

The Rees and Carrington Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1907

1907

1 Jan.

Arrive Cape Town; Woolsack
“Simple Simon”

Dr. Jameson, Roderick Jones, site of the Rhodes Memorial.
To the Cape Town Public Library to look up Culpeppers

Jan 1

Reach Capetown 5 a.m. We come out to the Woolsack in the
Governor’s special

“Simple Simon” was one of the second series of ‘Puck’ tales that were later collected in *Rewards and Fairies* in 1910, after first appearing in *the Delineator* in June 1910 and in *Nash’s* in July 1910. *The Delineator* was a well-established American women’s magazine, first published 1869, ceased 1937.. *Nash’s Magazine* later merged with the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

The subject of the site of the Rhodes Memorial had been discussed previously – see February 1905. Kipling wrote to the architect Herbert Baker (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, p. 230) saying that the memorial had got off to a good start, and asking about inscriptions (which Kipling proposed to write).

Nicholas Culpeper, astrologer and herbalist, figures in another Puck story, “A Doctor of Medicine”.

See NRG for George Engle’s notes on the tale; also for the text of Kipling’s Address to the Royal Society of Medicine on 15 November 1928 on “Healing by the Stars”.



Nicholas Culpeper. 1616-1654

For some unexplained reason, Rees includes no other entry for their time in South Africa, this year.

2 Feb. Mr. Curtis comes laden with a federation scheme which he is working out at a hint from Lord Selborne who means – I fancy – to glorify his term of office, and prolong it by an attempt in this direction. [Origin of the Vortex?]
Leaves me rather blasé.

Kipling met Lionel Curtis the previous year (see our note for 16 Mar. 1906). He was taking an intense interest in South African politics, although he did not and could not participate directly.

PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp 231-237, reproduces two letters to H A Gwynne and one to E L White written during this visit which express his views very forcefully, and reveal his dislike, amounting to hate, for the Liberal politicians in power in the Home government at this time. He was also worried (with justification) that the Boers would outweigh the British in South Africa in the long run. Selborne, now High Commissioner for South Africa, he had met in London prior to his taking up the appointment (see our note for 27 Aug. 1904).

Lionel Curtis's proposals for a federal South Africa might indeed have helped inspire "The Vortex". This was certainly a year when Kipling's ideas about the future of the Empire were developing, though that story was not published until August 1914. Mr. Lingnam, the main protagonist, advocates - at tiresome length - a federation of the whole Empire, whereas in 1907, the idea of federation did not extend beyond the boundaries of individual nations, Canada and Australia. However, there were proposals being bandied about to create, effectively, an Imperial Navy. This never came to pass as such, but the Admiralty was able to call on the services of the soon-to-be-formed Royal Australian and Royal Canadian Navies to the substantial benefit of the whole empire, particularly in World War II.

The same applied to the Dominion armies, whose manpower and prowess were vital on the Western Front in World War I, and world-wide in World War II.

3 Feb. Mr. Curtis and Mr. Baker.
More federation talk.
Rud starts a S.A. story called "A Washout"
"Knife and the Naked Chalk".

Mr. Baker's visit was probably to discuss the Rhodes Memorial.

We have been unable to trace "The Washout". We conjecture that it referred to a washout in the civil engineering field where a road or railway is washed away by heavy storms or floodwaters,

"The Knife and the Naked Chalk" is one of the tales from Rewards and Fairies and first appeared in Harper's for December 1909, before collection in 1910. (See our NRG notes by Donald Mackenzie.)

18 Feb. To Simonstown to dine and sleep.

This was probably as the guest of Vice-Admiral Sir John Durnford, Commander-in-Chief of the Cape station, who was coming to the end of his command (he handed over on 20 April). He and Kipling had evidently become acquainted earlier (Admiral Durnford had hoisted his flag as C-in-C in March 1904), and Kipling kept up the acquaintance in England later.

(Much of the Bailey children this visit.)

Abe Bailey (knighted in 1919) had two children at this time – his first wife had died in 1902 and he had not then re-married. The elder child, a girl, was slightly older than Elsie, while the boy was only seven at this time (John Kipling was rising ten). The Bailey family evidently lived at Muizenberg, the seaside resort on Simons Bay. See our notes for 8 Dec 1900 and for March and April 1903.

4 Mar. Mr. Bender, Jewish Rabbi, spends 2 hours with Rud.

The Reverend Bender was Rabbi of the Orthodox Jewish Congregation at the Cape. We are not sure what the purpose of this visit may have been. The only one of the Puck stories to feature a Jew was "The Treasure and the Law", which had already been published. Whether or not it was the purpose of the visit, LYCETT, p.372 and end-note, explains one result, which was a briefing paper which subsequently finished up in the Duke of Connaught's papers, giving thumbnail sketches of people in South African politics.

16 Mar. Tea with Inspector Richards at the Railway cottages.
(episode in Mrs. Bathurst ?)

"Mrs. Bathurst" had been published two-and-a-half years earlier, so this meeting cannot have been the source of information for the story. It was possibly something of a 'thank you' for information previously received.

"Gloriana".

"Gloriana" is another tale from Rewards and Fairies, the fourth to be published in December 1909, though the second in the sequence in the book.

