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Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

SATURDAY EVENING, DEC. 28, 1867.

OLD FRIENDS.

There are mountains winged with pleasure, When true hearts hold converse sweet...

There are memories of our childhood— Oh, that far, far happier day, Of our rambles in the wildwood...

Of the jessamine trained so neatly, Climbing lattice, casement o'er, And the mosses blowing sweetly...

There are gushing, tender feelings, Mutual confidences sweet, Softly uttered heart revelations...

There is listening to old stories, Seating far into the night, Of the shadows and the glories— In the battles all must fight...

There's the ever sad reverting, To the loved ones death hath claimed, To the marble still answering sweetly...

The Maiden's Choice

ON THE LAIRD OF BIRKENBUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

'This is a serious matter, truly,' observed Mr. Gordon, who listened to the speaker with evident anxiety.

'Impossible, sir,' cried Walter, hastily, 'You would most certainly be taken.'

'There is at least a chance of escape by flight, while by remaining there is none. For Marion's sake we must be gone.'

'She shall never fall in o his hands,' exclaimed Walter, in a tone of fierce determination.

'No; but I hope to obtain the dear girl's consent. We are already betrothed, and as you know, sir, but for the troubles of the times we would have been married ere this.'

'But it has often seemed to me that these troubles should hasten rather than retard our union, and the circumstances which have now arisen render it imperatively necessary that Marion should obtain that protection which marriage alone can give.'

'My dear Marion, this is no new subject for your consideration—no new prospect for your contemplation. Years ago you promised, with my sanction and approbation, to be the wife of Walter Elliot.'

'There is none to whom I would give you so willingly, for I have proved his worth. He speaks the truth when he says that but for the time of persecution that has overtaken our Church, you and he would ere this have been married.'

'Hitherto it has seemed as if this were not a time for marrying and giving in marriage, but the hour has come when it is essential for you to have such a protection as a husband can give.'

'The circumstances are altogether uncommon, but so is the emergency, and that may well excuse all that is unusual. Trust Walter for the rest; he is generous and true. I myself will unite you, and God will listen to a father's prayers for your welfare.'

'I am satisfied that this is for the best,' said Hugh. 'Danger and peril are thickening around us. Our power of protecting each other is almost gone, while that of our enemies to hurt is daily increasing.'

'You hear this, Marion,' said Walter again, as he advanced and took her hand. 'Those whose love and affection you cannot doubt support me in what I have proposed. One word from you will suffice to let me know that you consent. Nay, the pressure of your hand will be enough.'

'Some moments of perfect silence followed, then Marion's hand closed spasmodically on the many fingers of her lover, and her answer was given.'

'Bless you, my darling,' said Walter, kissing the hand by which consent had been expressed, while his handsome face flushed with joy.

'It was a strange scene when, an hour or two later, the marriage ceremony was performed in that secluded chamber, in circumstances so unusual and so solemn. But a few hours before and not one there present dreamed of such a thing. Now all agreed in considering it to be strongly advisable, and so, without preparation—without pomp of any kind, and with nearly as much secrecy as if it had been a crime, the Laird of Birkenburch received his bride from her father's hand, and the sacred words were said which joined them together till death, the great divider, should part them asunder.'

'Hugh M'Kail, with Andrew Weir and Marjory, were the only witnesses, and the two latter were both glad and awe-struck by the proceedings.'

'But perhaps the most solemn moment of the scene was at the close, when, as husband and wife, Walter and Marion knelt together and swore adherence to the "Covenant." No one knew better than Mr. Gordon what the terrible results...

ties that involved, and what trials, and what trials and dangers it would in all likelihood entail, but it was a cause to which he was himself devoted—soul, body and spirit—and it was a cause which, in his opinion, claimed the unreserved allegiance of those who desired the establishment of the good and the true, for the cause of the Government was the cause of civil and religious liberty for the individual and the nation, whose being at the time fiercely assailed, and a determined effort being made by the Government to trample them altogether under foot.

And so between dark and midnight, the young laird of Birkenburch obtained a wife, but dark and threatening circumstances surrounded the inmates of the mansion, and for two of them at least a hiding place required to be provided without delay—even before the morning light—for they had not the slightest doubt that at an early hour of the day Charlie Allan and his troopers would make their appearance at the house.

