

OUR PUBLIC ROADS.

At the last term of our Superior Court nearly every overseer of a public road in the county was presented by the Grand Jury. We are pleased to know that at last a grand jury in Chatham has had sufficient moral courage and proper regard for their oaths, as to discharge their duty in prosecuting the overseers of our roads. If there is a lawful road in the county, we have yet to see it, and if there is an overseer who ought not to be indicted, we have yet to know him. We venture the assertion, and are mortified at its being true, that in no county in the State, or in any other portion of the civilized world, are the public roads so rough and impassable as they are in our good old county. In the winter season, they are perfect quagmires, in some places utterly impassable, and in summer are so filled with loose stones as to break to pieces almost every vehicle attempting to travel over them. Our people must know that good roads are of the greatest benefit to all countries, and that the prosperity and civilization of a people are judged by the condition of their highways. We boast of our modern science and civilization, of our great advance and progress in this enlightened age, and yet if an old heathen Roman who lived more than 2,000 years ago were compelled to travel over any road in Chatham, he would return thanks to his pagan gods that he did not live in so barbarous an age and country! Every thinking man must know that bad roads are more expensive than good roads; that is, that the wear and tear of vehicles, blacksmith's bills, loss of time in travelling, and the light loads hauled over bad roads, all together cost more than would be the tax necessary to keep our highways in good repair. But, before we can make our roads as good as they should be, the present system of working them must be changed, and the existing road-law amended. As it now stands it is unjust, unfair and without an utter failure. We are unequivocally in favor of working our roads by taxation, and until that is the law, we will have little or no improvement in them. Wherever the roads are worked by taxation, they are in good order, and facilitate travel; and we here tell the people of Chatham that if their members elect to the Legislature can secure the proper legislation, whereby the highways of the State can be worked by taxation, they will be of greater service to Chatham than all the members we have ever had. There is nothing so directly affecting our people as the road question, and if the Record can in any degree stir up our people on this subject, and induce them to take proper action in the matter, then we will feel that its existence has not been in vain, even if we should never do anything else for the public good. This is only the beginning of what we shall have to say on this subject, for it is a matter of such great importance, that we cannot too often call it to the attention of our readers. In this article we intended simply to commend the action of the last grand jury, and to express the hope that all the overseers thus presented would seek to avoid being fined at the next court, by at once working their roads and putting them in such a condition that wagons may be able to travel this winter without requiring four horses to haul what one horse could. If the overseers will do this, no doubt the Judge will be as lenient as possible and impose a nominal fine, but if they will still neglect their duty and continue to inflict upon a suffering public our usual bad roads, then in the name of an outraged and suffering people we shall demand that an example be made of them! So then, gentlemen, go to work at once before the bad weather prevents, and put your roads in such a condition that our farmers can haul their produce to market without danger of breaking down.

The State Board of Censurers assembled in Raleigh last week, and issued certificates to all the Congressmen-elect, except Kitchen. In obedience to an injunction issued by Judge Seymour, restraining them from canvassing the vote of the 2nd District, the Board adjourned until the 18th inst. Able arguments were made by Judge Fowie and others, that as the Board had only ministerial powers, it was not legal to issue an injunction against them, and they need not obey it. But the Board evinced their desire to respect the Court, although issuing an illegal order, and did not give Kitchen his certificate.

Correspondence.

FOR THE RECORD.

