



Published every Saturday by JOHN MITCHELL, JR., at 211 N. Fourth Street, Richmond, Va.

JOHN MITCHELL, JR., - EDITOR.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to us as to reach us by Wednesday.

TERMS IN ADVANCE	
One Copy, one year.	\$1.50
One Copy, six months.	.80
One Copy, three months.	.50
One Copy, one month.	.25
Single Copy	.05

ADVERTISING RATES	
For one inch, one insertion.	.50
For one inch, subsequent insertions.	.40
For two inches, one insertion.	.80
For two inches, subsequent insertions.	.60
For three inches, one insertion.	1.20
For three inches, subsequent insertions.	.90
For four inches, one insertion.	1.60
For four inches, subsequent insertions.	1.20
For five inches, one insertion.	2.00
For five inches, subsequent insertions.	1.50
For six inches, one insertion.	2.40
For six inches, subsequent insertions.	1.80
For seven inches, one insertion.	2.80
For seven inches, subsequent insertions.	2.20
For eight inches, one insertion.	3.20
For eight inches, subsequent insertions.	2.60
For nine inches, one insertion.	3.60
For nine inches, subsequent insertions.	3.00
For ten inches, one insertion.	4.00
For ten inches, subsequent insertions.	3.40
For eleven inches, one insertion.	4.40
For eleven inches, subsequent insertions.	3.80
For twelve inches, one insertion.	4.80
For twelve inches, subsequent insertions.	4.20
For thirteen inches, one insertion.	5.20
For thirteen inches, subsequent insertions.	4.60
For fourteen inches, one insertion.	5.60
For fourteen inches, subsequent insertions.	5.00
For fifteen inches, one insertion.	6.00
For fifteen inches, subsequent insertions.	5.40
For sixteen inches, one insertion.	6.40
For sixteen inches, subsequent insertions.	5.80
For seventeen inches, one insertion.	6.80
For seventeen inches, subsequent insertions.	6.20
For eighteen inches, one insertion.	7.20
For eighteen inches, subsequent insertions.	6.60
For nineteen inches, one insertion.	7.60
For nineteen inches, subsequent insertions.	7.00
For twenty inches, one insertion.	8.00
For twenty inches, subsequent insertions.	7.40
For twenty-one inches, one insertion.	8.40
For twenty-one inches, subsequent insertions.	7.80
For twenty-two inches, one insertion.	8.80
For twenty-two inches, subsequent insertions.	8.20
For twenty-three inches, one insertion.	9.20
For twenty-three inches, subsequent insertions.	8.60
For twenty-four inches, one insertion.	9.60
For twenty-four inches, subsequent insertions.	9.00
For twenty-five inches, one insertion.	10.00
For twenty-five inches, subsequent insertions.	9.40
For twenty-six inches, one insertion.	10.40
For twenty-six inches, subsequent insertions.	9.80
For twenty-seven inches, one insertion.	10.80
For twenty-seven inches, subsequent insertions.	10.20
For twenty-eight inches, one insertion.	11.20
For twenty-eight inches, subsequent insertions.	10.60
For twenty-nine inches, one insertion.	11.60
For twenty-nine inches, subsequent insertions.	11.00
For thirty inches, one insertion.	12.00
For thirty inches, subsequent insertions.	11.40
For thirty-one inches, one insertion.	12.40
For thirty-one inches, subsequent insertions.	11.80
For thirty-two inches, one insertion.	12.80
For thirty-two inches, subsequent insertions.	12.20
For thirty-three inches, one insertion.	13.20
For thirty-three inches, subsequent insertions.	12.60
For thirty-four inches, one insertion.	13.60
For thirty-four inches, subsequent insertions.	13.00
For thirty-five inches, one insertion.	14.00
For thirty-five inches, subsequent insertions.	13.40
For thirty-six inches, one insertion.	14.40
For thirty-six inches, subsequent insertions.	13.80
For thirty-seven inches, one insertion.	14.80
For thirty-seven inches, subsequent insertions.	14.20
For thirty-eight inches, one insertion.	15.20
For thirty-eight inches, subsequent insertions.	14.60
For thirty-nine inches, one insertion.	15.60
For thirty-nine inches, subsequent insertions.	15.00
For forty inches, one insertion.	16.00
For forty inches, subsequent insertions.	15.40
For forty-one inches, one insertion.	16.40
For forty-one inches, subsequent insertions.	15.80
For forty-two inches, one insertion.	16.80
For forty-two inches, subsequent insertions.	16.20
For forty-three inches, one insertion.	17.20
For forty-three inches, subsequent insertions.	16.60
For forty-four inches, one insertion.	17.60
For forty-four inches, subsequent insertions.	17.00
For forty-five inches, one insertion.	18.00
For forty-five inches, subsequent insertions.	17.40
For forty-six inches, one insertion.	18.40
For forty-six inches, subsequent insertions.	17.80
For forty-seven inches, one insertion.	18.80
For forty-seven inches, subsequent insertions.	18.20
For forty-eight inches, one insertion.	19.20
For forty-eight inches, subsequent insertions.	18.60
For forty-nine inches, one insertion.	19.60
For forty-nine inches, subsequent insertions.	19.00
For fifty inches, one insertion.	20.00
