# MARK TWAIN CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, *Inc.*

NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER, *Chairman*

CLARA CLEMENS GABRILOWITSCH

E. E. LOOMIS

JERVIS LANGDON
*Trustees of Mark Twain's Estate*

ALBERT BIGELOW PAINE
*Mark Twain's Literary Executor*

CHARLES TRESSLER LARK
*Counsel for Mark Twain's Estate*

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
*527 Fifth Avenue*
NEW YORK, N. Y.

January 22, 1935.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Under the chairmanship of Nicholas Murray Butler, the formation of a committee has been undertaken for a purpose which seems singularly stimulating and helpful in a time of unrest. Mark Twain was born November 30, 1835, and this year brings the opportunity to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the author of "Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn."

In time of prosperity this would have been a joyous occasion. Falling as it does in a period of uncertainty, the anniversary assumes an even deeper significance. There is the possibility of widespread usefulness in celebrating at this time the life of one who has become to so great a degree a symbol of the American spirit and tradition.

Your own position in American life has made those who are organizing the Centennial feel that you, with a few other men and women, would be glad to join with Dr. Butler in forming the membership of the national Mark Twain Centennial Committee. This simple name has been chosen advisedly to maintain the informal nature of the memorial program. Commemorative observances under the program, it is hoped, will be scattered over the entire year, and use will be made of numerous resources both here and abroad to give expression to as many sides as possible of American life.

You may be entirely sure that the demands upon your time will be slight. The life and activities of the Committee are limited to the memorial year 1935. Its charter prohibits any form of money raising or the soliciting of contributions for any purpose whatsoever. The memorial program is financed, so far as its modest needs require, by the Mark Twain Estate, represented on the Committee by two trustees and a counsel

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and, naturally, with the assistance and cooperation of Clara Clemens Gabrilowitsch, Mark Twain's only surviving daughter, and Albert Bigelow Paine, his biographer and literary executor.

With this very brief outline before you, we hope that you will find nothing to prevent your greatly desired participation. If it is convenient, will you not send an affirmative telegram, charges collect, to the Committee's headquarters, 527 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Very truly yours,

Holman Harvey

Holman Harvey,
Secretary.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York, New York.

glad to be included in the membership of the National Mark Twain Centennial Committee

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