

The Rees and Carrington Extracts  
From the diaries of  
Caroline Kipling

1901

**1901**

1 Jan. Mr. Gwynne to lunch.



*Howell Gwynne*

*Howell Gwynne, the distinguished war correspondent, editor, and good friend of Kipling for many years.*

*See the entries for 10 April 1900 and (later) 20 February 1903.*

**Jan. 1** Mr. Gwynne calls

10 Jan. Rhodes, Jameson and Baker call; (he sees them repeatedly and Sir D. Gill): all go to Muizenberg.

*Sir David Gill (1848-1914) was a distinguished Scottish astronomer, Director of the Cape Observatory from 1879 to 1906. A meticulous observer, he used observations of Mars to determine the distance of the Sun from the Earth, and also made measurements of distances to the stars.*



*Sir David Gill*

*Muizenberg is a seaside resort on the north side of Simons Bay. Its beach became a favourite place for the Kipling children.*

(A quiet social time, many calls and callers.)

R. writing "*Science of Rebellion*".

*"The Science of Rebellion" was a diatribe against the Cape Dutch, and the Afrikaner 'Bond', whom Kipling despised. It was published as a leaflet for the Imperial South African Association in London and in the New York Tribune, but was not collected until it appeared in the 'Sussex' and 'Burwash' editions. See John Radcliffe's notes on the article in NRG.*

1 Feb. [Lunch with Mr. Rhodes to meet the Archbishop. We discuss in conclave the interesting conditions of Mr Rhodes' 'Oxford Scholarships'.](#)

*This was the origin of the 'Rhodes Scholarships', which were (and remain) available to selected post-graduate students from America, the British colonies (Dominions) and Germany (German students were excluded 1914-1929 and 1940-1969).*

*The Archbishop was the Anglican Archbishop of Capetown, William West Jones (1838-1908).*



*The Archbishop of Capetown*

10 Feb. Rud writing to *The Times* about a 'gun' that has arrived in a ship.

*We cannot find that such a letter or article was published in The Times.*

13 Feb. Rhodes sends us [the lion cub to see if we can rear it.](#)

**Feb. 13** Mr. Rhodes sends up the lion cub to see if we can rear it.

*Rhodes had a menagerie at 'Groote Schuur'. Among the animals was a newly-born lion cub which was not thriving with its own mother, so he sent it across to the Kiplings, for Elsie and John to bottle-feed. They named him 'Sullivan' and successfully reared him until he was restored to health, and was becoming more lion than cub. See Something of Myself pp. 171-2.*

Rud learning shorthand.

Writing "The Lesson" and seeing Rhodes almost every day.

*"The Lesson" was written as a 'wake-up' call to Great Britain, basking (perhaps 'wallowing' would be a better word), in late-Victorian complacency. See Mary Hamer's notes on the poem in NRG.*

*It is interesting that either Carrie did not record it, or Carrington did not think it worthy of record himself, but Queen Victoria had died only three weeks earlier, marking the end of an era which, in economic terms had ended 25 years earlier, when British production of iron and steel, the raw material of Britain's pre-eminent position as 'the workshop of the world', had been overtaken by Germany's.*

**Feb. 16** Lion flourishes so far. Rud does short hand practice 2 hours. This has been going on for three weeks with great success.

6 March [The saddest day of our year.](#)

**Mar. 6** The saddest day of our year. (Note – Josephine died 2 years ago)

10 Mar. Invested £3500 in War Loan.

*War Loan was a Government stock, created to pay for the South African War, £30,000,000, repayable after 10 years, and paying 2¾%. It was offered directly to the public, and an investment in War Loan was seen as something of a patriotic duty. In today's (2014) money, Kipling was investing £250,000 – he was unquestionably a rich man.*

**Mar. 10** I write Watt sending him cheque for RK's income-tax and £3500 to invest.

13 Mar. R. starts "A Sahib's War".

*This was a story of the war, seen through the eyes of a Sikh soldier who is in South Africa “on leave” as the servant of an English cavalry officer of the Indian Army, also “on leave”. It was published later in the year and collected in Traffics and Discoveries (1904). See John McGivering’s notes on the tale in NRG.*

