

The Rees and Carrington Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1904

1904

Jan.

Cape Town
Talk of the Kimberley Memorial.
A Pyecroft story

The Kimberley Memorial was a statue of Rhodes on horseback, and was completed in 1907.

The Pyecroft story was undoubtedly the enigmatic “Mrs. Bathurst” (see 24 February below). See the notes in NRG by Alastair Wilson.

13 Jan.

Rud dines at Mt. Nelson (*Cape Town’s best hotel*) to meet the French admiral Pinet (?).
Is feted in the wardroom of the *Dupleix* – the officers all know his books in French and English.



Dupleix, the French Flagship

The Dupleix was a newly-completed armoured cruiser. (We have not traced further details of Admiral Pinet.) Kipling was popular in France, and there were many translations of his works. The Jungle Books were translated by Louis Fabulet and Robert d’Humières in 1899. Kim and The Man Who Would be King were published in French in 1901, also translated by Louis Fabulet.

February Talking much with Jameson and going to political meetings.
Writing "They".
An election.

"They" was first published in Scribners' Magazine for August 1904 and collected in Traffics and Discoveries (see our notes in NRG edited by John McGivering.)

The election was one for the House of Assembly of the Cape Colony, which was won by the Progressive Party, under Jameson, who became Prime Minister of Cape Colony until 1908.

24 Feb. (Finished the Pyecroft story which is "Mrs. Bathurst".)

"Mrs. Bathurst" was first published in magazine form in September 1904 and collected in Traffics and Discoveries a month later See our NRG notes by Alastair Wilson.

Feb. 25 Rud works on a speech in case he is made to talk at the Jameson dinner. Rud sits next to Dr. Jameson at dinner. No need for the speech.

26 Feb. Sir G. Goldie calls, talking Army Reform. Rud reads him "The Army of a Dream".

For Sir George Goldie, see our note on 2 March 1902.

The shortcomings in army administration revealed by the Boer War were a hot topic for discussion in political and military circles. One result was the creation of the first General Staff. The following year, after the Liberal Election victory, Richard Haldane (later Viscount Haldane) became Secretary of State for War and instituted comprehensive changes to the army's organisation.

9 Mar. A trip to Kimberley, 2 or 3 days.
Working at "They".

Mar. 9 We leave after an early breakfast for Kimberley.

Mar. 10 We drive through perfectly deserted streets to De Beers Hotel, the Sanatorium.

Doubtful reception because one has to be recommended by a De Beers director and Dr. James[on?] seems to have forgotten to write.

De Beers, a diamond mining company founded by Cecil Rhodes in 1888, WERE Kimberley. The Sanatorium Hotel had been Rhodes' house. The company's name derived from the name of two Boer brothers, on whose farm the original find of diamonds had been made.

Mar. 11 We start to go into Kimberley but Rud's inside is out of order. We go quietly forth by our own lone to see the Rhodes memorial at the junction of the five roads made during the siege. It is one of the most beautiful things I ever saw and Baker may well be proud of it. Rud's inscription looks very nice.

The memorial would seem to have been replaced in 1907 by an equestrian statue of Rhodes, by Kipling's acquaintance Hamo Thornycroft. (See entry and note for Jan. '04.) We do not know what became of Sir Herbert Baker's memorial (he produced the grandiose one in Cape Town), nor of Kipling's inscription.

Msr. 14, We leave Kimberley.

Mar. 15 Arrive at Orchard siding at 9 a.m. Mr. and Mrs. Mallison met us. Drive in a Cape cart to see the orchards and vines.

A Cape cart was a two-wheeled, four-seater carriage, drawn by a pair of horses, and was the usual vehicle for personal transport in South Africa at the time. Presumably the "orchards and vines" were part of the Rhodes commercial empire.

Mar. 16 Leave at 8.45 for home, catching Johannesburg boat train. Arrive 2 p.m,

27 Mar. Some sort of dispute about their right to use The Woolsack. Jameson backs them.

Presumably the dispute would have been with the executors of the Rhodes estate (but see below). Rhodes had built The Woolsack for the use of practitioners of the Arts in general, not for Kipling in particular; though it seems likely that he had

told Kipling that he could have first choice of dates to occupy the house.

