

The Rees and Carrington Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

1896

1896

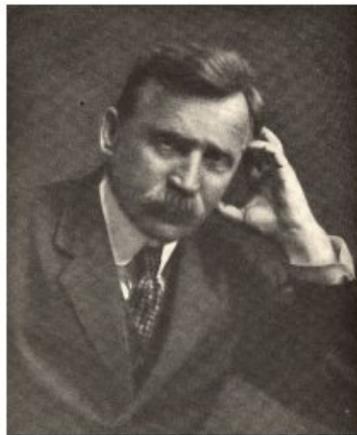
11 Jan. Rud begins 'Tomb of His Ancestors'.

This story first appeared in Pearson's Magazine in December 1897, and was subsequently collected in The Day's Work.

13 Jan. It is all most dolefully true ... hope for the best.

It would seem that this is a further extract from Kipling's letter to Sally Norton, quoted (without reference) in the footnotes at the end of December 1895. CARRINGTON, p. 232, quotes the letter more fully, making clear that the reference is to the situation with Beatty. However, it was not until 6 March that Beatty filed for bankruptcy.

14 Jan. SS McClure comes from N. York.



S. S. McClure

See our entry for 7 April 1893.

18 Jan. Sent BSB by post \$45 which settles all accts. with him including a preposterous bill for fencing and gravel. He owes for cropping of meadow.

Jan. 18 Sent BSB (Beatty) by post checks for \$10.48 and 35.58 which settles all accts. with him including a preposterous bill for fencing and gravel. He owes for cropping of meadow.

27 Jan. Finishes 'Tomb of His Ancestors'.

See 11 Jan. above.

29 Jan. R. starts to rewrite *Kim*.

Jan. 29 Rud starts to re-write *Kim*

Kim's genesis was on 21 October 1892 (see our entry of that date) and he had worked on it in early June 1893. He was now trying again.

30 Jan. On reflection he finds *Kim* quite wrong.

Jan. 30 Rud has a fine morning's work in *Kim* which on reflection he finds is quite wrong.
(RK works on *Kim* on Feb. 1. A big whack of *Kim*, finishing IIInd chap, not at all to my satisfaction is his comment on **Feb. 4** with a footnote on that day: *Kim* must be (?) rescued (?) by the pater and again on the 5th.

1/2 Feb. Taken with pains at midnight.
Baby born at 3.20. All well.'

Feb. 2 (in RK's handwriting and all entries for the next three weeks) **The baby is born at 3.20 p.m. and C seems to be more herself even than last time. Josephine is sent to Mrs. Kirkland's**

This was the Kipling's second child, a daughter, later to be their only surviving child.

4 Feb. **We think of calling the child Elsie.** (She was)
Kim must be revised by the Pater.

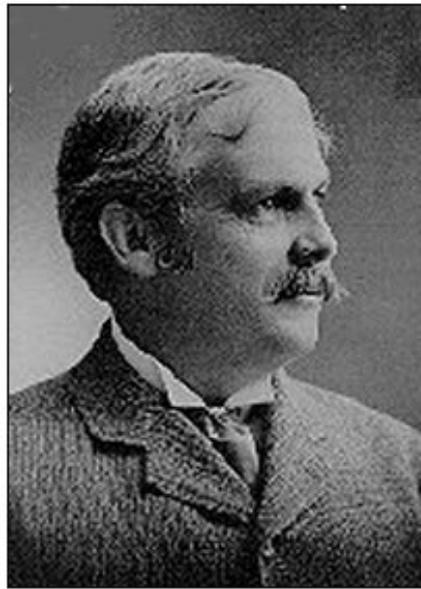
Feb. 4 **C and the child (whom we think of calling Elsie) are getting on nicely**

Feb. 6 **I begin chapter III of *Kim* and conceit myself that it is going better.** More work on *Kim* on 7th and 8th but on 9th RK writes **Stuck dead over *Kim* and so put it away.**

His entry on 7th mentioned *Kim* does not seem to chel (Hindustani for 'move') **with conviction.**

8 Feb. **J. very pleased with her baby sister.**

9 Feb. **Stuck dead over *Kim*. Dr. Conland calls and supplies me with local colour of life on the Banks.**



Dr James Conland

*'The Banks' refers to the Grand Banks, the traditional cod-fishing grounds which had long been fished by both European and American fishermen. Dr Conland had himself been to sea with the Gloucester fishing fleet when he was a young man. This discussion persuaded Kipling to drop the re-writing of *Kim*, and to turn his hand to a boy's story of fishing on the Banks, for which he had a title ready-made (see CARRINGTON. p.230). The book was Captains Courageous.*

10 Feb. **Played golf with red balls in the snow.**

Padre Day.

