

BRITISH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL COLLEGE. PRIZE PENMANSHIP! Superior Advantages Offered!

THE attention of young men looking forward to mercantile life is earnestly requested to take internal arrangements of this College, which afford every possible advantage and facility for acquiring a thorough practical knowledge of business life and business habits.

The time required to complete the full course varies considerably according to the attendance, attention and ability of each student. Young men, however, are earnestly cautioned against the injurious practice of hurrying through the course from the mistaken idea that they will thus be gainers by the saving of money in the item of board.

INCORPORATION.—A meeting of the good people of Durham was convened on Wednesday evening, last to consider the propriety of having the village incorporated.

SCOTCH WHISKEY, Malt Whiskey, Old Rye Whiskey, Cobourg Whiskey, at John A. Wood's.

ACCIDENTAL POISONING.—The Brantford Expressor says:—A daughter of Mr. R. Gripton drank a quantity of oxalic acid yesterday morning, and but little hope is entertained of her recovery.

THE CHIMNEY of the NEW COAL OIL BURNER can be taken off at any time without burning the fingers.—To be had at MR. HORSMAN'S.

IF you want Wine, Brandy, Rum, Gin, Extra Old Rye, Malt, Scotch Family Whiskies, go to Geo. Wilkinson's.

IT Gives Satisfaction, does that excellent Tea sold for 63c per lb. by JAS. MURPHY, No. 1, Upper Wyndham-st., Guelph.

NORTH WARD SCHOOL.—In addition to the usual quarterly examination by the Rev. R. Torrance, Local Superintendent, the pupils of the above school have been subjected by their teachers to a thorough examination, extending through the entire last week of the term.

THE WIZARD SOAP W. F. FOX & CO. HAVE commenced to manufacture the celebrated Wizard Soap in Guelph. It is superior to any others.

SOAP for all kinds of WASHING IT REMOVES STAINS, PAINT, GREASE OR TAR. Does not injure the hands, takes less labor, and gives the clothes a better appearance.

STRAY CATTLE. CAME on the premises of the undersigned on the 9th December 1867, 2 Heifers 3 years old, and one two years old. The owner can have them by proving property and paying expense.

MR. HORSMAN has a Magnificent Stock of Articles suitable for Christmas Presents.

Store House to Rent. TO RENT, the premises formerly known as Williams' old Brewery, with three floors 80 feet long by 25 wide, suitable for storing wheat or packing pork. A never-failing stream of water runs through the premises. It is adjacent to the Market Square. Apply to W. WILLIAM DYSON, Guelph, 17th Dec, 1867.

TROTTER & GRAHAM. DENTISTS! GUELPH AND BRAMPTON, Members of the Dental Association of the Province of Ontario. (Successor in Guelph to T. Trotter.) OFFICE: Over Mr. Higinbotham's Drug Store.

NEW LAW OFFICE. FREEMAN & FREEMAN BARRISTERS AND ATTORNEYS, SOLICITORS IN CHANCERY, CONVEYANCERS, &c.

Office over Barry's Confectionery Store, Wyndham Street, Guelph. Guelph, 4th December, 1867.

Evening Mercury. OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET. MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 23.

Local News.

The attention of the members of St. George's Church, Guelph, is requested to an advertisement in another column touching the Christmas offertory.

For Almonds, Walnuts, Brazil Nuts, Filberts and choice Turkey Figs, go to Geo. Wilkinson's.

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Over Mr. Higinbotham's Drug Store. REFERENCED.—Rev. Archbishop Palmer, Drs. Clarke, Parker and Harold, Guelph; A. F. Scott, Esq., County Judge; George Green, County Attorney; Dr. Pattullo, M. M. C.; Rev. Mr. Arnold—Brampton. Dr. Barnhart, Warden of Peel; Dr. Hampton, resident Surgeon Toronto Hospital.

MT. FOREST CORRESPONDENCE.

From our own Correspondent. The Municipal Elections now absorb all the attention of the free and independent, particularly the knowing ones, who have certain claims to the title of political and municipal jockeys.

The nominations of Mayor, Reeve and Deputy Reeves, took place in the Town Hall to-day (Monday) at 10 a.m. James Hough, Esq., Returning Officer, read the notice convening the meeting, but nearly twenty minutes were allowed to elapse before anything else was done.

Mr. P. Gow, at the expiration of the period we have mentioned, came on the platform and said the time had again come round to elect a chief magistrate, a reeve, and two deputy Reeves.

Mr. Peterson said that the observations made by Mr. Melvin were in the main correct. As one of the representatives of the town he had endeavoured both at the Council Board and in the County Council to promote the interests of the town, and should be elected he would do his best to follow out the same course.

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BY TELEGRAPH.

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OUR COUNTRY.

Human nature is prone to grumble and complain, and to fancy that other people are happier and better off than we are ourselves. We are too often inclined to judge from mere superficial views and observations of our neighbors. This has often been the fashion of many Canadians when discussing the fortunes of their "American Cousins," whom they deemed supremely fortunate while they were correspondingly wretched. Often after a hurried visit to New York or some other large American city the humbled "Canuck" would return very much impressed with the glories of the republic across the lines, where there were lots of money and apparently endless profusion, and where ceaseless activity and bustle were apparent everywhere. He would return in a discontented and desponding frame of mind, and would begin to draw comparisons highly unfavorable to the enterprise and condition of the land we live in, coupled sometimes with a determination or longing to pull up stakes and cross the border. One often hears the remark—"Just look at the Yankee cities and towns, how much they are ahead of our own—how busy things look by the side of our own." And yet if a little quiet reflection were indulged in, the Canadian's comparison would almost always be highly favorable to his own soil and people. It is indeed not gold that glitters. But while saying this we do not consider it necessary to abuse our neighbors in order to prove our patriotism. On the contrary we all must admit that the United States is a great country. Her people, sprung like ourselves from a common stock, possess the same energies and the same aspirations as we ourselves do. Nevertheless Providence has smiled upon Canada with the most unbounded benignity—sent her peace, health and prosperity in all her borders—the want of which in many senses our neighbors lament. Look at the terrible desolation caused by the mighty war which nearly rent that great Union asunder, and which left behind it but the shattered wreck of its once powerful confederation of States.—Look also at the herculean task it has now in hand—which for the present is well nigh hopeless—of ever reconstructing the wayward sisters of the South.

