

Rhodes Scholarships

January 14, 1926.

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15, Oxford Street,  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Estabrooks:-

I have heard informally and confidentially a few rather interesting facts regarding the American Rhodes Scholar situation, and I know that you will be only too glad to get another point of view.

In the first place Mr. Greene's speech to which you refer did not meet the approval of the American Club at Oxford and was severely condemned the following autumn. In the second place, although Mr. Pipkin was as you pointed out, elected President, it was a good deal owing to his close connection with the club, rather than to any connection with Mr. Greene.

As far as the banquet is concerned, it seems that it has been officially cancelled some time before. The question of academic standing and equivalents is, as you know, one in which there is still a good deal of dispute, and I must tell you frankly from my own point of view that whatever may be his credits, the ordinary graduate of an American University has not yet the equivalent education of the honour graduate of an English University, the only class of English University graduate who is likely to go on to an English higher degree. Perhaps I am prejudiced in favour of English education, but I cannot see any parity between the English and American degrees, and I feel that an M.A. with honours at Oxford is at least the equivalent of a Ph.D. on this side; presumably the authorities at Oxford have somewhat the same view, although I understand that they have made the B. Litt. a little easier to attain.

On the point of discipline I cannot agree with you at all, and I do not think that the Rhodes Trustees would take any different view. It has always seemed to me that what Rhodes wanted and that is after all what we must aim at, is that the scholar should go to Oxford and become a part of Oxford. My own experience is limited to Cambridge, but such an end could not possibly be attained there unless the scholar became an undergraduate like anybody else. If he goes in as a senior student he cannot become one of the community. After all is not our aim neither