

The Rees and Carrington Extracts  
From the diaries of  
Caroline Kipling

1898

1898

*Following on from 1897, there is a single page summary of the 'Extracts' August 1896 – December 1897. There is no additional material in the page, so we have omitted it. It looks rather as if it is, effectively, a list of the events in those 16 months which CARRINGTON thought sufficiently significant to be included in Chapter X, 'At Torquay'. [A.W.]*

1 Jan. Rud and Stan – a long walk.  
Fred Macdonald to stay.

*Fred Macdonald (1842-1928) was the younger of Alice Kipling's two surviving brothers, and so Rudyard's uncle. Like his father before him, he became a Methodist minister.*

3 Jan. Balfour says he will give Henley £200 a year.

*This was the successful outcome of the representations made by Kipling and others on behalf of W E Henley, the celebrated editor who had encouraged many young writers, including Kipling,*

*See the entry for 13 November 1897.*



*W. E. Henley*

Flo and Fred MacD to dinner.

*Flo was Fred's daughter – see entry 3 February 1897*

Jan. 3 Rud hears A.J. Balfour will grant Henley a pension of £200 s year. (RK was responsible for this being recommended.)

*Arthur Balfour was Leader of the House and First Lord of the Treasury at this time.*

6 Jan. Henry James to dine.

8 Jan. To Southampton. *Dunvegan Castle*.

Jan. 8 We leave 'The Elms for Southampton arriving at 1.30. Set sail on SS *Dunvegan Castle* at 4.30. (in RK's writing **Lucy deadly sick and Miss Blogg spasmodically so. C and Rud hard at work with the children.**)

Rud proves himself a veritable hero – always kind, patient and never cross. I am not thus – alas!

*They were on their way to spend the winter in South Africa, at the Cape. LYCETT, p. 302-3 explains the reasons that led Kipling to go to South Africa for the winter months. On this occasion, Lockwood Kipling accompanied them.*

*SS Dunvegan Castle was a Castle Shipping Line passenger liner. The Castle Line was to merge with the Union Line to form the Union-Castle Line in 1900.*

12 Jan. Madeira.

Jan 12 Arrived Madeira. Went ashore with pater and Rud to breakfast.

*In the days of coal-fired ships, it was necessary to call for coal at least once en route to the Cape: and there were passengers and mail and cargo to be discharged or embarked.*

Jan. 22 I feel dull and ill and realise gain how unfit I am – how near a nervous breakdown.

25 Jan. Capetown. "The Vineyard", Newlands.

Jan. 25 We land at 9.30 and come by train to The Vineyard, Newlands where we promise to be pretty comfy. Rud goes into Cape Town in the p.m.

*"The Vineyard" was a boarding-house in Newlands, one of the southern suburbs of Cape Town. It had been recommended to the Kiplings by the author Rider Haggard. BIRKENHEAD, p. 190, quotes Something of Myself, p.148, for Kipling's unflattering opinion of their landlady.*

26 Jan. Lunch with Rhodes and Sharpe of Central Africa.

*Kipling had met Cecil Rhodes at a dinner in London the year before (see entry for Apr. 2 1897) having already heard about him (see entry for 3 February 1897 and LYCETT p. 236.) Cecil Rhodes (1853-1902) was a mining magnate and South African politician who had served as Prime Minister of Cape Colony from 1890 to 1895. He was an unashamed imperialist, and he and Kipling hit it off instantly.*



*Sir Alfred Sharpe*



*Cecil Rhodes*

28 Jan. The Pater to Johannesburg.

Jan. 28 The pater to Johannesburg.

*Johannesburg was the biggest city in the South African Republic, usually referred to as 'the Transvaal'. The Transvaal was an independent Boer republic (est. 1852), which had given the British 'a bloody nose' in the first Anglo-Boer War (1880-1881). Within two years the two countries would be at war again*



*Alfred Milner*



*Lockwood Kipling*

4 Feb. Dined at Government House. Milner [charming](#).

*Milner was Alfred Milner (1854-1925), then Sir Alfred (later Viscount), High Commissioner for Cape Colony. Kipling had met him the previous year, at the same dinner as he met Rhodes (see entry for [Apr. 2 1897](#).)*