Mr. Editor:—Among the many excellencies of your new paper, one is decidedly prominent; and that is, the earnest and enlightened spirit evinced, to develop and foster the different interests of our good old county of Chatham. And in view of that, I ask a small space in your columns, to a matter which concerns a large portion of our county. The Raleigh and Augusta Air Line Rail Road, passes through a portion of the county on a line of about fifteen miles. It has three depots in the county; Merry Oaks, near the Wake county line, Osageo near the Moore county line, and Moncure, midway between Hamwood and Lockville. The two former being near the county lines, the last, Moncure, was intended to be so located as to afford the best accommodation possible, to the Central and Western portions of the county. But there were circumstances, local interests, which preferred a different location, and which persist in believing or seeming to believe, that the location at Moncure will not be permanent. And accordingly every few months, a rumor is started and circulated that the managers of the Railroad desire and intend to make a change. And the effect of such rumors is to create distrust and prevent investments and improvements, which would otherwise be made at Moncure. Being personally interested, and knowing that it was to the advantage of the Railroad Company to increase business and population at its stations, I took the liberty about a year ago to call Major Winder's attention to these rumors and their effects; and I received a letter from him, stating that the rumors were without foundation, and that he considered Moncure station as permanently settled as any station on the road; he authorized me to show the letter to any and all persons. The result was, the rumors lost their force for a time, and investment and improvement began. But having lost sight of the letter, and similar rumors having been recently circulated again, and with some showing of plausibility, I again called Major Winder's attention to them, and received a similar letter from him, with permission to show it to any and all persons. I ascertained, too, that the seeming plausibility of the rumors, was the result of misapprehension and misconception. Major Winder, according to Railroad custom, is willing to stop anywhere on the road to take freight, where a sufficient quantity shall be continuously furnished, to pay for the cost and delay of stopping for it. But if a ware-house is needed for the business, the person interested must build it at his own expense, and if an agent is needed he must employ him at his own expense. And whenever the business fails to pay for stopping, then the cars will cease to stop. In short, it is a mere private enterprise, which any one can make at his own risk. But the stations of the company are entirely different. The ware-houses, agent's houses, and the like, belong to the Company, and the agents are employed and paid by them, and they are responsible for their acts. They are located with a view to the largest interests, and it behooves the Railroad Companies to foster and sustain them so as to increase their business and population. And the rumors of changing the Moncure station, are based upon the above idea of these private accommodations, and upon that alone, and that, too, in the face of the distinct and repeated assurances of Major Winder that the rumors are without any foundation.

Yours,
B. I. HOWZE.
FOR THE RECORD.
PELHAM HILL,
Nov. 20th 1878.
Mr. Editor:—You would do your readers and fellow-citizens great service if you would explain to them, the law in relation to the collection of old debts. Our people are in suspense; and many of them really in great distress; fearing that what little they have gathered since the war will at last be taken from them by some old debt contracted before the war or perhaps security for some one long since forgotten.
Now I think you can do this without detriment or injury to your profession; and if necessary call to your aid some of the able lawyers of your town, who I am sure would be willing to aid you in letting our people know what they may expect or depend upon. We have a variety of opinions and rumors upon the old debt question in this neighborhood. Some say they cannot be collected without legislation on the subject, while others contend there is nothing in the way of collection. That judgment, execution, and sale may be had immediately. Please answer the following questions:
1. As the Law now stands can a note or sealed instrument given before the war be collected by distress without giving to the debtor the benefit of the homestead adopted since that time?
2. Is there any difference between the principal and security on such notes?
3. Can a judgment of that date be collected?
4. How about accounts under the old law?
An early answer to these questions will be thankfully received by
The People.
We will endeavor to answer the questions of our esteemed correspondent in the order they are asked:
1. Yes, The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in reversing the decision of our State Supreme Court, holds that the Homestead law is unconstitutional and void as to all debts contracted prior to its passage.
2. No. The Principal and Surety are equally liable.
3. It depends upon what kind of a judgment is meant.
4. The Statute of Limitations will bar the collection of all old accounts, and indeed nearly all other claims contracted before the war.

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FOR THE RECORD.
PELHAM HILL, N. C.,
November 28, 1878.

Mr. Editor:—Having seen a copy of two of THE CHATHAM RECORD, I feel it an in-dubitable duty of mine, to congratulate you for such an enterprise. The copies I have seen are certainly interesting, and are without a blemish whatever. It is certainly something to be appreciated, each week to receive a paper published in our own county that bears the honor and platform of the Record. There are a great many papers published in New York, Philadelphia, and many other Northern cities, which are said to be cheaper than the Record, but my sentiment is, that they are not—they are only for less money—for a great many of their columns are filled up with old ghost stories and various others, that are so exaggerated that it is imprudent, and I may say, it is ridiculous to read, when there is a paper published so near home that gives us the general news of our county, which is much more to our interest and benefit to read. And I further say, it is a duty devolving upon each of us, to patronize home enterprise, and not that of other countries, which I term nothing but spurious impositions. Let us put our shoulders to the wheel and press forward and build up our own county upon a basis that is as substantial as the Rock of Ages. Formerly, Pittsboro has been on the decline, as to energy or enterprise but I now rejoice to say, she possesses one of the most magnificent jails in the State, and one of the best newspapers. If that is not energy, perseverance, and home industry, I would like very much indeed to know what is.
M. M. MORRIS.

Third Crop of Apples.
Mr. Willie Hamill, our townsman, yesterday laid on our table a bunch of apple-blossoms, which he stated was gathered from a young tree that has twice before this year borne large crops of apples. The first crop, which was abundant, ripened about the middle of June. Shortly after the tree was again full of blossoms, and in October it was loaded down with ripe apples, which were gathered, and now it is once more filled with blossom. That tree certainly has not got a lazy bone in its body.—Newberne Nutshell.

