

copy by the week, or for a longer period, will please leave their names at the office, and it will be regularly delivered to them. The carriers who deliver the papers are not regularly left by the carrier boys, will please call at the office at once and inform us of the neglect.

**Guelph Evening Mercury**  
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.  
THURSDAY EVG, MARCH 12, 1868.

### The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

How had she been betrayed into thinking otherwise was the next question that presented itself, and immediately there came before her a dark, diabolical form, in the person of James Cringan. All that had happened during the last few months was his doing. This thought flashed on Helen's mind with such vivid intensity that she started up, under a sudden rush of angry excitement, and paced her room with cheeks flushing hot with wrath, and blushing with indignation.

The story told her by Cringan, which caused her to terminate her engagement with Richard Wayland, was a deliberate and diabolical lie. None knew so well as she that her mother was not the mother of Richard; but worse still, he knew that Charlie Allan was her father's son, and yet he allowed—nay, urged—the incestuous marriage.

"Oh, horror, horror!" exclaimed Helen, as this inevitable conviction entered her mind. "That man's thirst for gold has prompted him to do all this. He planned it from the first, and oh! I burn to think with what hellish success. We have all been made his dupes—Richard, Charlie, and I—that he might acquire gold. In the worship of the god of his idolatry, he has trampled on all that is sacred and holy, and has made the name of her who was the wife of his bosom, tortured and crushed two loving hearts, and impudently dared to seek to join those whom he knew were sundered by God and Nature. Oh! this is not a man, but a monster; and I thank God that he is not my father."

But soon this outbreak of wrathful detestation gave way to feelings happy and joyous. The bitterness ruthlessly raised between Richard and Helen was now removed, and their loving hearts would be re-united. He would know now what caused her inexplicable conduct. She would appear true and true again in his eyes, and their deep fond love would yet have a joyous fruition.

So absorbed did Helen become in the contemplation of these joyous prospects that the immediate present and its surroundings were forgotten, and she was recalled to it only by a footstep without, which announced the coming of him for whom she waited.

The door was briskly opened, and Charlie entered, flushed with wine. He was not much intoxicated; indeed, to do him justice, he seldom or never got drunk at the many carousals in which he was engaged. But he had got enough to inflame him, and make him recklessly exhibit himself in his true character if opposition was encountered.

"What! not a-bed yet, my besauteous Helen?" he exclaimed, on beholding her. "Shame on me for making you hold vigil on our bridal night, but those noisy friends of mine could not get rid of, nor would they hear of me quitting their company. But they are gone now, and you must give me a kiss in token of forgiveness."

"Yes, Charlie, returned Helen. 'There is no forgiveness required. We have both reason to be very glad of your protracted stay below, for it has given me an opportunity of knowing the contents of the packet I got from Sir Gilbert in the church."

"Oh you have found something in it to amuse you, have you? I'm glad of that, though what the soiled pride of the lord of Brankwood had to entertain you with I can not think. Did you notice how glum he looked to-day?—he was more like a mourner at a funeral than a merry-maker at a wedding. Well, what amusement has he provided for you in the packet?"

"I did not say it contained amusement," rejoined Helen gently, yet gravely. "Nor are the contents any of Sir Gilbert's providing. He was, and still is, ignorant of what it contains."

"How the deuce can that be? Wasn't it himself that made it up?"

"No, it was his mother. She left it sealed among her papers, with instructions that it should be given to me on my marriage day."

"Oh yes, so she did. I remember now that I heard him say so. And so Lady Barton has bestowed on you a wedding gift?"

"What is it—a bracelet, or her own necklace? I can't have you decked out in ancient fashion, you know."

"You mistake, Charlie," said Helen, and now her voice and face were both very grave.

"The contents of the packet are something very different from this. They consist of two papers—one written by Lady Barton, the other by my mother—communications addressed to me."

"Lectures, I daresay," said Charlie. "Prime and antiquated pieces of advice no doubt, as useless as they were unnecessary. The writers did not foresee that you were to become my wife."

"No, oh no!" returned Helen with rapid emphasis. "Had this seemed possible, they would have taken measures to prevent it."

"Ha, say you so?" he rejoined with a frown. "I had not got into their good grace, had I not—wasn't just to their taste eh? Many thanks for their favourable opinion."