Mar, 27 Dr. Jameson asks Rud to back him up in his objection to having a man called Wood in the Woolsack. Rud sees him at Groote Schuur later at 5 on the subject and Dr. Jameson explains that the Woolsack can not be used by anyone else unless we wish it and it's ours as long as we live.

Again, a difference in interpretation between the two versions of the Extracts. It would seem that the dispute was not of the Kiplings' making, but that Jameson was standing up for their 'rights' on their behalf. The outcome was that the Kiplings continued to use The Woolsack each southern summer until April 1908, when Kipling became disenchanted with South African politics (and it was necessary to give John settled schooling).

*Kipling jealously maintained his right to the Woolsack, although the family never returned after 1908. See our entries for 21 Dec. and **Dec. 21 '32**.*

(Their friends, Jameson, Bailey, the, Fitzpatrick. A quiet sociable time.)

Bailey – Sir Abe Bailey – see note on 8 December 1901

Fitzpatrick – Sir Percy and Lady Fitzpatrick – see note on 25-27 March 1903.

It would be interesting to know who the unidentified friend(s) was/were.

Mar. 31 The children and Miss Hankinson leave in the a.m. for Johannesburg where they are to spend a week with Miss Bray.

Apr. 6 (Return)

Apr. 8 Mr. Maitland Park to get his cheque for a mortgage I have invested in on his to-be-built house.

13 Apr. Left Cape Town, *Kildonan Castle* (ship)

Apr. 13 We lunch comfortably at home and reach the ship, *Kildonan Castle* at 3 p.m.

30 Apr. London in time for Academy dinner.

Apr. 30 Leave Southampton at 5.30. Reach London at 7.30 and take the children to Brown's. Rud goes to the Academy Dinner in time for the speeches – I to my bed – Rud enjoys himself immensely in spite of his fatigue

Kipling wrote to H A Gwynne (PINNEY, Letters, Vol 3, p.153) describing their "draggled tailed" arrival in London, where he attended the Academy banquet, having only arrived in London at about 7p.m. (Kildonan Castle had been delayed by fog in the approaches to Southampton.)

May 1 We take the children for two hours to St. James' Park. Drive from Heathfield in a hired fly to find Bateman's looking divine in the evening light.

They chose to return to Burwash by an alternative line – Heathfield station was about eight miles from Bateman's, rather than the four from Etchingham. The London terminus for this line was Victoria, which was easier of access from the West End than Charing Cross

May All well at Bateman's.
Miss Parker, secretary, leaving to better herself.

See entry for 6 May 1902.

May 2 A great field day with a horrid talk with Miss Hankinson who is impatient to leave and another with Miss Parker who has been offered a better post.

5 May Rud calls on Lyttelton, Col(onial) Sec(retary)

See entry for 7 November 1903. No doubt he gave Lyttelton a first-hand account of affairs in South Africa (but see entry below)

May 5 Rud spends the day in London lunching with Arnold Foster (sic) and calling on Littleton (sic) later – all in the matter of Wilton, the Australian whose pardon via the King's clemency he secures.

This is an entry of considerable interest, and our annotation is the combined work of the editor and of our Australian member, Philip Holberton.

*Carrie tended to be erratic in her spelling of names – the two politicians Kipling saw that day were H O Arnold-Forster, the Secretary of State for War, and Alfred Lyttleton, Secretary of State for the Colonies, both of whom would have been the ministers concerned with the Morant case (see below) and its aftermath. And the man concerned was **Witton**, and will be referred to as such from here on (it is, of course, possible that the mis-spelling was merely a transcription error).*

George Witton was an Australian, a Lieutenant in an irregular corps of Imperial troops (the Bushveldt Carbineers – a mixture of Australian and South African troops raised in South Africa during the war) who had been convicted by court-martial of the murder of Boer prisoners in the northern Transvaal (the ‘Breaker’ Morant case).