*He was probably the most influential British colonial administrator of the period 1880-1920. He initiated 'Milner's Kindergarten', young British civil servants in the colonial service, many of whom went on to achieve high rank and great responsibility.*

11 Feb. Rud to Simonstown.



*Simon's Town in the 1890s*

*Simonstown, or Simon's Town, was the base of the Royal Navy's Cape of Good Hope and West Coast of Africa station. Kipling had visited there in 1891, during his stop-over at the Cape on his uncompleted round-the-world voyage after his near-breakdown in London. It had formed the setting for the first part of 'Judson and the Empire' (Many Inventions) and later two further tales 'The Captive' and 'Mrs. Bathurst.' (Traffics and Discoveries).*

13 Feb. Memorable day with Rhodes.

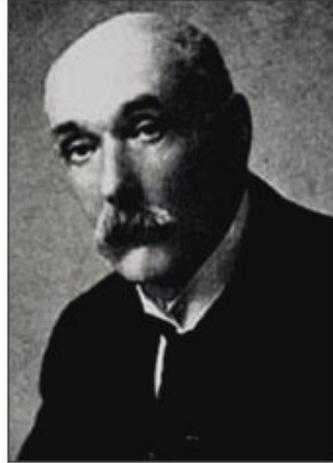
*In Something of Myself, p. 149, quoted in CARRINGTON, Kipling described a meeting or meetings with Rhodes at his house 'Groote Schuur', when Rhodes showed Kipling some of the projects he was trying to start: in particular, a fruit industry.*

16 Feb. Visits Merriman at Stellenbosch.

*Sir John Merriman (1841-1926) was then the Leader of the Opposition in the Cape Colony Parliament. He had been an associate of Rhodes, and a member of his government, but fell out with him over the degree of corruption in Rhodes's mining empire.*

*Merriman had broken with Rhodes completely over the Jameson raid in December 1895.*

*Rhodes had encouraged Jameson and a group of adventurers to start a rising against the Boer government in the Transvaal. They failed, and Jameson was interned and later prosecuted.*



*Sir John Merriman*

**Feb. 16** Rud leaves by an early train for Stellenbosch.

**Feb. 17** Rud returns.

21 Feb. Amusing dinner, Mr. Rhodes's.

25 Feb. Amusing arguments, Rud and Rhodes.

*The arguments cannot have been too serious – but Kipling was getting more and more involved in South African affairs and politics. In his Imperial view, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand were safely established in the Empire. South Africa, with its large indigenous population and the Boers of European stock was much less so – as was about to be shown in 18 months' time at the outbreak of the second Boer War.*

**Feb. 26** We go for a ride on the mountain road and meet Mr. Rhodes, who asks us up for lunch. Some folk, the Cunards, have a phonograph and Rud talks into it for them.

*Sir Samuel Cunard, the founder of the shipping company of that name had nine children. These Cunards at the Cape were probably Sir Bache Cunard (1851-1921) and his wife, Maud (better known later as the Society hostess, Lady Emerald Cunard).*

**Feb. 28** The pater returns from his travels, well and bronzed.

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Mar. Rud to Kimberley. Special train.



*Kimberley in 1899*

*Kipling was about to undertake a tour around South Africa, sponsored by Rhodes, including the Boer republics and the as yet barely settled protectorates around the Zambezi river.*

*In a 'protectorate', as opposed to a 'colony', British rule was exercised over a territory nominally on behalf of the local peoples, and rival influences excluded.*

**Mar. 5** I get Rud ready for his travels . . . he dines with Mr. Rhodes and leaves at 9 p.m. for Kimberley

7 Mar. Rud at Kimberley. Pater in Cape Town

*Kimberley was the centre of the diamond-mining industry, located in the northern part of Cape Province, some 550 miles north-east of Cape Town, and only just outside the western border of the Orange Free State.*

9 Mar. Leaving for Bulawayo. Rhodes in Cape Town.

**Mar. 9** . . . he leaves today for Bulawayo.

*Rhodes had accompanied Kipling on the first leg of his tour, but returned while Kipling went on northwards to Bulawayo, along the newly-built railway, which was heading for the Zambezi river, and which was to form part of Rhodes's vision of a Cape-to-Cairo railway, never completed. The trip provided him with the setting for the dénouement of his enigmatic story 'Mrs Bathurst' (1904, Traffics and Discoveries). See NRG for Alastair Wilson's notes on the tale.*

