

The Rees and Carrington Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1900

BOOK 2

1900

Jan.

All ill and Carrie rather peevish.
Rud working at *Kim*, and the village volunteers.

Jan. 2

NB. If by any chance a wife does not get ill she is bullied not to do her work but no allowance is made for her just the same. A wife should never be ill but should die at once.

Carrie's entry doesn't really make sense, though the general tenor of her remarks is clear enough. Carrington has it exactly right – peevish.

Jan. 8

My throat develops a nasty turn. They fear diphtheria . . the children are sent to Aunt Georgie.

Diphtheria was a frequent disease in the late 19th century: it affected the throat and airways and in extreme cases it could cause death. Kipling had written about it in the tale 'A Little Prep' in Stalky and Co. the previous years. In the event, Carrie seems merely to have had a bad sore throat.

19 Jan.

R, in town **signs his testimony for the Putnam case.**

Jan. 19

Rud leaves at 8 for town to sign his testimony in the Putnam case.

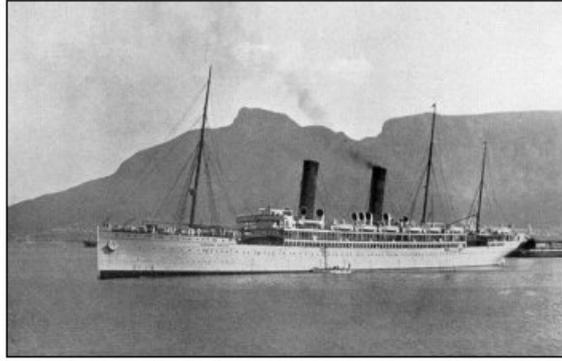
(See our entry for 2 October 1899)

20 Jan. (Sat) Southampton, *Kinfauns Castle*.

R **enjoys himself with the volunteers** on the ship.

Jan. 20

We leave at 8 for Southampton and go to the SS *Kinfauns Castle*. A splendid send off for Rud = cheers and shouts.



SS Kinfauns Castle

They were on their way to South Africa for the winter. Kinfauns Castle was a 'Castle' Line ship on the Cape run. On this occasion she had among her passengers a detachment of the City Imperial Volunteers. (See our entry of 16 December 1899.)

(The real Kinfauns Castle lies just north of the river Tay, about three miles east of Perth, in mid-Scotland)

27 Jan. **Concert. R says his banjo song.**

Jan. 27 A concert. Rud says his Banjo Song.

“The Song of the Banjo.”

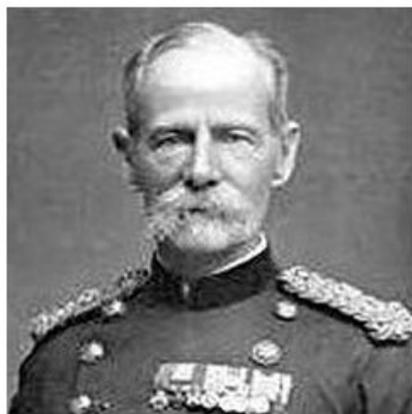
5 Feb. Mount Nelson Hotel. **A great send-off from the ship.**

Feb. 5 We land at Cape Town at 5.30 and reach Mt. Nelson Hotel at 7. A great send off from the ship as we leave – we being the first to depart.

The Mount Nelson Hotel at Cape Town was, and still is, one of the great hotels of the world.

6 Feb. An hour's talk with Lord Roberts who leaves for the front tonight.

Feb. 6 Rud has an hour's talk with Lord Roberts who leaves for the front tonight. He gives him a pass to go anywhere in South Africa and to visit all hospitals



General Roberts



General Buller

General Lord Roberts, Kipling's much-admired 'Bobs', had been sent out to South Africa, along with reinforcements, to pull the British chestnuts out of the fire after the reverses of 'black week', just before Christmas (see Carrington's Introduction to Book 2). Roberts had arrived in Capetown in early January to relieve Sir Redvers Buller, and was about to launch his offensive.

7 Feb. Dines with Mr. Amery. ['The Times' man.](#)



Leo Amery

Leo Amery (1873-1955) was a British journalist at this time. A Liberal Unionist, he later became a prominent Conservative politician. As the representative of The Times in South Africa, his influence was considerable. He also reported from the Boer side of the front.

8 Feb. [R. calls on Sir A. Milner who is glad to see him.](#)

10 Feb. We go to No. 7 Hospital at Wynberg.

They spent the next two weeks visiting a number of hospitals around the Cape.



10th Canadian Field Hospital, South African War

Many of the casualties were due to dysentery, rather than enemy action. Wynberg is a suburb of Cape Town.

11 Feb. We go to the Portland Hospital.



Portland Hospital, South African War

The Portland Hospital, named after its parent hospital in London, was one of a number of private hospitals sent out to South Africa to support the army medical authorities. Although entirely funded by the voluntary system in Britain, the hospitals were under Army control.

12 Feb. R. sees Sir A. Milner about a wire he must send to *The Times* for more troops.

Feb. 12 Rud sees Sir Alfred Milner about a wire he sends to *The Times* for more troops

If such a wire was sent, The Times does not seem to have published the content. Unless he had been put up to it by 'Bobs', it would have been highly unlikely that a journalist's recommendation (however distinguished the journalist), would have carried any weight in London. And in any case, General Roberts was quite capable of persuading the government of any further troop requirements, since he enjoyed their entire confidence.