Reading the ‘Wikipedia’ description of the events 117 years after they occurred leaves one with an uncomfortable feeling. The account resonates with Kipling’s ‘A Sahib’s War’, which, however, had been written and published before the events of the ‘Breaker’ Morant case became known. Morant and another officer were executed by firing squad within 18 hours of their sentences being confirmed. Witton was also sentenced to death but reprieved by General Kitchener, being sentenced to life imprisonment instead. He was subsequently released and returned to Australia, where he published ‘Scapegoats of the Empire’. He died in 1942. It is not clear why Kipling interested himself in the case nor what part he actually played in the obtaining of Witton’s release.

Carrie’s diary entry suggests that Kipling had something relevant to say to the two ministers: it seems unlikely that he would, or could, have tried to intercede on his own behalf, but although we try to eschew speculation, such evidence as there is suggests that he may have had a message or letter from the South African government which had a bearing on the case.

At all events, as a result of the two meetings, it would seem that a decision was taken, and communicated to Kipling, which enabled Carrie to write, albeit slightly inaccurately, that Witton would be pardoned.

Witton's release was notified to the House of Commons on 10 August 1904, as was reported in The Times of 11 August in a short exchange between Winston Churchill and Mr. Arnold-Forster, as follows:

“THE ROYAL CLEMENCY

Mr. CHURCHILL, (Oldham) asked the Secretary of State for War whether he could now state the intention of His Majesty's government in respect to the convict Witton.

Mr, ARNOLD-FORSTER, - His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to order that Witton be released. (Cheers)”

It should be noted that Witton was not pardoned – he was merely released by “the Royal Clemency”. The “(Cheers)” suggest that the matter had been under public discussion, and that there was a general feeling that justice had not been done, though whether that was in respect of Witton alone, or of Morant and his co-defendant as well is not now clear.

May 9 Rud and I go together to town. He goes to Tisbury and I interview governesses, deciding to give a trial to Miss Blaikie

May New governess, Miss Blaikie, at £60. Miss Parker decides to stay at £130.

The difference in the rates of salaries is accounted for by the fact that Miss Blaikie ‘lived in’ and was ‘all found’, whereas Miss Parker provided her own accommodation.

- May 11** Go to London. Miss Mary Blaikie to begin on 19 May @ £60 p.a. Meet Rud and Mr. Watt at station.
- May 12** Arrange new terms with Miss Parker to start in July £130 p.a. – three months notice on either side.
- May 13** Colonel Feilden pays us an out of doors visit.
- May 19** Miss Hankinson leaves at noon and the new governess, Miss Blaikie, comes by afternoon train – a nice-mannered girl.
- 30 May** Major Dunstervill (sic) the original of Stalky come from town by the 3 o'clock from Town. A charming man. He and Rud have a long and pleasant visit together.
- May 30** Major Dunsterville, the original of 'Stalky' comes by the 3.40 from town, a charming man.



Lionel Dunsterville, 'Stalky'

Kipling wrote to Dunsterville on 26 May, in the style of an Indian babu clerk, explaining that he was temporarily without a car, and that it would be advisable to telegraph the time of his arrival, so that arrangements could be made for him to be met by the station 'fly'. (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, p.154.)

In 1904 Dunsterville was on a year's home leave from his regiment, the 20th Punjabis, stationed at Mian Mir in Lahore.

May 31 Major Dunsterville leaves.
We are troubled by having no better news of Mrs. Kipling's health. She has been ill with a bad cough and a pain in her arm for 10 days.

1 June Amelia (?) II, the 18 H.P. Lanchester comes.
Business about buying 'Little Bateman's'.
(The Dunstervilles come again. CK doesn't think much of Mrs. D.)

When they bought Bateman's two years previously, the house only had 33 acres of land. Kipling wished to add to his holding to help to preserve his privacy, and to add to his farmland to make it something like a viable enterprise. Little Bateman's lay just to the south of Bateman's itself, the other side of the River Dudwell.

