June Term 1863.

all the official acts as such are entitled to full faith and credit and that the aforesaid County Court is a Court of Record having general jurisdiction. Given under my hand and seal of office at Ashland this 24 day of June A.D. 1860.

Wm Lee Clk

At the same time pursuant to the foregoing agreement a commission was also issued to Benjamin F. Wood Esq of the City of Pittsburg Pennsylvania viz:

State of Maryland Washington County to Wit: The State of Maryland to Benjamin F. Wood of the City of Pittsburg Gentleman Greeting. Reposing Special Trust and Confidence in your Skill and Ability, We have appointed you a Commissioner to examine Witnesses on the part and behalf of the Complainants in a certain cause depending in our Circuit Court for Washington County sitting as a Court of Equity wherein William Joshua Dodd and others Complainants and Cyrus Houston and John M. Hawk Defendants. Therefore you are required having first taken the Oath hereunto annexed and also administered the annexed Oath to the person whom upon shall appear as Clerk to attend the execution of this Commission that at such time and place as to you shall seem convenient you cause to come before you all such Witnesses as shall be named and produced to you by either the Complainants or Defendants, and that you examine them upon their Corporal Oaths to be by you administered on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God touching their Knowledge or remembrance of any thing that may relate to the cause aforesaid, and having reduced the depositions of the Witnesses so taken by you into writing you send the same with this Commission closed under your hand and seal to this Court with all convenient speed.

Witness The Honorable Thomas Perry Judge of our said Circuit the 6th day of March 1860.

Issued the 14 day of June 1860.

Isaac Nesbit Clk

Commissioners Oath.

You shall according to the best of your Skill and Knowledge duly & faithfully & 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 within Commission upon the interrogatories now or which may be put before the said Commissioners closed to be produced to and left with you by either of the said parties

So help you God,

Sworn & Subscribed before me the subscriber an Alderman in and for the City of Pittsburg and by Office a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Allegany in the State of Pennsylvania by Benjamin F. Wood Esq the Commissioner named in the foregoing Commission this 20 day of June A.D. 1860.

A.S. Nicholson Ald

Allegany County State of Pennsylvania ss. I Daniel Armstrong Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Allegany in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania do hereby certify that the said Chas A.S. Nicholson Esquire before whom the foregoing affidavit was taken and who has thereunto subscribed his name was at the time of taking and making the same and ever since hath been an Alderman in and for the City of Pittsburg and an Officer as acting Justice of the Peace in and for the said County duly commissioned and sworn and authorized by law to take acknowledgments, administer oaths &c to have also full faith and credit as are and of right ought to be given thereto in the United States and elsewhere.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand

June Term 1863

and affixed the seal of the said Court at Pittsburg in said County this 22 day of June in the year of our Lord 1860, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 84.

Daniel Armstrong Prothonotary.

And thereupon the parties aforesaid by their respective Solicitors aforesaid join in Court here an agreement in words following to Wit.

William Joshua Dodd and others, vs. Cyrus Houston and John M. Hawk } Circuit Court for Washington County. Disagreed that the time for executing and returning the several Commissions issued in the above cause for taking testimony under the agreement heretofore filed and the 31 day of March 1860 be extended to Thursday the 31 day of June inst inclusive.

D. Weaver & Scott Solrs for Complts
R. McAleer per Sankey for defts. June 18th 1860

And thereupon on this 24 day of June 1860 Benjamin F. Wood Esquire Commissioner in the last aforesaid Commission named made return thereof to the Court here thereupon & Viz,

The execution of the annexed Commission appears by certain Schedule hereto annexed.

Given under my hand and seal this 22d day of June 1860.

Ben F. Wood (Seal)

William Joshua Dodd and others vs. Cyrus Houston and John M. Hawk &c. No 1602 Circuit Court for Washington County

Interrogatories in chief to be propounded to Witnesses produced and examined by the deft and Houston before the Commissioner at Pittsburg Pennsylvania.

1st Are you acquainted with the parties to this suit or either of them and if you how long have you known [known as acquainted] the said defendant Cyrus Houston? 2d Have you ever seen the said defendant Cyrus Houston write, or have you ever corresponded with him, or in any other way seen any his genuine handwriting, and about what are your best means of knowledge connected with him and the genuineness of such handwriting was acknowledged or acquiesced in and by such Houston, and if you state when and how often, and whether or not you are acquainted with his handwriting. 3d Look at and examine the paper now and shown you purporting to be a receipt for $3000, and dated as of the 10th of March 1845 and say whether from your knowledge of the handwriting of the said Cyrus Houston either the body of the said receipt or the signature thereto is in the genuine handwriting of the said Houston. And state the reasons for your opinion. 4th Look at said paper purporting to be a receipt for $3000 as aforesaid in suit & parties with receipts numbered 5. 6. 7. 8. 9 and 10 respectively, and compare the same and after an examination and comparison of all of said papers say whether or not the said receipt for $3000 as aforesaid has a similitude in general character of hand writing the formation of letters and figures style of signature &c to the said receipts numbered 5. 6. 7. 8. 9 and 10 as aforesaid and if not point out and state wherein consists the dissimilarity. 5th Whether you possess a vocation and how long have you