

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
from the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1921

1921

Jan. At Bateman's, having pains.



Jan. 5 *'The Gate of a Hundred Sorrows'* now finished except for one interview more. *'Jungle Books'* evidently not popular with Pathé and they want *'Soldiers Three'*.

Pathé's loss was Walt Disney's gain, when Disney produced the Mowgli stories some 45 years later. However in 1921 animated cartoons had not made an appearance.

20 Jan. Mr. Lewis and Rud agree on a film of *Soldiers Three*. [Never completed.]

Jan. 20 Mr. Lewis, cinema man, comes and *'Soldiers Three'* is finished. This is his final trip. Rud is glad the work is finished though he has liked doing it.

See our various entries, October, November and December 1920, for their work together on film scripts.

23 Jan. To the Goschens at Leacock's Heath to meet Emir Feisal whom Rud finds very interesting.

LYCETT p. 504 provides the correct identification of 'Leacock's Heath' as Seacox Heath, which lies between Flimwell and Hawkhurst in Sussex, (see our note on 31 Aug. 1920).

Emir Faisal had led the Arab revolt against the Turks during the war.

He became King of Iraq in August 1921, and ruled for twelve years. LYCETT recounts that Kipling questioned him in depth on the subject of camels which did not impress the Emir.



Emir Faisal

1 Feb. Rud to Brighton to see the Prince of Wales open the Indian memorial.



The Chattri

The Chattri was established on the Downs above Brighton on the site of a ghat (Indian place of cremation) which had been made to cremate the bodies of the 53 Hindu and Sikh soldiers who had died in the Brighton area hospitals (where all Indian casualties from the Western Front were treated). The memorial was to all Indian soldiers (21 soldiers of the Muslim faith were buried at the Shah Jahan Mosque at Woking)

The inscription reads, “to the memory of all Indian soldiers who gave their lives for the King-Emperor in the Great War, this monument, erected on the site of the funeral pyre where Hindus and Sikhs who died in hospital at Brighton passed through the fire, is in grateful admiration and brotherly love dedicated.” (There is an excellent article on the memorial at

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chattri,_Brighton .)

7 Feb. Bland Sutton advises him to have all his teeth out, which he does 9 Feb.

This procedure is not normally prescribed by modern doctors. See 8 July for getting his false teeth fitted.

16 Feb. His letter on W D Howells for USA.

William Dean Howells was a celebrated American man of letters, whom Kipling had met in New York (see our entries for 5 April 1893 and 25 April 1896). Howells had died in May 1920 and Kipling had been invited to attend a memorial meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, but had been unable to accept.



W D Howells

*Instead he wrote what amounted to a eulogy for Howells, as it might have been delivered at a funeral or memorial service. (see PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 49-51*

Feb. 17 We leave for Dover.

18 Feb. Dover-Calais

They (Kipling, Carrie and Elsie, and for some of the time, Elsie’s cousin Lorna Baldwin) were off to escape a British winter again, to spend a month in Algiers.

LYCETT, pp. 505-6 describes their activities, which do not appear in these extracts. They seem to have travelled south by train in France – they could not have made the Dover-Marseilles run by car in 24 hours in those days (or not at a sedate middle-aged pace), particularly given the state of most French roads at this time – Kipling commented adversely on them in a number of letters.

19 Feb. Marseilles, SS *Timgad*

Feb. 19 We arrive at Marseilles. Go to the SS *Timgad*



SS Timgad

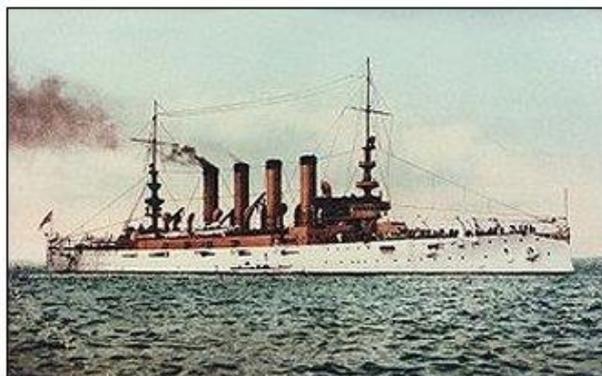
SS Timgad was a passenger steamer of the French shipping line, Compagnie Générale Transatlantique.

20 Feb. Algiers. Lady Astor there.

Feb. 20 We arrive at Algiers.