Mrs. Dunsterville was Margaret, née Keyworth, a Colonel's daughter herself: they were married in 1897, and had a son and a daughter.

June 1 Amelia II, the 18 h.p. Lanchester arrives in the early morning. Continued showers hold us back from a trial of her till afternoon when we go to Rottingdean. Motor not doing well (!)

They had owned their previous Lanchester for two years.

June 5 There seems a chance now of getting hold of Little Bateman's, buying from the purchaser, one Dowell, who has been the tenant for years.

June 7 The motor when being started up bursts her water jacket. Rage and telegrams consume the morning but we have a quiet afternoon in the garden. Rud has finished work on his verses before the news comes to him.

13 June *Traffics and Discoveries* in proof.

It was published in October – the printing date for the first edition is 20 September.

June 16 The second of the two new cylinders goes in. We go to Eastbourne to buy furniture – a successful trip.

The euphoria did not last long.

18 June **Hey then, up go we – motor most unsatisfactory.**

Although this is marked as Carrie's own words, it sounds far more like Kipling himself speaking. The phrase 'Hey then, up go we' is the refrain of a 17th century Cavalier ballad, although the text is distinctly puritan in tone: church vestments and images are to be abolished: universities put down, etc. Kipling used the expression as an ironic refrain in his savage poem "Song of the Old Guard" published in Traffics and Discoveries four months later. See NRG for John McGivering's notes on the poem. For the original ballad, see <http://www.musicanet.org/robokopp/english/knowthis.htm>

June 18 The motor most unsatisfactory.

June 21 Mr. Millership from Birmingham . . . takes us to Tunbridge (*sic*) at an alarming gate (*she means 'gait'*) and is unable to get her to climb her hills. We return weary with the pace and sick of the smell of oil.

Mr. Millership was presumably one of Lanchester's engineers.

22 June A day at Rottingdean. Rud **winds up the affairs of the Rifle Club.**

Local enthusiasm for the Rifle Club evidently did not long survive the Kiplings' departure from Rottingdean.

June 22 He (*Mr. Millership*) confesses she must go to the workshop in Birmingham for repairs

- June 24** Rud and motor meet me at Tunbridge Wells – we break down near Etchingam – countershaft breaks, not home till 9.15 in showers of wet.
- July** Mr. and Mrs. Kipling and Trix. Mrs. K **looking ill and feeble**.
- July 4** Mr. & Mrs. Kipling, Trix Fleming and Cissie (*Baldwin*) come. Mrs. Kipling looks ill and feeble after her recent illness.
- July 9** Mrs. K and Trix leave by 1.10 train.
- July 12** Pater leaves. We enjoyed his visit.
- July** He goes to Rottingdean. Thinks of dismantling the drill hall and bringing it over to Burwash.
- July 12** Rud goes to Rottingdean to inspect his drill shed with the idea of bringing it over here in place of the proposed Institute.
- 25 July** Posted *Things and the Man* to *The Times*.

These verses were headed "In Memoriam; Joseph Chamberlain. But he was no more than metaphorically dead to Kipling in political terms, because he had resigned from the Conservative government. He lived on until July 1914.

- July 28** Leave for visit to Sir John Fisher at Portsmouth. We have the rooms used by the King. Admiral Fisher takes me in to dinner.
- 29 July** To Portsmouth for the day to visit Jackie Fisher. Gwynne says that **Reuter-buyers all over the world snapped up his verses with glee**.

PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp.156-7 and note 5 mentions this visit, suggesting that they actually went to Portsmouth on 28 July, returning on the 29th (as is also shown by the Rees version). They went by car to visit Admiral Sir John Fisher.



'Jackie' Fisher

Fisher was then Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth, and spent the night at Admiralty House. Carrie was taken into dinner by the Admiral himself—he was something of a ‘ladies’ man’.

