

and of keeping up the traditions of the club I feel confident that they will preserve the club maybe not unchanged but still a good and useful institution in Trinity college. The club has already passed through stages in which many very improper things were tolerated and the present sumptuary laws are the result of experience of more exciting liquors being permitted. It may have to pass through a similar acute stage of inflammation again for youth seldom is willing to learn by experience of others and it is not then to learn by experience oneself. Hoping the club may pass safely through all vicissitudes and long live in health & vigor. Believe me
Yours sincerely
Geo. Fran. Fitzgerald



7.2.87

7/132

Dear Mr. Secretary

Full of sorrow that the long expected inevitable has come I hereby resign my membership of the Mermaid Shakespeare Club.

I do not do so by any means on my own account. I feel that it is an irreparable loss to myself. I do not do so either because of want of time or inclination or opportunity to attend the meetings. I could and would wish to do so as well in the future as I have done in the past. It is on account

7133

of my great interest in the club itself that I resign. It is the misfortune of age to inevitably act as a restraint on youth and it is a misfortune for youth to feel that restraint on occasions when it ought to restrain itself and be responsible for its own self-restraint.

I feel sadly that I am that very unfortunate kind of restraint to the club. During my presence the boisterous exuberance of youth is most unfortunately restrained. There is part I and part II of the evening and things are

done in part II of which I am supposed to disapprove and do in part-disapprove.

This state of affairs is very bad for the Club. It makes the members feel less responsibility for their own conduct than they ought. Because only "proper" things or at most only veiled allusions to improper ones are allowed in part I it will soon grow that any license will be allowed in part II when this contrast is drawn. Unless I withdraw this contrast is inevitable and will lead to the ruin of the Club. If I withdraw and the members feel the whole responsibility of permitting things themselves