13 Feb. R. talks to over 200 men at No. 2 Hospital.

Feb. 13 Rud spends a long morning at No. 2 Hospital and talks to over 200 men.

15 Feb. R. talks to over 200 men at No. 2 Hospital.

It is not clear if he made two separate speeches on these two days, or whether the first entry was inadvertently repeated. (There is no second entry in Rees.)

16 Feb. News of Relief of Kimberley. No. 3 Hospital.

Feb. 16 News at breakfast of relief of Kimberley. Rud goes to No. 3 Hospital.

Roberts had launched his attack on 10 February, out-flanked the Boers at Magersfontein, and on 14 February, Major-General French's cavalry division had split the Boers defences around Kimberley, and lifted the siege on 15 February.

17 Feb, Hospitals.

Feb. 17 Rud goes to the hospitals.

18 Feb. Winding bandages.

Feb. 18 We wind bandages.

- 19 Feb. Hospitals. We dine at Government House.
- 20 Feb. [R. recited verses at a hospital concert.](#)
- Feb. 20** Rud goes to a concert for the amusement of the wounded men in Nos. 1 & 2 Hospitals. He recites some verses within and is most splendidly cheered: Finish up bandage winding.
- 22 Feb. [R, leaves on an ambulance train for Modder River, 7p.m.](#)
- Feb. 22** Rud leaves for Modder River on an ambulance train,
See the notes on "With Number Three" in NRG. His journey also provided the background for 'The Way that He Took' in land and Sea Tales for Scouts and Guides.
- 23 Feb. R at Magersfontein.
- Feb. 23** A wire from Rud at Magersfontein.
- 24 Feb. At Modder River.
Magersfontein and Modder River were the scenes of engagements at the end of 1899 in Methuen's unsuccessful attempt to relieve Kimberley.
- 26 Feb. R. returns a.m.
- Feb. 26** Rud returns in the early a.m.
- 27 Feb. No. 1 Hospital. R. dines with Bagot the Censor.
Bagot was Major Josceline Fitzroy Bagot, MP (1854-1913), who was the chief Military Censor, responsible for military correspondence, soldiers letters home, etc. (not to be confused with the Chief Censor, responsible for overall policy on behalf of the Cape Government)
- 28 Feb. R. lunches with an old Indian friend.
- 2 Mar. No. 1 Hospital.
- Mar. 4** Rud has a good morning's work on his ambulance letter. Our Rottingdean postman calls on Rud.

The 'ambulance letter' was for the Daily Mail: it also appeared in Canada and the USA. We assume that 'our Rottingdean postman' was one of those whom Kipling had encouraged to volunteer – see entry for 19 Dec. 1899.

6 Mar. A lot of talk with Indian Army officers, newly arrived.

A number of British Army units, from India, took part in the war. No native Indian Army units were sent, but a number of Indians were employed as 'auxiliaries', including one led by Mohandas Gandhi, the Natal Indian Ambulance Corps. See www.mkgandhi.org/articles/boer_war.htm. Kipling later wrote "A Sahib's War" (published in December 1901 and collected in Traffics and Discoveries).

7 Mar. **Lunch with Rhodes.** Shows us a site where he will build a house which we may use any and all winters.

Mar. 7 We go to have lunch with Mr. Rhodes. He shows us a charming site on his mountain side and says he is going to build a house there which we may use any and all winters as we please. It was a prettily given invitation and we accept on the spot.

This was 'The Woolsack' which became the Kipling's winter home until 1908. See the article by Tanya Barben, in NRG, for an account of the Kipling's years there.



The Woolsack

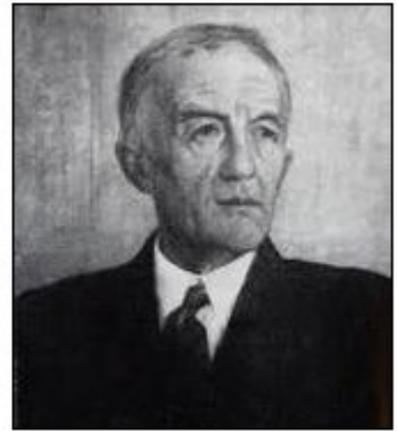
8 Mar. R and Rhodes. To Stellenbosch and the Paarl.

Mar. 8 Rud leaves early for Stellenbosch with Mr. Rhodes. They drive through his fruit farms in the Paarl.

Stellenbosch, one of the oldest settlements in Cape Province, lies about 30 miles east of Cape Town. It was, and is, the centre of the Cape wine industry. Paarl is another 25 miles further, north-east of Stellenbosch.

9 Mar. CK (Carrie) meets Baker at the site and plans the house.

Baker was (Sir) Herbert Baker (1862-1946) a British architect, with a large practice in South Africa (and he was later associated with Sir Edwin Lutyens in the design of New Delhi). He was employed by Rhodes to rebuild 'Groote Schuur' and to design and build 'The Woolsack'



Sir Herbert Baker

(see entry for 7 Mar. above.)

10 Mar. R returns from the Paarl.

Mar. 10 Rud returns.

The Paarl refers to the area around Paarl, the town.

12 Mar Hospitals. (Fall of Bloemfontein)

Bloemfontein was the capital of the Orange Free State and was occupied by the British after the Battle of Paardeberg. Roberts' campaign was gathering momentum.