During the day, Kipling and the Admiral went out for a brief trip in a submarine: one of the early ‘A’ class, and a very basic vessel. Fisher was a strong protagonist for the submarine as a weapon of war. It may have been on this occasion that Fisher undertook to give Kipling’s son John a nomination as a naval cadet when the time came

Gwynne’s comment (see entry below for [June 30](#) below) refers to the news agency Reuters, who, it would seem, syndicated Kipling’s verses from The Times. Presumably Gwynne was referring to the recently published “Things and the Man”

June 29 We leave after lunch for home. Two tyre punctures on our journey, dine at Brighton and are home by 9.30.

It would seem that Amelia II had been for her refit in Birmingham.

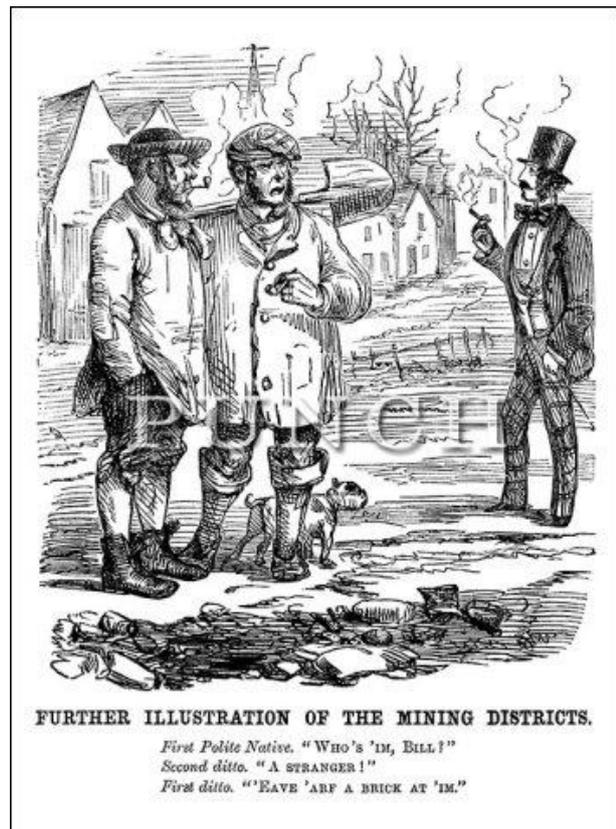
June 30 Mr. Gwynne arrives bringing news of the avidity with which Reuters buyers over the world rose with glee to the offer of some of the verses.

9 Aug. [Rottingdean an appalling village these days – full of trippers.](#)

This was, of course, one of the reasons they had left. Many of the trippers had been attracted by Kipling’s presence there.

11 Aug. To the police at Burwash to [investigate the case of a boy who threw a stone at the motor.](#)

*Shades of the 1854 Punch cartoon by John Leech,
“First polite native: “Who’s ‘im, Bill?”
Second ditto: “A stranger!”
First ditto: “’Eave ‘arf a brick at ‘im”*



Rud working at "With the Night Mail", *with keen pleasure to him.*

This tale was Kipling's first essay at what is now described as science-fiction and is generally regarded by connoisseurs of that genre as one of the earliest (and most successful) of such tales. It was first published in late 1905, and collected in Actions and Reactions in 1909. See our notes in NRG by John McGivering.

An amber necklace sent by Landon from Tibet.

See our entry for 19 May 1900 for Percival Landon. He was at this time The Times special correspondent on Sir Francis Younghusband's expedition to Tibet, 1903-04.

Aug. 20 We sign Rye Green and Little Bateman's leases.

The Kiplings were keen to buy more land around Bateman's, for privacy, as an investment, and to run the estate as a viable agricultural operation. LYCETT, p. 405 says that Carrie ploughed the proceeds of the sale of Naulakha into the purchase of Rye Green farm and that Kipling paid £774 for Little Bateman's in September 1904.

It is not clear why Carrie writes "sign the leases", unless she meant sign the contracts to purchase the properties: alternatively they might have been signing as landlords, intending to lease out the land to tenants until they should be ready to take it in hand themselves.

