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Guelph Evening Mercury OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET. WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEB. 10, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

She wore nothing on her head, and her luxuriant hair of light auburn hung in rich masses over her shoulders. She had round, rosy cheeks, ruby lips, and eyes that sparkled with a brightness which only a gladness of heart could give. No one who looked on her could doubt that her mind was free of care, and her conscience of guilt, or that her heart was pure and fresh as a maiden's should. But, in addition to this natural youthful elasticity of spirit, her happy expression of her blooming face, and her dancing light in her beaming eyes gave token of a special inward joy—the joy of a soul that had bright hopes to cherish and sweet thoughts to feed upon. There was not only the absence of any shadow of care, and the signs of a peace born of innocence and truth, there were also indications of quiet and contented satisfaction springing from a secret and pleasant knowledge—the knowledge of loving and of being loved. Yes, a maiden's highest joy was plainly her's; her heart was plainly given to one whom she deemed worthy of her truest affection, and she possessed the undoubted certainty of being in return the object of that worthy one's undivided regard.

All this would be seen at a glance, even by a stranger, if his observation was acute enough to detect it, but on the present occasion neither stranger nor acquaintance was nigh as she slipped across the upland, and passed on the brow of a prospect that in the beauties of the glowing prospect which spread itself out before her. At the spot where she came to a stand-still, her eye could roam over the landscape we have described, and had indeed most of the grandeur which she delighted in the contemplation of such a scene. But Helen Cringan had a mind peculiarly susceptible to the beauty and grandeur of nature, and she could not gaze on that wide extent of hill and dale, clothed in the gorgeous garments of summer's dress, and flooded by the golden evening light, without standing to survey it, and mark the various picturesque objects which made it so cheerful and so beautiful. It was not alone the grandeur of conformation and the harmony of colour, the variety of shape and the matchless blending of shade and hue which attracted her—a human interest came in to crown the glory of the view and increase its effect. Scattered over this beautiful and beautiful bosom of nature were the homes of the inhabitants of the vale, nesting amid the woods, peeping out from the glades, lying in the hollows, and perched on the slopes. Below where she stood she had the village of Greystone in full view, with its stately stone-built houses and grey church spire pointing to the holy heaven. To the left was the tower of Birkenleuch just rising above the trees which surrounded it, and to the right—also amid the massy foliage of ancient trees—she could discern the gables and chimney-stacks of Brankwood—the place which she had just come—the seat of Sir Gilbert Barton, of whose large and liberal household she had been for years an inmate. As a needle to the pole, so did her eye always turn to and rest lovingly upon the mansion of the baronet, as if the centre of her heart's attraction lay there, and drew her gaze even more than did the beauty which surrounded it. So we may naturally interpret the circumstance, and by-and-by we shall find that we are right.

On another human dwelling—and this in the opposite direction—her eye also frequently lighted, and just as a being shadow was seen to creep over that sunny face, giving token that Helen Cringan was not any more that other mortals, entirely free from all source of pain. It would be most singular if in this world, which has been called the "valley of tears," and universally recognized as such, one being—even one—should be found surrounded by happy influences, youth and hope and joy as to know no sorrow and have no unpleasant experience. The Scotch proverb is true—"There's a dab at everybody's door," and this dab Helen Cringan did not want. True, it was not a large "dab," but it was enough to cause her annoyance, and bring a faint shadow over her fair face when she looked at a small straw-roofed cottage standing by itself in a hollow at no great distance from Greystone. That was her father's cottage; it was the place to which she was going now, and he and his character formed the only disagreeable subject she had ever to think of.

Our readers already know something of Jabez Cringan—not much, certainly, but quite enough to show him in a most unfavorable light. For gold he had played the spy to Captain Allan; for gold he had given information to the troopers about the Conventicle at Maudsle Moss, and led them to the place; for gold he had betrayed Walter Elliot into the hands of his enemies; and did not Charlie Allan remark to himself on one occasion, in the way of soliloquy, that for gold Jabez Cringan would sell his mother?

