

tainment of the colored professionals who may have business in the thriving Western city at the Kaw's mouth.

P. G. Lowery had the pleasure of having his mother, Mrs. M. E. Lowery to visit, him and his company, at Parsons, Kan., Jan. 25th. On arriving in Chetopa, Kan., from Parsons, Kan. the 25th, P. G. was met at the depot by his old friend Prof. F. Green, principal of the school. The following Sunday several of the members of the company spent the day at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Green and spent the day joyfully. A telegram reached P. G. from his brother, J. C. Lowery, Attorney at Law in Mosco, I. T., that preparations are fully arranged to give every member of the company a picnic. Every one thinks Manager Swain and P. G. have a fine company.

Buckingham, Theatre, Ft. Brooke Tampa, Fla., notes—The Buckingham now is the largest colored vaudeville house in the State, if not in the South. They are working ten women and seven men and are playing to crowded houses each night. They have also a complete band and an orchestra of 6 pieces. Payton and Harris are making nightly hits as are DeVine and Vaughn, Son Payne, Preacher Chrisom, Cliff Brooks and Happy Howe. The old favorites are still with us and are making nightly hits. Mae Fisher, Lill Wheeler, Trixie Ford, Florence Price, Laura Logan, Ada Harris and Hattie Blueford are still here. Will Goff Kennedy is manager and a good fellow he is. The whole company sends regards to friends.

From Townsend, Mont., comes the cheerful tidings that after the Black Bartons had returned from Australia and arrived in Frisco, they opened on the Orpheum circuit, playing a highly successful engagement of 32 weeks. Singly, Mr. Dave Barton, is now winning fresh laurels as a headliner in heavy-faced type, with Dave Marlow's Big White Vaudeville company and is under a year's contract. They are now touring the West and Northwest. By way of passing remark we wish to say that comedian Dave Barton has written a number of coon songs and is making the hit of his life with them. Next season he is to star in his own company of 20 people—10 white and 10 colored.

James J. Turner of Providence, R. I., is visiting in New York.

Inman and Moore are engaged to head the Whittman Sisters Novelty Co., the balance of the season. They are in Atlanta, Ga., and send regards to friends.

D. E. Washington, stage manager of Swain's Nashville Students, is the sole manager and contractor of Pawnee Bill's Colored Concert. This means success to the concert company.

Geo. L. Moxley is recovering from his rheumatic attack and is able to work at his trade, barbering at Martinsburg, W. Va. He sends regards to the profession wishing them a good season.

A. V. Wooten, trap drummer is now in Painesville, O. He sends best regards to Clara Freeman and sister, of the Hot Seat Coon in Dixie company and Whittman Viney. Would like to hear from responsible managers.

"I don't go to the theatre nowadays" said Mrs. Prue. "The costumes are so shocking." "Yes indeed," agreed Miss Artless. "Last time I was there the show of some of the women in the box were positively indecent."

Mr. Rogers late of P. G. Lowery's Vaudeville Company, with 4-Paw-Sell's Brownies and also of W. I. Swain's Nashville Students company is resting at his home in Columbus, O. on account of the death of his wife, Mrs. Rosa Rodgers, who in connection with her husband was in the profession. He sends regards to Bradley and Bradley and Mrs. E. Thompson.

Mr. Charles Wilson, 917 Baltimore avenue writes the Freeman from Kansas City, Mo., to correct the statement made in a recent issue that a number of Kansas City clubs got together and entertained the Williams & Walker company upon the event of its engagement at the Grand Opera House in that city. Mr. Wilson says that the reception and ball tendered the Williams & Walker company was wholly under the supervision of the McRay, Ben-Evler and Protective Association, which is the only legitimate enterprise in Kansas City, inaugurated for the promotion of social intercourse and the royal enter-

and keeps them roaring nightly. Billy Kersands and wife are doing as usual taking encores nightly by scores. Our pet, A. J. Smith, the robust baritone and ballad reader gets honors and applause by torrents. He is singing "Davy Jones's Locker." Moore and Thomas do the finale as well as can be done. Bailey and Spiller get theirs nightly, being interrupted by encores in the semi part of their act. The following acts and teams are considered well by all: Marsh Craig, McKisick and Jones and Ben Toledo. Harry Brown, the crayon artist, joined us at Atlanta, Ga. Dick Thomas and Frosty Moore are holding the first edition and keep the house going without a lull.