27 Aug. Meets Lord Selborne and U/Sec. Mr Chalmers [Lord Chalmers]



Lord Selborne

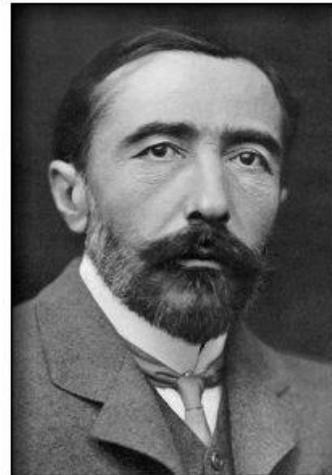
Robert Chalmers

The Earl of Selborne (1859-1942) was a Conservative politician, at this time the First Lord of the Admiralty. He was about to be appointed to succeed Milner as High Commissioner for South Africa and Governor of the former Boer republics. Mr. Chalmers (he was not ennobled until 1919), was Robert Chalmers (1858-1938). At this time he was a senior civil servant at the Treasury

30 Aug. Mr. Conrad, author of *Lord Jim*, comes to call. [A large Pole seaman full of amusing stories.](#)

Joseph Conrad (1857-1924), Merchant-service officer and celebrated author, was born a Russian citizen, in Podolia, Ukraine,

He held a British Master's Certificate and became a British citizen in 1886. He gave up the sea for writing in 1894, and his classic Lord Jim was published in 1900.



Joseph Conrad

15 Sep. Miss Parker to quit. **Good and helpful person, but inaccurate and slipshod.**

Sep. 15 Miss Parker and I agree on her leaving, three months' notice having been given today, but she will stop till 20 Jan. A good and helpful person last year but inaccurate and tiresome all this year to my great trouble and inconvenience.

See 5 May. 'Did she fall or was she pushed?' LYCETT pp.362-3 describes the uneasy relations between Carrie and Elsie Parker.

17 Sep. Men repairing the turbine.



This was the water turbine installed in the Mill at Bateman's which provided the house's electricity. See our entry for 18 June 1902.

18 Sep. "With the Night Mail" finished.
"A Deal in Cotton"
Planting trees to screen Bateman's from the road.

'Stalky' figures here in a minor role.

Sun. 25 Rud at work on a fresh idea, a set of stories, the History
Sep. of England told by Puck to children.

*This was the start of the tales in Puck of Pook's Hill
and Rewards and Fairies.*

2 Oct. P. Landon, fresh from Lhasa.

See our entry for 11 Aug. above.

Oct. 3 Pater arrives a bit down on his luck.

*'down on his luck' can mean "suffering from
misfortune" – which may be anything, financial or
otherwise.*

Oct. 4 Copies of *Traffics and Discoveries* come in.

The author's copies.

Oct. 9 Pater leaves at 9.30.

10 Oct. Sir E. Ward and Mr. Gwynne. Ward is being proposed for
South Africa.

*Probably Sir Edward Ward, (1853-1928) who served
as a successful supply officer in the South African
War, and was President of the Union Jack Club.*

14 Oct. The Doubledays.

*This was the first visit to
Bateman's by Frank N.
Doubleday, Kipling's
good friend and American
publisher, known to the
Kiplings as 'effendi' (FND).*



Frank Nelson Doubleday

See our entry for 30 November 1895.

Oct. 19 I arrange with Miss Anderson to do the work this winter of Miss Parker the secretary.

Sara Anderson had left the Kiplings to look after her ailing parents in 1901, but had kept contact (see 25 May 1903). Presumably she lived fairly locally, so that she could help out.

21 Oct. Drill shed [is being removed to Burwash for a reading-room.](#)

Three entries in the Burwash and Burwash Weald Parish Magazine, for August, November and December 1904 record the offer, acceptance, dismantling, re-erection and re-opening of the "iron room, now standing in Rottingdean", as a "temporary reading room". It was replaced by a permanent 'Institute' which Kipling himself opened on 4 December 1907 (see our note of 3 Dec. 1907, and thanks to Richard Howell for his research on this)

Oct. 23 Kind-hearted Mr. Abe Bailey offers to put some money for Rud into a big speculation he goes in for this week. Rud of course, declines with thanks.