14 Mar Lunch at Groote Schuur with about 60 Australian and New Zealand officers.

*It may be noted as a coincidence, that, in “A Sahib’s War”, the Indian Army officer, Kurban Sahib, who is the subject of the tale, joins up with a troop of Australian light horse.*

19 Mar. The Baden Powells call.



*Robert Baden-Powell*

*Baden Powell (1857-1941), was, at this time, Major-General Baden-Powell, the hero of the defence of Mafeking (October 1899-May 1900). He later became Lord Baden-Powell, and is renowned as the founder of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide (now Girl Scout) movement.*

26 Mar. “*Bridge-Guard in the Karoo*” (sic) – the title as published is spelled ‘Karoo’, though today the area is called ‘The Great Karoo’.

*This poem was published in June 1901 before collection in The Five Nations (1903). The Karoo is a semi-desert area between the coastal areas of the Cape and Natal and the high veldt, crossed by the main railway line from the Cape to the north and east. See Mary Hamer’s notes on the poem in NRG.*

30 Mar. “*How the Leopard got his Spots*”.

*Another of the Just So Stories.*

2 Apr. Baden Powell and his sister call.

5 Apr. His verses called “[South] Africa.”

*These verses were collected in The Five Nations. They express the contradictory attractions of the land to the settler, and, in this editor’s view, would scarcely have made good copy for an advertisement encouraging young men to come and settle in the country.*

*In 1906, Kipling wrote a very different set of verses, also titled “South Africa”, after the Liberal Government in London decided to return responsible government to the Boers, which Kipling regarded as a betrayal. After publication in two newspapers, this latter poem was not collected until PINNEY Poems.*

Mr. Gwynne to call, and the Mackays (Australians)

*“The Mackays” were Lieutenant-Colonel James Alexander Kenneth Mackay (1859-1935), who after an extremely active nine months commanding the 6<sup>th</sup> NSW Imperial Bushmen Regiment, had suffered a bad fall, and became the very effective Chief Staff Officer for all Australian units in South Africa. Presumably his wife had joined him in S. Africa*

8 Apr. End of Mr. Gwynne’s visit. [Such a nice man and very keen for the game of empire.](#)

**Apr. 8** Rud and the family much enjoy Mr. Gwynne’s visit (2 days) – a nice man and very keen for the game of Empire.

*Gwynne’s call on the 5<sup>th</sup> April had evidently been extended into a two-day stay. Carrie’s phrase “the game of empire” is a telling one. Was she echoing Rudyard? Or was it her American view of the politics of empire (as seen from the very limited viewpoint of the Rhodes/Milner circle)?*

*‘The family’ presumably refers to the fact that the Pater and Mrs. Kipling had evidently accompanied them to the Cape, although, other than the mention in our entry of **Dec. 8 1900**, they have not appeared in the diaries during this visit.*

*Gwynne was later Editor (1911-1937) of the Morning Post, a right-wing broadsheet newspaper. In 1937 it was merged with the Daily Telegraph.*

9 Apr. Dined at Government House. The Hely-Hutchinsons, pleasant folk.

*Government House was the residence of the Governor of Cape Colony. Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson (1849-1913) was the newly appointed Governor replacing Milner who had been both High Commissioner and Governor, but who now relinquished Governorship of Cape Colony on being made Governor of the Transvaal and Orange Free State Colonies.*



*Walter Hely-Hutchinson*

*As Governor, Hely-Hutchinson represented the Crown, while the High Commissioner represented the British government. Sir Walter had made a career of colonial administration, having been successively Lieut. Governor of Malta, Governor of the Windward Islands, and Governor of Natal and Zululand, before translation to the Cape.*

13 Apr Col. Mackay and a dozen Australians to tea. "M.I."

*The South African war showed the need for mobility to match that of the Boer commandos: so 'Mounted Infantry' (M.I.) were created. The colonial troops, Australian, Canadian and New Zealand were found to be particularly adept at this form of warfare. See Mary Hamer's notes in the NRG in the poem "M.I."*

17 Apr. [Leave dear Woolsack.](#)

[Apr. 17](#) Leave dear Woolsack at 11. Sail on the *Briton* at 4.45.

