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Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET. WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 29, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

Or, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH A Tale of the Covenanters.

What a blessed thing it was for the agonised youth to have by his side in this hour of mental conflict two such kind and loving friends as Helen and the Baronet. Their different styles of behaviour made up the full complement of perfect treatment. Helen was all meekness and forgiveness, and had no words to utter but those of perfect exhortation and justification; but Richard's mood required something more tonic than this. He required relief, which could only be produced by something like reproach, and this was administered by the Baronet in his own brusque, rallying way. "Rogue," "ragabond," "rascal," and such vigorous epithets, were by him freely flung against Richard; but this was Sir Gilbert's way of speaking pleasantly and forgivingly, and while his tongue uttered them, his large heart was brimming over with glad and glowing affection.

We cannot describe in detail the process of reconciliation, or of the restoration of harmony and good understanding. It was by slow degrees that Richard came to be informed of the whole story, and to learn the thousand interesting particulars of all that had happened since the day he left Brankswood. Bit by bit—through many interruptions, repetitions, and explanations, the whole was rehearsed from beginning to end, as they sat together in the cave by the blazing wood fire, and by and by the influence of the loving words and endearing behaviour of his companions, together with the gladness of soul which had come from the banishment of his crushing belief in Helen's perfidy, conspired to assuage the tumult of reproachful grief in the youth's bosom, and brought him into a state of calm composure and quiet joy.

When matters had got thus far, the passage to deep, full happiness was not far. Now that all was known and understood, there was room for nothing on either side but the highest admiration and deepest satisfaction, for both had acted from the highest motives and strongest affection. Even Richard's bitterness, hate, and passionate scorn had value and worth, for they testified to the measureless character of his love; and however much he might grieve over these, now that he found how wholly they were without cause, yet Helen said, and said truly, that as it was impossible for him to believe anything but what he did believe, she would have admired him less, and trusted him less, had he manifested milder emotion, either in word or action. Sir Gilbert took the same view, and expressed his approbation in his own rough, bluff, honest way, so that Richard's pained heart grew gradually lighter, so that all three gave themselves up to the exquisite joy of their precious and extraordinary re-union.

They had ample time for the gushing flow of their mutual, sacred affection, for ere the day was done, and the wintry twilight descended on the snow-clad hills by which they were environed, the storm was renewed in all its severity, and the mountain paths were made more and more impassable, so that they had the prospect of being shut up there in their isolated habitation for many days to come.

Personally they did not regret the imprisonment, for they were just in circumstances which made isolation from the world and exclusive communion with themselves most desirable; and they could not forget the position of Walter Elliot, immured for their sakes in the cold dungeons of the Bass, and impatiently longed to reach Glenorchy, and surround Sir Thomas Allan with their pleadings in his behalf. Morning after morning they looked anxiously forth from the mouth of the cave for signs of a thaw, when the chains of their imprisonment would be broken, and when no such signs were presented they drew back into the interior to enjoy another day of loving communion. Their position, though rude enough, was not uncomfortable, nor as yet dangerous, for Richard had in anticipation of winter severely laid in a large stock of provisions for himself and his animals, and these would supply them for all the period the storm was likely to last.

The story of Richard's own experience, between his departure from Brankswood and his discovery in the cave, we have scarcely alluded to, but his two companions listened to it with deep interest and emotion. Of course he had not murdered Jabez Cringan, and was profoundly ignorant of the tragic occurrence till they told him. After quitting Brankswood he had wandered disconsolately among the wilds of Ayrshire, and there a rumour reached him that Helen was to be married to Charlie Allan. Stunned, amazed, incredulous, he resolved to return secretly to the vicinity of Greystone and discover if the frightful report was true; and learning that it was he decided to be an eye-witness of the consummation of her perjury. It was dark when he quitted the church, and the hour was late when, on his way back to the solitudes, he encountered Jamie Thomson on the uplands. Not wishing it to be known that he had been in the neighbourhood, he had requested Jamie not to mention he had met him, and thus a request so innocent increased suspicion against him when the discovery of the murder was made.

