

The Rees and Carrington Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1903

1903

Jan. At sea. They enjoy the voyage and make friends with Mr. Allen, a partner in Longman's, Green.

Longman, Green & Co. was an offshoot of the very old-established (1724) London publisher, Longman's. Longman, Green was based in New York.

13 Jan. Arrive Cape Town. To the Woolsack.

Jan. 13 Dock at 6.30 and we arrive at Woolsack at 10.

19 Jan. The children are given a terrier. Great joy.

21 Jan. They visit HMS *Good Hope*.



HMS Good Hope

Good Hope was a big, new, armoured cruiser, the flagship of the Cruiser Squadron, newly formed, which was visiting ports in the North and South Atlantic, as a flag-showing exercise. (Restoring the Empire's credit after the adverse publicity and early defeats in the Boer War.)

25 Jan. Dr. Jameson calls. RK working on “Dives”.

This was the poem “The Peace of Dives”, published in The Five Nations, later this year. See Mary Hamer’s notes in NRG.

2 Feb, Wage-slave verses.

It is suggested that this was the poem “The Wage Slaves”, also first appearing in The Five Nations. See Mary Hamer’s notes on the poem in NRG

9 Feb. Rud to Simonstown.

Probably a follow-up from their visit to HMS Good Hope two-and-a-half weeks earlier. He might also have been seeking local colour for the tale “Mrs. Bathurst” (Traffics and Discoveries), which was published at the end of 1904.

10 Feb. Proofs of *(The) Bonds of Discipline*.

Chronologically, the first of the ‘Pyecroft’ stories – it was first published in August 1903 in magazine form, and later collected in Traffics and Discoveries. See the notes by Alastair Wilson on this story and “Mrs Bathurst” in NRG.

13 Feb. Rud dines with Col Sturgis [at the mess at Wynberg with his old regiment.](#)

Feb. 13 Rud dines with Col. Sturgis at the Mess at Wynberg with his old regiment.

The 2nd Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers, whom Kipling had known at Mian Mir in the 1880s, had been in South Africa but were now back in the UK. Colonel Sturgis was the Commanding Officer of the newly raised 3rd Battalion, then at Wynberg, together with the 1st Battalion.

18 Feb. Joe Chamberlain speaking in Cape Town but Rud does not go to the meeting.

Chamberlain was still Colonial Secretary, and had followed a more conciliatory policy towards the Boers, and Cape Colony Afrikaners than Kipling liked – presumably that was why he did not attend the meeting. (See note below, 24 February.)

20 Feb. To High Constantia to the lunch given by the ministry to Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain. They seat us at the bottom of the farthest table by way of showing their contempt for us.

Feb. 20 We go to the lunch given by the Ministry to Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain. They seat us at the bottom of the farthest table by way of showing their contempt for us

Carrie clearly was not amused. But this was a local political occasion, and although Kipling had the ear of the government, he was only a visitor, albeit a famous one, and he was not a member of the local 'establishment', so it could have caused offence if he had been given a 'senior' place.

(Great talks with Mr. Gwynne.)

Gwynne, who was one of Reuter's News Agency's correspondents, was accompanying Chamberlain as a journalist. He and Kipling had already established a good relationship, based on a commonality of their political views, and they remained good friends and political allies until Kipling's death. Gwynne was one of the pall bearers at Kipling's funeral in 1936.

24 Feb. Banquet. Rud sits at the high table.

That's more like it! The banquet was a farewell banquet for Chamberlain who sailed for England the next day. Kipling wrote a long letter to Milner two days later, (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp. 125-8) about the political situation in South Africa as a result of the visit. Kipling was in no doubt that Chamberlain had betrayed the loyalists, and his letter to Milner was quite outspoken. (Milner, though still High Commissioner, had moved to become the Governor of both the Transvaal and Orange River Colony.)

28 Feb. "The Settlers" to be printed in the London Times.

The poem was printed as "The Settler" in The Times of 27 February 1903, and was collected in The Five Nations. Its subject was reconciliation in South Africa, though the implied influx of new Anglo-Saxon settlers cannot have greatly pleased the long-established Afrikaners.

