# THE FREEMAN: AN ILLUSTRATED COLORED NEWSPAPER.

EDITED BY

"Woodbine"

Notes from the famous Georgia Minstrels :-- We are still in Colorado playiny to the capacity of the houses. We have found better business than we anticipated, and only hope Kansas, as it has always done, will prove as good Our and Kid- Langford, Oscar Cameron and W. C. Craft on the extreme ends, assisted by M. D. Houseley and Lewis soldist. The olio is as follows. The great Shields, hoop juggler, barrel jumper and slack wire artist of rare ability. Mr Shields is acknowledged by press and public to present the most unique act for opening an olio in existence to-day. He is followed by W. C. Craft, the well known comedian of many years' experience. We would only fistter ourselves should we try to tell the public about W.C. Craft as a comedian, or anything on the stage that our people do. Mr. Craft just takes anything in the song line the stage manager or the company suggest for him, and makes a screamer of it. He is followed by the Alabams Quartette, a quartette that can follow anything on any program and leave amid a continuous yell. This quartette'is composed of four genial gentlemen, viz E. J. Burton, Kid Langford, David Smith and Oscar Cameron. These are four people whom the writer can not add to their reputation, their experience being far ahead of most of the critics of to day. They are followed by the Honseley Bros.' grand and gorgeous musical act. These boys named their the Recognized Cornet Soloist and Band Master, Aes't Manager 4 Paw & Sells,' Vaudeville Co also Manager Swains' Nashville Students. being far ahead of most of the critics act from the headings of different press notices, viz: "The Houseley's Emporium of Music." We find ourselves again incompetent of criticising an act composed of so much real musical talent as these brothers possees Next comes the drill of the Black Watch. They leave their audience screaming nightly and the entire company is egotistic over this drill, and actually believe we have all shows bested in a real artistic drill. We appreciate this act so highly that we have a march written and dedicated to this famous drill It's there, that's all. Next comes the favorite Monologuist, considered by the press to use the best stuff handled by any of his work. Mr Tolliver is also steward of the great Williamette Cinb and sole in the city you will call The Freeman promoter of the Mostache ball to be is also on eale there. Gayer and West's given by the club in ..... Vegas V. M., Xmas. Following this comes that Ala bama Quariette in a farce comedy act and trick tumbling. This act is acknowledged by all show people who have seen it to be the best closing a hence remained in Denver for another day, and we are proud to say that the people of Denver were too nice for us. thus causing many of the boys to think it was Xmas. It was the first time in Denver for many of the boys, although they have been West for a few years, but when the clubs and different places of amusement began to open to the boys, some of their eyes flew open as if it were Greater New York. They came to the cars and put on clothes that have not been out of their trunks since Canada White Melton Raglans were on the street. From seven to eight went in a banch with diamonds sparkling through their gloves, and to say that the hoys put in two of the liveliest days of the double season is putting it mild. Some of the boys made good investments in Denver, among whom were Occar Cameron and W. C Cameron, and the most notable of all was made by our genial stage manager, Mr. Thos. F. Edwards, who purchased a diamond ring for \$75. He would fistly refuse \$125 for it any day unless forced to sell. ?We have to give Mr. Edwards credit for laying for these kind of snaps, and he seems to always have money enough to save them. The Houseley Bros. send their best regards to Jas H. Harris and Jas H Wilson, and wish to say to Mr. Harthat way. A merry Xmas to all.

Eberhard's "Holiday in Coostown' are laying off in Indianapolis until after the Holidays The show has had very good success throughout Illinois and Indiana.

Carrington at 10.20 at night and showed to a packed house, and to cap it all we arrived at E-mond at 12 15 p m. to open the new opera house and showed to a packed house at \$1 50 per head We then gave a concert after the show at 50cents apiece after which we gave a ball and danced till the train pulled out roster remains the same: Ed Tolliver for New Rockford at 9 o'clock next and Kid, Langford, Oscar Cameron and morning. Tom MoIntosh, little Harold McCabe and baby Lucia McCabe ar. doing an act that is the bit of the season sisted by M. D. Houseley and Lewis Wright. Our ballard singers, J. A Watts, tenor soloist; John E Sherman, basso soloist, and R. L. Wilson, baritone soloist. The ollo is as follows. The company will spend Christmas in Liebon, N. D., where D W. McCabe has arranged a big Christmas tree and reception for the company. D W. McCabe is doing all kinds of work in advance and the ghost walks on time.