Sent "**Hymn Before Action**" to The Times.

Golf was one of Kipling's relaxations at this time. For obvious reasons, playing with a white ball in the snow was unlikely to be successful – hence the use of balls painted red.

We think it likely that “Padre Day” refers to a visit from the Pastor of the Center Congregational Church in Brattleboro, the Revd. Charles Orrin Day, who had been the pastor since 1885.



Center Congregational Church

In the British armed services the use of the word ‘Padre’ to refer to the unit’s chaplain (of any denomination) is commonplace: and Pastor Day was Chaplain of the First Vermont Regiment (Annals of Brattleboro, p. 966). The purpose of his visit is not mentioned (but see entry for 26 Feb. below).

*The genesis of “**Hymn Before Action**” is described fully in PINNEY, **Collected Poems**, p.637/8. In outline, it was preparation for war over the Venezuela/British Guiana disagreement and also with Germany. It was not published in *The Times* on this occasion, but was published in New York for copyright purposes and later collected in **The Seven Seas**.*

The Times published it in an amended form in 1914.

11 Feb. *Captains C.* taking shape.

13 Feb. **Grown under my hand.**

This enigmatic quotation from the diaries is not amplified – indeed it does not appear in CARRINGTON.

16 Feb. Elsie weighs 9½ lbs.

Feb. 20 The doctor comes to see C and brings a haddock to show me the actual method of splitting cod. He is very enthusiastic. (*Captains Courageous* is in the writing at the moment.)

See our note at 9 Feb. above, about Dr. Conland's experiences with the Grand Banks' fishing fleet when a young man. In the days before taking ice to sea to freeze the fish, it was split and gutted on board and packed in the hold in layers of salt.

Feb. 21 (An entry in RK's writing that would seem very unnecessary. Typical of very, very occasional entries that creep into his letters. Detail of the after-effects of taking medicine.)

Perhaps Rees was sparing our blushes – but it seems a pity not to have had a very personal comment from Kipling.

22 Feb. The Banks charts arrived.

Presumably Kipling had arranged, through Dr. Conland's good offices, to acquire a set of charts of the Grand Banks. 25 Feb.

Feb. 23 Rud leaves for Boston to overlook ships and get material for his story. Returns at 10 pm.

R. leaves for Boston to look at ships. Back at 10 pm.



Boston Harbour in the 1890s

*In **Something of Myself**, p. 129, Kipling describes this visit and others.*

26 Feb. R. and Day play golf.

28 Feb. Mr. Haskins Lawyer comes to see me about drain difficulty with B.

Feb. 28 Mr. Haskins, Lawyer, comes to see me about drain difficulty with Beatty.

This was Kittredge Haskins (1836-1916), a prominent local citizen and lawyer.



Kittredge Haskins

He was also heavily involved in local politics, serving variously in the Vermont House of Representatives and Senate, and later as a United States Congressman, 1901-08.

(10 Mar. The Beattys insolvent. GCH)



Beatty Balestier

Beatty filed a petition in bankruptcy on 6 March (CARRINGTON p.232-3).

LYCETT p. 281, discusses the local gossip about the family feud (based on letters, not just third-hand tittle-tattle) and confirms that GCH (Grace Cabot Holbrook – see 1 July 1895) put the blame on Carrie saying that she was “insane”.

17 Mar. To New York.

They decided to go down to New York, “for a treat”, And, it is suggested to get away from the Beatty situation, and town gossip.

18 Mar. To Lakewood.

Mar. 18 We leave for Lakewood, Rud coming on by a later train.

