARLES MAGRATH, Vice-President.

B. HALDAN, Secretary & Treasurer.

THIS Company insures against loss or damage by fire on buildings generally, and their contents, for long or short periods, as may be wanted. The rates of Premiums, based on long experience, will be found moderate. The Company not being controlled by any arbitrarily fixed tariff of rates, treats each case according to the risk and class of hazard.

GEO. ELLIOTT, Agent, Guelph.

Guelph, 24th May, 1866. 656.

Liverpool & London & Globe

INSURANCE COMPANY.

Capital Surplus & Reserved Funds

\$16,271,675.

DIRECTORS IN CANADA:

T. B. ANDERSON, Esq., Chairman (President Bank of Montreal).

HENRY STARNES, Esq., Deputy Chairman, (Manager Ontario Bank).

E. I. KING, Esq., (General Manager Bank of Montreal).

HENRY CHAPMAN, Esq., Merchant.

THOMAS CRAMP, Esq., Merchant.

G. F. C. SMITH, Esq., Resident Secretary.

F. A. BALL, Hamilton, Ont. } Inspectors.

JAMES SPIER, Montreal. }

Fire Insurance & Life Assurance

Policies issued at moderate rates.

This Company offers to insure the security of Wealth, Position, Increasing Revenue and Liberal Management.

G. F. C. SMITH, Resident Sec., Montreal.

THOS. W. SAUNDERS, Agent, Guelph.

Guelph, Oct. 28, 1867. w713-086

Oldest Accident Insurance

Co. in America.

INSURES AGAINST ALL KINDS

OF ACCIDENTS.

INSURE against Accidents in the original

Travelers' Insurance Company

of Hartford. Net cash assets, Jan. 1, \$741,337.02.

JAS. G. BATTERSON, President.

RONNEY DENNIS, Secretary.

DR. MCINTYRE, Medical Referee.

C. NAHEGANG, Agent, Hespeler, C.W.

March 28th, 1867.

MUTUAL

Fire Insurance Comp'y

TOWNSHIP OF GUELPH.

Annual Meeting

THE Annual Meeting of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of the Township of Guelph will be held at Blyth's Hotel, Market Square, on Saturday, 4th January, 1868

at 2 o'clock p.m., for the election of office-bearers and other business.

W. WHITELAW, Secretary.

Guelph, 4th December, 1867. w4

Valuable Tavern Stands

FOR SALE.

THE subscriber offers for sale the following valuable Tavern Stands in the village of Rockwood:

The Commercial Hotel, close to the Railway Station, is only recently built, contains 12 apartments, and has a very large and well finished Lath Room or Hall; also large and commodious stables and driving shed. The house is well supplied with hard and soft water, with wood shed, pig sty, splendid garden, and all other conveniences. There is a liberal supply of water on the premises. There is a good garden attached to the house.

For terms and other particulars apply to the undersigned (if by letter post-paid) at the Commercial Hotel, near the G. T. R. Station, Rockwood.

WILLIAM STOVELL.

Rockwood 30th October, 1867.

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 MITT SHOP with two forges. The shop is 120 x 36 feet; connected with this shop is a good Drifling 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 time. The Post Office is kept on the premises. For terms apply to

LEMON & PETERSON, Guelph or to JOHN LUSON, Proprietor, Sirion, P.O. Guelph, August 29, 1867. 723-11

BOOTS & SHOES

At Wholesale Prices.

HAVING a large stock of BOOTS and SHOES, which will be sold during the NEXT TWO MONTHS, I will offer the same during that time at Wholesale Prices. Note prices and be convinced that you will save from 25 to 50 per cent. per pair by buying at the

Kingston Penitentiary

BOOT and SHOE STORE.

Men's Coarse Boots!

FORMER PRICES.—No. 1, \$3.00; No. 2, \$2.75; No. 3, \$2.50.

PRESENT PRICES.—No. 1, \$2.75; No. 2, \$2.50; No. 3, \$2.25.

Boys' Boots from \$1.70; Youths' Boots from \$1.35. Women's Boots from \$1.10.

with a large variety of everything in the line at equally low prices.

Don't forget the place—Kingston Penitentiary Boot and Shoe Store.

All work warranted.

J. CRIDFORD.

Guelph, 4th November, 1867.

H. HOGG'S

FLOUR AND FEED STORE

Opposite the Market Shed.

CONSTANTLY ON HAND, all kinds of Mill Feed, Chopped Peas, Middlings, Shorts, Bran

Cornmeal, Oatmeal, Flour!

Racon, Sugar-cured Hams, and Potatoes.

Guelph, 28th August, 1867. ds-w

An Apprentice Wanted.

WANTED at this Office, a stout active lad, about 15 or 16 years of age, possessing a good English education, to learn the printing business. None other need apply except those possessing the qualifications above mentioned. Apply at the Mercury Office, Macdonnell street, Guelph, 31st Dec. 1867. ds-w

FURS, FURS.

WE have opened our stock of FURS, four own manufacture, which we will sell at LOW PRICES, viz:

Ex: a Dark Mink.

Royal Ermine,

Siberian Squirrel,

River Mink,

Ladies' Hoods,

And a full assortment of CHILDREN'S FURS, GENTS' FULLERS and GLOVES SLEIGH ROBES, &c.

F. GARLAND,

Market Square, GUELPH.

The Highest Price paid for Raw Furs

Guelph, Oct. 31, 1867. 88d w732

\$20. STAR \$100.

SHUTTLE SEWING MACHINE.

Patented May, 1867.

THE Star Shuttle Sewing Machine makes a stitch alike on both sides of material sewed which will not rip or ravel. Does all kinds of work equally as well as Singer's high-priced machine. Combines simplicity with durability, and is warranted for five years. It is suited alike for the dressmaker, tailor, manufacturer or family.

Mr. SPAFFORD having been appointed General Agent for Ontario, wishes to engage a few good local and travelling agents, to whom good inducements will be offered. For machine, sample of work, or terms, address—

J. E. SPAFFORD,

Ponsonby P. O.,

or Box 450, Toronto.

Reference—Rev. E. A. Healy, Stratford P. O.,

Opposite the

MARKET.

MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH.

MARKET SQUARE, G