

HOW HAVE THE MIGHTY FALLEN.

Another of the fusion gang has fallen. The other day it was Dr. Kirby Smith of the penitentiary and Sheriff Aldridge, of Pamlico. Today a terrible accusation is made against President Hancock of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad by his niece, the report of which will be found in another column of this paper. How have the mighty fallen. Mr. Hancock is one of the leading Republicans in the State, and the acknowledged leader of his party in the House during the session of the last Legislature. It was through his influence, more than any other member of the Legislature, that Newbern, Elizabeth City, Greenville and Wilmington were placed under negro rule, and his fall is but retributive justice. To say we are surprised does not express it, we are astonished, and admit the charges are so terrible in their character that we do sincerely hope they yet may be false. But they are in line with the eternal fitness of things as they exist in this State today under the blighting influence of Russellism. We are not surprised to hear that the Governor will immediately remove him from office if the charges are sustained. He could do nothing else North Carolina has sown fusion and is now reaping her reward. A reward that all good citizens predicted when a combination was made to defeat the Democrats, that was devoid of principle and only had for its object the making of hay while the sun shines. If Mr. Hancock is guilty of these terrible charges against the law of God and humanity no punishment is too great, and like Cain, he ought to be branded with the brand of infamy for all time. If he is innocent no one will rejoice more in his vindication than the Messenger-Gazette.

A FOOL FRIEND.

Having in mind, doubtless, the recent Georgia postoffice case, the New York Press, Republican, demonstrates what a fool it is by suggesting that "negro office-holders in the South should be armed and made to understand that they are as good as white people." Whereupon the Columbia Register "would like to know what the New York Press has against the negro." The inquiry is pertinent. The negro office-holder in the South is not disturbed in the discharge of his duty. On the contrary, there is quite general acquiescence in the idea that, the negro constituting almost the entire strength of the Republican party in this section, it is right that he should come in for a share of the offices when his party is in power; Democrats are more ready to concede this to him than the white Republicans are to grant it. But Linden would see another sight if the black office-holder "should be armed" and go blustering around the country, asserting his equality and inviting somebody to step on the tail of his coat. The New York Press has

hatched out an idea which, if adopted—as, happily, it never will be—would get the black man into trouble, whereas he is in no trouble at all now, but is the freest and best contented element of our population. He could well afford to tell its metropolitan guardian, who wants to put a gun in his hip pocket, that if it will kindly withdraw its friendship he will be able to take care of his enemies.

DEMOCRATS NEED HAVE "NO RUTHERS."

The Greenville, S. C., News says that "whatever may be the sins of Mark Hanna, his defeat, if he is defeated, will be attributed to no higher motives than the envy and spite of enemies in his own party. Hanna may be a very bad sort of politician, but he will not be kept out of the United States Senate on that account. J. B. Foraker and his tools hate Hanna and are knifing him, and the Foraker crowd are, to put it mildly, no better than Hanna."

That is the real truth about the matter—a truth which we must all admit to ourselves when we look at the Ohio contest broadly. While the Democratic impulse as to Republicans is that of the greenhorn in the side-show concerning snakes—to kill them wherever he finds him—and while as to this particular case a Democrat's first wish is that Hanna may be defeated, it really makes no difference to Democrats after all. The schism in the Republican party of Ohio, resulting from long years of factional strife, and accentuated by this Senatorial contest, is now complete, and will not be helped by Hanna's defeat or his election. The Democratic party will be the beneficiary of this contention and as to the difference between Hanna and Foraker—well, there is no choice among spoiled fish, Hanna is a boodler; Foraker is a flannel-mouthed sectionalist and bloody-shirter. Let them fight it out. Democrats can afford to look on with amused interest, but there is nothing to prompt them to the partisanship which men ordinarily exercise even in watching a fight between two strange dogs.

Governor Russell and his commissioners think there has been a great crime in the fact, if it be a fact, that Mrs. Wilson, a widow lady was given reduced rates on household furniture from Raleigh to Round Knob. Whether it be true or not, the people will be slow to condemn the poor woman who is striving to make a living, or the railroads for giving her some consideration, when they remember the Governor himself, a rich man, besides drawing a large salary and having the use of an elegant mansion furnished by the people, has not only used free passes since he became Governor, but had supplies from his farm shipped to him by express without any charge whatever almost since he has been Governor. If there be any condemnation, upon whom should it fall.

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that there will be a special meeting of the Stockholders and Board of Directors of the Eureka Lumber Company to be held at the office of the said Company in the town of Washington, N. C., on Wednesday, February 2nd, 1898, at 10 o'clock a. m.

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A nice line of Gents' Furnishing Goods and Neckwear.

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