The two for whom concealment was essential were Mr. Gordon and Hugh M'Kail, whose apprehension—particularly M'Kail's—was eagerly desired by certain men in power whom he had mortally offended by words whose source of power was truth. Mr. Gordon as the former minister of Greytown, was also liable to punishment because he had dared to come within the bounds of his former parish, from which by tyrannous edict, he had been banished.

And Walter Elliot himself was liable to be heavily fined if either of these two men were found in his house. A short time after midnight, when the owner of the house had seen his guests comfortably disposed of for the night, he came through the passages with the lamp in his hand, and entered the kitchen, where Andrew Weir sat by himself by the embers of a fading fire.

'Now to work, Andrew,' he said as he entered. 'I dare say you have a guess what we have got to do.'

'To find a safe hidin' place, of course,' responded Andrew, as he started promptly up.

'Even so. For once we must make acquaintance with the empty rooms and underground chambers of the old house. There must be secret places about it.'

'Deed are they, if we could only fa' in wi' them,' observed Andrew. 'I have been sitting here by myself for the last half-or-tryin' to mind about a hinin' place that I have heard o' langsyne, but I hanna come to anything satisfactory about it.'

'A' that I can get haud o' is a dim impression that it was said to be in a water waul.'

'Indeed, then that must be in the very lowest part of the building. Light your lamp, and bring it along with you for we shall need both.'

Andrew would have hesitated not a little to explore the uninhabited portion of the mansion at that midnight hour alone; for although not particularly superstitious, yet the thought of entering places where human foot had not been for years—places the darkness and solitude of which had not been disturbed for generations—was more than he could encounter by himself. But with his brave strong young master with him, he experienced not the slightest tremor, and together they descended numerous flights of black and dusty stone stairs into the region of dampness, mustiness, and aerial silence.

Their purpose was to penetrate to the lowest recesses in search of the well of which Andrew had spoken, and in their progress they traversed so many passages went through such a number of empty rooms, and made such a variety of windings and turnings that Andrew declared they would not be able to find their way back.

'Trust me for that,' returned Walter, 'I never forget a path I have trod, and know precisely the point where we are at present. We are in the vicinity of the west wing, and I am just looking out for a grating or loophole by which to try to find out whether we have reached the basement of the walls, or are actually below them. Here is a doorway, let us see if we can discover anything inside.'

They entered a low-arched circular cell, the sides of which were grimly ornamented with iron bars fixed in the rocky wall, from which rusty chains depended, giving significant tokens of the purpose to which the place had once been put. At the side opposite the entrance was a grated aperture, through which the night air blew in a fresh stream, to the great relief of the explorers, who had been for an hour at least, breathing a close and disagreeable atmosphere.

The lamps were placed in the passage without, so that their light might not prevent the dim starlight without from being visible, and Walter advancing to the grating, crept down upon his knees and peered through.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Business must be attended to, and in order to do this properly Mr. Horsman will keep open each evening till 7 o'clock, and on Saturday until 9, for the sale of Oil, Lamps, Chimneys, Wicks, &c.

COMMERCIAL

Guelph Markets.

MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH, December 28, 1867.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Flour, Wheat, Oats, Barley, Hay, etc.

Money Market.

JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE, Guelph, December 28, 1867.

Gold, 133 1/2. Greenbacks 107 1/2 to 74; sold at 74 1/2 to 75. Silver bought at 4 1/2 to 4c. dia.; sold at 5c to 5 1/2c. 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.'

Flour—Fancy, \$7.20 to \$7.60; Superior No. 1, \$7.20 to \$7.35; Welland Canal, \$7.25. Bag flour, \$5.50 to \$5.60. Oats 42c to 42c. Barley 85c to 90c. Butter—dairy 12c to 13c; store packed 14c to 15c. Hides—No. 1 \$4.50 to \$5.00. No. 2 \$3.50 to \$4.00. No. 3 \$2.50 to \$3.00.

Flour receipts moderate, market very quiet and unchanged. Grain no transactions. Provisions—Pork quiet at former rates; Hogs heavy arrivals, demand languid and a tendency to lower rates. Butter unchanged. Ashes dull at unchanged rates.

