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Guelph Evening Mercury

OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.

TUESDAY EVEN'G, MARCH 3, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

Thus the apartment was dim and dusky, affording thereby a relief to Helen, since it hid her fearful and miserable face from the Baronet's observation.

"What's that?" asked Sir Gilbert, without lifting his head from his occupation to see who it was that had come into the room.

"It is me, Sir Gilbert," replied Helen, forcibly staying the tumult in her bosom, that she might speak in a calm and firm tone.

"What a wain't—is it supper time?"

"Not quite, sir, but I have come to tell you that I am to leave Brankswood to-morrow."

"The moon?" he ejaculated, as suddenly he dropped his work and turned towards her. "Puddin's and paniches! what's yer hurry? Has Richard, the cumin' child, gotten ye tae buckle wi' him afore the hoose is ready? I'll no hear o' that, lassie. I tell ye I winna hear o' that. It's sune enouch for baith o' ye next summer, and I see take in hand tae hae the next bigget for the twa birdies tae creep into this time twalmonth."

"Richard and I are not to be married," said Helen, in a faint but distinct tone.

"What?" cried the Baronet. "What did ye say?"

Helen repeated the words.

"No tae be married! Puddin's and paniches! what's this o' that? A lovers' quarrel! Did ever I think that ye and him would be sic silly gowks! Where is he? Odd sake, bring him here, and I'll sune gar ye gree again."

"We have not quarrelled," said Helen; "but our engagement is broken off."

"Broken off! And what the devil is that for?"

"Because it is impossible that we can be married," replied Helen, slowly and deliberately, fixing at the same time a grave, penetrating look on the Baronet's face, and expecting to see there a conscious and guilty knowledge of the reason. But not the slightest trace of any such confusion of mind could she discover in Sir Gilbert's countenance. There was nothing to be discerned there but the most genuine astonishment.

"Impossible for ye tae be married," he repeated. "Has the quarrel been sae hot as that?"

"I repeat, Sir Gilbert, we have had no quarrel, but our engagement is at an end, and—"

"Puddin's and paniches, this cows a'! Has the rascal drawn back—the scoundrel, the vagabond! Where is he? Never ye mind him, lassie. I'll sune bring him tae yer apron string."

"The engagement has been terminated by me, not by Richard," rejoined Helen, who with difficulty could prevent a sob from escaping.

Sir Gilbert was more astonished than ever. Nay, for some moments he was positively struck dumb, and stood gazing at her with the gun in one hand and the rubbing-cloth in the other. Then he laid both down on the floor, and taking up the lamp, held it close to her face.

Helen was sustained to bear this near and minute inspection by the thought that he of all men ought to know that a union between her and Richard would be a deadly sin, and that instead of seeking to further it, he should have long ago interfered to prevent it being even arranged. The lamplight, therefore, revealed to Sir Gilbert a face pale and haggard enough, but firm, grave, and even indignant in its expression.

"Now, tell me, like a guid lassie, what Richard has been sayin' tae ye? Has he snee far forgotten himself as tae—Na, confound it if he has, I'll read him sic a lecture, the graceless—"

"Stop, Sir Gilbert, stop, I implore you," exclaimed Helen, earnestly. "Richard has said nothing amiss. He is not to blame in anything. He did not wish the engagement broken off, and was very, very angry when I told him it must be so."

"Then what is to blame?" demanded the Baronet.

Helen regarded him with a sad look of mingled reproach and indignation, sighed heavily, and answered—

"No one."

"Puddin's and paniches, roared Sir Gilbert, perplexed and irritated both. "Ye look as if I had something tae dae wi' it—me that is as ignorant o' the hall matter as the bairn unborn. Tell me at once, Helen, dae ye blame me for the sune rinishin' through it?"

"I blame no one, sir," repeated Helen. "And please do not pain me by farther questioning. But since I have given Richard up I cannot longer remain at Brankswood, and I thought it right to tell you that I shall leave in the morning."

"Puddin's and paniches, this bates every green thing," ejaculated Sir Gilbert. "A woman in the queerest animal on the earth, ye ne'er ken when ye hae her, when ye want her. Ye stupid lassie, this is some bawling nonsense ye hae ta'en into yer heid. Gang and sleep on it, and ye'll hae a different tale tae tell in the mornin'!"

Helen shook her head. "Fareweel, Sir Gilbert," she said. "I can never thank you enough for all the kindness I have received at Brankswood!"

"Ye are gaun then?"

"Yes, sir, I am going."

"Hame tae yer father's hoose?"

"Yes."

"And what comfort will ye hae there?"

"Not much, perhaps; but I cannot, indeed, I cannot remain longer here."

"Weel," said the Baronet, in a tone of utmost vexation. "It's an angersome business tae hae tae dae wi' willit' folk. I have had mair than ane tae dae wi' in my day; but little did I think that ye wad prove canstierie. Without ony reason whatever ye refuse tae marry as braw, brave, guid-lookin' and honest a child as Nithsdale can bring out, after sweethartin' wi' him for years, and a thing planned for the weddin' and the hoose keepin'. And there's the legacy tae, that ye were tae get on yer marriage day. What's tae dae now wi' it? It may be lang enouch afore ye get anither sweethartin'. Puddin's an' paniches! it's an angersome business—'t's a deevilish angersome business."