J. Ed. Green, (Bronze), writes from Memphis, Tenn.:—"As stated in our last letter Mr. Hallback and Miss Coates did not appear at the Tivoli, having accepted another engagement in Tampa. We expect them later, 4 11-41 was the bill for the past week and, needless to say, business was good and continues so, comment being made daily on the performance. Blind Tom was at the auditorium, Wednesday 29. W. M. Scott, female impersonator is on the bill as a feature. B. P. Keenett, closed a successful 3 week's engagement and expects to open on the Southern circuit, beginning at Hot Springs. "Going to War," a military act for 5 was produced all last week by Messrs. Williams, Reed, Troy Johnson and Green and was pronounced a success. I. Stella Harris donned male attire all last week and made a hit with "Zulu Babe." H. D. Troy is on the sick list. Johnson and Reil continue to please. Wm. Thomas, tuba and William Page, trombone, late of the "ill-fated" King and Bush's Minstrels arrived in town from Texas and are looking the city over. I've got my foot on the snake's head "Viney." No thanks for the warning as the King & Bush's Minstrels, closed in Texas week of Dec. 29th and I closed with them at Meridian, Nov. 11, I think I escaped the blow, eh boys. We have in preparation the female minstrels, ladies on the ends and in the middle and expect quite a good performance from them. I've buried the hatchet, "Abe." When his highness, "Groch," forgives me of my abrupt departure, I will write him. Regards to Pat (happelle, L. E. Gideon and the bunch.

Augustus Stevens writes from Allen's New Orleans Minstrels:—"We are in dear old Florida and business is good. We played Pensacola and turned people away. Here is what the Pensacola Journal says about Allen's New Orleans Minstrels: "There was a large attendance in the canvas theatre of Allen's Only Original New Orleans Minstrel, at Chase and Bayler street, last night. In fact the tent was crowded in spite of the nipping cold weather. If anyone of the audience felt chilly he was soon laughing heartily enough to warm anybody. The troupe is not only original but highly amusing. There was nothing profane about their fun. The members of the troupe seemed to relish it themselves. It can hardly be said that the walls shook with the laughter but they would have done so had they been solid. It is thought likely that a goodly collection of vest buttons could be made on that lot this morning. The singing was highly appreciated by the audience each musical note being promptly honored as it fell due. It was all told, a highly satisfactory performance." They are flooded with small shows in Florida, but nearly all have no merit or any show to amount to much to offer to the public. Therefore they can't expect anything else but poor business. There are several street fairs, and all kinds of fakes and robbers but the people are pretty well on to that class of people and the sooner they are, the better for legitimate shows. Our show is doing the same old baner business in all of the old territory we have ever visited and have come in contact with these street fairs yet we have the first street fair to meet that we did not close when we played in a town on the same date and I think we have met them all. Florida will support a good colored show when you have anything to offer them.

Notes from the Famous Georgia Minstrels:—"Our show is still doing a good business showing to the capacity of the houses, pleasing both public and managers. We are being assured by the managers daily as we go along that no Minstrel company will be in our way if we wish to come back next season. We are really surprised at ourselves to find out show pleasing so easily as we have had this same show for two consecutive seasons and are only in the East for the purpose of closing and getting something for next season, but we are doing so well that I think we will not close as early as was anticipated by the managers a few months ago. Well, their is one thing, we can stand it as long as the managers can as the 'man in white' appears regularly. Our roster is well known to the public and must add wonderfully to the business as our advance sales are always good. The management of this show does not change the show, consequently the public seems to know just what is coming. Thomas F. Edwards our genial stage manager is well liked by the entire company and this has lots to do with the success of a show. Our people come on the stage with nothing on their mind but to do their best to please the audience and not with the scare and strain on their mind of trying to please the stage manager or someone on the stage you are afraid of. How can one work in that strain season after season and be successful unless they are show struck and must travel just must travel. Mr. Edwards though young in the business has avoided any such a sentiment of feeling on his stage. He has no pet; all look alike and all are treated the same, not a frown on his face when one man makes a mistake and