Canada happily has been kept free from all such conflicts and disorders. In addition to the protection secured by her own stalwart sons, she has also the powerful protection of the mother country, whose generous assistance is ever ready to be extended to us either to guard our homes or advance the material welfare of the new British Dominion. As a people, therefore, we have great cause for thankfulness, especially when in no spirit of exultation, but rather the contrary, we begin to draw comparisons between our condition and that of our neighbors. As a nation they have gone through the severest ordeal, and if they have nothing else to show for it, the boast that no slave now pollutes her soil is something to be proud of, even though bought as it was by the blood and treasure of her sons. But when we look at the present state of American trade—at her industry partially paralyzed—her prosperity in a measure checked—we must feel all the more satisfied with our own country and our own prospects. Just fancy the debt of the United States made up to the 1st November, and taken from the returns of Mr. McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury, as the state of the finances for the present year:—

Table with financial data: Debt bearing coin interest, currency interest, Maturity debt not presented for payment, Debt bearing no interest, Less cash in Treasury.

This tremendous sum it will be borne in mind has nothing to do with other State debts, which are also very large and proportionately burdensome. Thank heaven that such a burden does not rest on our shoulders in Canada, accustomed as we are to say that our own debt is heavy enough.

The Secretary also makes the following melancholy allusion to the condition of the shipping interests: "Our ship yards are, with rare exceptions, inactive. Our surplus products are being chiefly transported to foreign countries in foreign vessels, and the country can neither build ships nor successfully compete with English ships in the transportation of our own productions. The indications are that the great ship-building interests of the Eastern and Middle States have been steadily declining, and that consequently the United States is gradually ceasing to be a great maritime power." Listen also to the following observations of the honest, outspoken

"The internal revenues of the past year would have largely exceeded the estimates but for the failure of the revenue officers to collect the taxes on distilled liquors. It is extremely difficult in places where politics are apt to influence, if not to control, elections for officers, and where skill in evading the requirements of the revenue laws is not among the least decided characteristics of the people." After this candid confession let us not undervalue British politics or official integrity.

His remarks upon the necessity of economy in the public expenditure can be quoted with profit and advantage for our own legislators:—"The people have a right to demand that their necessary prudence shall not be neutralized by unnecessary expenditure.—Public economy is in all nations a rare virtue, and it is a singular truth that nations which are most deeply in debt, and whose affairs ought therefore to be most prudently managed, are the very nations in which the least economy is observed. This truth is largely attributable to the well known fact, that the contracting of public debt is unavoidably attended with imprudent if not reckless expenditure, and that when those entrusted with, or possessing, governing power have once enjoyed the luxury of using or expending freely the moneys under their control, proper economy is often and exceedingly difficult to be enforced. Thus national debts become chronic, and efforts to reduce them are rarely successful."

His remarks on the currency question are also so plain and so sound that we would commend them to our financiers and to any grumbling visitor who may have lately returned from Uncle Sam's territory, where there are so many greenbacks flying about as to give him such an exalted opinion of the plentifulness of the sinews of war as to make him wish for something like it here. He says:—"Had the specie standard been maintained and bonds been sold at a discount for real money, there would have been economy in all the branches of the public service, and the country would have escaped the evils resulting from a disregard of the great international law, which no nation can violate with impunity—the one that makes gold and silver the only true measures of value." We think it sufficiently clear from the views of Mr. McCulloch himself, that the American people have a path not strewn with roses ahead of them. Let us profit by the example and warning presented, and with industry, economy and a patriotic self-reliance, work out the manifest glorious destiny of the Dominion which so plainly is ahead of us, if we prove true to our institutions, our antecedents and ourselves, and

"With hearts resolved and hands prepared, The blessings we enjoy to guard."

PRESENT CONDITION OF MEXICO. The New York Tribune says:—"For some time, the news from our sister Republic of Mexico has been of the most satisfactory character. The last vestiges of civil war are disappearing; the highwaymen are put down with energy and success; the evil prophecies of some interested and dishonest speculators have proved to be untrue, and a Congress consisting of able men than have ever assembled in Mexico has begun, in full harmony with the President, the work of reconstruction. The speech of the President of the Republic on opening Congress, and the reply of the President of Congress, will be read throughout America with profound interest. During the fierce ordeal through which the Mexican Republic has had to pass, it received the warmest expressions of sympathy from every republic of the American continent. The fact is gratefully acknowledged both by Juarez and the President of the Congress.

BIRTHS. METCALF—At Guelph, on the 22nd inst, the wife of Mr. Henry Metcalf, saddler, of a son.

MARRIAGES. GRASSICK—BELL—At Guelph, on the 20th inst., by the Rev. John Hogg, Mr Geo Grassick to Miss Ann Jane Bell, both of Nichol.

New Advertisements.

TO THE MEMBERS OF St. George's Church. THE Archdeacon desires it to be known by the congregation that the Offertory on Christmas Day is intended for the Curate.

BERKSHIRE BOAR. THE subscriber has newly purchased a first-class pure-bred Berkshire Boar, which will serve sows during the season. Terms \$1.

