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WEST PALM BEACH

Hotel George Washington

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

October 24, 1935

Mr. Clayton Hamilton
The Players
16 Gramercy Park,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Clayton:

I am enclosing a few lines as you requested to be read at The Players meeting in honor of Mark Twain, addressing them to Dr. Butler as you suggested.

I am very sorry not to be present, but I am not very well and the approach of cooler weather encouraged me to seek a more salubrious climate. I do hope the weather will be good and that you will have a most enjoyable evening, as I know will be the case.

Believe me always

Faithfully yours,

Duplicate by spl. delivery.

Once a Guest *or* Always a Guest

DR. BUTLER and ASSEMBLED FELLOW PLAYERS:

I deeply regret not being permitted to be with you tonight, to do honor to one of our founders, grand old Mark Twain.

Mark Twain always loved The Players. In an earlier day, returning now and then from his European residence, he played a good deal of pool downstairs, enjoying with it an occasional Scotch Highball. He loved all the members, old and young, and they were all his devoted friends.

It was at The Players Club, on a Founders Night long ago, that I first met Mark Twain, and it was at a special dinner given him in the private dining room, that Charles Harvey Genung of beloved memory first suggested to me that I write Mark Twain's life. How clearly I see that evening now, and how I should like to tell about it, but in my book I have already done that, and it would take too much time to do it here. All I can say is, from that moment Mark Twain has been the larger interest of my life, and it is with deep emotion that I join with you in paying tribute to our great member who, if he still is in touch with the things of this world, cannot be far away tonight.

Again, let me say how deeply sorry I am not to be present, but I can send love and affectionate greetings to those more fortunate ones: the few remaining older members - the ones of my day - and the host of new ones who will enable the Club to live on and will keep Mark Twain's memory green. ~~ammon~~

I beg to remain, dear Dr. Butler and fellow players,

Always faithfully yours,

Alfred Higdon Paule

