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Guelph Evening Mercury
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.
TUESDAY EVEN'G, JAN 14, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

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

It was impossible, he well knew, that the Covenanters should yield up that form of religion which the Reformation had assumed in Scotland. It was the conviction of their souls that this Presbyterian form was most in harmony with the Divine word and the Divine will. This was a question which Walter had studied very deeply himself, but any reflection he had bestowed upon it went to support the teaching of his boyhood, and he was of opinion that Presbyterianism was in reality the truest form of worship. His nature, however, was essentially tolerant, and he was very willing to allow liberty of opinion in the matter. But while thus liberal and tolerant in comparison with the staunch and inflexible Covenanters, who considered their religion as the only vital religion, and Popery and prelacy deadly errors which must be testified against, and resisted to the death; he felt most keenly and decidedly that the King and his government were going beyond their prerogative in forcing, as the established religion of the land, that Episcopacy which the people abhorred and in abolishing to make room for it that Presbyterianism which the people clung to with such pride and tenacity. That was a legacy left him by the Reformers. It was conquered for them by much suffering and blood; it had settled itself in the deepest convictions of their souls, and no King, no Government had the right to seek its destruction.

Well did Walter Elliot know it would not be destroyed in Scotland, and knowing this, and seeing at the same time how the Government was bent on carrying out their will, and ready to trample down every civil liberty in the accomplishment of their purpose, he became conscious of the dire struggle that must ensue. It was gathering to a crisis daily, and as this struggle to which he was being subjected was not worse than what hundreds throughout the country were hourly suffering, he judged of the aggregate by his own feelings, and was convinced that sooner or later a righteous resistance would and must be made.

These reflections into which he was plunged, made him gloomy and silent, and Marion was too timid and careful to enter into conversation for a time. But by-and-by her anxiety overcame her terror, and she whispered in a low voice, at the same time gently pressing his arm—
"Oh, Walter, what will become of my father and Hugh?"

He started involuntarily.
"Forgive me, my darling, for being so forgetful," he answered, in the same low tone. "I have been summing up in my mind the prospects of our country when I should have been thinking of you. Your father and Hugh are safe. Andrew has engaged to attend to them, and you know how faithful he is."

"And we," she continued, "whereas we are to be taken to—what will be our fate?"
"Nothing very dreadful I should suppose," he cheerfully returned. "For this enforced journey, we are indebted more to Charlie's vindictive malice than to any crime we have committed against even the oppressive laws which have been lately enacted. He is enabled to gratify his mean spiteful feelings by carrying us off prisoners as he has done, but I cannot but suppose that so soon as we appear before Sir James Turner we shall be set at liberty."

"Yet, I have heard that the commander is a harsh imperious man, and encourages his soldiers in all their excesses," remarked Marion.

"I understand he is. Indeed a man of another stamp would not undertake the pitiful work in which he is engaged. But I know that his commission has its limits, and an outrage like this he cannot sanction. Allan is safe enough in what he is doing, and he knows that we shall have no redress for the injury, but I am counting on our liberation. You, at least, Turner dare not retain in his hands, even though Allan should prevail on him to send me to the Privy Council at Edinburgh."

"I will not leave you, Walter," said Marion with a tremulous earnestness. "Where you go I will go too. It is for my sake you are involved in this trouble, and if you are sent before those dreadful men at Edinburgh, I will go likewise to clear you."

"Spoken like a true brave, devoted wife," responded Walter. But don't let us cherish fears. A long, comfortable ride in an ignominious position is, I think the worst we have to apprehend. But much I fear my darling, that we shall have greater trials to undergo, if we are to be faithful to our vow of last night. If we forsake the cause of the Covenant, we may enjoy a life of ease and tranquillity."

"That we shall never, never do," said Marion, in a tone of the firmest decision. "It is the cause of God and truth. Surely Walter you would not—Oh no, no, no, I know you better than to believe that you would betray the truth to escape any suffering they may cause us to endure."

"Right my brave and fearless one," he replied. "I but wished to hear you say you were ready to have us keep true to our oath and our convictions, whatever suffering our steadfastness may bring us. The cause shall triumph in the end, for as you say it is God's cause—the cause of Divine freedom. It must finally prevail, therefore we shall triumph with it."

As he spoke these words, Walter's face flushed, and his eye kindled, and in his enthusiasm he departed from the guarded whispering tone they had hitherto conversed in, and his voice was heard by those around.

"Keep the prisoners silent," said Allan. "If they won't be quiet, Jackson, then gag them."

One lightning-glimpse of indignation only did Walter permit himself to dart towards Allan in reply to this harsh threat, and the air of insulting triumph which accompanied it. Then he regained his calmness, and that men of contemptuous indifference he had displayed throughout.

They had now ridden several miles from Birkenkleuch, and were coming to the neighbourhood of Sanquhar, when a horseman, clad in hunting garb, was descried riding at a rapid pace across a stubble field towards the high road. He cleared the hedge in gallant style about a score of yards in front of the advancing troop, and was about to push over the opposite fence into another field, when, getting his eye on Walter in the centre of the cavalcade, he suddenly pulled up his powerful steed, and stood still in the middle of the road.