The Kiplings were acquainted with the Astors – see our entry for 4 July 1914.

22 Feb. Lunch on USS *Pittsburgh*



USS Pittsburgh

USS Pittsburgh was the flagship of the Commander, US Naval Forces in the eastern Mediterranean.

26 Feb. Met Princess Beatrice.
Algiers is cold and they are both unwell.

Princess Beatrice (1857-1944) was the youngest daughter of Queen Victoria. She had been widowed in 1896.

9 Mar Talk of Stan Baldwin being elected Speaker.
Rud goes about with M. de Galland, the Mayor and talks French.

In fact, Baldwin became President of the Board of Trade on April 1st. This was his first ministerial office.

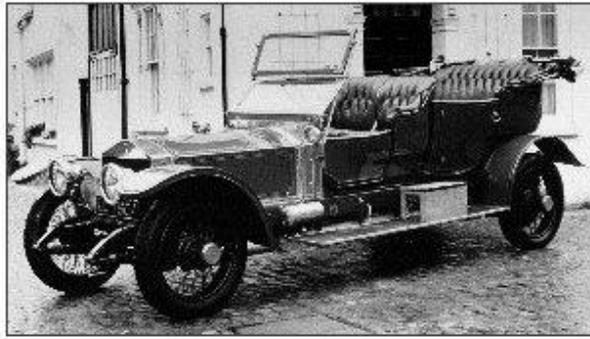


Rudyard evidently toured the city with the Mayor. There is a Parc de Galland still in Algiers.

Mar 22 Sail at noon.

23 Mar. To Marseilles where Taylor and the car are waiting. Motor to Costebello near Toulon.

Taylor and the car were indeed waiting, but poor 'Duchess' (the family nickname for Kipling's Rolls) had suffered a broken front spring and lost her exhaust tail-pipe.



'The Duchess', 1913/14 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost

Kipling wrote to Claude Johnson, of Rolls-Royce (see Index) (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 63-4) to tell him of the superlative service given to him by the Rolls-Royce agency in Nice, which had despatched a truck with the necessary spares, equipment and mechanics 180km (112 miles) from Nice and effected the necessary repairs, on Good Friday morning.

Mar. 24 Hyères.

Costebello (or Costebelle) is, effectively, Hyères-on-Sea.

26 Mar. St. Tropez.

1 Apr. Cannes. Met the Bonar Laws. All over the Riviera.

Apr. 1 Cannes

Kipling wrote a number of letters describing the events of this holiday . In particular he wrote to Col. Feilden in Burwash (see PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 53-57) two letters which covered their stay in Algiers and adds the composer St. Saens to the list of celebrities whom they met. One letter also explains Carrie's entry about M. de Galland: in describing the guests at an official luncheon, Kipling wrote that they included ". . . an ex-Mayor of Algiers – a savant to boot - .

Kipling wrote a further letter to Col. Feilden (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 64-66) from Hyères describing the spring flowers on the Riviera, and praising their hotel as being “the most English caravanserai there was”, and saying that he was “coming on very well as to my interior”.

Apr. 6 Costobelle.

Apr. 7 Cannes.

Apr. 18 Brignolles.

19 Apr. Avignon – Arles – Les Baux

A familiar route (see 25 March 1911). As Kipling wrote to George Bambridge “. . . the old buss (sic) knows every foot of every road from the south to Rouen and Boulogne.

Apr. 19 Avignon. (A few blank pages until Apr. 30.)

21 Apr. Vaucluse.

*There is a complete itinerary in note 2 to Kipling’s final letter to Colonel Feilden (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 74-75). They made a side trip into Germany on 28 April, between Strasbourg and Nancy. In a letter to André Chevrillon, (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, pp. 77-79) Kipling commented that **“All that flat, fat, and cultivated land purred with the contentment of peace and security,”** and contrasted it with the destruction he found just a few kilometres away in France : **“Since one knew that there wasn’t a single shell-hole in the land of the Huns”** he hoped that the **Almighty would “occupy himself with a world which has denied justice in the world”.***

30 Apr. Verdun.)

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Apr. 30 Verdun.)

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1 May Rheims)

)

May 1 Rheims) Lorna Baldwin with them.