"Again you mistake," said Helen. "Lady Barton and my mother had good reason to prevent a marriage between us, without reference at all to their opinion of you."

"He looked at her inquiringly."

"Oh Charlie, she went on. 'The papers within the packet contain momentous disclosures. That written by my poor mother is extraordinary beyond conception, and vitally affects both you and me.'

"In what way? he impatiently demanded.

"Jabe Cringan was my mother's second husband, and her first husband was my father."

"Whew!" cried Charlie. "Old Grippy kept that dark. Then, at that rate, Cringan isn't your name?"

"No, Charlie."

"What is it then?"

"The same as your own," answered Helen, in a trembling tone of grave significance.

"How, Allan? Was your mother's first husband named Allan?"

"He was, and—indeed, Charlie, I cannot tell it you—but read it—read it."

TO BE CONTINUED.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

A soiree in connection with the congregation of Knox's Church, Acton, was held on Monday evening, the 9th inst. As the weather for several days previous was so blustery, and in consequence of the amount of rain that fell on Friday and Saturday the roads being almost impassable, it was feared the Soiree would be a complete failure. Towards the opening hour teams might be observed pouring in from all parts of the country, loaded with precious live freight, the effect being to crowd the church to its utmost capacity. The Rev. Principal Willis of Knox's College was present, having preached and baptized in the church on the Sabbath previous, also Rev. Messrs. Ball of Guelph, McDonald of Puslinch, Little of Nassagaweya, Ewing of Georgetown, and Cook of Acton, together with the Rev. Mr. Cameron, pastor of the Congregation, who presided. The excellent Choir of Milton were also present, and in their usual way discoursed music at intervals throughout the evening. The edibles having been disposed of so far, the speakers in turn gave excellent and animated addresses, to which marked attention was given, and the best of order prevailed. It was announced during the evening that the proceeds amounted to, after paying all expenses, \$85, which is to be applied to the building of a vestry, and an invitation to the scholars of the Sabbath School to meet the following evening was given, which was held accordingly. After votes of thanks to the speakers, the Choir, and the Ladies, were given the meeting dispersed about eleven o'clock, after having spent an agreeable and we hope a profitable evening.

In the city of Cork they allow no neutrals. It is dangerous to walk about the streets of that city without wearing some article of dress of the national color, green. "Recently," says a writer, "a lady of my acquaintance was going down Duncan street on an errand of mercy, when she was astonished by being set upon by several young boys and lasses (not by any means of the lowest rank, as they were decently dressed), who seized her round the neck, and tore her scarlet handkerchief, demanding to know why she did not wear the patriotic color."

A DEATH-BED DISCLOSURE.—There died in Coventry a few days since an elderly unmarried man named Palmer. Just before his death, being unable to speak, he wrote down the strange information that in an old coat up in the chimney would be found £550 in sovereigns. The relatives to whom this disclosure was made at once went to the chimney indicated, and there found a coat, and in the pocket the cash as described. The dying man then became distressed, and gave the surprised relatives to understand that there was some more money about the house; but he could not tell them where,—he must himself find it. As Palmer was unable to do this, he died, taking the secret of the hiding-place of this additional hoard with him. A suggestive part of the story is, that there have been already a number of applications for the house lately occupied by the deceased. Palmer always appeared a very poor man, earning apparently an honest but scanty living by the sale of sweets for children.

It is hinted that the President will insist upon his right as commander-in-chief of the army of the United States, to issue orders from him direct, instead of sending them through Grant.

**AXES.**  
Axes and axe handles good and cheap at  
**JOHN HORSMAN'S.**  
**PLATT & CO'S**  
WORLD RENOWNED  
**OYSTERS**  
Received daily by Express. Wholesale and Retail.  
**GEORGE WILKINSON.**  
Next door to Telegraph and Express Office.  
Guelph, Jan. 7, 1868.