15 Mar. Rhodes ill. Rud visits him.

Rhodes' health was never good, which was why he had been sent out to Natal when he was 16. He may have suffered all his life from a 'hole in the heart', a congenital heart defect.

17 Mar. Roberts asks him to edit a camp paper.

This was The Friend, a local Bloemfontein newspaper which the British took over to turn into a soldier's paper for the troops at the front.



*The staff of The Friend
Landon, Gwynne
Kipling and Ralph*

See LYCETT pp. 323-4 and John Radcliffe's NRG notes on the uncollected tale "A Burgher of the Free State".

18 Mar. R. goes for a long walk with Milner who is greatly relieved by the news.

19 Mar. R. off in the evening.

Mar. 19 Rud finishes his Hospital letter and arranges about going to Bloemfontein. I see him off in the evening.

Mar. 20 I spend two hours doing kit bags for the Red Cross.

21 Mar. R. at Norval's Post

This is possibly a mis-reading of Norval's Pont, which was a township on the border of the Cape and Orange Free State (see Rees entry below.)

Mar. 21 Wire from Rud. He reached Norvals Pont (??) today.

22 Mar. R. at Nieuwport.

This was another place on the way to Bloemfontein.

26 Mar. Letter from Rud at Bloemfontein
(Carrie ill and depressed)

Mar. 26 Rud at Bloemfontein.

29 Mar. Mary Kingsley called. Wire to say that Rud is leaving B'n (Bloemfontein) today.

Mary (Henrietta) Kingsley (1862-1900) was an intrepid lady explorer, particularly of West Africa. Carrie seems to have found her visits very comforting. See NRG for notes on an uncollected memoir of her by Kipling, published in 1932.



Mary Kingsley

30 Mar. Rud staying till Monday 2nd. (Sanna's Post) [British defeat.]

Sanna's Post lay 23 miles east of Bloemfontein, and was the site of a successful Boer ambush of a substantial British force of cavalry, mounted infantry, and horse artillery. It was the site of the Bloemfontein waterworks, and its capture, albeit brief, by the Boers, was responsible for poor water supplies in the town, and hence the onset of the dysentery which caused so many casualties

31 Mar. The papers say he was at a battle yesterday.
Mary Kingsley calls.

Mar. 31 No word from Rud but the papers say he was present at a battle yesterday

In fact, Kipling himself was present at an engagement at Karee Siding on the 29th, the only time in his life he was ever under fire. He described it in Something of Myself, pp. 157-161. He had previously described (Something of Myself, pp. 156-57), the circumstances of the Battle of Sanna's Post.

1 Apr. Wire from R, back Wed. or Thur.

3 Apr. R. arrives 4.10. **Has had the greatest of times and feels he has joined up all his ideas with the others of many years ago.**
(Tuesday)

Apr. 3 A hot morning doing kit bags. Rud arrived at 4.10. He is very fit and has had the greatest of times and feels he has joined up all his ideas with the others of many years ago.

4 Apr. Posts "Sin of Witchcraft" to 'The Times'.

In fact, "The Sin of Witchcraft", two-and-a-bit full columns of close-packed Times newsprint, had already appeared on Thursday 15 March.

It is not clear why Carrie/Carrington made this apparently inaccurate entry. This editor wonders if it shouldn't have referred to the receipt in Cape Town of copies of The Times containing the article, so full of bitter irony. The timing is just about right.

Kipling's article is concerned with the fact that Boers in Cape Province were often covertly loyal to the Boer commandos in their fight against the British. Kipling believed that a hard line should be taken against them. See John Radcliffe's notes in NRG on a similar 'unpublished' article, "The Science of Rebellion".

Apr. 6 We lunch on the *Pelorus*, which is in dry dock. A pleasant visit. Amusing to me to see Rud with men who love and rejoice in him

7 Apr. R. goes to see a troopship of Queenslanders .

The Boer War was the first campaign in which Britain was supported by forces from the other Dominions and Colonies, although the Indian Army had undertaken campaigns in

Abyssinia and Burma . These Queenslanders were not the first to have arrived – the Queensland Mounted Infantry had been involved at Sanna’s Post (see entry for 30 March above).

Mar. 9 Lunch with Miss Rhodes. Home to find a Bloemfontein “Friend” has arrived with fever. Put him into our sitting room and turn out while he is having dinner. Man called Perceval Landon.

10 Apr. R. nursing a sick colleague from *The Friend* [Bloemfontein Newspaper.]
Mary Kingsley the delightful to dinner.

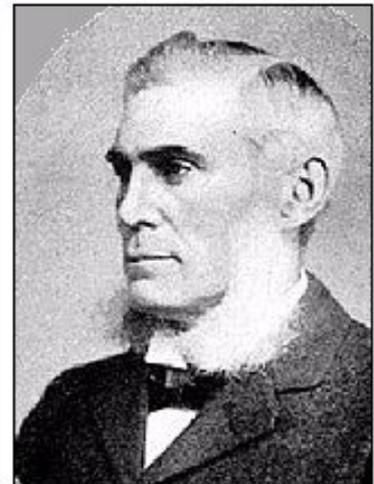
Kipling’s colleagues on The Friend had been Perceval Landon, Julian Ralph, H A Gwynne and F W Buxton, all of them war correspondents for various newspapers. While in Bloemfontein Kipling had spent time helping to nurse the son of Julian Ralph – now he was called upon (and poor Carrie) to nurse Landon This event was the start of a close friendship which lasted until Landon’s death in 1927.)