And, with a gesture of petulant impatience Sir Gilbert lifted up his gun, and resumed the cleaning of it with more vehemence than ever.

Helen withdrew to her own room, and in its silence and solitude gave way to passionate grief. The night which followed was to her a sleepless one, and at an early hour, before the others were astir, she gathered together the few things which were her own, and with a sad and bursting heart, quitted the place which had been to her a pleasant and happy home.

Before that day was done Jabez Crington met Charlie Allan at a place appointed, and gave the youth the satisfactory information that their dark scheme was prospering amazingly, that Helen had broken with Richard Wyndham, had quitted Brankswood, and had come to reside with him. Charlie's joy was excessive for the way was now open to the success of his evil design.

FISH FISH

Fine large Table Codfish.

No. 1 Labrador Herring.

No. 1 Mackerel.

No. 1 Salmon Trout.

No. 1 Whitefish.

SALT WATER SALMON!

IN TINS.

Lobsters and Sardines.

AT JOHN A. WOOD'S.

Guelph, Feb. 25th, 1868 dw

R. J. JEANNERET,

From England,

(Established in London, Ont., 1842, and in Guelph 1863.)

WORKING WATCHMAKER

AND JEWELER,

DAYS BLOCK,

Opposite the Market, Guelph.

REPAIRING

The repairing of all kinds of

WATCHES, CLOCKS and JEWELLERY

personally attended to, and the best of material used.

Just received a good assortment of

WATCHES, CLOCKS

Jewellery and

Electro-plated Goods!

Which will be sold cheap for cash.

R. J. JEANNERET.

Guelph, 26th January, 1868. w-ff

PLATT & CO'S

WORLD RENOWNED

OYSTERS

Received daily by Express. Wholesale and Retail.

GEORGE WILKINSON.

Next door to Telegraph and Express Office.

Guelph, Jan. 7, 1868.

Dominion Store!

(Late Post-Office Store.)

JUST RECEIVED, a large assortment of Em- broidered for Ladies Underclothing, Also, for Braiding on all sorts of Dress Goods.

Some of the Finest Patterns ever seen

Call and see them, they are for sale singly. Stamping done to order on the shortest notice. Also on hand an assortment of

New Oranges and Lemons.

For sale GATES & CO'S VICTORIA SEWING Machines. Don't forget the stand, next to the Wellington Hotel.

MRS. ROBINSON.

Upper Wyndham Street, Guelph.

Guelph Feb. 19th, 1868. dw

NEW Oyster Rooms

Valentine Wald

BEGS to announce to the public that he has fitted up Oyster Rooms in connection with his Hotel on MACDONNELL STREET. The very best of Oysters, and choicest Cigars will always be kept.

The Rooms are under the superintendence of Mr. H. McCrudden, whose courteous attention, as well as his thorough knowledge of the business, will ensure satisfaction in all cases.

The very best of Oysters on hand, and served up in all styles, and in the most approved manner.

TOM and JERRY, and all kinds of Fancy Drinks prepared in the most approved manner.

Guelph, 27th Dec^r 1867 dwom

REPUTATION.—The Tribune says: In his speech at Frankfort, Jesse D. Bright declared that if he had his way the government should never discharge a cent of its own debts, but should pay for every dollar's worth of property destroyed during the war in Kentucky and Maryland.

"That is to say, we should repudiate our own obligations, and assume the losses of the Confederates. Which shows that the Democratic plan of repudiation is not based upon even a false conception of economy, but springs from a natural fondness for either secession or swindling.

HAD JOKES—A newspaper correspondent writing about Train's lectures in Cork, says:—Even fun-loving Cork, however, soon tired of the British lion's last gadfly. Train spoke out in three lectures; his last one had only some fifty persons for audience, and they, weary of his buffoonery and even tired of his sedition, diversified the proceedings with a few lively fights. His idiotic puns were capped by the most ragged youngsters present with such superior readiness and humor as showed that in trying to be witty before an Irish audience he could hardly hope to be even second fiddle, and was carrying rather indifferent coals to Newcastle.

AXES.
Axes and axe handles good and cheap at
JOHN HORSMAN'S.