Now, this latter was only a figurative and typical saying, for Jabez had no mother to sell, but it showed sufficiently enough Allan's estimate of the man he employed in such dirty work. And the estimate was no degree away from the truth. The love of gold was Jabez Cringan's ruling and consuming passion. To accumulate money, to gaze upon it, to handle it, to see it glitter and hear it clink, was the one over-mastering desire of his soul. This constituted his hunger and thirst, and all the acts and movements of his life were directed to the one end of his being. Whatever helped to add to his store of gold he was ready to do. Everything was pleasant to him that promoted this end—whether it was expedient or respectable or morally good he did not care, he was ready to do it if only it ministered to his overwhelming passion, and added a little more to the yellow dust which lay in his coffers. He denied himself food and comforts of any kind, and when necessity did compel him to spend a farthing, it was like wringing out his heart's blood.

TO BE CONTINUED.

UNFAIR DEALING.—A country merchant writes to us, and through us wishes to impress upon farmers the necessity, in all their business transactions, of doing as they would be done by. He says, "Do not keep your summer butter until winter because you cannot get the price you want for it, and make it over again in the winter and sell it for fresh butter, as is too often done. Your sins will find you out. Also do not keep your eggs, that were laid in midsummer, when eggs were only worth 10c. or 12c. per dozen, until February or March, when they are worth 20c. or 25c. per dozen and sell them for fresh eggs, while the one half of them is rotten, and think you will not be found out. But be ye sure you will be found out, and though the person you have cheated with your rotten eggs does not wish to expose you, yet he puts your actions in his black book of remembrance against you. All you that are guilty of such actions pause and ask yourselves are they right in the sight of God, or your fellow man."

"Miles O'Reilly," although a Democrat, declines to fight with poisoned arrows, and denounces the charge of drunkenness preferred against Gen. Grant as entirely without foundation.

4,944 Valentines were delivered on the 14th inst. by the Postoffice carriers in De-

A FAIR OFFER.—The following is a lesson to the young who imagine success in life to be the result of mere luck. General Lefebvre enlisted in a regiment of the Line, and ended his career as Marshal Duke of Dantick. An old comrade congratulated him in a sneering tone on his high position. "Yes," said Lefebvre, "I am Duke of Dantick (he never spelt his duchy correctly). I am a marshal, whilst you are a clerk; but I wish to change places with me, I will accept the bargain at cost price. Do you know how many gunshots I was exposed to before I won my epaulettes? Twenty thousand. I have heard more cannons roar than there are stitches in my uniform. I will just place you in the court yard of my hotel, and expose you to the chance of twenty thousand shot and shell at a hundred paces. If you escape, well, you shall have my sabre, plume, scarf, and orders—every one of them shall be yours."

BIRTHS.

THOMPSON.—At St. John's Parsonage, Elora, on the 9th inst, the wife of the Rev. E. Thompson of a son.

MARRIAGES.

VALLEY.—ALEXANDER. By the Rev. R. Torrance, at his own residence, on the 14th inst., Mr. Francis Valley, to Miss Agnes Alexander, both of Fergus.

MORSE.—FARROW. By the Rev. J. Wesley Gordon, at the Wesleyan Parsonage, Elora, on the 10th inst, Mr. John W. Morse, of "Maryboro", to Ellen Farrow, of the same place.

MORSE.—THOMPSON.—At Guelph, on the 12th inst., by the Rev. W. S. Hall, Mr. W. A. Morse, to Mrs. Ann Thompson, both of Sasagawya.

DIED.

McCULLOUGH.—On the 9th inst., at the residence of Mr. Joseph Smart, York Road, Mr. Hugh McCullough, aged 78 years. The deceased was one of the oldest settlers in this section, having bought the first lot and erected the first house on the York Road. He was a native of the County of Antrim, Ireland.

Snowey.—At Salem on the 1st inst., at the residence of her Uncle, James Finlay, Esq., Margaret, second daughter of the late C. Snowey, of the Royal Navy, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, aged 32 years.

HOOD.—In Mount Forest, on the 12th inst, Eliza Agnes, daughter of Mr. Geo. Begg, aged 1 year and 6 months.

Kikey.—On Saturday, 8th, Jane, wife of Mr. Thos. T. Kirby, Trafalgar, aged 30 years.

WRIGHT.—At Winterton, Woodwich, on the 9th inst, Jane Wright, relict of the late Arthur Wright, aged 80 years.

McMILLAN.—At Patehick, near Killam, on the 6th inst, after a short illness, Angus, eldest son of Mr. Lachlan McMILLAN, farmer, aged 10 years and 4 months.

