

THE SPRING TRADE.
Advertisers will reach a large class of readers by inserting their business announcements in this paper. Our daily and weekly editions are available to our correspondents.

Guelph Evening Mercury
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 2, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

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

On the forenoon of one of these newly-come spring days a solitary form was seen perambulating the upper portion of the island. It was Walter Elliot. He had just been released from his cell to enjoy the two hours of open-air exercise daily allowed him, and was gratefully inhaling the fresh and fragrant breeze which came from the land, bringing with it the smell of grass and heather.

No one could be more thankful than he for the passing away of winter, for terribly had its severities been felt by him in the dark dripping dungeon in which he was confined. It was constructed in the basement of the bastion on the southern side of the rock, and was reached by a steep flight of stone stairs, at the top and bottom of which a strong door, bolted and barred, kept him confined to its narrow precincts.

The dungeon was a small, dismal place, nearly devoid of furniture of any kind, and the only means provided for light and ventilation was an open grating, about five feet from the floor, through which the cold wind forced its way, chilling him to the bone as he sat or lay upon his comfortable couch.

Neither fire nor artificial light were allowed him, and when the short winter day closed he crept shivering under his coarse coverlet to listen through many wakeful hours to the melancholy moaning of the wind and the ceaseless roar of the waves as they impotently dashed upon the rocks below. At times when the storm grew into a tempest the gusts smote the walls of the bastion with tremendous force, and the spray from the foaming billows came showering in at the grating, drenching the couch on which he lay.

The youth had strong limbs and a courageous heart, but the all-night drenching and the severity of his position, increased as these were by the sadness of his thoughts and the grief of his heart.

Most grateful, then, to him was the sudden arrival of spring, and on the day we speak of, as he slowly roamed over the higher portions of the rock, his senses were gladdened by the softening influences which had come upon the scene.

How utterly different from the same scene but one short week ago! Then a penetrating north wind so spell and icy in its breath came in from the sea, keeping hard and firm the patches of snow which lay in the hollows of the rock, and the wide scene which could be beheld presented an unvarying exhibition of wintry dreariness and desolation. The Fife coast to the north, with the bold hills which flanked it, and the Lothian coast to the south, with the bold cone of North Berwick Law and the Lammermuir and Pentland ranges, were all lying under a universal shroud of snow. Winter seemed to sit strong and secure on his throne of frost, and threatened to wield his icy sceptre for many weeks to come.

But, lo! the winter was now past, the balmy breeze of spring blowing, the ocean smiled pleasantly in the shimmering sunlight, the landscapes were colouring with verdure, and, most cheering sign of all, the sea birds had come in hundreds to their summer quarters, and were wheeling overhead with rejoicing screams, as if welcoming the coming of their annual joys.

Walter Elliot was very sensible of the blissful atmospheric changes, and as he wandered to and fro in the warm sunlight, his eye rested with pleasure on the magnificent prospect which the island commanded—the limitless ocean stretching north and east, the noble Forth gleaming towards the west, and the blue mountains rising in the far distance into the blue sky.

The change made his physical senses glad, but his heart was sad and his spirit heavy. He was a prisoner on that isolated rock, and the fair Scottish land which looked so beautiful to his eye was groaning under the yoke of a dire oppression.

His own fate was cheerless and depressing enough. The imprisonment to which he was doomed had no perceptible termination. He was separated, perhaps for ever, from Marion and his boy. This was hard to bear, for they had been very happy in Holland—so happy in each other's loving society that much of the unpleasantness of exile had been unfelt. At the call of duty he had risked the love of this happiness, and the risk had been realized. He had fallen again into the power of his enemies, and his meted out portion was perpetual imprisonment in that lonely and comfortless place.

His saddest thought was about Marion, and what she must be suffering on his account. Would she know what had happened to him? Of this he had little doubt, for Gordon held constant correspondence with the friends in Scotland, and his incarceration in the Bass by order of the Council being well known, the news would be despatched to Amsterdam immediately, and his poor wife would be filled with the deepest sorrow.

The time was—and that not long gone by—when Walter's spirit would have chafed fiercely under the injustice and wrong to which he was subjected, but his spirit had been greatly subdued. Through discipline, through experience, through the development of his nature, and through a deeper realization of Christian truth, he had entered into a patience of soul which kept him from fretting, as he used to do, at the doings of the oppressor. His faith was stronger, and his vision clearer. He saw a meaning now in the fiery trial to which the faithful in Scotland were being subjected, and not the shadow of a doubt lingered on his mind that in due time, when the purifying process was complete, the power of the oppressor would be broken, and his yoke removed. It might be a long time yet, and he and many others might be sacrificed, but what of that—if the result was to be the establishment of high and holy truth in the land. Thus his thoughts having reached this altitude, he was bearing his imprisonment in the Bass with comparative equanimity.

Roaming to and fro on the limited surface of the rock, his feet had strayed almost unconsciously to an eminence immediately behind the massive buildings which had been reared across the southern face of the cliff, at which point alone access could be had to the island. There was no beach, for deep water surrounded the rock on all sides, and it was only in a calm that a boat could come close, when the occupants were drawn up by a crane, and so landed in front of the Governor's house, the barracks, and the cells.