For fifty inches, subsequent insertions.	19.40
For fifty-one inches, one insertion.	20.40
For fifty-one inches, subsequent insertions.	19.80
For fifty-two inches, one insertion.	20.80
For fifty-two inches, subsequent insertions.	20.20
For fifty-three inches, one insertion.	21.20
For fifty-three inches, subsequent insertions.	20.60
For fifty-four inches, one insertion.	21.60
For fifty-four inches, subsequent insertions.	21.00
For fifty-five inches, one insertion.	22.00
For fifty-five inches, subsequent insertions.	21.40
For fifty-six inches, one insertion.	22.40
For fifty-six inches, subsequent insertions.	21.80
For fifty-seven inches, one insertion.	22.80
For fifty-seven inches, subsequent insertions.	22.20
For fifty-eight inches, one insertion.	23.20
For fifty-eight inches, subsequent insertions.	22.60
For fifty-nine inches, one insertion.	23.60
For fifty-nine inches, subsequent insertions.	23.00
For sixty inches, one insertion.	24.00
For sixty inches, subsequent insertions.	23.40
For sixty-one inches, one insertion.	24.40
For sixty-one inches, subsequent insertions.	23.80
For sixty-two inches, one insertion.	24.80
For sixty-two inches, subsequent insertions.	24.20
For sixty-three inches, one insertion.	25.20
For sixty-three inches, subsequent insertions.	24.60
For sixty-four inches, one insertion.	25.60
For sixty-four inches, subsequent insertions.	25.00
For sixty-five inches, one insertion.	26.00
For sixty-five inches, subsequent insertions.	25.40
For sixty-six inches, one insertion.	26.40
For sixty-six inches, subsequent insertions.	25.80
For sixty-seven inches, one insertion.	26.80
For sixty-seven inches, subsequent insertions.	26.20
For sixty-eight inches, one insertion.	27.20
For sixty-eight inches, subsequent insertions.	26.60
For sixty-nine inches, one insertion.	27.60
For sixty-nine inches, subsequent insertions.	27.00
For seventy inches, one insertion.	28.00
For seventy inches, subsequent insertions.	27.40
For seventy-one inches, one insertion.	28.40
For seventy-one inches, subsequent insertions.	27.80
For seventy-two inches, one insertion.	28.80
For seventy-two inches, subsequent insertions.	28.20
For seventy-three inches, one insertion.	29.20
For seventy-three inches, subsequent insertions.	28.60
For seventy-four inches, one insertion.	29.60
For seventy-four inches, subsequent insertions.	29.00
For seventy-five inches, one insertion.	30.00
For seventy-five inches, subsequent insertions.	29.40
For seventy-six inches, one insertion.	30.40
For seventy-six inches, subsequent insertions.	29.80
For seventy-seven inches, one insertion.	30.80
For seventy-seven inches, subsequent insertions.	30.20
For seventy-eight inches, one insertion.	31.20
For seventy-eight inches, subsequent insertions.	30.60
For seventy-nine inches, one insertion.	31.60
For seventy-nine inches, subsequent insertions.	31.00
For eighty inches, one insertion.	32.00
For eighty inches, subsequent insertions.	31.40
For eighty-one inches, one insertion.	32.40
For eighty-one inches, subsequent insertions.	31.80
For eighty-two inches, one insertion.	32.80
For eighty-two inches, subsequent insertions.	32.20
For eighty-three inches, one insertion.	33.20
For eighty-three inches, subsequent insertions.	32.60
For eighty-four inches, one insertion.	33.60
For eighty-four inches, subsequent insertions.	33.00
For eighty-five inches, one insertion.	34.00
For eighty-five inches, subsequent insertions.	33.40
For eighty-six inches, one insertion.	34.40
For eighty-six inches, subsequent insertions.	33.80
For eighty-seven inches, one insertion.	34.80
For eighty-seven inches, subsequent insertions.	34.20
For eighty-eight inches, one insertion.	35.20
For eighty-eight inches, subsequent insertions.	34.60
For eighty-nine inches, one insertion.	35.60
For eighty-nine inches, subsequent insertions.	35.00
For ninety inches, one insertion.	36.00
For ninety inches, subsequent insertions.	35.40
For ninety-one inches, one insertion.	36.40
For ninety-one inches, subsequent insertions.	35.80
For ninety-two inches, one insertion.	36.80
For ninety-two inches, subsequent insertions.	36.20
For ninety-three inches, one insertion.	37.20
For ninety-three inches, subsequent insertions.	36.60
For ninety-four inches, one insertion.	37.60
For ninety-four inches, subsequent insertions.	37.00
For ninety-five inches, one insertion.	38.00
For ninety-five inches, subsequent insertions.	37.40
For ninety-six inches, one insertion.	38.40
For ninety-six inches, subsequent insertions.	37.80
For ninety-seven inches, one insertion.	38.80
For ninety-seven inches, subsequent insertions.	38.20
For ninety-eight inches, one insertion.	39.20
For ninety-eight inches, subsequent insertions.	38.60
For ninety-nine inches, one insertion.	39.60
For ninety-nine inches, subsequent insertions.	39.00
For one hundred inches, one insertion.	40.00
For one hundred inches, subsequent insertions.	39.40

