

# FENTON JOHNSON OFF FOR NEW YORK

**Chicago's Young Poet on Short  
Visit to Parents—American  
and Foreign Press Praise Him.**

Fenton Johnson, author of "A Little Dreaming," who resides at 3026 Vernon avenue, has been in the city two weeks visiting his parents. Mr. Johnson was educated in the public schools and at an early age began writing poetry. Today he is one of the recognized poets of this country. The following are the criticisms from writers in London and America. Mr. Johnson will give readings in various cities in the East. He leaves tonight for New York:

## **Press Comments.**

"Mr. Johnson is a young Colored poet of America; some of his verse is in the formal cultivated English, some in the corrupted language of the American Negro. The latter rings true; it expresses with singular intensity the joys and sorrows of a subject race." — London Literary World, April, 1914.

"'A Little Dreaming' gives promise of a true poetic gift, a natural, spontaneous lyricism, with the same distinguishing racial qualities that characterize the work of Paul Laurence Dunbar. Many of the lines are melodious, with the primitive, plaintive reediness of the Negro 'Spirituals' of slave days. The chant-like form is effectively used, as in his lament for Dunbar."—American Review of Reviews, January, 1914.

"A genuine lyric quality of a pleasing, though primal, sort, and a sincere note of devotion to the Negro race."—Poetry Journal, Boston, March, 1914.

"Praiseworthy in the ways of imagination, mysticism and romance."—Chicago Daily News.

"Mr. Johnson is more successful in the dialect."—Boston Transcript.

"Here and there are bits of real singing and the hint of an unusual message, as in 'The Ethiopian's Song.'"—The Crisis.

"A singer of culture, sympathy and humanitarianism."—Indianapolis Freeman.

"The most remarkable achievement in years."—Illinois Chronicle.

"Mr. Johnson is one of the brightest young men of the race, and his initial effort in the field of letters is especially commendatory."—Chicago Defender.

"When the young poet brought his verses to me I felt that a new singer had come among us, singing of love, of passion, of joy and sorrow, sounding the depths and climbing the heights. In the brighter passages exist the deft touch of the born artist, while in the deeper moments he makes sentient the emotions of the soul—a soul that has lived and suffered."—Josephine Turck Baker, Editor of Correct English.

Apropos of short story work: "You have a good, easy, natural style, and your dialect is excellent. The feeling, too, is good, and I like your attitude of sincerity toward your subject."—Alice Hegan Rice, Author of "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch."

"I will say at once you have the real singing gift."—Modeste Hannis Jordan, Editor of the Writer's Magazine, New York City.

"You have a gift of pleasing rhyme and your verses are to be commended for simplicity, purity of thought and expression. You recited well the other evening, and gave us much pleasure who listened. I doubt not you will find much happiness in your verse-singing and confer much pleasure on others."—Celia Parker Wooley, President of Frederick Douglass Center, Chicago, Lecturer and Author.

"We have enjoyed reading your verses."—Wm. R. Kane, Editor of The Editor, Ridgewood, N. J.