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THE RHODES BEQUEST

Mr. Sampson Regards the Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford as a Misfortune in Disguise

Editor Independent: The provision in the will of the late Cecil Rhodes for two three-year scholarships, in perpetuity, at Oxford college, England, for each state and territory of the American union, has naturally created much interest on both sides of the Atlantic.

The writer yields to no one in appreciation of the importance of education, and the value of college and university education, nor is he oblivious to the good generally resulting from interchange of ideas between representatives of different nationalities. Ordinarily, therefore, a bequest of this character would be welcomed, but, under the circumstances of the present case, Mr. Rhodes' action cannot be considered otherwise than as a possible misfortune in disguise.

It is an open secret that, with regard to the South African war, Mr. Rhodes was an accomplice before the fact, because the destruction of the two republican governments in South Africa would directly and powerfully contribute to his plan for British federation in that continent. Nor is it less well known that a considerable portion of his vast wealth was acquired directly or indirectly through the criminal exploitation of Africa by England. But we pass the question as to the right or propriety of using even for education the proceeds of public plunder, and proceed to a consideration of more practical importance.

Mr. Rhodes is quoted as giving the following reason for the bequests in question, in common with similar bequests to all the British colonies and Germany:

"I desire to encourage and foster an appreciation of the advantages which, I implicitly believe, will result from a union of the English-speaking peoples throughout the world, and to encourage in the students from the United States who will benefit by these scholarships an attachment to the country from which they have sprung; but without, I hope, withdrawing them or their sympathies from the land of their adoption or birth."

And Mr. William T. Stead is quoted as saying of Mr. Rhodes' educational bequests:

"The central principle of his scheme is that every English-speaking colony and every state and territory in the American union shall be offered a scholarship of the value of \$1,500 a year, tenable for three years, at Oxford. By this means Mr. Rhodes believed it would be possible to make Oxford the center of the spirit of race unity, where students from every part of the English-speaking world would meet, on common ground, in the most famous of the old universities."

While this sounds well enough, we are pertinently reminded of the language employed by President Washington in his letter of January 28, 1795, to the commissioners of the District of Columbia, in connection with his plan for a national university at Washington, as follows:

"It has always been a source of serious reflection and sincere regret with me that the youth of the United States should be sent to foreign countries for the purposes of education. Although there are doubtless many, under these circumstances, who escape the danger of contracting principles unfavorable to republican government, yet we ought to deprecate the hazard attending ardent and susceptible minds from being too strongly and too easily prepossessed in favor of other political systems before they are capable of appreciating their own."

And again, in his letter of March 16, 1795, to Governor Brooks, of Virginia:

"It is with indescribable regret that I have seen the youth of the United States migrating to foreign countries in order to acquire the higher branches of erudition and to obtain a knowledge of the sciences. Although it would be injustice to many to pronounce the certainty of their imbibing maxims not congenial to republicanism, it must nevertheless be admitted that a serious danger is encountered by sending abroad among

other political systems those who have not well learned the value of their own."

Before the Spanish war the declaration of such a purpose as is attributed to Mr. Rhodes might have caused little apprehension. But within the last five years we have been making history, strange history, and making it fast. The facts that Englishmen and Americans come of a common stock, that they have a common language, glory in a kindred literature, have a jurisprudence fundamentally alike, and political institutions similar in some respects—these facts have been assiduously employed as a reason for our adoption of England's foreign policy—a policy that may be spelled in three words—perfidy, murder, robbery. The British war on the South African burghers and our war upon the Filipinos constitute the twin infamies of the age, and the one has actually been used in moral support of the other. Almost every act of tyranny against which the Declaration of Independence protested we have committed in our appendix to the "war of liberation" in Cuba. Everything possible to official America at Washington, during the last five years, has been done, and is now being done, to imperialize the United States; and England and every other monarchy in Europe is watching the attempted transformation with ill-disguised satisfaction.

Mr. Rhodes has avowed a bad purpose with an honesty to his credit. It goes without saying that the author

has no sympathy whatever with the Rhodes scheme of South African federation under the British flag, or with his larger idea of Anglo-Saxon federation under an imperial policy.

Under the circumstances, a fellowship at Constantinople or St. Petersburg for American students would be less dangerous to American institutions than a scholarship at Oxford. Turkey and Russia are undisguised despotisms, which are at once and permanently repellent to the American mind. But the partial resemblance of English political institutions to our own, together with the kindred jurisprudence and literature, tempts the American to temporize with the monarchical idea, to close his eyes to the atrocities and misery which have invariably accompanied the forcible extension of British sovereignty in every quarter of the globe, and to believe the miserable cant and hypocrisy with which Britain has uniformly cloaked her selfish attacks upon the rights of man.

It is hoped, however, for the honor of American manhood, that those American students who avail themselves of the Rhodes bequest will, upon every proper occasion, proclaim in the land of George III. the political principles of George Washington.

JOHN SAMPSON.

Washington, D. C.

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NAVY DISCIPLINE

Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow's Sermon—Flag Kissing Does not Make Flag Lovers

A case of discipline on board an American man-of-war was used as the text of a sermon Sunday evening by Herbert S. Bigelow, pastor of the Vine Street Congregational church, Cincinnati, O.

The case was that of a seaman who was heard to call the United States flag a dirty rag. For this blasphemy the fellow was compelled to kiss the flag six times and to swear that he would never again speak disrespectfully of the flag or allow any one else to do so in his presence.