BOUQUETS OF Everlasting Flowers, SUITABLE FOR Christmas Decorations!

At C. & A. SHARPE'S, Market Square, Guelph. Guelph, 23rd December, 1867.

WESLEYAN S. SCHOOL Tea Meeting! THE Wesleyan Methodist Sabbath School Tea Meeting will be held

On Thursday Evening Next, at the Church, 10th Street, Guelph.

New Advertisements. GREAT SALE BY AUCTION.

GREAT SALE BY AUCTION OF THE GROCERIES! Saved from the Fire at the Alma Block, on FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, The 27th and 28th Instant.

All to be Sold in Lots to suit Purchasers, Without Reserve. ON FRIDAY—THE UNBROKEN PACKAGES will be offered to the Trade, together with all the Goods bought at the time of the fire and in transit. TERMS LIBERAL. ON SATURDAY—The balance will be PUT UP IN LOTS FOR FAMILY USE.

The Goods can be seen during the week at the Warehouse of Messrs. ROBINS & TOLTON, near the Grand Trunk Passenger Station.

J. MASSIE & CO. Guelph 16th Dec. 1867.

CHRISTMAS.

THE subscriber, though unfortunately left to battle alone with the trade of Upper Wyndham Street, begs to assure the public that he is determined not to surrender, but will, as usual, keep a full supply of

GENERAL GROCERIES!

Wines and Liquors, Crockery, China and Glassware, which he will sell as cheap as any house in the town.

Teas, Coffees, Sugars, Tobaccos. Good Green and Black Teas from 50c. per lb., Green and Ground Coffees. SUGARS—Muscovada, Loaf, Ground and Crushed. First class Chewing and Smoking Tobaccos.

Fruits and Sauces for Christmas & New Year ALL TO GO OFF CHEAP.

WINES AND LIQUORS

will be sold as low as the Tariff and Excise Laws of the Dominion will permit. Always good value for your money on Upper Wyndham Street.

JAMES MURPHY. Guelph, 21st December, 1867.

No. 2, Day's Block, . . Guelph.

12 lbs. PRIME VALENTIA RAISINS FOR ONE DOLLAR.

All other FRUITS equally low. E. CARROLL & CO., Guelph, 23rd Dec, 1867.

Queen's Book 85 Cents.

NEW supply of the Queen's Book. Price 85c. At DAY'S BOOKSTORE, Opposite the Market. Guelph, 21st Dec, 1867.

Insolvent Act of 1864

In the matter of GEO. ALEXANDER, of Clifford, AN INSOLVENT.

THE creditors of the Insolvent are notified that he has made an assignment of his estate and effects under the above Act to me, the undersigned, Official Assignee, and they are required to produce before me, within two months from this date, their claims upon the said estate, under oath, specifying the security they hold, if any, and the value of it; and if none, stating the fact, with vouchers in support of such claims.

THOMAS SAUNDERS, Official Assignee. Guelph, 19th December, 1867.

Private Boarding.

EXCELLENT accommodation and comfortable Boarding can be had for five or six gentlemen. The house is only three minutes' walk from the Market House. Apply to WM. DYSON'S, sr., Waterloo-st. Guelph, 27th Nov, 1867.

Four Corners' Hotel, ERANOSA ROAD.

JOHN ANDERSON, Proprietor. The best of

Gift Books Gift Books Gift Books Very Cheap, at Day's Bookstore, Opposite the Market.

Illustrated Books Illustrated Books Illustrated Books Very Cheap, at Day's Bookstore, Opposite the Market.

Pocket Bibles Pocket Bibles Pocket Bibles VERY CHEAP, At Day's Bookstore, Opposite the Market.

Wesley's Hymns Wesley's Hymns Wesley's Hymns Very Cheap, at Day's Bookstore Opposite the Market.

Church Service Church Service Church Service VERY CHEAP, AT Day's Bookstore Opposite the Market.

Hymn Books Hymn Books Hymn Books Very Cheap, at Day's Bookstore, Opposite the Market.

Family Bibles Family Bibles Family Bibles Very Cheap, at Day's Bookstore, Opposite the Market.

Juvenile Books for Boys Juvenile Books for Boys Juvenile Books for Boys Very Cheap, at Day's Bookstore Opposite the Market.

Juvenile Books for Girls Juvenile Books for Girls Juvenile Books for Girls Very Cheap, at Day's Bookstore, Opposite the Market.

The Bound Vol. OF THE Sunday at Home, Leisure Hour, for 1867, NOW READY AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE, Opposite the Market.

TOY BOOKS TOY BOOKS TOY BOOKS Untearable Books Untearable Books Untearable Books

Washable Books Washable Books Washable Books VERY CHEAP, at Day's Bookstore,

Books for Xmas Books for Xmas Books for Xmas VERY CHEAP, AT Day's Bookstore, OPPOSITE THE MARKET.

Ladies' Satchels, Gents' Satchel's, Wax Dolls, Fancy Goods, of every description. VERY CHEAP, at Day's Bookstore, Opposite the Market.

DAY BOOKS LEDGERS CASH BOOKS JOURNALS AT DAY'S BOOKSTORE, Opposite the Market.

