

FRANK HOLMAN ON OXFORD LIFE

In a Friendly Letter to Utah
Students He Tells of
Its Features.

IT IS NOT TO BE DREADED.

Rather, Though, It Educates by
Association and Develops no
Other University Can.

Frank Holman, one of Utah's students at Oxford, and a participant in the Rhodes scholarships, has written interestingly of Oxford in a letter to the "News." Mr. Holman, who says he is enjoying his days in the great English university, is preparing to spend his vacation in travel in France. Through the "News" he sends greetings to his many friends in Utah and says if any of them are desirous of learning more about Oxford than he tells in his letter he will be pleased to



FRANK E. HOLMAN.

answer their letters addressed to him at Exeter college. Mr. Holman's letter follows:

October next, examinations will be held throughout the United States for candidates to qualify for the 1910 Rhodes scholarships at Oxford. Soon thereafter the local committees in each state will choose from the qualified can-

didates those men deemed best fitted for three years at the greatest university in the world. Utah, together with the other states and territories, has the opportunity of sending a man. The following year she will send another man, and after the lapse of one year the proposition repeats itself and two more Utah men will go. This succession of scholarships continues indefinitely.

Thus far the competition in Utah for Rhodes scholarships has been very limited. This limited competition has been due in part to a feeling that the difficulty and uncertainty of getting a scholarship was very great, and in part to a non-credulity of Oxford by most Americans. Oxford is little understood and at best is an uncertain quantity. Those who have written of Oxford are in a large measure responsible. The orthodox way to write about Oxford is to apologize for the attempt and to suggest that Oxford is an elusive something, an atmosphere that can neither be defined nor fully explained. In the end Oxford has always been made out as something very old, "Old" suggests worn out. An institution both old and worn out is likely to be in a state of decay. As a rule it is likely not to offer practical training. The truth is Oxford is very vigorous and very tangible.

THE CAUSE OF DOUBT.

Writers speak of Oxford as different, very different from other universities, but they leave the difference indefinite and unintelligible. Descriptions of Oxford usually convey a third impression, an impression that Oxford is very great. How great nobody knows, and great for what is uncertain. These descriptions have largely succeeded in casting serious doubts on American students as to whether Oxford is worth while. Men persuade themselves that the scholarship might be a good thing, they make a more or less superficial investigation, in the course of which they encounter the description of Oxford referred to and they decide that Oxford is not worth while. It is too old, too medieval, it isn't up to date, and nothing but the latest fashion in universities will suit. These investigators report their findings to others and the impression grows that the Rhodes scholarships are a backing up instead of a going forward. These considerations determine me to drop a word to Utah students concerning the Rhodes scholarships and Oxford.

The Rhodes scholarships are the greatest undertaking of the kind ever attempted. They are without parallel in the history of the world not only in general scope and possibility but in the opportunity they offer to the individual holders. They go to men all over the English-speaking world and in a limited number to Germany. Each scholarship carries a very liberal financial allowance with no conditions attached that are onerous or annoying. A Rhodes scholar receives \$2,000 yearly for three years, or a little over \$1,465 annually. This amount comes to him in quarterly installments which he is at liberty to bank and draw as he pleases.

UNDER NO OBLIGATIONS.

Rhodes scholars are placed under no disability. The scholarship funds are in no way connected with the University of Oxford. A Rhodes man is not under the slightest obligation to university or college authorities. He conducts himself exactly like a man with an income of \$1,465 of his own. In fact the last phrase is misleading, for the \$1,465 is his own. The tenure of a

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scholarship depends upon a man's continuing a number of some college at Oxford. It is expected that holders of scholarships will pursue serious study and live honorably. Within these limits a man does as he pleases.

All this of course sounds very fine, but the important question to a practical western man is—specifically, what does three years at Oxford mean? In the first place, as a matter of fact, only half of the three years, or scarcely a year and a half, is actually spent at Oxford. The school year consists of three terms each of eight weeks. A six weeks' vacation intervenes between the first and second terms, and between the second and third terms. After the third term there is a long summer "vac" of four months. In other words the Oxford year is divided thus: The first term begins the first Monday after October 10th, and continues eight weeks. Then comes six weeks of vacation; then another term of eight weeks; then another term of eight weeks, followed by the long vacation of four months. It is convenient to explain somewhat separately what one does during term, or while "he is up," as the English put it, and what one does during "vac," or while "he is down."

HIS APARTMENTS PROVIDED.

Residence in college during term

means the establishment of oneself in a very comfortable suite of two rooms—a "bed" and a "study"—and a college furnishes all the furniture required, but the undergraduate manages and adorns his apartments at his own expense and according to his own taste. The "study" is the undergraduate's cozy den. Here he entertains his friends to "breakfast," or lunch, or tea. Every "sitter" has an open fire. The cheerful grate fire is half of Oxford life. In his "study" the undergraduate does his work, talks politics, religion, and sport, and gathers around him a library and a circle of friends. It is in this circle of friends and books that Oxford life is at its best. It was probably the first before the open fire that appeared so strongly to Rhodes, and made him realize that to combine in these circles the highest type of English, colonial and American manhood, would do more to bring the races together than treaties and diplomacy.

