commission closed under your hand and seal into this Court as a Court of Equity with all convenient speed; — Witness the Honorable Richard J. Bowie Chief Judge of our said Court, this 19th. day of February, Anno. Domini 1877.
Issued this 5th. day of April 1877.

Thomas Gorsuch, Clerk

Commissioner's Oath. — You shall according to the best of your skill and knowledge, truly, faithfully, and without partiality, to any or either of the parties, take the examinations and depositions of all and every, Witness and Witnesses produced and examined by Virtue of the Commission hereunto annexed upon the interrogatories now or which may hereafter before the said Commission is closed be produced to, and left with, you by either of said parties, So help you God.

At the execution of the annexed Commission issued out of the Circuit Court for Frederick County, and to me directed & empowering me to examine evidences in the cause therein depending, between John C. Hardt & Hiram M. Keefer trading & as Hardt & Keefer & as complainants and Dawson V. Hammond Exr. of Thomas Hammond deceased and others as defendants I William B. Nelson, Commissioner therein named, did on the 5th. day of April A.D. 1877 at my office in Frederick City Maryland proceed to open said Commission & duly ratified the defendants thereon this 10th. day of April A.D. 1877. I proceed proceed to take testimony in this case upon the part of the complainants whereupon the said Commission was adjourned to the 10th. day of April A.D. 1877, at which time & at the place aforesaid, I then and there in the presence of the Solicitors for the Complainants & defendants proceeded to take the following testimony, to wit: — The Complainants filed with the Commissioner as evidence Exhibits No.s 1.2.3.4.5.6.7. "A." & "B." & "J. McL" which are herewith returned by said Commissioner. —

John C. Hardt, a witness of lawful age produced upon the part of the complainants being duly sworn & examined to Interrogatories filed with the commissioner by the Complainants and herewith returned deposes & says to the:- 1st. Int.: — State your name age occupation & residence and if engaged in business State with whom & the name of the firm?
Ans: My name is John C. Hardt, aged 49 years. I am a lumber dealer & reside in Frederick City Maryland. I am engaged in business with Hiram M. Keefer & the name of the firm is "Hardt & Keefer".
2d Int. — were you acquainted with a certain Thomas Hammond formerly of Frederick County, Md. if you are he dead or alive? if dead when and where did he die?
Ans: I was he is dead. he died during the Summer of 1874, in Liberty District Frederick County, Maryland.
3d Int. Was the said Thomas Hammond in his life time indebted to the firm of Hardt & Keefer? If you State how he became indebted? For what? The amount thereof? and has or has not the same been paid?
Ans: He was. He became indebted to the firm in the purchase