

MR. CECIL RHODES.

IMPORTANT BEQUESTS.

PROVISION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA REMEMBERED.

London, April 5.

The will of the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes is dated July 1, 1899, and there are codicils, bearing date January 18, 1902. The latter relate to family bequests and to sums of money left to friends in Germany. These codicils deal with £6,000,000 sterling, and include £2,000,000 for education.

The closing words of the testator are as follows:—"I admire the grandeur and loneliness of the Matoppo Ranges, and desire to be buried on the hill I have called 'The View of the World.'"

The sum of £4,000 a year is bequeathed for the preservation of the grave, the transformation of the hill into a State burial ground for persons held deserving by the will of the country after federation in South Africa, and finally, the establishment of a public park at Buluwayo.

Another sum of £2,000 is set apart for the inauguration of an Irrigation, Forestry, and Agricultural College in Mashonaland.

The deceased's "Grootesehuur" estate is bequeathed as a residence for the South African Premier, with the sum of £1,000 per annum for the maintenance of horses, carriages, and servants. Meanwhile, pending federation, the estate will be available as a public park.

The sum of £100,000 is bequeathed to Oriel College, Oxford, including £40,000 for the extension of the college buildings, and the remainder for the improvement of the income and comforts of the fellowships and the defraying of the costs of general repairs.

The testator emphasises the importance of the residential system and establishes the following endowments:—Sixty colonial scholarships in the Oxford University, 20 to be filled annually, at a yearly value of £300, tenable for three years by male students, viz. three for Rhodesia, and one each for the South African, Shellenbosch, Roidebosch, Diocesan, St. Andrew's, and Grahamstown college schools; one each for Natal, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, West Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, Bermuda, and Jamaica.

Two similar scholarships, one to be filled yearly, are conferred on each of the 45 States and 7 territories of the United States, and 15 similar scholarships valued at £250 per annum on German students, to be nominated by the Kaiser, in recognition of the promotion of the study of the English language in Germany.

Mr. Rhodes adds an expression of his belief that a good understanding between England, Germany, and America, will secure the peace of the world, and that the educational relations he seeks to inaugurate between them will form the strongest tie of any.

There is to be no religious or racial test in connection with these scholarships. It is further stipulated that 30 per cent. must be awarded for literary and scholastic attainments, 20 for efficiency in sports, 30 for the qualities of manhood, truth, and courage, to be determined by a ballot of the candidates' school mates, and 20 for moral force of character, to be similarly determined. The favorable report of the headmaster will be requisite to success in the competition.

Altogether these scholarships provided for total 175.

Our Cape Town correspondent writing under date March 13, says:—

"The illness from which Mr. Rhodes is suffering is by no means a new thing. Ten years ago I formed one of a party who, with Mr. Rhodes and others, ascended to the plateau of Table Mountain. We had climbed about a couple of thousand feet when suddenly the word was passed round, 'Mr. Rhodes is ill.' He had been seized with a spasm in the region of the heart, and was panting for breath. One of the party had a flask of whisky, and Mr. Rhodes took a stiff dose, which pulled him round, but he abandoned the idea of a further climb.

"Since that time he has been reminded at intervals of his old enemy. When travelling on the Nile last month he had a severe attack, which passed off somewhat, when he got back and into a colder climate.

"He would have recovered had he remained in England, but the Supreme Court of this colony, unaware, of course, of the severe danger which threatened Mr. Rhodes, ordered his return in connection with what is now known as the Radziwill forgery case, and he preferred to run the risk of his life rather than that it should be supposed that for any reason whatsoever he was unwilling to meet in open court the woman who had been dealing in Cape Town with bills bearing forgeries of his signature. He was anxious to postpone his visit for another two months, when winter would have set in. He elected, however, to come, and there is no manner of doubt that the hot weather, in conjunction with the work of the civil case, and subsequently of the criminal charge, are responsible for his present critical state.

"It is a singular fact that should Mr. Rhodes unfortunately die, the charge of forgery against the Princess Radziwill will probably drop for sheer lack of evidence."

Mr. Rhodes's Newmarket estate is entailed on his brothers under stringent conditions that no one should inherit it without a ten years' occupation.

The newspapers compare Mr. Rhodes's will with that of Julius Caesar, and warmly eulogise the consistent devotion of deceased to his ideas of Imperial unity.

The comments of the American papers are equally eulogistic, and a belief is expressed that the extension to America of the educational bequests will form a perpetual link between the United States and Great Britain.

Great satisfaction is also felt in official circles in Germany at the inclusion of that country in the educational endowments.