(One of the problems, as seen by men of Kipling's political views, was that the hoped-for influx never came about, so that the Afrikaner remained the dominant influence) In the letter mentioned in the entry above, Kipling described the poem as "a peaceful and reconciliatory poem of the situation as it ought to be". He wrote a second letter to Milner on 21 April (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp. 132-5) which followed up the first. See Mary Hamer's notes on the poem in NRG.

3 Mar. Notices of *The Light* (that Failed) as a play. All favourable.

Mar. 3 Notices of *The Light* as a play come in. All favourable.

See entries for 15 June 1898 and 22 January 1899.

25-27 Mar. Rud and Carrie by train to Johannesburg. His first visit for 5 years. They stay, I think, with the Fitzpatricks

*See entry for 3 Dec. 1899.
'The Fitzpatricks' were Sir Percy and Lady Fitzpatrick. He was of Irish descent, born in Cape Colony, and although a Transvaal resident, had long promoted British Imperial interests. In 1907 he wrote Jock of the Bushveldt, and in 1919 he was credited with the idea of observing a minute's silence at 11.00 on 11 November- the moment when the Great War ended - a custom still observed in Britain today.*



Percy Fitzpatrick

29 Mar. Milner and others for supper.
Four hosts – Fitzpatrick, Bailey, Jameson, Metcalfe (?).

The Kiplings were clearly the hosts, so 'hosts' here must be an unintentional misreading of 'guests'. We have met Fitzpatrick, (Abe) Bailey and Jameson before. Metcalfe was most probably Sir Charles Herbert Theophilus Metcalfe, Bt, who was a descendant of an earlier British colonial administrator (India, Jamaica and Canada).

He was himself a civil engineer concerned with the building of railways in South Africa

2 Apr. Pretoria, sightseeing.
The C-in-C's house.

Presumably this was the house occupied by the Commander-in-Chief of Imperial troops in South Africa. This was no longer Kitchener, who had gone to India as Commander-in-Chief at the end of 1902.

5 Apr. Arrive Cape Town

13 Apr. Rud copies out six poems for his new volume of verse (F.N.) [Five Nations]

On 10 April, Kipling had written to Gwynne saying "I am up to my ears in verses, and you'll suffer for 'em on board ship . . ." (They would be travelling home together on Kinfauns Castle.)

19 Apr. "Piet"



This poem was written in admiration for the fighting qualities of the Boer commandos. See Mary Hamer's notes in NRG.

20 Apr. Am nearly dead with packing but recover in evening. Am much impressed with majestic demeanour of Rud and his complete detachment from this vale of tears when there is a crisis.
(Written in RK's handwriting.)

Apr. 20 (in RK's writing) **Rud goes into town to draw money. I go too. Am nearly dead with packing but recover in evening. Am much impressed with majestic demeanour of Rud and his complete detachment from this vale of tears when here is a crisis.**

Apr. 21 (RK's writing) **Rud goes into town in morning settling last details. I am still dead. Rud does no work and looks upon voyage from an extreme and remote range. He is a true Poet. Also "immersed" in politics.**

22 Apr. Sail by *Kinfauns Castle*.
Sir A. Bailey and Mr. Gwynne on the ship.

Apr. 22 A comfy start. Our ship the *Kinfauns Castle*.

Apr. 26 No nice women except Mrs. And Miss Heath. Dull but ladies.

We hate to write it, but Carrie really was a one-hundred-percent, no-holds-barred, dyed-in-the-wool, twenty-four-carat SNOB. She and Thackeray's Jeames would have got on splendidly!

5 May Mr. Gwynne takes the children ashore at Madeira – a wonderful experience.

Elsie was now just over seven, and John was rising six.

9 May Southampton – Charing Cross – Etchingham.

May 9 Arrive. Leave the ship at 7.15, Charing Cross at 11.26, Etchingham and home.

It is a matter of minor detail, but bothers this editor – why Charing Cross? The train to Etchingham, the station for Burwash, starts from Charing Cross, north of the Thames, but passes through Waterloo, south of the river, where the boat train had arrived, and where the Kiplings could readily have caught it. Perhaps they had an appointment with someone in central London on the way?

10 May Bateman's looking divine.



This was their first view of the house and garden in springtime.

May 13 Rud goes to Tisbury.