New Advertisements.
W. B. COWAN, M. D.
HOMOEOPATHIC Physician, Surgeon and Ac- coucher. Graduate of New York Homoeo- pathic College, and Licentiate of Canada. Office over Mr. Massie's, entrance Macdonnell Street, Guelph, 27th Jan. 1868. dwtff

Greenbacks,
U. S. Bonds,
Gold and Silver,
and Exchange
BOUGHT AT TORONTO RATES
AT
Higbee's Exchange Office
WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.
Guelph, Feb. 21, 1868. dtf

Guelph, 5th February, 1868. dw

REMOVAL.
Mrs HUNTER
HAS REMOVED

HER Berlin Wool and Fancy Goods Store to the premises lately occupied by
MR. JAS. CORMACK

Wyndham Street, next door to Harvey's Drug Store, and opposite the English Church.
Guelph, Feb. 15, 1868. dtf

\$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 of work, or terms, address—

J. E. SPAFFORD,
Pansonly P. O.
Reference—Rev. E. A. Healy, Stratford P. O., or Box 450, Toronto.

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 29 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, wms-dw

PHOTOGRAPHS!

W. MARSHALL

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AT MARSHALL'S,

Bay's Block, opposite the Market.

Guelph, 13th January, 1868. w

CLEMENT'S PATENT

CLOTHES WRINGER.

MESSRS. J. M. BOND & CO., Guelph are the only authorized Agents for the sale and use of CLEMENT'S PATENT CLOTHES WRINGER for the Counties of

Bruce, Wellington and Peel, and the City of Toronto.

RICHARD CLEMENT, Patentee

Guelph, Feb. 15, 1868 182 lm

DAVIDSON & CHADWICK,

LAND, LOAN, INSURANCE,

And General Agents.

Office—Town Hall Buildings, Guelph.

AGENTS FOR THE

Royal Insurance Comp'y

AGENTS FOR THE

Standard Life Assurance Co'y

AGENTS FOR THE

Canada Permanent Building and Savings Society.

A large amount of private funds to lend upon real and personal security. Rates moderate

Guelph, 4th Feb, 1868 w

SURROGATE COURT.

NOTICE is hereby given that an application will be made to the Judge of the Surrogate Court of the County of Wellington, on the 14th day of March next, for the appointment of Angus McKinnon, of the Township of Erin, gentleman, to be Guardian of Archibald McKinnon, an Infant.

D. GUTHRIE,
Solicitor.

Guelph, Feb. 19, 18 8. w4

No. 2,

Day's Block, . . Guelph.

Fresh Codfish.

Fresh Haddocks.

Sea Herrings.

Finnan Haddies.

Yarmouth Bloaters.

JUST ARRIVED.

E. CARROLL & CO.,

No. 2, Wyndham Street.

Guelph, 5th February, 1868. dw

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Solicitor.

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INDIA & CHINA TEA COY.

Home Depot at London and Liverpool.

Canada Depot, 23 Hospital Street, Montreal.

THE India and China Tea Company beg to call the attention of the Canadian community to their directly imported Teas, which for PURITY and EXCELLENCE will be found unequalled.

The Company have made arrangements whereby they have secured the entire produce of some of the best plantations in Assam and on the slopes of the Himalayas, and by a judicious blending of these magnificent Teas with the best varieties of China produce, they are enabled to offer to the public Tea of quality and flavour hitherto unknown to the general consumer. These Teas are in high favour in England and France, and a single trial will prove their superiority.

The Company supply two qualities only, either Black, Green or Mixed. Their Black Teas will be found to possess great briskness and flavour, combined with colour and strength, and to be entirely different to the flat and rapid article usually sold as Black Tea; while their Green Teas are altogether free from the deleterious mineral powder so commonly used for coloring the leaf.

PRICES: 40th full-flavoured Tea for family use, one dollar and fine article 70 cents per lb. Finest quality procurable one dollar per lb.

To be had in packets of Quarter Pound Half-Pound, One Pound, and upwards, or in tin canisters of 5 lbs. and upwards, from the Company's Agents in all the chief towns of Canada—N. B. All the packages are lined with tin foil paper, and the Teas will consequently retain its flavour any length of time.

OSKAYE.—All packages have the Company's trade-mark, with which none are genuine.

MR. N. HIGINBOTHAM
Agent, Guelph.
Guelph, August 3, 1867 dw-ly

New Saddlery Shop

Do you want a set of Harness, double or single, light or heavy, call at the new shop, next door to Coffey's Hotel.

Do you want a good Saddle? We can supply you cheaper than ever, 15 yards from O'Connor's Wellington Hotel.

Every body in want of a good Trunk, Valise, or Travelling Bag, can be supplied at the new shop, two doors from the Post Office

WHIPS, Horse Covers, Sleigh Bells

A very large and well-assorted stock of Whips to be had at 25c. the dozen of our former low prices, 50 yards north of St. George's Church.

We have a few pairs of imported made up Horse Covers, made to order, also a nice lot of common blankets.

What is more cheering than the merry Sleigh Bells? We can supply you. Call at the new shop, next door to Mr. Hoover's Livery Office.

We have on hand all kinds of articles, and will make up on the shortest notice anything you want of the Saddlery line, a few doors South of the Registry Office.

Brushes, Combs, Spurs, Bits, in endless variety. REPAIRING done as usual.

In consequence of the present premises being too small for our large stock, we will for a short time have to sell at a reduced price, to keep our present stock of superior workmen.

SMITH & METCALF,