



MRS. N. F. MOSSELL, of Philadelphia, Pa.

**AFRO-AMERICAN AUTHORS.**

**An Evening With Them in the City of Brotherly Love.**

Philadelphia, Pa., Special.—An entertainment was held recently at Allen Chapel A. M. E. church, Philadelphia, (Rev. John M. Henderson, pastor) that was of peculiar interest to those looking forward to the development of the race along literary lines. This entertainment was given by the young People's Christian Endeavor Association and was entitled "An Evening with Afro-American Authors" and proved a revelation to many. The program was diversified there was instruction in all, humor and pathos abounded and the dramatic heights reached in many of the numbers brought forth rounds of applause. The trio of poets who led in popularity were Mrs. E. W. Harper, first; Paul Laurence Dunbar, second; and Mrs. Josie D. Heard, third; Mrs. Charlotte Grimke, T. Thomas Fortune, Phyllis Wheatley, Bishop Wayman, Ida Livingstone and Mrs. N. F. Mossell received scattering votes. Miss Annie Hunter's rendition of Dunbar's Party was the most successful humorous selection, Miss Linda delivered "The Martyrs of To-day" by Mrs. Mossell in a manner that brought out all its dramatic force. But it remained for Mr. John Mitchell a promising youth to carry off the honors in his rendition of the banishment scene, in Mrs. F. E. W. Harper's poem entitled, "Vashti." The poem sets before our view Vashti refusing to accord the king her presence at his feast of revellers, and her banishment later as her punishment for the temerity of this act. The scene opens with the protest of the nobles

"But if before thy servant's eyes,  
This thing they plainly see,  
That Vashti doth not heed thy will  
Nor yield herself to thee.

The women restive 'neath our rule,  
Would learn to scorn our name,  
And from her deed to us would come  
Reproach and burning shame.

Then gracious king, sign with thy hand  
This stern but just decree  
That Vashti lay aside her crown,  
Thy queen no more to be.

She heard again the king's command,  
And left her high estate,  
Strong in her earnest womanhood,  
She calmly met her fate.

And left the palace of the king  
Proud of her spotless name—  
A woman who could bend to grief  
But would not bow to shame.

This scene was beautifully portrayed and met with well deserved applause.

The audience felt that the ability of so young a man to appreciate and thus vividly portray the true nobility of so exalted a type of womanhood must surely have in him a promise of noble manhood, that all may hope to see still further developed by his future career.

MRS. N. F. MOSSELL.

Light From the East.

The interest in Masonry in the District of Columbia seems ever on the increase, if we judge by the constantly growing membership in the various lodges. Social Lodge No. 1, F. A. A. M. whose surprising growth during the administration of R. W. D. G. M., W. H. Judd Malvin made it one of the most popular and progressive lodges in this jurisdiction, met on last Tuesday evening and passed six entered apprentices to the fellow craft or second degree. The candidates were Messrs. Douglas Chichester, Leonidas W. Hall, C. D. Mills, Wm. Payne, J. E. Smith and C. H. P. Turner who have the honor of receiving the first instructions in Social Lodge in the 20th Century. W. M. Chas. D. Freeman presided while Prof. Weatherless Senior Deacon of Pythagoras Lodge No. 9, did the chambering. This was done in such a magnificent and finished manner that special mention of it should be made. He has completely mastered the duties of this office and shows our adaptability rarely observed among those who essay the role. Among those present who witnessed the work so perfect in every description were: R. W. D. G. M., W. H. Judd Malvin, R. W. P. G. S. W., Wm. W. Grimes, R. W. P. G. S. Edward A. Watson, P. M., Dr. Richard L. Gaines, P. M., Horace M. Bailey, P. M., George M. Webster, J. C. Payne, S. W. of Felix Lodge No. 3, Samuel Harris, E. A. Webster, John C. Nalle the grand organist of Eureka Lodge No. 5. The two years just passed opened a new era in Masonic exemplification in this jurisdiction and if the work done by Social Lodge is to be improved upon the period when perfection is reached can be but a short distance from the present.

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