Guelph, 19th December, 1867. dw

HENRY MULHOLLAND! THE OFFICE of Henry Mulholland is removed temporarily to the

READING ROOM OF ELLIS' HOTEL. Nearly Opposite the Old Stand. Guelph, 17th December, 1867. dw

THE RED MILL. THE subscriber having put a steam engine in his Mill, farmers bringing in their Grists can rely on having them ground the same day. Chopping done every 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. dw2m

NEW SHOP SMITH & METCALF BEG to inform their customers and the public that for the present they have opened a shop in the premises. Two doors North of the Post Office, next door to Mr Coffee's Hotel, where they will be prepared, as usual, to supply all articles in their line. The stock saved from the late fire will be sold at reduced prices. SMITH & METCALF. Guelph, 17th December, 1867. dw1f

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COY. 1867 1867! GUELPH AGENCY. Steam to Liverpool, London and Glasgow. Steamship MORAVIAN, Portland to Liverpool, 7th December, 1867. Tickets to and from the Old Country, Passage Co tickets to bring friends out, Return Tickets 4 for 6 months, issued at reduced rates. State-coms secured, and every information given on application. Insurance Policies for the voyage issued at the low rate of \$1 per 1,000 up to 10,000. Apply to GEORGE A. OXNARD, Agent, G. T. R., Guelph. Guelph, Oct. 21 1867. da

CARD OF THANKS. THE subscriber begs to acknowledge the payment in full of his claim against the Pastinch Mutual Fire Insurance Company for the loss sustained on the 8th July last, by fire, in the destruction of his dwelling House and contents. Absence from the Township prevented his publicly acknowledging earlier the prompt manner in which the Company paid his claim. JOHN CARTER. Pastinch, 17th December, 1867.

DOMINION SALOON, (LATE GRAND'S BRADER SALOON,) OPPOSITE THE MARKET, GUELPH. CHOICE LIQUORS, Cigars, Oysters, &c., &c., always on hand. Meals furnished at all hours. DENIS BUNYAN. Guelph, December 2, 1867. dawly

DEVON BULL FOR SALE FOR sale by the subscriber, the Devon Bull "Prince William," 4 years old. He has taken eight premiums at the Provincial and County Shows, and also at the last New York State Fair. He is the best bull of the Devon breed in Canada. Apply to GEO. BIRD.

RETIRING FROM BUSINESS!

TREMENDOUS CLEARING SALE OF THE LARGE STOCK OF DRY GOODS, MILLINERY, READY-MADE CLOTHING, &C., BELONGING TO HOGG & CHANCE, GUELPH.

The Co-partnership Dissolved! Mr. HOGG retires from the Business!

The Stock to be Cleared Off at Cost Prices, commencing on Monday, the 9th of December.

GREAT BARGAINS! Families ought to take advantage of this rare opportunity of laying in their Winter supplies at once, as this Stock is very large and complete in every Department. **Actual Cost Prices** will be asked for all the Goods, and no second price or bantering. Store will be open at 9 o'clock in the morning, and close at 6 o'clock in the evening during the sale. All Goods will be sold for Cash only.

Guelph, 30th November, 1867.

dw-lm

HOGG & CHANCE.

GO TO CUTHBERT'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

GO TO CUTHBERT'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

A Merry Christmas

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL.

GO TO CUTHBERT'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

GO TO CUTHBERT'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

NEW FRUITS

The most complete,
The most choice,
The most select,
The Best and Cheapest

- 22 lbs. New Currants for . . \$1
- 11 lbs. New Valencia Raisins
- 10 lbs. New Seedless Raisins
- 8 lbs. New London Layer do.
- Orange and Lemon Peel, 30c.

FILBERTS!

Brazil Nuts, Walnuts,
Almonds, shelled or unshelled,
Figs, Prunes,
Dried Cherries and Cranberries
Oranges, Lemons,
Dried and Green Apples,

Canned Fruits and Vegetables
of every description.

HUGH WALKER,
Wholesale and Retail Fruit Dealer,
WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.
Guelph, 13th December, 1867. dw

Medical Dispensary

JUST received at the Medical Dispensary, a large supply of
Tooth, Nail and Hair Brushes,
TOILET SOAPS, &c.
Also, the largest and best assorted stock of English and French **PERFUMERY** in town.

COAL OIL

of the best quality always on hand.
E. HARVEY
Opposite the English Church, Wyndham-st.,
Guelph, Ontario.
Guelph, 11th Dec. 1867. dw

Cordwood Wanted.
WANTED, 700 cords of good hard wood. Apply at Brown's Wood Yard, Woolwich-st.,

GREAT CLEARING SALE

The Great Clearing Sale of

DRY GOODS!

IS STILL GOING ON AT

WM. STEWART'S,

Guelph, 11th December, 1867. dw

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. The Company by thus paying all duty, costs and charges on their Watches into Canada, will supply to the people of the Dominion the

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. Our grades of **Extra Heavy Cased Watches** for Railway Engineers and Lumbermen deserve particular attention in Canada, as nothing can equal them for the purpose. Our leading Watches in 18 Carat Gold Cases for Ladies and Private Gentlemen, at medium prices, will also be found very desirable.

We are frequently asked why we don't advertise prices. We reply that as we only supply the trade and as our Watches are now kept by most respectable houses, the public can rely on being served at a fair advance on the Manufacturer's List. Our trade marks are AMERICAN WATCH CO., APPLETON TRACY & Co., WALTHAM WATCH CO., P. S. BARTLETT, WM. ELLERY, HOME WATCH CO. Guaranteed in all cases by special certificate (except the HOME CO., which is warranted by the seller. The purchaser should always require the guarantee, as there are Swiss counterfeits for sale in some places.

ROBBINS & APPLETON, New York, General Agents.
ROBERT WILKES, Toronto and Montreal.
D. SAVAGE,

LOOK OUT For No. 1.

WILKINSON'S

BY going to WILKINSON'S for

OYSTERS

They are admitted by customers to be the best, largest and cheapest in Guelph.

FINNAN HADDIES

IF you want real Finnan Haddies, fresh Cod Fish, fresh Haddock and Yarmouth Blotlers, Go to **GEO. WILKINSON'S.**

SEALED GOODS!