POSTAGE STAMPS OF A HIGHER DENOMINATION THAN TWO CENTS NOT RECEIVED ON SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE PLANET is issued weekly. The subscription price is \$1.50 per year in advance. There are four ways by which money can be sent by mail at our risk:—In a Post Office Money Order, by Bank Check or Draft, or an Express Money Order, and when none of these can be secured, in a Registered Letter.

MONEY ORDERS.—You can buy a Money Order at your Post Office, payable at the Richmond Post Office and we will be responsible for its arrival.

EXPRESS MONEY ORDERS can be obtained at any office of the American Express Co., the United States Express Co., and the Wells Fargo & Co.'s Express Company. We will be responsible for money sent by any of these companies.

EXPRESS MONEY ORDER is a safe and convenient way for forwarding money.

REGISTERED LETTER.—If a Money Order, Post Office or an Express Office is not within your reach, your Postmaster will Register the Letter you wish to send us on payment of five cents. Then, if the Letter is lost or stolen, it can be traced. You can send money in this manner at our risk.

We cannot be responsible for money sent in letters in any other way than one of the four ways mentioned above. If you send your money in any other way, you must do it at your own risk.

NEWSPAPERS, ETC.—If you do not want THE PLANET continued for another year after your subscription has run out, you then notify us by Postal Card to discontinue it. The courts have decided that subscribers to newspapers who do not order their paper discontinued at the expiration of time for which it has been paid are liable for the payment of the subscription up to date when they order the paper discontinued.

COMMUNICATIONS.—When writing to us to renew your subscription or to discontinue your paper, you should give your name and address in full, otherwise we cannot find your name in our books.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—In order to change the address of a subscription, it must be sent the correct as well as the present address.

Entered at the Post Office at Richmond, Va., as second class matter.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1909.

THAT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION.