Kansas City and Kansas Notes :- The Great Eastern show has closed. Mr. Shelby; leader of the band reports good business done by the company, and that their last stand was Saturday, Dec. 14 in Denison, Tex, from which place they jamped into Kansas City, their wintering quarters. They open some time in May. There is one barber shop here where most professionals can be found at all times, that is the place of Mr. Willis Jackson, on Grand avenue and Sixth street. Mr. Jackson is an old showman. He was one season with Caldaner's Minstrels, the Georgia Minstrels in 1557-58, and a number of other class in the entire country. The people shows. In his prime he was said to endorse the centiment of the press in be one of the best tubs and double bass commending Mr. Tolliver's monologue violin players in the business. His re-

Gayer and West, Prof. F. B. Woods, manager; B. Ownes, stage manager; Comedians Billy.Ownes and C H. Wililams; W. M Fletcher, Challenge buck dancer; F. Henderson, "Omisk Feeby;" of this matter quite a number of years Mr. Bemery's base solo, "Down in the and have come to the conclusion that deep let me sleep;" fically, "1'll bet it all," by Fletcher, Bigins and Williams; the great and only prima dons, Mrs. C. B Woods, singing "Will you love when the lilles are dead The olio is very strong, making the show on the whole a good one Miss A. Foster, of the team of Foster & Henderson, is on the sick list Mr Bostick and wife are expected to join the "Honolulu Coons" company Billy Ownes sends regards Smart & Williams, Richard and Lottie Brown. C C. Hill sends regards to George Rhone and Buddle Glenn. The Williams send regards to Mesers. Q inn. Oakes & Allen, and a merry Christmas to all.



GORDON (. COLLINS The Clever Consection Out of the Prin-cipals with Swain's Natural Students.

# THE 20TH CENIURY PERFORMER

PA L ED GREEN. Some men are born great, some a hieve greatness, while others have greatness thrust upon them, is a saying that dates away back to the good old days when the public at large was eager to grasp any and all savings of value. Just as a new century came comes the new performer eager to grasp all new ideas and very much the successor of the old firm "song and dance team." As from a dream the languid writers of color have awak-ened and have set their fertile brains to work on newer themes the farfamed minstrel, though much improved seems but a ghost in a haunted house. i.e., one that never walks, and yet he is a ""king." (I mean the ghost) and would not stop to lay in am"Bus 1" to molest a poor Knight of Burnt fork In this new century there is no one that can help noticing the rapid strides the profession is making and the eastern star, viz., success is but a short distance away. Special notice can be made of the style and manner song and play-writers of color are useing their selection of themes, arts, etc. Messrs. Shaw and Dixon, a duo of young men stationed at Chicago are among the best of successful writers that find the single word title a suc-Ruby, Queenie and Lily, and Gracie are latest from their pens. Messrs. Dunbar and Cooke have outclassed all and placed before the public a real comic-opera sung and acted by artists of color, with the polished Bob Cole at their head, and so we could use this entire column in speak

difference comes. We have in our midst a vast number that continue to do it with their little batchets, but can really tell a <u>\_\_\_\_</u>, my pen refuses to write the word. We have thought the little hammer you knock with is only dangerous to the wielder if every knock is a boost. Some poor unfortunates ought to be at this hour a res-



century performer is the norseless car-riage of acting vehicles. We are glad to note the success of each vaudeville artist. There is a mania predominant. .e., to beat the head of one's own company. The list will be worth men-tioning." As 20th "centurianites" (mine) we have the unbleathed Amer-better for both. in these  $da_{2} = \pi hen$ ican, the two real Coons," the "Black popularity is so soon to wane Patti," the "Black Swan," and a num-Earnest Hogan, the popular difference tican, the two real Coons," the "Black popularity is so soon to wane Patti," the "Black Swan," and a num-ber of titles beyond my reach. We wish to thank dear "Tat" for his in-terest in our welfage, at times we al-past season of his forthcoming tour as will the Tro bactour quartetic whole a star. most imagine we are friends, but how a star. could we be when we have never met. Mr. Hogan made an enjoyable run We would suggest that you write a pampliet entitled "I Did it with my little hammer." I have several new poems but your pen is mightier than my sharp hatchet. All other names trought • into comparison with indeed outle obvious "Chester" Bronzefield W S Cleveland who had the good