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May 2 Beauvais)

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3 May Dieppe)

)

May 3 Dieppe)

4 May Our loved Bateman's. Rud restored to health.

May 4 Home

20 May With Stan Baldwin to Sturry to meet Milner and Amery.

Baldwin had recently become President of the Board of Trade (see our note for 9 Mar. above). See Index for both Milner and Amery. Milner had recently married the Kipling's great friend and neighbour, Lady Edward Cecil, whose husband had died in December 1918.

22 May William Nicholson, artist and others come to call and stay to tea. Why, I can't think why.

His previous entry in the diary had been for a call on them when they were living in Rottingdean (see our entries for 25 September 1897 and 12 August 1898).

May 23 Miss Ponton, now on holiday, writes to give notice that she will leave her post in late July. Family reasons and the breaking up of an old home. A bit sickening for me as she has only learned the job and been of use to reward my efforts for a short time. (Note, Miss P started on 26 Mar. `19.)

June 2 The new Rolls Royce motor comes at about 7.30 p.m.



The new Rolls

- 7 June Rud and Elsie to the zoo. RK's first visit as a fellow.
- June 9 We accept £1550 for our old car, the buyer to pay R.R. their commission. It cost about £1350 in 1914. I hate to have it go – another personal link with John gone.
- 18 June Death of Col. Feilden.
- June 18 We hear of our dear friend Col. Feilden's death – a great loss to us and a great sorrow. A great dear, always so wise, so clever and such a gentleman.
- 19 June Sir R. and Lady Jones.
- See Index for Jones, Roderick.)*
- June 21 We go to Co. Feilden's funeral.
- There was an obituary notice in The Times of June 28. The Colonel was aged 82 and had been awarded the CB for his services in South Africa in 1900. As a young man he had fought on the Confederate side in the American Civil War.*
- 5 July Rud dines at The Club, the first time for ~~several~~[four] years.
- 6 July Colvin's *Life of Jameson*: most disappointing.
- See PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, p. 83. This was a letter to Milner, expressing his disappointment. (The biography had been commissioned by the Rhodes Trustees, and Kipling had undertaken to review the book in manuscript form. In the end, he worked on it with Ian Colvin, the author (see Index), and it was published in late 1922.)*
- 8 July Rud gets his new teeth fitted after 5 months of great difficulty. (He works for days trying to tidy up the *Life of Jameson*.)

July 8 Rud has a final fitting of his new teeth and manages perfectly with them. I hope this ends our troubles in this direction.

We don't know precisely what temporary dentures Kipling had, but he wrote to Colonel Feilden at the end of March, "(I) am surprised that a man with such deficient armature (or shall we say "denture") as mine can eat so much".

July 14 Mr. Lewis, Pathé man from the USA, reports on the success of *Without Benefit of Clergy* in the USA

17 July Lord and Lady Milner mentioned. [Lady Edward Cecil, after her husband died, married Lord Milner.]

The marriage had taken place, very quietly, in London, on 26 February 1921.

19 July Visit from Oliver Baldwin, just returned from Russia.

Oliver Baldwin had just had an eventful year, serving with the Armenian army, then being imprisoned by Soviet-backed rebels, then imprisoned as a Soviet spy by the Turks. He later came to hold left-wing views, the complete opposite of his father's.(see Index)

20 July Trial of the film *Without Benefit of Clergy*. The cinema people like it but Rud is disappointed – **all points of the story lost**.

[Not released ?]

July 20 (London) At 11 a.m. to see a trial production of *Without Benefit of Clergy*. Wonderful work but disappoints Rud who feels that all points of his story are lost.

Wikipedia suggests that the film was released (possibly only in the USA) with Randolph Lewis credited as script-writer, 'based on the tale by Rudyard Kipling':
[\(\[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Without_Benefit_of_Clergy\]\(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Without_Benefit_of_Clergy\)\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Without_Benefit_of_Clergy)

21 July All to the Buckingham Palace garden party.
Gwynne at Bateman's for the weekend. [Nice to see him after all these years.](#)

Gwynne edited the Morning Post from 1911 to 1937. (see Index) Ian Colvin, author of the Jameson biography, was a leader writer on the paper.(see 6 July above).

July 21 We three go to the garden party at Buckingham Palace.

23 July Chevrillon asks him to accept a degree from Paris. He accepts.

July 23 A letter from A. Chevrillon asking informally if Rud will accept a degree from the University of Paris. Rud answers "Yes, of course."

See our entries for 17 Nov. et seq.

Aug. Business about Josephine and their mother's estate.

