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Guelph Evening Mercury
OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.
FRIDAY, EVENING, FEB. 14, 1868.

The Maiden's Choice

OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

"No, no, Charlie, do not say so," screamed Marion, and again she was about to fling herself on the ground in supplication, but Walter restrained her. "This," he said, "is the result of spurring his life at Birkenleuch."

"It was at my request," moaned Marion. "It is I that have ruined you."

"Exactly," observed Allan, with fiendish malice. "Had you not rejected me for him he might to-day have been living safely at Birkenleuch. You chose to thwart me, and you are now receiving the consequences. Egad, as matters have turned out, I am as well pleased at being balked before, for I have got the estate, and my chance for a wife looks better than ever."

This language was more than Walter could endure. In a transport of rage he sprang on Allan, clutched him by the throat, and on this occasion, had no help been at hand, the last moment of his life would have come, but loudly he called on those he had stationed without, and in an instant a band of men rushed into the room, and Walter was secured.

With frantic grief Marion clung to him, and when they tried to drag her away she besought them to allow her to go with him to prison, and share his fate, whatever that might be. Charlie ruthlessly ordered them to be separated, but as each could have required a force greater than even these rough officials had the heart to use, his order was not obeyed, and she was permitted to accompany them up the street to the door of the Privy Council—which had not yet risen for the day.

Here a very brief examination sufficed to produce the order for Walter to be sent to the Tolbooth, to await his trial in the next morning. Sharpe, and Bothes, and the others, required to spend little time in coming to this decision. He was already well known to them by report as a chief actor in the insurrection—as one who had already been outlawed and his estate forfeited. He admitted all that was brought against him, and boldly justified his conduct with the bitter recklessness of one who knew that his fate was already determined.

He was sent to prison strongly guarded, and on passing through the ante-room, where Marion waited in breathless anxiety, he gently broke to her the sad intelligence. "They must part now. She could not possibly accompany him to the Tolbooth, but there was told she would be allowed to visit him there in the morning."

"God bless and protect you, Marion," he said, as he snatched her to his bosom in a parting embrace. "With a great sob he released her, and she sank down upon a wooden seat in a hall weon."

When she recovered Walter and his guard had departed. Uttering a loud cry of agony she rushed out to follow, hardly knowing in her distraction what she was doing. When she reached the Tolbooth, Walter had been led within, and the great iron gates were shut. Then she sat down on the stone steps and wept in grief and woe.

"Puddin's an' panchees! what's the matter?" exclaimed a loud voice at her side, and looking up she beheld Sir Gilbert Barton.

"She started to her feet, and wildly grasped his arm. "Oh, Sir Gilbert, will you save him?" she vehemently cried.

"Eh—what?" returned the Baronet, who did not till then recognize her. "Oh, sakes, I declare it's Miss Marion Gordon—no, Mrs. Elliot, I mean. What in a' world are ye doin' here?"

"Walter is taken prisoner, and he is there," she answered, pointing to the gloomy building. "Oh, sakes, puddin's an' panchees, that's an a' business; but I dinna wonder at it. He wad gang wi' the rebels, the stupid gowd he is, and what else could he expect?"

"But you can save him, Sir Gilbert, plead at Marion. You have influence with those in power. Oh, you will not see my husband destroyed as they have destroyed Hugh-to-day."

"It's dreadfu' to think on," said the Baronet, wiping his red face with his handkerchief. "There's nae use in speaking o' Watty's folly and madness. The deevil's done and canna be undone. As the savin' him, my dear lady, I hae nae great hope o' daein' that."

"Oh, do not say so, Sir Gilbert," cried Marion, in the wildest tones. "By the love and friendship you had for his father, do not leave him to perish. Promise me you will not!"

ve did what ye did in a' honesty, and because ye thought it was richt, and what for should I make any odds in my friendship, I hae a warm side to ye, Watty, both for yer father's sake and for yer ain, and wad gie a gey blyss o' Brankwood tae get ye out o' the scrape.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Theodore's Position and Power.

