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Interesting Interview with B. H. Robison, President, Showing the Rapid Growth of the

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"What do you say to this?" said B. H. Robison, the well known president of the Bankers Reserve Life association, to a representative of The Bee a few days ago.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes New business since Jan. 1, 1902, Premiums received since Jan. 1, 1902, etc.

The reporter said in answer to Mr. Robison's inquiry that he thought the showing very remarkable.

"This company is now five years old. The first two and one-half years of its existence under the old insurance law of Nebraska were comparatively uneventful.

"Unless some unforeseen financial disaster destroys the business prosperity of the west the Bankers Reserve will be a \$10,000,000 company in 1903.

"Note the small number of deaths and the small number of losses. Observe, too, the reinsurance item which shows how conservatively we are managing our business.

"The death losses have been promptly paid on presentation of final proofs. All other obligations have been settled with promptness. We do not owe a dollar for death losses or any other purpose that is unpaid.

"The bulletin does not expressly announce the fact, but any business man knows that our assets are building up proportionately with the growth of the company's business.

"We have had the loyal support of the leading citizens in every county and section of the west, especially of our own state. The people extend liberal patronage, are vitally interested in the rapid growth and future prosperity of the

BANKERS RESERVE LIFE ASS'N."

Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Sixth Page.)

and asks grace, and a platform with a special table for the dons or professors. The dinners are served in table d'hote style, at a fixed charge, wines and liquors being extra.

In a College Kitchen.

The kitchens of the college are among the curiosities of Oxford. That of Christ Church has been in existence since the days of Cardinal Wolsey, and in it hangs a great gridiron which was used by the cooks of the cardinal. In entering it you pass by the cathedral, which is the chapel of the college. You go down stone steps into the basement, entering a great stone-walled room, with a ceiling at least sixty feet high.

What the College Boys Eat.

All the cooking for the 300 students of Christ Church college is done in this kitchen and the kitchen accounts of the boys are kept here. The kitchen clerk has a day book and ledger. He keeps to the cent what each student has and gives him a memorandum at the close of each week, although payment is not expected until the term following the one for which the account is rendered.

As I went through the kitchen I stopped at the clerk's office and looked at the accounts. Food is given at cost price and the charges seem to me very moderate. The ordinary breakfast consists of fish or bacon and eggs. The student is served with three boiled eggs and some bacon for about 25 cents. He gets a luncheon of cold meats for a little more and his dinner in the common banqueting hall costs him about 45 cents. I give you here the menu for last night's dinner:

- Baked Haddock, Piquante Sauce, Roast Mutton, Steak and Kidney Pie, Minced Pastry, Wine Jelly.

Extras: Asparagus, 1 penny; new potatoes, 2 pence; cream, 2 pence; sweet smelt, 6 pence.

Drinking at Oxford.

In addition to the charge for the regular dinner are the buttry bills, including the wine. Most of the students drink wine, beer or whisky with their meals. The college itself furnishes a variety of beer and a mild claret, but most men keep their own stock of wines and liquors. I asked some questions as to the drinking habits of the colleges and was told that the men as a rule are temperate, although now and then one oversteps his limit and becomes intoxicated. Without a disturbance is made, however, such a matter would not be noticed.

One of the most common forms of entertainment in the college is the giving of luncheons and wines. There were thirty luncheon parties last Sunday in Christ Church alone. At such luncheons all the delicacies of the season are provided, including champagne and other liquors. The average kitchen expenses amount to £1, or \$5 a week. Many of the students are high livers and the expenses of a number of them at Christ Church range from \$10 to \$25 per week each.

