

# The Braes of Yarrow

An Historical Tale of the Sixteenth Century.

A shade of doubt or jealousy—his heart did not distinguish which—passed over Gilbert, and he said abruptly—  
"Now, lady, I am ready—our lives depend on your speed."

With a peculiar solemnity of manner she touched the fringe of her brow. The latter, raising slowly to consciousness, fixed his heavy eyes upon her, with a cruel smile of hate. She drew away from him and placed her trembling hand in Gilbert's. He grasped it with a jealous eagerness, and, raising her in his arms, stepped lightly upon the table, then upon the ledge of the window. He buckled a broad leathern belt around her waist, and, gripping it firmly, entrusted himself and his precious burden to the strength of the rope. The darkness favored them, and they reached the ground in safety, and sped to the thicket, where Andrew waited with the horses. Lady Spens was mounted behind Gilbert, and the horses' heads were turned toward Selkirk, and at the same time that Her Majesty would refuse to believe her assertion of her own and her husband's innocence of all thought of treachery to the royal cause.

They could see no sign of light burning within the house. Gilbert, however, knocked loudly at the door, and they waited patiently for it to be opened.  
But there came no answer, no sound to indicate that the house was inhabited. Gilbert knocked again, more loudly this time and with a certain degree of punishment in his mind. There was still no answer, and at length they were forced to the conclusion that the house was untenanted.

Gilbert quieted the anxious fears of her ladyship.  
"Do not fear, madam, the bairn is safe," he said confidently; "safer than if we had found her here, for she is on the way to Edinburgh."  
He pronounced his words confidently enough, but in his heart he feared that they might prove false. This was certainly the day on which he had charged the Chevalier Night, in the event of his failing to return, to convey the little Alice to the capital. But it was yet very early in the day, and so he feared that some new mischance had occurred. However, circumstances of which he was yet ignorant might have compelled the Chevalier to move northward sooner than was intended. With this hope he buoyed himself up, and was able to speak cheerily to the anxious mother.

They hastened on to Selkirk. The royal burgh, with its straggling houses and irregular architecture, had usually a quaint homely air, suggestive of comfort and honest work. But when our three friends passed up the banks of the Ettrick and entered the town on this December morning of 1615, the place had a dishevelled look like that of a woman who sits down with her cast loose and dress disarranged, lamenting the loss of father, husband, or children.

This, in truth, was the position of Selkirk on that day; for of the hundred sturdy burghers—made up of footers and weavers—who had followed the town clerk, William Brydce, to the field of Flodden, only about twenty had yet returned to cast the town in mourning for its own and Scotland's heavy losses. Brydce, however, was amongst those who had returned, and with a noble, albeit sad heart, he set himself to work to give what consolation he might to the afflicted ones. In this he was not a little assisted by the merry-eyed weaver, who brought from the field fought field an English standard as a token of his own and his comrades' worth.

Everywhere there were indications of disorder, and even the Souther's hostelry in the ancient market-place had a melancholy look. But Gilbert, delayed here no longer than was necessary to afford Lady Spens an hour's rest and to procure fresh horse. They were soon upon the road again; and having now a comparatively even way they made good speed to Edinburgh, where they arrived towards afternoon, and took up temporary quarters near the foot of the Cowgate.

They desired as far as possible—or rather Lady Spens desired—to remain unrecognized until she had obtained audience of the Queen Regent. For this reason, instead of seeking out friends, they hired quiet lodgings, up three flights of stairs, of a little prim old lady, who was very particular to have a portion of the rent paid in advance.

Fatigued as she was by the journey and by troublous thought, Lady Spens would have hurried to the palace at once had not Gilbert persuaded her to delay till the morning. His persuasion was successful only when he remembered the words of Tushielaw—that her husband had been condemned by the secret commission, and that the lives of herself and her child were in peril.

"But you—you will prove his innocence; you will point out the guilty one, and then my husband's honour from the stigma which now rests upon it," she said softly, and laying her hand upon Gilbert's arm looked up confidently into his face.

"I have sworn to do it," he said with quiet firmness.