a smile or good laugh when another makes one. His sympathy seems to be with every one that steps on his stage. This is one acquisition of Mr. Edwards nature that many of our egotistical stage managers with all their experience will never have. The entire company wish Mr. Edwards a bright future in his choice of life. As he does not take much to show life, we think his choice of life is base ball of which he has a first-class team here with the show. Our show had a lay off in Coffeyville, Kansas on account of the Opera House burning and was highly entertained by some of the ladies and gentlemen there. Mr. Hale, leader of the band of that city and Mr. Jessie Brown a member of the same and a business man of that city certainly used every effort with the assistance of Mr. Camel to give the Georgias a good time. The entire company send regards to Mr. Hale and Mr. Brown and also the ladies of Coffeyville who helped to make it pleasant for them. We also send regards to No. 1 company. Hello Bailey and Parker and Dick Thomas. We are expecting a grand spread in Joplin on the 25th. Regards to all.

The Slayton Tennessee Jubilee singers are now in Canada. The company has just returned from the Pacific coast. Business was very good there. The only incident to mar the pleasure of the trip was the serious illness of Mr. Jas. E. Hood. At one time during his illness he touched life at its lowest point and it looked as though death was going to claim him. He is doing very well at present, although not entirely well. During his illness he was out of his head and like all other persons who are deprived of their reason by illness, some of his actions were very amusing. His brain, racked with fever would convert the ordinary utensils of life into engines of harm. The other members of the company despite the fact they have experienced some very cold weather and have been quartered in some hotels that had only two fires, one in the office, the other in the kitchen, have kept very well. The quartette of the company made a decided impression in the western country. On more than one occasion it was declared to be the best that has ever toured the West. And the consensus of opinion as gathered from many a town is that the company as a whole stands the ne plus ultra in the jubilee line. One remarkable feature of the chorus work of this company is the blending of the voices. The parts are so musically dove-tailed into each other that the most critical ear must yield its approbation. This is Mrs. Conly's first trip with a company of any kind. She is now singing a jubilee song which nightly gets encores. At Grafton, N. D. we met Tom J. Morgan, formerly agent for the Tennesseans and as good a one as ever boarded a train. The company will be in Chicago about the last week of March then it will go into the State of Michigan.

J. Harry Jackson sends the following from New York City:—"Moore & Hammond's 'Coontown Golf Club' were at the Bijou Theatre, Patterson, N. J., the early part of the week, and gave great satisfaction. S. H. Dudley, the droll comedian, deserves much praise for staging the production. Much of the music in this farce was written by Messrs. Dudley and Tom Brown. The roster of the company is as follows: C. H. Moore, sole owner; Geo. A. Hammonds, business manager; S. H. Dudley, stage manager; Kid Frazier, Misses Jennie Schepar, Alberta Ormes, Minnie Brown, Ida Day, Birdie Hall and Edith Adams.

Thomas Fletcher, of the Franco-Belgian-American club, was entertained by several members of Al. Martin's Uncle Tom's Cabin company, on the evening of January 29th, at the above named club rooms on Thirty-second street; Mr. Fletcher is an ex-member of the company. Bradley & Bradley are being loudly applauded nightly at the Clarendon, Music hall, where they are booked for the next three weeks. They send regards to Miss Ida Larkins. Simpson & Pittman, high-class musical artists, have just closed a two-weeks engagement at Huber's Fourteenth Street Theatre, and are booked for two weeks in Philadelphia, commencing the week of Feb. 10; they send regards to George Swan, of the Georgia Minstrels. The Golden Gate Quartette went big at the Dewey Theatre. They are in Jersey City this week. William Brown, the original "Smoke Make," the entertainer, is making a big hit singing "Ain't it a Shame," "I Got Mine" and "Don't You Never Take a Ten Cent Drink on Me." "Smoke" says that he is the pet of the boys in the Tenderloin. Lee Robinson, the genial proprietor of the Newport cafe, 111 W. Thirty-first street, is an enthusiastic reader of the Freeman. When in New York don't fail to visit the Newport. Murphy & Slater stopped over in the city Feb. 2d, enroute from Boston to Philadelphia, where they are appearing this week at Kieth's Theatre. This team is capable of holding its own on any circuit. Lawrence Cowan, formerly of Louisville, Ky., an old-time professional singer, is now connected with the San Juan club as head-bartender. Mr. Cowan is well known in all parts of the country, as he has traveled extensively with several of the