No event in forty years has given more genuine satisfaction to the colored people of this country than has the signal victory of Jack Johnson in his 20-round bout with Tommy Burns the heavyweight champion of the world.

The cause of this is not to be found in the satisfaction of knowing that a colored man can whip a white one for that species of superiority could be demonstrated in every day life, due primarily to the physical superiority of the average citizen of color, who is bent in the performance of his exacting duties, which tend to develop bone and muscle, but in the superior skill in training to that definite degree of excellence that caused the white referee to decide that Johnson, the Negro, won on points scored as well.

The further cause for this satisfaction is the action of President Roosevelt and the War Department in black-listing 167 soldiers in the United States Army and of creating the impression that they were inefficient, lawless and a positive menace to the service. The report from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., coupled with this victory at Sydney, Australia, will tend much to rehabilitate the race in the good opinion of the people of the world. It may well be understood that Johnson's victory, strictly speaking has no racial significance, even though we may wish to view it in that light.

The people, who went to see him and who backed him with their money took him into their favor because of his demonstrated superiority along pugilistic lines. He is trained by white men, he is backed by white men and he is paid by white men. The profits to be made will be in the largest measure shared by white men. He is a fighting machine, a thing that can be exploited or destroyed by the white men in whose hands he has placed his interests.

His pursuit of Burns, who side-stepped as long as he could all agreements with him was evidently conducted at the instigation of white men. These white men knew "a good thing" when they saw it and they "warmed" to Johnson, training him "to the minute" and making him the superb "fighting machine" that he is today. It was a matter of business with them and they have accepted and backed Johnson because there is no white man in the world today, so far as they know capable of a similar training and development that would produce such gratifying results.

To bring these matters home and make the case more thoroughly understood, Johnson is in the same category and class of the blooded race horse: he is the object of adulation and expense to his owners. The success of the animal on the track in one or more races will line the pockets of the promoters and owners with hundreds of thousands of dollars in gold. Practically every Negro of prominence in the United States, during the last forty years has been given his place by this kindly, but practical interest of friendly white men.

The Negro, who is an original product, controlled and managed by his own kind and kin is a rarity. White men can make a Negro great and while men can destroy that same Negro with all of his greatness. There is a lesson in all of this which will be well for the average colored man of intelligence to ponder. Johnson, without the proper training and the proper financial backing would be a "diamond in the rough." When white men drop him, he will go back to that obscurity from which he has emerged and there will be no citizen of color in the United States who will be able to furnish the skill, brains and capital to restore him to that prestige and popularity, which he has once lost.

It is well then that we study those significant facts with interest and profit while cultivating the most friendly relationship with the white men of this country, at the same time profit by their ability and far-seeing judgment, to the end that we may not only get money, but study the methods and means by which we may retain it and place the best material in our race upon a basis, where Negro business tact, and Negro leadership, and Negro finance will give it the place and recognition, which now seems to be so easily attained through Caucasian sources.

BROWNSVILLE AND THE DETECTIVES.

That Senator J. B. Foraker of Ohio is proving to be a serious "thorn in the flesh" to the administration is certainly evident in view of the response made to his resolution of enquiry relative to the special detective employed for the purpose of "shadowing" the ex-members of Companies B, C and D of the Twenty-fifth United States Infantry.

Secretary Wright was forced to admit that the War Department had expended fifteen thousand dollars of the people's money to prove these colored men guilty although the President of the United States had previously declared that there was no doubt of the guilt of all of them. In view of this announcement which is already fresh in the minds of the public, it will be amusing information to those who will read the following extract from the "confidential" letter of Secretary of War, William H. Taft.

In the ordinary routine of polite society and business dealings, this designation would mean that the letter was not intended for other eyes than those of the person to whom it must be that President Roosevelt in his desire to have the distinguished President-elect share the responsibility and to raise his administration in the estimation of the public has seen fit to request Mr. Taft to remove the veil of secrecy from the letter in question.

But Hon. William H. Taft's judicial training got the better of his friendship for the President, for he said:

"If the bill now pending introduced by Mr. Warren, passes, it will throw upon you the duty of a further examination into the evidence to determine whether certain of those now discharged ought not to be restored on the ground that they were not parties to the shooting and did not know the persons who did it, and were unable to give any clues to the perpetrators."

