R Irwin, 1, 1898

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J. R. JARRELL,

Easton, Maryland.

Millinery: *OUR TRIMMED HATS have been admired by the most exacting critics. You wish a Spring hat that is stylish and up-to-date. We can fit you out in something that will become you.*

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Clothing: *There's something distinctive about our ready-to-wear Spring Suits for men and boys that pleases the fastidious dresser. You should see our clothing before making a selection.*

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1820 The Old Established 1902

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MARBLE AND GRANITE WORK

For cemeteries have still the same reputation for good material and workmanship whether it be for a monument, tablet or headstone, or a memorial of any kind to mark the graves of the departed.

Prices are always the lowest and the stock the largest from which to select.

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Orders of $10 and over, Freight Paid, with the exception of Sugars.

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ARE YOU UP-TO-DATE? DO YOU WANT UP-TO-DATE

CLOTHING

Shoes, Dress Goods, French and Silk Ginghams, Hamburgs, Laces, etc., at low prices? The place to get them is at the

Baltimore Bargain Store

RIDGELY, MD.

If you are troubled with sore feet or rheumatism try our Insulated Shoe. Those suffering from the above or kindred ills after wearing a pair of these shoes will find that they are as represented.

We also have in stock the Poliwog School Shoe for Misses and Children. Men's and Ladies' Summer Shoes in Vici, Patent Leather, Box Calf, etc., also a large line of Oxford Ties for Ladies, Misses and Children.

Large stock of Hats in the latest blocks and styles, including the Prince Henry. Large line of Straw Goods. We sell the United Shirt and Collar Co.'s Shirts and Collars. The latest styles of laundered and unlaundered White Shirts, Madras and Percales, Ladies' Kid Gloves—guaranteed—$1. Clothing for Men, Youths and Children in the latest Spring and Summer styles. Our stock is larger than ever and includes many fine selections in flannel, striped serges and cassimeres; matting, trunks, valises, window shades, etc. Call early and make your selection.

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The Good, the Medium, the Best, including CHICKERING, MATHUSHEK, BUSH & GERTS, WEAVER, LUDWIG, and Second Hand Instruments. All prices—but always the cheapest for the quality.

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I have the best makes of Organs at prices that will astonish, including the Mason & Hamlin, Weaver and Carpenter Organs. Mechanical Musical Instruments in large assortment including the famous PIANOLA, by which any one can play a piano with the skill of the greatest masters.

VIOLINS and other stringed instruments and fixtures, HORNS and FLUTES, ACCORDEONS, SHEET MUSIC, etc., and everything kept in a first-class

MUSIC STORE

I also sell the WHEELER & WILSON and the DOMESTIC SEWING MACHINES. Sole agents for the SOLAR LIGHT, the most brilliant and cheapest lamp considering its light-giving qualities. Special attention given to orders by mail. PIANO TUNING given careful attention.

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A very valuable farm of two hundred acres, between Goldsboro and Henderson. For particulars apply to

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One 13-Horse Power Buffalo Pitts Traction Engine, in good repair. Will be sold low if applied for soon.

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We Are Now Displaying at our Double Stores, at Denton Bridge, the Largest Assortment of

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Ever exhibited in Denton. Everything now with us is at Spring tide, and purchasers should take the tide at its "flood."

Men's Clothing.

Small, pin stripe and check, with high-cut vest, $7.50.

Delicate green and blue, with faint stripe, $9.00.

Suits for business—different grades—$10 to $12.

Boys' Clothing.

Blouse, with large sailor collar, striped, with braid to match, $4.00.

Princeton Suits, made up nicely with belt, $2.50.

Vestee Suits, different prices.

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SPECIAL LINE FOR MEN

"WALKOVER SHOE"

They Give Better Fit and Better Wear than Any Other Make.

Some of our Styles

Patent Colt Button, with Prince tip—a shoe that will make a hit—$4.00.