Toronto, December 27, 1867. Flour—Receipts, 600 bbls; No. 1 at 96 1/2c. Wheat—at \$1.00. Peas—72c. Oats—55c to 55c. Barley—82c to \$1.00.

Hamilton, December 27, 1867. Fall wheat, \$1.45 @ \$1.50. Spring do—\$1.80 @ \$1.85 per bushel. Barley—70c @ 72c. Oats—50c @ 52c. Peas—72c @ 75c.

THE GROCERY & WINE TRADE

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT. FRANK SMITH & CO. 77 Front Street, Toronto,

BEG to inform to their Western friends and the public generally, that they have now received a large portion of their Fall supply of

Fresh English Groceries, Wines, Brandies, &c.,

Ex. 'Planet,' 'Chaudiere,' 'City of Hamilton,' 'Glenborne,' from London. 'Avon,' 'Onigda,' 'Hibernia,' 'Parriva,' 'Summer,' and 'Pericles,' from Liverpool. 'Abeona' and 'Gleniffer,' from Glasgow. 'Agnes' from Charente. And are daily expecting the arrival of

Fresh New Crop Fruit and Mediterranean Cargo

Ex. 'Deodars,' 'Canny Scott' and 'Mary Ann,' from Malaga, Marseilles and Denia.

JUST RECEIVING IN STORE,

308 Bnds and Terces of Barbadoes, Porto Rico and Cuba Sugars. 522 Bbls Currants crop 1866, VERY CHEAP. 577 1/2 Half Chests and Cetties Souchong, Congou, Japan, Gunpowder, Young and Old Hyson Teas.

With a full assortment of Tobaccos, Refined Sugars, Wines and Liquors and Dry Groceries. All of which will be submitted to the trade, equal to and below Montreal prices.

Inspection invited. Terms Liberal. Cash and prompt paying customers desired. Toronto, 5th November, 1867. dwtf

THOS. GRIFFITH & CO.,

Wholesale Grocers, 39 Front-st., TORONTO,

ARE now receiving Ex. S. S. Nova Scotian, Moravian, and other vessels,

Boxes New Valencia Raisins 'New Layer' do 'Very Prime West End Layer Raisins' do Bbls English Crushed Sugar 'New Currants' do Bags and Pockets choice Java Coffee

Qr Casks and Cases Dunville Irish Whiskey Cases Kinahan's L. L. do Chests, Hair Chests, and Caddies New Season, Ping Sney, Young Hyson, Gunpowders, Congous, Souchongs, Color'd and Uncolor'd Japans, Imperials, Twankay, Orange, Pekoe, &c., &c.

Bags superior Arracan Rice Cases English Thumb Blue Bbls Brazil Nuts Bags S. S. Almonds 'Walnuts' do 'Filberts,' do Cases Pearl Tapioca, 'Thin's Pickles' do Booth's, Betts' and Barclay's Old Tom 'John Bull Bitters' do Crates Wine, Beer and Whiskey. Bottles Cases Orange, Lemon & Citron Peel Boxes Valencia and Jordan Almonds Cases Table Salt, in glass jars do Liquorice, &c. &c.

AND DAILY EXPECTED

Crosse & Blackwell's Pickles, Sauces, Preserves.

The above, together with a large stock of

GENERAL GROCERIES,

INCLUDING Raw and Refined Sugars, Bright and Dark Tobaccos, (in Caddies, Butts and 1/2 Butts), and

WINES & LIQUORS,

COMPRISING Pale and Dark Brandies, Hollands and Old Tom Gin, Jamaica Rum Pale and Deep Golden Sherries, Champagnes, &c.,

Will be sold at unusually Low Prices to the Trade.

TERMS LIBERAL.

THOMAS GRIFFITH & CO.,

WHOLESALE GROCERS, 39 Front Street, Toronto, Nov. 1, 1867. dw-2m

Funerals, Funerals!

NATHAN TOVELL has to intimate that he is prepared to attend funerals as usual Coffins always on hand. Hearse to hire. His Steam Planing Mill is in constant operation. All kinds of lumber, sashes, doors, blinds, mouldings, &c. He solicits a share of public patronage.