*The Briton was, despite her name, a ship of the newly-formed Union Castle line*

3 May Southampton before 10.30. Home 6 p.m.

May 3            Reach Southampton before 10.30. Lame and unable to walk. All bother falls on Rud. Reach Brighton 5.5.

*However good the organisation and the priority accorded to 1<sup>st</sup> class passengers, it would have taken 2-3 hours before their substantial amount of baggage would have been ready for clearance by customs. They probably took lunch on board before clearing customs, and then took a train to Brighton (having to change at Fratton), and a horse-drawn cab (or two – their party was five or six strong - from Brighton to Rottingdean.*

8 May            R. goes to the drill-shed to practice.

*At the time of the war scare in 1859, when Napoleon III was flexing French muscles, and had built a powerful armour-plated battle fleet, a number of volunteer corps were formed. 'Drill sheds' were built in which drills and training could be carried out in hours of darkness and bad weather: the resulting solidly built, Victorian, brick buildings still exist in army use for territorial units in many towns. The Rottingdean shed would have been a smaller affair, probably of wood and/or corrugated iron.*

13 May           R. goes to the New Gallery to see his picture.

*This would have been the new portrait by Collier (see various entries 19 May – 10 June 1900). The New Gallery was in Regent Street in the West End of London. It opened in 1888, but ceased to be an art gallery after 1910. It became successively a restaurant and then a cinema (this editor remembers going there in 1942 to see the Disney film Bambi!) It is now (2014) a store for Burberry.*

May 13           We go to London for the day, Rud to his club. We meet at the New Gallery to see his portrait.

19 May           His R.A. song. (“Ubique”?)

*Carrington seems to have been slightly dubious about the identification, but PINNEY (and this editor also) firmly identifies it as “Ubique”.*

*The poem was first published in The Five Nations, some two years later. See the notes on the poem in NRG by Mary Hamer and Roger Ayers.*

*'Ubique' (Everywhere) is the motto of the Royal Artillery, and expresses their ubiquity in supporting the infantry, and as the Royal Horse Artillery, the cavalry. There was also the Royal Garrison Artillery who manned the fixed defences at home and in garrison towns abroad (e.g. Bermuda, Gibraltar, Malta.)*

20 May Jack Mackail to tea.

*See the entry for 3 Nov 1899.*

22 May Loses Putnam suit (*Times*, 23 May, p. 9)]

*See the entries for 2 October 1899, and 19 Jan and 5 Oct 1900.*

25 May Sat. They win a village shooting match.

*Kipling wrote a tale about the two village rifle ranges, "The Parable of Boy Jones", first published in 1910, and collected in Land and Sea Tales for Scouts and Guides. See John McGivering's notes in NRG,*

26 May Mr. Landon calls.

*The journalist and close friend of Kipling's.*

1 June Rud [works on Friend Ritual](#). [The Bloemfontein *Friend* Society]

*Landon and Ralph had suggested that the journalists who worked on The Friend of Bloemfontein should form a club and Kipling undertook to produce a 'ritual', along the lines of a Masonic lodge. See March 17<sup>th</sup> 1900 and LYCETT p. 327.*

**June 4** Pater arrives from Florence.

7 June [Rud goes to the police court to testify](#). (?)

**June 7** Go to town in the morning. Rud goes to the police court to testify.

*Carrington was unable to identify the nature of the case, but See our entry for **June 28** below.*

- June 8** Return by 4.30 train.
- June 10** Pater leaves
- 14 June Carrie warned she must have an operation.
- June 14** We go up to London. We . . . stop with the Goldmans.

