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ROBERTO H. TODD
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SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

MY DEAR FRIEND,

YOUR VERY KIND NOTE OF SYMPATHY REACHED ME IN DUE TIME AND I AM DEEPLY SHOCKED AND STILL CANNOT REALIZE THAT OUR MUTUAL DEAR FRIEND HAS DEPARTED FROM THIS LIFE. WHAT HURTS ME MOST IS THE FACT THAT HE COULD BE LIVING TODAY HAD HE FOLLOWED THE ADVICE OF HIS FRIENDS WHO WERE MOST INTERESTED IN HIM. YOU, NO DOUBT, KNOW THAT FOR SEVERAL YEARS PAST HE HAD BEEN SUFFERING FROM HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND KIDNEY TROUBLE. HE NEVER DRANK MUCH IN RECENT YEARS, BUT JUST BEFORE HIS OPERATION HE WENT ON A LITTLE SPREE UP AT SYRACUSE TO CELEBRATE THE VICTORY OF THE FOOTBALL TEAM. WHILE THERE HE CONSULTED HIS FORMER PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AS WELL AS HIS FORMER PROFESSOR OF SURGERY, IN REFERENCE TO WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS TROUBLE WITH HIS APPENDIX. THEY BOTH ADVISED HIM STRONGLY AGAINST BEING OPERATED AT THAT TIME. WHEN HE CAME BACK TO NEW YORK HE SPOKE TO ME AND I TOO, ADVISED HIM STRONGLY AGAINST BEING OPERATED. THE FIRST THING I KNEW THAT HE HAD BEEN OPERATED CAME THROUGH HIS FRIEND MARIANI. WHEN I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL TO SEE HIM I WAS SHOCKED TO FIND HIM IN SUCH A SERIOUS CONDITION, AND FIVE DAYS LATER HE WAS DEAD.

IT MUST BE A GREAT LOSS TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. THE ISLAND NEVER HAD A MORE LOYAL, DEVOTED AND SELF-SACRIFICING INDIVIDUAL. HE WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO DEVOTE HIS ENTIRE TIME, HIS MONEY AND ENERGY TO ANYTHING THAT WOULD FURTHER THE FUTURE AND WELFARE OF THE ISLAND AND THE PEOPLE HE LOVED SO MUCH. I CAN HARDLY REALIZE THAT HE HAS GONE, HE WAS STILL FILLED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND ENERGY AND LOOKED FORWARD WITH GREAT JOY TO THE COMING YEAR IN ANTICIPATION THAT NEW LEGISLATION IN WHICH HE WAS INTERESTED WOULD HELP HIS ISLAND SUBSTANTIALLY. IT IS TOO BAD THAT YOU WERE UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION OF THE "EARLY EIGHTIES" TO THEIR ANNUAL BANQUET. MAYBE SOME DAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE WE MAY BE ABLE TO MEET AND TALK OVER OLD TIMES TOGETHER. TO THIS OCCASION I LOOK FORWARD WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION. I STILL RETAIN MY GREAT LOVE AND AFFECTION FOR PUERTO RICO AND ANYTHING WITHIN MY POWER THAT I CAN DO TO HELP IN MY HUMBLE WAY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

WITH SINCERE AFFECTION TO YOU AND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO ALL MY FRIENDS AND WISHING YOU AND THEM A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, I REMAIN,

SINCERELY,

A. L. Goodman