"Odd sake, puddins and panches! what's the meanin' o' this?" he exclaimed, in a strong, hearty voice.

He was a middle-aged man, stoutly made, had a round ruddy face, and an open countenance, full of frankness and good humour. His hunting dress, the appointments of his horse, and his free and independent bearing, indicated a man whose rank was above the common.

Charlie, who rode at the head of the troop, greeted him with a show of respect.

"Good mornin', Sir Gilbert. But, bless my body and soul! whar are ye escortin' my young friend, Watty Elliot, and whatna bonny lassie is this he's gotten buckled on shint him. Odd sake, puddins and panches! it's our auld minister's dochter, Miss Gordon. Weel, sir, he added, seeing that Walter smiled at him but spoke not, "this is a bonny sort o' way to be gaun ridin' through the kintra. Whar for did ye no gie me an invitation to be present? Yer father wadna ha' treated me in this way. Speak, sir, speak, and gie me an excuse if ye can. Puddins and panches, sir! what for dae ye nae speak?"

"When one can only speak in perils of being gagged," Sir Gilbert, he generally prefers to keep silent," answered Walter.

"Gagged, sir, zogged! What the devil does mean? Excuse me for wearin'," Miss Gordon

don, but that young fellow—yer bridgroom, I hope I may call him—is provin' me past a' chieftens."

TO BE CONTINUED.

COMMERCIAL.

Guelph Markets.

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

Money Market.

JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE, Guelph, January 14, 1868.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

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

MONTREAL, January 14, 1868.

Flour—Fancy, \$7.00 to \$7.75; Superior No. 1, \$6.50 to \$7.00; Welland Canal, \$7.50. Bag flour, \$1.50 to \$1.70. Oats \$2.00 to \$2.50. Barley \$2.00 to \$2.50. Butter—dairy 10c to 16c; store packed 14c to 16c. Ashes—Pot 22 to 25, pearls 25 to 30.

Flour small receipts, demand trifling, and rates practically unchanged. Grain no sales, rates unchanged. Provisions—Pot steady but quiet. Hogs full supply, sales difficult except at some decline; Butter demand confined to choice and small packages. Ashes neglected and declining.

TORONTO, January 13, 1868.

Flour—Receipts, 600 bbls; No. 1, at \$7.15; Wheat—at \$1.60. Peas—72c. Oats—50c to 54c. Barley—\$1.00 to \$1.02.

HAMILTON, January 13, 1868.

Flour—Receipts, 600 bbls; No. 1, at \$7.15; Wheat—at \$1.60. Peas—72c. Oats—50c to 54c. Barley—\$1.00 to \$1.02.

CATTLE FAIRS.

New Hamburg, 1st Tuesday of each month. Guelph, 1st Wednesday of every month. Berlin, 1st Thursday of every month. Elgin, 2nd Monday of every month. Crosshill, 2nd Monday of every month. Waterloo, 2nd Tuesday of every month.

\$20. STAR \$100. SHUTTLE SEWING MACHINE. Patented May, 1867.

THE Star Shuttle Sewing Machine makes a stitch alike on both sides of material sewed, which will not rip or ravel. Does all kinds of work equally as well as Singer's high-priced machine. Combines simplicity with durability, and is warranted for five years. It is suited alike for the dressmaker, tailor, manufacturer or family. Mr. J. SPAFFORD having been appointed General Agent for Ontario, wishes to engage a few good local and travelling agents, to whom good inducements will be offered. For machine, sample or work, or terms, address—

J. E. SPAFFORD, Pansby P. O., or Box 450, Toronto.

THE RED MILL. With subscriber having put a steam engine in his mill, farmers bringing in their Grists can rely on having them ground the same day.

FLOUR AND FEED FOR SALE AT THE MILL. GROUND PLASTER for sale at the Mill, and also at his Old Stand, near the Railway Crossing. GEORGE BALKWILL, Guelph 19th December, 1867.

PRIZE DENTISTRY. DR. R. CAMPBELL. SURGEON. LONDON.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. REV. SYLVANUS COBB writes to the Boston Christian Freeman—We would by no means recommend any kind of medicine which we did not know to be good—particularly for infants. But of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup we can speak from knowledge; in our own family it has proved a blessing indeed, by giving an infant troubled with colic pain quiet sleep, and its parents unbroken rest at night. Most parents can appreciate these blessings. Here is an article which works to perfection, and which is harmless; for the sleep which it affords the infant is perfectly natural, and the little cherub awakes as "bright as a button." And during the process of teething its value is incalculable. We have frequently heard mothers say they would not be without it from the birth of the child till it had finished the teething stage, on any consideration whatever.

Sold by all Druggists. 25 cents a bottle. Be sure and call for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup." All others are base and dangerous imitations.

PHOTOGRAPHS! W. MARSHALL. PHOTOGRAPHS. PHOTOGRAPHS. PHOTOGRAPHS.

