

DEATH ON THE GALLOWS.

The Crime for Which John W. Smith Has Been Sentenced to Hang on May 27 Next.

John W. Smith, the Heard county murderer, has been refused a new trial by the Supreme Court, and was brought back to Fulton county jail yesterday, to await the adjustment of the hangman's knot on May 27th, next. Smith's case, according to the testimony given at the trial, is an exceedingly aggravated one. His home was in Heard county, near the Alabama line, remote from railroads, and he was the recognized leader of a lawless gang who for many months, were a terror to the neighborhood. A pretty mountain maiden was unfortunate enough to gain his affections, although she invariably received his attentions coldly, and refusing his offer of marriage, became united to a man named Barker, whom she loved devotedly. A spirit of insane jealousy immediately took possession of Smith, and one day near Christmas, 1885, accompanied by some of his boon companions, he went to Barker's home with the deliberate purpose of seeking revenge. Finding Mr. Barker in the barn lot, and Mrs. Barker standing near, he drew his revolver and, without warning, shot the husband down. Finding the wound was not a fatal one, he got off his horse and approached the prostrate man. The wife, divining his devilish intent threw herself upon her husband's body to protect him, and begged piteously for his life, but the desperado pushed her roughly aside and gave his victim his death wound. After committing the brutal deed he leaped again upon his horse and rode rapidly away. For some time he managed to keep concealed in the woods, but at last was arrested, tried and sentenced to be hung. Among his other accomplishments he was a moonshine whisky distiller, and while he was lying in Fulton county jail last winter he managed to distil some liquor from corn bread in his cell. He is now in bad health, and says that death will be likely to cheat the hangman.