

The Carrington and Rees Extracts
from the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1923

1923

Jan.

At Bateman's. Rud still ill.



7 Jan.

Bland Sutton calls – not discouraged by Rud's constant pain.



Sir John Bland Sutton

13 Jan.

Weighs 128lbs [9st. 2lbs (58.2 Kg)]

22 Jan. Begins to work on proofs of “Irish Guards”.

Jan. 24 We start for Bath, stopping at Wellington for the night.

We assume that Carrie means at an hotel in or near the village of Crowthorne, rather than in the College itself.

Jan. 25 Arrive Bath.

26 Jan. To Bath.

Kipling commented on this stay at Bath for Carrie’s ‘cure’ in a letter to Aunt Louie (Baldwin) (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 136-7)

31 Jan. Lunch at Bowood with the Lansdownes.



Lord Lansdowne

Their hosts were the 5th Marquess (1845-1927) and the Marchioness of Lansdowne. He had been Viceroy of India, 1888-1894 and had been instrumental in obtaining a pension for Kipling’s father – see entry for 27 Feb. 1893.

Kipling commented on this lunch in the letter to Louisa Baldwin, cited above.

1 Feb. Rud works a bit on the end of his “Irish Guards History”.

6 Feb. Mr. Melsome does a small operation on Rud’s eye – [removing a cast](#).

Mr. Melsome was William Melsome (1865-1944), a surgeon practising in Bath, who became something of a family friend. To remove a cast is to correct a strabismus, or minor squint.

Feb. (Sees much of Saintsbury.)

For Saintsbury, see Index.

12 Feb. To Brown’s Hotel.

Feb. 12 We leave Bath.

14 Feb. Speech to the College of Surgeons – [excited interest](#).

Feb. 14 Rud's speech (at the Royal College of Surgeons) was received with excited interest.

This speech "Surgeons and the Soul" was reported and published in The Times of 15 February: it was later collected in A Book of Words, as No. XXIII. See our NRG notes by Leonee Ormond.

17 Feb. To Bateman's.

Feb. 17 Home.

19 Feb. He has a haemorrhage.

Note 1 to PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 137-38 amplifies this entry. Kipling had not been in good health since the operation in the previous November.

26 Feb. Working at a 'Stalky' story (he has met Carstairs OUSC a few days earlier) [?"United Idolaters" see 18 Oct. `23].

OUSC is informal 'shorthand' for 'an old boy of the United Services College'. "The United Idolaters" - about a craze at USC for the tales of 'Uncle Remus' by Joel Chandler Harris, published in 1881 when Kipling was fifteen - was published in 1924 (see NRG),.

Mar. 5 Rud and I to London by motor.

6 Mar. We both dine at the Palace. 40 people. HM most considerate – makes him sit down.



Buckingham Palace

Mar. 6 We dine at the Palace. About 40 people. HM most considerate about Rud. Insists on his sitting down. We both talk to the Queen. Rud for some time with the Queen.

Mar. 8 News comes that the cook at Bateman's has a heart attack as well as a sprained foot so we postpone our return.

10 Mar. They go to a Brighton hotel because the cook is ill.

Mar. 14 Home.

20 Mar. Rider Haggard for lunch.

29 Mar. The weather now mild. He spends his last day at home working at "The Janeites" [which has been going some time now](#).

Kipling had been working on the tale at Gibraltar a year previously – see our entry of 22 Mar 1922. It was published in May 1924, see NRG.

30 Mar. To Tilbury and . . .

31 Mar. by sea for Toulon, working at "Janeites".

Mar. 31 We leave for the SS *Ormuz*

3 Apr. We meet and pass a ship called the *Bolivar*, [doing almost exactly what Rud's ship did in the poem](#). All the passengers seemed to know the poem.