"This news item is interesting," said Mr. Bigelow, "because it reminds us of the childish way in which men used to treat each other. There is nothing very grim or tragic about it. It is only amusing. But it illustrates very well the principle which is rarely practiced now, but which once was common practice among men—the principle that a man's thought could be regulated, or his heart changed by violence or threats of violence upon his person.

"In the day when Baptists were looked upon as heretics the Canton of Zurich decreed that all the Baptists should be drowned. If these pestilent fellows persisted in their belief in immersion their Calvinistic brethren proposed to give them enough of it.

"In the Virginia colony it was a capital crime to speak 'impiously' of the Trinity. The same penalty was invoked for 'blaspheming God's holy name.' One of the modes of punishment provided by the law of Virginia for the man who should curse sacred things was that 'a bodkin should be thrust through his tongue.' The second offense of Sabbath breaking was punishable by whipping and the third offense by death. Non-attendance at divine worship was punishable by whipping and the penalty for the third offense was 'the galleys for six months.'

"The law made it the first duty of a man on arriving in the colony to repair to the minister and be examined as to the orthodoxy of his religious faith. If he proved unsound he was to be instructed. If he refused to go he was to be whipped. If he refused the second time he was to be whipped twice, and be compelled to acknowledge his fault on Sabbath day in the assembly of the congregation. If he refused the third time he was to be 'whipped every day until he makes acknowledgement.'

"In Virginia, in 1634, a man by the name of Coleman was excommunicated for forty days for 'using scornful speeches and putting on his hat in church.'

"In 1656 the Boston colony enacted that any person denying any of the books of the Bible should be whipped or fined and, if obstinate, banished. Earlier than that there was a law which banished Jesuits and which punished them with death in case they returned after being banished.

"Those old heresy hunters in Boston removed a governor of the colony because they were not satisfied with the orthodoxy of his opinions. In 1650 one William Pynchon was summoned before the magistrate to answer for a book written on the Atonement. The court ordered that the book be burned in the market place by the hangman and appropriated 25 pounds to a preacher to write an answer to it.

"Compare these dark ways with this noble declaration of William Penn: 'I abhor two principles in religion, and pity them that own them; the first is obedience to authority without conviction; and the other is destroying them that differ from me for God's sake. Such a religion is without judgment, though not without teeth.'

"Thomas Jefferson said: 'It is error alone that needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself.' In what a painful school have we been taught that lesson! Yet, thank God, we have learned it in regard to matters of religious opinion and we are the first nation in the history of the world to embrace the gospel of religious freedom in all its fullness.

"Now we know with Jefferson that

THE MERGER CASE

Interesting Inside History of Northern Securities Case Never Before Made Public

HARRIMAN VERSUS "JIM" HILL

Wily New Yorker Too Much For Minnesota Magnate—Outcome of Case Suits Harriman Exactly

The Independent is able to lay before its readers the secret of the whole movement to bring a case against the Northern Securities company and give them a few facts not heretofore published in any paper. The movement was both political and financial, but at the bottom of it all was an effort of the Harriman interests to get control of the Northern Pacific. The stock of that company is divided into preferred and common, but the owners of the common stock have a right to retire the preferred. Hill owned a majority of the common and Harriman the preferred. That gave Hill the whip hand. Then the Harriman crowd proposed a "community of interests," the common stock was transmuted into the securities of the Northern Securities company with certain regulations that deprived it of the power of retiring the preferred stock whatever might happen to the securities company.

Then the Harriman crowd sent agents all over the six states through which the two roads run to stir up a great row about the merging of the two roads. A large number of newspapers were induced to take up the question and show the wreck and ruin that would follow the suppression of competition. It worked like a charm. The republican politicians in those states were frightened out of their wits. They declared that these six republican states would be lost to the party unless something was done. The governors held conferences. Urged on by the Harriman interests, the papers grew more vociferous. Finally a conference was held in Washington in which many men prominent in the republican party in those six states took part. Among them were the senators and representatives in congress. The president was told that if something was not done that those six states would be lost. Then the president ordered the attorney general to investigate the matter. It did not take Knox long to find out that the merger was contrary to law and the suit was instituted. The president was assured by all the great financial interests which center in the Harriman gang, that it was necessary

to the "business interests" that the case should be immediately tried and a bill was rushed through congress to expedite the hearings.

Every lawyer knew that there was plenty of law on the statute books to annul any such a scheme to destroy competition, and the counsel of the Great Northern told their employers so before the scheme was inaugurated, but the Harriman crowd completely outwitted the other side. They pointed to the fact that there were scores of other railroad combinations of exactly the same character and the government had never instituted any prosecutions, that, in fact, the republican party could not afford to do it and would not do it. So they went ahead.

A few minutes after the news of the decision reached New York, a newspaper man called on Harriman and asked him what he thought of the decision. Harriman was so delighted over the success of his scheme that in his excitement he unguardedly replied: "It suits me exactly." That reply led to an investigation and it was found that the order of the court, because of the destruction of the common stock, would give Harriman control of the Northern Pacific and that Harriman had Hill down and was trampling that great railroad mogul beneath his feet.

Now that this gang of Wall street pirates has successfully used the president, congress and the United States courts to down a rival, they have joined their forces with all who are of like occupations and are snowing under the cabinet, the president and the leaders of the republican party with telegrams and protests to the effect that "there must be no more trust prosecutions," or a panic will result and the republican party will be put out of power.

The readers of The Independent can rest assured that they have a true history of this affair. They can even verify a good part of it by putting together little items that have appeared here and there in the financial columns of the great dailies, but those same dailies will never print a connected account of the matter.