

JOHN JONES.

Social Honors to Chicago's Favorite Colored Citizen.

The Thirtieth Anniversary of His Residence in the City.

A Brilliant, Fashionable, and Thoroughly Enjoyable Occasion.

Chicago's most distinguished colored citizen, Commissioner John Jones, of the County Board, celebrated yesterday and last evening at his residence, No. 43 Ray street, the thirtieth anniversary of his arrival in Chicago. Thirty-four years ago Mr. Jones wedded his wife, Miss Richardson, at Alton, in this State. Four years after that important event in the life of the subject of this sketch, he removed to this city, then having only a population of 1,200 souls. On reaching Chicago, the young couple—strangers and with finances reduced to \$3.50—began toiling and striving to gain a name which would recommend them to the community as worthy of the confidence of those with whom they had cast their fortunes. How well they have succeeded the standing of Mr. and Mrs. Jones in their large circle of friends and admirers is sufficient evidence.

After renting one room in a little cottage on the corner of Madison street and Fifth avenue (then Wells street), and placing his few household effects therein, Mr. Jones applied himself assiduously to his trade, that of a tailor, in a small shop on Clark street where the Sherman House now stands. Whenever Mr. Jones could find a spare moment from his work he was studiously poring over his books, and by his own efforts he learned to read and write. It was about this time that he met with Dr. Freer and Dr. Dyer, friends of the colored race. These gentlemen offered him their friendship, and to this day have remained steadfast in their admiration for Mr. Jones, who was never known to abuse the confidence placed in him.

Mr. Jones' devotion to his own oppressed race and their welfare has been inferior to none. He labored incessantly for years to free them of the shackles that hold them in bondage, and his efforts in the noble cause of the abolition of slavery, by which millions of his down-trodden race were at last rewarded. He has never ceased to work for their interest; the elevation of the colored man, morally and intellectually, has been the great main-spring of his life. His house was thrown wide open for the reception of "Oseawatomie" Brown, who yielded up his life in behalf of the great cause, the liberation from thralldom of the black race; Fred Douglass, and, in fact, all who were willing to aid in the abolition of slavery, have been welcome guests there.

Mr. Jones' success in life has been slow, but sure; he has saved his earnings, and judiciously invested them, and to-day he is counted a man of wealth. His integrity has never been questioned, and is of the highest order. In 1871 he was elected a member of the Board of County Commissioners for the short term. In 1872 he was re-elected for three years, and is now serving out the last year of that term. He is 68 years of age.

Commissioner Jones announced his intention of entertaining his hosts of friends on yesterday in commemoration of the day of his arrival in Chicago. Following up that intention, his residence was open to the reception of those who desired to call upon him and his most excellent wife. During all of yesterday afternoon there was a continuous throng of visitors at his house by those acquaintances of his earlier days who have stood by him for the past thirty years. In the evening the house was brilliantly illuminated and given over to his younger friends. The parlors presented truly a beautiful picture. The mirrors were entwined with wreaths of evergreens; the mantels were ornamented with camellias, roses, and orange blossoms. Over the centre doors of the double parlors was the beautiful inscription, artistically worked in wax, "God Bless Our Home;" over the engraving of the signing of the emancipation proclamation in the rear parlor, was the ever-endearing motto, "Sweet Home." On the right of the front room against the snow-white walls were the engravings of Mr. Lincoln, John Brown, and President Grant, surrounded by those of Mr. Chase, Mr. Sumner, Horace Greeley, and Joshua R. Giddings. On the left were the large oil portraits of the host and his family.

At this reception of Mr. Jones were representatives of four generations; the eldest being Mrs. Diza Richardson, the mother of Mrs. Jones, who is now in her 88th year, and the youngest was little Theodore Lee, the grandchild of the Commissioner, aged 3½ years. Mrs. Richardson was born in South Carolina, and is the mother of nine children, all living, the eldest being 65 and the youngest 30 years of age.

Prominent among the callers during the day and evening were the following: Washington Hesing, H. B. Miller, Redmond Prindville, J. K. Thompson, W. Locke, C. V. Dyer, Nat Cushing, County Commissioners Guenther, Holden, Clough, Schmidt, Crawford, Burdick, and Conly, Mr. Burbank, A. G. Burley, Henry Blattner, Fernando Jones, the Rev. R. D. Baptiste, the Rev. Arthur Edwards, editor *Northwestern Christian Advocate*, M. W. Wood, L. J. Richardson, Mrs. A. M. Bradford, Miss Mattie Howard, Miss Maggie Bell, Miss Alice King, J. W. Wharton, C. F. Perolat, Miss Flora W. Cooper, Miss Laura A. Lewis, Hugh McLaughlin, Archie Waite, Dr. Freer, A. H. Richardson, S. Henry, A. Johnson, J. B. Dawson, Miss Juliet Dawson, Miss Ada L. Scott, Mrs. H. D. King, C. W. Long, F. O. Thompson, John Bates, C. W. Weston, David Bates, Mrs. W. H. Selden, Mrs. J. L. Johnson, Capt. C. H. Jackson and wife, Capt. Connett, Michael Evans, R. Y. Blackburn, M. K. Ogden, Thomas Willis, J. W. Alexander, Mrs. L. P. Abel, J. W. Loomis, Mrs. Van Winkle, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hawkins, Mrs. Lizzie Edwards Warren, and Charles Riley.

Commissioner Jones had provided for the occasion a splendid quadrille orchestra, and, while he with his happy humor entertained his gentlemen friends, his daughter, Mrs. Lee, with ease and grace marshaled the young people who desired to enter into the terpsichorean pleasures, and, under the spirited strains of inspiring music, they tripped the light fantastic till a late hour of the night.