Crushed, stricken hearted, and utterly hopeless, the youth resolved to go to another part of the country altogether, far from the scene of his love and bitter disappointment, where he would see and hear no more of her who had blighted his life, and in his wanderings he came among the Ochil Hills, and lighted upon a deep extensive recess, under an overhanging rock, at the end of a sheltered valley known as "The Fairy Haugh." Here he thought he might construct a habitation and lead the life of a hermit. Forthwith he procured a dress a beard which transformed him into the appearance of an aged man, and, returning, he set himself to work, and with the fragments of rock and stone lying about, built up the front of the recess, and made it such as we have described.

Several Irish Liberal journals, among the rest the Cork Reporter, express "delight" at the calm and creditable temper with which a large portion of the Protestant community have taken their proposal for disestablishing and disendowing their church. They hope, therefore, that the settlement of the question will be arrived at without exciting any bitter feeling between Catholic and Protestant.

The volunteer review held at Portsmouth on Easter Monday, was the grandest display of the kind which has yet occurred. There were 15 Brigades of Volunteer Infantry amounting to upwards of 30,000 men, and a Regular Force of Cavalry, Infantry and Artillery numbering about 10,000 men; so that in all an army of about 40,000 was brought into the field. Twenty or thirty gunboats participated in the sham fight. STRANGE MODE OF ROBBERY.—The Russian Gazette mentions a singular mode of robbery on the railway between Riazan and Koslowk. The depredators prepare a stout pole with a line and grapple and await the passage of a train of open wagons laden with sacks of wheat. They prefer such places as have mounting gradients, as the speed is less. When the carriages are passing, the depredator throws out his line, and the hook catches a sack, and by the jerk brings it to the ground, whence it is easily picked up and carried off. Lately the tackle gave way and was borne on by the train to the next station, when the device was discovered.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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THE SPRING TRADE. AMERICAN Shears, Trimmers, and Points of all sizes, Squares, Carved Rules, Straight-edges, Improved Iron, English and American Crayons, Bartlett's Needles, Tapes, &c. All the best quality, and at lowest prices.

TO TAILORS. STEWART'S. SPRING DRESSES, NEWEST STYLES. STEWART'S. SPRING DRESSES, BEST MATERIALS. STEWART'S. SPRING DRESSES, MOST MODERATE PRICES.

TO MACHINISTS. STEWART'S. STEEL Squares, Steel Rules, Centre Gauges, Vernier Callipers, Steel Caliper Rules, Caliper Squares, Ames' Universal Squares, Self-regulating Callipers and Dividers, Stub Files and Tools, Patent Oilers, Sheet Steel, &c. For sale by RYAN & OLIVER, 114 Yonge Street, Toronto, 1st April, 1868.

Cabinetmakers & Upholsterers. HAIR Seating, Curled Hair, Tow, Sofa Springs, Twine, Chair Web, Buttons, Screws, Hinges, Locks, Tacks, Flint Paper, Glue, Piano Stool screws, Coffin Trimmings, Upholsterers' Needles and Regulators, Adair's Carvers' Tools, Extension Lip Auger Bits, Mole-hole Hardware, &c. For sale at lowest prices.

CASTLE GARDEN SALOON. MARKET SQUARE. GUELPH, ONT. THE Subscriber begs to inform the public that he has leased the above premises for a term of years, and has refitted it in a very superior and substantial manner, and hopes to share a portion of the patronage of the public.

THE RAR will be supplied with the best Wines, Liquors & Cigars. And the table with all the delicacies of the season. In fact no expense will be spared to make it a first-class establishment.

LUNCHEON! Every day from 1 to 3 o'clock. OYSTERS AND GAME, Etc. Dinner and Supper parties provided short notice, at reasonable charges.

JOHN MILLER, Proprietor. Late of the Commercial Hotel, Whittby. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN. Guelph, Jan. 29, 1868.

Toronto Advertisement. W. & D. DINEEN. BEG to inform the people of GUELPH and the surrounding country that they have the Largest, Cheapest and Best Stock of HATS, CAPS AND FURS.