FOR hermetically Sealed Goods, consisting of Strawberries, Lawton Blackberries, Peaches, Cherries, Tomatoes, Green Peas, Lobsters and Sardines, go to **GEO. WILKINSON'S.**

FRUIT, FRUIT

BUY your Fruit at Wilkinson's, and save 20 per cent. To convince you of this fact, below are quotations.

- 10 pounds Layer Raisins for - \$1
- 10 " Seedless Raisins - 1
- 12 " French Prunes - 1
- 20 " Currants - 1

GEORGE WILKINSON.
Next door to Telegraph and Express Office.
Guelph, Dec. 9, 1867. daw tf

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

JUST received, a large lot of FANCY GOODS, all kinds, suitable for PRESENTS for

Christmas & New Year's

She has the LARGEST and BEST ASSORTMENT in town of

Berlin & Fancy Wools

Stamping for Braiding and Embroidery.

MRS. HUNTER.
Guelph, 11th Dec., 1867. dw

Dominion Store!
(Late Post Office Store.)

MRS. ROBINSON

HAS on hand a varied stock of **GENERAL GROCERIES** for **Christmas & New Year** consisting of Almonds, Brazil Filberts.

NEW FRUIT!

Figs, Dates, Raisins, Lemons at 25c per dozen.

Don't forget the stand, next to the Wellington Hotel, where you can get the best and cheapest lot of **Fancy Goods** in Guelph.

MRS. ROBINSON,
Upper Wyndham Street, Guelph.
Guelph, Dec. 17th, 1867. daw

FURS, FURS, FURS.



WE have opened our stock of **FURS**, for our own manufacture, 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' MUFFERS and GLOVES, SLEIGH ROBES, &c.**
F. GARLAND,
Market Square, Guelph.

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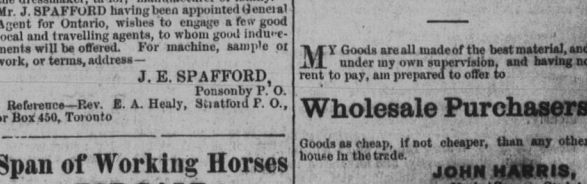
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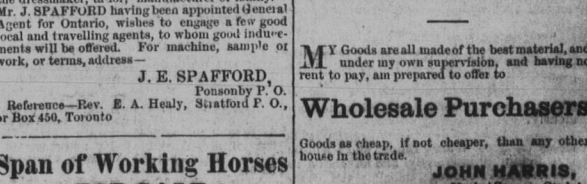
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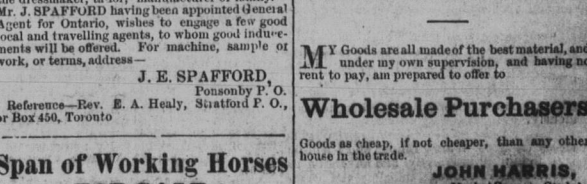
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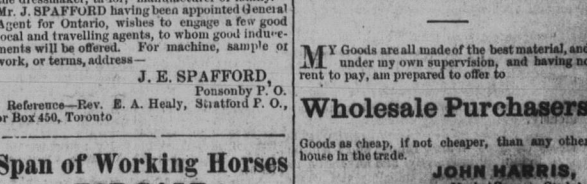
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TO SUBSCRIBERS.
 Subscribers wishing to take the Evening Mercury by the week, or for a longer period, will please leave their names at the office, and it will be regularly delivered at their residences. Subscribers whose papers are not regularly delivered by the Carrier Boys, will please call at the office at once and inform us of the neglect.

Guelph Evening Mercury
 OFFICE:.....MACDONNELL STREET.
 MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 23.

The Maiden's Choice
 OR, THE LAIRD OF BIRKENLEUCH.

A Tale of the Covenanters.

