

THIS ORIGINAL DOCUMENT IS IN VERY POOR CONDITION

The word comes we part, yet honour said the cadger, bending earnestly towards his listener. This is a bold deed we are attempting, and whether it fail or succeed serious consequences will be sure to follow it. In fact, if it does succeed the consequences will be a' a' the war, for the soldiers will be enraged at their defeat, and will seek like pointers for them that planned or took part in the rescue. 'Ye'll no be offended if I ask ye the promise never to mention my name in the matter?'

'My lips shall never breathe it, Janie,' was the answer. 'As you say, the deed will be accounted an audacious one, and the doers of it will be eagerly sought for. But, take my word for it, the time for passive resistance must end soon, and to-morrow's work may as well begin the sterner action as anything else. At any rate, it would be to our eternal disgrace if we failed to rescue our friends when we have it in our power.'

With a wave of the hand Mr. Lellan turned away, taking the road to Greystone, while Janie reined his pony into the road which led to Wainlock, and, doubtless much to the animal's surprise, forced it to a pace to which it was wholly unaccustomed. But Janie had good reason to hasten forward. The evening was wearing late, and the road before him was a long one. Also, the work he had reluctantly undertaken was of the last importance, and he was anxious to have it performed. As he trotted on he began to realize the fact that the work to which he was committed was a terrible departure from that prudent course he had hitherto followed, and would if he shared it become known, render him obnoxious to the troopers, and make it no longer possible for him to traverse the country.

'I canna help it,' he said to himself. 'If this is to be my undoing, it maun be. I'll do my best, but I'll be damned if I'll carry them over the border for me, but I canna see them abused, when it's in my poor tale hinder. Get up, Dick, ye lazy rascal. Ye're on your errands, and ye're no to be Dick snorted a decided protest against the speed at which he was compelled to go, but at the same time he did not refuse to besmirch himself, and ere long he had carried his master into the wild mountainous region where the towering Lowthers are surrounded by hills little less majestic.

When he had reached the summit of the mountain, he was successful, and by ten o'clock on the following morning, when the Laird of Barscob arrived at Leadhills, accompanied by Andrew Weir, he found waiting for him thirty strong-hearted, resolute men, who were ready to follow his leadership in the contemplated enterprise.

The morning was dull and gloomy, and the hills were enveloped in mist, as they left the village and proceeded over the rising ground to the south. The men had a weapon of some kind in their possession, some had muskets, others horse pistols, not a few had rammed up rusty arrows, and some who had not been able to obtain anything more warlike carried pitchforks and scythes. It was in truth a motley band, but their hearts beat firm with one desire to deliver the captives from the hands of the Philistines. They were all men who had been made to suffer in the dungeons of the Covenant. Their homes had been the scenes of wanton outrage and oppression, they had borne every indignity at the hands of the troopers, and had been plundered of their property. They required no persuasion, therefore, to get them to assist in the rescue of the prisoners whose capture at the conventicle had already roused all their sympathy and interest.

The Kenton Pass is a tremendous ravine, stretching for three or four miles between two lofty mountains, whose steep precipitous sides rise over against each other with a smoothness that is almost unbroken, and so near that, while their base is separated only by the breadth of a small mountain stream, their summits, of eighteen hundred feet elevation, are not more than a few hundred feet apart. A strong man could cast a stone from one to the other. This indicates how terribly steep is the slope with which they descend, yet on the western side of the gorge, and about half way between the base and the summit, a narrow pathway has been formed, by which it is possible to traverse the Pass, though the feat is somewhat dangerous for a pedestrian, and still more for a rider, since, should the traveller lose his footing and stumble, there is little chance of his being able to recover himself. Down the terrible descent he must go, and be inevitably dashed to pieces in its far depths.

At the time of our story, this Pass, even with the road so perilous as we have indicated, was generally used as a communication between Dumfriesshire and the Metropolis, from the shortness of the route compared with the broader and more level highway, and it was through this difficult and dangerous Pass that Charlie Allan meant to convey his prisoners.

A short while before noon the scouts stationed on the southern heights came in with the intelligence that the troopers had entered the Pass at the lower end, and were making their way up in single file. They could not possibly proceed in any other fashion, for there was not room in the narrow path for two horses to walk abreast. The spot where the Covenanters had posted themselves was near the head of the Pass, where the descent was steepest, and the footing in the path most insecure. A thick mist still shrouded the scene, and concealed everything beyond the distance of a few yards.

On the brow of the dizzy steep lay the waiting band, peering down the Pass for the first glimpse of the approaching cavalcade. Foremost of the group, and on a point where the road could be farthest seen, was the leader, the Laird of Barscob, and close by his side was Andrew Weir, whose only weapon was a 'yellow-bell'—an instrument which seemed very unfit for warlike purposes, and which an assailant would probably treat with contempt, but if he entered into conflict with the man who wielded it, he would very soon be forced to change his opinion. In close quarters a sword-man had no chance with it whatever, and Andrew, who was well acquainted with its use on the barn floor, seemed how formidable a warrior. He must, of course, arm himself with it in preference to either scythe or pitchfork.