15 May Saw the play, *(The) Light that Failed*. (No comment.)

May 15 I go to London by the 11 train. Rud meets me and drives me to his club. He goes down in the afternoon with Mr. Gwynne and the Curtises, I go to see *The Light that Failed*.
(Note, RK does not appear to have shown any interest in the play at all. He did not go to see it.)

When Carrie says “. . .drives me to his club”, it should not be taken literally. Kipling never learned to drive – here she means “took me in a cab”.

The play was reasonably successful. It ran at the ‘Lyric’ Theatre for about six months. It was written by George Flemming “adapted from the novel by Rudyard Kipling”. It had a distinguished cast, with Forbes Robertson (Sir Johnston Forbes Robertson (1853-1937) as Dick Heldar: Gertrude Elliott (1874-1950) played Maisie (Elliott was a stage name, her maiden name was actually Dermott, and she was born in Maine, USA). She was in fact Forbes Robertson’s wife. Nina Boucicault (1867-1950, who later became the first ‘Peter Pan’, played Bessie, and Torpenhow was played by (Sir) C Aubrey Smith (1863-1948), who had been an England Test cricketer, who became a successful stage actor and later went on to stardom in Hollywood films

20 May Rud by appointment to see Mr. Chamberlain.

May 20 Rud goes up to town by appointment to see Mr. Chamberlain and reports an interesting and satisfactory visit

Joseph Chamberlain was still Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The meeting was almost certainly about affairs in South Africa.



Joseph Chamberlain

23 May "The Dykes" finished.

Kipling had been working at "The Dykes" for some time, and this was the final 'polishing' before it was sent off for inclusion in The Five Nations (see Mary Hamer's notes in NRG). The poem was a warning to the nation to look to its defences.

24 May Beerbohm Tree calls about a play from "The Man Who Was".

May 24 A Mr. Peile and Beerbohm Tree come about a play from "The Man Who Was"

"The Man Who Was" is a tale from Life's Handicap. Beerbohm Tree was already known to Kipling – see entries for 1 April 1895 and 22 Jan. 1899. The tale was produced as a one-act play, with Tree in the part of Limmason (letter to The Times, 23 January 1936). See John McGivering's notes on the story in NRG.



Herbert Beerbohm Tree

Mr Peile was almost certainly Kinsey Peile (1862-1934) who was an actor and playwright, and later, in the 1920s, appeared in several British silent films. He had been born in Allahabad, so he and Kipling would have had things in common.

25 May "Explorer" verses, finished 26th.

Kipling had started this poem, "The Explorer", six years earlier – see entry for 28 June '97. It was published in The Five Nations. See Mary Hamer's note on the poem in NRG.

(Miss Anderson on a visit.)

29 May Rud goes to a dinner to Chamberlain at his club. Balfour, Roberts, Kelvin, Goschen, Speaker Gully. S. Colvin, H. James, H. White.

The club was probably the Athenaeum.

Balfour was Arthur J. Balfour (1848-1930), the Conservative Prime Minister.

Roberts was Field-Marshal Lord Roberts (“Bobs”).

Kelvin was Lord Kelvin (1824-1907), a noted scientist.

Goschen was Viscount Goschen (1831-1907), who had been successively a Liberal, then a Liberal Unionist, then a Conservative MP

Speaker Gully was William Gully (1835-1909), the Speaker of the House of Commons (1895-1905), formerly a Liberal MP, later ennobled as Viscount Selby.

S. Colvin: we are uncertain who this might have been. Since all the other diners were men in public life who were prominent in differing fields, we suggest it may have been (Sir) Sidney Colvin (1845-1927) who was distinguished in the field of fine arts.

H. James – Henry James, the author and Kipling’s friend.

H. White: this might have been. Sir Henry White (1849-1922) who was private solicitor to King Edward VII.

May 30

Rud works over his play “The Man Who Was” for Mr. Peile, it’s to be done June 8th by Beerbohm Tree, who after many difficulties, has come to our terms in the matter.

(Note: there is no mention on June 8 of the play appearing – nor does RK trouble to see it, but it certainly did come off with Peile as dramatist.)