12 Mar. Rud at Bulawayo.

*Bulawayo, some 650 miles further NNE of Kimberley, lay at the fringes of British imperial authority at this time, in what was starting to be referred to as Rhodesia (later Southern Rhodesia – now Zimbabwe).*

*The first white settlers had arrived in the 1860s, and only two years earlier, in 1896, the city had undergone a siege by the Ndebele people after the land had been effectively annexed by the British South Africa Company (BSAC - Rhodes's company) in 1893.*

*In extending and exercising British rule, the BSAC had many parallels with the East India Company in India up to the 1850s, in that the expansion of British influence was carried out under the aegis of a trading company – not always with the authority of the Home government.*

14 Mar. Out to the Matoppos.

**Mar. 14** A wire from Rud to say he has been out to see the Matoppos.

Pater leaves for Stellenbosch to stop until Thursday.



*The Matopo Hills, south-western Zimbabwe*

*The Matopos Hills (so spelt today – or Matobos) lie close to Bulawayo, and are an area of great natural beauty.*

- Mar. 17** Pater returns
- Mar. 24** (Rud at Kimberley.)  
Pater leaves at 9 p.m. for Kimberley to join Rud.
- 28 Mar. At Kimberley, leaving for Jo'burg (*Johannesburg*).
- Mar. 28** (on to Johannesburg.)
- 30 Mar. Pater returns from Kimberley with a bagful of Rhodesian curios from Rud.
- Mar. 30** Pater returns at noon bringing a bag of Rud's full of Matabele curiosities.
- 6 Apr. Rud returns from Jo'burg **looking well, greatly enjoyed himself.**
- Apr. 6** Rud returns at 8 p.m.

*Johannesburg was then, as it still is, the centre of the gold-mining industry in South Africa. It was the commercial capital of the Transvaal, 'The South African Republic', which had been established in 1852 by the Boers, who had trekked there to escape British rule in the Cape.*



*Main Street Johannesburg, around 1900*

*Large gold deposits had been found in the Transvaal in 1886, and this had attracted many incomers, many of them British. The Boers saw them as 'uitlanders', outsiders. Fearing that their rule was threatened, the Transvaal government denied them voting rights.*

*This was a major cause of the second Boer war against the British, which broke out the following year. Kipling spoke to a group of 'uitlanders' in Johannesburg, but was careful to be non-committal on the issue.*

11 Apr. Rud and Pater are given a big dinner in Cape Town.

12 Apr. Aboard ship – *Norham Castle*. Rough trip.

Apr. 13 We set sail at 4 p.m. on the *Norham Castle*

*After their return home, Kipling wrote to Sir Donald Currie (Chairman of the Castle Line), to thank him for the excellent service they had had out and back, and to congratulate him on the state of the ships, *Norham Castle* in particular. (PINNEY, Letters Vol. 2 p.338).*

30 Apr. Arrive London. Palace Hotel. Dined with John Hay  
Much talk with Rhodes and Milner on this trip.

Apr. 30 (Dock 7.15 p.m.) Arrive Palace Hotel 11.15

*We assume that the "on this trip" refers to their whole time in South Africa, rather than on the voyage home (Rhodes was already in England, and Milner did not leave his post as Governor of Cape Colony.)*

*See entry for 2 Mar. 1895. John Hay was now the US Ambassador in London – but we think this entry refers to their dinner three days later – it is in the highest degree unlikely that they dined at midnight immediately after their arrival.*

3 May Dined with Rhodes and John Hay.

*Rhodes had preceded the Kiplings to London by about three Weeks (his arrival being reported in The Times of 4 April).*

5 May To 'The Elms'.

May 5 We leave at 9.30 for The Elms – arrive at the house 10.30.

*Carrie's timings must be incorrect. The fastest train from London to Brighton took 60 minutes. If they left the hotel at 9.30, they would not have caught a train before 10.00; and by cab from Brighton to Rottingdean would have taken the best part of an hour from the time of the train's arrival.*

May Putting together *The Day's Work*. S. McClure visiting. Re-working 'Garm'.

[Much friendship with the Cope Cornfords. G. Wyndham. Sir G. Robertson.]