COMMERCIAL.

The Guelph Markets.

MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH, February 19, 1868.

The deliveries during the past week have been very light, no doubt owing to the heavy snow storms which rendered it next to impossible to get through with loaded teams. Consequently buyers are on the market doing little or nothing, because produce is not offering. There was considerable depression in prices last week, and the market ever since has been somewhat variable, but at present the figures are considerably higher for wheat than they were when we made our last weekly report, fall wheat has risen 5 cents, and spring wheat about as much; barley has also slightly advanced, but peas have fallen. In oats also there is a slight decrease, and pork is not within 25 cents per cwt of what it was a week ago. The outside markets are very flat, prices in Toronto being merely nominal.

Flour, per 100 lbs.	..\$3 75	.. 4 30
Pat Wheat per bushel.	.. 1 15	.. 1 50
Barley do.	.. 0 55	.. 0 58
Oats do.	.. 0 75	.. 0 82
Hay per ton.	.. 11 00	.. 12 15
Straw do.	.. 4 00	.. 5 05
Wood per cord.	.. 3 50	.. 3 50
Wool per dozen.	.. 0 27	.. 0 25
Butter (Irish) per lb.	.. 0 14	.. 0 15
Do. (New Zealand) do.	.. 0 25	.. 0 20
Turkeys do.	.. 0 50	.. 0 40
Chickens per pair.	.. 0 25	.. 0 20
Ducks do.	.. 0 20	.. 0 25
Potatoes do.	.. 0 80	.. 0 85
Apples per bush.	.. 0 00	.. 0 00
Lamb per lb.	.. 0 05	.. 0 07
Veal do.	.. 0 40	.. 0 45
Pork per 100 lbs.	.. 5 00	.. 5 25
Sleep Pelts each.	.. 0 50	.. 0 75
Woolskins do.	.. 4 00	.. 4 40
Hides per 100 lbs.	.. 4 00	.. 6 00

Money Market.

JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE, Guelph, February 19, 1868.

Gold, 140c.
Greenbacks bid at 70 to 70 1/2; sold at 71 to 71 1/2.
Silver bought at 44 1/2 to 45; sold at 44 to 44 1/2.
Upper Canada Bank Bills bought at 55c to 60c.
Commercial Bank Bills bought at 55c to 60c.
Rate in silver.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Kirkwood, Livingston & Co's report by Special Telegram to "Evening Mercury," MONTREAL, February 19, 1868.

Flour—Fancy, \$7 70 to \$7 75; Superior No. 1, \$7 50 to \$7 65; Welland Canal, \$7 00. Bag Flour, \$5 00 to \$5 15; Oats 40c to 45c. Barley \$5 75 to \$6 10. Butter—store 1 1/2 to 1 3/4; 2 store packed 1 1/4 to 1 1/2. Ashes—Pot \$3 30 to \$3 35; pearls \$5 75 to \$5 80.

Calt Markets.

Fall wheat—\$1 70 to \$1 77. Spring wheat—\$1 55 to \$1 68. Barley—\$1 to \$1 10. Oats—60c to 62c. Peas—70c to 80c.

Owen Sound Market.

Fall wheat—\$1 62. Spring wheat—\$1 49. Oats—50c to 55c. Peas—50c. Barley—70c to 75c. Pork per cwt.—\$4 50 to \$5 00. Potatoes—35c to 45c. Hay per ton \$16.

Toronto, February 18, 1868.
Flour—Receipts, 600 bbls; No. 1, at \$7 05 to \$7 10; Fall Wheat—\$1 82. Spring Wheat—\$1 62 to \$1 65. Oats—57c. Barley—\$1 24 to \$1 26. Peas—81c.

HAMILTON, February 18, 1868.
Fall wheat—\$1 70 to \$1 77. Spring wheat—\$1 55 to \$1 68 per bushel. Barley—\$1 to \$1 10. Oats—60c to 62c. Peas—70c to 80c.

GUELPH LUMBER MARKET.