Walter stood on his elevation gazing abstractedly at the opposite coast, and at two little boats which had put off from the small bay, whence the chief traffic with the island was had. He noticed—without being interested in the matter—that both boats contained several individuals, and as they drew nearer he observed that the largest held a company of soldiers, with two prisoners in charge.

More companions in tribulation, sighed Walter, as his gaze fell on the prisoners, who by their dress, he saw were ministers.

TO BE CONTINUED.

THE RED RIVER.—The *North-West* resents an assertion in the *St. Paul Free Press* to the effect that the inhabitants of the Red River Settlement are favorable to annexation, and that a large proportion of them are emigrants from the United States. He estimates the civilized population of the North-West Territory at fourteen thousand souls, of whom not more than two hundred and fifty, or one in fifty-six, are Americans; and adds that the natural desire of the people is emancipation from the Hudson Bay Company, and the formation of a State-Government under Britain, to be incorporated

OPENING OF THE SPRING TRADE

STEWART

SPRING DRESSES, NEWEST STYLES.

SPRING DRESSES, BEST MATERIALS.

SPRING DRESSES, MOST MODERATE PRICES.

STEWART

HAS JUST RECEIVED the largest and most choice stock of New Spring Goods he has ever shown, and respectfully requests attention to the great difference in price from last year, being at least **One-third Lower**.

STEWART

HAS opened a case of White Drab and Grey Stays, that fit the body and not the body the stays. Highly recommended by the Faculty.

STEWART'S

CARPET STOCK is the largest west of Toronto, and being all this season's importations the designs and colors are new.

STEWART'S

STOCK OF TAPESTRY is large and choice. Styles are new, and will be offered very low, commencing at 75 cents.

STEWART'S

NEW SILKS. BLACK AND COLORED.

DRESS GOODS. CHENES, CAMLETS, REPS, POPLINS, SERGES, MOHAIRS.

MANTLES. SILK, CLOTH AND VELVET.

JACKETS. SILK, CLOTH AND VELVET.

LACES. COLLARETS, TIES, FALLS, MUSLIN AND LINDEN SETS.

PARASOLS. RIBBONS, FLOWERS, &c.

HOSIERY. SILK, SPUN AND COTTON.

GLOVES. KIDS, SILK AND LISLE.

SMALL WARES. BELTS, BUGLE TRIMMINGS, BUTTONS IN VARIETY.

PRINTS. BRILLIANTES, PIQUES, SHIRTINGS AND SKIRTINGS

STEWART

NEW DAMASKS, NEW REPS, NEW CHINTZES, NEW LENO CURTAINS, NEW MUSLIN CURTAINS, NEW LACE CURTAINS.

WM. STEWART.

Shoe Tools & Findings

A COMPLETE assortment of the latest patterns of Shoe Tools, Shoe and Machine Thread, Machine Silk, Shoe Pegs, Shoe Nails, Shoe Tacks, Heel and Toe Plates, &c., wholesale and retail.

RYAN & OLIVER, 114 Yonge Street, Toronto.

TO TAILORS. AMERICAN Shears, Trimmers, and Points of all sizes, Squares, Carved Rules, Straightedges, Improved Irons, English and American Crayons, Bartlett's Needles, Tapes, &c. All the best quality, and at lowest prices.

RYAN & OLIVER, Importers of Hardware—114 Yonge-st. Toronto, 1st April, 1868.

TO MACHINISTS. STEEL Squares, Steel Rules, Centre Gauges, Vernier Calipers, Steel Caliper Rules, Caliper Squares, Ames' Universal Squares, Self-regulating Calipers and Dividers, Stubs Piles and Tools, Patent Oilers, Sheet Steel, &c. For sale by General Hardware Merchants—114 Yonge-st. Toronto, 1st April, 1868.

Cabinetmakers & Upholsterers. HAIR Seating, Curled Hair, Tow, Sofa Springs, Trimmings, Chair Webs, Bartlett's, &c. Hinges, Locks, Tacks, Flint Paper, Gilt, Piano Stool screws, Coffin Trimmings, Upholsterers' Needles and Regulators, Adair's Carvers' Tools, Extension Lip Anger Bits, Melodion Hardware, &c. For sale at lowest prices.

RYAN & OLIVER, General Hardware Merchants—114 Yonge Street, Toronto, 1st April, 1868.

CASTLE GARDEN SALOON MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH, ONT.

THE BAR 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, Whittier, Guelph, Jan. 29, 1868.

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 20, 1868.

Toronto Advertisement W. & D. DINEEN

BEG to inform the people of GUELPH and 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.

FOR SALE. SODA ASH—'Gambell's', CAUSTIC SODA—'Gambell's', 'Wilkes', 'Aikali Comp'y', 'Garrett's', SAL. SODA, CHLORIDE OF LIME, PALM OIL.