Apr. 3 We drive to the boat leaving Woolsack at 2 p.m. *Kenilworth Castle.*

6 Apr. Left by *Kenilworth Castle*. The Bakers at our table. Rud V/President of Sports.

'The Bakers' were the architect Herbert Baker and his wife. On board passenger liners, it was customary to set up committees to organise sports and lectures, etc., to while away the passage. On this occasion, Kipling appears to have been selected to, elected to, or dragooned into, being involved with deck sports.

Apr. 7 Rud vice-President of Sports.

20 Apr. Arrive, met by Gwynne and taken with Baker to see Dr. Jameson. The Doubledays The pater ill.

Apr. 20 Rud is met by Mr. Gwynne. We find all in order at Bateman's and the garden looking beautiful

It is not clear if this was a faster voyage (14 days instead of the usual 17) or whether it merely appears to be so because Carrington put the wrong date for their departure.

Kipling and Gwynne were becoming as thick as thieves (politically and journalistically)

Dr. Jameson, the Premier of Cape Colony, was in London for the First Imperial Conference

All the Dominions and Colonies were represented). It ran from 15 April to 14 May.



Dr Jameson

Apr. 21 We send motor to Tunbridge Wells for Mr. Doubleday . . . who reports Pater who is staying with him as having had a 45 minute fainting fit on Saturday.

Presumably, Mr. Doubleday ('Effendi') had taken a house somewhere in England while he was over on business.

Apr. 22 Rud goes to town.

Apr. 23 Rud returns. Pater better.

24 Apr. To see Lady Edward Cecil at Wigsell.

The Kiplings had themselves looked at Great Wigsell while they were house-hunting (see our note on 24 Sep. 1900). It now became the home of the Cecils (see our note on 18 Oct. 1903). Lord Edward died in 1918, and Lady Cecil married Lord Milner in December 1921, and both thereafter lived at Great Wigsell.

29 Apr. *“Mary and Martha”* in the *Standard*.

The poem was published as “The Sons of Martha” in America on the previous day.

4 May Academy Dinner.

May 4 We go to town by the early train. Rud goes to the Academy dinner.

Kipling’s uncle-by-marriage, Sir Edward Poynter again presided over the dinner (report in The Times, 6 May 1907). As a rule, the principal toast was to one of the arts or sciences (Kipling had replied to the toast to ‘Literature’ in 1906) but this year, in recognition of the Imperial Conference, the toast was “to Our Dominions beyond the Seas”). Kipling was clearly established as a members of the literary establishment.

May 5 We leave London at 11

7 May To town to meet Gwynne, Milner, Dr. Jameson and Mr. Deakin. Australian prime minister.

Kipling was more than dabbling in Imperial politics. Alfred Deakin (1856-1919) was a native-born Australian barrister and journalist, the second Prime Minister of the recently-formed (1901) Commonwealth of Australia, who was in London for the Imperial Conference. It was he who had replied to the toast to the dominions at the Academy Banquet three days earlier.

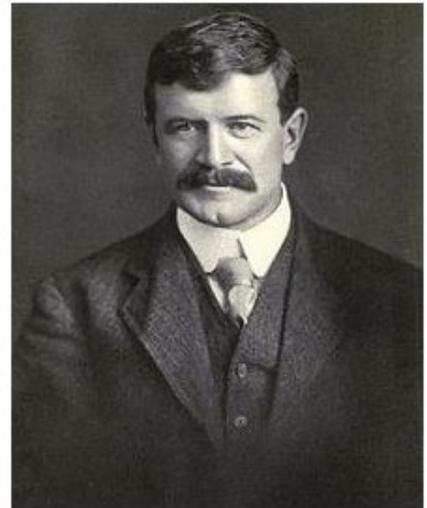


Alfred Deakin

May 9 Rud busy at his speech. He goes up to town from Heathfield.

10 May Stephen Leacock from McGill to dine and sleep.
To town, anxious about John's eyes.
Military tournament. Called on Poynter, Sara Anderson.
Mrs. Hooper.

McGill University is one of the premier universities in Canada, founded at Montreal in 1821. Stephen Leacock (1869 -1944), English-born but long resident in Canada, was at this time a Professor of Political Economy at McGill, on a lecture tour in England. Later he became better known as a popular humourist, His works were still popular in the 1940s as this editor can attest. It was probably at his suggestion that Kipling and Carrie visited Canada later this year



Stephen Leacock

Presumably they took John, now aged nearly ten, with them to consult an ophthalmologist. LYCETT, p. 386, names the specialist as Arnold Lawson. who was, among other things, consultant to the Royal Navy. As a result, like his father, John wore spectacles hereafter and had to give up any idea of a career as a naval officer. (But see Rees entry below

The military tournament was probably what later became the Royal Tournament, a showcase for the armed forces. It had just moved, or was about to move, its venue from the Agricultural Hall at Islington to Olympia, in West Kensington.

A Miss Hooper was previously mentioned as “a dear old friend of Rudyard’s childhood” (October 1905), though this may not have been the same person.

May 16 We all go to town. Rud takes John to Malcolm McArthur to have his eyes examined. He fears short-sightedness may develop but finds sight at present up to Navy exam standards.

May 31

Rud and John go to town to see Mr. Hardy about John's eyes. He has put in drops to paralyse them and the most thorough examination discloses no trace of short or imperfect sight.

