

15 Onond St.

Cambridge, Mass.

Jan 17/25.

Dear Col. Bovey:-

I certainly thank you for the trouble you have taken on this matter and I know you will realize that my own desire in opening & continuing this dispute(?) is merely to shed a little light. Perhaps I have been a little too sweeping in my statements and yet I feel that, to a large extent I am justified.

Prof. Hooton of Harvard, an ex-Rhodes scholar, summed up the situation very nicely in a recent interview which he & I had with an applicant. He pointed out to this man (age 23) that he must go to Oxford prepared to accept the position of a Freshman, and prepared to associate with college freshmen type of men if he intended mixing with the English. Also that he must be prepared to enjoy the many little peculiarities of English discipline.

Now, Sir, frankly, I went to Oxford after a rather chequered war career, after two years in hospital on account of gassing (?) and in a state of health such that I was sent to Switzerland for my first two terms. I did not shine at my academic work while in Oxford and I did not fit into the system. This to clear the air. However, I assure you I have a profound respect for English social customs, I am a very poor democrat, and I will do everything in my power to strengthen the Empire.

But just as important, in my opinion, is the strengthening of the bonds between ourselves & the U.S.A. And, frankly, I must say that I consider the present state of affairs in Rhodes Scholar circles pretty bad from this point of view.

(over)