**No. 2,**  
**Day's Block, . . Guelph.**  
**Fresh Codfish.**  
**Fresh Haddocks.**  
**Sea Herrings.**  
**Finnan Haddies.**  
**Yarmouth Bloaters.**  
JUST ARRIVED.  
**E. CARROLL & CO.,**  
No. 2, Wyndham Street.  
Guelph, 3th February, 1868. dw

**Funerals, Funerals!**  
**NATHAN TOVELL** has to intimate that he is prepared to attend funerals as usual (and always) on hand. He has a new Steam Planting Mill in constant operation. All kinds of lumber, sashes, doors, blinds, mouldings, &c. He advertises a state of public patronage.  
Guelph, 27th Aug. 1867. Nelson Greenest.

**TO CONSUMPTIVES.**  
THE REV. EDWARD A. WILSON will send (free of charge) to all who desire it, the prescription with the directions for its use, in a simple remedy by which he was cured of a lung affection and that dread disease Consumption. His only object is to benefit the afflicted, and he hopes every sufferer will try his prescription, as it will cost them nothing, and may prove a blessing. Please address  
**REV. EDWARD A. WILSON,**  
No. 105 South Second Street, Williamburgh, N. Y.

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Guelph, 27th Aug. 1867. Nelson Greenest.

**Medical Dispensary**  
**JUST RECEIVED**  
A fresh supply of that best  
**COAL OIL**  
Perfectly odorless and  
**FREE FROM SMELL**  
Only 15 cts. per Gallon.

**LAMP GLASSES and WI-KS**  
Always on hand  
**E. HARVEY**  
Chemist and Druggist,  
Opposite the English Church, Wyndham-st.,  
Guelph, Ontario.  
Guelph, 22nd Feb, 1868 dw

**Appleton's Edition**  
OF THE  
**WAVERLEY NOVELS,**  
NOW PUBLISHING  
From new Stereotype Plates, uniform with the new edition of DICKENS, containing all the notes of the author, and printed from the latest edition of the Authorized Text.  
**To be Completed in 25 Volumes.**  
PRICE—TWENTY-FIVE CENTS EACH.  
Printed on the white paper, clear type, and cut out in size. Pronounced "A MIRACLE OF CHEAPNESS."

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9. A Legend of Montrose 22. Woodstock  
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One complete set, 25 vols \$65; Three complete sets 25 vols, \$16; Five sets, \$28; Ten sets, \$50.  
Any person obtaining four subscribers for the Waverley Novels, and remitting us \$24, will be entitled to a set of Dickens 17 volumes, gratis.  
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DENTISTS!  
GUELPH and BRAMPTON,  
Members of the Dental Association of the Province of Ontario.  
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REFERENCES.—Rev. Archdeacon Palmer, Drs. Clarke, Parker and Herod, Guelph; A. F. Scott, Esq., County Judge; George Green, County Attorney; Dr. Pattullo, M. M. C.; Rev. Mr. Arnold, Brampton; Dr. Barnhart, Warden of Peel; Dr. Higginbotham, resident Surgeon Toronto Hospital. The new anesthetic agents used for extracting teeth without pain.  
R. W. GRAHAM, Guelph, 2nd August, 1867. (dw-ly)

**Hamilton Evening "Times."**  
THE "TIMES" is issued every evening in time for the Mail going West on the Great Western Railway, and contains all the Telegraphic Despatches, Arrivals of Steamers, New York Markets, News of the Day, &c. Enjoying a circulation of more than double any other paper west of Toronto, it affords an excellent medium for advertising.  
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**The "Weekly Times"**  
Containing 40 volumes of reading matter, is issued every Thursday morning, and contains all the important news of the day—Editorials, Tales, Miscellaneous Matter, Markets, &c., and is mailed to subscribers at  
**\$1 per annum in advance.**  
The "Weekly Times" is the best and cheapest family paper published in Canada. Address all letters, post paid, to C. E. STEWART & Co., Proprietors of the "Evening Times," Hamilton, C. W., March 10th, 1868.