This was evidently a second opinion. The 'drops' were probably belladonna which dilates the pupil so that the specialist can see into the eye. It has the effect of making the eye incapable of focussing (this editor had the same thing done in 1949 as part of his medical exam before entry to the Naval College at Dartmouth, and remembers very well blundering around Waterloo station, unable to read the departure board giving the platform number of our train (we were on our way to Brockenhurst to the Admiralty Interview Board, then at Exbury, the Rothschilds' home in the New Forest, taken over during the war as HMS Mastodon.)

June

A 'seal story' "St. Wilfrid"

This was "The Conversion of St. Wilfrid", another of the 'Puck' stories which was collected in Rewards and Fairies. See Donald Mackenzie's notes in NRG.

(They repeatedly drive to Bodiam Castle.)



Bodiam Castle was the last complete castle to be built in England, being started in 1385 and completed in 5-6 years. It stands on the flood plain of the river Rother, about ten miles ESE of Burwash, and is today owned by the National Trust.

Its original owner and builder was Sir Edward Dalyngrigge, whose family name was used by Kipling for the tales in Puck of Pook's Hill about the Norman knight Sir Richard Dalyngridge.

At this time, Bodiam, though more or less complete externally, was left by its then owner as a picturesque ruin. The interior is still in ruins.

June 7 Mr. and Mrs. Kipling arrive for a week's visit.

12 June R. to the Benchers' dinner, Grays Inn.



Gray's Inn was and is one of the four Inns of Court, professional associations of barristers. The dinner was held (The Times, 13 June), to honour the Duke of Connaught, and on the occasion of the call to the Bar and the Bench of Gray's Inn of the Duke's son, Prince Arthur of Connaught.

Kipling wrote to Gwynne on 15 June (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp 240-1) to report on a conversation he had had at the dinner with Vice-Admiral Sir John Durnford (see our note above on 18 Feb.) about the defences of Simonstown naval base.

June 14 Mr. and Mrs. Kipling leave. A long week.

19 June F.N. [Doubleday] from USA, charming.

Carrington suggests here that 'FN' was Frank Doubleday, Kipling's American publisher.

*However, the Doubledays were long-standing friends of the Kiplings, so it seems odd that Carrie should refer to him as 'charming', as if he were a new acquaintance. Andrew Lycett suggests that this could have been F.N. Finney, the American railway magnate whom Kipling had consulted in 1895 when he was writing Captains Courageous. Finney was known to the Kiplings, at least through correspondence, since Carrie was writing to him in 1897 (see PINNEY, Ed, **Something of Myself**, p.251, note 99).*

John Walker, the Kipling Society Librarian, points out that in a letter to the Kipling Journal for March 1978, Mr. W.S. Tower confirms that Finney had indeed visited Bateman's in 1907. The supporting correspondence is in the Killian Memorial Library at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

R. proposes to Watt a reduction of his 10% commission after a number of years.

June 19 Rud writes an important letter to Watt in which he proposes a reduction of the 10% commission after books had been in his hands a certain number of years

LYCETT, p. 391 explains that in the face of the tax increases introduced, or about to be introduced, by the Liberal government, Kipling was trying to improve his financial position, by reducing his outgoings, one of which was the commission on all his earnings which he paid to his agent. The proposition, to which Watt agreed, was that the commission on income from books should be reduced from 10% to 5% after they had been published for a set number of years.

22 June A tour in the North. Station Hotel, York – Cathedral, Sunday, to a Service.

June 22 We leave at 9.30 for York via London. A quiet sight of the Cathedral.

*At that time the big railway hotels were among the best in the country. The trip outlined – York, Durham, Oxford, could quite easily and conveniently be accomplished by train, with no changes en route. (Kipling wrote to John (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, p. 242):*

Pinney's note 3 gives some details of their travels and the letter gives details of their arrival in Oxford). It also describes the ceremonies at Oxford (see our note of 26 June below).

York Cathedral, the seat of the Archbishop of York, is more usually known as York Minster.



24 June Hon. Degree at Durham.

June 24 Leave about 2 for Durham. The undergraduates meet Rud in force and drag us up and down hill to the University green and back to the house. A splendid reception from all the town. Rud makes a short speech.

The degree which he was awarded was an Hon. D. Litt. (Honorary Doctor of Letters). CARRINGTON, p. 395, describes his welcome here. Kipling wrote to Mrs Balestier, his mother-in-law (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp 245-9) a long letter which describes the somewhat hair-raising reception they received from the Durham students. The speech mentioned has been collected by Professor Pinney, and can be found in A Second Book of Words.

June 25 A great reception at the degree-giving (RK and others). We leave for town and arrive rather dead at eleven.

26 June To Oxford to stay with the Oslers.
D. Litt. **Best reception since Rhodes.**
Rud much pleased by the University's welcome.

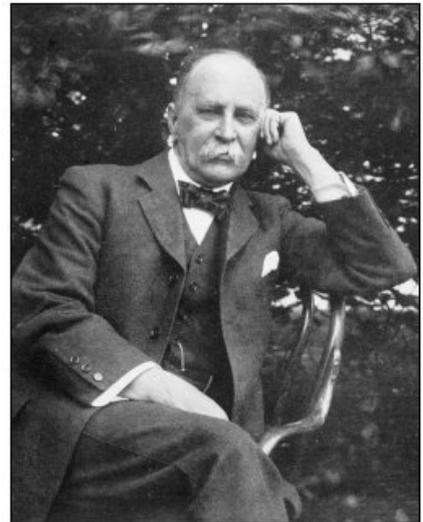
June 26

Leave Paddington for Oxford at 8.45. Arrive to be met by our hosts, Dr. and Mrs. Osler. Rud gets into his gown at the station. Takes his D. Litt. degree. A fine reception, best since Rhodes. . . Rud dines quietly with some Fellows at All Souls. A wonderful day and Rud much pleased by the University's welcome which was most cordial.