The special correspondent of the London Post says:—Two days ago I was talking to an Abyssinian chief who had been educated at Bombay, and speaks English well, and he had been very intimate with King Theodore. He represented him as very passionate and vindictive, with an enormous influence over the minds, not only of his own subjects, but of all whom he came in contact with; "in fact," said he, "were Theodore to lay himself on the ground and say, 'No one can pass over my body,' all his people would implicitly believe it as a fact." This almost beats Canute and the waves. "You will never catch him," continued the chief, "he may fight—it is not probable; but he will be sure to escape, even if he has to sacrifice the prisoners and his whole army; he never sleeps for more than half an hour without rising from his couch and personally inspecting his guards, and he always carries two pistols, one for his enemy and the other for himself. No doubt my friend was a little infected with the prevailing dread of the fierce Theodore, although so far out of his reach; but I fear he is right in saying that search for the king in his native fastnesses will be like looking for a black cat in a coal cellar. I inquired what were the probabilities of conspiracy against him, or assassination, and was told *no*. He is too superstitiously looked up to. It is, of course, impossible at the present moment to assume what the actual plan of the campaign will be, but in the event of our having to penetrate all the way to Magdala and Debra Tabor, I believe the advance will be conducted with unparalleled care and caution. The two principal posts on the line of march are Antalo and Sokota, and at each of these places as at Senafa ample provisions and supplies of all kinds will be laid in before we proceed one step in advance from each depot in succession. In this case it must prove a lengthy business, and as the heavy rains set in about May, it will probably be September next before we reach King Theodore's capital.

A Teacher Wanted.
We take the following from the Ottawa Times:—"Wanted a teacher holding a first class certificate. Salary two hundred and fifty dollars per annum."

The above announcement caught our eye yesterday morning, and our first feeling was one of astonishment, that any man should be found in the whole Province of Ontario, who would put his name to it without blushing. Two hundred and fifty dollars per annum—eighty cents per day, when common labourers readily command a dollar! Our next feeling of astonishment ought to be, that any man not physically disqualified for manual labour would accept a situation as first class teacher for such a paltry sum. But unfortunately in the days of fashion and refinement, ambitious young men are dreadfully afraid of spoiling their hands by what is called "hard work," and are afraid to accept the position of "dominie" at starvation wages, rather than qualify themselves for the battle of life by the acquisition of some useful mechanical occupation, or the no less useful cultivation of the soil.

If school trustees really expect to get good teachers, and keep them, they must offer salaries more commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of the position, and if able bodied "male teachers, holding first class certificates," understood their own interests, they would find many more profitable ways of employing their time and talents, than in becoming "knights of the ferule," at eighty cents per day.

COAL OIL.
Another supply of No. 1 Coal Oil at 15 cents per gallon, and Tin Cans of any size with patent tops and spouts; also another supply of the new Burners, at John Horsman's.

Note for the future I shall keep none but the genuine No. 1 Coal Oil.
JOHN HORSMAN.

COMMERCIAL.
The Guelph Markets.
MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH, February 14, 1868.

Flour, per 100 lbs.	37 75	40 00
Fall Wheat per bushel.	1 15	1 48
Spring Wheat.	1 50	1 57
Oats.	0 50	0 55
Peas.	40	0 85
Barley.	40	1 19
Hay, per ton.	11 00	11 00
Straw.	4 00	5 00
Shingles per square.	1 00	1 20
Wood per cord.	1 00	1 20
Wool.	0 27	0 30
Eggs per dozen.	0 14	0 18
Butter (16 lbs.) per lb.	0 18	0 20
Cheese, each.	0 25	0 30
Turkeys do.	0 80	0 90
Chickens per pair.	0 20	0 28
Ducks do.	0 20	0 28
Potatoes.	0 60	0 70
Apples per bushel.	0 00	2 00
Lamb per lb.	0 06	0 07
Beef.	0 00	0 60
Beef, per lb.	0 05	0 06
Pork per 100 lbs.	5 50	6 00
Sheep Fat each.	0 50	0 75
Lamb skins.	0 40	0 45
Hides per 100 lbs.	6 00	6 00

Money Market.
JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE, Guelph, February 14, 1868.

MONTREAL MARKETS.
Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co's. report by Special Telegram to "Evening Mercury," Montreal, February 13, 1868.

