

# MR. RHODES'S IDEAL OF ANGLO-SAXON GREATNESS

## Statement of His Aims, Written for W. T. Stead In 1890.

### He Believed a Wealthy Secret Society Should Work to Secure the World's Peace and a British-American Federation.

LONDON, April 9.—An article on the Right Hon. Cecil J. Rhodes, by William T. Stead, will appear in the forthcoming number of *The American Review of Reviews*. The article, excerpts from which follow, consists of a frank, powerful explanation of Mr. Rhodes's views on America and Great Britain, and for the first time sets forth his own inmost aims. It was written mainly by himself for Mr. Stead in 1890. For originality and breadth of thought it eclipses even his now famous will, yet it is merely a collection of disjointed ideas, hurriedly put together by "The Colossus," as a summary of a long conversation between himself and Mr. Stead. In those days Mr. Stead was not only one of Mr. Rhodes's most intimate friends, as indeed he was till the last, but also his executor. Mr. Stead's name was only removed from the list of the trustees of Mr. Rhodes's will on account of the Boer war, which forced the two men into such vehement political opposition. Of this episode Mr. Stead says:

"Mr. Rhodes's action was only natural, and, from an administrative point of view, desirable, and it in no way affected my attitude as political confidant in all that related to Mr. Rhodes's world-wide policy."

In its three columns of complex sentences the whole of Mr. Rhodes's international and individual philosophy is embraced. Perhaps it can best be summarized as an argument in favor of the organization of a secret society, on the lines of the Jesuit order, for the promotion of the peace and welfare of the world, and the establishment of an American-British federation, with absolute home rule for the component parts.

"I am a bad writer," says Mr. Rhodes in one part of what might be called his confession, "but through my ill-connected sentences you can trace the lay of my ideas, and you can give my idea the literary clothing that is necessary."

#### RHODES'S ROUGH NOTES UNEDITED.

But Mr. Stead wisely refused to edit or dress it up, saying:

"I think the public will prefer to have these rough, hurried, and sometimes ungrammatical notes exactly as Mr. Rhodes scrawled them off, rather than have them supplied with literary clothing by any one else."

Mr. Rhodes began by declaring that the "key" to his idea for the development of the English-speaking race was the foundation of "a society copied, as to organization, from the Jesuits." Combined with "a differential rate and a copy of the United States Constitution," wrote Mr. Rhodes, "should be home rule or federation." An organization formed on these lines in the House of Commons, constantly working for decentralization and not wasting time on trivial questions raised by "Dr. Tanner, or the important matter of O'Brien's breeches," would, Mr. Rhodes believed, soon settle the all-important question of the markets for the products of the empire.

"The labor question," Mr. Rhodes wrote, "is important, but that is deeper than labor."

#### THE MENACE TO BRITISH TRADE.

America, both in its possibilities of alliance and its attitude of commercial rivalry, was apparently ever present in Mr. Rhodes's mind. "The world, with America in the forefront," he wrote, "is devising tariffs to boycott your manufactures. This is the supreme question. I believe that England, with fair play, should manufacture for the world, and, being a free trader, I believe that, until the world comes to its senses, you should declare war, I mean a commercial war, with those trying to boycott your manufactures. That is my programme. You might finish the war by a union with America and universal peace after a hundred years." But toward securing this millennium Mr. Rhodes believed the most powerful factor would be "a secret society, organized like Loyola's, supported by the accumulated wealth of those whose aspiration is a desire to do something," and who would be spared the "hideous annoyance" daily created by the thought to which "of their incompetent relations" they should leave their fortunes. These wealthy people, Mr. Rhodes thought, would thus be greatly relieved and be able to turn "their ill-gotten or inherited gains to some advantage."

Reverting to himself, Mr. Rhodes said:

"It is a fearful thought to feel you possess a patent, and to doubt whether your life will last you through the circumlocution of the Patent Office. I have that inner conviction that if I can live I have thought out something that is worthy of being registered in the Patent Office. The fear is shall I have time and opportunity? And I believe, with all the enthusiasm bred in the soul of an inventor, that it is not self-glorification that I desire, but the wish to live and register my patent for the benefit of those who I think are the greatest people the world has ever seen, but whose fault is that they do not know their strength, their greatness, or their destiny, but who are wasting their time in minor or local matters; but, being asleep, do not know that through the invention of steam and electricity, and, in view of their own enormous increase, they must now be trained to view the world as a whole, and not only to consider the social questions of the British Isles. Even a Labouchere who possesses no sentiment should be taught that the labor of England is dependent on the outside world, and that, as far as I can see, the outside world, if he does not look out, will boycott the result of English labor."