Under the Oxford system there are no recitations or class periods. Each term the university announces a schedule of lectures in the different schools (courses) and one attends whatever lecture seems worth while, or one lectures that one's tutor recommends. Every undergraduate is assigned to the direction and supervision of a tutor. The tutor effects this direction by private instruction and consultations. Oxford places a man largely upon his own initiative. "Don't" (professors) do not force men to work. In fact many of them do not even use their own brains. Oxford knows neither compulsion nor pressure. She offers a complete curriculum—history, law, theology, languages, medicine, philosophy, and all the rest. She offers the best talent in each branch. Her teaching corps comprises most of the minds who are producing the books and moulding the thought of this generation. The undergraduate is altogether free to take advantage of Oxford either in whole or in part, or to ignore her. In every case Oxford remains unconcerned. It is no enigma therefore that "one half of Oxford" is asking what is truth, and the other half is asking what is trumps. Between the two extremes are all gradations of truth and trumps.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS.

When the undergraduate thinks that he has mastered the work of his course, he applies to the university for an examination—"goes in for his schools." This application must be accompanied by a substantial fee, none of which is returned. In case of failure the student is required to re-examine. The standards of examination—the pass standard and the honor standard—Rhodes men are expected to aspire to the honor standard, and thus far they have largely made good. The honor standard is a severe test and a first class is equivalent to an American "magnam cum laude." Oxford does not confer degrees by the bestowal of a parchment. Oxford merely registers the graduate on the books of the university.

The Rhodes man who works during term, has his vacation quite free for purposes of travel and experience. One of the greatest features of the scholarship is this opportunity for travel. No training is more valuable and thorough than that acquired in visiting localities that religion, or history, or art, or romance have made famous. Rhodes men scatter out over Europe. Men go to France, to Germany, to Spain, to Russia, to Italy, to Greece, to Egypt. They study the languages and habits of the people. They discover their prejudices, and learn their aspirations. One wants no larger education than this first hand contact with the world. It teaches why it is good to be an American. It makes more intelligent citizenship.

Vacation usually holds something in store for Rhodes men. In the first place, in a great measure they are abroad as the representatives of the American nation and of each individual state. Persons of prominence therefore invite them to various functions. One need scarcely ever go to London without being invited out somewhere. Last vacation, Ambassador and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid entertained at lunch in honor of the Rhodes men. The Dorchester House in Park Lane, "The fair was not formal and unceremonial as most entertainments in high circles are reported to be. Even the lunch was good and substantial, although couched in French phrases.

As may well be imagined, but as few appreciate without passing through the experience, a Rhodes scholarship occasions constant readjustment of point of view. Residence in college, travel, contact with people of position—all this ruthlessly disturbs littleness of mind and soul. The process of readjustment is not always pleasant, but it is always healthy. It demands that one view himself and his country in the perspective, that he abandon what is mere bumpfiness in both. The American laughs at the eccentricities of the Englishman and the Englishman laughs at those of the American, and it does them both good. The laugh makes each less eccentric. In this laugh Rhodes' dream is realized.

HOW IT IS OBTAINED.

After all the most important information to Utah students is to know exactly how this great opportunity is awarded. In the first place candidates must pass the qualifying examination sent out by Oxford. This examination has been conducted heretofore in Utah at the state university. In the past, papers have been set in elementary mathematics, Latin and Greek. Because the Greek requirement deterred many from competing the Oxford agency decided this year to make the Greek paper optional. The omission of the Greek is not in the least to affect the equal chance of all candidates before the committee of selection. That committee, which in Utah consists of Dr. J. T. Kingsbury, Dean Cummings, and Principal George A. Eaton of the Salt Lake high school, selects according to the terms of Cecil Rhodes' will with no reference to the omission or inclusion of the Greek on the part of any candidate. If the choice falls to a man who omitted the Greek he will be required to do a satisfactory Greek paper after coming to Oxford. The new arrangement serves to save those who fall of appointment from getting up the Greek.