CHEAPER THAN THE CHEAPEST. BETTER THAN THE BEST. AT HEARSHALL'S. Day's Block, opposite the Market. Guelph, 13th January, 1868.

INFORMATION. INFORMATION guaranteed to produce a luxuriant growth of hair upon a bald head or bald face, also a receipt for the removal of Pimples, Blisters, Eruptions, etc., on the skin, leaving the same soft, clear and beautiful, can be obtained without charge by addressing THOS. F. CHAPMAN, CHEMIST, 325, Broadway, New York.

TROTTER & GRAHAM. Gold & Silver Plating. A. HOWIE & CO. Watches, Chains, Rings, Pen-Cell Cases, and all kinds of Jewelry. Also, Door Plates & Carriage Trimmings.

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

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. Pettibone, M. M. C.; Rev. Mr. Arnold—Brampton, Dr. Barnhart, Warden of Peel, Dr. Hamilton, resident Surgeon Toronto Hospital.

STEPHEN BOULT, ARCHITECT AND BUILDER, Office, Woolwich Street, nearly opposite Douglas Street.

Plans, Specifications & Estimates, Supplied, and work superintended in all its branches.

THOS. HOBBSON & Co., Produce Commission Merchants, 48 and 49, PAUL STREET, MONTREAL.

CONSIGNMENTS of Flour, Grain, Pork, Butter and Ashes carefully received. Advances made by draft or cash, on receipt of Bill of Lading for three-fourths value of shipment. Charges, as low as any responsible House in the trade. Having had many years experience in the business, both in Great Britain and Canada, we are thereby enabled to offer special advantages to our correspondents. We have connections in all the leading Ports of Great Britain, as well as in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland, and consignors have the choice of any of the above Markets when prices are favorable.

Liverpool & London & Globe INSURANCE COMPANY. Capital Surplus & Reserved Funds \$1,627,675.

DIRECTORS IN CANADA: T. B. ANDERSON, Esq., Chairman, (President Bank of Montreal).

Fire Insurance & Life Assurance. Policies issued at moderate rates.

AGENTS WANTED IN EVERY COUNTY FOR THE LIFE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS BY FRANK H. ALFRIEND, of Richmond, Va., formerly Editor of the "Southern Literary Messenger," and well known both in Canada and the United States.

MRS. HUNTER'S FANCY STORE, West Market Square.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S. Berlin & Fancy Wools. Stamping for Binding and Embroidery.

OPPOSITION LINE TO CALIFORNIA. North American Steamship Comp'y will despatch one of their Fast and Elegant Steamships from NEW YORK.

Funerals, Funerals! NATHAN TOVELL, has to intimate that he is prepared to attend funerals as usual, and in any part of the town, by leaving the order at the wood house in the yard, at the rate of \$3.75 per cord.

Gold & Silver Plating. A. HOWIE & CO. Watches, Chains, Rings, Pen-Cell Cases, and all kinds of Jewelry.

THE GROCERY & WINE TRADE. OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT. FRANK SMITH & CO. 77 Front Street, Toronto.

FRESH ENGLISH GROCERIES, WINES, BRANDIES, &c., Fresh New Crop Fruit and Mediterranean Cargo.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICE of the AMERICAN WATCH.

THE American Watch Company of Waltham, Mass., being determined to place their several grades of Watches at prices within the reach of all parties, and to effectually shut out all Swiss counterfeit Watches, have decided from this date to supply their Watches in the Dominion of Canada at the net Gold value of American Currency.

Cheapest Watches in the World. The Watches are of all grades, from the finest Gold Watch made, adapted to any climate from the Tropics to the Poles, at a price to suit the wealthy connoisseur or for presentation, to the Cheap Silver Lever, strong and serviceable, regulated to minutes, suitable to the Mechanic and Farmer, and quite as low in price as any moderate quality Swiss Watch.

Men's Coarse Boots! FOMER PRICES—No. 1, \$3.00; No. 2, \$2.75; No. 3, \$2.50. PRESENT PRICES—No. 1, \$2.75; No. 2, \$2.50; No. 3, \$2.25.

Kingston Penitentiary BOOT AND SHOE STORE. Men's Coarse Boots!

FAMILY KNITTING MACHINE. Manufactured by the Lamb Knitting Machine Manufacturing Company.

CHICOPEE FALLS, N. Y. It is the best Family Knitting Machine extant. No other invention affords so profitable employment for women.

PREST & HEPBURN. WILL COMMENCE On Monday next, 23rd Dec., At Cost and Under!

Whole Stock will be sold without Reserve for Cash only. PREST & HEPBURN. Guelph, 10th December, 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 ever.

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.

GREAT CLEARING SALE. The Great Clearing Sale of DRY GOODS IS STILL GOING ON AT W.M. STEWART'S, Guelph, 11th December, 1867.

CORDWOOD for SALE IN GUELPH. GOOD, cheap Cordwood for sale at BROWN'S WOOD YARD. West 1/2 Street, nearly opposite the Court House.

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