Mary Kingsley had come out to work as a nurse. She died within two months, from typhoid contracted at the hospital in Simon’s Town.

11 Apr. Left 3 p.m. *Tantallon Castle*.
C J [Chief Justice] de Villiers on board.

Chief Justice de Villiers was John Henry de Villiers (1842-1914) Chief Justice of Cape Colony since 1874.

The real Tantallon Castle is down the Scottish coast south of Edinburgh.



John de Villiers

Apr. 11 We leave hotel at 3 p.m. for *Tantallon Castle* on which we sail to England. A dull company.

- Apr. 23 Rud does not work on *Kim*. The first day since we came on ship board.
- Apr. 27 Dock a little after 10 p.m.
- 28 Apr. Brown's Hotel.
- Apr. 28 Reach London and Brown's most comfortably. I go forth at once to the shops.
- 29 Apr. Rud calls on his 'Old ladies', Aviemore Road. Mackail, Poynters. Bad news of Trix.

Picking up the threads.

- Apr. 30 Rud leaves for Tisbury and the children and I for home.
- 1 May Rud returns from Tisbury to Rottingdean. Trix is better. A good talk with Chamberlain at [the Club](#).

Joseph Chamberlain, presumably at the Athenaeum.

- May 1 Rud returns. Trix better than anticipated. Rud does the first draft of his African stories.

'His African stories' were probably the four which were published in the Daily Express and the Dundee People's Friend and, in New York, in Cosmopolitan during June and July 1900. He wrote other stories with a South African war setting later.

- 2 May Writing "Folly Bridge" [uncollected Boer War Story]

The tale, one of the four mentioned in our previous entry, appeared in the Daily Express and the People's Friend on 2 July 1900. It was later collected in the 'Sussex' and 'Burwash' editions. See John McGivering's notes on it in NRG.

- 5 May Academy Banquet.

The Times report of the Banquet (Monday 7 May) lists Kipling among the guests. The report is also instructive as to who were seen as the 'great and good' of the late Victorian world (NB, there were no ladies present).

All the speeches are reported, and the evening must have dragged on for a long time.

6 May Volunteer Committee meeting.

May 12 Mr. Collier comes and arranges about Rud's portrait. Pater comes in the afternoon.

13 May [The Pater staying.](#) [They go shooting](#) (at targets).

Kipling was developing his ideas about the necessity for a form of national military service, which he later set out in "The Army of a Dream", which was first published in the Morning Post and collected in Traffics and Discoveries in 1904. See NRG for notes on the story by John McGivering.

15 May Rud declines a further publicity scheme for the *Daily Mail*.

Possibly along the lines of that which the Daily Mail did for "The Absent-minded Beggar."

May 16 The pater returns home.

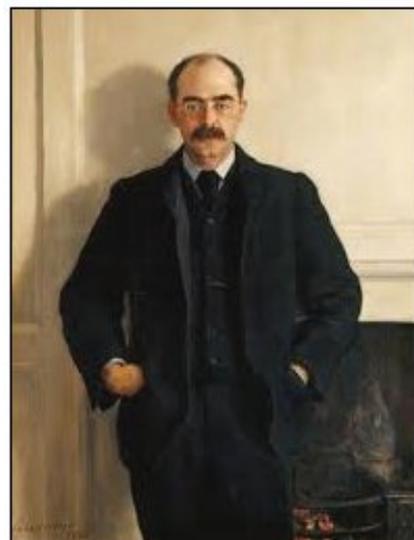
18 May Relief of Mafeking. [Rud rouses the inhabitants to celebrate.](#)

May 18 News comes late at night, 9.30, of the relief of Mafeking and Rud rouses the inhabitants to celebrate

The relief occurred on 17 May. Evidently not all the inhabitants of Rottingdean were as enthusiastic as Kipling, but in general the celebration were universal and extravagant, so that a verb was created, 'to maffick' or 'make maffick'. OED.)

19 May Painting by Collier. R. sits.
P. Landon calls.
Procession in the village.

This was the second portrait of Kipling by John Collier (1850-1934) The first was in 1891. Both are now at Bateman's in Sussex, Kipling's final home.



The Collier portrait, 1900

P. Landon was Perceval Landon (1868-1927), (See entry of Apr. 9 above.

22 May Someone from Pearson's comes to discuss South African stories.

C. Arthur Pearson first published a magazine in London in 1896. (It ceased publishing in 1939, and should not be confused with the present big publishing conglomerate.) A P Watt had already placed some of Kipling stories with them.

25 May R. goes to town to see Chamberlain.

Joseph Chamberlain had been campaigning for more than a decade for a union of the South African provinces and republics under the British flag.

27 May Collier paints and FND arrives. (*Frank N Doubleday*).

May 29 Two motors come – one on trial, one on hire.

31 May We hear of Pretoria entered. Hugh Poynter staying.

Pretoria formally surrendered on 5 June. It was then the capital of the South African Republic ('the Transvaal').

Hugh Poynter was the second son of Aunt Aggie and Sir Edward Poynter and brother of Ambrose ("Ambo"): see opening entry for January 1897.