The poem was "The Ballad of the Bolivar" - see our entries for 27 and 28 Jan. 1892. We suppose Carrie meant that this Bolivar was encountering heavy seas:

"O her nose flung up to sky, groaning to be still—
Up and down and back we went, never time for breath;"

4 Apr. At Gib. [Zaghlul Pasha and his women, prisoners on parole, come aboard.](#)



Zaghloul Pasha

Zaghlul Pasha (1859-1927) was a distinguished Egyptian political leader, fighting to restore Egypt's independence.

Considered a revolutionary by the British, de facto rulers of Egypt, he had been exiled in 1919 but was now permitted to return home – presumably the Ormuz would drop him at Port Said.

6 Apr. To Toulon, to a hotel, [very happy](#), studies his botany.

[Apr. 6](#) A friendly unknown lady at Toulon offers us a lift in her motor to the hotel.

11Apr. “The Janeites” finished
Sir James Walker here, he likes to talk to Rud.

For Sir James Walker – see Index

16 Apr. *Irish Guards* published.

18 Apr. Excellent review in *The Times*.

23 Apr. The motor arrives from England.
Rud's weight up to 9st. 7 lbs (60.5Kg - cf. entry for 13 Jan. '23)

24 Apr. To Monte Carlo.



Monte Carlo in the 1920s

- Apr. 24** Leave for Monte Carlo.
- 26 Apr. Rud [works on the King's speech for Italy](#). He spends 3 or 4 days at it.

King George and Queen Mary were about to visit Rome in early May as guests of the King and Queen of Italy

- 30 Apr. Miss Ponton gives notice.
Bland-Sutton pronounces Rud cured.

- Apr. 30** A letter from Miss Ponton, Secretary, giving notice. She has been with us for 4 years. Finds the country too dull in winter. A bit of a bother as I trained her to the job.

See entry for [Aug 31, 1921](#).

- 4 May Over the mountains to Digne.

- May 4** Digne.

- 5 May Grenoble.

- May 5** Grenoble.

- 6 May Aix. She complains of the heat and the noise.

- May 6** Aix-les-Bains.

*The weather had been hot and sunny, and Kipling loved Aix. He commented on both in two letters from Aix to Sir Charles Crewe and Sir Fabian Ware, the latter about the inscription proposed for a memorial tablet to be erected in many of the cathedrals of northern France (see PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, p. 140-142).*

- 7 May Annecy. Where they met Bonar Law and Landon, who is [doing the Lausanne Conference](#).

- May 11** Evian-les-Bains.

- 12 May Lausanne.

*A more accurate account of their movements is given in PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, p. 140 (note 1), quoting from the *Motoring Diaries*. The letter cited is dated from Aix on 8 May.*



Rudyard, Carrie, and Bonar Law

The Lausanne Conference of 1923 concerned relations with Turkey. For Bonar Law and Landon, see Index.

17 May Left Evian.

May 17 Bourges.

The motoring diary for this trip says that it was not Bourges, but Bourg-en-Bresse. The same mistake was made in 1921 and 1914 - how much was due to the transcriber mis-reading the diarist's writing, and how much to the Kiplings' uncertainty over the spelling of Bourg/Bourges, we cannot now know.

Both towns are in central France. Bourges lies on the N.20, which, as Kipling celebrates in "A Song of French Roads", links Bourg-Madame in the Pyrenees near the border with Spain, to Paris. Bourg-en-Bresse lies on the direct route from Switzerland and the south-east to Paris, which is the route Kipling was following in 1914, 1921, and now 1923.



The whole situation was probably confused by the fact that, in 1913, coming back from the south-west, they had visited Bourges, and Kipling recorded a visit to its cathedral. Bourg-en-Bresse has no cathedral. (The word-ending 'bourg' in French, like 'burg' in German, is common, and simply means 'town'.)