*We have met all three mentioned here previously: for Cornford, see entry for 13 November 1897; for Wyndham, see 30 April 1894; for Robertson, see 23 January 1897.*

**May 8** Rud does a little work on some verses 'Cruisers' (the first mention of work since they left home.

*'Cruisers' was published the following year.*

**May 9** Rud gets his stories ready for the new book which is to be called *The Day's Work*.

**May 16** Rud thinks over his speech he is making at the South African dinner and goes up to town by the 5 train.

*The speech, to the Anglo-African Writers' Club, was reported in The Times of 17 May 1898. It has recently been collected and published in 'Uncollected Speeches' (see NRG) by our member Professor Tom Pinney, who gives a succinct summary of Kipling's words – largely an uncompromising view of the backwardness of the Boers and the superiority of the British colonial.*

**May 17** I go up to London . . . meet Rud at my club . . . and give him a lunch . . . and meet Rud at the station. . . A splendid reception last night and much newspaper appreciation this morning and evening.

*Kipling had been invited to give the speech by the President of the Anglo-African Writers' Club, Sir Henry Rider Haggard, with whom he had been acquainted since his earliest days in London (they were both members of the Savile Club). They maintained a friendship until Haggard's death in 1925.*

**May 24** Rud is thrown twice from his horse and badly shaken.

**May 31** We take on a horse and trap whose expenses are £4.7.6 per week.

*We assume that this involved the hire of the equipage and a groom from a local job-master: the cost, £400 p.w. at 2018 prices.*

27 May Verses on 'Anglo-Saxon Alliance'.

*This was, possibly, 'The Houses'. Kipling dated this poem to 1898 when compiling the **Inclusive Verse** in 1919.*

30 May Angela mentioned.

*Angela was Angela Mackail, the grand-daughter of Aunt Georgie (Burne-Jones), who was much the same age as Kipling's Josephine. CARRINGTON, p. 283 quotes a letter from her, written later in life, describing how Kipling would read his latest 'Just So Stories' to them.*

**June 13** I go up to London for the day. Rud works on his story. Josephine pours tea for him.

15 June Dramatised Version of *The Light that Failed* comes. Better than we had supposed.

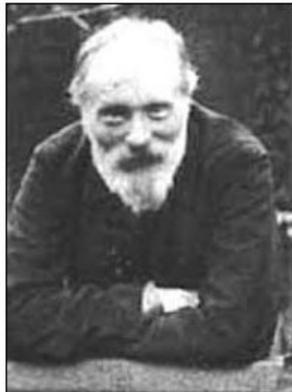
**June 15** A dramatised version of *The Light that Failed* comes and is read. A vivid and agonising play but better than we had supposed

*A play based on The Light that Failed, not written by Kipling, was performed in London, at the Royalty Theatre, this year. A further dramatised version was produced, in 1903 in London, and later in New York, and re-staged in London in 1913.*

*This was written by Julia Constance Fletcher (1858-1938), who wrote under the pseudonym of George Fleming. See the notes by Geoffrey Annis in the NRG.*

17 June 9a.m. Uncle Ned dies suddenly.  
**A heavy loss to Rud who feels it greatly.**

**June 17** We hear at 9 a.m. of Uncle Ned' death . . . a heavy loss to Rud who feels it greatly.



'Uncle Ned'

18 June Too much upset to work. Rode to Newhaven on the tandem.

*They evidently hadn't totally discarded the tandem (see entry for 21 June 1897). The distance to Newhaven and back is about 12 miles, up and over Telscombe Cliffs. The road would have been little frequented in those days, but between the wars two large settlements, Peacehaven and Saltdean were built, so that now the area is virtually continuously built-up from Rottingdean to Newhaven.*

19 June Letter to *Spectator* on Bermuda.

*This was the first publication of the uncollected article "How Shakespeare came to write The Tempest". See John McGivering's notes in the New Readers' Guide. Kipling had been to Bermuda in 1894 (see entry for 24 February 1894, et seq.)*

20 June Uncle Ned's ashes laid in the church: all the family there.  
Rud watches for 2 hours in the church.

June 20 Uncle Ned's ashes are put in the church on his drawing-table. Rud watches for two hours in the church.