Carrie's younger sister. (see Index)

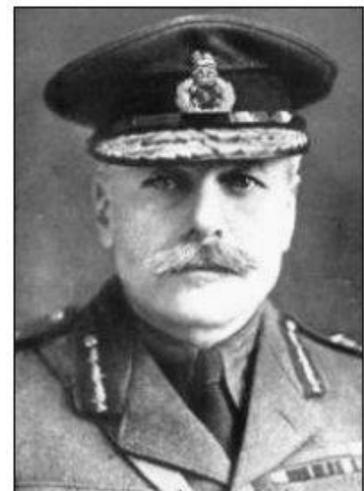
19 Aug. He submits to be filmed in a memorial film for Lord Haig's Fund.
Rud and Milner decide the *Life of Jameson* must be rewritten. Mr. R. Lewis goes off to America with enough scripts for several films.

For the Life of Jameson, see our entry for 6 July.

For Randolph Lewis, see Index.

Aug. 19 A man comes to photo Rud for a film called "British" to be used by Lord Haig's Fund only.

Field-Marshal Earl Haig (1861-1928) had been Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France 1915-1918. After retirement from the Army in 1920, he devoted his time to promoting the welfare of British ex-servicemen, particularly through the Earl Haig



Fund, which became responsible for raising funds by means of the sale of memorial poppies in the weeks leading up to Armistice Day, each year.

Aug. 24 Mr. Sam Everitt (D.P & Co), his wife and two nieces for lunch. Late as Americans always are.

Sam Everitt was Frank Doubleday's Treasurer at Doubleday, Page & Co. He had been with the firm since the beginning. See LYCETT, p. 498.

Aug. 31 Miss Ponton starts work again. I have done it all quite well and left no arrears – a big job but I am glad to find I can do it.

*Evidently Miss Ponton had dismantled the old home, and could return to her post. See entry for **May 23** above.*

3 Sep. Motor trip to Scotland begins.

Sep. 3 We start at 9. Sleep at Stamford.

*Kipling wrote a long letter describing this holiday to their friend Mrs. Hussey (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, p. 85-89)*

Sep. 4 Harrogate.

Sep. 6 Ayr.

Sep. 7 Inverary.

8 Sep. From Inverary to stay with 'Daisy' Low at Ormidale.

Sep. 8 Ormidale. 'Daisy' Low our hostess.



Ormidale House

Ormidale House is in western Scotland, just north of the Isle of Bute. The owners of the house, from whom Daisy Low rented it, were Campbells. Kipling's mother was a Macdonald, and between the Campbells and the Macdonalds little love was lost.

In February 1692, Campbell soldiers had fallen on the Macdonalds of Glencoe, and slaughtered thirty-eight of them, accusing them of disloyalty to the new monarchs, William and Mary. Like many ancient conflicts between the Scottish clans, the 'Massacre of Glencoe' has never been forgotten. For 'Daisy' Low, see Index.

14 Sep. The Oban Games.

These are well-described by Kipling in his letter to Mrs. Hussey (see our note on [Sep. 3](#) above.)

Sep. 14 Aberfeldie.

Aberfeldie (now usually spelt Aberfeldy) lies on the River Tay, in northern Perthshire, a few miles west of Pitlochry. This would have been a good day's driving on unimproved roads – some 45 miles from Ormidale to the Oban games, and then 70 cross-country miles driving to Aberfeldie.

15 Sep. [To Skibo and the Manse where we were all so happy.](#) [Andrew Carnegie's Scottish House (see 1899).]



The Old Manse, at Creich

They stayed at the Manse at Creich, near Skibo Castle, 8 Aug '99 to 15 Sep. '99, as a part of Kipling's recuperation and convalescence after the pneumonia which so nearly killed him in New York, in the early months of 1899. (see our entries between those dates.) A 'manse' is the house of the local minister, like 'vicarage' or 'rectory'.

Sep. 15 Dornoch.

Dornoch is a small Scottish burgh (town) in Sutherland on the east coast of Scotland. It has a 13th century cathedral – now the parish church in the Church of Scotland. It is close to Skibo Castle, and Rees has used Dornoch as shorthand for Skibo and Creich.

17 Sep. Inverness.

Sep. 17 Inverness.

18 Sep. Peebles. Beaufront castle.

Sep. 18 Peebles.