There are two articles about the play in The Times of June 9. It was performed at a gala evening in aid of Guy’s Hospital at His Majesty’s Theatre, in the Haymarket, in the presence of a ‘glittering audience’, including the King and Queen. Beerbohm Tree played the part of ‘the Man Who Was’.

June

Sussex Downs verses.

This poem was “The Run of the Downs”, which he did not use for some six years, when it appeared with “The Knife and the Naked Chalk” (Rewards and Fairies”). See Philip Holberton’s notes on the poem in NRG.

16 June

Dedication to *The Five Nations*

This is five verses long, and is printed immediately after the title page in the first edition.

23 June Rud sends off the remainder of the copy for verses, and instantly both feel the reaction of the strain of the last three weeks.

June 23 We send of the remainder of copy for verses and instantly both feel the reaction of the strain these last three weeks.

See entry for 13 April above.

26 June To Rye to lunch with Henry James.

Evidently a more successful drive to Rye to the house of Henry James (right) than the previous visit.

(see entry for 13 October 1902).



June 29 Mr. and Mrs. Kipling arrive by the 6.29 train.

1 July Aunt Georgie – very fragile.

She lived for another 17 years: at this time she was in the process of writing and preparing for publication her biography of her husband, Edward Burne-Jones, Kipling's 'Uncle Ned'.

July 4 Our guests leave by the 1.15 train. I stop all afternoon in bed weary in soul and body.

6 July Rud works at his last drawing for *Just So* (?)

Aug. (5th) Electric cable laid to connect dynamo with stables. Rud spends day with a gang of workmen.

This was to bring the electricity from the turbine and dynamo in the mill to the house – see SoM, pp 179-80.

19 Aug. Sir E. Poynter falls into the pond.



Sir Edward Poynter

The pond was, and remains, a feature of the garden at Bateman's.

Ned Poynter was not the only person to fall in, though he may well have been the first!

Aug. 19 Sir E. Poynter slips in getting into a boat, falls into the pond and has to be dried so leaves via Robertsbridge at 2 p.m.

Robertsbridge was the next station down the line from Etchingham, and trains often stopped at one or the other, but not both.

Aug. 22 Rud leaves at 9.30 for Tisbury. I leave at 3 to join the children at Rottingdean.

Aug. 24 Rud comes from Salisbury via London.

Aug. 25 I go to Bateman's at 10 a.m. returning at 6.30. I find at Bateman's an advance copy of *The Five Nations*.

Aug. 28 We leave at 6 p.m. for home – the children stop behind.

During these six days, they had, presumably, been staying with Aunt Georgie in Rottingdean

3 Sept. Working on his Monkey Puzzler story.

See entry for 2 October 1902.

14 Sept. Met Mr. Shee. [Sec. of the new movement for Army Service.](#)

Mr. Shee was George R.F. Shee (1869-1939), a "barrister and Liberal imperialist" (the DNB article headed "National Service League"). The League was in existence 1902-1914, on the model of the Navy League founded in 1895.

From 1905, it was led by Lord Roberts, and Kipling, not surprisingly, was a member.

18 Sept. Disturbed by the news of Chamberlain's resignation.

Sep. 18 The news of Mr. Chamberlain's resignation occupies Rud's mind.

Chamberlain resigned from the Conservative government on 14 September, so as to be free to campaign for Tariff Reform and Imperial Preference. He had always been strongly in favour of giving greater trade advantages to British territories throughout the world so as to bind the Empire closer together.

25 Sept. Mr. James from Rye to lunch with an American cousin [full of praises for Bateman's](#).

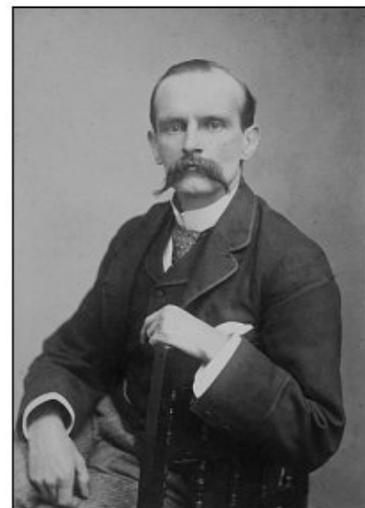
Rud works on his story "*The Dream*" and is hard awork (*sic*) in his mind – I can see. (*These must be Carrie's own words, but are not so marked.*)

This was "The Army of a Dream", which had started to take shape in 1902, see our entry for 19 December, and NRG notes.