*Kipling wrote to Charles Norton in Boston a very complete description of the events of these six days (17-23 June) (PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 2, pp. 338-342.) The letter was not just a description of the events, but of his own feelings, and what he observed of the reactions of Burne-Jones's immediate family.*

*Cremation was a relatively new practice in England at this time, and was still not generally accepted. The first crematorium had been opened at Woking, in Surrey, in 1878, and Burne-Jones was cremated there. His ashes were placed in their casket on a table from North End House, and a vigil kept over them by family members, prior to their interment in the Churchyard the following day. Kipling kept watch from 4 a.m. until 6 a.m. on 21 June.*

June 21 At 2 we go to the little church for the funeral service.

*Burne-Jones's ashes were interred in the churchyard, on the spot which he had selected shortly before.*

22 June To London for Memorial Service.

June 22 Rud and I go up to town for the memorial service.

*The service was held in Westminster Abbey, and was the first such service to be held there for a painter. The event was reported in the Court Circular page of 'The Times' for 23 June 1898.*

24 June R. beginning to work on Stalky again.

July Lock de Forest visiting.

*Lockwood de Forest was a celebrated American painter and designer, and a friend of Kipling's father, whom Kipling had known during the Vermont years (see Index.).*



*Lockwood de Forest*

5 July Children start to go barefoot.

*See “Cold Iron”, the opening chapter of Rewards and Fairies, in which for the first time Dan and Una are wearing boots.*

**July 11** We leave for London at 11 and on to Dursley (?) Hall (*Dunley in M/S alongside it*)

12 July To Wilden to stay with the Baldwins.

*Wilden House, one mile from Stourport-on-Severn in Worcestershire, was the home of Alfred Baldwin and his wife Louisa, who was Kipling’s aunt: and of their son Stanley, later a Conservative Prime Minister, 1922, 1923-29 and 1935-37.*

14 July **Verses about the Publishers Combine.**

*Not identified*

16 July The Elms

**July 16** Home again.

22 July R starts to write the last of the Stalky stories which, after the Jungle fashion is the first.

**July 22** Rud starts to re-write the last of the school-boy stories.

*This would be ‘Stalky’, which first appeared i ultimately appeared in Land and Sea Tales for Scouts and Guides before being collected as the first chapter in **The Complete Stalky and Co.** in a similar way that the last Mowgli story (chronologically) was the first to be published.*

**July 24** Rud and Sir George (Robertson) have a ride on the tandem in the afternoon.

25 July Works on his Philistia verses begun ages ago.

*Not identified.*

29 July – 2 Aug. Rud at Tisbury.

**July 29** Rud and I go to town together, Rud going on to Tisbury.

**Aug. 2** Rud returns at 5.45 from Tisbury.

3 Aug. Finishes the Stalky story, but rejects it.

**Aug. 3** Rud re-drafts his schoolboy story which is to be the first of the series, called ‘Stalky’ telling how he got his name.

**Note in Rees:** (*Pencil note at foot of page “Not included in Stalky Vol.*)

**Further note in Rees.** (*Pub in Windsor of Dec.1898 and in book form in (?) Land and Sea Tales.*)

*See entry for 22 July above, confirming Rees’s note.*

9 Aug. Rud writes in a vol. of the Scribner edition such dates and circumstances as he can remember of his birth and early history.

10 Aug. Bothered by a drunken soldier.

*Presumably in Rottingdean*

12 Aug. Mrs. Carmichael Carr calls and Mr. Nicholson (artist).



*William Nicholson*

*William Nicholson had collaborated with Kipling in 1897 on An Almanac of Twelve Sports.*

*(See the entry for 25 September 1897.)*

*Mrs. Carmichael Carr was a professional pianist.*

13 Aug. The schoolboy stories sent to Watt for magazine use.

*These were four more Stalky stories. 'Stalky' was modelled on Lionel Dunsterville, who had been at USC with Rud, joined the Indian Army and rose to be a Major-General. See Isabel Quigly's notes in the New Readers' Guide.*

15 Aug. Starts again on *Kim*: works hard through August then sends it to the Pater. In the afternoon usually cycles into Brighton to see Surgeon Captain Gilbert, etc.