- 18 May Bourges.
- May 18 Dijon.
- 19 May Dijon. Rud goes sightseeing.
- May 19 Troyes.
- 20 May Troyes.
- May 20 Villers-Cotteret for lunch. On to Compiegne,

21 May Villers-Cotteret. The Guards Memorial and stone put up by Lady Milner.

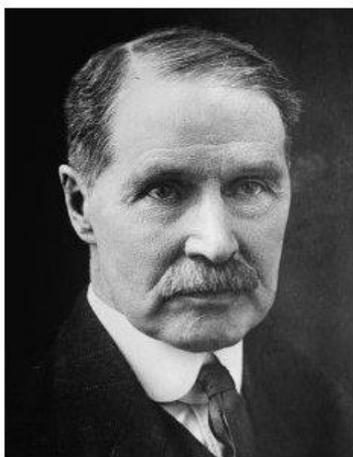
Lady Milner (formerly Lady Edward Cecil) had erected a memorial to the men of the Guards Brigade who fell at this place on 1 September 1914 and in particular to her son, George Cecil (see Index). The correct spelling is Villers-Cotterêts.

22 May Compiègne.

May 22 Dieppe.

23 May Dieppe – Newhaven – rough. And home.

They received news while on the ferry that Stanley Baldwin had succeeded Andrew Bonar Law as Prime Minister



Andrew Bonar Law



Stanley Baldwin

23 May Home

26-27 May Lorna and Arthur Howard.

This was a 'family' visit. Lorna Howard had been Lorna Baldwin, Elsie's cousin and companion (see Index): she had brought her new husband (later Sir Arthur (1896-1971) to meet her cousins. He had served in the Scots Guards, been wounded and awarded the French Croix de Guerre. He later became a Conservative MP.

29 May Miss Chamberlain, Secretary.

The purpose of this visit is unclear: Carrie's parting with her (see entries for Dec. 31 1918 and Feb. 8 1919) cannot have pre-disposed either to contemplate a further period of working together, yet it is something of a coincidence that she appears again, just when Carrie was in need of a new secretary (see entries for 30 Apr. and Apr. 30, above and 27 June below).

May 31 We go by motor to Wellington where we stop the night.

1 June They go to stay at Hagley with the Cobhams.

June 1 Arrive Hagley about 1. Violet Cobham and all the children to welcome us.

For the Cobhams, see Index. The Kiplings had visited Hagley in 1908, when it was the home of the 8th Viscount. He had died in 1922, and 'the Cobhams' now meant the 9th Viscount (1881-1949), and his wife Violet and their four children. In age, the Kiplings were between the two generations of Cobhams.

4 June To London, Lady Colefax's party.

For Lady Colefax, see Index.

June 4 Leave Hagley for London.

5 June Rud at a Rhodes meeting.

The Rhodes Trust, of which Kipling had been a Trustee since 1917.

June 5 Home.

Mid-June At home. Rud's rectorial speech.

Kipling had been asked (see our entry for 22 Nov. '22) to become the Rector of St. Andrew's University, and had been duly elected. In Great Britain, the Rector ranks third in a University's hierarchy, and is there to represent the student body. The post had become something of a figurehead, and in many universities it was occupied by a political figure or other celebrity.

14 June Met Lytton Strachey at dinner, [a new person to us](#), at Lady Wymer's (?)

Lytton Strachey (1880-1932), author, critic and reviewer, was a leading member of the 'Bloomsbury group' of avant-garde intellectuals, which included Virginia Woolf, E M Forster, and Maynard Keynes. His most famous book was Eminent Victorians.



Lytton Strachey

He was a cousin of John St. Loe Strachey (see Index) with whom the Kiplings were well acquainted.

Carrie's description of him as "a new person to u" is a masterpiece of understatement. Strachey, a homosexual, was the antithesis of all that Kipling believed in.

17 June The Doubledays and Sallie Norton.

*See Index. There is something of a mystery about this entry – Sallie (Sarah) Norton (b. 1864), the daughter of Kipling's 'Boston Brahmin' friend, Charles Eliot Norton had, according to Note 1 to PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, p. 117, died the previous 13 July.*

18 June Rud [looks over his scrap-book](#) for stories for Boy Scouts.

Land and Sea Tales for Scouts and Guides was published this year. Presumably, Kipling's scrap book was the source for many of the tales therein.