Kangaroo Vici, Prince and Gale tip—can fit the broadest or the narrowest foot that walks.

Oxfords for Men

Ideal Kid Patent Leather—will not break, $3.50.

Vici Calf Oxford, extension sole, Duke tip.

Elk Kid Vici, Imperial toe, $3.00.

Ladies' Shoes

The Ideal for Women is an Ideal Kid in Patent Leather, Patent Leather Vici, Plain Kid with all the different toes.

CARPETS AND MATTINGS.

A very large line of them—12 to 30c.—at the West Denton Store.

JAMES H. NICHOLS.

ESTABLISHED 1851

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NUTTLE HARDWARE COMPANY,
DENTON, MARYLAND.

ANOTHER SUSPECT

William Pratt, Recently Released from Denton Jail, Charged with Collins Murder.

CONFESSES THE AWFUL CRIME

But Later Claims to Have Been Tortured into the Confession by the Detectives—The Negro's Record.

A Pinkerton detective was at Laurel on Friday of last week, says a despatch. He is said to have a record of William Pratt, the Maryland negro now in jail, whom he charges with the brutal murder of Mrs. Ilda Collins for the $30 she had saved during the winter from her butter and eggs. Pratt's record is said to be one of crime. He has been in several Maryland jails and was also imprisoned in Philadelphia and Baltimore. He cannot give a satisfactory account of himself about the time Mrs. Collins was killed, but claims to have been in Denton jail. He says he got blood on his coat in a fight with his brother just after leaving jail. The private detectives claim to have sufficient evidence to convict him. The State officials, however, say the negro was in no way connected with the Collins murder. They continue to accumulate evidence against the accused husband, Elmer Collins, who is shadowed constantly.

It was learned on Monday that Pratt had made a full confession of the murder of Mrs. Collins, and that he is the same William Pratt, alias Downes, who, some weeks ago was sent to Denton jail from the House of Correction, where he served a term for carrying concealed weapons. At the House of Correction he was pronounced insane. He was kept in Denton jail sometime and released to the care of a Delaware relative. While in Denton jail he was at times very violent, and had to be heavily ironed. Had he not been fettered he would, no doubt, have broken out of the flimsy old cell in which he was confined. The prisoner was sent to the House of Correction by Justice Daffin, of American Corner. Constable Johnson, who made the arrest, found his prisoner at most times entirely rational and obedient. He had burned an out-building belonging to Mr. Levin Poole, but, of course, the magistrate could not adjudicate such a case, and in order to rid the community of a dangerous and irresponsible character Pratt was sent to the House of Correction, where he served his term. But he had had a previous record here. He was tried in the Caroline court in October, 1900, for stealing a bicycle belonging to Mr. J. R. Hughes, Greensboro, convicted and sent to the penitentiary for eighteen months. He stated while here that his real name was William Pratt, but when he stole the wheel he thought it best to change his name.

Constable Johnson, of Concord, said he thought Pratt might be always depended upon to confess his crimes, for the prisoner had recited to him the whole record of his evil doings. The officer, therefore, gave credence to his confession about the murder of the unfortunate Mrs. Collins. In that confession Pratt says he was sleeping in the carriage house at the Collins farm on the night before the murder. He awoke in time to hear Collins tell Mrs. Collins to bring $30 and some tomato seed to a field as soon as she had finished her household work and had set a hen. Pratt says he was seized with a desire to get the $30. He waited until Mrs. Collins went to the carriage house, when, he says, he struck her with an iron bar and afterward cut her throat. He then took the money and went toward a small creek near the house. Fearing discovery, he took off his shirt, which had blood upon it, and buried the garment and the money.

Pratt was taken Sunday to the scene of his crime, he volunteering to go and try to find the spot where he had buried the money. Upon the arrival of the party at the farm, which included besides the prisoner, Sheriff Hart and Detectives Dimaio and Butler, Pratt went directly to the carriage house, where he showed the party how he had been sleeping in the carriage, and how, upon being awakened, he had heard Elmer Collins tell Mrs. Collins to bring the money with her. He saw an iron bar lying upon the floor, he says, with which he crept up behind her and struck her. Seeing a hatchet he struck her three times in the forehead with the blade, and cut her throat from ear to ear. He then went into the woods and buried the money, but he was so excited he could not remember the spot.