**NATIONAL Steamship Company.**  
STEAMERS Weekly from Liverpool and New York, calling at Queenstown.  
A Steamship of this line, consisting of the Queen, Erina, Louisiana, Virginia, and Helvetia, Pennsylvania, France, leaves NEW YORK from Pier 47, North River, every Saturday, and Liverpool on Wednesday, and the rates lower than by any other line. 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 rates 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 parties wishing to prepay the passage of their friends from Liverpool or Queenstown (Ireland), for \$35, American money.  
For tickets, special berths, and all information apply to  
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**READY-MADE CLOTHING,**  
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**At a Tremendous Reduction**

In order to make room for the Spring Stock. ALL ORDERED WORK done up as usual in first-class style. A perfect fit and the best of workmanship guaranteed.  
Remember the New Store, Wyndham-st., next door to Horsman's.  
**JAMES CORMACK,**  
Guelph, 14th February, 1868. dw Wyndham-st., Guelph

**NUTS, ORANGES, LEMONS.**  
**The Fruit Depot.**  
**HUGH WALKER,**  
Wholesale and retail Fruit and Oyster-dealer, Wyndham-st., Guelph.  
Guelph, 27th February, 1868. dw

**5,000 COCOA NUTS:**  
**100 Boxes ORANGES.**  
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For sale to the trade at very low prices for cash. OYSTERS on hand all the year round at city prices.  
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Guelph, 27th February, 1868. dw

**Good Gracious Me!**  
Where did you get those delicious OYSTERS?  
**Why, at BERRY'S to be Sure!**  
**WHO'S BERRY? WHY?**  
**The Confectioner on Wyndham-st**  
WHERE ALL THE GOOD THINGS ARE KEPT.  
Guelph, 11th February, 1868. dw

**NEW COAL YARD**  
IN GUELPH.  
**BLACKSMITHS, FOUNDRY AND HOUSE COAL.**  
THE Subscriber's attention having been drawn to the want of a first-class Coal Yard in the flourishing Town of Guelph, he is determined to supply this want so generally felt. Having made satisfactory arrangements with extensive Collieries in Pennsylvania to keep me constantly supplied with all descriptions of pure coal, and as I shall devote my attention exclusively to the business, I am prepared to give perfect satisfaction in quality and price to all my customers. All descriptions of Coal on hand, of excellent quality, and at prices which cannot be undersold.  
**Yard, near the MERCURY OFFICE, Macdonnell-St., Guelph,** and in rear of Mr. Horsman's Hardware Establishment.  
P. S.—Also, Agent for C. Wilson's Seales, Toronto.  
**JOHN GREER,**  
Guelph Coal Yard, 6th March, 1868. dw w4

**MEDICAL HALL, PHOTOGRAPHS!**  
GUELPH.  
**ESSENCE OF RONDELETIA!**  
AN ELEGANT PERFUM  
for the Handkerchief and Toilet.  
Prepared by Breidenbach,  
Parfumer and Distiller of Flowers to Her Majesty.  
**N. HIGGINBOTHAM.**  
Guelph, 24th Dec. 1867 dw

**DR. JAMES' NEW DISCOVERY.**  
**GREEN MOUNTAIN OIL.**  
WARRANTED TO CURE  
**Diphtheria** in every case if taken in time.  
**Croup and Burns** in ten minutes.  
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**Dyspepsia** in five to twenty days.  
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**Sore Throat** in one night.  
**SPRAINS, Wounds and Bruises** in 1 to 3 days.  
**NEURALGIA, Toothache and Headache** in forty-five minutes.  
**EARACHE** and Stiff Neck in one day.  
**SALT RHEUM** in three to six days.  
**ECZEMA** in two or three weeks.  
**FROSTED FEET AND CHILBLAINS.**  
This Oil is mild and pleasant, and is a GREAT FAMILY MEDICINE for children teething, it will relieve Nervous Complaints. Ladies should use it as it always leaves you better than it finds you, and one bottle often effects a cure.  
**DIRECTIONS.**—Bathe the afflicted parts with the Oil twice a day, rub well with the hand for five minutes, at the same time take ten to twenty drops on sugar.  
Druggists, merchants and others supplied at the lowest price. For sale in Guelph by Messrs. N. Higginbotham, A. B. Pettie and E. Harvey.  
Prepared by  
**J. H. LEMON,**  
Woodbine Street in rear of the Old Alma Block, Guelph, to whom all orders must be addressed.  
Guelph, March 6, 1868. led