20 June War Graves meeting.

27 June Another new Secretary – Miss Gardner-Smith.

June 27 The new secretary- Miss Gardner-Smith.

30 June Weekend with B. Law at Chequers,

June 30 We leave for Chequers. Stan and Cissie in excellent form.

*See our annotation to the entry for 2 Dec. and **Dec. 2 '22**. Much the same comment applies here, except that now Baldwin had become Prime Minister, with a right to use the house, while Bonar Law, who was dying of throat cancer (he died in October this year) was now merely the ex-Prime Minister. However, it is immaterial who was the host: all three families were well-known to one another, and had been for more than 15 years.*

July Rud at home working on St. Andrew's speech. He asks the P.M. Roger Keyes, Lord Clyde, Bland Sutton, Newbolt and Frazer to take Hon. Degrees.

July 4 Rud writing letters asking the Prime Minister, Sir. R. Keyes, Lord Clyde, Sir J. Bland Sutton, Newbolt, Sir J. Frazer to take degrees on his installation as Rector of St. Andrew's.

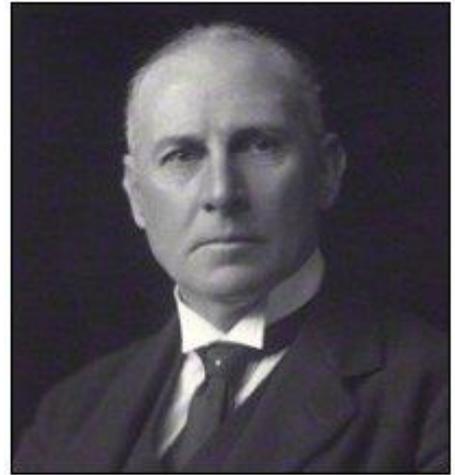
The new Rector had the privilege of nominating a number of personalities to become Honorary graduates at his installation as Rector. Those he chose were: Rt Hon Stanley Baldwin (the Prime Minister – and Kipling's cousin and old friend).

Vice-Admiral Sir Roger Keyes (1872-1945, the hero of the raid on Zeebrugge on 23 April 1918, at this date Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff,



Sir Roger Keyes

Lord Clyde (1863-1944) was the Lord Justice-General of Scotland, the senior Scottish Law Lord.



Lord Clyde

Sir J. Bland Sutton, as well as being Kipling's surgeon, was President of the Royal College of Surgeons.



Sir James Bland Sutton

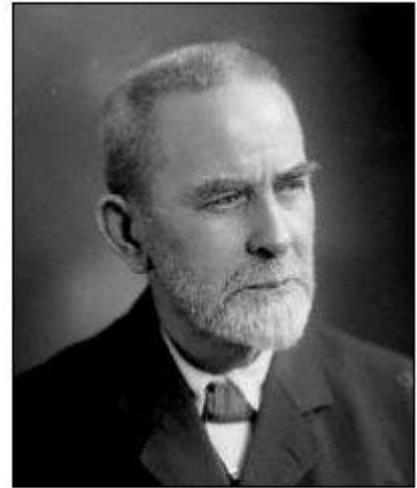
Newbolt was Sir Henry Newbolt (1862-1938), barrister, poet and historian.

Among his poems was "Vitaï Lampada" : 'There's a breathless hush in the Close to-night—Ten to make and the match to win—' and "Drake's Drum": 'Drake he's in his hammock an' a thousand mile away...', 'Captain, art tha sleepin' there below...?'



Sir Henry Newbolt

Sir J. Frazer (1854-1941) was a Scottish social anthropologist who wrote prolifically, and whose major work was The Golden Bough. He was unable to accept the offer of an honorary degree – see PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, p. 151, in which Kipling acknowledges Sir James' regrets. Professor Pinney suggests in his notes how the two men became acquainted.