Pratt was taken to Laurel about 6 o'clock and was given a hearing before Magistrate Hearn. James Collins, father of the murdered woman, made affidavit charging him with the crime. The father was so wrought up that he could scarcely be kept away from the negro in the magistrate's office. It required the combined efforts of several of his friends to keep him from jumping upon the prisoner. The excitement was at fever heat, the crowd extending almost two squares around the magistrate's office.

On the day of the murder Collins and his two little children left their home to go to a field a mile away to plant tomato seed. When Mrs. Collins did not join him in the field, as he says he expected, he returned to the house and found the body of his wife, who had been murdered. He went, with his children, to the farmhouse of George W. Henry, 200 yards away, and exclaimed that "Ilda had been murdered."

Farmers for miles around flocked to the home and an armed posse searched the surrounding country all night. The State detectives found some articles on which there were bloodstains and other circumstances which led them to arrest the husband. Mrs. Collins was buried on Monday following the tragedy and it seemed as if everyone for miles around attended the funeral.

Many people doubt Pratt's guilt, though confessed. He is regarded by many as crazy, and that the confession is simply the fancy of a disordered brain.

A Laurel correspondent said last Tuesday: It is reported on the best authority that Detective Dimaio, assistant superintendent of the Philadelphia Pinkerton Detective Agency, sat upon the stomach of Pratt for three hours Sunday in his cell in Georgetown jail, until he finally, after having the life almost crushed out of him, acknowledged the crime. Pratt is without a doubt an imbecile, and will not answer the same question twice in the same manner. And that he was almost scared to death was evident from his actions. In one instance, in particular, when he was before Magistrate Hearn, he showed signs of the ordeal through he had passed. When the magistrate asked him where he was on the day of the murder, he promptly answered: "I was in Dover." At this the detective, whose hand was handcuffed to that of the prisoner, gave his arm an awful wrench, and cried: "What's that? You were in the place we carried you this afternoon." The negro's face was contorted with pain, and he meekly bowed his assent. This is the way the confession was wrung from the unfortunate darkey, who will answer almost any question in the affimative if it is put at him strongly, not knowing the consequences.

At the farm on Sunday several times while he was being led around by the detectives whom he told he had buried the money, but which he could not find when he got upon the scene, he exclaimed: "I never was at this place before in my life, and I did not kill the poor woman." These and several other things connected with the scene, have made those who believe in Collins' guilt even stonger in their convictions, and they sympathize with the poor unfortunate negro, who has no counsel, and not enough sense to tell a straight story.

State Detective Ratledge, who arrived here yesterday afternoon said: "We don't put any faith in the arrest of Pratt. We have our proof, some of which will surprise many when it is divulged at the proper time. We had anticipated his arrest, and was prepared for it. It has no real bearing upon the case. We looked into it before the others had, and know what we are doing."

A Knife With A History.

T. H. Gafford, of Church Hill says the Centreville *Observer*, is the possessor of a knife, once owned by his grandfather and then by his father, which is connected with one of the worst tragedies that was ever committed in Church Hill. The affair occurred over sixty years ago and none but the oldest inhabitants know anything concerning the tragedy which, in those days, aroused the indignation of the quiet little village. The principals concerned were a man named Roberts, from Bridgetown, Caroline county, and a Mr. Cox, whom it is reported, conducted a hostelry on the spot where the clothing store of Fred Hall now stands. But few particulars can be learned of the affair, but it seems that Roberts had a disagreement with a man named Green and rode horseback to Church Hill for the purpose of killing him. Green happened to be away, however, and Roberts, who was looking for trouble, got into an altercation with Cox. After the altercation was over and Roberts had started home, he changed his mind and driving up to Cox's home called him out. As soon as Cox approached him, he deliberately drew his knife and cut Cox's throat. Cox died in a few minutes and Roberts, hastily mounting his horse, escaped to Bridgetown. He was followed to his home by a posse and was discovered hiding up stairs. What became of Roberts subsequently it is difficult to ascertain, but it is thought that he escaped the penalty of the law. On the morning after the stabbing, Mr. Gafford found the knife, which is a large bone-handle, hunting knife lying on the pavement where the murder occurred.