(Corrected by Messrs. Gowley & Stewart, of Wellington Lumber Yard.)
Clear 1 1/2 and 2 inch Plank from \$20 00 to \$25 00
" 1 inch Boards .. 12 00 to 16 00
" 1 1/2 Flooring .. 15 00 to 18 00
Common 1 and 1 1/2 inch Flooring .. 14 00 to 16 00
" 1 in. boards and 2 in plank .. 9 00 to 10 00
Sawing all sizes up to 16 feet .. 10 00 to 12 00
" and Joisting from 18 to 20 .. 12 00 to 14 00
" .. 22 to 30 .. 15 00 to 16 00
Shingles No 1 Sawed .. 1 25 to 2 00
" 2 Cut and .. 1 10 to 1 75
" Split .. 1 50 to 1 75
" .. 60 to 65
Water Line per hundred .. 1 25 to 1 40
Disaster (Calcutta) .. 4 50 to 5 50
Guelph, Jan. 30, 1868.

UPHOLSTERY

CHAS. FIRESTONE
Quebec-st., near Howard and Jones,
I prepared to execute orders for all kinds of Upholstery, in a neat and expeditious manner.

"Miles O'Reilly," although a Democrat, declines to fight with poisoned arrows, and denounces the charge of drunkenness preferred against Gen. Grant as entirely without foundation.

New Saddlery Shop

Do you want a set of Harness, double or single, light or heavy, call at the new shop, next door to Coffee'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 will be sold at 25c. on the dollar 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 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 in the Saddlery line, a few doors South of the Registry Office.
Belgian Hounds, Spots, 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 set of superior workmen.

SMITH & METCALF,

Late occupants of the premises destroyed by fire, adjoining the Almshouse, Guelph, 20th December 1867. dwtf.

FURS, FURS.

We have opened our stock of FURS, four or five months, which we will sell at LOW PRICES. Siberian Squirrel, River Mink, Ladies' Hoods, GENTS' MUFFLERS and GLOVES, SLEIGH ROBES, &c.

F. GARLAND,

Market Square, GUELPH.

The Highest Price paid for Raw Furs

Guelph, Oct. 31, 1867.

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 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 favour highly superior to any general commerce. These Teas are in high favour in England and France, and a single trial will convince you of their excellence.
The Company supply two qualities only, either Black, Green or Mixed. Their Black Teas will be found to possess great strength 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 them.
PRICES: Rich, full-flavoured Tea for family use a real gem and fine article 70 cents per lb. Finest quality of comparable one dollar per lb.
To be had in packets of Quarter Pound, Half Pound, One Pound, and upwards, or in quantities of five, 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 Tea will consequently retain its flavour any length of time. Despatch.—All packages have the Company's trade-mark without which none are genuine.
MR. N. HIGINBOTHAM Agent, Guelph, Guelph, August 3, 1867. dwtf.

BRITISH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY.
(From Lyman & MacNab, Wholesale Hardware Merchants.) Toronto, 13th September, 1866.

Messrs MURPHY & WRIGHT, B. A. Commercial College, Toronto.
Dear Sirs,—We can emphatically recommend your establishment to the business public, from what we see of their Book-keeping. The system taught in your College, and the accurate habits derived therefrom, and though different houses pursue different methods, yet the general principles, rules, and varieties of commerce are so thoroughly inculcated by your system of tuition that no student can be a competent Book-keeper without having first studied in your College. Your efforts are worthy of every appreciation in founding a sound Commercial Education of the intelligent youth of Canada, and though occasionally students fail to become proficient, it can only be owing to their lack of ability on the part of the student, and not the incapacity of the tutor. We shall ever give and advise preference to your experience and your course of training is eminently adapted to make a thoroughly efficient office man.
Yours truly, LYMAN & MACNAB.
(From Morrison, Taylor & Co., Wholesale Provision Dealers.) Toronto, May 21, 1867.

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Dear Sirs,—We can emphatically recommend your establishment to the business public, from what we see of their Book-keeping. The system taught in your College, and the accurate habits derived therefrom, and though different houses pursue different methods, yet the general principles, rules, and varieties of commerce are so thoroughly inculcated by your system of tuition that no student can be a competent Book-keeper without having first studied in your College. Your efforts are worthy of every appreciation in founding a sound Commercial Education of the intelligent youth of Canada, and though occasionally students fail to become proficient, it can only be owing to their lack of ability on the part of the student, and not the incapacity of the tutor. We shall ever give and advise preference to your experience and your course of training is eminently adapted to make a thoroughly efficient office man.
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