W. T. BENSON, 37 St. Peter Street, Montreal, Montreal, 1st April, 1868.

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

CHOICE LIQUORS, Claret, Oysters, &c., &c., always on hand. Meals furnished at all hours. DENIS BUNYAN, Guelph, December 2, 1867.

Dissolution of Co-Partnership. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between the undersigned, as general merchants, was dissolved by mutual consent on the 23rd day of March, 1868. All debts owing to the said Partnership are to be paid to Alex. McIntyre, at Clifton; and all claims against the said Partnership are to be presented to George McDonald, of Clifton; by whom the same will be settled.

Witness: GEORGE McDONALD, D. McEACHREN, ALEX. MACINTYRE. Clifton, April 3, 1868.

New Advertisements. ALE AND CIDER!

JUST RECEIVED

AT H. WALKER'S,

100 Doz. Magnificent Sparkling CANADIAN ALE!

in Prime Order, at \$1.50 per dozen. Also, in Pints and Quarts at \$2.00 and \$3.00 per dozen.

HUGH WALKER, Wholesale and Retail Fruit Dealer Wyndham-St., Guelph, April 23, 1868.

Penner's Champagne Cider,

The Subscriber begs to inform the public that he has leased the above premises for a term of years, and has fitted it up in a very substantial manner, and hopes to share a portion of the patronage of the public.

THE BAR 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.

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Savings Bank. THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

OPEN a Savings Bank Department at their Branch in Guelph this day.

The rate of interest allowed on all deposits will be four per cent. per annum, to commence from day of deposit, and five per cent. on all sums remaining in the Bank six months from 31st of June or 31st of December.

The terms in other respects have been made as favorable as possible to depositors. Further information will be given upon application at the office of the Bank in Guelph. For all deposits made in this Savings Bank, the Canadian Bank of Commerce is fully responsible.

R. J. DALLAS, Cashier. Guelph, 1st April, 1868.

R. J. JEANNERET, From England, (Established in London, Ont., 1842, and in Guelph 1863.)

WORKING WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER, DAYS' BLOCK, Opposite the Market, Guelph.

FOR sale cheap, best quality of English and other Fine Gold Watch Rings, also, a fine assortment of Ladies' English Dress Rings. Guelph, 8th April, 1868.

R. GALBRAITH 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. Jeanneret, 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 5, 1868.

NEW BLACKSMITH SHOP

THE subscriber begs to inform the people of Guelph and surrounding country that he has leased and fitted up the Blacksmith Shop, being that old and well-known one on Cardigan Street, near Goldie's, formerly known as the People's Mills, where he intends to carry on the Blacksmith business in all its branches.

HORSE SHOEING.—Particular attention paid to Horse Shoeing. As the subscriber intends to keep none but a first-class horse-shoer, the public can rely on getting all work in that line done in a satisfactory manner.

IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.—The subscriber begs to intimate to farmers that he is now manufacturing, and has for sale first-class Steel Mould Board Ploughs, (Gray's pattern.) Ploughs of other patterns made to order. Wagons and all kinds of Farm Implements made to order and repaired on the most reasonable terms.

WOOD WORK.—A first-class wood worker kept in connection with the shop. The subscriber having had long experience in the above business, hopes by strict attention to the wants of his customers to merit a share of public patronage.

Don't forget the Stand, near Goldie's Mills. GUELPH, 24th April, 1868. CALEB CHASE, (11m-6m)

TROTTER & GRAHAM, DENTISTS! GUELPH and BRAMPTON, Members of the Dental Association of the Province of Ontario.

(Successors in Guelph to T. Trotter.) OFFICE: Over Mr. Higginbotham's Drug Store

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. Hampton, resident Surgeon Toronto Hospital.

The new anesthetic agents used for extracting teeth without pain. W. K. GRAHAM (dw-ly) Guelph, 2nd August, 1867.

STANDARD Life Assurance Company (Established 1825.) Accumulated Fund £3,700,005 1s. 4d. Sg

DAVIDSON & CHADWICK, Agents at Guelph. THE STANDARD strongly advocates the Bill now before the House under which Insurance Companies are required to make certain deposits with the Government. The STANDARD is ready and willing to make any deposit required, thus guaranteeing to the fullest extent the Policy Holders. Every information to those desirous of insuring will be given at the office of DAVIDSON & CHADWICK, Town Hall Buildings, Guelph, 18th April, 1868.

POTATOES! Potatoes of all Kinds Wholesale and Retail, AT WEBSTER'S Grain and Flour Store, West Market Square, Guelph. Guelph, March 20, 1868.

AGENTS WANTED! Five good men wanted in every Township, to sell on salary, CLARK'S PATENT SASH LOCKS and CAN OPENERS. Address, enclosing \$1 for samples and terms. If Agents cannot sell, return samples and get your money back. A. KENNEDY & CO., Box 906, Chicago, Ill. Guelph, 6th April, 1868.

ALBION HOTEL! St. Paul-st., MONTREAL.

MR. DECKER would say that having assumed the management of the Albion, he hopes by personal attention to merit a continuance of the patronage so liberally bestowed