27 Oct. Rud greatly interested in the Russian North Sea trouble.

The Russo-Japanese war had broken out in February 1904, and the Russian Far East squadron, based at Port Arthur, on the Chinese mainland, had been destroyed in a number of actions. The Russian Baltic fleet was then ordered to make the long voyage to the Far East, in the hope of restoring Russian fortunes.

On leaving the Baltic, they headed south-west across the North Sea. On the night of 21 October they passed through a British fleet of herring drifters fishing on the Dogger Bank, and fired on them, believing that they were Japanese torpedo boats.

How they thought this possible has never been explained – indeed, to a seaman it is totally inexplicable: all that can be said is that the Russians were ‘jumpy’

One drifter was sunk and three fishermen killed. As a result, the British closed the Suez Canal to the Russians, and they were forced to go round the Cape of Good Hope to reach Port Arthur. The 18,000 mile voyage took six months and ended, shortly after the Russians’ arrival, in their defeat at the Battle of Tsushima, which effectively ended the war. The North Sea incident was closed by the Russians paying an indemnity to the fishermen.

Oct. 28 Leave at 11.30 by motor for Free Chase. There for lunch.

29 Oct. To Sir J. Loder’s wonderful park.

See our entry for 15-17 July 1902. He was, in fact, Sir Edmund Loder.

Oct. 29 After lunch we go by Horsham and Guildford to the Stracheys

30 Oct. To the Stracheys at Merrow Down
Alfred Harmsworth.

See our entries for 26 Nov. 1899, 15 June 1900 and 6 July 1901. For Harmsworth, see our entry for 6 December 1899.

Oct.31 We do not leave until 10.30 and reach Bateman’s at 1.30

Nov. To the Baldwins at Bewdley

*This was to Stan and Cissie Baldwin – see Rees entry below
Kipling had first visited there as a small boy of two
with his mother. The Baldwins’ family home was in
the village of Wilden, some three miles from
Bewdley, and much nearer to Stourport-on-Severn.*

Nov.3 We leave for Kidderminster at 9.10. The children leave us at Kidderminster going to Astley with Miss Blaikie while we go to Wilden.

The children went to Aunt Louie, while RK and CK went to spend a 'grown-ups' week-end with Cissie and Stanley.

Nov.7 We leave from Brown's.

We suggest this should read "for Brown's".

8 Nov. The hot water radiator in our bedroom a great success.

Nov. 8 Home by train to Bateman's and find the hot water radiator in our bedroom a great success.

The start of central heating.

Nov.9 We leave for Mr. Bailey's where we are asked to meet Sir George and Lady Fraser. He does not turn up but her vulgar ladyship does.

21 Nov. Rider Haggard and George Allen

Henry Rider Haggard (later Sir Henry)(1856-1925) was an English writer of adventure tales and romance, including King Solomon's Mines and She.

He was also a serious farmer. He and Kipling had been friends since Kipling's arrival in London in 1889, and remained close till Haggard's death in 1925.

Haggard had lived much of his early life in South Africa, where most of his tales were set. They shared an interest in South African politics.



Rider Haggard

George Allen was, almost certainly, George Berney Allen (1862-1917), the son of Sir George Allen, owner and publisher of the Pioneer and the Civil and Military Gazette, the two newspapers on which Kipling had worked in India 20 years earlier. George Berney Allen was himself a proprietor of Indian periodicals.

22 Nov. Col. Feilden, an old acquaintance of Haggard's.



Colonel Henry Feilden

Colonel Henry Feilden (1838-1921) lived in Burwash, in a magnificent William and Mary (around 1700) house in the High Street (this editor came to know it well in the 1940s, having friends who then lived there). Colonel Feilden and his American wife became friends of the Kiplings.

Colonel Feilden had had a colourful career. As a young officer in the British army in India he had been involved in 1857 in the suppression of the Sepoy Rebellion. In the 1860s he had fought in the American Civil War, and in the 1890s he went on expeditions to the Arctic, and became a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

25 Nov. Reading Sussex Archaeological Vols. [with much pleasure.](#)

These were probably the annual volumes of the Collections of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

Kipling would have been reading them for his research for the stories he had in mind for Puck of Pook's Hill.