I understand the students do not especially like the dinners in the banqueting halls. This hall in Christ Church college makes you think more of one of the aisles of a cathedral than a dining room. It has beautiful windows of stained glass. Its walls are paneled in old English oak and its ceiling is about fifty feet high. The room is 150 feet long and forty feet wide, and its walls are hung with portraits of the great men of the college. I noticed a fine portrait of Gladstone, of John Wesley, John Locke and of Lewis Carroll, the author of "Alice in Wonderland," among them. Another portrait was that of the Dr. Fell of whom you may remember the verse:

"I do not like thee, Doctor Fell, The reason why I cannot tell; But this one thing I know full well, I do not like thee, Doctor Fell."

There are also portraits of King Edward VII, who was a student of Christ Church; of Cardinal Wolsey, who founded it, and of so many others that it would require a column to mention them all.

Famous Colleges.

Leaving Christ Church I visited many of the other colleges. Each has its students who have made names in English literature, in finance and in other ways. At Magdalen, Addison went to school and the beautiful two-mile walk about the recreation grounds behind it is known as "Addison's Walk."

In Pembroke college you may see the room which Samuel Johnson occupied and the desk on which he wrote his dictionary. At New college, founded in 1379, Sydney Smith was educated, and in Balliol, Cardinal Manning, Dean Stanley and Mathew Arnold studied. Oriel college is especially interesting just now, because it was the one which Cecil Rhodes attended, and to which he has just given \$500,000 for improvements and repairs. Oriel was founded in 1326. It had among its students Sir Walter Raleigh, Bishop Wilberforce and Thomas Hughes, the man who wrote "Tom

Brown's School Days at Oxford." I might also speak of Brasenose college and others but they are all the same—old and quaint—filled with the famous literary ghosts of the past and the serious black-gowned mortarboard-hatted professors and the gay young students of the present.

Oxford and American Scholarships.

It is difficult to get an unprejudiced view of the Rhodes bequest and of the effect it will have upon Oxford. There are a large number of students and professors who do not welcome this form of the American invasion. The newspapers of the country have pretty well discussed it and there seems to be a general fear that it will shake up the dry bones of the university, to the discomfort of the easy-going people who now occupy it. At present about 600 students graduate from Oxford every year and of these three-fourths take honors. The honors are of different grades and it will be strange if the Americans, picked men as they will be do not get more than their proportionate share. I believe that the students are really afraid of them and this thought is strengthened by the unpleasant things said about us and the Rhodes bequest in the several college magazines. I have before me the chief periodicals of this week:

The "Isis" refers insultingly to America, saying, among other things: "It must be confessed that to many Englishmen, and particularly Oxford men, the scheme is unpalatable to a degree." The editors laugh at the idea of the American papers asserting the hope that "no American will accept a dollar of Rhodes' tarnished gold," and adds: "This seems an absolute jest in the mouth of the American who too frequently adopts the Horatian motto—'Get money, honestly if you can, but get it'—and who applies the principle no less thoroughly to his foot ball matches than to his stock-jobbing transactions."

Further on the Isis supposes the American character will be improved by an English education, and that this improvement will be beneficial to us, but it adds "that it does not suppose the rubbing the angles off uncultivated American youth was a matter of concern to Cecil Rhodes, the empire maker."

Pretty Plain Talk.

The Oxford Print of View of this month has an article venturing that the foundation of the American scholarships may be a mistake. It states that "the Americans are really our friends very little more than the French or the Germans," and goes on to say that "where all sentimental cant has been brushed aside the friendship between America and England will be found to be what Aristotle terms 'a watery friendship,'" owing perhaps to the intervening seas. It says that the Americans are for-cighers and intimates that they are not as welcome as the Germans.

The "Varsity" quotes a speech of D. L. Savory of St. John's college at the Union Debating society, the chief one of the university, in which he says "the American scholar would have too much money and this hulking lot would set a bad example of extravagance."

I might add other opinions, but I regard the most of them as mere froth and am prone to believe that the majority of the professors and students here are inclined to be fair, and that when the young Americans do come they will be fairly treated. It is to be hoped that the best of our young men will be sent, and if so I have no fear whatever but that they will more than hold their own. FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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