Ever brought into Ontario, at No. 80 Yonge Street, three doors north of King-st. Wholesale and Retail. TORONTO. Toronto, 26th March, 1868.

NOT RUN AWAY YET. THE Subscriber begs to inform his old friends and the Public, that though several noted characters have lately been constrained to leave Guelph for the sake of their health, he is still hale and hearty, and hangs out his shingle at the old spot, CORK STREET, OPPOSITE DEADY'S HOTEL,

Where he is prepared as formerly to make up CLOTHING of every description at short notice and in a superior style. To Farmers! Having had 30 years experience, and devoting all his time to the business, he can make up Home-made CLOTH!

And trim it CHEAPER than can be done at any other Establishment in Town. All Work carefully finished, and at Moderate Rates. Guelph, Feb. 21, 1868. WM. MITCHELL, w3n-d5w

HORSE BILLS. PROPRIETORS and Travellers of Stallions will please note the fact that at THE MERCURY OFFICE

Macdonnell Street, opposite the Great Western Hotel Stables, second door east of the Golden Lion, Guelph, They can get better, cheaper and handsomer Horse Bills than at any other office in the County, and printed while they wait.

Orders by post will be promptly attended to, and forwarded by the earliest conveyances. Give us a call. McLACAN & INNES. EVENING MERCURY Buildings, Macdonnell-st.

Division Court Sittings. COUNTY OF WELLINGTON. THE Division Courts for the County of Wellington, will be held as follows:—

Table with columns for location, date, and time. Locations include Orangeville, Erin, Guelph, Elora, Arthur, Mount Forest, Fergus, Rockwood, Puslinch, Drayton, Harrisburg, Glenallan.

By order, ALFREDA BAKER, Clerk No. Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies. CHURCH-ST. GUELPH

MESS WIGHTMAN begs to announce that her school will re-open (V) on the 29th of April. Vacancies for two or three boarders. Guelph, 6th April 1868.

FOR SALE. SODA ASH—'Gamble's'. CAUSTIC SODA—'Gamble's', 'Widnes', 'Alkali Comp'y', 'Garret's'. SAL. SODA. CHLORIDE OF LIME. PALM OIL. W. T. BENSON, 37 St Peter Street, Montreal, dw-6m

WM. STEWART. Guelph, April, 1st, 1868. dw

ESTABLISHMENT. GUELPH, ONT. 1868.



JOHN HOGG AT IT AGAIN.

From unforeseen circumstances, I am obliged to once more plunge into the torments of active business life. It affords me no small degree of pleasure and satisfaction to know that I am still to continue to serve and be a means of profit to the great mass of the inhabitants of the County of Wellington and its vicinity. I shall in the time to come, as in the past, make it a study and one of the leading features in my business affairs at all times to be in a position to secure Goods in the very best markets, and to the best possible advantage. My purchases will all be made for Ready Money—and money will command Bargains such as credit cannot. This advantage will be given to my customers. It is needless to remind my numerous friends and supporters that the immense variety of every description of Goods presented to select from is a very great advantage, together with the undeniable fact that my Goods are all imported from the manufacturers direct, ensures to my patrons a saving of a fair profit over that of any other establishment in the trade. I possess great advantages this season for offering extra inducements to my customers.

COTTON GOODS have all advanced very rapidly within the last month. During the period of panic prices I bought heavily, indeed sufficient to do my business requirements during the summer. Since an advance of fully forty per cent. has taken place. My stock now in every branch is full, and an early call from my old friends will be well repaid both as regards variety to select from and the great saving to be effected in price. Thanking you for past favors, I remain yours, JOHN HOGG. Guelph, 3rd April, 1868. dw

GREAT ATTRACTION. THE GREATEST ATTRACTION OF THE SEASON IS THE DISPLAY OF NEW HATS & CAPS

AT THE GUELPH CLOTH HALL. A. THOMSON & CO. Guelph, 4th April, 1868. dwy.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT! GRAND OPENING OF SHOW ROOM

AT THE BRADFORD HOUSE. PHILIP BISH, WILL SHOW ON

FRIDAY, the 24th of APRIL, 1868, Some of the Greatest Novelties in

MANTLES & MILLINERY. Ever exhibited in Guelph, which for extent and quality is not surpassed in the Province. Ladies should Call at once and Examine the Pattern Bonnets and Mantles.