*Carrie was thought to have a gynaecological problem. But the diagnosis was altered, and no operation was needed. The episode did not improve Carrie's fits of depression.*

*'The Goldmans' do not appear elsewhere in the Extracts, Carrington or Rees. We believe that they were Charles Goldman (1868-1958) and his wife, Hon. Alice Goldman, a grand-daughter of Sir Robert Peel. He was South African born, and a prominent 'uitlander', entrepreneur and journalist, who later became a British MP*

- June 15** Rud and I drive to Kew with Conan Doyle and the Bensons.

*For Conan Doyle – see Index. We cannot identify 'the Bensons' with certainty. We had thought they might have been Arthur Benson, who wrote the words to 'Land of Hope and Glory, but he never married.*

- June 16** Home by the 11 (o'clock) train.
- June 17** Mrs. Kipling arrives.
- 18 June The new motor arrives - most beautiful.



*A four-seater 'Locomobile'*

**June 18** The new motor arrives at noon, a most excellent and beautiful carriage.

*The was the American 'Locomobile' steam car whose foibles are well described in "Steam Tactics" (Traffics and Discoveries). Certainly, if theirs was like the one illustrated, we can understand Carrie's enthusiasm: elegant it most certainly was, but scarcely suited to British weather. See Alastair Wilson's notes on the story in NRG. They had tried a steam car the previous 12 October.*

(Rud working on a *Jungle Book* play.)

*He had been working on this for several months (see our entry for 2 December 1900.) The play's existence is also mentioned in the 'Rees Extracts', made for Lord Birkenhead's rejected biography. (See the article on "Kipling's Biographers" by Lisa Lewis in NRG.) The play was never produced at the time, and was 'lost' until it re-surfaced among Kipling's papers at Sussex University in the late 1970s/early 1980s. It has since been published (Allen Lane, the Penguin Press, 2000)*

**June 22** We take Mrs. Kipling to the station.

**June 23** Rud works on 'Jungle' play.

*See our note on the 'Carrington extract' immediately above.*

**June 28** Rud in court about the woman frauds again.

*(There is a manuscript note alongside this entry "Radziwill?") There is no other indication of what the case might have been, nor of who was involved. However, Birkenhead makes a passing reference to the "evil influence exerted on Rhodes in his decline by his friend Princess Radziwill", and the lady's on-line entry records that she had been in trouble in London over a fraudulent claim about a necklace at some time in 1900-01. It seems quite likely that the Kiplings had met her with Rhodes at some time in 1900 or 1901, in South Africa. Shortly after Rhodes' death she was convicted of forging his signature on a Bill of Exchange, and was imprisoned.*

July 1 We leave at 2.30 for town to stop with the Baldwins.

*In a letter to Carrie's mother, dated the dated July 5, (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, p. 61). Kipling mentions this event. They were staying with Aunt Louisa and Uncle Alfred and dined at the House of Commons, where they met Gustav Wolff, of the shipbuilders Harland & Wolff, who was also an MP.*

July 2 Rud has lunch at his club, meets me at 3.40 and we return together. Thrown out of hansom going to the station.

*The collision or accident must have been fairly violent – a hansom cab had half doors which enclosed the passengers' legs.*

6 July A motor-picnic with the Stracheys in St. Leonard's Forest.

*Kipling mentions this picnic in the same letter to Carrie's mother as that cited above. The locomobile (alias 'Coughing Jane' or 'The Holy Terror') had misbehaved herself on a trip to Brighton earlier in that week, and had had to go into a workshop. In the letter, Kipling says they are about to take her for a trial run, because they are to meet the Stracheys for a picnic the next day at Handcross, and he prays "that Coughing Jane doesn't disgrace herself". Evidently she didn't, but the journey would have been 30 miles there and 30 back – quite some adventure, given the Locomobile's unreliability. We may suggest that this meeting provided the germ of the tale 'Steam Tactics', in which the narrator is taking his steam car to meet a friend with a petrol motor in mid-Sussex.*

Carrie ill with a nurse. The children at Crowborough. Rud yachting at Sandown, a long cruise on south coast. Writing verse for *Kim*.

(But for Carrie's illness, a quiet uneventful summer.)