Her fingers tightened gently upon his arm and a faint sad smile illumed her face. That was his thanks and he was satisfied.  
He had set himself a difficult task—that of solving the mystery of her husband's fate and of all the treachery that had surrounded the King at Flodden. He recognized the difficulty, but in the ardent sanguinity of youth he never doubted that sooner or later he would win his object. And then? He did not know then; but he looked yearningly toward the lady for whom he already risked so much and to whose service he had devoted his life.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Dickens has sent to Dr S. G. Howe of Boston, an order for \$1,700, to be appropriated in printing copies of the *Old Curiosity Shop* in raised letters for the blind.

Mr. Callicott, the Speaker of the State Legislature of New York, has been convicted of defrauding the U.S. revenue of \$48,000 duty on whiskey, and has been sentenced to pay a fine of ten thousand dollars and to suffer two years' imprisonment in the Albany Penitentiary.

THE ONE-ARMED HERO.—The *Franklin* supposes that Gen. Sweeney has been arrested. It says: "Last week, Capt. Rowe, of No. 1 Company of Light Infantry of Richelieu, arrested at Charlevoix a suspicious person, who appeared to observe with much interest the volunteers drill. He had him taken to Sweet'sburg, where he is yet detained. The prisoner has only one arm, and answers exactly to the description of Gen. Sweeney. Persons who have seen the General and know his features well, declare that he is the person in custody. We do not know how true this may be, but it is certain that the individual, who possesses a good education, has been observed for several weeks to go about our country parishes and townships, taking very attentive notice of all meetings of volunteers. [It has turned out that the individual referred to is a mere loafer.]

Goods will be sold by the piece, only to the highest bidders. TERMS LIBERAL, and made known at sale. At the same time, over 2,500 barrels COAL OIL will be offered in lots to suit purchasers. Mr. LEWIS trusts his old customers will be present as the Goods will be sold without reserve, even though the loss be heavy. Catalogues furnished at earliest opportunity.

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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 Liquors, and choicest Cigars will always be kept.

The very best of Oysters always on hand, and served up in all styles at short notice.

TON and BERRY, and all kinds of Fancy Drinks prepared in the most approved manner.

Guelph, 27th December, 1867.

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## NEW FANCY DRESS GOODS, NEW BLACK GLACE SILKS, NEW BLACK GRÖS' GRAINS, NEW COLORED POPLINS, NEW CAMEL CLOTHS, NEW CHALLIES.

THE cheapest Dress Goods in Canada is our Challies at \$1.25 the full dress; also, Grey Barages for Travelling Dresses and suits.

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Bradford House, Wyndham Street, Guelph, May 20, 1868.

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Bargains!



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Call and partake of the Immense Bargains. Goods at Astonishing Low Prices.

## Great Reduction in the Price of Grey Factory Cottons.

All Wool Canada Tweeds at 50c. and 63c., worth \$1. Don't delay.

JOHN HOGG, Guelph, May 15, 1868.

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BY A. M. F. CIANELLI.

THIS elegant and fashionable first-class Hotel, with an accommodation of a superior order, over two hundred persons, will be open for the reception of visitors on the 1st of June next. The House is fitted up in the first style, and is supplied with every necessary and demanded by modern notions of comfort and convenience. The Halls and Parlors are spacious, the Public Rooms for Ladies and Gentlemen elegantly finished, the Private Apartments comfortable and convenient, all well and well ventilated, and newly furnished in handsome manner. The Hot and Cold Baths are very numerous, in wing specially arranged for them, and constantly supplied with the Mineral Waters from the Springs, by costly steam pumping engines. To meet the requirements of the public, without interfering with the repose of any, the arrangements for in-door amusements are confined to a separate building, specially erected for the purpose, containing a spacious Ball Room, Billiard Room, Bowling Alley, and other requisites. The Saloon, White Sulphur, and the Springs are all within fifty yards from the House. Charges uniformly moderate.

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Wholesale and retail at the

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Upper Wyndham Street, next to the Wellington Hotel, Guelph.

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100 dozen Dinner, Breakfast Tea Plates.

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Also, Preserve Dishes, Butter Plates, Sugar Bowls, Goblets, Centre Dishes, &c., Wholesale and Retail.

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Guelph, May 15th, 1868.

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L. W. DECKER, Montreal, 30th March, 1868.

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SODA ASH "Gambles."

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W. T. BENSON, 7 St. Peter Street, Montreal, 1st April, 1868.

## The Ontario Packing House

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Guelph, 1st June, 1868.

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