

Oak Knoll, Danvers

2nd mo. 23 1886

S H Scudder  
Thomas Wentworth Higginson  
Isaac A [Philbrick]  
com.

I fear it will not be possible  
for me to be present  
at the Celebration of the  
Decennial Anniversary of  
the Appalachian Club. But  
I am not willing to let the  
occasion pass without  
expressing the lively interest  
which I feel in the  
Club, and the satisfaction  
with which I read its  
published proceedings. It

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has opened up new vistas  
and perspectives, blazed  
paths for future pilgrims to  
newly discovered shrines of  
nature, and cheered  
the hearts of home-bound invalids  
with the records of  
its visits to picturesque  
mountain regions. As to  
myself my days of actual  
mountaineering are over  
but the Club has enabled me  
to do a good deal by [~~proxy~~] way  
of proxy. In spirit I  
have been with its explorers  
like the unseen passenger  
of Uhland's boatman, and  
have shared their pleasure  
without their fatigue. Of

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late years I have only

made annual visits  
to the Sandwich and  
Ossipee mountains, content  
with surveying them from the  
distance which is said  
to lend enchantment, and,  
even in so doing, have  
realized something of  
"the strength of [~~hills~~] the hills."  
With every possible good  
wish for the continued  
prosperity of the Appalachian  
Club I am  
faithfully your friend

John G. Whittier

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