It becomes your duty, therefore, and that of the department to make every effort possible to identify the men, who did the shooting, and to establish the innocence of as many as are innocent among those discharged."

It is not to be wondered that Mr. Taft marked this letter "confidential." It was advice given to one who needed advice. To a person versed in the law, it will be seen that he diplomatically informed President Roosevelt that the "burden of proof" rested with the accuser and not with the accused, that it was the business of the prosecuting department, which consisted of the President and the War Department, to prove these men guilty and that they should not be required to prove their innocence although the resolution of Senator Warren and his committee would seem to indicate that they would be required to do so.

The collapse of this investigation which had for its purpose, so far as President Roosevelt was concerned, the establishment of the guilt of these colored soldiers, while Secretary Taft suggested that this method of procedure be resorted to with the idea of establishing the innocence of some of them will be a most interesting and valuable addition to this phase of this justly celebrated case.

It foreshadows the dawning of a brighter day for this battalion and is an indication that under President Taft's administration at least practically all of the 167 men will be restored to their rank, place and pay in the army. At no time since the struggle began for their reinstatement has the outlook been brighter and the hope of a happy solution of the difficulty more imminent. Senator Foraker is indeed a "live proposition" and those who imagined that they saw his "finish" in the outcome of the legislative Republican caucus in Ohio will find themselves sadly disappointed.

THE UNMENDABLE BREAK.

I have broken my heart on occasion. And found it would mend again soon: I have broken my head, an abrasion: Was all you could see by next noon: I can cure a smashed dish with mere plaster:

I can crack a bad joke and not kill; But the heuless, the mendless disaster Is to break a new ten-dollar bill.

I once tried to break a young broncho. And he was quite whole when I quit; At the wheel, with a merry honk-honk-O, I have broken men's legs—but they knit. I can break bread—the lengthy French genre—

And still have some "dough" in my "roll;" But I can't break a "bone" from a tender Without going "broke"—"pon my soul!"

But, you ask me, why break into verses On such an old broken-down theme? Why break the commandment with "Gaiety" truths that pre-date Academe? Why?—Because I have broken the hoodoo: I broke a thumb—Doc fixed the ache; And to-day I see (the old woodoo) A ten-dollar bill I can't break.

—Chester Atkins, in Puck.

PROOF.



In Japan.

Can you wonder at the smiling, unruffled countenance of the Japanese maiden when you consider the fact that her style in dress has not changed in 2,500 years, and that instead of developing a crop of wrinkles over such duties as darning and mending, she turns those homely occupations into genuine pleasure? Where we would place an ugly patch or a puckered up bunch of darning, the Japanese girl will cover the hole with some exquisite bit of embroidery in the design of a bird, flower or butterfly.—New York Herald.

How to Tie Him Up.

Mrs. Eke—Good-by. I'm sorry my husband isn't in. I wish I knew some way of keeping him at home a little more.

Mrs. Wye—Let him buy a motor car.

Mrs. Eke—Why, he'd be out more than ever then.

Mrs. Wye—Oh, dear, no! Mrs. Dasher tells me her husband bought a motor a few days ago, and the doctor says he won't be out for six weeks.

His Wish Fulfilled.

The Jew peddler rapped timidly at the kitchen entrance. Mrs. Kelly, angry at being interrupted in her washing, flung open the door and glowered at him.

"Did yez wish to see me?" she demanded in threatening tones.

The peddler backed off a few steps.

"Well, if I did," he assured her, with an apologetic grin, "I got my wish, thank you."

His Book.

"What did he do?"

"Why, don't you know? He's the author of that immense sensational success, 'Mollycoddles.'"

"Yes, but what else did he ever write?"

"Lots. 'How I Came to Write 'Mollycoddles.' 'How I Came Darned Near Not Writing 'Mollycoddles.' and—oh, a lot of things like that. He's a great writer.'—Cleveland Leader.

Scared.

"Don't worry about John, mother."