CARRINGTON, p. 395, reports that Lord Curzon, having been elected Chancellor of Oxford University, exercised his privilege to nominate distinguished persons for the award of an Honorary Degree. Again, an Hon. D. Litt was awarded. (See our note of 22 June above).

The Oslers were Professor William (later Sir William) (1849-1919) and Mrs Grace Osler: he was Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford (and also a member of the Athenaeum), and she was a cousin of Carrie's.

Kipling wrote a more detailed description of the Oxford ceremonies to his mother-in-law (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp 245-9):



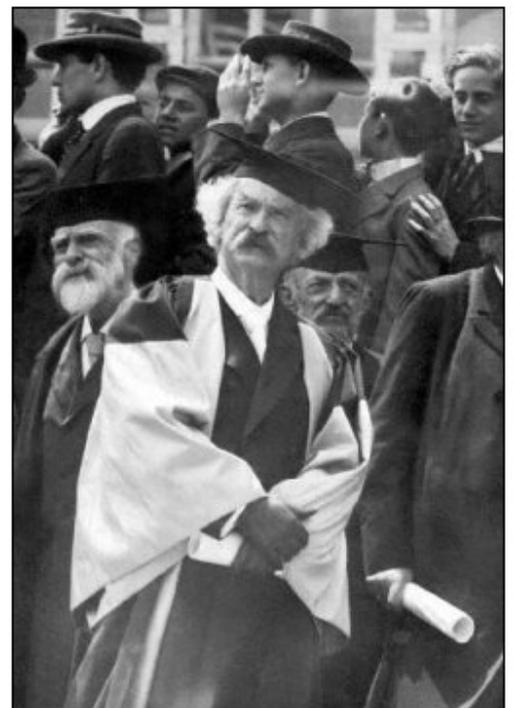
Professor William Osler

27 June Oxford pageant – Mark Twain, Curzon.

June 27

A lunch party which includes mark Twain

Mark Twain was another recipient of an Hon. D. Litt. on this occasion..



Mark Twain at the ceremony

To the pageant. We sit in the so-called Royal Box with Lord Curzon and the Mayor.

June 29 Leave at 10 a.m. for home via London arriving dead tired at 2.49. The first pleasant day since we left. (*She is referring to the weather.*)

30 June A birch bark canoe from Canada.

Possibly from Stephen Leacock, who had visited in May.

3 July To town to see model of Rhodes Cape Town monument. Starting his airship story, a companion to his earlier one.

This was "As Easy as ABC", the earlier one was "With the Night Mail" (1905). See our note of 11 Aug. 1904. "As easy as ABC" was first published in magazines in early 1912, and collected in A Diversity of Creatures in 1917. See our NRG notes on both stories by John McGivering.

8 July Watt's commission reduced to 5% (on long-standing contracts?)

July 8 The new arrangement . . . to pay 5% after 10 years.

PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp 250/1 comprise three letters from Kipling to Watt, setting out the various arrangements:

13 July To The Chase to stay with the Allens. Met Leo Maxse, related to all sorts of people.

See 21 Nov. 1904. This was George Berney Allen, the son of Sir George Allen (d. 1900), who had been the publisher in India of The Pioneer and the Civil and Military Gazette. His home was at Warninglid, in mid-Sussex.

"The Chase" seems to have been "Free Chase", a country house SW of Warninglid village, near the Leonardslee estate. On-line references say that Sir George Allen acquired the property "about the turn of the century".

he Kiplings had apparently visited the house before, when it was the home of Sir Edmund Loder (see 15-17 July 1902). Other on-line sites refer to Sir Edmund living at Leonardslee itself, rather than at Free Chase.

Possibly Sir Edmund lived temporarily as a tenant at Free Chase round about 1902-04, and George Allen then bought the house from the owner, Lady Charteris.



Leo Maxse

Leo Maxse (1864-1932) was Leopold James Maxse, Editor of the National Review, a right-wing periodical, and scourge of the Liberals. He was the brother of Lady Edward Cecil, and shared many of Kipling's political views. In particular he saw Germany as a menace, a view he held to his death.

July 20 Rud goes by first train o see his people.

22 July Sir E. Clark new governor of Bombay has a long talk with him at Club.

This was, in fact, Sit George Sydenham Clarke (1848-1933) (later Lord Sydenham):

He was an English soldier who became a colonial governor. He had already been Governor of the Australian state of Victoria.



Sir George Clarke

July 22 Rud returns.

Evidently he came up from Tisbury in the morning, lunched in London, and returned o Bateman's in the afternoon.

25 July A story about bees (*"The Vortex"*)

This must have been "The Mother Hive", first published in magazine form in 1908 and collected in Actions and Reactions. See our NRG notes by John McGivering.

29 July Vicomte d'Humières and wife, amusing and interesting.

See our note of 8 Aug. '00.

30 July Lady E. C[ecil] using us for a base of operations upon Wigsell.

It would seem that she had the builders and decorators in after buying the house.