Lakewood was a resort in New Jersey, and close to their friends the Catlins at Morristown, NJ. Kipling outlined the visit in a letter to Robert Barr (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 2.p. 237)

21 Mar. R. takes a bicycle lesson.

(The Ks will go to England. (CEC)

Kipling mentions the proposed trip to England in his letter to Barr, without assigning any reason for it: and although he and Carrie had adequate reasons for leaving if they wanted to, it accorded with the pattern of life they were developing – they had been to England in the summers of 1894 and 1895.

31 Mar. R. feels he is master of his wheel and seems to enjoy it vastly.

Mar. 21 Rud takes a bicycle lesson in the p.m(See S.A.M. pp 133/134)

This refers to pp 133/34 of Something of Myself; the Kiplings riding a tandem in Devon later in the year. (See the entry for 17 Nov below) They fell off and abandoned it, calling the machine ‘the Hell Spider’.

6 Apr. Starts some bicycle verses.

These were the result of meeting Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911), now known for the prizes awarded in his name, but then a newspaper proprietor in competition with William Randolph Hearst.



Joseph Pulitzer

*Pulitzer specialised in the more sensational end of journalism. These verses were “**How Breitmann became President on the Bicycle Ticket**” which appeared in Pulitzer’s **World** on 26 April, but were not collected until PINNEY, **Poems**, p. 034.*

8 Apr. To New York. Lodgings \$100 a week inc.

Apr. 8 We come to New York City going to 262 Fourth Ave. on Lodging House Plan. \$100 a week inclusive.

The previous year, in Washington, they'd paid \$45 a week for the four of them at an hotel.

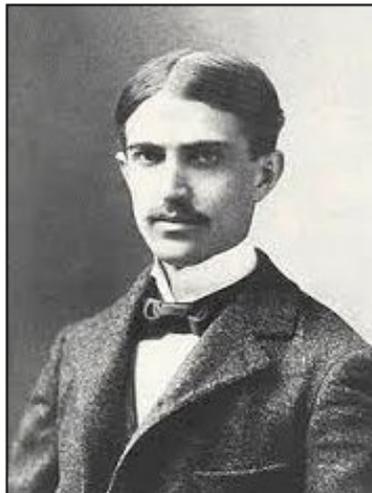
18 Apr. Sends bicycle story to **World**.

Presumably this is the poem which was long enough to be a story.

23 Apr. R. has breakfast on USS *Indiana*.

USS Indiana (1893) was the US Navy's first modern battleship, in armament comparable to any other battleship of the day, though somewhat lacking in speed and endurance, and sea-keeping qualities

25 Apr. R. has lunch with Hitchcock, Howells, and Red-Badge-of-Courage Crane



Stephen Crane

'Red Badge of Courage' Crane was Stephen Crane (1871-1900), a prolific young novelist. Appleton, Kipling's American publisher, had published Crane's The Red Badge of Courage, considered by many Americans to be the finest story of the Civil War, in 1895.

Hitchcock was Ripley Hitchcock (see entry for 11 January 1895). Howells was William Dean Howells (see entry for 5 April 1893).

- 26 The *World* pays \$500 for bicycle verses. (?)
- We assume that the (?) is Carrington querying whether the World's payment was for the Breitmann poem (see entry of 6 April) or an unidentified story (see entry of 18 April above).*
- Apr. 26 The bicycle verses are in the *Sunday World*. They pay \$500 for them.
- 28 Very happy to be at home. So is Rud.
- Apr. 28 We leave town at 12 and reach our blessed home at 6,15
- 1 May Content to sit in the sunshine. Rud does verses for Yale Kipling Club.
- May 1 Rud does some verses in reply to an invitation from the Yale Kipling Club
- BIRKENHEAD* (p. 162/3) recounts the circumstances of the writing of this poem, and quotes it in full. It was never published until its recent inclusion in *PINNEY Poems*, Vol. III, p.2040.
- 4 May A perfect day. (that's all)
- 5 May Nothing.
- 6 May Beatty threatens to kill Rud if he does not retract certain stories but no mention is made of what the stories are. Rud goes to his lawyer at once.
- May 6 Beatty threatens to kill Rud if he does not retract certain stories but no mention is made of what the stories are. Rud goes to his lawyer at once.
- And then it all fell apart. The meeting between the brothers-in-law is described in CARRINGTON, p. 233/4, BIRKENHEAD, p. 164/5, and LYCETT p. 285.*



Beatty Balestier, when younger

*They met by chance
on the road between
'Naulakha' and
'Maplewood', and
high words ensued
(all on Beatty's part)*

*But Kipling was not
conciliatory.*

May Mr. Collins calls.
Dr. Conland spends the morning.
No work.

