

Sir, As Oriel's fine official *History* recounts, the college, hearing from Rhodes at its own high table (hours after the university conferred his honorary doctorate) that he would make his will "in a few days", wrote to tell him how its poor financial state could be ended with £100,000. His will, signed a week later, duly left Oriel that sum, using details supplied by the college, which then and at his death knew essentially everything about Rhodes's attitudes.

Shamelessly now denouncing his "worldview" as "in absolute contrast" to the college's, Oriel ignores the inconvenient facts that Nigel Biggar so well recalls ([Opinion, Dec 22](#)). It also speaks without sense. Back in Cape Town just four weeks after Oriel's letter, Rhodes twice addressed vast crowds, in the shadow of the looming Boer war against British rule. Having mentioned that some in Oxford thought him unworthy of the university's honours, he proclaimed again the worldview he had so long affirmed to South Africans: that the Empire stood, and acted, for equality of rights without distinctions of race or colour. As was discovered at his death, his will meant and did as much.

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