13 Aug. Louis Becke.
"Cold Iron".

Louis Becke was George Lewis Becke (1855-1913), an Australian-born trader, journalist and writer. He wrote about the South Seas Islands of the western Pacific, where he had been a trader for many years. He had been living in England for some ten years.



George Lewis Becke

*Dirk Spennemann says in an on-line biographical note [<http://marshall.csu.edu.au/people/LouisBecke/Bio.html>]
"In Suffolk, where two of his daughters were born, the Beckes had Rudyard Kipling as a close and friendly neighbour".
Spennemann clearly mistook Suffolk for Sussex, since Becke lived at Eastbourne some twenty miles from Burwash, on the Sussex coast. It would be interesting to know what the Kiplings made of Becke. He was said to be a "born raconteur".*

"Cold Iron" appears as the first of the tales in Rewards and Fairies, published in 1910. It first appeared in magazine form in the Delineator in September 1909. (See our notes in NRG).

29 Aug. Rud spends an hour with old Lusted [Isted?] who is ill with his Asthma – great suffering. ['Hobden' the hedger]

Aug. 29 Rud spends an hour with old Lusted who is ill and in great suffering with his asthma.

The Lusteds were a large family whose name is still to be found in East Sussex and Kent.

Names ending '-sted' are still common throughout Sussex. See our note (14 Oct 1903) on Stephen Lusted, the local builder. Carrington evidently thought that the typist had misread 'Isted' as 'Lusted'. However, it was clearly Stephen Lusted, - not 'Hobden' the hedger, whose original was Isted - who was ill, and died the following day. Our note below for 3 December cites a speech by Kipling referring to the recent death of Lusted, who had built the new Village Institute, but did not live to see it opened.

- 30 Aug. Lusted's death, a blessing to him and great loss to us.
- Aug. 30** We hear at noon of Mr. Lusted's death, a blessing to him and great loss to us.
- 3 Sep. Lusted's funeral.
- 8 Sep. Lord Milner for lunch and tea. Delightful visit.
- 14 Sep. Rud walks with Elsie to see her do her milking.
- 18 Sep. John goes to school.
- Sep. 18** John goes to school. A never-to-be-forgotten day.

This was St. Aubyn's School, a preparatory school (prep. school) for boys, at Rottingdean. Kipling also referred to it as Stanford's School, after the name of the Head. Up till then John and his sister would have been taught at home, by a governess, in the 'schoolroom' at Bateman's. ("All that beastly Latin". Puck of Pook's Hill p. 182.)

*Boys like John, living in the country, were usually sent to a boarding school, sometimes as young as seven. John was ten. The prep school's curriculum was designed to enable him to pass the Common Entrance exam for entry to his public (fee-paying) school at age 13-14. It would have included English Mathematics, Latin, French, History and Geography; also organised games and gymnastics. Kipling described the miseries he felt on leaving John at St. Aubyn's in an understated letter to 'Uncle Crom' Price (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, pp 262-3). Three years later, having passed 'Common Entrance', John went on to Wellington College.*

Sep. Trip to Canada.

The prime reason for this trip was for Kipling to receive the honorary degree from McGill University (see 10 May above). It would also enable Carrie to see her mother, whom she hadn't seen for eight years. However, the trip became a lecture tour to promote his vision of the Empire, which was largely shared by Leacock at McGill. See CARRINGTON, pp. 396-398 and LYCETT pp. 376-378. Three of the speeches Kipling made are published in A Book of Words, and the other four in Uncollected Speeches (ed. PINNEY), in NRG.

Sep. 19 Leave home for Brown's at 4.31.

20 Sep. Brown's Hotel – Liverpool – *Empress of Britain*.

Sep. 20 Leave Euston for Liverpool. Sail on *Empress of Britain* 6 p.m

The Empress of Britain was a CPR (Canadian Pacific Railway) liner: the passage took six days.

Sep. 23 The Atlantic is a most uninteresting ocean. We are transferred to luxurious private suite with private bathroom.

Sep. 24 Steerage passenger jumps overboard in afternoon. No chance of saving him though. We wait about for an hour.

Steerage class was the most basic accommodation, mainly for emigrants who were flooding across to the new world at this time.

26 Sep. Met by President of the CPR at Rimouski.

The President of the CPR was Sir William Van Horne who had so materially helped them in 1892 when they were returning from their aborted honeymoon trip.

*See our note 20 July 1892.
(But see Rees entry below,)*



Sir William van Horne

Rimouski is on the south shore of the St. Lawrence estuary, in Eastern Quebec province, and was used as a landing place for the mails, while the ship made its slow way up the river to its ultimate destination, Quebec. However, in this case they stayed on board until the ship docked in Quebec. (Letter to John and Elsie Kipling, PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp 267-9).

Sep. 26 We reach Ramoski (*Carrie's spelling!*) at 2.30. Mr. McNichol, Vice-president of the CPR meets us. Canadian Customs extend the courtesy of the port.

They were certainly getting the red carpet treatment, with more to come, even if it wasn't, in fact, Van Horne himself who met them. (PINNEY, Letters, Vol 3, p. 270, note 1, says that it was van Horne, citing Carrie's diary and a biography of van Horne.

We suspect that that was on the basis of the Carrington extracts, but this Rees extract mentions McNichol by name, but we think it most likely that McNichol was van Horne's representative, bearing his apologies (the Kiplings knew van Horne who had helped them greatly on the return from their honeymoon trip).