*Carrie needed a rest from her children and husband. A cottage was hired at Crowborough – high on a Wealden ridge, between Rottingdean and Tunbridge Wells and the children packed off there with their nanny.*

*Rud's "yachting" was, in fact, a short trip on board HMS Nile. as the guest of her second-in-command, Commander Henry Clarke. All this, including Carrie's 'rest cure' with a nurse, was all pre-planned, and Kipling set it out in the letter to Anna Balestier cited above.*

*However, Carrie's being 'run-down' turned into full-blown depression, and BIRKENHEAD, pp. 235-6, using the Rees extracts from Carrie's diaries, quotes all her entries describing her extreme depression at this time, and LYCETT suggests that this particular bout marked a turning point in her relationship with Kipling, turning her from a helpmeet to, one might say, a burden.*

July 9 Tiddleworth. Petersfield.

*However, before Kipling and the children went their several ways, leaving Carrie at home with the nurse, who was to give her massage sessions, they took the locomobile on another adventurous run, going as far as Wiltshire. The first day took them some 60 miles, to Petersfield, via Fittleworth (we know of no village called Tiddleworth, and Fittleworth lies on the main road, now the A272, which runs east-west across Sussex and into Hampshire, through Petersfield and Winchester)*

July 10 Winchester, Romsey.

*35 miles or so, today*

July 11 Tisbury, Salisbury

*We assume that they went first to Tisbury to show off to his parents, then back to Salisbury. (Tisbury lies some ten miles west of Salisbury, up the Nadder valley.)*

July 12 Southampton. Leave together for Eastleigh, separate there. Rud returns to Tisbury, I come home.

*This editor is quite astounded that the Kiplings had even contemplated such an extensive tour. In mid-July, one might expect that the weather would be reasonable, but the passengers were totally unprotected, and would have needed the full panoply of dustcoats and goggles, veils and hats or caps.*

*And with the roads still unmade up, and having suffered some 60-70 years of casual neglect, the toll on tyres and suspension was frightful, to say nothing of the shocks to the machinery. Kipling was on his way westward, probably to Portland, to join HMS Nile. It seems highly likely that he based the introductory scene of ‘Their Lawful Occasions’, in which the narrator joins HMS Pedantic, “the leader of the second line”, on his experience of joining Nile.*

July 13 Wires from Rud.

July 14 Two letters from Rud from Tisbury.

July 15 Four wires from Rud.

July 16 4 wires from Rud. He returns to Tisbury which appals me. My nurse comes. A night of agony.

*This was where the first indications of Carrie’s bout of depression appear. (Is the “agony” physical or mental?) In the Extracts as they remain to us, there is no indication of any particular trigger for Carrie’s suffering, though Kipling’s presence at Tisbury certainly had something to do with it. Birkenhead describes this series of diary entries as “extraordinarily jerky” – he does not refer to them as ‘extracts’, and it can be suggested that these rather staccato entries are the complete diary for this period.*

July 17 Rud goes to see Willoughby Manor. I sink down leagues in my declining stride to reach my actual physical state when not braced by necessity. An awful ghost to live with.

*They were still house-hunting, and evidently Kipling was quite keen to find a property somewhere near his parents. We cannot identify Willoughby Manor, but the Willoughby family had been prominent local landowners and it seems quite likely that there was a Manor house of that name near to Tisbury.*

*Nor is Carrie’s description of her own feelings clear, other than that she was in considerable mental and physical distress.*

July 18 Down and down I go. Rud writes from Tisbury.

July 19 Still down. Rud in Tisbury.

- July 20 Still down. Rud rejoins his ship and get into her this evening.
- July 21 Still more down in body, my mind doing a series of acts in a circus beyond words to depict its horrors. Rud writes from Sandown Bay at anchor.
- July 22 Dreary enough. Rud at anchor off Brighton.
- July 26 Rud at Shillington.

