

MISS FLORENCE HINES.

The "Vesta Tilly" Reminiscent—The Metropolitan Club—Elegantly Appointed Home of Swell set.

Louisville, Ky., Special.—Miss Florence Hines, whom we have dubbed "The Vesta Tilly," has just closed a successful engagement at Nineweb park, where she appeared in her new whistling specialty under the auspices of the well known actor playwright and manager, Mr. Tom Logan. Miss Hines is not in robust health and has changed a great deal since those early days of Negro musical comedy and vaudeville when she leaped into fame as a male impersonator with Sam T. Jack's "Creoles," rousing the galleries of the country nightly with her bibulous song "Hi, Walter! a Dozen More Bottles!" This turn of Miss Hines, with its elegant costuming, kaleidoscopic display of silk handkerchiefs, natural monologue and original "business" electrified the Thespian world and has never been excelled by any rival on the stage. Miss Hines, before the advent of Black Patti and Belle Davis, commanded the largest salary paid to a colored female performer. She is still "to the good" in her quieter work, but expects to resume her popular impersonation role when her health justifies the extraordinary strain that it entails upon voice and constitution. Miss Hines has a host of friends who hope for her speedy recovery. She is one of the most observant and best posted artists of the race and a recent conversation touching the performers who have made history and stage traditions of these and other times was a treat which I relished beyond measure.

The newly organized Metropolitan Club grows in favor. The elegantly furnished house at 1116½ West Walnut street, with its cosy parlors, attractive music, reading room, billiard hall, dining room and buffet, draws out the best young men of the city, and the perfect order maintained commends it to the good people of the neighborhood. The Metropolitan is equal in most respects to the much talked of "Metropole" at Washington, D. C., and fills a long-felt want among the society men of Louisville. The president is William McHinton, and Peter Walker is manager in charge. John P. Thomas is president of the board of directors. Visitors to Louisville should not fail to see the beautiful interior of the Metropolitan Club house.

Fifth Street Baptist Church has been repainted lately.—Rev. John H. Frank has discontinued the publication of the "Moderator."—Miss Lillian Morris, a popular teacher, has resigned.—Rev. R. S. Rives has taken hold of the pastorate at Broadway A. M. E. Zion Church with a firm grasp. He was married a few days ago and is settled here for at least four years.—Prof. S. O. Johnson has returned from St. Louis.—A big delegation attended the National Negro Business League, headed by President S. W. Jordan, D. L. Knight, William Watson, W. H. Steward and W. D. Johnson. A pretty bevy of Louisville's fair sex were in the party.—Miss Prima Fitzbutler is spending the summer in Columbus, Ohio.—Prof. J. S. Cotter has written several Law poems, which will appear shortly in the local press.—Billy Carroll, one of the race's sterling comedians has been doing the Lexington fair. He made his usual hit.—Lawyer W. Hilliard Wright, a recent graduate of the law department of Howard University, has opened an office at 406 Fifth street, and is starting off with flattering prospects.—Prof. James B. Tucker, leader of the orchestra at Tom Logan's Nineweb park theaterium, is one of Louisville's best trained musicians.—Miss Mary V. Hicks is visiting in Cincinnati.—Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Murfree, of New York, are in the city for a while. They are "old residents"—The Brotherhood of St. Andrew's new reading room at the Church of Our Merciful Savior is a commendable feature of the church's extension work and will prove highly beneficial. Messrs Harris and Blandford are to be praised for the fine idea.—Col. M. B. Belknap advises Louisville's 50,000 Negroes to start a bank and handle their own money. Why not?—The help Mary Thompson is getting speaks well for the generosity and good judgment of our people. The attempt to lynch her and to deny her a fair hearing in the courts for what appears to have been a justifiable homicide should be rebuked by a rigid insistence upon fair play, no matter what it costs.

R. W. THOMPSON.