BETTER HIGHWAYS

Caroline's Rising Sentiment on the Road Question Finds General Approval.

THE OPINION OF AN EXPERT

Mr. A. N. Johnson, of the Maryland Geological Survey, Gives Points on How to Construct the Caroline Road.

Caroline county's rising sentiment for better highways finds general approval in every other county from the Sassafras river to the ocean. The recent report of its grand jury, urging the immediate construction of a modern road from end to end of the county, is already stimulating its neighbors to suggestions of the same sort. Recent correspondence and contributed articles in the *Chronicle* and the *Democrat and News*, of Cambridge, have urged a movement for road improvement in Dorchester. On the other side, the *Observer*, in Centreville, published the news under a "double head". On the lowest part of the shore a sense of the general lack is asserting itself.

"As yet Worcester county has not taken any steps in this direction," says the *Ledger Enterprise*, of Pocomoke City, "and the time has come when we must do something or our neighbors will have much better roads than we. What better plan could be adopted by our county authorities than the building of a road from Pocomoke City to Snow Hill on scientific principles." Wicomico, already awake to its highway deficiencies, also suggests emulation of Caroline's plan. "The Caroline county grand jury," says the *Salisbury Courier*, "made a recommendation that would be a good plan to follow. This project, if carried into execution here would mark the beginning of a practical system of good roads for this county. This could not all be secured at once, but in the course of a few years it could be accomplished and the benefit would be incalculable. The main thing to do is to make a beginning." "Wicomico might work down similar lines to advantage" declared the *Salisbury Advertiser*. One of the owners of the *Advertiser* is the author of Wicomico's latest road laws, which is a better one than that it supersedes. The prosecution of the Caroline plan seems to present no unusual difficulties. Mr. A. N. Johnson, the road engineer of the Maryland Geological Survey, when asked about it, preferred not to make definite statements before looking over the ground and investigating all the expedients and possibilities which a survey might suggest. About one important aspect of the matter, however, he speaks generally as follows. What he says about Caroline county may be applied more or less closely also to the other counties of the Eastern Shore below Cecil.

"The chief difficulty," says Mr. Johnson, "is the lack of any hard material near the road to be improved. The road beds are nearly all composed of sand. Shells and the only material for topping which is within easy reach. The hard materials for the surface of the road must therefore be brought from a distance. On the other hand the grades of Caroline are lower than any others in the State. Their general absence removes, of itself, one of the gravest obstructions which the road-builder in northern, southern, and western regions of the State must get over. In some counties they consume a great part of his money. "Shells on a sand foundation make an excellent road. The results are very much better than in cases where clay forms the subsoil. Shell roads are admirable under some conditions, but heavy traffic wears them out quickly and they suffer rapid dissolution under the chemical action of rain water. The expense of maintaining them in the best order thus becomes high. The stretches of the prospective road which bear the most travel should, accordingly, be surfaced at the outset in more durable material than the shells afford. As I said before this would have to be obtained outside the county.

"Shells would make an admirable foundation for the more refractory material likely to be laid on them. The qualities which lessen their value when they are used alone will add to the value of most harder materials which may be used over them. Their solubility gives them a cementing effect which would make the road surface more durable. If this plan were followed the citizens of the county would enjoy the use of a good shell road while they improved it gradually until it became a piece of the most approved construction.