Sir James Frazer

- 5 July The P.M's garden party.
There is a short report of the event, which took place on the garden of No. 10 Downing Street, in The Times, of 6 July. The Kiplings did not rate a mention in the 'Among those present' list.
- 10 July Rhodes Trust.
- 13 July Scenario for *Light that Failed* - [most depressing](#)
- July 13** Rud works over the most depressing scenario of *The Light*.
- 24 July B. Law to tea. Isabel says the first time she ever remembers him going out to lunch and tea.

Isabel was Bonar Law's daughter, who had acted as his companion after the death of his wife in 1909.
- 26 July Royal Garden Party. Rud sees many friends and greatly enjoys himself.
- 31 July Gladys Beaverbrook to lunch, [nice to see her after all this long time.](#)

*Their last meeting according to the diary had been **Sep. 28, '18.***
- 11 Aug. To sherry at the Milner's, met Oliver Baldwin.

17 Aug. John's birthday, a help to me to have only Oliver in the house. Quiet day except for Lord and Lady Milner who come to tea.

28 Aug. Sir Walter Lawrence. A pleasure to Rud to talk over his old friends.

Sir Walter (1857-1940) was a former member of the Indian Civil Service.

He had been Lord Curzon's private secretary when he was Viceroy of India, 1898-1903.



Sir Walter Lawrence

31 Aug Mrs. [Flora] Livingston who is doing a bibliography of Rud.

The bibliography was published in New York in 1927. Mrs. Livingston was the widow of the late librarian of the Harry Elkins Widener collection at Harvard. She became the Librarian in 1926.

5 Sep. Mr(s) Brett and 4 delightful children. (She had been nursery governess.)

27 Sep. Signs a contract with Mr. Hansard for a film of *Kim*.

Sep. 27 Rud meets Mr. Walt Hansard and goes with him to sign contract for *Kim* being cinema-d.

The gentleman was, in fact, the second son, Hansard Watt, of his old friend and agent, Alick Watt. This film, still in the 'silent era', was not made. Kim was first filmed in 1950.

28 Sep. A trip to the north – Peterborough.

Sep. 28 Leave for Stamford.

29 Sep. Fountains and Harrogate.



Fountains Abbey

Fountains, remote in deep Yorkshire countryside, was one of the most magnificent mediaeval abbeys in England.

Sep. 29 Harrogate.

30 Sep. Carlisle and Howick (or Hawick?).

The correct spelling is indeed Hawick – presumably Carrie was spelling as it is pronounced.

Sep. 30 Carlisle.

Oct. 1 Edinburgh.

4 Oct. Over the ferry to Balcaskie House.

According to the motoring diary which Kipling himself kept for this trip, they crossed by the old ferry from Granton-on-Forth to Burntisland in Fife. The first of the two present road bridges near Queensferry was completed in 1964.

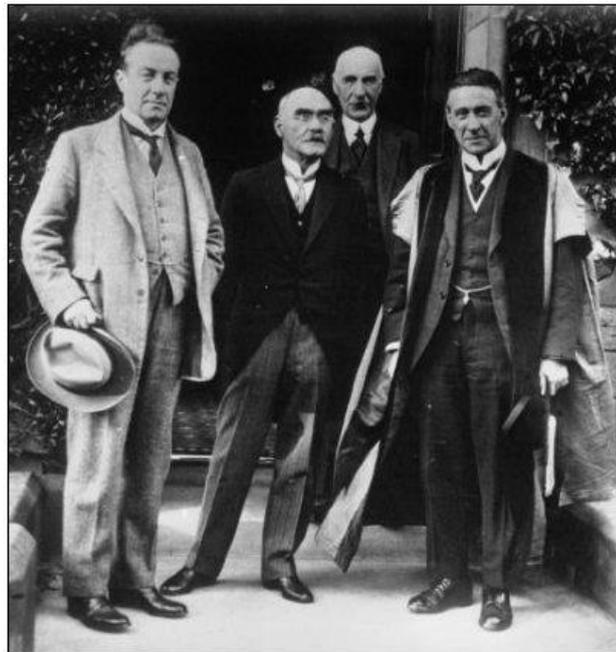
Balcaskie House was, then as now, the home of the Anstruther family who, we presume, were the Kiplings' hosts during his installation as Rector of St. Andrew's University. Lady Anstruther was a daughter of the Husseys of Scotney Castle, the Kiplings' friends in Kent.

