

The Rees and Carrington Extracts
From the diaries of
Caroline Kipling

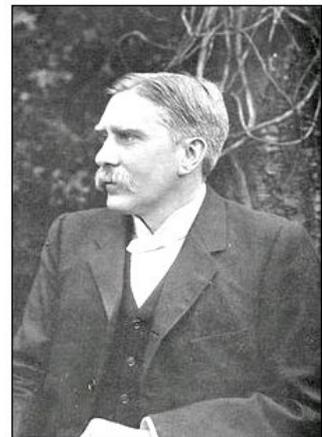
1899

1899

The heading of the first page of the 'Extracts' for 1899 merely says: "Jan. Rottingdean"

- 4 Jan. Rud does a page of a new 'Just So Story'.
- Jan. 4 Rud does a page of a new 'Just So' story. I lie up a little and plan and plot in my bed.
- The story cannot be positively identified.*
- Jan. 5 Rud leaves at 10 for Tisbury via London.
- 6-9 Jan. R to Tisbury to discuss Kim and to town to see an oculist. His boys' reading room has been rebellious. [Rud making progress with *Kim*. Angela [*Mackail*] a nice child staying.]
- Jan. 9 Rud returns in the p.m. Rud has re-arranged Kim during his stay with the pater and plans it now as he did at first as a long short story.
- Jan 18 Our seventh wedding anniversary – seven thoroughly happy and very busy years.
- 22 Jan. Mr. and Mrs. Benson.

Probably the poet and essayist Arthur Benson (1862-1925) In 1902 he wrote the words of the patriotic anthem 'Land of Hope and Glory', to be sung to Edward Elgar's Trio from Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1, composed in 1901.



A C Benson

Beerbohm Tree calls on business.

*Possibly concerned
with Kipling's play
The Light that Failed*

*See entry for 15 June
1898.*



Herbert Beerbohm Tree

Jan. 24 Rud leaves by 11 a.m. train for London where he sees his mother

Jan. 24 Rud leaves by 11 a.m. train for London where he sees his mother. Meets me and the family at Victoria. We go to the Palace hotel.

The Palace seems to have become their hotel of choice in London at this time, rather than Brown's. Possibly it was more suitable for a family with small children, with the Park immediately adjacent.

25 Jan. Leave at 10 am for Euston for Liverpool. Excellent journey. Embark HMS *Majestic*.

Jan. 25 Leave Euston 10 a.m. for Liverpool. Embark HMS *Majestic*. Sail 3.30. Lucy sick at once

[Carrie meant RMS, Royal Mail Steamer. HMS (His/Her Majesty's Ship) is reserved for warships of the Royal Navy. Carrie's confusion was understandable – there was also an HMS Majestic at the same time, the flagship of the Channel Squadron, which Kipling had been visiting only three months earlier.]

Sail 3.30. Excellent cabins. Lucy sick at once.

[Carrington has inserted a small 'box' with the following text: "No sign of their journey before they go. His mother, Margot, Aunt Aggie, meet him in London."]

The unfortunate Lucy was Lucy Blandford, the children's nanny.

This entry marks the start of one of the darkest and most difficult periods of the Kiplings' life. The journey was arranged at short notice, rather than going to South Africa, as might have been expected – but Carrie wanted to see her mother, and there was business for Kipling to do in New York: and 'Naulakha' was still theirs, being cared for by Howard, the coachman.

The journey started well. The London & North Western Railway provided its best and most luxurious rolling stock for the American boat trains, to and from Liverpool, which delivered their passengers right to the quayside, so there was no awkward cab journey, with a mountain of baggage to be moved, from Lime Street station to the docks.

The Majestic was a White Star liner, which had briefly held the 'blue riband' for the fastest Atlantic crossing, some eight years earlier: but she displaced less than 10,000 tons, and clearly was pretty lively on a winter North Atlantic westbound crossing. (Going against the prevailing winds, to say that she went "wop with a wiggle between", would have been a masterly understatement.) And 30 years later, the then Queen Mary displaced over 80,000 tons

26 Jan. Queenstown.

In south-west Ireland, the port of Cork: to embark passengers and mail.