Kipling was deeply upset by the encounter, and could not concentrate on any work. We do not know who Mr. Collins was, nor if he had any connection with the case. He was not Kipling's attorney; this was Mr. C C Fitts (LYCETT)

8 May Miss Cabot to dinner. We plant seeds.

9 May (Sat.) A very warm day and so far the most wretched and unhappy of my life. Beatty arrested on a charge of threatening to kill Rud.

May 9 A very warm day and so far the most wretched and unhappy of my life. Beatty arrested on a charge of threatening to kill Rud.

*He was arrested and a preliminary hearing held:
See BIRKENHEAD p. 167 for an account of this. The case was adjourned to three days later.*

10 May Rud settles down to some singing. I am occupied with accounts.

May 10 Rud settles down to some singing.

11 May Uncle John Balestier comes 10 pm. We sit up till midnight attempting to discuss 'matters.'

May 11 Uncle John comes on 10 pm train. We sit up till midnight attempting to adjust matters.

12 May Beatty's trial comes on in the a.m. and lasts until 5 pm leaving Rud a wreck. The lawyers play to the reporters. Beatty held for \$800 bail which he raises.

May 12 Beatty's trial comes on in the a.m. and lasts until 5 pm leaving Rud a wreck. The lawyers play to the reporters. Beatty held for \$800 bail which he raises. (There is no further mention of the trial.)

Carrie's diary says it all. In CARRINGTON's words, "Nothing but publicity came of the proceedings". Beatty was bound over to keep the peace, and bailed to appear again at the next session of the County Court. The case never came to court, because the Kiplings had left for England by that time.

13 May Rud a total wreck. Sleeps all the time. Dull, listless and weary. These are dark days for us.

May 13 Rud a total wreck. Sleeps all the time. Dull, listless and weary. These are dark days for us

14 May Rud very miserable and I most anxious.

May 14 Rud very miserable and I most anxious.

15 May Mr. Day spends the day with him.

May 15 Rud dull, sleepy and miserable. Mr. Day (the padre) spends the afternoon with him.

For Mr. Day, see 10 Feb. above.

16 May Better. Century and McClure each offer \$10,000 for 'the boys story'. (Captains Courageous?)

May 15 Rud does some revising on his story.

It was Captains Courageous, not quite finished at this date, and he accepted McClure's offer.

This was to be paid in gold (LYCETT, p. 286, citing the A P WATT archive).

May 16 The *Century* and McClure each offer \$10,000 for the boy's story (*Captains Courageous*, still flowing off the end of RK's pen.) McClure accepted by cable as the *Century* want limits on time and other work.

19 May Rud leaves for Gloucester with Conland.

May 19 Rud leaves with Dr. Conland for a trip to Gloucester and Boston.

21 May I send duplicate property deed to Uncle John.

This was probably the deed for "a parcel of meadowland of nine acres" (BIRKENHEAD, p.162) about which Carrie and Beatty disagreed (see later entry for 20 July).

23 May Rud returns much better. Gives me a bicycle.

May 23 Rud returns in the evening having had a good time and feeling much better.

May 24 I start to learn a bicycle. The editor of the *Journal* sends a man to offer Rud \$2,000 to go to St. Louis to report the convention. Rud declines.

We rather like Carrie's quaint expression "learn a bicycle." The 'convention' was the Republican National Convention at which Governor McKinley was selected as the Republican candidate for the Presidential election to be held in November.

25 May L. de Forest comes.

Lockwood de Forest: he seems to have stayed until he and Rudyard went salmon-fishing three weeks later. BIRKENHEAD implies that Kipling was fearful that Beatty would physically assault him, and used de Forest as, if not a bodyguard, an insurance that he would not be attacked

3 June He writes “Sestina of Tramp Royal” in one day. a.m.

Published in The Seven Seas later in 1896.

