

# RHODES SCHOLARS WILL HELP CAUSE OF EMPIRE.

## The Assembling at Oxford of Men From the Uttermost Parts of the Earth Will Do Much to Promulgate Imperialistic Ideas.

(Mail and Empire.)

When Cecil Rhodes died, it was prophesied by those acquainted with both men that Mr. Alfred Beit would carry out those of the great Imperialist's plans which death had interrupted. It was known that Mr. Beit was as great a lover of the Empire as his more famous partner, and that as soon as he had more of the stage to himself, he would be quick to realize this. One prediction will be fulfilled in seen in Mr. Beit's offer to found a chair at Oxford University for the teaching of colonial history. This offer has been accepted by the university, and the money handed over by Mr. Beit. All that remains to be done is to settle the details of the course, and secure the teacher. We may rest assured that the latter will be some shrewdly famous historian, for it is not the way of South African magnates to do things by halves.

Colonial history is taught in Oxford to-day as in every great British university, but as incidental to English history. Indeed for the past three hundred years English history, apart from colonial history, would be like "Hamlet" without the Prince of Denmark. As Kipling says:

"What do they know of England Who only England know?"

It is now proposed by Mr. Beit that colonial history shall be very differently taught. Everyone applauded when Greene protested against the old historical method of representing a country's history as a history of its succeeding kings, and much the same fault may be found with the present plan of considering colonial "affairs" in brief foot notes. The chief function of the new chair will be, we believe, not so much to amplify the ordinary knowledge of colonial history, but to give the process of adding new details, but to teach the students to seek, as new questions arise, the point of view of the colonials themselves; to make them realize that however British a colony may be, colonials will regard both colonial and Imperial affairs from a standpoint unknown to the Englishman. Thus will be created that sympathy with colonial ambitions and desires which will so surely tend to draw all closer to the Mother Country.

Apart from this, veritable mines of pure romance, epics of fiery courage and of patient endurance will be opened for the first time to Oxford's students. From the oldest colony—Newfoundland—to the last—the Transvaal—each will have its thrilling tale to tell, with the interest accumulating in every chapter, and with the end not yet in sight. In Newfoundland, the Empire's truest singer found inspiration for his famous "Captains Courageous." A young Canadian author has made an enviable name for himself in the American magazines by sketches of those Newfoundlanders "who go down into the sea in ships," and more recently has produced a successful long story on the same subject. Supplementary reading of a lighter character is thus awaiting the Oxford students. In the Ancient Colony they will probably find the chief fact in the centuries of quarrels and bickerings with the French, now happily settled just in time to become history proper, with both beginning and end.

The jewel of romance worn in the setting of historical events sparkles brightly in Canadian lore. The long struggle with France adorned Canadian history with one of the greatest British generals who ever lived—Wolfe, the hero of Quebec. To the young he is the most attractive of them all. Not Wellington, nor Marlborough, nor Roberts makes such an appeal to our sympathy and our affections as the picture of Wolfe before the great battle repeating Gray's deathless words to the midshipman, and then after a pause, saying: "Gentlemen, I would rather be the author of those lines than take Quebec." Poor, sickly, passionate, dying Wolfe! We feel that he belongs to Canada. The marvelous story of the early Jesuits, of which any race, any religion may be proud, is more graphically told in Canadian history than elsewhere in the literature of the world. The voyageurs, the struggles with the Indians, the days of the Great Company, the bloody battles among the traders, the riders of the plains, the granary of the Empire—these occur to us the mere headings of volumes which might be written and which, for the first time in England, are about to be opened in the classic shades of Oxford.

For the first time, too, will the real story of South Africa be told to students in an English university. The history of the Dutch settlers may be traced through a century and more and followed to Majuba Hill, and from Majuba Hill to Paardeberg, where the two separate streams of colonial history foamed together as the Canadians closed in about Cronje. The pure romance of the diamond fields will have particular significance for the Oxford students, for these provided the fortune of Cecil Rhodes and the still greater fortune of Alfred Beit. To compare with the early Jesuits in Canada there is, as one of Africa's cherished traditions, the wonderful story of David Livingstone and Moffat, a line of gold against the background of the Dark Continent.