5 Jun. Motor to Seaford and Alfriston.

This would have been in the hired car – a journey of about 32 miles there and back, involving a fair amount of hill climbing. Seaford lies on the Sussex coast, four miles east of Newhaven, while Alfriston is (still) a very picturesque village nestling in the heart of the South Downs between Lewes and Eastbourne.

6 Jun. He reads 'A Burgher of the Free State' to Aunt Georgie **who does not receive it well.** [uncollected Boer War story.]

Jun, 6 Rud works on "A Burgher of the Free State" and reads it to Aunt Georgie who does not receive it well.

Aunt Georgie's politics were Liberal, and she did not approve of the war. The tale itself was published in the Daily Express in July, and later collected in the 'Sussex' and 'Burwash' editions. It is set in Bloemfontein and was based very largely on Kipling's experiences there three months earlier. See John Radcliffe's notes in NRG, together with the text of the story.

7 Jun. Rifle Range matters. Tea with the Vicar.

9 Jun. [We decline dinner invitations with the Duchess of Sutherland and Mrs. Humphry Ward.](#)

They had met the Duchess the previous year in Scotland – see entries for 19 and 25 August 1899. Mrs. Humphry Ward (1851-1920) was an influential novelist of the period. Her maiden name was Arnold, and she was a grand-daughter of Thomas Arnold, the headmaster of Rugby School. The writer Aldous Huxley (1894-1963) was her nephew. .

10 Jun. Collier's portrait finished.

Jun. 10 Rud sits during the morning o Mr. Collier who finishes the portrait. A most excellent likeness and liked by both of us being so simple and direct 9n its treatment.

12 Jun. Lunch with Henley at Worthing.

15 Jun. To Guildford to stay with the Stracheys.

Jun. 15 We leave by the 3.50 for Guildford via London to visit the ?? Stracheys.

The Stracheys (see 26 November 1899) lived at Merrow, just east of Guildford, below Merrow Down. There was a more direct route to Guildford from Brighton, but only by trains which stopped at every station. A non-stop express to London, and another to Guildford was quicker, if much longer,

16 Jun. A 30-mile drive through beautiful villages.

Strachey was also an enthusiastic motorist. The motor car opened up the English country in a way which the railway could not. This period perhaps marked the start of Kipling's love of England's countryside

17 Jun. (Sunday) The others to church: Rud and Carrie for a long walk [to Merrow Down]

He later used Merrow and its surroundings as the setting for two of the 'Just So Stories', 'How the First Letter was Written' and 'How the Alphabet was Made'. It was also the scene of a poem, 'Merrow Down', which can be described as an epitaph for his lost daughter Josephine.

18 Jun. Rud returns by way of Tisbury
The Relphs (*sic*) to stay

This was Julian Ralph, his American colleague from The Friend in Bloemfontein.



Julian Ralph

Jun. 18 We leave at 10, Rud going to Tisbury, I to come home.

Jun. 20 Rud returns at 3.15.

21 Jun. Rud sends a cheque to his father who is depressed and ill.

23 Jun. Mr. Scott, Australian delegate in appeal to Privy Council, calls (re Australian Confederation).
Also the Nortons.

The Australian colonies had already become self-governing, and in the 1890s had voted to unite. The following year, in 1901, they were federated under the British Crown as the [Commonwealth of Australia](#)

Philip Holberton, one of our members in Australia, concludes that Mr. Scott was a personal litigant in a case involving himself which had been referred on appeal to the Privy Council in London from the Supreme Court of NSW. Under the rules of the proposed constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, such an appeal would not have been permissible, and Scott, who lost his case before the Privy Council, which overturned an NSW verdict in his favour, had a vested interest in ensuring that the new constitution was passed. Presumably he came to consult with or lobby Kipling to use his influence to help ensure that it was passed (as, indeed, it was).

The Nortons were their friends from Boston, Charles and his daughter, Sallie.

28 Jun. A drive on the London Road as far as Cuckfield.

A journey of about 40 miles there and back. The present London road takes a more direct route: they would have driven to Brighton, then up via Hassocks, Burgess Hill and so to Cuckfield. Such journeys (rarely unaccompanied by mishaps) were part of the process by which Kipling 'discovered' England, as he explained in a letter to C E Norton, (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, p. 113).

(Working hard at *Kim*
Rifle Committee meetings)

3 Jul. Watt (*his agent*) sends down the m/s of *Mother Maturin* written in `85 [to see if it has suggestions](#).

Jul. 3 *Mother Maturin*, written in `85, is sent down from Watt to see if it has suggestions.

*Mother Maturin was the great novel he worked on intermittently for many years, but never finished. Kipling seems to have drawn on it for his work on *Kim*, but this manuscript has not survived.*

7 Jul. Florence Macdonald comes.

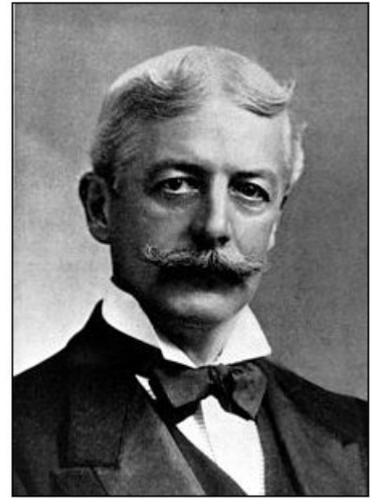
13 Jul. Motor drive to Arundel

A journey of some 60 miles there and back in the hired car – five hours travelling, plus stops for breakdowns – most often punctures or tyre blowouts.