9 Oct. To St. Andrew's met by the students, put in a gown and drawn to the University. Stan Baldwin there. A wonderful torchlight procession. His first speech.

Oct. 9 Leave by motor soon after lunch. Rud goes by train and is met by students and put into a student's gown at the St. Andrew's station. He is drawn to the University House where he makes his first speech.

LYCETT, pp. 517-8 gives a condensed account of these junketings which occupied four days, and PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 5, pp. 153-4 contains Kipling's letter of thanks to the student body for their reception.

Oct. 10 Lunch and the Rectorial address, giving of degrees. Dinner in the evening and another speech. Wonderful reception and Rectorial address received in silence.



10 Oct. Lord Haig hands over. Rectorial Address.

Lord Haig, the Great War Commander in Chief, was Kipling's predecessor as Rector. Kipling's Rectorial Address, entitled 'Independence' was received in respectful silence. See A Book of Words (XXIV).

11 Oct. Opens the Students' Union. They shake hands with 800.

Oct. 11 Go to the Students' Union which Rud re-opens. His speech a success.



The speech at University House to the students on October 9th, and the speech on 11th at the re-opening of the Men's Students' Union have been collected in A Second Book of Words edited by Thomas Pinney, and are to be found among the 'Uncollected Speeches' in NRG.

The Times carried extensive reports of the installation and the associated events on 10, 11 and 12 October ("FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT") and there were photographs of Lord Haig and Stanley Baldwin, inspecting a cadet guard of honour, as well as of Kipling in cap and gown.



12 Oct. To Dundee. The students chair him to his carriage. More speeches and handshakes.

The speech he gave to the students at the railway station in Dundee is also to be found among the 'Uncollected Speeches' in NRG.

Oct. 12 Go to Dundee. Met by students who 'chair' Rud to carriage and draw him to College. A reception before the big lunch at which Rud speaks with great success again. Then a reception. A short rest for Rud who dines with the students and makes a speech.

University College Dundee was at this time a part of the University of St. Andrew's (it is now part of an independent University of Dundee). The Times Special Correspondent gave the Dundee events the same treatment as the St. Andrew's ones. And the Dundee address was also collected as No. XXV in A Book of Words under the title, The Classics and the Sciences.

13 Oct. To Edinburgh. **Rud rather keyed up after the strain.**

Hardly surprising – they must both have been exhausted.

14 Oct. Harrogate.

Oct. 14 Harrogate.

15 Oct. To Stamford to see Miss Blaikie, and to Brown's Hotel. **A very heavy post awaiting us.**

Oct. 15 Stamford.

Miss Blaikie was Elsie's former governess – see Index.

Oct. 16 London.

17 Oct. To the Lord Roberts memorial service in St. Pauls.
Rud very keen and stirred to fresh work and impatient to begin.

Oct. 17 To St. Pauls for the unveiling of the Lord Roberts Memorial. Home.

Rud very keen and stirred to fresh work and impatient to begin.



The memorial was a bust, sculpted by Mr John Tweed, set in a black marble surround facing the memorial to the Duke of Wellington.