#### A REVIEW OF THE STAGE colored shows commended for us genuine race songs by concred write Sidney L. Perrin's, "My Dinah Al John's and Elmer Bowman's

## BY SYLVESTER RUSSFILL

Way Back and Sit Down" were After twelve months of more or less After twelve months of more or less fections which swept the coun observation of the distinguished ele-ment of Afro-American actors, a sec-cooe have contributed musical num ond annual review in the Christmas number of "The Freeman" is again to prominent Broadway production The good behavior of the che presented. girls of the big cities companiebeen commented upon, but their st make-up criticised—little more pow

During the past and present seasons there has been a few surprises worthy of note, with some incidental features herein recorded with regret. The chief topic for regret is the shelving of "A Trip to Coontown" in cause he stayed on the stage too he sherving of "A frip to Coontown in I cause he stayed on the stage too in the height of its popularity and the Skinner Harris and other good of dissolving of partnership of its two dians do the same thing. stars, Bob Cole and Billy Johnson. It Listen what the white folks say is rumored, however, that Bob Cole

will star in a new play next season, which if true, will be a highly interesting advent from two standpoints, viz., the ability of this star to shine in a new role and the merits of his new comedy.

Bob Cole, without further explanation, can be said to be the foremost ! comedian of his face, and for this rea. Atta Jones (the Black Patti) are a son, if Billy Johnson were to support best she has ever vet selected her vo him in his new venture, it would be is much herter than in the past this

Mr. Hogan made an enjoyable run show on its ociginal lines is as good on the New York Theatre Roof Garden as ever Leslie Triplet as Hotto treon the New York Theatre Roof Garden de ever Lesae triplet as moto cre-(Cherry Blossom Grove) last'summer, ated a new onreal but good Filipine, and the world now stands ready to "Barney is also or the bills so the see him as a star, but the professional company err ge a "ull-dog now attitude displayed by Mr Hogan in a THE HOTTEST COON IN DIXIE. aiminish to a microscopic finish when recent theatreal advertisement was

The above names blay is an Afro-American musical factor comedy by Phil R. Juller, its proprietor, but 1 can be tailry seen that Bob Kelley has created his own bat and woven the reated his own on came worn or rlay around himself with much of the material used in A Trip to Con-town in discusse as a foundation to the plot. Since "A Trip to Countown in the plot. Since "A Trip to Countown was originally per together by He Cole, Buly Johnson Jesse Shipp Fen Brown and Rob Keiley it does not seem strange that Mr -Kelley should use some of his former ideas over again As Lem Loose Mr. Kelley made a worth, hit. His monologue is in telligent and interesting throughout and he is now distinctly to the fore is a comectar a pla - he has labored

and less red paint is advisable. Tom McIntosh is a good com-

He'll stay on the stage too long. Too long'-"That's no lie The Black Patti Troubadours 5"

to be the best singing organization the season, the chorus being quite n-

The solos rendered by Mme Siss.

- reons and a visce to equal

Just jolly'a coon along. If you want to die

perfection.

COURT

for yea's to attain Joe Hodges and Lola Launchmers are prominently in the cast. These two are yes brenchy and yery first. Mis-Launchenere is a well trained, first class singer and character actress. Some of the music is by Accoss and scemed to please SONS OF HAM

Williams and Walkers latest vehicle is a s-cond edition of "Sons of Ham an Afro-American, improbable mu-