Our Fences.
It is understood that the fences of North Carolina cost ten million dollars, and that the average decay is about ten per cent. According to the census report of 1870, the value of live stock was put down at not exceeding two millions of dollars. These facts show (including the annual cost of repairing the fences) that it costs five dollars and a half to fence out a dollar's worth of stock. These figures, it seems to us, are so conclusive that no man ought to object to the fence law in every portion of the State except where stock is raised exclusively.—Charlotte Observer.

The Methodist Conference.
The Forty-second Session of the N. C. Conference commenced in Charlotte on the 27th of November, and adjourned on the 2nd inst.
Bishop Geo. F. Pierce, the Bishop who presided over the body is not only a model pulpit orator, but an admirable presiding officer. He is about sixty five years of age, a noble specimen of a dignified christian gentleman. He is a native of Georgia. The family originally resided in Halifax county, North Carolina. The Bishop is the favorite of the Methodist church South, and in a peculiar sense of the North Carolina Conference. His abundant labors are wearing to his constitution. He seems to be declining in health.
PROGRESS OF METHODISM.
Methodism is a power for good in the land, her mission being the evangelization of the world. She works in harmony with all protestant denominations for the furtherance of this object. Her success in North Carolina and in the nation is unparalleled. It is said that in 1776 there were in North Carolina only three Methodist preachers and six hundred and eighty-three members. Now there are in the States more than five hundred Methodist preachers and about one hundred and twenty thousand members. Her itinerant system has often been the subject of favorable comment by her sister churches, as one of the most effectual means of reaching the masses. It carries the gospel into the homes of the thousands.

It is said by a recent writer on church statistics that there were in the United States in 1776 twenty five Methodist preachers, and 4,921 members. Now there are in the United States more than 40,000 Methodist preachers, and more than 3,000,000 members. The census of the United States for 1870 shows that the Methodists had more than one third of all the church organizations, one third of all the church edifices, nearly one third of all the sittings, and nearly one fifth of all the church property of the United States.—Observer.

War Between England and Afghanistan.

As the English army in India has for the past six weeks been actively preparing for the invasion of Afghanistan, the intelligence by cable to the News of the beginning of actual hostilities is not unexpected. For the information of such of our readers as find it impracticable to devote much attention to the intrigues and political rivalries of semi-barbaric Asiatic States, the following exhibit and review of the strength and history of the State against which the English force is directed is made:
British India, with its population of over two hundred million persons, is bounded on the north by the Himalaya Mountains, which separate it from China, Tartary and Tibet, and on the west by the Suliman Mountains, which divide it from Afghanistan and Belochistan. The sea circles the peninsula on its other sides. The Suliman Mountains rise to a height of one part of eleven thousand feet. The range is some 350 miles long, and near the top is in breadth from eight to fourteen miles. The territory of the Ameer of Afghanistan embraces the greater part of these mountains. Westward of these mountains, however, lies Afghanistan proper, spread out upon one of the loftiest table lands in the world. The Afghanistan of to-day covers 212,000 square miles. The population is variously estimated at from five to seven millions. So far as any Western invasion is concerned, the Suliman range is properly termed the gateway to India, and the fortresses held by the Ameer on the western side may be considered as so many sentinels, if he be friendly, or so many advanced guards of the enemy, if he be hostile. The mountains are pierced by two great passes, namely: the Khyber Pass, running parallel with the Cabul River, and connecting Peshawar, a British possession, with Cabul, the capital of the Ameer; the Bolan Pass is towards the southern end, and formed the highway for trade between Scinde and Candahar. To the westward of Afghanistan are the outposts of Asiatic Russia. One of another of the smaller Khanates having submitted to the Czar, he is in a position to threaten or encourage the Ameer. In the early part of this century the most advanced Russian pickets were more than a thousand miles beyond the reach of any British soldiers in India. To-day if the Ameer be considered an ally of the Czar, Russia is at the gate of India, and those within the territory have been constrained to require how they may best protect themselves from an enforced entrance. At present one end of the Khyber Pass is in the hands of the Ameer; the other end is held by the British. The British desire to hold both ends, and this because the Afghan end being much higher than their own, it will be much easier to repel a Russian attack on the western slope than it would be if having secured a footing there, the Muscovite should at his leisure make a descent upon the lower outlet.