A Sestina is (Oxford English Dictionary - OED) a “poem of six six-line stanzas (with an envoy) in which the line-endings of the first stanza are repeated, but in different order, in each of the other five.” The OED suggests that its origins lie in the time of the mediaeval Florentine poet Dante Alighieri (1265-1321). CARRINGTON referred to it as “one of the most rigorous of verse forms”, and examination of Kipling’s sestina will reveal that the pattern of line-endings is more complex than the simple definition given in the OED (in fact, it reminds this editor of a sample of change-ringing for a ring of six bells).

4 June Carrington has inserted this date, but there is no text to follow the insertion.

5 June He finished a BRB called *Morale* (That Day?) Hanging fire a long time.

(Later in June he works very hard).

It cannot have been ‘That Day’ which had been published on 25 April the previous year. He did make some changes before it was collected in The Seven Seas. The only alternative this editor can suggest is that the poem was ‘Cholera Camp’, which was published in McClure’s Magazine in October 1896.

15 June Leaving for Canada to fish.

June 15 Rud leaves by afternoon train for Boston and goes on tomorrow to Canada to fish.

He and de Forest went to the Gaspé coast to fish for salmon. It is of interest that golf and salmon-fishing, both of which recreations he followed while living in Vermont, seem scarcely to have interested him when he went to live in England.

19 June Writes of great ovation in St. John (*presumably on their way to where they were going to fish. St. John is in New Brunswick, on the Bay of Fundy, scarcely the Gaspé coast.*)

June 19 Rud writes of great ovations at St. John

1 July Lockwood and R. return.

July 1 Rud returns at noon. (Note. During RK's absence CK seldom makes any entry in her diary except comment on the weather.)

3 July Engine broken down.

For the water pump.

8 July We go for a ride on the wheels.

'My wheel', or 'my wheels' was frequently used for 'my bicycle', 'my cycle', or 'my bike' (the latter dates back to 1880, at least).

17 July R. works on the 'Mary Gloster'.

Another of Kipling's great narrative poems, published later this year in The Seven Seas.

20 July To town to consult Judge Reed about the Meadow question. Assures me the deed is perfectly correct.

See entry for 21 May.

4 Aug. Conland and R. leave for Gloster. (Conland calls almost every day).

Aug. 4 Rud leaves in the p.m for Boston and Gloucester.

7 Aug. Returns. (29 June: CK to CE Norton - quote).

The letter is not quoted in CARRINGTON, nor does it appear in PINNEY, Letters.

Aug. 7 Rud returns having had a profitable trip.

13 Aug. Rud finds the last lines for the 'Mary Gloster'.

15 Aug. He leaves for Ashfield to see the Nortons. Back 17th.
(Last 3 days blank)

Aug. 15 He leaves in the a.m. to see Mr. Norton

28 Aug. I am interrupted in my packing by Mrs. Holbrook and late
in the afternoon Miss Cabot but at last it's all done and I
go to my bed with a heavy heart.

At this distance of time it is difficult to say with certainty whether the Kiplings intended to return. This editor's feeling is that Carrie did not want to go, though as a dutiful wife she would follow her husband, and she must have recognised that a separation between the two families would be a good thing – for Kipling himself, at least. But 'Naulakha' was the home which she had built with her husband, in the countryside in which she grew up, and where her children were born. No woman would willingly give those things up.

They had decided to go to England that summer before the Beatty affair blew up (see entry for 21 March), and had taken a house in Devon for a year, clearly intending to stay for some length of time: and after Beatty's appearance in court in May, Kipling had, apparently, unguardedly said to a reporter (CARRINGTON p. 236), "that he intended to leave that part of the country as soon as possible". (NB, not to leave the USA.) We know he was disenchanted with American politics and politicians, and must have recognised that he was unlikely to be able to develop his ideas about the British Empire from the heart of an anti-imperial country.

