

OUR JACKSON.

PROF. PETER JACKSON IS IN THE CITY.

HE ATTRACTS BIG CROWDS AT THE THEATRE.

Thinks Corbett not Anxious to Meet him.

His Appearance.

Peter Jackson, champion pugilist of England and Australia is now playing a week's engagement at the Gillis Opera house here as "Uncle Tom" in Stockwell's Uncle Tom Cabin company. Mr. Chas. E. (Parson) Davies his manager and backer accompanies him and appears in the role of "the auctioneer" while Choy-niski, Jackson's sparring partner plays "Haley, the slave-driver" in the famous drama.

The company has played each night this week to a crowded house of which the colored people of the two Kansas Cities and suburban towns formed a considerable part.

Mr. Jackson plays his part splendidly and may develop into a leading actor in the histrionic art as he already is in the pugilistic world. Four weeks ago *The American Citizen* gave him a column article before we knew he was coming and on receiving an invitation to visit him a representative of *The Citizen* was sent to the Midland Hotel last Monday at noon.

Sending up our card to room 390 we were soon ushered into the presence of one of the finest looking Negroes in the United States. Peter Jackson. He was alone and seated at a small writing desk on which was a mass of correspondence to which he had been attending, while before him was an open volume of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous creation. Mr. Jackson was dressed in a neat fitting spring suit of English tweed, and patent leather gaiters while a light smoking cap of plaid material was upon his head.

His greeting was quite cordial and his bearing that of a well bred gentleman in every respect. He is a ready talker and well posted upon matters in general. To meet and converse with him without knowing him, one might easily mistake him for a commercial traveler, who had sold goods all over three continents.

He is not tremendously bigger than some other men we've met, but one must admire his physical proportions. While our reporter conversed with him Mr. Davies who is never far away came in and after the usual formalities said Yes, Peter will surprise Kansas City playgoers with his interpretation of Uncle Tom, although the task is not one to his liking. "Peter" he says, cannot but feel humiliated at some of the situations, as he is compelled to submit to a licking, he sold on the block and die in the last act every night.

He takes to it cheerfully, however, and makes a very good Uncle Tom. His battle with Frank Slavin, which took place since his last visit to Kansas City, was the greatest fight I ever witnessed. There was no suspicion of accident or chance blow, but a steady ding dong fight in which the master was developed by degrees. It was a terrific encounter between physical giants and yet marked by scientific boxing of a high degree. The punishment he administered to Slavin was severe and had not Slavin been in prime condition he could not have stood the hammering nearly as long as he did. It was a desperate battle throughout, one or the other forcing the fighting through every round and Peter himself received a punching that he will never forget. He got a bump over the left eye that the swelling will possibly never be fully reduced and broke a bone in his right hand. It was hurricane work and demonstrated to my satisfaction that Peter has no equal at the game, and I am confident that he can whip Corbett if he could get on a match within a year.

Jackson is equally confident and is disappointed at Corbett's delay in giving him a chance to settle their famous draw. His money has been up repeatedly and he was entitled to a match with Corbett in preference to Mitchell, who has no claim to the championship of any country and lays no claim to any such title. Peter is the undisputed champion of Australia and England and challenged Corbett prior to his meeting with Sullivan for a battle, whether the Californian won or lost, and Corbett stated that his rights to a battle would be recognized. Corbett's denial that I challenged him on behalf of Peter immediately after his victory over Sullivan is not borne out by the facts as evidenced by his ignoring my offer to bet him \$1,000 that I did so challenged him, and posted the money with the *San Francisco Examiner*, with the plain provision that I would forfeit the money if I did not fully prove my statements to that effect.

Peter is badly handicapped in the matter of getting on engagements for the world's championship. His color is one point raised against him. Sullivan barred him on that account and now Corbett gives Mitchell the first call on the flimsy pretext that he has a personal insult to wipe out with Mitchell.

It is still a matter of some doubt as to where the Corbett-Mitchell battle will be fought, but I am of the opinion that they will surely come together in December, and, barring accidents, Corbett should be returned the winner. In the event of his winning he will demand another rest of a year or so, and there is no telling what may happen in the meantime. Jackson to-day is in shape to put up a grand fight, but he may grow old and stale in the next year and a half, so that we cannot say what will be done after the Corbett-Mitchell fight is decided.