**AT MARSHALL'S,**  
Day's Block, opposite the Market.  
Guelph, 13th January, 1868. w

**REMOVAL.**  
**Mrs HUNTER**  
HAS REMOVED  
HER Berlin Wool and Fancy Goods Store to the premises lately occupied by  
**MR. JAS. CORMACK**  
Wyndham Street, next door to Harvey's Drug Store, and opposite the English Church.  
Guelph, Feb. 10, 1868. dt

**Boarding and 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, 20th December 1867. w1

**REMOVAL.**  
**LEMONT & PETERSON**  
BARRISTERS and Attorneys at Law, Solicitor in Chancery, and Notaries Public.  
OFFICE: over the Bank of Commerce, opposite the Market, Guelph.  
Guelph, 1st Feb. 1868. dw

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**LEMONT & PETERSON**  
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OFFICE: over the Bank of Commerce, opposite the Market, Guelph.  
Guelph, 1st Feb. 1868. dw

**INDIA & CHINA TEA COY.**  
Home Depot at London and Liverpool,  
Canada Depot, 23 Hospital Street,  
Montreal.

THE India and China Tea Company beg to call the attention of the Canadian community to their direct import of 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 the slopes of the Himalayas, and by a judicious blending of these more choice Teas with the best varieties of China produce, they are enabled to offer to the public Tea of quality and flavor 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 brilliancy 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 waters so commonly used for coloring the leaf.

**PRICES:** 1st. Choice, full-flavoured Tea, for family use, a real gem, and fine article 70 cents per lb. Finest quality procurable one dollar per lb.  
2d. 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. The packages are wrapped with tin foil paper, and the Tea will retain its flavour any length of time. Onwards.—All packages have the Company's trade-mark without which none are genuine.  
**MR. N. HIGGINBOTHAM**  
Agent, Guelph.  
Guelph, August 3, 1867. dw-ly

**New Saddlery Shop**  
Do you want a set of Harness, double or single, light or heavy, call at the new shop, next door to Coffey's Hotel.  
Do you want a good Saddle? We can supply you cheaper than ever, 15 yards from O'Connor'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 25% on the dollar of our former low price, 25 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. Call at the new shop, next door to Mr. Hooner's Livery Office.  
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 stock of goods.  
**SMITH & METCALF,**  
Late occupiers of the premises destroyed by fire, adjoining the Alma Block.  
Guelph, 20th December 1867. dwft

**THE BARCLAY SEWING MACHINE.**  
WITHOUT any exception, the Barclay Sewing Machine, manufactured by the British American Sewing Machine Company,  
**AT PARIS, ONTARIO,**  
is the best in the Dominion of Canada for general purposes. An examination is most desired, which will be to the advantage of all intending to purchase. All machines warranted.  
Also, sent for the DALTON ENGLISH MACHINES, one of the best machines in the market.  
Apply to  
**MOSÉS BECHTEL,**  
General Agent for the Dominion of Wellington, Blair Post Office.  
Agent for Guelph: MRS. HUNTER, Fancy Store, Market Square, Guelph, Jan. 22, 1868. dw

**CHEAP Photographs**  
**W. BURGESS**  
BEIGS 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, 15th December, 1867. dw

**FURS, FURS, FURS.**  
WE have opened our stock of FURS, of our own manufacture, which we will sell at LOW PRICES, viz:  
**Extra Dark Mink,**  
**Royal Ermine,**  
**Siberian Squirrel,**  
**River Mink,**  
**Ladies' Hoods,**  
**GENTS' MUFFLERS and GLOVES, SLEIGH ROBES, &c.**  
**F. GARLAND,**  
Market Square, Guelph.  
The Highest Price paid for Raw Furs  
Guelph, Oct. 31, 1867. s8d w32

**Dominion Store!**  
(Late Post Office Store.)  
JUST RECEIVED a large assortment of Em Brocade for Ladies' Dressmaking. Also for Binding on all sorts of Dress Goods.  
Some of the Finest Patterns ever seen.  
Call and see them. They are for sale singly, or standing done to order on the shortest notice. Also on hand an assortment of  
**New Oranges and Lemons.**  
For sale GATES & CO'S VICTORIA SEWING Machines. Don't forget the name near to the Wellington Hotel.  
**MRS. ROBINSON,**  
Upper Washburn Street, Guelph.  
Guelph, 1st Feb. 1868. dw