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Subscribers wishing to take the Evening Mercury by the week or for a longer period, will please leave their names at the office, and it will be regularly delivered at their residences. Subscribers who are not regularly delivered by the Carrier Boys, will please call at the office at once and inform us of the neglect.

Guelph Evening Mercury
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.
SATURDAY EVENING, DEC. 28, 1867.

OLD FRIENDS.

There are moments winged with pleasure,
When true hearts hold converse sweet,
There is gladness without measure—
When old friends long parted meet,
There are words of kindest greeting,
Care dispelling, soothing pain—
There is rapture in the meeting,
When the faithful meet again.

There are memories of our childhood—
Oh, that far, far happier day,
Of our rambles in the wildwood,
And the games we used to play,
Of the hilly banks—the laurel,
Where the blackbird piped its strain,
And the parties, gay and formal,
Met in mead or daisied lane.

Of the jasmine trained so neatly,
Climbing lattice, casement o'er,
And the muscose blowing sweetly
By the open cottage door;
Myriad flowers may be blooming
Even now perfume as then,
But they lack the old perfumeing
Of our native vale and glen.

There are gushing, tender feelings,
Mutual confidences sweet;
Softly uttered heart revelations,
Free from selfishness, deceit,
There's the truth—the pledge—the token,
Plighted—sealed—exchanged again,
While remembrance still unbroken
Each fine link of friendship's chain.

There is listening to old stories,
Sitting far into the night,
Of the shadows and the glories—
In the battles all must fight;
Wishes—hopes—fulfilled or thwarted,
Mingled happiness and woe—
All the trials since we parted,
In the long, long, long ago.

There's the ever sad reverting
To the loved ones death hath claimed,
To the marble still answering sweetly
For what virtues they were famed;
We accept thy holy chastening,
And reflect on our own doom,
For we feel that we are hastening
To the same sad, silent tomb.

The Maiden's Choice

ON THE LAIRD OF BIRKENBROOK.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

"This is a serious matter, truly," observed Mr. Gordon, who listened to the speaker with evident anxiety. "We have everything to fear from this unprincipled and revengeful young man, who has the power to gratify his evil passions to the fullest extent. We must flee at once—this very night."

"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. I shudder to think upon her falling into his hands."

"She shall never fall in his hands," exclaimed Walter, in a tone of fierce determination. "His license may be great, but he dare not do open violence or injury to a lady resident in this mansion. As her host, I have the right and power to see that she is protected; but I venture to hope that a dearer and higher right still will be given me. Let me call her by the sacred name of wife, and this will of necessity cause Allan to cease his audacious attempts to secure her."

"Have you talked to Marion of this?" asked Mr. Gordon.

"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. Marion, my darling, you will not refuse me this. You have come to Birkenbrock to-night as a guest, but Providence intimates that you have come to it as a home. Let us obey the message so plainly sent, and give effect to the love we have avowed, and the purpose we have cherished."

Marion trembled violently, and in great distress hid her face in her father's bosom. Mr. Gordon soothingly caressed her, and, with his calm, gentle, loving voice, thus spoke, as he fondly stroked her glittering tresses—

"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 can not 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 manly 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 Birkenbrock 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 terrible possi-

ties that involved, and what trials and what 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 Covenant was the cause of civil and religious liberty for the individual and the nation, these 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 Birkenbrock 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 hiding 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 find 'em," observed Andrew. "I have been sitting here by myself for the last half-or-tryin' to mind about a hint I place that I have heard o' langyars, 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 eerie 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 grating 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.

Flour, per 100 lbs.	.....\$3 75	4 00
Wheat, per bushel.	.....1 50	1 50
Spring Wheat.	.....1 48	1 50
Oats do	.....0 45	0 46
Peas do	.....0 60	0 65
Barley do	.....0 95	1 00
Hay, per ton	.....12 00	14 00
Straw	.....4 00	5 00
Shingles, per square	.....1 00	1 20
Wood, per cord	.....3 00	3 50
Wool	.....0 27	0 28
Eggs, per dozen	.....19 14	19 20
Butter (Irish), per lb.	.....0 14	0 16
Geese, each	.....0 25	0 35
Turkeys do	.....0 50	0 60
Chickens per pair	.....0 20	0 25
Ducks do	.....0 20	0 30
Potatoes	.....0 50	0 55
Apples per bushel	.....2 00	2 10
Lamb per lb.	.....0 04	0 07
Beef, per lb.	.....4 00	5 00
Pork per lb.	.....0 05	0 06
Pork per 100 lbs.	.....4 50	6 00
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, December 28, 1867.