14 Jul. George Wyndham calls.

George Wyndham was a Conservative politician who had been Under-Secretary of State for War under Lord Salisbury.

He was closely associated with Cecil Rhodes.



George Wyndham

17 Jul. Drive to Uckfield.

Not so far as Arundel, but hillier, starting to penetrate into the Weald, the forested land north of the Downs where Kipling was later to settle.

Jul. 17 A rare treat for me: I have an hour on the beach with the children. Rud does a little work on *Kim*. We go for a long drive together and alone in the afternoon – a happy experience.

Together, yes; but scarcely alone – the chauffeur was always present, and the car was an open one, so one had no privacy.

July 21 A disturbed evening, result of discovery that the woman in charge of milk supply of village has had diphtheria for three days.

Diphtheria is a bacteriological infection, usually affecting the throat, and can be fatal. (In Stalky and Co., 'A Little Prep', the tale revolves around the Head performing a deed of bravery in sucking the infected matter out of a day-boy's throat.) The risk of transmission through the village milk would have been very worrying, since the disease was particularly dangerous to children.

Vaccination was not available at this date, though by the 1920s it was generally available in the UK.

23 Jul. Drive to Haywards Heath to see a house: [it will not answer](#).

Haywards Heath is today a dormitory town in mid-Sussex – then it was little more than a village, smaller than the adjacent Cuckfield which they had visited three-four weeks earlier. The lack of privacy at Rottingdean was becoming irksome, much as he liked having Aunt Georgie at hand: and it may be suggested that Carrie had a hankering after having her own house again.

27 Jul. Papers arrive from ‘Naulakha’.

This, it may be suggested, is another indication that when they left ‘Naulakha’ four years earlier, they had not then decided that they would not return. In September, a few weeks later, , Carrie wrote to Frederick Norton Finney, the railway owner who had provided information for Captains Courageous, of their intention to sell Naulakha as they did not wish to return to it.[Mary Cabot’s Memoir, quoted in KJ 351 p. 22 by Mike Kipling.]

1 Aug. Rud goes to town to testify before the S. African Hospitals Committee and returns feeling his efforts to be of no avail.

The South African Hospitals Committee had been set up on 19 July “to consider and report upon the care and treatment of the sick and wounded during the South African campaign.”

Medical provision for the troops in S. Africa had initially been pretty ad hoc. The committee’s report appeared in January 1901.

2 Aug. *Kim* is now taking shape. [Very well it goes](#).

Aug. 3 Pater turns up in the morning . . . on the whole an interrupted day, as usual.

4 Aug. Great conference on *Kim* with Pater and Sallie Norton.

7 Aug. *Kim* finished. Pater starts on the illustrations.

Aug. 7 Pater leaves to start on *Kim* illustrations.

8 Aug. Mr Baker from the Cape and Vicomte Robert d'Humières.

Aug. 8 The French translator of Rud's books comes for tea; Vicomte Robert d'Humières.

Mr. Baker was 'The Woolsack's' architect, Robert d'Humières (1868-1915) was a Franco-American man of letters and translator (he collaborated with Louis Fabulet of a French translation of The Jungle Book).

He also wrote Through Isle and Empire which is credited to him and Kipling jointly. This seems to have been a study of Great Britain and the British Empire in India. It was published in 1904 in French, and was later translated into English for publication in Britain and America.



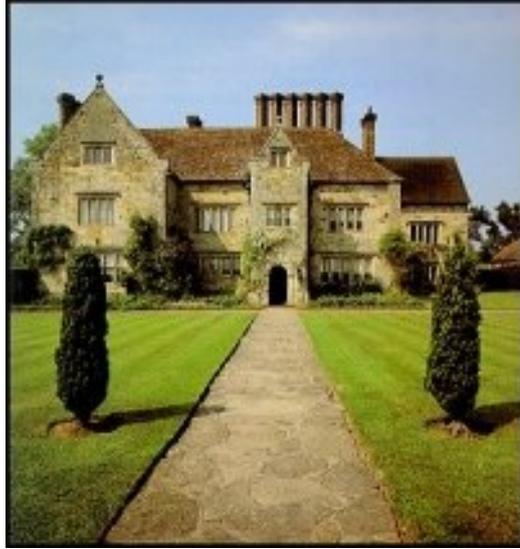
Robert d'Humieres

Aug. 10 Mr. Baker and Ambo leave. Rud goes to his work and I to mine which is heavy with a house full and work delayed. Rud goes to meet his mother.

Even with the help of household servants, Carrie undoubtedly had her hands full with a steady stream of visitors as well as two young children.

14 Aug. A hot fine day. By train to Etchingam where we take fly (a cab which plied for hire from the station) and drive to Burwash and on to see a Jacobean house, the most thoroughly delightful and (a?) perfect of its sort . . . on to Battle where we see a deadly failure of a house.

Aug. 14 We leave for Etchingam where we take fly and drive to Burwash and on to see a Jacobean house, the most thoroughly delightful and perfect of its sort.



This was their first sight of Bateman's, which was to be their home until Kipling's death in 1936. In Something of Myself, Kipling wrote that their first journey to Burwash had been in the Locomobile, but evidently this was not so.

