

THE CAPITAL contest is waxing hot in Georgia.

COL. A. C. HASKELL has dissolved a law partnership in Columbia, for reasons highly creditable to himself. A number of times, since the recent prosecutions of Radicals, the firm of which he was a member has been solicited to appear for several of the defendants. Colonel Haskell, while holding it in the line of the regular profession of law to take such cases, nevertheless deemed it incumbent upon himself, owing to his position as Chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, to refuse to receive as clients any of those whom he, in his political position, helped to bring into their present extremity. He deemed it just to his partner to leave him untrammelled. Colonel Haskell has taken a high stand.

Hemphill, of the Abbeville Median, has perfected an arrangement by which all the prominent men in the Legislature are to be made happy. It is this: Speaker Wallace is to be made judge in place of Northrop, and Colonel Simonton, of Charleston, is to succeed to the speakership. Then Lieutenant-Governor Simpson will be made associate justice, and Swails will be kicked out of the senate. Simonton will then become lieutenant-governor and Sheppard, of Edgefield, speaker. Then Patterson will go to the penitentiary, and Governor Hampton to the senate, Simonton can then be made governor, Sheppard lieutenant-governor, and Robert Aldrich speaker of the House. This is Hemphill's scheme. We suggest Hemphill for State printer, and then the State will be safe.

Stepping Down.

The Register of Saturday contains the welcome tidings that the Hon. Beverly Nash, now generally known as "Brick" Nash, has formally resigned his seat in the State Senate, a position he has disgraced since the first year of Reconstruction. This action of the doughty Senator was not prompted by motives of patriotism, for he has had an opportunity of taking a similar step at any time during the past eight years. Truth is, the Investigating Committee got after him; and Nash, like Captain Scott's coon, preferred to come down without waiting for them to shoot. In addition to resigning, he has made restitution of a portion of his ill-gotten gains, and has also, it is said, divulged some additional testimony highly damaging to that Christian statesman, John J. Patterson. Nash has not been promised immunity, but he evidently thinks a private rogue stands a better chance before a jury than a bloated senator would. The nature of Nash's crimes is not given, but he is a general criminal. He has robbed the charitable institutions, taken bribes, and outraged decency in numberless ways. His punishment is deserved.

Nash was the first colored man in South Carolina to come forward prominently in politics. He began by making a conciliatory speech at a meeting in Columbia just after the war, when Governor Hampton and others spoke. He also wrote a letter denouncing Sherman's accusation that Hampton burned Columbia as a lie, and was profuse in his friendship to the whites. In a few months he became bitterly partisan, and began his career of crime which was just ended. Nash was one of the Hayes electors, and told a pretty story last spring about having indignantly refused a bribe of \$100,000 to vote for Tilden.

There seems no doubt that Gaillard, the negro senator from Charleston, will follow Nash. It is even now reported that he has fled

North. Taft, of Charleston, will follow, for the reason that the November election was illegal. The Senate already stands seventeen Democrats and fourteen Republicans, with vacancies in Richland and Marlborough. By the time the other vacancies are made and filled the Radicals will not have a corporal's guard in their former stronghold.

THE WHIPPING-POST.

What would be the effects of its re-establishment.

Messrs. Editors:

I have read, with much interest, the expression of opinions, as uttered by the press of the State, as to the re-establishment of the whipping-post in South Carolina, so that flogging can be substituted for imprisonment, as the punishment for petit larceny.

It is said that "the certainty, and not the severity, of punishment prevents crime," and, it may now be added, with much force, that the mode or manner of the punishment is as necessary as the certainty. The certainty of punishment will not prevent pilferers, or petty thieves, from committing larceny, unless the mode is of such a character as to be a sufficient mental or corporeal suffering in its administration as to overbalance the enjoyment of the fruits of the larceny. We may have the certainty of punishment, but the manner of inflicting it may only make it such in name, and not in fact; and it may become such as to remove all fear or dread of breaking the law and become a premium awarded for pilfering or petty stealing. The great or main cause of committing petit larceny arises in our State entirely from idleness, laziness, and an aversion the thief has to work. There is no one, of any class or condition of the people of this State, who cannot make an honest support, with moderate labor or even tolerable industry. You will invariably find that these petty thefts are perpetrated by persons who are in the class of street-corner loungers, "big road walkers," loafers, waiting about for light jobs, or engaged in hunting up something to do, to keep them from working in the hot sun. Now, to put such a fellow in jail for committing petit larceny is a burlesque upon legal punishment for stealing. There he is fed and lodged, at the expense of the county, to the injury of the honest taxpayer, and he finds there a convenient place to indulge his lazy habits. There he is generally permitted to converse ad libitum, through the windows, with passers-by in the street, and he rejoices in making light of his situation. And when he comes out, he enjoys a nine days' notoriety, in being lionized, and loses not one iota in social position. The person, on the other hand, whom he has stolen from has to bear an increase of taxation to assist in supporting him while in jail. Such punishment is burdensome to honest taxpayers, and does not in the slightest degree reform the thief, for he will, as we all know, go forthwith and commit another theft. He laughs to scorn the majesty of the law and the dignity of the State, and seeks the jail as a sanctuary to protect him from work and to screen him from the heat of the sun.