*The manoeuvres were over, and Kipling had returned to house-hunting. We believe that this should have read 'Shillingstone', a village some twelve miles SW of Tisbury – the only 'Shillington' we can identify is in Bedfordshire. In a letter to Dr. Conland (CARRINGTON, p. 314, not included in PINNEY, Letters), Kipling talks of having been fishing with his father and looking at old houses in Wiltshire.*

- July 27 I remain stationary at the bottom depth physically.
- July 31 The children return very pleased to see me as I am to see them.
- Aug. 3 Rud goes to Tisbury. I cannot realise it – it has shocked me so.
- Aug. 4 Dreadful night trying to think out the black future.
- Aug. 5 Rud means to stop longer away.
- Aug. 6 A night of mental agony leaves me down in the bottom of the pit and well-nigh hopeless for the bleak future.
- Aug. 7 Rud arrives at 6 p.m. Great rejoicings.

*These last four entries suggest that Carrie's depression was, in part at least, associated with Kipling's absence.*

- 9 Aug. Carrie still ill and depressed.  
Rud writing "Diego Valdez" and "Broken Men".

*This, and the undated note after 6 July are the only record which Carrington took from the diaries of this particularly dark time in Carrie's life.*

"The Song of Diego Valdez" (see entry for 15 December 1899)

“The Broken Men” (*collected in The Five Nations.*) *A strange poem, this latter, describing the life of criminals (evidently financiers) who have fled overseas to countries which do not have extradition treaties with England, in order to avoid trial and conviction and the consequent destitution and shame for their families. We have been unable to find any reports of such a case in the English courts which might have been the catalyst for this poem. See Mary Hamer’s notes on the poems in NRG.*

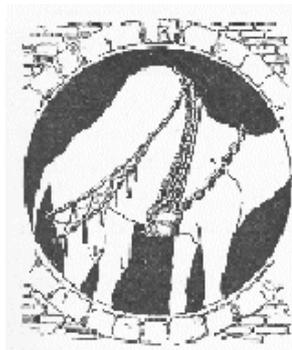
18 Aug. Sir E. Carson calls.

*See the entry for 6 September 1900.*

Aug, 22 Our nurse, Lucy Blandford, leaves our service . She had been with us for five years. Miss Parker, temporary, arrives to fill gap.

2 Sep. Rud doing drawings. Initials for *Just So Stories*.

*Each of the tales in Just So Stories has an elaborate initial letter, drawn by Kipling, as well as his other illustrations.*



How the Camel  
Got his Hump



The Butterfly  
that Stamped



How the First Letter  
was Written

Seo. 9 Mr. McClure makes a proposal for a big theatrical trust to dramatise ‘Soldiers Three’.

12 Sep. Begins his second naval story, and his story called “Wireless”.

*The naval story was “Their Lawful Occasions” (in this editor’s opinion, an inspired title) which was a long naval ‘jape’, as Beetle might have described it when at school. See Alastair Wilson’s notes on this tale in NRG, and John McGivering’s notes on ‘Wireless’.*

3 Oct. [Mr. Rhodes to tea.](#)

7 Oct. Crossed by Newhaven – to Paris with the Catlins, 22 rue de Varennes. They go for drives to Fontainebleau etc.

*We have already met the Catlins in America, but they were a cosmopolitan family.*

*Julia Catlin (right) was at this time married to Trevor Park, and later (1917) married a French General Emile Taufflieb.*

*The rue de Varennes address was the Catlins', and the Kiplings were visiting Paris as their guests. See the entry for 1 March 1894.*



*Julia Taufflieb*

Oct. 7 We leave The Elms at 1015 for Newhaven to go to Paris. Arrive about 7.30. (Dressmakers, motor drives and dinners.)