*Surgeon Captain Gilbert would have been an Army officer, possibly retired from the Indian Army. (Today, medically-qualified officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) do not preface their army rank with 'Surgeon', but they did so until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today's rank of Surgeon Captain in the Royal Navy was not introduced until 1902.)*

Aug. 15 Rud after breakfast starts again on *Kim* which he proposes to make into a short story in two parts. The first day's work goes well.

Aug. 16 and 17 A good morning's work on *Kim*.

Aug. 18 Rud sails away on *Kim*.

Aug. 19 A long a.m. on *Kim*.

Aug. 23 A very little on *Kim*.

Aug. 28 Rud looks over the fist of *Kim* which has been typed and sends it to the pater for correction. (A great deal more *Kim* work was done during the following months.)

31 Aug.      [The Bear that walks like a man.](#)

*These words are from the poem 'The Truce of the Bear'.*

*Although the poem can be read as a hunting mishap, it was a political polemic – “Do not trust Russia!”. Kipling’s intentions are made clear in a letter to Bell, Editor of ‘The Times’, PINNEY, Letters, Vol. 2, p. 349, although he did say that the poem was based on fact. See Mary Hamer’s notes in NRG.*

*The News, Parliamentary and Correspondence columns of ‘The Times’ in August 1898 (1<sup>st</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>) contain many references to the mistrust felt by Britain of Russia’s expansionist tactics in the Far East.*

1 Sep.      To HMS *Pelorus* at Devonport.

*This was for his second cruise as Captain Bayly’s guest on board the 3<sup>rd</sup> class cruiser Pelorus. BIRKENHEAD p. 192 speaks erroneously of Captain Norbury, on the basis of a light-hearted poem by Kipling addressed to ‘Captain Norbury’, which contained a play on words using the names of many of the ships of the Channel Squadron. Lieutenant Norbury was one of Pelorus’s lieutenants, and the poem was probably produced for a leaving dinner on his way to Gunnery School.*

Sep. 1      I go up to town with Rud. We buy a governess cart for the children. I return at 6 p.m. Rud goes at three to Devonport to join the *Pelorus* (for the naval manoeuvres off the Irish coast)

3 Sep.      At Berehaven.

*Berehaven in Bantry Bay was one of the anchorages on the west coast of Ireland (Lough Swilly was another) regularly used by the Royal Navy, but they were not in any sense naval bases. Queenstown (Cobh) on the south coast of Co. Cork, was then the only naval establishment in Ireland.*

6 Sep.      Bantry Bay.

8 Sep.      He writes to say he will do some sea-stories.

*Kipling wrote A Fleet in Being as a direct result of his two trips in Pelorus, and invented Petty Officer Pyecroft, who appears in a number of tales. See NRG.*

10 Sep.     Much talk with Louis of Battenberg, the flag lieutenant.

*In fact, Captain Prince Louis of Battenberg was the Flag Captain, a very different being from the Flag Lieutenant. The Flag Captain commanded the flagship and was the Admiral’s Chief of Staff.*

*The Flag Lieutenant was a junior officer, more an aide-de camp to the Admiral and also responsible for making the signals to the fleet by which an admiral communicated his intentions and manoeuvred the fleet). (See entry for 8 July 1897.)*

*Prince Louis was considered by Admiral Sir 'Jacky' Fisher to be one of the cleverest tacticians in the Royal Navy, and rose to be an Admiral and First Sea Lord in 1912. He was forced to resign two months after the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914, owing to public clamour about his German connections. He was the father of Lord Louis Mountbatten (Earl Mountbatten of Burma).*

12 Sep. Rud home. Delighted at honour done him in the flagship. Recited his verses at a concert. Carried round shoulder high.

*The Flagship (of the Channel Squadron) was the battleship Majestic.*

Sep. 12 I walk over the Downs to meet Rud who reached Brighton at 5.

15 Sep. Starts to write a tale of his Naval Manoeuvres.



*This was the first of the articles which appeared in the Morning Post between 5 and 11 November inclusive and which later were published as a paper-back as A Fleet in Being.*

*(See NRG) The first of the fictional tales resulting from this trip did not appear until 1903.*

Children have a governess cart.