It must have been a long day. The distance from Rottingdean to Bateman's by road today is about 29 miles. The railway journey is more circuitous, and involved train from Brighton to St. Leonards or Hastings (possibly with a change at Lewes en route), then a train from Hastings to Etchingam: with good connections a minimum of two hours. Then the three-mile gently up-hill drive from Etchingam to Burwash, and the half-mile dive into the Dudwell valley, probably forty minutes. In all, it would have been about three hours.

Allowing for a minimum of half an hour at Bateman's, and a slower return to Etchingam (the first up-hill leg would have taxed the poor horse), and allowing an hour-and-a-half for the abortive stop-over at Battle (two stations back down towards Hastings), the return from Bateman's to Rottingdean must have taken about four-and-a-half hours.

16 Aug. Carrie gives away prizes at the village flower show.

17 Aug. **Kim** going into proof.
i.e, it was to be sent to the printers for its first typesetting.

Aug. 17 The first batch of proofs of *Kim* go to America

18 Aug. A drive across the Downs to (A)Friston.
We talk Burwash.

Clearly, they were taken with 'Bateman's'

Aug. 27 Swiftest of Journeys from Paddington. Aunt Louie and Mr. Baldwin delightfully welcoming.

Aug, 30 Leave at 12.30 for London and home by 5.40 train. Motor smashes at the bottom of the hill.

It is unclear whether this was merely a mechanical breakdown, or whether they had a collision or other accident. At all events, they seem to have been unhurt and undiscouraged.

28 Aug. Visit to the Baldwins

Presumably at Wilden – see our entry for 12 July 1898. Mr. Baldwin was an MP as well as a major industrialist, and he and Kipling evidently discussed South African affairs, which resulted in a letter in the Daily Express – see PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp. 30-1).

3 Sep. The Mackail children.

We have met Angela before: she was now accompanied by her brother Denis, two years her junior. The letter cited immediately above reveals that the younger Baldwin children were also present in the village – possibly this was the occasion, described in Something of Myself, p. 137, of “packing farm-carts filled with mixed babies – Stanley Baldwin's and ours – and despatching them into the safe clean heart of the motherly Downs for jam-smearred picnics.”

6 Sep. The Edward Carsons.

Carson (1854-1935) had just been awarded a knighthood in May 1900, and so was now Sir Edward Carson. He was a barrister and an Ulster Unionist politician.



As a barrister Carson had a formidable reputation with a string of high-profile successes to his name (among them, the Oscar Wilde v. Lord Queensberry libel case, which destroyed Wilde, who after further trials was jailed for gross indecency.)

8 Sep. Rud meets [an old Indian editor friend](#) at the Metropole.

Possibly Stephen Wheeler, his first and very demanding chief on the CMG (?) 'The Metropole' was one of London's big hotels, at the Embankment end of Northumberland Avenue.

11 Sep. A 'Just So Story' on the origin of handwriting. (Shooting most evenings.) (*The story was 'How the Alphabet was Made'.*)



*the old Rifle Range at Cissbury Ring on the Sussex Downs
courtesy of Valerie Martin (www.findonvillage.com)*

The shooting was on the rifle range. Kipling had established two rifle ranges in the village: one, a 1000 yard range in the Downs nearby, and a second, 65-yard range, on land he owned in the village (this was probably limited to 0.22 rifle shooting.

Sep. 13 Rud finishes last nine pages of proofs of *Kim* for Macmillan

19 Sep. Working on the 'Neolithic Ladies'.

This was the other of the two stories using prehistoric Merrow as its setting: 'How the First Letter was Written'.

21 Sep. Sees George Macdonald about Bateman's.

Sep. 21 We go to London. Rud sees George Macdonald about Bateman's which today looks more hopeful.

They had decided they wanted to buy the house.

22 Sep. Verses about "The Young Queen".

This was a poem about the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia, which was due to take place on 01 January 1901. See Mary Hamer's notes on the poem in NRG.

23 Sep. Disappointment about Bateman's.

Sep. 23 Opens with a disappointment - a letter about Bateman's

The owner had just let it for a further twelve months. (Then, as now, house purchase could be a stressful business.)

24 Sep. To Hawkhurst – an old out-at-elbows Jacobean House – dream of beauty. [Probably Great Wigsell, afterwards the home of Lady Milner.]



Great Wigsell Manor

Great Wigsell lies about eight miles east of Bateman's, on higher ground just inside Sussex: the house is not dissimilar to Bateman's to look at.

26 Sep. Shoots on the new Rifle Range.
(There has been much fussing about this.)

The idea that every able-bodied man should be able to shoot was not universally popular in the village.

28 Sep. Rud goes to lunch with L S Amery and Moberly Bell.

Both of The Times.

5 Oct. More legal business over the lawsuit.

The dispute with Putnams.

8 Oct. Edith Macdonald.

9 Oct. Rud makes a speech at the Conservative meeting at Tisbury for Mr. Morison. (*His name was, in fact, spelt with two 'r's – see below*).

Parliament had been dissolved on 25 September, and the resulting General Election was held (as was usual at that time) over a four week period. The Conservative Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, calculated that since (it was thought) the Boer War had been won, now was the time to go to the country, and the resulting election was generally known as the 'khaki election'.