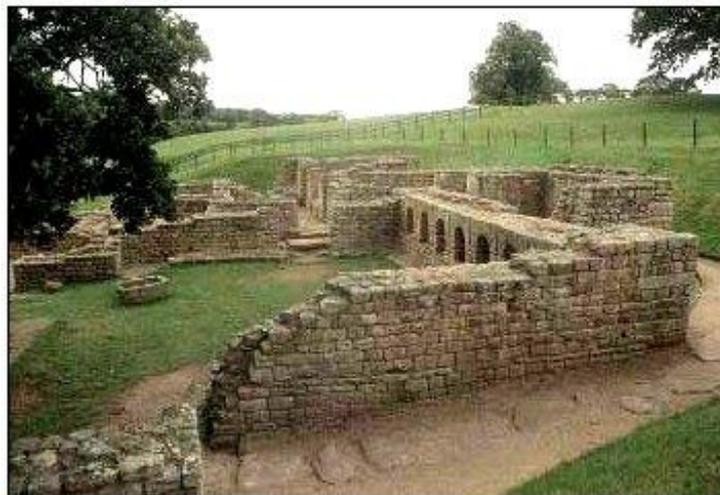
Sep. 19 Beaufront Castle, Hexham.



Beaufront Castle

Their hostess, formerly Mrs. Harold Cuthbert, had remarried and was now Lady Rayleigh.

23 Sep. To the Roman Camp at Chesters.



Chesters Roman fort

This fort is said to be the most complete Roman cavalry fort on Hadrian's Wall across the north of England. Its Roman name was Cilurnum. See "On the Great Wall" in Puck of Pook's Hill.

Sep. 24 Edinburgh.

*They doubled back to Edinburgh before continuing homeward because, while they were at Beaufront, Elsie had **"just bolted back to Inverness by rail to assist at the Inverness games, and we go to Edinburgh to pick her up on Saturday."** (Letter to Mrs. Hussey, cited above).*

Sep. 25 Carlisle.

26 Sep. Dine and sleep at Stamford.

Sep. 26 Stamford.

27 Sep. Home.

Sep. 27 Home. The car has been perfect.

In his letter to Mrs. Hussey, (above), Kipling described how the new 'Duchess' had tackled the notorious 'Rest and be thankful' hill which leads from Loch Lomond over to Inverary at the head of Loch Fyne.

Sep. 28 Some of the servants out of sorts from idleness and Miss P not too helpful being too busy being in the right.

Sep. 30 Cook gives notice.

Oct. Rud has stiff neck.

24 Oct. Dined with the Doubledays and S. Leacock and all went to 'Quality Street'

For Stephen Leacock, see Index. 'Quality Street' was a play by J M Barrie (see Index), first written and staged in 1901. This was one of its many revivals in the years up to the start of World War II.

Nov. Oliver Baldwin comes to stay and goes about with Elsie.
Rud pays the deficit - £10 – on the village War Memorial.

The War Memorial had been paid for by local subscription, which did not match the total cost: so Kipling paid the shortfall.



The Burwash War Memorial

Nov. 5 Rud receives from the Rector of the Sorbonne University of Paris his formal invitation to take his Hon. Degree.

*See our entries dated 23 Aug. and **Aug. 23** above.*

16 Nov. To the 'Lord Warden'.

The Lord Warden Hotel at Dover was immediately adjacent to the steamer berths at the foot of the Admiralty Pier.

17 Nov. Paris.

Nov. 17 A good journey to Paris.

The short sea crossing, Dover-Calais, has always been notorious for uncomfortable crossings of the Channel, especially in winter. The cross-channel ferries of the period were still comparatively small. Our grandparents would have blessed the Channel tunnel, though they might have been worried by its strategic possibilities for invaders.

19 Nov. The Sorbonne. The President there. A banquet at which he speaks and is pleased with it.

(I must have been in Paris then, *CEC*)



Nov. 19 The degree-giving ceremony starts at 3. A wonderful audience of over 3000. Rud has a splendid reception. The dinner in the evening. 200 guests. Rud's speech also most well received.

The President was the newly-elected (23 September) Alexandre Millerand. Kipling's speech (he spoke in English) was collected in A Book of Words, no. XVIII. (See NRG notes). See also, "The First Assault upon the Sorbonne" among the 'Uncollected Stories' in NRG.

22 Nov. Rud lionised in French society. Reception at the Chamber of Deputies (*the French equivalent of the British House of Commons*).

Nov. 24 Left for Strasbourg.