In India the student will trace the course of events studied with the names of Clive, Hastings, the Lawrences, Havelock, Colin Campbell and Roberts. They will study that most remarkable phenomenon British power ever produced—the government of millions, by a handful of Englishmen. Irishmen and Scots, and they will begin to see a new meaning in the word Imperialism. In Australia there is another wonderful tale to be told—the story of Botany Bay, and its influence on the history of the Island Continent, where the flame of patriotism burns so brightly. Here also will be laid before them the economic experiments being so closely studied by the outside world. To follow the student farther in this imaginary glance over their delightful journey would be to reveal new pleasures which await them, but yet to fail to do justice to the enchanted land they are about to explore. That Mr. Beit should have hit on so wise and so patriotic, and yet so unpretentious a means of investing a part of the world's greatest fortune is a matter for approving comment. A fine line of gold against the Empire much, but she is at least paying handsome interest in the Rhodes scholarships, the Mosely Commissions, and the latest beneficence of Alfred Beit.

## TROUBLES OF A KING.

Italy's Heir Apparent Seems to Be Due For Rough House Treatment.

(From the Washington Post.)

According to palace gossip from Rome, the infant heir to the crown of Italy, Prince Humbert, is destined to some mighty rocky experiences as soon as he emerges from the nursery. It will be remembered no doubt, that this illustrious baby's papa, the present king, was born a miserable little weakling, whose chances of obtaining his majority were regarded with profound incredulity. He was taken in hand very vigorously, however, and subjected to treatment which might reasonably have been expected to kill a rhinoceros, with the astonishing result of making him a fairly tough and hardy citizen. As a matter of fact, the king of Italy is generally understood to be a vigorous physical specimen at this date—just the kind of a king the Italians demand for their pride and peace of mind. Thus it happens that the royal suckling, now wallowing in its crib and considering nothing more important than the quantity and volume of the local milk supply, is already booked for a course of training that would make Fitzsimmons flee to the mountains of Hesperia and persuade Sandow to quit athletics and go to selling sweet violets for a livelihood.

We are indebted to an unusually ecstatic chronicler of imperial small beer for an outline of the curriculum to which this ill-starred babe is destined. He is to repeat, it appears, the sufferings of his majestic pa. In a nutshell, so to speak, the course is as follows: At 6 A. M., having slept in a cold room, he will be jerked out of bed and plunged into an icy bath. He will then have his neck and ears washed with great violence. At seven he will get breakfast, and immediately begin his studies. The lessons are to be especially arranged we hear, "not so



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## SCIENCE AND LIFE.

Striking Address By Lord Kelvin to Young Physicians.

Lord Kelvin addressed a class of graduating students at St. George's Hospital recently. The modern medical man must be a scientific man, and what was more, he must be a philosopher. They had to go through a long and difficult range of subjects. They had had mechanics and dynamics—they could not put on a splint without knowing something of mechanics—physics, chemistry medicine, electricity, surgery, bacteriology, and anatomy—all absolutely necessary for their practical working as medical men, whether physicians or surgeons. The practitioner could not get on unless he had a practical knowledge of every one of these subjects. He would not do these still another subject—human nature, which he did not see enumerated in the list of subjects in which prizes could be gained and in which lectures were habitually given. Whether they desired it or did not desire it, they were forced to deal with human nature from the beginning to the end of their medical course. That went far beyond all matter, far beyond crystallography. Let them not imagine that any hocus-pocus electricity, any viscous fluids could make a living cell. There was no prospect of any process performed by human influence making a living thing; nothing approaching the cell of a living creature had ever yet been made. The phenomena of life, and sad to say, the phenomena of death, and the difference between life and death were subjects which they would meet every day in their practice. Those who were now going out to practice were going out to deal with living men and women and children, and they must never think of their patients as a mere laboratory specimen but as human beings.

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