*a 'Governess Cart'*

*Presumably, this was the arrival of the cart which Rud and Carrie had ordered in London on Sep. 1*

20 Sep. Mrs. Kipling to stay with Pater's notes on 'Kim' (But see Sep. 26 below).  
[(Illegible) of Capt. Clarke, RN]

*Commander Henry Clarke, RN was another Rottingdean resident. The following year, in February 1899, he was to join HMS Aurora, whose Captain was to be none other than Edward 'Chawbags' Bayly, who was to leave the Pelorus at the end of January 1899. Kipling had recently been enjoying Captain Bayly's hospitality, so this meeting may have been deliberately arranged.*

Sep. 26 Mrs. Kipling comes in the afternoon.

Oct. 1 I wake to find my cold too much for me and stay in bed until 10 when I drag myself down to preside. Aurelian Ridsdale calls in the evening and I nearly die before bedtime comes to my relief.

*When Carrie is in self-pitying mode, she really lays it on! But a diary is there to enable one to relieve oneself of feelings which one cannot let out otherwise.  
Aurelian Ridsdale was Cissie Baldwin's brother.*

Oct. 3 Rud and his mother leave at 10 for London, Rud going on to Wilden to visit the Baldwins.

7 Oct. **The Day's Work** published.

*This was the English edition. See NRG.*

Oct. 7 Rud returns at 6 p.m.  
**The Day's Work** is published

11 Oct. [A child's wisdom story modelled on the totem tales.](#)

*This was "The Tabu Tale". See Lisa Lewis's notes in NRG. There is a totem pole in one of Kipling's illustrations to this story. **The Totem Tales: Indian Stories, Indian Told**, by W S Phillips, had been published in Chicago in 1896.*

15 Oct. A pony arrives.

*Most likely for the Governess Cart (see 15 September), but possibly for the children, especially Josephine, to ride.*

Oct 15 (in RK's writing) **The Scotch pony-mare arrives at 10 in the morning – Sherfold in charge. I am much touched by the kindness and generosity of my Beloved Husband who has generously permitted me to hire a stall from the Vicar. Pony is evidently upset but is very pretty. My ever thoughtful and revered spouse wires to Scotland asking what sort of bit she needs. He is indeed a Choice Man.** (to which CK has added) Self praise is no praise.

*It would seem that their pony had been bought in Scotland. We surmise that Sherfold may have been the Kipling's groom handyman (see entry of **May 31** above. It is evident that The Elms did not have enough stabling and so the new pony was 'boarded out' at the Vicar's. The type of bit used in the pony's harness could affect its behaviour and manageability.*

22 Oct. Robertson brings his book on Chitral. Rud much interested.

*This must have been Chitral, the Story of a Siege by Sir George Robertson. (see entry for 23 January 1897).*

28 Oct. *The Dykes.*  
Working at the village Boys' Club & so, every evening for weeks.

*Having started 'The Dykes' on this date, Kipling laid it aside until 1902, when Carrie noted its completion on 23 May. Its message was "Look to your defences, particularly against enemies that come by sea". See Mary Hamer's notes in the New Readers' Guide.*

**Oct. 28** In the evening Rud goes down to help the boys of the village start their club.

3 Nov. Writing 'Flag of his Country'.

*This was one of the 'Stalky' tales, published as "The Flag of Their Country" in McClure's in May 1899 and subsequently collected in Stalky & Co. See Isabel Quigly's notes in NRG.*

4 Nov. Angela Mackail comes. Great nursery excitement.

*See entry for 30 May this year.*

7 Nov. Working at 'Kim' with the Pater.

**Nov. 7** The pater comes to us at lunch time.

9-10 Nov. To London, Palace Hotel.

Nov. 9 We go up to town by the 3.35 . . dining at the Savoy . . (CK goes in with the American Ambassador to Russia

Nov. 10 (Return home.)

Nov. 12 (*Pater*) leaves us in the a.m.