Flour—Fancy, \$7.75 to \$7.75; Superior No. 1, \$7.50 to \$7.65; W. & L. Canal, \$7.60. Bag Flour, \$1.00 to \$1.05. Oats, 46¢ to 47¢. Barley, 30¢ to \$1.00. Butter—Lard, \$1.00 to \$1.05; store packed, 14¢ to 15¢. Ashes—Do, \$5.25 to \$5.30; pearls, \$5.75 to \$5.75.

TORONTO, February 13, 1868.
Flour—Receipts, 500 bbls.; No. 1, at \$7.00 to \$7.25. Fall Wheat, \$1.75; Spring Wheat, \$1.62 to \$1.64. Oats, 20¢. Barley, \$1.24 to \$1.25. Peas, 40¢.

HAMILTON, February 13, 1868.
Fall wheat, \$1.70 to \$1.77; spring do, \$1.55 to \$1.60 per bushel. Barley—\$1.00 to \$1.05. Oats—40¢ to 45¢. Peas—30¢ to 35¢. Pork—25¢ to 26¢.

GUELPH LUMBER MARKET.
(Compiled by Messrs. Gowdy & Stewart, of Wellington Lumber Yard.)

FURS, FURS, FURS.

WE have opened our stock of FURS, from the most famous sources, which we will sell at LOW PRICES, viz:

- Extra Dark Mink.
- Royal Ermine.
- Siberian Squirrel.
- River Mink.
- Ladies' Hoods.

And a full assortment of CHILDREN'S FURS, GENTS' WAFFLES and GLOVES, SLIGHT ROBES, &c.

F. GARLAND,
Marketsquare, Guelph.

The Highest Price paid for Raw Furs
Guelph, Oct. 31, 1867. 88d W 321

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.

WHIPS, Horse Covers, Sleigh Balls
A very large and well-assorted stock of Whips will be sold at 25¢ on the dollar, or our former low prices, 50 yards north of St. George's Church.

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

Christmas and New Year's
Berlin & Fancy Wools

Valuable Property!
FOR SALE LOW.

NEW Oyster Rooms
Valentine Wald

FAMILY KNITTING MACHINE
THE BARCLAY SEWING MACHINE.

NOTICE.
MR. CHAS. CRUNDY who has been my bookkeeper for several years in Guelph, is authorized to collect all debts due to me, and to grant receipts in my name for all payments that may be paid to him on my account. Also, to adjust and pay any accounts due by me.

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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

FLLOUR, GRAIN, PROVISIONS,
ASHES, LEATHER, &c.

Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co.,
Kirkwood, Livingstone & More,
Kirkwood, Livingstone & More,

FISH, OILS, &c.
Kirkwood, Livingstone & Co.,
Kirkwood, Livingstone & More,

CHEAP Photographs
W. BURGESS

Christmas Presents,
REDUCED PRICES.

PICTURES
W. BURGESS.

Gold & Silver Plating
A. HOWIE & CO.

National Series of Reading Books,
NOW READY FOR DELIVERY.

THE BARCLAY SEWING MACHINE.
WITHOUT any exception, the Barclay Sewing Machine, manufactured by the British American Sewing Machine Company,

AT PARIS, ONTARIO,
General Agent for the County of Wellington.

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Sunday Reader	1 75	15c	Contemporary Review	6 75	75c
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West End Gazette of Fashions	3 50	30c	Dublin University Magazine	8 75	75c
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Orders for any of the above Magazines received, and will be supplied regular.
AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE,
Opposite the Market, Guelph.
Guelph, 18th January, 1868.

GREAT CLEARING SALE

The Great Clearing Sale of
DRY GOODS!
IS STILL GOING ON AT

WM. STEWART'S,
Guelph, 11th December, 1867.

PLASTER, PLASTER

And while sloughing is good, farmers should get their supplies. By advices from Paris, York and California, we learn that all that can be produced is already engaged, and that the demand will far exceed the supply. We have been able to secure only

300 TONS.

Instead of 500, and we would then fore advise those requiring any to purchase early.
A small lot of very fine Clover Seed on hand
JAS. MASSIE & CO.
Guelph, 17th January 1868.