



CHAPTER V

LADIES' NIGHT, January 30, 1928, was held in Recital Hall with an attendance the "largest in many years," one hundred and ten ladies and outside guests, and sixty-seven members, a total of one hundred and seventy-seven. Paul Shorey was the orator. His topic was *Evolution—A Conservative's Apology*. It was a characteristically brilliant essay and elicited ringing applause at the close.

Paul Shorey, whose father, Daniel L. Shorey, was one of the founders of this Club in 1874, joined the Club in 1884. For half a century he was a literary glory of this unique organization. He died at his residence in Chicago on April 24, 1934. Though in recent years he seldom appeared at our Club meetings, partly because of poor health and partly because of the demands upon his time of academic and literary work, he nevertheless prized his membership and never refused to participate in our exercises when asked. His last appearance was at our annual Ladies' Night on October 30, 1933, when he read a paper before a large and enthusiastic audience on *Soaking the Rich in Ancient Athens*.

His death deprives the world of a scholar of the widest renown in the language and literature of ancient Greece, and of hardly less renown in the languages and literatures of Western Europe. It has been said, and many of his students have no difficulty in believing it to be true, that he was fully qualified to head the departments, in any university, of Latin, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and English literatures, and philosophy and logic. His learning was simply prodigious, and always accurate. His memory was extraordinary. In matters of general interest, science, political economy, political science, *Weltpolitik*, he was thoroughly in-

formed. His opinions were always pronounced, were based on what he felt to be the truth, and almost always leaned to the *right*. He was by nature a conservative. Furthermore, his opinions were carefully thought out, logical, and expressed with such force and conviction that only a trained disputant and dialectician could hope to cope with him with any degree of success. His papers read before the Club were eagerly anticipated and keenly enjoyed. Humor, learning, and brilliancy shared equal honors.

Singularis, Doctor pergratus,
Fronte serena, tranquillus, sedatus,
Blandiloquens et artifex fandi,
Eruditus, peritus, et mente praegrandi,
Amabilis vir, veneratus ubique,
Semper colendus, pol, tibi mihique.
Ave et vale, O tu gloriose,
Iucunde, urbane, illustris, famose!

Another memorable meeting of this season was that of April 30th when more than a hundred members and guests assembled in Recital Hall to hear Roscoe Pound, Dean of Harvard Law School, on *Another Side of British Criminal Justice*. Dean Pound became a member in 1910. Clear in the mind is the recollection that when the then Secretary appeared before the Electoral Committee to read Pound's application he (the Secretary) remarked almost with awe that never before in Club history had such a flattering record of scholarly and scholastic attainments, legal learning, and success as a teacher been crowded into a single application. After graduating from Harvard Law School Pound returned to his native State, Nebraska, where he practised law and soon became Professor of Law in the University of that State. Later he accepted law professorships at Northwestern and Chicago Universities. The Club saw almost nothing of him for he left at once after joining us to teach law at Harvard, where he became Dean of the Law School in 1916. After eighteen years of non-resident membership he returned to present the only paper he ever read before the Club, the one

mentioned above. Though past the age of retirement he is still moderately active. His name is an honor to our roster.

Five men of great usefulness in their different spheres of activity were removed by death during this 1927-1928 season. Three of these were resident members at the time of their decease, two were non-resident. All were well known in Chicago and had filled places of responsibility and honor. Louis James Block (1894-1927) achieved educational fame as Principal of the John Marshall High and Elementary Schools, where he was held in the highest esteem by teachers, pupils, and the community he served. Besides being an admirable administrator he was a versatile writer and poet. Many of his poems were of a high order of merit, as were his various plays and essays. Quite a number of these appeared in the seventeen papers he read to the Club. His last contribution bore the title *Five One-act Plays*.