27 Jan. All children sick.

At this stage, this would have related to sea-sickness.

29 Jan. Very rough – a hurricane.

Jan. 29 A terrific storm. My family stand up to it most prettily.

31 Jan. Bitter cold. Josephine and Elsie have colds.

Quite apart from anything else, sea-sickness can be a physically debilitating condition, making one less able to resist any infection.

1 Feb. Josephine worse.

2 Feb. Dock at 10.30. L de F. meets us (*Lockwood de Forest*) meets us. **Greatest anxiety about the children who have colds.** Sent for Doctor Macdonald.

Feb. 2 Dock at 8.30. Leave for our hotel at 10.30. We feel the greatest anxiety for the children who all have colds. Send at once for Doctor McDonald.

NB – petty discrepancies between Carrington and Rees – times and spelling of the doctor’s name.] Notwithstanding the storm on the 29th, the Majestic seems to have kept to her 8-day schedule. And despite the rough crossing and the winter weather, neither the children’s illness which resulted in Josephine’s death, nor Kipling’s own life-threatening illness, manifested themselves immediately on landing. Josephine did not die until over four weeks later, while the crisis of Kipling’s illness came three weeks at least after their arrival. As will be seen from the next two entries, initially they just got on with life as usual, the children’s illness seeming to be no more than a bad winter cold with the usual coughs and temperature.

3 Feb. A pleasant day, but anxiety about the children.

Feb. 3 The children all cough violently.

4 Feb. Out to dinner by electric cab – amazing. But worse anxiety about the children. Suspected whooping cough. Many callers. Snowstorm.

This was the start of one of the great blizzards that often affect New York State and City in winter.

Feb. 4 Whooping cough is suspected.

Feb, 5 The children ill and miserable, cause us much anxiety. Josephine the worst.

Feb. 7 A nurse starts to take on the night work of the children.

8 Feb. Great anxiety. Dr. Conland comes. Carrie to bed and feverish.

Feb. 8 I take to my bed with gripe.

Carrie meant ‘la grippe’ – influenza.

Feb. 9 In bed all day, dazed with fever.

12 Feb. I am better. The children the same. Rud apparently still well.

Feb 12. I am better. The children are the same.

[No entry in either Carrington or Rees till 20th]

20 Feb. We go with the children in the Park. Called on the McClures. Rud lunched at the Century.

This was probably the Century Club, rather than the offices of the magazine of that name. Kipling had become a member of the club four years earlier (see entry for 25 October 1895.)

Feb. 20 We go with the children to the Park for 20 mts walk at 10.30 a.m.

At this point, a Monday morning, two and a half weeks after their arrival it would seem that all were in reasonable health: the children were apparently able to go out, and the Kiplings were able to go lunching and calling. But then it went downhill with terrifying speed.

Rud feels dull and has fever in the night.

Feb. 20 Rud feels dull and has fever in the night.

21 Feb. Rud too ill to get up.
Dr. Dunham comes. Doctor Janeway says 'inflammation in one lung' (*pneumonia*).

A night nurse.

Feb.21 Rud too ill to get up. Doctor Janeway comes at 8.30 and says 'inflammation in one lung'.



Dr Theodore Dunham

Dr. Dunham was Carrie's brother-in-law, her sister Josephine's husband. Doctor Janeway was a specialist, called in by Carrie or one of the other doctors attending the family

22 Feb. An anxious night and more anxious day. Doctors there all day.
Rud so good and patient - sleeps much - good friends lend helping hands and I feel how everyone Rud has ever spoken to has loves him and is glad and happy to help to (illegible) him.

Feb. 22 An anxious night and more anxious day. Rud so good and patient, sleeps much. Good friends lend helping hands and I feel how everyone [Rud] has ever spoken to has loves him and is glad and happy to help.

23 Feb. Rud sane & quiet. Doing a story The Imp of Ill-luck – Josephine a high temperature and fever in the night. Dr. Macdonald fears complications and I take her to Julia de Forest and leave her – a moment of conscious agony.

No story of that title was ever completed, nor Collected (NB, discrepancy of title between Carrington and Rees versions.)