Despite the adverse publicity from the popular press, the more serious papers reported the matter fairly, and Kipling received letters and visits to support him in the feud. And he wrote to William Dean Howells on 4 June (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 2, p, 244) to say "I don't think quite of quitting the land permanently." But, in Something of Myself, he remarked that they had taken ship for England "after clearing up all our accounts": and the rest of his account there (p. 132/3), suggests that they had no particular intention to return.

29 Aug. We leave Naulakha at 8.30 for Morrystown. (The Catlins' home)

Aug. 29 We leave Naulakha at 8.30, reach Morristown at 5.30.

See the Cabot papers for a quotation from the Brattleboro paper, the Vermont Phoenix, which reported the Kiplings departure.

31 Aug. From Morristown NJ to W. James Grundy and conventioners.

Presumably Kipling was attending a Convention of some sort – but who W. James Grundy was, we cannot say.

1896

1 Sep. Leave Hoboken SS *Lahn*.

Sep 1 We leave Hoboken at 1 a.m.

Hoboken was on the New Jersey shore of the Hudson River and was more convenient than the piers on the East River.

The Lahn (the name of a German river) was a Norddeutscher Lloyd (NDL) passenger liner, built primarily for the westbound emigrant trade, but their ships, at this date mostly British-built on the Clyde, established a reputation for speed. Kipling seems to have had a predilection for NDL's transatlantic ships – possibly because, on board them, he was less likely to have to socialise with tuft-hunters who might be expected to be found on the ships which specialised on the trade solely from England – the Cunard, the Allan Line, the Inman Line, etc.

In fact, BIRKENHEAD says (p. 170) that they crossed in the Bremen, another NDL steamer. However, PINNEY, Letters, Vol 2, p, 255, quotes a letter from Kipling to Dr. Conland, headed “Dampfer Lahn”

8-9 Sep. Southampton at midnight.

Sep. 8 Tie up at Southampton at Midnight.

To St. Mary Church, Torquay.

Rock House.



Rock House, Torquay

Presumably they stayed the night ashore, probably at the South Western Hotel, just outside the dock gates, which was a part of Southampton Town station, from where their train would have left the following morning – rather a tedious cross country journey to Torquay, with changes at Salisbury, Exeter and probably Newton Abbot as well. And although their heavy baggage would have been sent separately, and with plenty of porters to carry cases and trunks, it must have been a trying journey for Carrie, in particular.

- Sep. 9** Arrive at last [at Torquay] with 15 pieces of luggage and go to Newberry's Hotel, St. Mary Church.
- Sep. 10** We drive to Rock House to find the owners in full possession and the place in dire confusion. It is clean but untidy and the outlook is charming.
- Sep. 12** We go to Rock House after lunch and make start.
- Sep. 14** A cook, F. Melford, comes at £20 p.a.

Sep. 15 A house parlourmaid at £16 the year comes, name Susan Netherway.

17 Sep. Struggling with house moving.
Ambo Poynter comes.

The heavy baggage must have arrived.

23 Sep. Rud has toothache.

26 Sep. Rud goes to the *Britannia*.

The Britannia was the training ship for naval cadets at Dartmouth, some ten miles away, by train. He was invited to dine there. This event marked the re-awakening of his interest in the Royal Navy.

Oct. 1 Room prepared for pater who arrives at 4.30

2 Oct. The Pater modelling in coach house.
Rud working at *Outward Bound* edition.

The Outward Bound Edition was published by Scribners, of New York City, and ultimately consisted of 37 volumes, published between 1897 and 1937. Many volumes were illustrated by photographs of plaques produced by Lockwood Kipling

Their stay in 'Rock House' was not successful – primarily because what Kipling himself referred to as the Feng-shui of the house was wrong.

But Kipling described his study in terms which make this Editor green with envy (CARRINGTON, p. 244) "on the side of a steep hill falling away . . . to a hundred-foot cliff of pure red soil. Below that is the sea, about two hundred yards from the window . . . I look straight from my work table on to the decks of the fishing craft who come in to look after their lobster-pots"

Oct. 8 Rud and pater go into Torquay to be photographed (for [Outward Bound?](#))

11 Oct. Finishes the Bell Buoy '[commenced some time since](#)'.
(Rud and Pater going for long walks and fishing)

"The Bell Buoy" appeared in the Saturday Review, First Illustrated Supplement.