Clarence Augustus Burley, a valued and active member from 1877 to 1928, was a solid pillar of the Club at all times. During his fifty-one years as a member he not only played an important role in Club business affairs but appeared at the lectern with papers on a wide variety of topics (ranging from *Crime to Aesthetic Culture*) and as the Leader of Symposia and Book Nights, for a total of twenty-six times, an average of once in every two years. A member of the Club wrote of Clarence Burley, some years before the latter's death, these words:

"He enjoys a well-deserved reputation for impartiality, poise of manner, weighty utterance, carefully prepared opinion, fairness of attack, and uniform courtesy and kindness."

That was true of him to the end. After his death a brief memorial said of him:

"He was a member of many clubs, but his attachment to the Chicago Literary Club, and his affection for it, were peculiarly marked. He had served as Chairman of all the standing committees, and was the Club's President in 1902-1903. His papers were always well thought out, his discussions, debates and impromptu

remarks clear, forceful, logical, to the point . . . Those who were privileged to know Clarence Burley during his riper years will ever carry with them a delightful and wholesome memory of a man of calm and unruffled temper, amiable, deliberate, never over-assertive or opinionated, a well-informed patron of the arts, a wide and critical reader, a liberal thinker; in short, a man who lived 'the good life' of the true philosopher."

A member who did the Club a most useful service, namely, engineering us into the Fine Arts Building in the spring of 1910, where we enjoyed comfortable quarters on the tenth and eighth floors respectively for nineteen years before making a most unhappy change, was Charles Chauncey Curtiss. Mr. Curtiss joined the Club in 1886, but never read a paper or attended more than half a dozen meetings during his forty-two years of membership. This unusual relationship was due to the uncertain condition of his health, which required him to spend his evenings at home. But he was a loyal member whose great interest in our welfare never lessened. His manner was courtly and dignified, never stiff or haughty; he was approachable and kindly receptive. One noted the care with which he selected his tenants: the story is that he secured control of the building when it was a warehouse and sales room for the Studebaker Wagon Company, and converted it into a home for artists, musicians, culture clubs, and the like, calling it the Fine Arts Building, and insisting that his tenants should possess certain aesthetic qualifications in order to obtain a lease. The character of the building thus established by a sound patron of the arts has continued to this present. Mr. Curtiss was our benefactor for many years.

Two striking personalities died early in 1928, Louis Freeland Post and William Kent. The first thing that comes to mind as we who knew him recall Louis Post is that he was a "single taxer," a devoted follower of Henry George and advocate of the Georgian theories. But he was much more. A virile and fearless writer, editor and reformer, who acquired his qualifications for these activities the hard way because of

early educational limitations, he had been first a lawyer, serving as Assistant United States Attorney in New York, and later running for Congress on the Labor ticket, then became an accomplished editorial writer, and finally landed in Chicago in 1898. There he and his wife edited and published that unique periodical, *The Public*, for a number of years. He joined the Literary Club in 1901. The record credits him with eight instructive and entertaining Club papers, the last one read in 1917, when he was living in Washington as Assistant Secretary of Labor under President Wilson, a position he held from 1913 to 1921. First, last and always Post was Labor's great friend and stand-by. He died in retirement.

William Kent lived a strenuous life both in Chicago and in California. As a member of the Chicago Common Council for two years he stood for political reform, fighting graft and dirty politics with great vigor. He was the first president of the Chicago Municipal Voters' League. Having returned to California in 1907, he represented districts in that State in Congress. He was an Independent politically, and a forceful, picturesque, not to say picaresque, character. The last paper he wrote for the Club bore the title *My Political Beginnings*. It was sent to the Club from California and was read by Carl Roden on January 4, 1926. An older paper by Kent, written and read by him in 1905, *Res Indigestae*, was revived twenty-eight years afterwards and read by Wilfred Puttkammer on October 23, 1933.

We ended this outstanding season of 1927-1928 with one hundred and seventy-five members, a net gain of seven over the previous year. The average attendance of members (exclusive of guests) at each meeting was fifty-one as against forty-one the year before. A crown of wild olive was awarded to Francis M. Arnold, our musical interpreter, for having been present at every meeting.