(al controly by Steven A Cassin and Jesse A Shipp

A review of this play must here sarily hence it into comparison with a "Trip to Coontown." Cassin and Shipp have woven together some exercise work pertaining to college life but they have failed to wrive the fact around the stars. The love scenes to are evasive and incomplete. Dichanges in the first act have sent the stars farther away from the plot than ever. The first entrance of the stars on the follege grounds directly after a d-max' (as seen last season) was quite the proper thing and far more interest ing than a street vanderville entrance Bert Williams and George Walker are interesting and bound to be good in any sort of a coon play, but in a play of this class their well known vaudervillé specialties should be dropped entirely. The stars simply waltz around the play as two impossible students. 'The Zulu Babe is a special treat and shows what unusually clever work Williams and Walker can do with new

violin players in the business. His re-gards to all professionals, hoping when in the city you will call The Freeman is also on sale there. Gayer and West's Minstrels are in their last week at the Wigwam Theater. Roster of company. The subject of this sketch was born son and Main streets in front of the section of the sketch was born son and Main streets in front of the section of the sketch was born son and Main streets in front of the sketch was born son and Main streets in front of the sketch was born son and Main streets in front of the sketch was born son and Main streets in front of the sketch was born son and Main streets in front of the section of t

The subject of this sketch was born son and Main streets, in front of C. L pany disbanded and he went back to fortune in securing William H. Win-The subject of this sketch was born son and Main streets, in front of C. L pany disbanded and he went back to fortune in securing William H. Win- Misses Lottle Williams and Alice in Dyeraburg, Tenn., January 4, 1852 Byrd's jewelry store, which supported Chicago. He then joined a doctor's dom. contra-tenor singer, for the open- Mackey were pleasing. What a put His parents died a few months is them both for three years. In 1894 he show where he stayed quite a while and any of his Chicago Minstrels, stated a Miss Mackey is not singing Accom-ter, but fortunately his grandmother lost his grandmother, and having saved established the reputation as one of the few years ago that he did not like the "My Samoan Beauty" and So displaminstrel show ever had. Our company ter, but fortunately his grandmother lost his grandmother, and having saved established the reputation as one of the few years ago that he did not like her beautiful enotraito voice. Miss Adu and aunt took him to raise In 1885 quite a sum of money, he decided to best female impersonators in the coun. Windom's voice. Mr. Windom's voice Denver the 12th inst. While there we were wired that we could not come to Memphis, Tenn., and quit the boot-black business and he try. He next joined A G Allen's New it is his natural voice (Overton takes advantage of a-greater the greater the greater the greater the greater the display her verse and can not be termed a real falsetto. were wired that we could not come to three years later the was placed in then went to work at the Grand Opera Orleans Minstrels in 1899 and has been He also knows how to sing a ballad three years later the was placed in then went to work at the Grand Opera Orieans in 1997 and the stayed but two terms, House, and while there he learned a favorite until the present and is mak- better than most men do, or any oth-for, unfortunately, his aunt-died and he considerable-about the stage. His first ing nightly hits in bis single turn. He er singer Mr. Cleveland could hire. Billy Eldrige, who died last whiter. When Llovd Gibles sings "The Stort"

### AUGUSTUS STEVENS, FEMALE IMPERSUNATOR.

was compelled to abandon school and appearance before the public was with will soon stage one of Papinta's famous start to labor to support his grand- a home talent company, and with daily serpentine dances, and next season he mother. He first found a position in a practice he was soon fit for the public will be known as the Male Papinta clothing store, where he worked quite a eye. In 1897 he decided to see some of After having been the favorite with A ris that they are doing well and hope while. From there he next found a the world and left for Chicago, where G. Alter having been the favorite with A the same of him. Our entire company place in a factory where he stayed for he soon joined a company known as G. Alten's Minstrels for two years, the send regards to Wm. Porter, and re- an indefinite period. Becoming tired of Bell's Novelty company, being the on'y managers have gotten out a special quests him to wake up. We are coming manual labor, he decided to open a colored person with the organization. paper for him which is very showy. boot-black stand at the corner of Madi- But after being out two weeks the com Begards to all friends.

stage

Mrs. George R. Wilson's death was pa-thetic and everybody was sorry for her utest little cake walkers upon the

be flourishing. The colored writers must be praised for coon songs that are not altogether insinuating and the

Setter than most super singer Mr. Cleveland could hire. Billy Eldrige, who died last winter, was a much admired comedian and Mark George R. Wilson's death was pa-a long meter tune, everybody looks ' a long meter tune, everybody looks ' a long meter tune, everybody looks ' a long meter tune, everybody looks ' ranged it. Mr. Gibbs has a splend tenor voice and the dear public sigh-

The song-writing business seems to little faster There is a tableaux set in the play which is too long and we

CONTINUED ON SIXTEENTIL + AGO



