

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649364817

The Rhodes scholarships by George R. Parkin

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Cover @ 2017

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GEORGE R. PARKIN

**THE RHODES
SCHOLARSHIPS**

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THE LIFE OF
CECIL JOHN RHODES



W. & D. Bennett, 71 Stury St., London, E. W., Photographers

CECIL JOHN RHODES

THE
RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

BY

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BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
TORONTO : THE COPP CLARK CO., LIMITED
LONDON : CONSTABLE & CO., LIMITED

1912

17503
F8 93

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Published November 1912

TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

PREFACE

SINCE the death of Cecil Rhodes in 1902 his Trustees have put into operation the Scholarship System provided for under his last Will. As the provisions of the Will applied to a large number of widely separated communities, varying greatly in their educational development, as in other respects, and as the suggestions made by Mr. Rhodes about the choice of his Scholars involved methods of selection hitherto untried, much preparatory study of conditions, involving an immense amount of travel, and much consultation with authorities in each community concerned, became necessary before a system for the administration of the Trust could be decided upon. This work of enquiry was entrusted to me, and the System now in use is largely based upon reports which I made to the Trustees from time to time after consultation with educational and other responsible authorities in all the countries concerned. In these reports I tried to embody the advice I had received, and to outline the difficulties to be dealt with, adding my own conclusions as to the best way in which these difficulties can be overcome.

The System has now been in operation for some years, and much experience has been gained in its administration. This experience has brought the conviction that to ensure the greatest efficiency, and to achieve the best results from the System, it has become essential to give the widest possible publicity, in some readily accessible form, to all matters of general interest connected with the Trust; its inception, its history, its aims, its problems, the opportunities it offers, and its methods of administration.

The chief reasons for this conclusion are obvious. The Scholarship endowment is made in perpetuity. Centuries hence we may expect it to be in operation, just as other Oxford scholarships rest on endowments centuries old. The methods by which it can be made most effective will only be gradually learned from experience. They will certainly demand change from time to time, as conditions change in the countries from which Scholars are drawn, or in Oxford itself. Thoughtful coöperation among educational men in many parts of the world will therefore be required to maintain the efficiency of the System over long periods of time. The fullest discussion of the ends to be kept in view, of the means used to attain them, and of hindrances to success is therefore imperative. Careful consideration by many

minds of the methods employed by the Trust, of the grounds on which Scholars are selected, of the agencies most efficient for making selection, of the work of the Scholars and the spirit in which they do their work, of Oxford's arrangements for giving effect to the scheme, will all prove necessary and useful in making of this great Trust all that it ought to be.

It seems especially desirable that the many Committees of Selection, to whom the choice of Scholars is entrusted, should have the clearest possible idea of the principles on which choice should be made. These committees now embrace a large proportion of the leading educational men, and others in high official position, in more than seventy countries, states, provinces, and colonies where Scholarships are awarded. As the composition of the committees changes from time to time, each new member should have a ready means of informing himself about the nature of his responsible duties.

The Scholars, again, are drawn from a great many remote communities, where little is known of Oxford, and they will in future be drawn from remote generations, which cannot be expected to know much about Rhodes. It seems necessary to the successful development of the foundation that definite