TO BE CONTINUED.

It Gives Satisfaction, does that excellent Tea sold for 62 1/2c per lb. by JAS MURPHY, No. 1, Upper Wyndham-st. Guelph, Ont.

Table with 4 columns: Commodity, Price, and other details. Includes items like Chickens, Potatoes, Apples, etc.

Money Markets. Gold, 140. Silver, 104. Exchange, 104. etc.

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

Toronto, January 29, 1868. Wheat—No. 1, at \$6 90. Oats—No. 1, at \$1 10. etc.

Hamilton, January 29, 1868. Fall wheat, \$1 70. Spring wheat, \$1 35. etc.

At Wholesale Prices. HAVING a large stock of BOOTS and SHOES, etc.

Kingston Penitentiary. BOOT and SHOE STORE. Men's Coarse Boots!

J. CRIDFORD. Guelph, 4th November, 1867.

STORE for SALE. In the Village of Stirton. A GOOD STORE for general business, with commodious Dwelling, etc.

WILLIAM BROWNLOW. Carpenter and Undertaker, DOUGLAS STREET, GUELPH.

JOHN TOVELL. COFFIN MAKER. Douglas Street, Guelph.

OPPOSITION LINE. TO CALIFORNIA. North American Steamship Company.

Every Ten Days. Rates for First, Second and Third Cabin VERY LOW.

It Gives Satisfaction, does that excellent Tea sold for 62 1/2c per lb. by JAS MURPHY, No. 1, Upper Wyndham-st. Guelph, Ont.

Whips, Horse Covers, Sleigh Bells. A very large and well-assorted stock of Whips will be sold at 25c on the dollar, etc.

FISH, OILS, &c. Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co., Guelph.

Dominion Store! (Late Post Office Store.) MRS. ROBINSON. AS on hand a varied stock of GENERAL GROCERIES for Christmas & New Year.

NEW FRUIT! Figs, Dates, Raisins, Lemons at 25c per dozen.

Funerals, Funerals! NATHAN TOVELL. He is prepared to attend funerals as usual.

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MRS. HUNTER'S FANCY STORE. West Market Square.

Berlin & Fancy Wools. MRS. HUNTER. Guelph, 11th Dec. 1867.

Liverpool & London & Globe INSURANCE COMPANY. Capital Surplus & Reserved Funds \$16,271,675.

REMOVAL. W.M.C. TAYLOR. Veterinary Surgeon.

W.M.C. TAYLOR. Veterinary Surgeon. RESPECTFULLY thanks his numerous patrons, etc.

Fire Insurance & Life Assurance. Policies issued at moderate rates.

Wool, Hide and Leather DEPOT. No. 4, Day's Old Block, Gordon Street.

Whips, Horse Covers, Sleigh Bells. A very large and well-assorted stock of Whips will be sold at 25c on the dollar, etc.

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Fire Insurance & Life Assurance. Policies issued at moderate rates.

Wool, Hide and Leather DEPOT. No. 4, Day's Old Block, Gordon Street.

REDUCTION of the AMERICAN WATCH. THE American Watch Company of Waltham, Mass., being determined to place their several grades of Watches at prices within the reach of all parties, etc.

Cheapest Watches in the World. The Watches are of all grades, from the finest Gold Watch made, adapted to any climate from the Tropics to the Poles, etc.

ROBBINS & APPLETON, New York. General Agents. D. SAVAGE, Agent, Guelph.

Watches, Chains, Rings, Penicil Cases, and all kinds of Jewels. Plated in Gold.

Also, Door Plates & Carriage Trimmings of every description done to order with neatness and despatch.

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

W.M. STEWART'S. IS STILL GOING ON AT GREAT CLEARING SALE.

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R. B. MORISON & CO. Have now determined to dispose of the balance of their Fall and Winter Stock of Dry Goods, etc.

Winter Stock of Dry Goods, And Ready-made Clothing, AT COST AND UNDER and offering GREAT INDUCEMENTS to their customers and the public generally.

Hardware in great variety, Groceries, Fresh Fruits, &c. a new supply of that excellent 50 cent TEA that has astonished the neighborhood. Just to hand, a supply of Crochery and Glassware.

DRY GOODS & GROCERIES. G. & A. HADDEN. Would invite the special attention of the public to their very large stock of SEASONABLE DRY GOODS!

Completing a full assortment of every description of Goods suitable for the Fall and Winter Trade. No old, moth eaten bankrupt stock, but all Fresh New Goods, which they are determined to sell off at such a reduction in price as cannot fail to give entire satisfaction to the purchasers.

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Wines, Brandies and Liquors. A large stock of choice Wines, Brandies and Liquors, warranted genuine. Crochery, China and Glassware in great variety. Also, a full assortment of FAMILY GROCERIES of the best quality, and at the lowest price.

NOTICE. STRAYED STEER. THE Subscriber is going off of the Customhouse, all accounts due them must be paid on or before the 15th February, etc.