

(editor's note: This paper was transcribed from a handwritten cursive copy with various difficulties. For a perfect rendition, the reader might wish to consult the original, itself a copy, in the volume entitled *Literary Club Papers I*, 1885 – 1886 Oct 3, '85 to May 29, '86) The original is badly faded.

Advice from Judge Mallon

[Patrick Mallon]

Another Club anniversary, the 36th. I have seen them all, but how fast they come. It is said age is the season of imagination, youth of passion; so I only imagine the anniversaries come sooner. With them come again the events of the past, the club life of 36 years. And so the past becomes the present through memory; but I cannot so delude myself. An old man cannot be young again. There may be, and often there is, some of the youth's zest and warmth left in their hearts to respond to young life's impulses, but it is so tempered and subdued by life's cares and experiences, that the young members of the club seem to recognize in me, an old man, whose life's leaf is sere and withered. At times I have thought that the ever present vision of age influenced the conduct of young members, chilled their efforts, repressed the expression of their buoyant young life, and so made the club more staid, and club life more sedate than it should be.

Be the cause what it may, I wish to say, it would give interest to the club meeting if the younger men would take a more active part, vary the exercises by adding to them music, songs, recitations; bringing strangers to the meetings to talk to us, and introducing such methods as would give life and spirit to the proceedings of the entire evening. The old men should remember that the world has been moving on while they have been slumbering for 36 years under the by-laws of the club Corporation. The club must be ever young; its lifeblood is young blood; such an organization is ever moving, on a grade up or down; there is no stand still. It must be fed and controlled by youth and enthusiasm.

There is a tendency to take matters easy, slide along into a social club, to have a lunch and a smoke, to which the essay is an incident. We should make the essay the feature of the evening. The reader would be encouraged to his best efforts, and the hearers in a mood to receive with attention, and enjoy the paper. Placing the essay first in the order of exercises is a good reform. Now let the young members put forward their strength, and an impetus will be given to club exercises that will revive our old time interest in its meetings.

That our meetings may be pleasant, each member should come ready to contribute his portion of good fellowship. A little humor, wit and gladness from each would permeate the club, cause it to smile all over, and bend with benedictions.

The individual's life is one long wail, from the cradle to the grave. But the club's life must be free of care, full of life's joy and gladness, full of spirit, dash and life's pleasure to the [] .

Do not wait for the old members; they will join in your revels, your songs, your mirth, your cheer.

Too blessed that you banish our sorrow and care
And bring back the features that Joy used to wear.