So far as the present cause of war is concerned, the case may be summed up in the statement that the Ameer has shown a disposition to enter into alliance with Russia. He received and still entertains a Russian Ambassador, and he refused to let a British Embassy enter his territory. This the British soldiers and diplomats say, if acquiesced in, would be tantamount to giving Russia an easy opportunity to menace at any time and doubtless overrun in some time, a considerable part of British India. In other words, Afghanistan must either be a British bulwark or a Russian outpost, and being called upon to choose which, the Ameer has declared for Russia—hence the war.
English leaders are by no means unanimous as to the importance of Afghanistan. Some of them contend that the line at present held by the soldiers of the Queen is impracticable and that it is folly to establish a new line.
The chief reason assigned by the Ameer for his distrust of the British is their occupation of the fortress of Quetta, which commands the western entrance of the Bolan Pass, and is near the frontier of Afghanistan, and may be said to overshadow Gandahar and Herat. This he esteemed an act of menace, to be interpreted no otherwise than as an indication of servitude on his part. To this the British reply that Quetta belongs to the Khanate Belochistan, and was acquired by legitimate means.
All minor pretexts are vain in this matter. The real explanation of the war is that the English are preparing to meet Russia some day on the western borders of their Indian Empire, and having no confidence in the ruler of Afghanistan they have resolved to put it out of his power to do them any harm by any act of treachery.
The bearing of these operations upon the Eastern question as it concerns Europe is obvious enough. Russia seeks to embarrass England in India so that she, Russia, may be free from English embarrassment in Turkey. About this there is no dispute on the part of Russia and in discussing it there is no reserve practiced by English statesmen. It is therefore by no means improbable that the fighting in the Suliman range of mountains will prove but a prelude to a great war between England and Russia in European Asiatic Turkey.

All About A Rat.
Mr. Sinclair Tousey appeared at the Tombs Police Court yesterday morning as complainant against Eugene Lillston, a youth whom he charged with torturing a rat. Eugene had the rat by the tail when access ed by Mr. Tousey, who, in the name of humanity, demanded its release. The youth in his wicked heart had planned the death of the rat by drowning, and was in search of a sufficient depth of water to accomplish his design when interfered with. The naval character of the case for a time puzzled the mind of Judge Murray, who finally discharged the boy and sent the rat to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—New York Herald.

Hurrah for Hampton.
Governor Hampton of South Carolina, has had a bad time with that broken leg, but he is getting on well now. He has fully made up his mind that the United States Senatorship is preferable to the Governorship, and the new Legislature will elect him to the higher place by a practically unanimous vote. Gary of Edgefield wants to go, but it is of no use for anybody to run against Hampton in South Carolina.—Springfield Republican.

Forty Years of True Love.
Mr. Edward Ketchum, a bachelor aged about 90 years, living at Amityville, L. I., will to day marry Miss Elizabeth Wanser, aged 91 years, whom he has been courting over 40 years.—New York World, 26th.

Around the World by Mail.

A striking illustration of the excellence of the arrangements for international mail service which have resulted from the postal union is given in an official publication received by our Superintendent of Foreign Mails from the Bern Central Bureau. A residence of Chemnitz, Saxony, mailed at that place at seven P. M. on the 24th of May last a postal card addressed to himself, carrying a request to all postmasters to despatch it successively and without loss of time to Alexandria, Singapore, Yokohama, San Francisco and New York, and hence to Chemnitz, his object being to win a wager that with the existing postal arrangements the circuit of the world could thus be made by postal matter within 120 days. The request was complied with, and the card arrived in Chemnitz from New York on the 11th day after the date of original mailing. The Postmaster General of Germany has caused this card to be photographed, and transmitted a copy to the Bern International Bureau, with the remark that had it been posted one hour earlier it would have accomplished its journey in 96 days instead of 117.—New York Herald.