big companies, and would be pleased to greet any of his friends at any time. Happy Joe, Williams and Birdie Smith were entertained at a private party given at the Hoffman House one evening last week, and made a big hit. Wesley and Ida Hill are at the Atlantic Garden this week; they are also booked to appear at the Howard Theatre, Boston, Mass., the week of Feb. 10th, with the Shea circuit to follow. The big animal song-sheet, requiring the services of sixty five male voices, assisted in the choruses of the songs by Richard Jose, the celebrated tenor vocalist, is the hit of the big vaudeville bill at Kieth's Union Square Theatre. Jesse Manley is featuring his original composition, "Oh My Leota Let Me Hear From You." Miss Ada Hammonds has been engaged as one of the entertainers at the San Juan club. Mrs. Hammonds is a vocalist of unusual ability, and is making the hit of her life singing, "Malzy, My Ducky Daisy." Joe Baswell has been engaged as musical director for Moore & Hammonds' big company, which is booked to appear in Baltimore, Md., on Feb. 11th. Smith & Bowman, singing comedians, were big cards on the bill Sunday night at the New York Theatre, also the Winter Garden. Eddie James, formerly musical director at the San Toy Hotel, Coney Island, last season, has accepted a position in the same capacity at the San Juan club, 201 W. Forty first street. Mr. James claims the title of the "champion rag-time piano player" of the world. Harry Brown, the "Coon Just off the Griddle," was on both bills Sunday night at the New York Theatre and Winter Garden, making his usual hit. The Globe Comedy Four were at the Dewey Theatre Sunday night. Al. Brown, the author-vocalist, has in preparation several new songs which he will soon introduce to the music loving public. Al. has written several winners and no doubt the forthcoming one will rival them. Harry F. Woodroo, of Saratoga Springs, N. Y., is with the Jose aggregation at Kieth's Theatre this week. Bob Cole and Billy Johnson worked separately on the bill Sunday night at the New York Theatre.

THE NEGRO PERFORMER ABROAD.

About eighteen years ago, if we remember aright, Harry Callendar took a company of genuine Negro minstrels to England and a few years later Chas. B. Hicks and Al D. Sawyer took a company to Australia. With the possible exception of the Hyers sisters these were the only black faces that had ever been looked upon in foreign domains in the capacity of entertainers. Notwithstanding they have been called by Kings and Queens they played the deuce in proving themselves successful entertainers. The English and Australians, by the way, are very austere and reserved as regards the manner of entertainment of histrions, therefore that which we here consider clever, they, over there regard indifferently and treat with almost heartless disdain. Little wonder then that early Negro minstrels met a cold reception and proved a "frost." As a result the minstrels were stranded in various parts of the Eastern Hemisphere and in the British provinces and never have been able to "make it back" to the States. To be sure Harry Callendar and Hicks and Sawyer managed to get back, but George and Jim Bohee (one of whom is dead and the other out of the business) Wallace King, Jack Evans, Charlie Pope and Charley Bruce are still abroad and Pope has a grave among strangers in a foreign land. It is only very recently that the English and Australians have begun to thaw out in the matter of Black Theatians. Indeed it has not been quite six

years since Williams and Walker, immediately after their triumphs at Koster and Bial's and Hammerstein's in New York City, went abroad to play the London music halls, and proved a "frost" a signal failure. They were some pumpkins in New York but small potatoes in England. Therefore after a professional residence abroad of about 8 weeks they hid themselves hither. But see the rapidity with which time changes all things. It is now reported that the English have taken to coon comedians and comedienne and coon songs so aptly, they have grown excitedly enthusiastic over every coon song where the letter "h" is not employed too frequently. In support of this we have only to witness the phenomenal success of Cakewalker Billy Farrell, Rachel Walker, Bessie Lee, Johnson and Dean and several others, together with Goggins and Davis, whose are now "vacating" on this their native heath.