"Well, Eph, I don't suppose I should; but when one letter says his condition is so good and the next says that he'll have to get rid of his condition before the faculty will let him play football I'm awful afraid that he'll make himself sick and weak."

Puck.

Prudent.

"You say he is a tightwad?"

"I should say he is! The only present I ever knew him to give anybody was a valentine, and he didn't buy that till the 15th of February, because he could get it cheaper then."—Cleveland Leader.

All for Appearances.

Beggar—Spare a penny, sir? I'm starving.

Swell—Here's sixpence for you. I don't care a hang about your hunger, but for the sake of decency go and get shaved.

How It Went.

The Boy—Boo, boo! Gus has swallowed my little engine.

Kind Stranger—Gracious! How could that happen?

The Boy—We were playing railway, and he was the tunnel.

FEVER IN THE QUAKE ZONE

Reports From Ruined Districts Alarm Authorities.

MANY HEARTRENDING SCENES

Survivors Are Crazed With Terror and Many Have Gone Mad From Their Terrible Experience—The Air Is Polluted From Stench of Decomposing Bodies—Relief Being Rushed to Survivors and Rescue Work Is Being Pushed.

Rome, Jan. 6.—The report from Messina that typhoid fever has broken out there has filled the authorities with alarming apprehension. It is realized here that unless proper sanitary precautions are taken at once the disease may spread far outside the ruined districts. Even though the present cases may prove to be dysentery, it is well known that this disease, under such conditions as prevail at Messina and Reggio would be likely to prove just as fatal as the earthquake itself.

King Victor Emmanuel received Ambassador Grismom, who presented him with the steamer Bayern in the name of the American relief committee, representing the American people. The Bayern is loaded with provisions and medical supplies, and is ready to proceed to the Strait of Messina. The king was greatly pleased, and said that the Americans were always first. His majesty advised the ambassador as to where the steamer should proceed, and as to the best means of distributing its supplies to the unfortunate.

Thirteen thousand refugees have arrived at Naples up to date, of whom 6000 are wounded. They are receiving the best of care, but many of them have died of their injuries and others have gone mad. More than 50 per cent of those taken out of the ruins after three days did not have strength left to survive their terrible experiences.

The United States gunboat Scorpion left Naples, carrying supplies, principally of sterilized milk, for distribution at Messina under the direction of the American consulate.

The latest news from Reggio shows that earthquakes occurred there on Tuesday, the shocks being about twenty minutes apart. One of the heaviest shocks caused the collapse of a number of broken walls and added to the terror of the few survivors who remain there.

Professor Ricco, director of the observatory at Mount Aetna, estimates that the victims of the earthquake exceed 200,000. Others say the dead will reach 150,000. In the face of this awful disaster all Italy is appalled.

Two days spent amid the ruins of Messina and Reggio bring convincing evidence that the horror of the situation in the Straits of Messina has in no sense been exaggerated.

Sickening Stench From Bodies.

Messina and Reggio have ceased to exist. In the ruins of the former city two-thirds of the inhabitants lie buried while at Reggio one-half the people lost their lives. Messina counted 150,000 and Reggio 50,000 souls. Sickening stench arises from the countless decomposing bodies, and the air for many miles out to sea is polluted. Vultures are congregating to prey upon the dead. It would be a blessing if fire should reduce what is left of these two cities to ashes.

The radius of ruin and death extends back with decreasing intensity for forty miles on the mainland and for thirty miles in Sicily.

The scenes for a distance along the water front made the stoutest heart quail. Little groups of men, women and children, half clothed, slept huddled together, crazed and numbed with grief and terror. They were awaiting death to take them away. Where they went they left their only desire was to leave this accursed spot, where they had lost their loved ones and their homes. No family was complete.

It was astonishing how many people still were being dug out alive Friday morning, four days after the catastrophe. While the correspondent lingered for an hour near one of these stations eleven wounded were brought in. They were almost naked, their bodies covered with blood and dirt, and they could hardly be recognized as human beings.

Although the air in Messina is heavy with the stench of putrifying bodies, several groups of Sicilians have camped out in the cleared spaces of the city and obstinately refuse the invitation of the authorities to move away.