"Private Copper"

"The Comprehension of Private Copper" had been published in Traffics and Discoveries about a month earlier, and we are not aware that it had attracted any particular notice.

Aunt Georgie's book published. [Life of Burne-Jones.]

See our entries for 17 October 1901 and 1 July 1903.

Dec. Haggling with Mr. Scrymgeour over buying Dudwell Farm. 75 acres for £7000.

Dec. 4 Mr. Scrimgeour writes sticking to his first price for Dudwell and the 25 acres west and north of Bateman's, and Rud writes sending a cheque for £500 as a deposit on the bargain – far more than we can afford (£7126) but of so great importance to the safety of Bateman's that we cannot afford not to.

Dec. 6 We hear from Mr. Scrimgeour he has Rud's cheque so feel he means to accept and the 75 acres of Dudwell and the 24 at the back are to be ours.

*(LYCETT, pp.364-5, gives substantial details about Kipling's purchases of land at this time.)
Dudwell Farm lay about half-a-mile east of Bateman's, close to the junction between the minor lane which ran south, steeply downhill from the western end of Burwash village, to turn east opposite the front entrance to Bateman's; and the road to Brightling and Dallington which ran south from in front of Burwash church.*

Dec. 8. Pay Miss Parker £32.10.0 wages in full to Dec. 30th, 2 weeks holiday included. A harassing tiresome woman and most incompetent – not from lack of ability but with intention. A relief to be done with the strain of it.

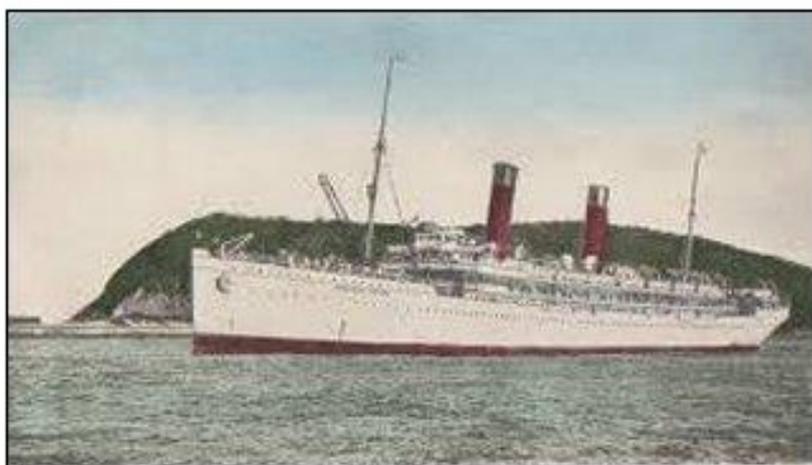
The impression given is of undeclared war between Carrie and Miss Parker – life must have been uncomfortable in Bateman's.

Dec. 9 We, with the children and Miss Blaikie, leave for London, going to Brown's, where, after dinner, we see George Macdonald and Mr. Watt, Snr about the ways and means in reference to the purchase of Dudwell and the other land.

George Macdonald was their solicitor (see Index) and Mr. Watt, as Kipling's agent, would have known how much ready cash Kipling might expect to receive in the near future.

10 Dec. Off by *Armadale Castle*. [Ship]

Dec. 10 Mr. Gwynne comes to Southampton with us. (Sail) *Armadale Castle*.



RMS Armadale Castle

RMS (Royal Mail Steamer) Armadale Castle was newly built, less than a year in service, and the first new liner ordered by the newly-merged Union-Castle line. Armadale Castle is on the Isle of Skye, opposite the Scottish mainland, just north of Mallaig.

Dec. 25 A quiet pleasant Christmas. The children most happy with their toys.

Dec. 27 A perfect day for arrival. Dr. Jameson sent the Groote Schuur butler and a carriage to meet us.

Dec. 30 Rud's 39th birthday makes him pause to reflect and feel his age.

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

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