*Christmas 1896, and in McClure's Magazine,
February 1897. It was collected in The Five
Nations, in 1903*

Oct. 19 Miss Annie Scott Duff, governess for Josephine, arrives.
Salary £35.

*Josephine was only aged three and three-quarters: rather
young for a governess rather than a nanny.*

22 Oct. Some political verses not for publication -
'Heard ye the Kaiser hath kissed the Czar?'

Oct. 22 Rud does some verses on the present British political
situation which he decides not to publish (Foot-note by
RK) **Heard ye the Kaiser hath kissed the Czar?**

*PINNEY, Poems, Vol 3, includes this poem among
"Unlocated Poems" on p. 2218. There is no text for
the poem, but Pinney speculates on the subject.*

Oct. 24 Rud does a start of an introduction to his new American
edition *Outward Bound*. The finish of *Captains
Courageous* goes to Mr. Watt.

Oct. 25 Rud amuses his parents.

26 Oct. Mr. and Mrs. Kipling leave at noon. (*The Pater and Mater*)

Oct. 26 Mr. and Mrs. Kipling leave at noon. (Note. There is no
mention of the arrival of RK's mother.)

5 Nov. All morning papers review *Seven Seas* most favourably.

Nov. 5 All morning papers review *Seven Seas* most favourably.

7 Nov. We have lunch on HMS *Britannia*.

15 Nov. [I go to church with J.](#)

*J. was Josephine,
now rising four.*



Kipling and Carrie were never regular church-goers, and this may have been the first time that Josephine had been taken to church. In a letter to C E Norton Kipling wrote "I am daily and nightly perplexed with my own private responsibilities before God".

17 Nov. They order CTC cycling suits.

The Cyclists' Touring Club had been originally formed in 1878 as the Bicycle Touring Club. Members, like those of other clubs, often rode in uniform. appointed an official tailor.

The uniform was a dark green Devonshire serge jacket, knickerbockers and a "Stanley helmet with a small peak". The colour changed to grey when green proved impractical because it showed the dirt. Groups often rode with a bugler at their head to sound changes of direction or to bring the group to a halt. Confusion could be caused when groups met and mistook each other's signals. (Wikipedia)

19 Nov. R. goes to Tisbury.
Jos. engaged to T. Dunham

Josephine Balestier (right) (1870-1939) was Carrie's younger sister.

She married Theodore Dunham, a surgeon, with whom she had five children, one of whom became a noted astronomer and physicist. .



Nov. 19 Rud leaves in the a.m. for Tisbury for a visit.

Nov. 23 Rud returns.

Nov. 30 Rud goes off at 11 for town.

Dec. 2 Rud returns in the afternoon.

5 Dec. R. to dentist again.

7 Dec. R. starts on his commemorative ode.

Dec. 7 Rud starts seriously on his Commemoration ode.

In due course, this became "Recessional" (the following year was to be Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee – arguably the high point of the British Empire).

Dec. 13 Rud starts a story. School boy life.

This was the start of Stalky and Co.

15 Dec. Edie Macdonald comes.

Dec. 15 Miss Edith Macdonald comes in the afternoon.

Edie (Edith) Macdonald was Kipling's aunt, the fifth, unmarried, sister of the "Macdonald sisters".

Dec. 17 Elsie very ill.

Dec. 18 We take Elsie to the Doctor and he has a consultation.

Dec. 19 At noon two doctors operate on Elsie and relieve her.

Elsie was only ten months old. PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 2, p, 280 has a letter dated 31 December to Charles Norton which explains that Elsie had had an abscess "through excess of condition and was operated upon – 5 minutes under chloroform . . . But it is NOT nice to see your own kid cut into with a knife – specially if you have to hold the kid"

Dec. 20 Elsie much better

The letter cited above said that "Elsie rather seemed to enjoy being spoiled and is now as fat and phlegmatic as ever"

28 Dec. Uncle Crom Price comes till 30th.
(This year no valediction at the end).

Dec. 28 Uncle Crom Price comes for a visit.

Dec. 29 Rud and his uncle have a long outing both a.m. and afternoon.

Dec. 30 Uncle Crom leaves.

No post-script by RK this year.

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