Gold, 133½.
Greenbacks 10¢ at 7½ to 7¼; sold at 7½ to 7¼.
Silver bought at 4½ to 4¢; sold at 4½ to 4¢.
Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 50¢ to 55¢.
Commercial Bank Bills bought at 90¢ to 95¢.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

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

Flour—Fancy, \$7 50 to \$7 60; Superior No. 1, \$7 20 to \$7 35; Welland Canal, \$7 25. Bag flour, \$3 50 to \$3 60. Oats 42¢ to 43¢. Barley 50¢ to 55¢. Butter, dairy 12¢ to 13¢; store packed 14¢ to 15¢. Lard—Good \$5 45 to \$5 50. Poor \$5 00 to \$5 10.
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, 9000 bushels; No. 1 at 86 75. Wheat—at \$1 50. Peas—72¢. Oats—55¢ to 56¢. Barley—52¢ to 51 05.

HAMILTON, December 27, 1867.

Wheat—\$1 45 to \$1 50. Spring do—\$1 30 to \$1 35. Peas—72¢. Barley—50¢ to 51¢. Oats—55¢ to 56¢. Lard—14¢ to 15¢. Butter—12¢ to 13¢.

THE GROCERY & WINE TRADE OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT.

FRANK SMITH & CO. 77 Front Street, Toronto,

BEG to intimate 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," "Glenborie," from London.
"Avon," "Onigda," "Hibernia," "Peruvia," "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: "Deodara," "Canny Scott" and "Mary Ann," from Malaga, Marseilles and Denia.

JUST RECEIVING IN STORE,

308 Bids and Tierces of Barbadoes, Porto Rico and Cuba Sugars.
522 Bbls Currants crop 1866, VERY CHEAP.
577 Half Chests and Caddies Souchow, 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. dwf

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

Bbls English Crushed Sugar

"New Currants

Bags and Pockets choice Java Coffee

Or Casks and Cases Dunville Irish Whiskey

Cases Kinahan's L. L. do

Chests, Half Chests, Pine Suey, 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

"Filberts,

Cases Pearl Tapioca,

"Thin's Pickles

"Booth's, Betts' and Barclay's Old Tom

"John Bull Bitters

Crates Wine, Beer and Whiskey.

Bottles

Cases Orange, Lemon & Citron Peel

Boxes Valencia and Jordan Almonds

Cases Table Salt, in glass jars do Liquors, &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 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. w4

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 6ths of an acre of land in the two lots, and being close to the Disciples' 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 (if by letter post-paid) to DUNCAN ROBERTSON Everton P O Guelph, Nov. 15th, 1867. w4

DONATION 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 BURNAN.

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!

Bacon, Sugar-cured Hams, and Potatoes, on hand August 1867. dw-4

CHEAP Photographs

W. BURGESS

BEGS leave to inform his friends and the public of Guelph and surrounding country that having received a large lot of PLATES 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, 18th December, 1867. dw

THE BARCLAY SEWING MACHINE.

WITHOUT any exceptions, the Barclay Sewing Machine, Manufactured by the British American Sewing Machine Company,

AT PARIS, ONTARIO,

are the best in the Dominion of Canada for general purposes. An examination is merely requested, which will be to the advantage of those intending to purchase. All machines warranted.

Also Agent for the DALTON & TUTTING MACHINES, one of the best machines in the market.

Apply to MOSES DECHTER, General Agent for the County of Win. O. N. Blair P. O., Dec. 4th, 1867

Apothecaries' Hall,

MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH.

JUST RECEIVED

A large supply of

SYDNEY BROWN'S

PERFUME

WATCHES!

Superior to either the "Russell" or "American" Watch, containing as it does a new and

DELIGHTFUL PERFUME

for the Handkerchief, unrivalled for the sweetness of its odour and lasting properties.

DEVON BULL FOR SALE

FOR sale by the subscriber, the Devon Bull "Prince William," 4 years old. He has won eight premiums at the Provincial and County Shows, and also at the last New York S. & C. Fair. He is the best bull of the Devon breed in Canada. Apply to

GEO. RUDD, Puslinch Plains, Guelph P O Guelph, 9th December, 1867. w4

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, Calf/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. dw4m

GEORGE PALMER

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

NOTICE!



1,000 MEN WANTED

At the ELEPHANT Clothing Emporium

TO FILL THOSE