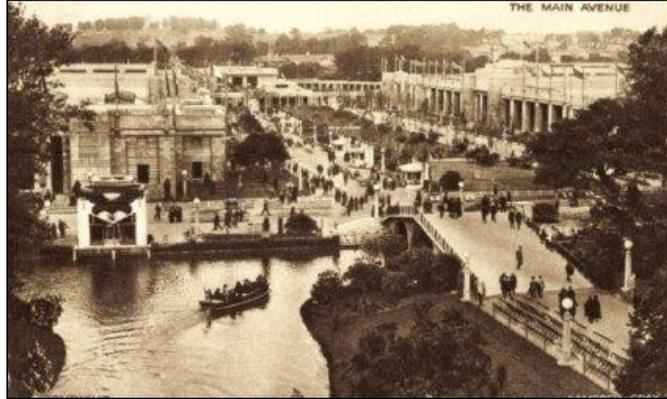
It was unveiled by the Duke of Connaught, as reported in The Times on 18 October.

19 Oct. *Starts to pull into shape some stories he was doing during the Irish Guards period.*

27 Oct. *Rearranging quantities of his work.*

28-29 Oct. *Naming the streets for the Wembley Exhibition.*

The great British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in north London, was being prepared: it opened on 23 April 1924.



The Exhibition was housed in a number of permanent and semi-permanent buildings with broad thoroughfare between them. The only name which remains is 'Empire Way'.

30 Oct. Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

These are now normally held in high Summer. Even though Autumn can be pleasant and fine – it must have been 'overcoat weather'.

5 Nov. To the Abbey for Bonar Law's funeral. Beautiful service. 'Recessional' sung.

Andrew Bonar Law had died at his home in London on 30 October.

Nov. 5 To the Abbey for Mr. Bonar Law's funeral. Beautiful service, ending with the 'Recessional'. Rud gives Mr. Watt 'London Stone' to be published in all the big places in the Empire, cabled to USA to secure copyright. No fee to be asked

The poem, "London Stone", an elegy for those grieving for their Great War dead, was published in The Times on the eve of the fifth anniversary of Armistice Day. See NRG

10 Nov. "The Prophet and the Country".

This tale was first published a year later, and collected in Debits and Credits (1926).

13 Nov. Ready for Mr. Watt.

*“United Idolaters”
“(A) Friend of the Family”
“(The) Janeites”
“(The) Enemies to Each Other”*

These tales were all published in magazines in 1924 and collected in Debits and Credits (1926).

19 Nov. In London. [George Bambridge to dine and all to a play.](#) (First mention of him for nearly two years – *actually it was 17 months – June 1922*).

20 Nov. R dines at The Club.

24 Nov. Rud working on the Wembley Pageant but [discouraged because it's so poor a scheme.](#)

See entry for 28-29 October above.

7 Dec. Depressing news about election.

*A general election was held on 6 December, and the result was a 'hung' parliament in which no party had a working majority. Although Baldwin's Conservatives gained the largest number of seats (258), Labour (191 seats) and the Liberals (158) could combine to defeat them. Labour accordingly came to power, tacitly supported by the Liberals. Kipling wrote to Baldwin to commiserate - see PINNEY, **Letters**, Vol. 5, p. 156.*

Fabian Ware to discuss inscriptions for Menin Gate.

The Menin Gate was originally a gate into the town of Ypres in Belgian Flanders. It was destroyed by shelling, but had been rebuilt afterwards as a war memorial to the thousands of Empire servicemen and women who died in the Ypres salient and who had no known grave.

10 Dec. To London.

11 Dec. Rhodes Trust and The Club.

12 Dec. Rud to War Graves. Carrie to two balls with Elsie and George B.

14-15 Dec. Gorge returns with them to Bateman's.
Rud working at "*(A) Madonna of the Trenches*"

25 Dec. Best Christmas since 1914.

Dec. 25 A better Christmas Day than any since 1914.

29 Dec. Verses on motor roads of France.

It is suggested that these verse became "A Song of French Roads", first published in May 1924.

(This a much more cheerful year.)

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

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