27 Sept. To Abinger to call on the Lugards – [delightful folk](#)

We assume that this was Sir Frederick Lugard (1858-1945) and his wife, home on leave from his post as High Commissioner of Northern Nigeria. He was later to be Governor of Hong Kong and Governor General of Nigeria.,

Abinger is in Surrey between Dorking and Guildford, some 40 miles from Bateman's.



Sir Frederick Lugard

Sep. 30 The pater arrives late by the 5.38 train.

1 Oct. *Five Nations* published. [Reviews favourable except political enemies. A better appreciation of the aim of the volume than R had hoped for.](#)

Oct. 1 *The Five Nations* published. Many reviews come in. All interesting and favourable except political enemies. A better political appreciation of the real aim of the volume than R had hoped for.

It is significant that Carrie realises that Kipling is becoming deeply political

14 Oct. Rud has a good talk with Milner in Hatchard's bookshop.



Hatchard's bookshop was founded in 1797 and occupies the same site in Piccadilly as it did when Kipling and Milner met there. It is no longer an independent bookseller, but belongs to the Waterstones chain.

Much talk of gardening with Lusted. RK does some gardening himself.

Stephen Lusted was a builder in Burwash, who was used by Kipling as his unofficial works foreman (see LYCETT, p. 350.)

18 Oct. Lord Milner and Lady Edward Cecil for lunch.

Milner and Lady Edward had had a close friendship in South Africa in 1900. She remained married to Lord Edward until his death in 1918, and married Milner afterwards. All three were staunch Imperialists.



Viscount Milner



Lady Edward Cecil

A review by Andrew Roberts in the Daily Telegraph (17 March 2002) of two books about the Cecils and the Milners, is to be found at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/4727515/What-really-happened.html>

(Carrie and the Children to stay with the Baldwins.)

The home of Stanley and Cissie Baldwin was at Wilden, near Stourbridge, in Worcestershire.

Oct. 22 We leave for Astley, driving to Robertsbridge with the children, arriving about 6.

This implies that it was Aunt Louisa and her husband Alfred Baldwin (at Astley) whom they were visiting, rather than Stan and Cissie (at Wilden).

Oct. 26 We leave at 11 for London, by motor.



an early Lanchester

We assume that this was the Kipling's own Lanchester car – possibly Kipling had driven up with his chauffeur, rather than accompanying the railway party, to see if the Lanchester was suitable for a long cross-country journey. Evidently it was, and they went home, via London, by car.

27 Oct. Rud in London goes to call on an old Anglo-Indian friend, Mrs. Burton. [Mrs. Hauksbee]

Mrs Hauksbee was one of Kipling's characters who recurs in several tales, the first of which is "Three and an Extra" from Plain Tales from the Hills. Mrs. Isabella Burton was evidently her original. See John McGivering's notes on the story in NRG.

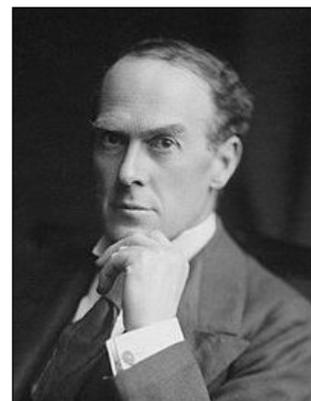
Oct. 29 Home.

7 Nov. Balfour writes offering a KCMG, backed by Lyttelton, the new Col(onial) Sec(retary). Rud declines. Evidently title-conferring is as slack as other Government business and they know nothing of the KCB of 1899.

Nov. 7 Mr. Balfour writes to ask if he may propose R's name for a K.C.M.G. A letter of appreciation – he will call it – backed by the approval of one Mr. Littleton, recently made Colonial Secretary. Rud declines. Evidently title-conferring is as slack as other Government business and they know nothing of the KCB of 1899. (See entries for 14 Dec. and Dec. 14 1899.)

KCMG stands for Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (KCB is for the Order of the Bath). (See our entry for 14 December 1899.) Carrie is perhaps being unkind to the Prime Minister's patronage secretary in saying that they knew nothing of the earlier offer. Perhaps Balfour merely hoped that Kipling would change his mind.