12 Oct. Return to Newhaven.

Oct. 12 (Home)

*The crossing from Newhaven to Dieppe gave the shortest route between London and Paris, at the expense of a four-hour sea crossing as opposed to one hour, Dover-Calais.*

*“Reformers” in The Times,*

*This poem, also published in The New York Tribune, and later collected in The Five Nations, was another of Kipling’s ‘wake-up’ calls to England, though rather less explicit than “The Lesson”. His view is that men who have fought in South Africa will bring back lessons of self-reliance they have learned in the field, to the immense benefit of England. See Mary Hamer’s notes on the poem in NRG. Today we say Great Britain when referring to the United Kingdom, but it was far less common a hundred years ago.*

*When Kaiser Wilhelm's Germans sang their 'Hymn of Hate' in 1914 it was 'Gott strafe England', not 'Gott strafe Gross Britannien'.*

17 Oct. Working with Aunt Georgie on the life of B-J

*Aunt Georgie (right) published, in 1904, a two-volume Memorials of Edward Burne-Jones, who had died in 1898; her husband, and Kipling's much loved 'Uncle Ned'.*

*See the entries for 17-19 June, 1898.*



Oct. 30 Miss Anderson gives notice to our great consternation.

*Sara Anderson had very swiftly made herself indispensable to both Kiplings. She was leaving to look after her parents, and the Kiplings missed her quiet efficiency, and the fact that she and Carrie seemed to get on well together. They remained in touch for some time after Miss Anderson left.*

1 Nov. 'Banjo' Paterson, Australian poet, calls.

*They had met in Bloemfontein, although Paterson was not working on 'The Friend.' Paterson (1864-1941), who had written the words of "Waltzing Matilda", was sometimes described as 'the Australian Kipling'.*

*He was also regarded as Australia's unofficial poet laureate.*



*'Banjo' Paterson*

Nov. 2 Pater arrives.

Nov. 11 Pater leaves.

- 26 Nov. [An American driver to see if he can make the motor go.](#)
- 28 Nov. He gives her a ring as her 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary present.  
(28 November 1890 – was that when they first met? – CEC)
- Nov. 28** My 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary present arrives. A beauty (*sic*) emerald set as a ring.
- 3 Dec. [A letter from Lord Roberts on conscription.](#)
- 4 Dec. Conscription verses.

*Almost certainly “The Islanders”, published in The Times a month later. See LYCETT p. 340/1, and Mary Hamer’s notes on the poem in NRG.*

“The Crab that played . . .”

“The Crab that Played with the Sea”: *almost the last of the Just So Stories.*

*See Lisa Lewis’s notes on the stories in NRG.*



- 9 Dec. Goes to London to see Roberts.

*Roberts’s letter on 3 December had been to ask Kipling to produce some stirring verses to encourage the campaign for national conscription, which Roberts supported. This visit was presumably to discuss the results, and how to deploy them to the best effect.*

- Dec. 16** Rud leaves at 11 for town and an overnight visit to his people.

- Dec. 17** Go to meet Rud.

- 19 Dec. Motor verses. The Mackails for Christmas.

*The verses were the first of 14 short poems in “The Muse among the Motors”.*

*They did not appear (in the Daily Mail) until February 1904. See the notes on the series in NRG by John McGivering and John Radcliffe.*

*The Kiplings were about to make their annual pilgrimage to South Africa, and would be spending Christmas Day at sea. Presumably the idea was for the Kipling and Mackail children to enjoy an early family Christmas together.*

21 Dec. Sail from Southampton.

*They would have been abreast Gibraltar on Christmas Day.*

Dec. 21 We make an early start, travelling by saloon to Southampton. Pater meets at Eastleigh. Start on SS *Kinfauns* at 5 p.m.

*They really were flashing their wealth about. The use of a private 'family saloon' was a great convenience. It would be ordered in advance, and would be attached to a nominated train, and worked through to its destination by the different companies over whose route the trains ran. If your journey needed changes of train (and the Kiplings journey from Brighton to Southampton would have needed at least two, at Fratton and Eastleigh), you (and the railway porters) were spared the necessity of trans-shipping the mountain of luggage you were taking with you (massive steamer trunks in the case of an overseas voyage, with a lengthy stay at your ultimate destination). At Eastleigh, their saloon would have been attached to the back of the boat train from Waterloo, or possibly worked forward to Southampton Docks by itself as a special train, so that the Kiplings would arrive in solitary state!*

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