"The importation material is common in many localities where the highways are good. Pantucker in Massachusetts, brings trap rock to its roads all the way from the Hudson river. One Massachusetts contractor freights his stone all over the State rather than use local rocks of an inferior sort. Most of those inferior rocks, by the way, are better than anything on the lower part of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Only a few days ago Howard county shipped a large consignment of road material from Frederick. The Susquehanna deposits are the most obvious source from which Caroline might draw its supply of refractory material. Some of their rocks are admirably adapted to sustain a moderate traffic. Another excellent material at command is the slag of the steel works at Sparrows Point. I was told a year ago that this might be obtained for road purposes, and I suppose it may be had now. It is not only very refractory, but cements very strongly. This slag could be transported quite as cheaply as rock and it ought to be cheaper to deliver on the road." "The Survey's first report on the Highways of Maryland happens to contain a mapped out line of the very route suggested by the grand jury of Caroline. All the facts we could collect about the county before the report went to press are given in the report. General subjects such as materials, their sources, and cost, are discussed there for the whole Eastern Shore. The report can be obtained by application to the Director of the State Survey."

Odd Fellows Anniversary.

The assembly room of the Temple of Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Saratoga and Cathedral streets, was filled last evening with a representative audience of lodgemen and their friends, who were gathered to celebrate the eighty-third anniversary of their order. Grand Sire A. C. Cable, of Covington, Ohio, was present. The address of welcome was made by Grand Master Eugene S. Anderson and the anniversary addresss by Mr. Edwin Warfield. Mr. Warfield stated that the present membership of the order in the United States was over 1,130,000 making it the largest fraternal organization in the world. During the past 60 years over $88,500,000 had been paid out for the relief of members and widows. He paid a glowing tribute to Thomas Wildey, the founder of the order in this country, and said that the fact that Odd Fellowship in this country originated in Baltimore was of inferior importance to none of the many events which have transpired here. The order, he said, sought to improve and elevate the character of man.—*Tuesday's Baltimore News.*

Squirrels Fond of Music.

Ernest Thompson-Seton—he of animal story-telling and converted name fame—was describing to a clergyman the other day some of his experience with various animals, particularly squirrels.

"It is an astonishing fact," said Mr. Seton, "that I found, after some few tests, that I could attract squirrels, howsoever wild, by singing to them. Whenever I sang they would come out of their holes or down from the trees, and though at first showing some timidity, sit and listen intently and apparently with enjoyment. I remember one day, however, when, after singing them various songs—ragtime and others—I tried 'Old Hundred' on them. Would you believe it, the instant they heard it they scampered off, nor could I induce them to return that day. And to this day I can't understand why."

The clergyman, a far-away look in his eye, suggested very briefly.

"Probably they were afraid you would next proceed to take up a collection."

The Telegraph Operator.

God bless the boys, the railroad boys,
God bless the working hand—
Yes, every boy along the line,
Down to the section hand—
And I want to say a word or two—
I want to make it plain—
That the man who slings the lightning
Is the man that runs the train.

You can talk about the engineer,
So brave, so true and strong,
And say he is the only man
That gets the train along,
But, my friend, let me tell you,
It's the working of the brain
Of the man who slings the lightning
That handles every train.

Yes, there's the sweet conductor,
Who gets on such a dike,
And is smiled on by the ladies
All along the pike.
But while they are a-smiling,
There's a poor boy under strain;
It's the man who slings the lightning—
The man that runs the train.

—Published by request.

Your eyes are pleading with you for help when they itch, burn and cause your head to ache. I will correct all troubles pertaining to the eye and effect a permanent cure if you will call on me at the Brick Hotel, Denton, Md., next Tuesday. WM. T. JONES, O. Ph. D.

Two carloads of vehicles now ready for your inspection, consisting of runaboats, buggies, surreys, daytons, spindle buggies, spring dearborns, etc. Have you seen our Diamond State harness? Our motto is, "Live and let live." J. H. BARROW, opposite depot, Preston, Md.

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