

## The Case of Congressman Smalls

Some time ago, ROBERT SMALLS, a colored member of the State Senate of South Carolina, was convicted by a South-Carolina court of malfeasance in his official capacity, and the prospect was that he was a candidate for a term in the penitentiary. While these proceedings were pending, or perhaps before they were instituted, SMALLS was elected a member of Congress from the Fifth South Carolina district, and there were suspicions, if not positive evidence, that he was the victim of unjust persecution, instigated by political jealousy and partisan proscription. The matter has recently been brought to the notice of the United States Supreme Court, on a petition for a writ of error, which writ has just been granted by Chief Justice WARRE, and the proceedings of the State court will be revised by the United States circuit court, where an impartial and unprejudiced hearing will be accorded the defendant, and there is not much doubt but he will be rightfully acquitted. His congressional term closes on the fourth of March next, so that he will hardly have a chance to stand in his place and act free from the imputation of a criminal violator of law, however innocent he may be of the charges against him.