27 Sep. Private car, Quebec-Montreal.

By courtesy of Van Horne. In fact, he provided them with a personal railway car, (and attendant) for their entire trip.

Carrie's mother and the Doubledays waiting at Montreal. The McClures. Much hospitality from W. Van Horne.

Kipling had resolved not to return to the USA – memories were too painful - and so Carrie's mother, and the Doubledays came up from Brattleboro and New York respectively to meet the Kiplings in Montreal. Mrs. Balestier seems to have been invited to accompany them for the whole trip, but decided against it. She went home to Brattleboro, and returned when they came back to Montreal four weeks later.

Sep. 27 Leave Quebec in the night. We are given a private car for our own for our small selves and party anywhere on the CPR until Nov. 13 and travel in great state to Montreal.

30 Sep. Ottawa

Kipling wrote up their trip across Canada and back formally in Letters to the Family (in which Family referred to the Family of nations of the Empire) (see our notes, NRG, Letters of Travel. The 'Letters' in this series were more political essays than travelogue). See Alastair Wilson's notes in NRG.



PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp 267-72, being personal letters to John and Elsie, give a less formal and more intimate account of half of their travels, while a further letter, to Reginald Holland on Dr. Jameson's staff at the Cape (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 3, pp 273-6) lies somewhere in between. Professor Pinney's notes to these letters confirm the details of their itinerary.

Sep. 30 We leave in our car. Mr. McNicholl (*two 'ls' this time*) sees us off. A red carpet is spread for us and we are more comfy than can be imagined

This would have been like Harvey Cheyne Snr's, private car 'Constance' in Captains Courageous.

Oct. 1 Telegrams at every stop asking Rud to stop over and see folk at different towns and make speeches.

2 Oct. Winnipeg. Ralph Connor. A triumphal progress, receptions and speeches.



Ralph Connor

Ralph Connor was Rev. Dr. Charles William Gordon (1860-1937), who wrote novels under the pen-name Ralph Connor.

He was a practising Presbyterian minister.

Oct. 2 A most marvellous day at Winnipeg. Deputations and newspaper men. (Almost illegible) Lunch at the ?? Club where Rud makes a speech. Introductions by the hundreds.

This was to the Canadian Club in Winnipeg, and entitled 'Growth and Responsibility'. It is collected in A Book of Words (see our notes by Leonee Ormonde in the NRG).

3-4 Oct. Moosejaw- Calgary. The mountains. We do not like the meals in hotels.

Oct. 3 In the train. Prairie country. . . Regina. . .

Oct. 4 Calgary. Two ?? in motor show us the city in 20 breathless minutes – thereafter we enter the mountains.



5 Oct. Vancouver and Victoria. Speeches at Canadian Clubs.

Oct. 5 Vancouver at 1.30. Canadian Club secretary persecutes Rud.

According to a letter to Jameson's secretary written a few days later, he had made three speeches by this time, and had three more to make.

Oct. 7 Speech for Canadian Club – big meeting. Great enthusiasm. Leave for Victoria in the *Charmer*, old-fashioned river-boat but comfy.

Today, 'Canadian Club' is associated with a brand of whisky, distilled in Canada. The clubs which Kipling addressed were, in his own words, "there is a crafty network of business men called Canadian Clubs. They catch people who look interesting, assemble their members during the mid-day lunch hour, and, tying their victim to a steak, bid him discourse on anything that he thinks he knows." (From Letter 2 of Letters to the Family)

This speech has only been collected recently, in A Second Book of Words. His next speech, in Victoria, is also recorded in A Second Book of Words. All these speeches were pretty tub-thumping ones, in support of Kipling's Imperial vision, and the Family of the Empire. We have had our attention drawn, by John Walker, our Hon. Librarian, to an article by Dr. Jay Johnson, a Canadian member, in the Kipling Journal for March 2006 (Vol. 80, no. 317), entitled "Rudyard Kipling's Cross Canada Speaking Tour, 1907 – Imperialism and Nationalism in Post-Colonial Canada". This covers the ideas which Kipling was developing about the Empire pretty comprehensively.

The Charmer was a Canadian Pacific coastal steamer, and Victoria, on Vancouver Island, was the largest town on the island, and was then, and remains, the capital of British Columbia, though today it is, in population terms, no more than one-eighth of the size of Vancouver, which is on the mainland, and the commercial hub of British Columbia.

Oct. 10 Leave Vancouver at 5 p.m. The Fabian Wares see us off.

Ware was, at this time, the Editor of the Morning Post. We are not sure what took him to Vancouver at this time.

This is the first time he/they appear in the diaries, though they may have met previously in South Africa – he was a member of the governing council of the Transvaal 1901-1905. Possibly his presence in Canada was the cause of the Letters to the Family (part of Letter of Travel 1892-1913) being printed in the Morning Post.

13 Oct. Medicine Hat, a mayoral reception.



Oct. 13 Medicine Hat. We are taken over the prairies in motors to a big brick industry to see it worked by natural gas.

Kipling liked Medicine Hat. When in 1910 there was a proposal to change its name he wrote a protest to the local paper, later printed as a pamphlet. See Jay Johnson's article in KJ 273 for March 1995. The proposal was overwhelmingly defeated.

Oct. 15 Rud does (prepares) his Toronto speech in the afternoon.