She paused, and a deep blush, which was, of course, unseemly, spread itself over her sweet face when she found herself about to give expression to her secret admiration of the man who had won her heart. A silence ensued, which her companion did not break, but at the end of a few minutes Marion broke it herself, by saying gaily—
 "I wonder what a woman you will choose for a wife, Hugh. She will require to be goodness itself."
 "That is a choice I am not likely to make in a hurry," answered Hugh, gravely. "The times are such that a minister of the Gospel cannot marry if he would, and should not if he could. The cause of the Covenant requires all the energies of his heart and mind, and much I fear that darker times still are at hand, when all faithful ministers must bear their testimony, at a sacrifice greater than even that they have already made—aye, even to death itself."
 "It is, indeed, a dreadful time," said Marion, "when four hundred ministers in Scotland are banished from their parishes, and forbidden to preach to the people; when the people are fined and imprisoned for giving them shelter, and punished with the utmost severity if they do not attend on the preaching of those men who have been thrust into their pulpits. Oh, Hugh! this cruel tyranny cannot continue."
 Her companion was about to reply, when a sound reached their ear, which made them both start and look anxiously across the moor in the direction from whence it came. It was the sound of a galloping horse and the clanking of armour, and to their dismay they beheld a mounted trooper coming over the heath at full speed. He was alone, but he was evidently making towards them; and if he had not yet seen them he speedily would, for there was neither tree nor bush nor hollow to hide them from his view.
 To seek safety in flight was also useless, for their horse, though put to his utmost, was no match for the trooper's steed, and neither of them were very bold or skilful riders. There was nothing for it, therefore, but to continue on their way; and this they did, fervently praying that the soldier did not mean them harm.
 "It is one of the persecuting malignants," groaned M'Kail.
 "Heaven protect us!" prayed Marion, as instinctively she clung more closely to her companion.
 The horseman came thundering on, and would have struck the track considerably in advance of them, but chancing to turn round his head he suddenly saw them, and as suddenly ceasing his horse to whinny, he came cantering towards them, and pulled up directly in their path.
 "Hilloo; who are you, and what takes you abroad on the moor after nightfall?" he loudly and insolently demanded. Before he spoke they saw that he wore an officer's uniform, but the moment he uttered the words they recognized the voice as that of Charlie Allan—the very man who had been the subject of their previous conversation.
 "Who are you, I say?" thundered the trooper, still more insolently, for they had made no reply to his question. "Some Whig minister, I'll be bound, who has been holding a field preaching with more of the rebels. Give me an instant answer, or I shall find a way to force one."
 "This is a rough salutation to give to old acquaintances, Mr. Allan," said M'Kail.
 The trooper started, and bent eagerly forward, to scrutinize their faces, which were both turned towards him.
 "Ha!" he exclaimed. "By heavens, Hugh M'Kail and Marion Gordon! Well, if this isn't rare luck! And where, pray, are you skulking to? But I needn't ask, for well do I guess you are bound for Birkenleuch, or near it."
 "You are very impertinent, sir," returned M'Kail, calmly. "Truth compels me to say that your new trade of a soldier has not improved your manners."
 "Ha! say so!" exclaimed Allan, with a mocking laugh. "Times are changed since the day we parted in Greystone Manse—the day, Marion Gordon, when I was ignominiously dismissed as a rejected suitor, and told that your choice had fallen, not on me, but on Walter Elliot, the laird of Birkenleuch. You remember the day well, I daresay, when you had your triumph by sending me from your presence with the information that he was preferred to me."
 "You are unjust, Mr. Allan," said Marion, in a tone, the tremulousness of which she could not fully disguise. "There was no triumph either shown or felt. I was grateful for your proffered love, and felt sorry for any disappointment you experienced; but my heart being already given to another, how could I do aught but—"
 "Oh, yes," he interrupted with bitter emphasis. "You took care to let me know that my rival had been beforehand with me, and snatched the prize I sought. Then, as a punishment for my presumption, your father expelled me from the manse."
 "Oh, Charlie, how can you say so," burst out Marion, impetuously. "My father never, by word or deed, interfered in the matter, but left me perfectly free to decide as my heart dictated."
 "Aye, and was all the better pleased because your choice was to his liking. Perhaps you will say it was not him who put me out of doors."
 "Not in unkindness," replied the maiden. "But after what I know of you, I think it would be better even for yourself to leave."
 "That my rival might have the field to himself," cried the trooper.
 "That could not be," interposed M'Kail. "For Marion having made her choice, there could no longer be rivalry, since honour required you to relinquish the pursuit."
 "Say you so?" sneered Allan. "Pray remember, Mr. Allan, that you are not a field preacher here, and that an officer of His Majesty is not to be taught by a canting rebel like you. Times are changed now, and we have got to different sides of the hedge. So I may tell you that I am not one accustomed to relinquish any pursuit, and now expect to find my chance with Marion the best of the two. I was nobody then, and Elliot was the laird of Birkenleuch. Now I am Captain Allan of His Majesty's Horse, and Elliot is more than suspected of favouring the rebels, therefore I have the power to crush him."
 "All which makes no difference in Marion's relation to you and Walter," calmly observed M'Kail.
 "Hold your tongue, fellow," thundered Allan. "We want none of your interference. You may find you have enough to do to keep yourself right. Let the girl speak for herself."
 "I can only repeat what Hugh has said," answered Marion, indignantly. "No change of circumstances can alter the choice I have made."
 "Would you prefer one who may soon be a beggar and a prisoner," said Allan, incredulously.
 "Yes," was the noble reply. "I have pledged my name to Walter Elliot, and I will be true to him in prosperity and adversity, in freedom and in bondage, in safety and persecution."
 "Then, by heaven, if you will not yield to my persuasion, you shall be my power!" roared Allan. "I will both secure you and subdue you. Mine you shall be, and for your former scorn I shall have revenge in torturing those you cling to—this white-faced coveting constable, and your prescribed father, and the insolent laird of Birkenleuch— Doubtless you were on your way to a nice snug family meeting, but as it is also a meeting of rebels, it is equally my duty and my pleasure to prevent it. Mr. M'Kail, I will have you of your charge by sending Marion before me, and you accompany us as my

"No, no, Charlie. You would not harm us," cried Marion. "These are but empty threats uttered in your anger."
 "Are they?" said Allan, with an oath and a look which made the maiden shudder.
 "You are not so devoid of gratitude as to injure those who were so kind to you," expostulated M'Kail. "Has not Mr. Gordon been to you as a father, and Marion as a sister. Had you not a comfortable home with them for years. Have you forgot those things, or can you require them with aught but that forbearance and protection which a cruel and unjust Government causes them to require."
 "Ha! you dare talk treason to me," vociferated the trooper. "The time was when I had to bear your parson's lectures, but I can see you now."
 As he spoke he brought his horse close to the side of that on which they rode, and made a snatch at Marion to place her before him. But Hugh instinctively caught her by the waist to wheel, and brought his horse round towards the trooper's saddle. Baffled thus in his object, a furious rage took instant possession of Allan, and raising his heavy riding whip he struck the preacher on the head.
 "A most brave soldier's deed, to strike the unarmed and defenceless," said Hugh, as he calmly kept his place between Allan and Marion.
 "I'll have her though I should ride you down," hissed the latter, through his foaming lips.
 "For shame!" exclaimed M'Kail. "You are the very last who should offer insult to you as a sister. If the fear of God do not deter you, think of the scorn and contempt of men."
 "Don't preach to me, you canting hypocrite," thundered Allan. "Marion Gordon goes with me to-night, though all the rebel Whigs in Scotland dared to oppose."
 He snatched the bridle rein from Hugh's unpractised hand, and gave it a jerk, which caused the horse to swerve round till the trembling Marion was again brought within his reach, when he immediately laid a vigorous grasp upon her, with the intention of placing her on his own steed. The attempt was, however, frustrated by the tenacity with which she now clung to her companion, and the consequence was that all three of them were unhorsed and fell together upon the heather, Marion uttering a loud piercing shriek as she descended to the ground.
 Allan sprang first to his feet, and poured forth a volley of oaths, as he saw his horse career wildly away in the distance. Then as Hugh was assisting Marion to rise, he sprang forward and, thrusting her in a furious aside, seized the maiden in his arms.
 "Oh, Hugh, save me!" shrieked the terrified girl, and the latter, in answer to the appeal, grasped her firmly by the skirt, thus preventing her captor from carrying her off, as he evidently intended.
 TO BE CONTINUED.