25-27 Nov. To Strasbourg and did it all again.
[How they all know and love Rud's books and himself.](#)

Nov. 26 To the University for the degree giving at 5, Rud wearing his University of Paris gown. A splendid reception. Most interesting to see how they all know and love Rud's books and himself.



The University of Strasbourg

*There are two letters written after this visit which expand slightly on it – (PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, p. 97-98, and p. 100). In the first, to Brander Matthews, Kipling remarks that he met Anatole France and saw some “glorious museums of local arts in Strasbourg” and “I’ve got pate de foie gras – terrines of it whereon I propose to gorge.” The second letter was to André Chevrillon, asking for help to find a translator for a short article for a students’ magazine at the Sorbonne.*

Nov 27 Lunch at the High Commissioners. Rud makes an excellent speech in reply to an excellent and gracious one by A. La Petite. At the big dinner in the evening given by the University Rud does his best speech. This finishes our official tour which Rud hopes has done good.

Kipling made a total of five speeches while in Paris and Strasbourg. All five are collected in A Book of Words, nos. XVIII to XXII inclusive. See Professor Pinney's note to Kipling's letter to H A Gwynne (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, p. 95-96) and Kipling's own last sentence in that letter "I hope to be able to say something." All five speeches were, to a greater or lesser extent, political (see LYCETT p. 507 for the distrust of Great Britain in France in the wake of the Versailles Treaty) Kipling hoped to allay French misgivings.

The High Commission was the French governmental authority which was charged with re-integrating Alsace-Lorraine (annexed by Germany after the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71) into the French state

29 Nov. Home again

Nov. 29 Home.

7 Dec. **Rud more depressed over the terms to South Ireland than he ever was during the War.**
(Rud and Colvin working together at the *Life of Jameson*)

Dec. 7 Rud more depressed over the terms to South Ireland than he ever was during the War.

Under the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, the island of Ireland had been divided into two autonomous regions within the United Kingdom, and this took effect from May 1921. However, this did not satisfy nationalist desires in the south, and resulted, in 1922, in the granting of independence to southern Ireland, though the 'Irish Free State' remained a dominion within the British Empire until 1937.

16 Dec. Rud looks over his letters and with characteristic lack of interest passes over the proposal sent by the King through Lord Stamfordham that Rud accepts an O.M. (Order of Merit) in recognition of his services to Literature and “the almost unique position his works occupy in the Empire” – a grand letter. Rud, I think, however, will keep to his idea of not accepting honours, though this time it would seem to come direct from the King.

Dec. 16 Rud looks over the letters and with characteristic lack of interest passes over one sent from the Lord Privy Seal’s Office which is a proposal sent by the King through Lord Stamfordham that Rud accepts an O.M. (Order of Merit) in recognition of his services to Literature and “the almost unique position his works occupy in the Empire”. A quaint letter. Rud, I think, however, will keep to his idea of not accepting honours, though this time it would seem to come direct from the King.

These two extracts are ostensibly the same, but we have highlighted the differences. For all that the Carrington extract is marked as being Carrie’s own words, it would seem that Carrington did paraphrase them slightly. We think that ‘grand’ is more likely than ‘quaint’, and that ‘quaint’ was merely a mis-reading of Carrie’s writing.

17 Dec. He declines it by letter.

Dec. 17 Rud decides not to accept the O.M. offered by the King and writes his letter.

Dec. 20 Rud decides to turn down an offer by D.P & Co. to publish 75,000 books here through Heineman. Income Tax is so high that it is not worth our while to run the risk of disgruntling our English publishers.

Doubleday, Page had bought the English publishing house, Heinemann on the death of its founder, William Heinemann, and now proposed to build and open a new printing factory, whose first task would be to produce a new Kipling edition.

William Heinemann had known Kipling well – he was one of the small group of guests at his wedding in 1892 - had published “An Almanac of Twelve Sports” in 1897, and had often shown interest in publishing other works by him. However, in addition to the tax considerations, Kipling did not want to upset Macmillan, who had been his UK publisher for some 30 years, and the project was dropped.

- No date. Christmas at the Baldwins. Oliver, Margo and Elsie have fun. Aunt Edith there.
- Dec. 23** We leave for Astley.
- Dec. 29** Leave Astley at 11, lunch at Oxford and on to London for the night.
- 30 Dec. At Bateman’s. Rud’s birthday present is his [notion book which has stood on his desk for 37 years](#) rebound.

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