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De Alma
A New French Fabric of Black Dress Goods.
THE LARGEST AND MOST SELECT STOCK
—OF—
LADIES' CLOAKS
ever exhibited in this market.
Felt and Flannel Skirts for Ladies,
All qualities, trimmed and embroidered.
A LARGE STOCK AND VARIETY OF CORSETS, at prices to please.
Carpets, Rugs,
FLOOR AND TABLE
OIL CLOTHS,
Bought from the Manufacturers All new Styles and Choice Designs never before shown in this market
JUST RECEIVED AT
PETTY & JONES'.
DAILY ARRIVALS
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New and Seasonable Dry Goods.
The JOBING DEPARTMENT is filled with the most desirable goods, all of which were bought by the Case at Agents Cash prices.
Merchants will save money by buying of us.
We beg to remind the public that a large portion of our goods is being sold at COST
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Cotton Received also on Storage at Moderate Rates.
Raleigh Daily Cotton Market Reports and the latest changes in New York and Liverpool Markets forwarded every day to patrons.
Refers to Raleigh National Bank and the business public of the city.
ON HAND:
A large invoice of MILBURN WAGONS for sale at \$75 each; substantial work and warranted.
OPEN AND TOP BUGGIES at \$50 to \$100 each; workmanship and material guaranteed.
Flour, Corn, Oats, Foder, Hay, Meal, Chops, Brown Stuff, North Carolina Hams, Sides and Shoulders, in fact all kinds of Produce always in store.
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D. T. JOHNSON,
WHOLESALE GROCER,
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
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COTTON SELLER,
Two Doors North Market, Wilmington St.,
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We are now in receipt of our fall stock of Groceries, consisting in part of
Sugar, Coffee,
Bacon, Lard,
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Molasses, Nails,
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BAGGING & TIES, & C.
Which we offer at prices as low as the lowest. Strict attention given to the sale of all consignments. Ample room for storage of cotton; for those who wish to hold I will charge low rates of storage and make cash advancements on cotton left with me. Correspondence solicited.
D. T. JOHNSON,
2 Doors North Market, Wilmington St.

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CHATHAM COUNTY,
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JULIUS LEWIS & CO.,
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Dealers in
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EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Sash, Doors, and Blinds.
Wagon and Buggy Material,
STEAM ENGINES,
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Largest Stock in North Carolina!
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Largest Establishment in the State!
Book and Job Printing
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BOOK BINDING
Done in the very best style and at prices that defy competition.
Merchants, Manufacturers, and others,
Supplied with
Letter Heads, Bill Heads, Envelopes, Statements of Account, Invoices of Sales, Price Lists, Circulars and Cards, Hand Bills, &c., &c., at short notice, and prices guaranteed to be as low as any first class house, North or South.
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Everything in our line furnished PROMPTLY and at Lowest Prices.
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Complete Catalogue of School Books sent free on application.
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CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK,
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Boots, Shoes and Gaiters for Gent's Youths and Boys, at all prices, and qualities to suit every one.
W. H. & R. S. TUCKER.
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Right Hand Side Going South,
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Passengers take Breakfast going South Supper going North. MEALS 75 CTS.
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Ladies Dress goods, Black and Colored Silks, Camels Hair Twill, Tartan Plaid, Cashmires, etc., in endless variety, at
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Ladies Linen Collars and Cuffs, Hamburg Edgings, Barege, Tissue, and Lace Veilings, Harps, Scarfs, Neckties, Hosiery, Rushings, Ribbons, a fine line at
W. H. & R. S. TUCKER'S.
We solicit an examination of our Ladies' Misses' and Children's Cloaks, full lines of which we have just received.
W. H. & R. S. TUCKER.
Ladies' Shawls, in Broche, Shetland, Zephyr, Cashmere, long and square Blanket Shawls.
W. H. & R. S. TUCKER.
Ladies' and Gents' Kid Gloves, with 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 buttons, dark medium, light and opera shades. All numbers and prices.
W. H. & R. S. TUCKER.
Gents' Furnishing Goods, Underwear, Linen Collars, Shirts, (laundried and unlaundried). Cheapest in the city.
W. H. & R. S. TUCKER.
Gents' Youths' and Boys' Hats, Fur, Wool and Stiff-brim, in all quantities. Just opened, Gents' Silk Hats, latest Broadway style, at
W. H. & R. S. TUCKER'S.
Carpets, Rugs, Mats, Blankets, Druggets, Oil Cloths, in well selected styles and patterns, and at bottom figures.
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Agent for Frank Leslie's Cut Paper Patterns.
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SELLING COTTON A SPECIALTY.
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Sole Agent for the Sale of
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Consignments of Country Produce solicited
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This Company will insure your Dwelling, Mill, Gin, Store, or other building on the most reasonable terms.
All losses paid promptly. Encourage Home Institutions. Insure in a first class Home Company.
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Commission Merchant and Cotton Seller,
NO. 8 MARTIN STREET,
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Receiving, Sale and Storage of Cotton a Specialty.
Will make liberal Cash advances, with low rate of interest and storage charges upon such consignments.
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H. MAHLER,
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Manufacturer and dealer in all kinds of

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Watches, Clocks, Masonic and Hair Jewelry
Watch Repairing and Engraving Promptly Executed.
SEALS & MADE TO ORDER.
M. T. NORRIS & CO.,
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In store and to arrive—A Large and Well Selected Stock of
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Which we offer as Low as Any One!
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