The Pure White Coal Oil at MR. HORSMAN'S Gives the most Brilliant LIGHT, and does not Smoke the Chimney.

The best brands of Smoking and Chewing Tobaccos are kept at Geo. Wilkinson's
PHRENOLOGY IN THE MONTREAL POST OFFICE.—The Montreal Postmaster has dismissed four employees of the post-office—all French Canadians—because a phrenologist assured him that these individuals were lacking in certain bumps necessary to their proper performance of their duties. To be without bumps is bad enough, but to be without bumps and employment in the depth of winter is pitiable in the extreme. We had imagined that this humbug had long since exploded.
The NEW BURNER for Safety, Economy and brilliancy of flame is unsurpassed. To be had at MR. HORSMAN'S.
 Dickens has realized \$300,000 from his four readings in Boston, and it is estimated that during his stay in this country his entire profits will reach \$300,000. He devotes himself closely to his work, and has three new papers in preparation, one of which is to be published in the Atlantic. He will read his "Christmas Carol" at Boston on Christmas eve, after returning from New York.
The NEW BURNER at MR. HORSMAN'S saves one-third Oil, and gives a Light Clear, White, and Cheerful.
 If you want Sugars at low rates, go to Geo. Wilkinson's.
THE PAY OF MEMBERS.—It is stated that the members of the Quebec Cabinet are to receive \$3,000 a year as salary, and that the Premier, Mr. Chauveau, will get \$4,000. Members are to receive a seasonal allowance of \$300—as the Quebec Legislature consists of two branches, and the printing will be done in English and French, it seems as if that Province is going it pretty extravagantly. It is reported that the members of Mr. Sandfield McDonald's Cabinet will get \$2,000 a year, and that the pay of members will be \$4 per day.

The Largest, Cheapest and Best Assortment of Coal Oil Lamps in Town, at MR. HORSMAN'S.

COMMERCIAL.

Guelph Markets.
 MERCURY OFFICE, GUELPH, }
 December 23, 1867. }

Flour, per 100 lbs.	\$3 75	4 00
Fall Wheat per bushel.	1 55	1 65
Spring Wheat, do.	1 38	1 40
Oats, do.	0 45	0 48
Barley, do.	0 62	0 65
Hay, per ton.	9 00	12 00
Straw, do.	4 00	5 00
Shingles per square.	1 00	1 00
Wood per cord.	3 00	4 00
Wool, do.	0 27	0 20
Eggs, per dozen.	0 14	0 19
Butter (skim), per lb.	0 14	0 16
Geese, each.	0 25	0 25
Turkeys do.	0 50	0 50
Chickens per pair.	0 20	0 25
Ducks do.	0 20	0 30
Potatoes.	0 50	0 55
Apples per bushel.	0 90	1 00
Lamb per lb.	0 06	0 07
Beef, do.	4 00	5 00
Butter, dairy 16c to 19c; store packed 14c to 16c. Ashes—Pots \$5 45 to \$5 50, pearls \$5 95 to \$6 00.		

Flour receipts liberal, market very quiet and but small sales at unchanged rates. Grain—wheat, no sales and rates unchanged; Peas no sales. Provisions—pork quiet at former rates; Hops, and candles at quotations; arrivals heavy; Butter, choice wanted; ordinary quiet. Ashes dull at quotations.

Money Market.
 JACKSON'S EXCHANGE OFFICE }
 Guelph, December 23, 1867. }

Gold, 133 1/2
 Greenbacks 67 1/2 to 74 1/2; Sold at 75 to 75 1/2.
 Silver bought at 4 to 4c. dis.; sold at 3 1/2 to 3 1/2c.
 Upper Canada Bank's Bills bought at 90c to 95c.
 Commercial Bank Bills bought at 92c to 95c.

MONTREAL MARKETS.
 Kirkwood, Livingston & Co's report by Special Telegraph to "Evening Mercury," }
 Montreal, December 23, 1867. }

Flour—Fancy, \$7 40 to \$7 50; Superfine No. 1, \$7 05 to \$7 25; Welland Canal, \$7 10. Bag flour, \$5 40 to \$5 50. Oats 40c to 42c. Barley 75c to 80c. Butter—dairy 16c to 19c; store packed 14c to 16c. Ashes—Pots \$5 45 to \$5 50, pearls \$5 95 to \$6 00.
 Flour receipts liberal, market very quiet and but small sales at unchanged rates. Grain—wheat, no sales and rates unchanged; Peas no sales. Provisions—pork quiet at former rates; Hops, and candles at quotations; arrivals heavy; Butter, choice wanted; ordinary quiet. Ashes dull at quotations.