14 Nov. Writing verses on Jamaica and '*The Last Term*'.

*'The Last Term' was chronologically the last tale of the 'Stalky' series to be set at the USC – the four or five later tales which were collected (or remained undiscovered and uncollected) in other volumes - preceded it.*

22 Nov. 'White Man' verses.

*These were 'The White Man's Burden' which he had started over a year earlier, and which would be published in The Times and McClure's in February next year. The poem is, perhaps, the fourth most quoted of Kipling's poems ('If', 'Recessional' and 'Gunga Din' being the other three.) See Mary Hamer's notes in NRG.*

*In this editor's opinion this poem has probably attracted more misplaced odium than any other of his verses, with its reference to "the white man" and "your new-caught, sullen people / Half-devil and half-child", with undoubted overtones of racism. But in Kipling's imperial vision the white man was set in authority over other peoples in order to serve them, as he wrote some ten months later in 'A School Song', the prelude to Stalky & Co. :*

*"Some beneath the further stars  
Bear the greater burden:  
Set to serve the lands they rule,  
(Save he serve no man may rule),  
Serve and love the lands they rule:  
Seeking praise nor guerdon."*

24 Nov. Rud's cousin, George Macdonald, a solicitor, came to discuss buying 'The Elms' for them.

*The Kiplings would have liked to buy 'The Elms', but the owner could not, or would not, make up his mind about their offer, and so the sale fell through. In view of the lack of privacy which manifested itself later (horse-brakes full of trippers pausing outside the garden to look over the wall), it was probably just as well, although Kipling liked Rottingdean and the proximity of family (Aunt Georgie and the Baldwin in-laws) and was starting to take a part in village activities.*

4 Dec. His Kitchener verses.

*Kitchener, a tall aloof figure, was a successful commander of Anglo-Egyptian forces in Egypt, who in September 1898 won lasting fame through his defeat of the Mahdist army at Omdurman across the Nile from Khartoum. He was later second in command to Field Marshal Roberts in the Second Boer War. Kipling met him in Egypt in 1913, and did not take to him.*



*General Kitchener*

*This poem was 'Kitchener's School' one of his 'public' poems, which appeared in The Times four days later, and was later collected in The Five Nations. Again, the theme is that rulers should serve their people, and try to improve their lot. See Mary Hamer's notes in NRG.*

**Dec. 4** Rud accepts his appointment as a Vice-President of the Navy League.

*The Navy League started life in 1895 as a pressure group, concerned to ensure that Great Britain had an adequate navy to preserve the safety of the mother country and the*

*dominions/colonies/empire and the sea lanes linking them. The rise of the German navy gave it particular impetus in the years leading up to the First World War. It no longer exists in its original form and with its original purpose, but now runs the Sea Cadets to help to give young people an awareness of the sea and what it means to Great Britain.*

5 Dec. Worrying news from Mrs. Kipling of Trix who is ill. Worse on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Dec. 5 Worrying news from Mrs, Kipling about Trix, who is ill

*Kipling's sister Trix, now married, had been at home for a year.*

*In CARRINGTON's words (p.284) "her mind gave way", and she was placed in the care of her mother at Tisbury. This psychiatric illness continued Intermittently for much of the rest of her life (she died in 1948), though she seems to have been stable in the latter years.*



*'Trix'*

*See Kipling and Trix, Mary Hamer's fictional account of the relationship between Rud and his sister.*

Dec. 7 I go up to London for Rud because of disquieting news about Trix. Try to cheer her mother and the Pater and bring back some good news for Rud. A miserable fag. Rud does no work, the children amuse him a bit but he is very anxious.

*It may be suggested that Kipling saw this as the breaking of the 'Family Square, which had been the bedrock of his life in India.*

15 Dec. We go to William Black's funeral.

*(See entry for 21 July 1897.) The funeral took place in Rottingdean church. His obituary appeared in **The Times** of Monday 12 December (he had died on 10 December) and an account of the funeral also appeared in the 'Court Circular' of The Times of Friday 16 December.*

*Victorian funeral mores were interestingly portrayed in the opening phrase of the list of attendees; "Sir Edward Sassoon sent his private carriage". [though not present himself] For the remainder, all fields of artistic endeavour were represented, as well as the Law and Politics.*

**Dec. 22** Rud walks to meet his mother in Brighton. I do nursery grind, Lucy being ill. *(Lucy was the younger children's nanny.)*

**Dec. 23** Pater comes in the evening.

**Dec. 26** Grub on in vain attempts to cheer or divert Mrs. Kipling but only solid gloom rewards us.

**Dec. 28** Mrs. Kipling leaves.

**Dec. 29** Pater leaves.

The year ends with family gloom about Trix.

**Post-script by RK.** **All but the seventh year of our married life made good by Carrie. "She shall do him good and not evil all the days of her life." Bless you, my dear.**

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