

It goes without saying that the Cole and Johnson songs figure conspicuously in Primrose and Dockstader's minstrels. "Under the Bamboo Tree," another composition, is sung by Marie Cahill in "Sally in Our Alley." Williams and Walker, the comedians, are guaranteed to make a laugh, when they sing Cole and Johnson's "My Castle on the Nile," and "When It's All Goin' Out and Nothin' Comin' In." These are only a few of the footlight favorites who are making hits with the songs composed by these men.

These young men are interesting, not only because they have achieved such brilliant success as popular song writers and interpreters of their own productions, but because of their personal history as well as their methods of work. They combine their talents for a common cause, so to speak. Rosamond Johnson, who writes the music, knows what he is doing when he deals in notes and staves. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music. Some of his talent for composition has been laid on the altar of rag-time, to be sure, but he has not confined himself entirely to this particular kind. He has done excellent work along other lines. He has written some little gems of melody which breathe sentiment, patriotism and love. James Johnson usually writes the words which his brother Rosamond sets to music. James is a graduate of a Southern college, and is now standing for a Ph. D. degree at Columbia University in New York. A prominent educator told me recently that James Johnson had one of the finest, keenest intellects with which he had come in contact for a long time.

Bob Cole is not only a song writer, but a "side-splitter" as well. His facial expression alone, minus the song, is generally enough to bring out at hearty laugh. He excels in the role of a tramp. Mr. Cole graduated from a Southern school also, and is a constant student. These three young men, he who writes the music, he who writes the words, and he who both writes and sings songs, travel together constantly. They get high salaries, and when the Four Hundred of New York engage them to entertain their guests at any social function, they are paid fancy prices.—Washington Post.

#### POPULAR COMPOSERS.

##### Young Afro-Americans Who Have Attained Great Success with Songs.

One of the most popular songs in "The Sleeping Beauty and the Beast," recently in Washington for two weeks, is "Nobody's Looking But de Owl and de Moon," a composition of Bob Cole and the Johnson brothers, Afro-American composers, whose songs have met with great success. In New York there is scarcely a playhouse, big or little, which caters to the popular taste, in which the songs of the Johnson brothers and Bob Cole are not heard every night. Anna Held has brought two of them prominently before the public. She sings "Maiden with the Dreamy Eyes," in "The Little Duchess," and "Strolling Along the Beach." May Irwin's latest success, "Louisiana Lise," is a composition for which Cole and the Johnson brothers are responsible.