The above Department is superintended by a first-class artist. Ladies can rely on having every attention by calling at the BRADFORD HOUSE, Guelph. PHILIP BISH. Bradford House, Wyndham Street, Guelph, April 23, 1868. daw tf

LOOKING UP WITHIN the last few days trade has been looking up considerably, and

A. O. BUCHAM. Is satisfied that his Spring Stock is such as will meet in every respect the wants of the community. ATTRACTIVE DEPARTMENTS. Dress Goods, Straw Goods and Millinery, Jackets and Jacket Materials, Buttons and Trimmings in all the Newest and Leading Styles. Ladies are invited to call and inspect our Stock. Guelph, April 21, 1868. A. O. BUCHAM.

TAILOR, ST. GEORGE'S SQUARE, GUELPH, In rear of the English Church.

BEGS to inform the inhabitants of Guelph and vicinity that he has rented the premises lately occupied by Mr. Jeanpierre, Watchmaker, where Parties Furnishing their Own Goods

Will always find him on hand ready to attend to their orders. All work carefully executed and on reasonable terms. Garments Altered, Repaired and Cut with Neatness and Despatch. Guelph, April 8, 1868. dtf w1m

Medical Dispensary. HARVEY'S PATENT

BENZOLINE. For instantly removing Grease, Oil, Wax, Paint, Tar and other Spots from Silk, Velvet, Cloth and Kid Gloves, Carpets,

And all kinds of fabrics, without injuring the most delicate colors. Price 25c per box. Sole Proprietor, E. HARVEY, Chemist and Druggist, Wyndham-St., Guelph; April 16. daw tf

1868. NEW GOODS. 1868. Mrs HUNTER

HAS pleasure in calling the attention of the ladies of Guelph and vicinity to her extensive and well selected stock of BERLIN AND FANCY WOOLS

Slippers and Slipper Patterns, Crochet, Knitting and Mending Cottons, Corsets, Braids, Frillings, Edgings, Sewing, Purse, and Embroidering Silk, Floss, Flossie, Belt and Bonnet Ribbons, Dress Buttons, Toilet Sets, and

GENERAL FANCY GOODS. Juvenile Clothing, Infants' Robes, &c. STRAW MILLINERY!

Bonnets and Hats cleaned, dyed and re-made in the newest styles. Hair Hats and Bonnets renewed. STAMPING on the newest designs. Remember the Stand—Wyndham Street, next door to Harvey's Drug Store, and opposite the English Church. Guelph, 1st April, 1868. dw tf

FRUITS. FRESH ARRIVALS AT No. 2, Day's Block, . . . Guelph.

Canned Peaches, Pears, Plums, Cherries, Apples, &c. BOTTLED JAMS. Strawberry, Gooseberry, Damson, Currants, &c.

A choice lot of Stilton and Pine Apple Cheese. E. CARROLL & CO., No. 2, Wyndham Street. Guelph, April 29, 1868. daw

OPPOSITION LINE. TO CALIFORNIA via Panama, carrying United States mails, and also via Nicaragua.

North American Steamship Comp'y. will dispatch one of their Fast and Elegant Steamships from NEW YORK, Every Ten Days. Rates for First, Second and Third Cabin VERY LOW. For Special Berths, Tickets, &c. apply J. W. MURTON, General Passage Agent.

WALL PAPER! WALL PAPER. FOR Extra BARGAINS. In WALL PAPER try SHEWAN'S BOOKSTORE!

Next door to H. Walker's Grocery. Guelph, 27th March, 1868. dw

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

CHOICE LIQUORS, Cigars, Oysters, &c., &c. Always on hand. Meals furnished at all Hours. DENIS BUNYAN, Guelph, December 2, 1867. daw