The ultimate question is, what did Rhodes lay down in his will as the basis of the committee's choice. It is better to quote the exact words than to generalize. The will runs as follows: "My desire being that students who shall be elected to the scholarship shall not merely be bookworms. I direct that in the election of a student to a scholarship regard shall be had—

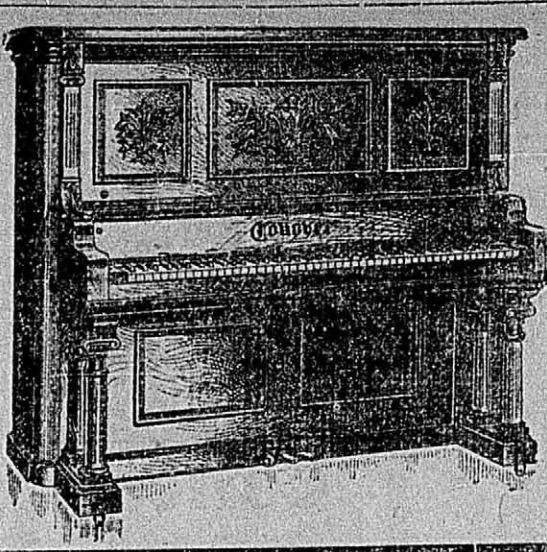
1. His literary and scholastic attainments.

2. His fondness for and success in mainly outdoor sports such as cricket, football and the like.

3. His qualities of manhood, truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness and fellowship and his exhibition during school days of moral force of character and of instincts to lead and to take an interest in his schoolmates for those latter attributes will be likely in after life to give him to extend the performance of public duty his highest aim.

As mere suggestions for the guidance of those who will have the choice of students for the scholarships I record that my ideal student would combine these four qualifications in the proportions—3-10 for the first, 2-10 for the second, 3-10 for the third and 2-10 for the fourth qualification.

Rhodes was a practical man. He wanted men who could act as well as think. He wanted sturdiness, loyalty, and honor. He has offered to such men a limitless opportunity for the development of the manhood. Utah students should respond in larger numbers.



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PEACE MEETING FRIDAY.

A meeting of the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations of English stake will be held in the Twentieth ward Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, when the following program will be given in the peace movement. Singing, "America"; invocation, John T. Cairne; organ solo, Miss Jennie Romney; peace, poem, Whittier, Mrs. S. H. Clawson; solo, "The Flag Without a Taint," Mrs. Claire Hardy; speech, Samuel W. Kirkson; vocal solo, Horace S. Ensign; peace poem, Miss Margaret Caldwell; vocal solo, George D. Pyper; resolutions, M. H. James; doxology; benediction, Alonzo Young.

PLEASING RECITAL.

The First Congregational church was crowded last night on the occasion of the violin recital given by the pupils of Prof. C. J. Nettleton. They were assisted by Mrs. Corlone H. Kaammer, soprano, Miss Myrtle Cogge and Ose Jorgensen cellists, and the Misses Net-

leton and Mulvey accompanists. It was a good program well rendered and much enjoyed by the large audience. The work of the young violinists showed the results of well directed instruction, and the conscientious efforts on the part of the performers to make progress. That they have succeeded was very manifest last evening. The string quartet number was of special excellence and deservedly well received.

STUDENTS DEBATE TONIGHT.

The intercollegiate debate between the University of Utah and the Colorado college will be held this evening at 8:15 in the Salt Lake Theater. The question is, "Resolved, That tariff should be imposed for revenue only." The Utah team, consisting of Ralph Hartley, H. Anderson and James Carquist, take the affirmative side of the question, while the Colorado team will uphold the negative side. The Colorado team arrived in the city this morning and they are confident that their side will get the award. They are C. M. Rose, H. W. C. Coll and J.

L. Cahoun. Judge D. N. Straup will preside at the debate. The judges have not yet been announced, but will be decided on this afternoon.

NO INVESTIGATION PLANNED.

(Special to the "News.")
Bois, Ida., May 18.—Gov. Brady states that no investigation of the faculty of the University of Idaho is contemplated as the result of the resignation of H. T. French, professor of agriculture, who, it is learned, objected to action of the faculty in spending the money allowed by the government for the maintenance of an agricultural experiment station.

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This is a most dangerous disease than is generally presumed. It will be a surprise to many to learn that more deaths result from it than from cholera, typhoid, pneumonia or other results from it. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has been used in many epidemics of whooping cough, and always with the best results. Delbert McKelg of Harlan, Iowa, says of it: "My wife, it is learned, objected to action of the faculty in spending the money allowed by the government for the maintenance of an agricultural experiment station. I cannot recommend it too highly. For sale by all druggists."

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LAURA E. REGESTER

The most sensational murder mystery that the police have been confronted with in years is the case of Laura Regester, who was strangled to death at the gate of a cemetery near her home on the night of May 11. The young woman—she was twenty-five—was engaged to be married to Charles Douglas, a jeweler, and she went in the evening to a dressmaker to have her wedding gown fitted. Returning, she was seen to leave a trolley car and start toward her home, which was five minutes' walk from the end of the car line. She never reached home, and her body was found in the cemetery at daylight next morning. She had been divorced from Earl Regester, but are satisfied that he had no part in the crime. The Regester family is well to do, and the young woman bore an excellent reputation.



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PASTIME
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