Tisbury was in the Wilton constituency, and the successful candidate was the Conservative, James Archibald Morrison

12 Oct. We try an American automobile . . . rather good.

*This was the 'Locomobile'. Her vagaries were well described in "**Steam Tactics**", (**Traffics and Discoveries**.) See NRG for Alastair Wilson's notes on the story.*

16 Oct. Rud re-elected President of the Rifle Range Committee.

19 Oct. Navy League meeting. Rud in the chair.
(They don't like Georgian houses 18th Oct.)

Evidently, this was a house-hunting decision. Possibly it was Carrie's view, rather than Kipling's, since, in 'An Habitation Enforced' (Actions and Reactions), his heroine, although an American, speaks approvingly of the house, 'Pardons', built in The 'Colonial' style (American for 'Georgian'.)

23 Oct. Rud at work on his naval yarn.

We cannot be sure, but this was probably 'The Bonds of Discipline', the first of the 'Pycroft' stories in chronological sequence of events narrated, but the second to be published, in August 1903. See notes by AJW on The Pycroft Stories in NRG (General Articles)

31 Oct. The present HM (*Head Master*) of Westward Ho to lunch. [US College]

('Crom' Price had retired in 1894).

1 Nov. To Leamington to stay with Wolcott cousins.

Nov. 1 We leave at 10 for Leamington to visit Wolcott's cousins

These were the Lows, Willie and Juliette ('Daisy') who lived in opulence at Wellesbourne Hall near Stratford-upon-Avon. (see LYCETT, p.329-330). The exact degree of kinship is not mentioned – but if they were Wolcott's cousins, they must also have been Carrie's.

2 Nov. To Stratford

Presumably for some Shakespeare tourism.

3 Nov. Return laden with presents and a Persian cat to find Trix and Aunt Edith in the nursery.
(Mrs. K. and Aunt Trix staying with Auntie Georgie.)

Nov. 3 We leave at 10. Rud goes to Tisbury. I return to find Trix Fleming and Aunt Edith in the nursery. Mrs. Kipling is at Aunt Georgie's.

Nov. 6 I leave at 11 for Tisbury, Rud meets me. We have a pleasant visit with the pater.

Nov. 7 We go to Shaftesbury to see a place; beautiful, but not possible.
Return home by the 3.10, greeted by all.

While it might have suited Rudyard to have had the pater close by, for consultations and illustrations, we cannot believe that, even if there had been a slight thawing in Carrie's relationship with her mother-in-law, she would have relished having her so close (Tisbury n Shaftesbury ae about six miles apart.)

12 Nov. Starting a story of Army Reform.

This was "The Army of a Dream."

Nov. 15 Rud works on his Jungle play. He goes to Goring Castle to see a house called the Chantry.

This Goring is in West Sussex, barely twenty miles away, but Kipling seems to have made a two-day trip of it.

Nov. 16 Rud being away, I avail myself of the chance to put his room to rights. He returns at 5.30.

We wonder is he had gone by car, and suffered one of the frequent time-consuming breakdowns to which early motors were prone.

17 Nov. Village celebrations for a returned soldier.

Nov. 19 Rud goes to Tisbury.

Nov. 21 I go to meet Rud.

2 Dec. Rud works on an unpublishable poem about Kitchener.
(Working on a play.)

The poem never was in fact published, But (see from PINNEY, Poems, Vol. III, Kipling enjoyed writing limericks, many of which were not, shall we say, in the best of taste. He did not like Kitchener – he referred to him later (see our entry for 13 Mar. `13) as a "fatted pharaoh in spurs."

Power of Attorney to FND over 'Naulakha'.

They were distancing themselves from Brattleboro.

Dec. 3 We drive together to Brighton to see a notary and get a Power of Attorney for Mr. Doubleday in respect to the contents of Naulakha and the house and grounds in case we sell while in Africa.

They were continuing to follow the advice he had been given after his pneumonia nearly two years previously, and were about to set out for the Cape again.

8. Dec. To Southampton in the rain. Aboard ship. Abe Bailey a passenger. (Rud writing 'The Army of a Dream')

They were off to the Cape again, as they would do, as a family, for the following seven years, staying in the house which Rhodes had built for their use.

Abe Bailey was Sir Abraham Bailey (1864-1940), South African-born, of mixed Yorkshire/Scottish descent, He was a diamond magnate, financier, politician, and first-class cricketer.



Sir 'Abe' Bailey

Dec. 8 A nasty wet journey. Pater meets us and goes to see about his and his family's passages. A late start.

Evidently pater and Mrs. Kipling were going with them.

Christmas Day Arrive Cape Town. A note from Rhodes to say all ready. Carriages to meet them. The Woolsack a **dream of beauty**, equipped and staffed. (Met Rhodes every day.)

They stayed at 'The Woolsack' every (English) winter until April 1908.

Dec. 25 We land at 11.

31 Dec. Bothering war news and a general call to arms in the colony.

Although the Boer forces in the field (the original 'commandos') had been effectively defeated and both the Orange Free State and Transvaal occupied, an unpleasant guerrilla war was continuing, and went on for another sixteen months. There were too many Cape Dutch in Cape Colony (and some of British stock) who were unenthusiastic about the war, so the "general call to arms" was not well received. And Kipling had no time at all for those Colonists who accepted the benefits of British rule, but who were not prepared actively to support it.

(No coda this year.)

[C.K./C.C./A.J.W./J.R.]