16 Oct. Toronto. Reporters. Dreadfully over-heated rooms with two telephones which keep ringing.

This editor sympathises with the last remark. What Kipling would have made of 'cold-callers' selling double-glazing !

Oct. 18 Rud works on his Ottawa speech and finishes off his one to be delivered tonight. A great and enthusiastic audience. I have dinner in a private room in the building (Canadian Club, Toronto) and with my hostesses go in to hear the speeches

19 Oct. Ottawa.
Stayed with the Greys at Rideau Hall [Government House]

Earl Grey (1851-1917) was the Governor-General of Canada,



Sir Wilfrid Laurier



Earl Grey

Sir W. Laurier. He looks even as Jameson said, a French dancing-master. Laurier proposes thanks after his Ottawa speech.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier (1841-1919) was Prime Minister of Canada, 1896-1911. He was a French-Canadian by birth, his family having emigrated from France at the end of the 17th century. He had been educated among Scottish immigrants and so had a good understanding of British, as well as French culture. He presided over a great period of Canadian expansion and consolidation, with Alberta and Saskatchewan joining the confederation during his term of office. He had attended the Imperial conference in London the previous year, and his ideas of the Empire involved rather looser political ties than Kipling envisaged.

- Oct. 19** We reach Ottawa in the early a.m. A big lunch party and dinner. I am desperately ill with my throat.
- Oct. 21** Rud makes his speech to the Canadian Club (Ottawa) to the best audience yet.
- 23 Oct. Reception at McGill.

See our note of 10 May above. This was the third academic honour Kipling received this year.

At town reception, a decided feeling of French-Canadian wet-blanket.

*Although Laurier tried to promote better relations between the British and French communities, there were, as there still are, tensions between them, especially in the predominantly French Quebec Province. Despite his love of France (not, perhaps, then developed as well as later), Kipling seems to have had a poor opinion of French-Canadians. In his letter to Reginald Holland (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, pp 273-6 - see our note of 30 Sep. above) - Kipling remarked of French-Canadians in general "And, au fond, they are very, very like Brother Boer."*

Mother leaves for Brattleboro.

See our note of 27 Sept. above.

Oct. 23 (Montreal.) Rud speaks at the Montreal Canadian Club. About 700.
Pencil 24 Decided feeling in air of French Canadian wet blanket. We leave for
in margin our boat Allen (*sic*) line *Virginian* at 9 p.m.

24 Oct. Left by Allan liner *Virginian*.

*The Allan Line was an old-established Scottish shipping line, specialising in trade across the North Atlantic, particularly to Canadian ports. The *Virginian* was now two years old.*

Oct. 25 Quebec 5 p.m.

Oct 26 Leave Ramoski about noon.

29 Oct. R. spends two hours investigating turbines.



SS Virginian, Allan Line

The Virginian and her sister ship Victorian were the first two passenger liners to be powered by steam turbines. Naturally Kipling was interested. Turbines are based on direct rotary motion, and are more efficient than traditional reciprocating engines, with pistons moving up and down connected to a crankshaft.

2 Nov. Home.
At Bateman's. A beautiful season. Rud at work on Canadian essays.

See our note of 30 Sept. above. The Letters to the Family were published the following March in the Morning Post. (See our notes in the NRG on Letters of Travel 1892-1913.)

Nov. 2 Get away from Liverpool 8.45. Catch the 1.50 for Brighton where motor meets us. Drive to Aunt Georgie's where we find the children. Go to a dance in the evening at John's school.

Nov. 4 We have John all day. We go to the so-called Parents' Concert in the evening and leave for Bateman's at 7.15. John is brave but homesick and the parting and arrival at Bateman's without him a dreadful matter

12 Nov. Letter announcing the Nobel Prize.

Nov. 12 Rud has a letter from the Secretary of the Swedish Academy to say that the Nobel Prize for this year has been awarded him and asks him to come and receive it Dec. 10th at Stockholm.

Alfred Nobel (1833-1896) was a Swedish inventor, chemist and armaments manufacturer who amassed a fortune in his lifetime, and left the bulk of it to establish a prize fund to award those who "confer the greatest benefit on mankind" in a number of fields, of which literature was one.

When the prize was instituted, Sweden and Norway still shared one monarch, and Nobel's will specifically nominated a Norwegian committee to award the Peace Prize.



Alfred Nobel

The other prize-winners were nominated by Swedish institutions. After the two countries' crowns separated in 1905, it was agreed that the Norwegian committee would still award the Peace Prize, while the remainder were awarded, as before, by Swedish institutions.

Kipling's prize for Literature was awarded by the Swedish Academy. He was the eighth Nobel Laureate in the field of Literature, and the first of five British laureates in that field. His award was not received with universal acclamation by the British literary establishment, though, according to a report in The Times dated 11 December, it could "cause no surprise in France".

- Nov. 19 I arrange to send £2500 to invest in America.
- Nov. 25 Rud goes to Tisbury.
- Nov. 27 Rud returns at 4.30. He reports his family most unusually well.
- Nov. 30 Rud and Elsie go to see John whom they bring home because a case of chicken-pox has broken out in the school.