Rt. Hon. Alfred Lyttelton (1857-1913) had just succeeded Joseph Chamberlain as Colonial Secretary. He had been a notable sportsman in his youth, representing Oxford at five sports.



Alfred Lyttelton

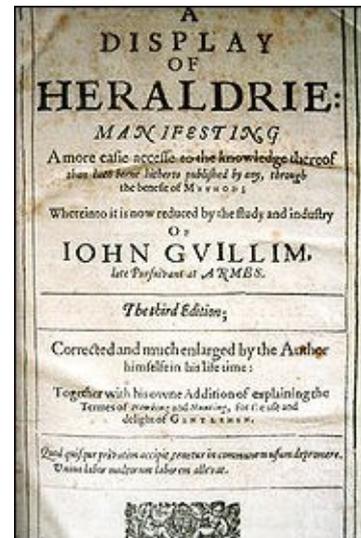
Lyttelton was the first man to represent England at both football and cricket. Carrie seems to have considered him a jumped-up upstart. Later they became better acquainted with the family, who lived within easy calling distance.

9 Nov Buys Guillims' *Heraldry* for £5

Guillims' Heraldrie was published in 1660.

The cheapest copy available today on the internet is priced at £292, much the same value as was £5 in 1900.

See NRG for notes on the uncollected article "A Displaie of New Heraldrie" , (1917)



14 Nov. Church records borrowed. [We trace the different owners of Bateman's.](#)

15 Nov. Aunt G. and Edith Macdonald staying. [Two aunts]

16 Nov. Motor parodies.

These were the original fourteen verses, published the following year under the title "The Muse among the Motors". See NRG notes by John McGivering and John Radcliffe.

21 Nov. To Tunbridge Wells to [sign the deed of Naulakha.](#)

He had sold the house to Mary Cabot.

26 Nov. The children [do their play of Alice in Wonderland](#)

We do not know if Kipling produced a script for the children to act: there have been many versions of Lewis Carroll's classic tale produced for the stage.

See also the opening of Puck of Pook's Hill, which starts from scenes adapted by Kipling for the children from Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Nursery chimney alight.

An exciting day in the nursery.

27 Nov. His verses "There was a Man" [Chamberlain]

This poem, first published in The Times, 1 August 1904, under the title "Things and the Man", referred to Chamberlain's resignation from the government – see entry for 18 Sept. 1903 above. See NRG notes by Geoffrey Annis.

Dec. 2 Rud leaves for Tisbury.

Dec. 3 Rud returns in the evening.

5 Dec. Army Reform story. ["Army of a Dream"]

See entries 19 December 1902 and 25 September 1903 above.

6 Dec. Rud at his story. [History]

We are not clear what Carrington meant by that interpolation. Perhaps one of the 'Puck' stories.

9 Dec. Rud lends Mr. Gwynne £145.

Dec. 9 Rud lends Mr. Gwynne £145 to pay a debt.

Gwynne was just about to leave Reuters to become Editor of The Standard – there may have been some connection between the two events.

12 Dec. All to Southampton.

Dec. 12 We leave by the 9.33 arriving at Waterloo. Mr. Watt (and a number of others) at the station to see us off.

Off to the Cape once more. They travelled from Etchingham to Waterloo (South Eastern and Chatham), now known as Waterloo (East).

They then trundled their baggage, with the aid of several porters, across to Waterloo (London and South Western) whence they took a train to Southampton Docks. With “Mr. Watt (and a number of others)” to see them off, the scene would have been reminiscent of that described in ‘In the Same Boat’ (A Diversity of Creatures).

Dec. 13 We do not sail until 1230

It sounds as though they were slightly delayed in sailing.

20 Dec. Morning Service. The Archbishop preaches.

*Probably the Archbishop of Cape Town,
William West Jones - see entry for 1 February 1901*

25 Dec. Christmas at sea.

29 Dec, Cape Town. “The Woolsack”

Dec. 29 Reach the Woolsack at 6.30.

Notes at the end of the diary. Income Tax ending 5th April 1903. £984 3s 1d
And also: Income by Watt £13,715
Invested £9,279

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