Once again the personal feelings of the man crop out. "They are calling the new country Rhodesia," he wrote. "I find I am human, and should like to be living after my death. Still, perhaps, if that name is coupled with the object of England everywhere it may convey the discovery of an idea which will ultimately lead to the cessation of all wars, and one language

throughout the world, the patent being the gradual absorption of wealth and human minds of the higher order to the object."

Here Mr. Rhodes used the sentence, cabled to America, in Mr. Stead's article of April 4:

"What an awful thought it is that if, even now, we could arrange with the present members of the United States Assembly and our House of Commons the peace of the world would be secured for all eternity! We could hold a Federal Parliament, five years in Washington and five in London."

Mr. Rhodes added:

"The only thing feasible to carry out this idea is a secret society gradually absorbing the wealth of the world, to be devoted to such an object."

"There is Baron Hirsch," interpolated Mr. Rhodes, "with twenty millions, very soon to cross the unknown border and struggling in the dark to know what to do with his money, and so one might go on ad infinitum."

"Fancy," Mr. Rhodes goes on to say, "the charm to Young America, just coming on, and dissatisfied, for they have filled up their own country and do not know what to tackle next, to share in a scheme to take the government of the whole world. Their present President [Mr. Harrison] is dimly seeing it; but his horizon is limited to the New World, north and south, and so he would intrigue in Canada, Argentina, and Brazil, to the exclusion of England. Such a brain wants but little to see the true solution. He is still groping in the dark, but very near the discovery, for the American has been taught the lesson of home rule and of the success of leaving the management of the local pump to the parish beadle. He does not burden his House of Commons with the responsibility of cleansing the parish drains. The present position of the English House is ridiculous. You might as well expect Napoleon to have found time to have personally counted his dirty linen before he sent it to the wash and to have recounted it upon its return."

"It would have been better for Europe if Napoleon had carried out his idea of a universal monarchy. He might have succeeded if he had hit upon the idea of granting self-government to the component parts."

#### COUNTRIES "FOUND WANTING."

Dealing with the "sacred duty of the English-speaking world of taking the responsibility for the still uncivilized world," and commenting upon the necessary departure from the map of such countries as Portugal, Persia, and Spain, "who are found wanting," Mr. Rhodes said:

"What scope! What a horizon of work for the next two centuries for the best energies of the best people in the world!"

In regard to tariffs, Mr. Rhodes was characteristically positive.

"I note," he wrote, "with satisfaction that the committee appointed to inquire into the McKinley tariff, reports that in certain articles our trades have fallen off 50 per cent. Yet the fools do not see that if they do not look out they will have England shut out and isolated, with 90,000,000 to feed and capable of internally supporting about 6,000,000. If they had a statesman they would at the present moment be commercially at war with the United States, and would have boycotted the raw products of the United States until she came to her senses; and I say this because I am a free trader. Your people have not known their greatness. They possess one-fifth of the world and do not know it is slipping away from them. They spend their time in discussing Mr. Parnell and Dr. Tanner, the character of Sir Charles Dilke, compensation for beer houses, and omne hoc genus. Your supreme question at present is the seizure of the labor vote for the next election. Read the Australian bulletins and see where undue pandering to the labor vote may lead you. But, at any rate, the eight-hour question is not possible without a union of the English-speaking world; otherwise you drive your manufactures to Belgium, Holland, and Germany, just as you have placed a great deal of cheap shipping trade in the hands of Italy by your stringent shipping regulations."

Here this "political will and testament," as Mr. Stead calls it, abruptly breaks off. Mr. Stead, commenting on this, says:

"It is rough and inchoate and almost as uncut as one of Cromwell's speeches, but the central idea glows luminous throughout. Its ideal is the promotion of racial unity on the basis of the principles embodied in the American Constitution."