In the days before vaccination for the standard childhood scourges (measles, German measles (rubella), chicken-pox, whooping-cough), the infection could run through a boarding school like wildfire and it was not unusual for parents to take their children home (with the possibility of avoiding the infection) mainly to reduce the load on the school's staff ('matron' and the assistant matron, the headmaster's wife and other staff wives might have up to thirty boys at a time all in bed under their care). This editor spent four spring terms at his boarding prep school, and in three of them, we had an epidemic

- 3 Dec. At work on his speech for opening the Institute at Burwash.

A Second Book of Words (2008, ed. PINNEY) contains the speech which Kipling made at the opening of the Institute.

In his speech, Kipling paid tribute to Stephen Lusted, who had built the Institute but had died at the end of August (see our note of 30 Aug, above).

Also to his neighbour, Colonel A.Harris Sutherland of Burwash Place, who had organised the fund-raising. The Institute was, in effect, the public library in the village of Burwash, but its building and fitting out was financed locally.

*For a very brief history of public libraries in Britain see:
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/iha-english-public-library-1850-1939/>
[English_Public_Libraries_1850_1939.pdf](#)*

7 Dec. Left for Stockholm.

Dec. 7 We leave for London on our Stockholm journey.

For the Nobel Prize ceremonies.

8 Dec. Esbjerg. Very seasick.

Dec. 8 We reach Esberg (*sic*) at 7 p.m.

He and Carrie travelled by ferry from Harwich to Esbjerg. He had written to Colonel Feilden, his friend in Burwash, on 6 December, “Do you mind praying a bit through Sunday for a calm passage for two parishioners (and two basins) in the North Sea?”

9 Dec. King of Sweden dies.

This was King Oscar II – who actually died on the previous day – this was presumably the day they heard the news. The decision was made to continue the ceremonies, but in a low key.

Dec. 9 Arrive at Copenhagen. Met by Mr. Valentine who comes from Stockholm with news of the King’s death and the consequent doing away with all ceremonies in connection with the prize-giving. Leave at 6 p.m. for Stockholm via Malmo.

10 Dec. Arr. Stockholm – comfy hotel – rush to get mourning.

Carrie hadn’t brought mourning clothes – the King’s death was unexpected.

Dec. 10 Reach Stockholm 9. a.m. Met by Professors of the Swedish Academy and taken to a very comfy hotel. A rush to get mourning. Rud calls on the Head of the Academy and at the British Embassy. At 4 p.m. the ceremony of giving the medals and diplomas and at 6.30 a beautiful dinner.

11-12 Dec. Ceremonies (she has not much to say.)



This cartoon by Bernard Partridge appeared in Punch on December 18th 1907. One hopes that Kipling approved.

*However, Kipling wrote letters to John and Elsie describing their North Sea crossing and their time in Stockholm. He also wrote a 'grown-up' letter to his sister-in-law Josephine Dunham. This was more concerned with the horrors of their journey home, but also contained a brief description of the ceremonies in the Royal Palace where they were presented to the King and Queen. (See PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 3, pp 284-92)*

Back by Hamburg and Flushing. Rough again.

It certainly was. His letter to Josephine Dunham waxes eloquent on the voyage – an extremely unpleasant one.

Dec. 11 Rud receives calls of ceremony and has a visit with the King and Queen.

The new King was Gustavus V, and his Queen, the former Princess Victoria of Baden. They also called on the Crown Prince and Princess - the daughter of the Duke of Connaught.

Dec. 12 Dinner with the Kings of the Lapps and three other men and all the Academy to see us off at 8 p.m. and cheers.

We have been unable to identify the ‘King(s) of the Lapps.’

Dec. 14 We are not at Brown’s until 1.20 p.m. (obviously an error for a.m.), a wearied and exhausted pair (*Error confirmed in Kipling’s letter to Josephine – see citation above.*)

15 Dec. Bateman’s looking beautiful and the peace of its shelter never more welcome.

Dec. 15 We are met by the motor at Tunbridge Wells and home at 1.45.

Dec. 20 Rud finally consents to go to the Mutiny Commemoration Dinner at Albert Hall on Monday next.

23 Dec. Rud to lunch of mutiny veterans at Albert Hall.



The banquet, from The Sphere, 8 January 1908, by F Matania

1907 marked the 50th anniversary of the events of the ‘Indian Mutiny’, and a ceremony took place at the Albert Hall to mark the event. 700 officers and men who had fought in that campaign were entertained to dinner, Field-Marshal Lord

Roberts presiding. The event was reported in The Times, 24 December and, according to that report, “Mr. Ben Davies then sang “Recessional” and Mr. Lewis Waller recited a commemorative poem by Mr. Rudyard Kipling entitled “1857-1907”.”

The poem was published on 24 December in the Morning Post, under that title and later collected in The Years Between as “The Veterans”; see our NRG notes by John McGivering and John Radcliffe. Lewis Waller was a well-known actor-manager (real name William Waller Lewis (1860-1915)) who made recordings of two of Kipling’s poems, “The Ballad of the Clampherdown” and “Snarleyow”.

Dec. 23 To town with Rud to the lunch given to the Mutiny veterans at Albert Hall. A wonderful sight.

Dec. 25 A Happy Christmas. The second at Bateman’s.

Four of the preceding Christmases had been spent at sea, en route to the Cape.

28 Dec. To Southampton.
A dull voyage.

Dec. 28 We get away from Southampton most comfortably,

This was the start of their final winter in South Africa, and Kipling’s last visit to the Cape.

Dec. 29 Rud works in the smoking room.

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