The thief dreads the lash and abhors compulsory labor. Now, establish the whipping-post, and so change the law that each and every person who commits petit larceny shall either be whipped, or be compelled to work, and you will see that these petty deceptions will be greatly diminished, and a great reduction in the aggregate amount of county taxes will be made. Let the county commissioners let out by contract certain portions of the public roads contiguous to the jail or otherwise. Permit the contractor to hire the thieves to work the roads. Place the thieves in chain-gangs of from five to ten, and one contractor and one reliable guard, with Winchester Rifles, can keep from fifty to one hundred thieves at work, and prevent escapes. Where a thief is sent to jail for five days or less, substitute ten stripes for each day of the time he is so committed, and where the commitment is more than five days, put the thief to hard work. Let such per-

sons as are liable to work those portions of the roads as will be let out to contract and worked by the thieves, pay a small tax in lieu of working the roads.

By adopting this plan, in my humble opinion, the county taxes will be greatly reduced, the roads will be kept in better condition than now, and if the thieves are not reformed, they, in their labor rendered, will be a source of revenue to the county.

TAXPAYER.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS.

The grangers of Donaldsville, Abbeville county, have established a co-operative store.

Considerable sickness prevails in Marlboro county, and several deaths have recently occurred.

All the members of the Graham family who were thought to be poisoned are now out of danger.

All the Radical county officials of Georgetown have vacated their offices, and are now praying pardon for past offences.

They are still having railroad meetings in Anderson county, and the enthusiasm is nowise abated.

Mr. Alonzo Monckton, of Columbia, while running a cotton gin in Marion, met with a severe accident. One of his arms was dreadfully lacerated by the saws of the gin.

Since October, 1876, there have been one hundred and eighty-five buildings destroyed in Darlington county by fire, including barns, gin houses, stores and dwellings.

General McGowan has been selected to deliver the customary address before the military in Charleston on Washington's Birthday. The choice was made by the Washington Artillery, of that city.

The Darlington News is informed that the "mill-pond fever" is raging to such an extent in one section of the county that many families have been compelled to forsake their crops and leave home in order to recover their health.

A man named Walsh was knocked off the Port Royal bridge on its way to Augusta last Wednesday night, and injured so seriously that he died soon after. The train was running at full speed at the time, and it could not be stopped in time to avoid the accident.

A writer in the News and Courier nominates Col. A. C. Haskell for the position of associate justice—a position likely to be made vacant by the impeachment of Wright. The News and Courier warmly endorses the suggestion.

Six negroes were put upon trial last week in Darlington, charged with a conspiracy to burn the town of Darlington in January last, when several houses were destroyed. One of the gang confessed the conspiracy, implicating the negroes now on trial, and showing that their plans were well conceived and skillfully carried out.

The gin-house of Mr. John C. Seegers, at Green Hill in Richland county, was destroyed by fire on Friday noon, together with two cotton gins, two sets of mill stones, about five bales of seed cotton and a cotton screw. The fire was caused by a spark from the engine which was running the gin, therefore its origin was accidental. The machinery was also damaged. Mr. Seegers' loss amounts to about \$3,000; no insurance.

On Friday morning last, the chief of police of Augusta arrested Messrs. E. R. Aiken and L. O'Brien of Barnwell county on the charge of intending to fight a duel. They were brothers-in-law, and had had an encounter in which O'Brien was worsted. He proposed a duel, which was agreed to, and both set off for Sand Bar ferry without seconds or surgeons. They were bound over to keep the peace.

A commission, duly appointed by the governor is investigating the indebtedness of York county. A question has arisen as to its power to investigate the bonds, issued by the county commissioner in aid of the Chester and Lenoir railroad. Those opposed to the issue claim that such inquiry is within the scope of the committee's jurisdiction, while others think differently. Feeling waxing warm, especially on the part of the "bloated bondholders."

Mr. Robert D. White, of Charleston, has just completed a monument for the congregation of Bethel church, to be erected to the memory of their late pastor, Dr. Fleming. It is constructed in the shape of a pulpit, upon the top of which rests a Bible open at the Book of Timothy. The marble border to be placed around the grave is very handsomely carved and finished, and the foot piece is surmounted with a wreath of flowers and foliage. The marble is spotlessly white, and presents a very handsome appearance.

Persons desiring to obtain the opinion of a committee as to the comparative merits of their babies, can have an opportunity of doing so at the coming County Fair in Anderson and if each one's opinion that he has the finest baby in the world proves correct, his judgment will be rewarded by the presentation of a handsome baby carriage. This show will doubtless be very interesting.

Here is the way they raise money for the brethren in Anderson: "The Missionary Corn Planters of the Anderson Baptist Sunday School are requested to bring in their corn on Saturday next to the Masonic Hall, by 3 o'clock, p. m. The corn will be weighed, and the prize awarded to the one raising the most corn from the fourteen grains issued. The whole amount of corn will then be put up and sold to the highest bidder, proceeds to go to missions."

A. B. Knowlton, a carpet-bagger living in Orangeburg and once an aspirant for the judgeship of the sixth judicial circuit, has got into trouble. Having used some very disrespectful language to Judge Cooke, his Honor had him to show cause why his name should not be stricken from the roll of attorneys. Subsequently he accosted the Judge, out of court, in a most insulting manner. He was then taken before a trial justice, and bound over to keep the peace. The case came up before Judge Cooke on Friday last, and after a full hearing, he suspended Knowlton from practice, and held him to bail to appear at the next term of court for the offense of assault.

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Fresh Groceries, Confectioneries, Cakes and Crackers, Cheese, Mackerel, Flour, Meal, Grist, Soaps, Starch, Candles, Kerosene, Crockery, Tin and Wooden Ware, Furniture and Mattresses.

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