TOBACCO, December 21, 1867.
 Flour—Receipts, 150 bbls; No. 1, at \$6 75—Wheat—at \$1 45. Peas—72c. Oats—55c to 57c. Barley—82c to 84c.

HAMILTON, December 21, 1867.
 Fall wheat, \$1 45 to \$1 50. Spring do \$1 50 to \$1 55. Peas, 75c. Barley, 75c to 77c. Oats, 55c.

THE GROCERY & WINE TRADE
OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT.

FRANK SMITH & CO.
 77 Front Street, Toronto,

DEG to intimate to their Western friends and the public generally, that they have now received a large portion of their Fall supply of
Fresh English Groceries, Wines, Brandies, &c.,
 Ex. "Plant," "Chandlers," "City of Hamilton," "Glenborie," from London.
 "Avon," "Onida," "Hibernia," "Peruvian," "Summer," and "Pericles," from Liverpool.
 "Abeona" and "Gleniffer," from Glasgow.
 "Agnes" from Charente. And are daily expecting the arrival of
Fresh New Crop Fruit and Mediterranean Cargo
 Ex. "Deodara," "Canny Scott" and "Mary Ann," from Malaga, Marseilles and Denia.
JUST RECEIVING IN STORE,
 308 Hds and Tierces of Barbadoes, Porto Rico and Cuba Sugars.
 622 Hds Currants crop 1866, VERY CHAP.
 5175 Half Chests and Cattes Souchong, Congou, Japan, Gunpowder, Young and Old Hyson Teas.
 With a full assortment of Tobaccos, Refined Sugars, Wines and Liquors and Dry Groceries. All of which will be submitted to the trade, equal to and below Montreal prices.
 Inspection invited. Terms Liberal. Cash and prompt paying customers desired.
 Toronto, 6th November, 1867. dwtf

CHRISTMAS BOXES.

WE WOULD INVITE THOSE ABOUT TO PURCHASE
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

to step in and examine our stock, as it is larger and more varied than ever.
D. SAVAGEH.
 Guelph, December 14, 1867.

Apothecaries' Hall,
 MARKET SQUARE, GUELPH.

JUST RECEIVED
 A large supply of
SYDNEY BROWN'S

PERFUME
WATCHES!

Superior to either the "Russell" or "American" Watch, containing as it does a new and
DELIGHTFUL PERFUME

for the Handkerchief, unrivalled for the sweetness of its odour and lasting properties.
Price Twenty-five Cents each

ALEX. B. PETRIE,
 Chemist, Market Square. dw
 Guelph, Dec. 7, 1867.

Funerals, Funerals!

NATHAN TOVELL has to intimate that he is prepared to attend funerals as usual Coffins always on hand. Horses to hire. His Steam Planing Mill in constant operation. All kinds of lumber, sashes, doors, blinds, mouldings, &c. He solicits a share of public patronage.
 Guelph, 27th Aug. 1867. Nelson Crescent


MEDICAL HALL,
 GUELPH.

JUST RECEIVED!
 At the Medical Hall a large assortment of
LAMPS, SHADES, WICKS, & C.

No. 1 Coal Oil
 FOR FAMILY USE.
 Perfectly clear and free from smell.
N. HIGINBOTHAM.
 Guelph, 20th Nov. 1867. d

Valuable Building Lots for Sale
 IN EVERTON.
 THE subscriber offers for sale, cheap for cash, two valuable building lots in the Village of Everton, being No. 122 and No. 123, as laid out on the map made by Wm Haskins, Esq., P.L.S.—There are two-fifths of an acre of land in the two lots, and being close to the Disputers Meeting House, and in a central part of the Village, form excellent sites for building on. For terms apply at the Manse Office, or (by letter post-paid) to
DUNCAN ROBERTSON Everton P.O.

NOTICE

Opposite the MARKET.  Opposite the MARKET.
1,000 MEN WANTED
 At the **ELEPHANT Clothing Emporium**
 TO FILL THOSE
OVERCOATS and PEA JACKETS
 which range in price from \$3.50 upwards. During the present month

SMITH & BOTSFORD
 will sell their CLOTHING at prices much lower than that of any other house in Guelph. It is now generally admitted that this is the only Store in town where real Bargains can be obtained.
 Commercial Bank Bills taken at par.
SMITH & BOTSFORD.
 Guelph, 11th December, 1867. dw-1f

DIRECT IMPORTATIONS
 OF STAPLE AND FANCY
DRY GOODS!
 AT THE BRADFORD HOUSE.

GEORGE JEFFREY
 Has much pleasure in announcing the arrival of his
FALL AND WINTER STOCK!

WHICH WILL BE FOUND ONE OF THE MOST ATTRACTIVE IN CANADA. HE WOULD PARTICULARLY DIRECT ATTENTION TO A FEW DEPARTMENTS:
SILKS, Black and Coloured.
REPS, PRINCESS' CLOTHS,
MANTLE CLOTHS,
 Some things Quite New.
 And every other description of Goods will be shown as they appear in the Market.
GEORGE JEFFREY.
 Guelph, September 21st 1867. d

GREAT SALE OF
BOOTS AND SHOES

PREST & HEPBURN
 WILL COMMENCE
On Monday next, 23rd Dec.,
 To sell off their entire Stock of Imported Goods
At Cost and Under!

and will continue until the whole is CLEARED OUT, as they intend in future to keep nothing but their own manufacture. This will be the best opportunity ever offered in the Town of Guelph to buy cheap Boots and Shoes, as the
Whole Stock will be sold without Reserve for Cash only.

PREST & HEPBURN.
 Guelph, 16th October, 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 evr l.

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. dw

GEORGE PALMER
 BARRISTER AT LAW, Solicitor at Law, and Notary Public, Guelph.