NATHAN TOVELL, Nelson Crescent Guelph, 27th Aug. 1867. dw

Valuable Building Lots for Sale IN EVERTON.

THE subscriber offers for sale, cheap for cash two valuable building lots in the Village of Everton, being No. 132 and No. 133, as laid out on the map made by Wm Haskins Esq. P. L. S. There are two 6 1/2ths of an acre of land in the village, and being close to the Disasters' Meeting House, and in a central part of the Village, for an excellent site for building on. For terms apply at the Mercury Office, or (by letter post-paid) to DUNCAN ROBERTSON Everton P. O. Guelph, Nov. 15th, 1867. wvt

DONMINION SALOON,

(LATE GRAND'S SHADES SALOON.) OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH.

CHOICE LIQUORS, Cigars, Orsters, &c., &c., always on hand. Meals furnished at all hours.

DENIS BUNYAN. Guelph, December 2, 1867. daily

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!

Baron, Sugar-cured Hams, and Potatoes. 5th August, 1867. dw

NOTICE!



Opposite the MARKET. Opposite the MARKET.

1,000 MEN WANTED

At the ELEPHANT Clothing Emporium

TO FILL THOSE

OVERCOATS and PEA JACKETS

which range in price from \$3.50 upwards. During the present month

SMITH & BOTSFORD

will sell their CLOTHING at prices much lower than that of any other house in Guelph. It is now generally admitted that this is the only Store in town where real Bargains can be obtained!

Commercial Bank Bills taken at par.

SMITH & BOTSFORD.

Guelph, 11th December, 1867. dw-1f

DIRECT IMPORTATIONS

OF STAPLE AND FANCY

DRY GOODS!

AT THE BRADFORD HOUSE.

GEORGE JEFFREY

Has much pleasure in announcing the arrival of his

FALL AND WINTER STOCK!

WHICH WILL BE FOUND ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE IN CANADA. HE WOULD PARTICULARLY DIRECT ATTENTION TO A FEW DEPARTMENTS:

SILKS, Black and Coloured. REPS, PRINCESS' CLOTHS, MANTLE CLOTHS, Some things Quite New.

And every other description of Goods will be shown as they appear in the Market.

GEORGE JEFFREY.

Guelph, September, 21st 1867. d

GREAT SALE OF

BOOTS AND SHOES

PREST & HEPBURN

WILL COMMENCE

On Monday next, 23rd Dec.,

To sell off the entire Stock of Imported Goods

At Cost and Under!

and will continue until the whole is CLEARED OUT, as they intend in future to keep nothing but their own manufacture. This will be the best opportunity ever offered in the Town of Guelph to buy cheap Boots and Shoes, as ever

Whole Stock will be sold without Reserve for Cash only.

PREST & HEPBURN.

Guelph, 16th October, 1867.

Come and See the Bargains at the

RUTHERFORD HOUSE!

DRY GOODS, CLOTHING

And a Cheap lot of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Underclothing,

All of which we are determined to sell cheaper than any house in the town, and our

Groceries, Crockery and Liquors are Cheaper than ev

Just Arrived from Newfoundland

100 Barrels Latest Caught Labrador Herrings, 100 Half Barrels Latest Caught Labrador Herrings,

which can be confidently recommended as the best imported this year.

Commercial Bank Bills taken at par.

Guelph, November 14, 1867. dw

Gold & Silver Plating

A. HOWIE & CO.

Royal Hotel Buildings, James-st., HAMILTON.

Watches, Chains, Rings Pencil Cases, and all kinds of Jewelry Plated in Gold.

Ten Sets, Calks/Baskets, Knives, Forks, Spoons, &c., Plated at reasonable rates.

Also, Door Plates & Carriage Trimmings

of every description done to order with neatness and despatch.

Orders from a distance punctually attended to. Hamilton, November 23 1867. dwsm

GEORGE PALMER

BARRISTER and Attorney-at-Law, Solicitor in Chancery, Notary Public and Conveyancer. Office, No. 5, Dear's Block, Guelph

Guelph, November 14, 1867. dw