Clearly, Carrie couldn't cope with a very sick Husband, a very sick child and two only slightly less ill children. The latter were presumably being looked after by the nanny, but still requiring her care.

Feb. 23 Temperature lower, but less sleep and more restlessness. Sane and quiet, doing a story "The Imp of Good Luck", he tells me. Josephine a high temperature and fever during the night. Dr. McDonald fears complications and I take her to Julia de Forest and leave her, a moment of conscious agony to stand out from the average. (RK's crisis was passed on the night of 28Feb-1Mar. but there are no further diary entries until Mar. 5)

5 Mar. I saw Josephine 3 times today, morning, afternoon and at 10 pm for the last time. She was conscious for a moment and sent her love to "Daddy and all."

Mar. 5 I saw Josephine 3 times today, morning and afternoon and at 1030 pm for the last time. She was conscious and sent her love to "Daddy and all."

According to CARRINGTON, p, 289, this was the only time Carrie was able to get away from Kipling's bedside to see Josephine at the de Forest's on Long Island.

6 Mar. Josephine left us at 6.30 this morning.

Mar.6 Josephine left us at 6.30 this morning. (The next diary entry is Apr. 17)

CARRINGTON, BIRKENHEAD and LYCETT all describe this traumatic period in some detail. Kipling's father came to join them on 29 March, and provided some stability for the family.

Sally Norton, writing at this time to her father, described Carrie as "so splendidly restrained and self-controlled, but vibrating with sensitivity and bodily worn by it."

2 Apr. Easter Services: Easter Message

No entry 7 Mar – 16 Apr.

During this period, Kipling gradually gained strength until, in mid-April, he was strong enough to be moved. He had not been told of Josephine's death until a week after her funeral.

17 Apr. We take Rud to Lakewood by private car [*i.e.*, by private railroad car). Stands the journey better than we hoped.

Apr. 17 We take Rud by private car to Lakewood. He stands the journey better than we hoped.

Lakewood was the resort in New Jersey where they had stayed before (see entry for 18 March 1896). They stayed at the same hotel as three years earlier, in the same rooms.

[Drives with Mr Doubleday.]

Frank Doubleday, Kipling's American publisher, had proved to be a tower of strength.

Bought up 8 books from American Macmillan for \$4840, goodwill, plates and stock.

David A Richards advises that this would have referred to buying back the right to publish those titles in America, since Macmillan had an American arm, so that they could be then re-sold or re-issued by the author to Doubleday. He would have had leverage against Macmillan in that discussion, because of their interest in publishing his future works in the UK and colonies.

The other two children have whooping cough. The hotel throws them out. They go to a boarding house.

One can have a small amount of sympathy for the hotel – the disruption involved during Kipling's illness must have upset the running of the hotel to the detriment of its other visitors.

Apr. 18 Rud goes for a successful drive.

Apr. 19 Rud drives in the a.m.

Apr. 20 Rud has a walk.

Apr. 24 I send the children to a boarding house because of the uproar in the hotel about their whooping cough. A very bitter pill for battered me.

Entries for 24-25 April. Nothing more till –

Sat. 6 May Sam McClure calls.

8 May Rud has gained 15 lbs at Lakewood.

9 May By special car to the Catlins at Morristown.

- May 9** We leave at 10.50 in a special car for Morristown. A splendid welcome from Mrs. Catlin. Rud goes to bed at once.
- Their old friends, Mrs. Catlin and her daughters (see Index), had offered hospitality for Rud's convalescence*
- 10 May Miss Rogerson the nurse leaves after two weeks.
- It is not clear if this was by agreement, or for dissatisfaction.*
- May 16** Pater leaves in the afternoon.
- JLK had arrived on 29 Mar. to give the family extra support.*
- May Very few entries. Proofs of *From Sea to Sea*. Conland calls & Chapin from *St. Nicholas [Magazine]*. Conland says his lung healed: needs six months rest.
- The pneumonia had affected both lobes of both lungs: and Conland also advised in the strongest terms that he should never again spend winter in the northern hemisphere. (CARRINGTON p. 292)*
- May 20** Dr. Janeway comes and thinks Rud's lungs quite healed. He advises to do no work for 6 months and rest two hours daily.
- Again, a discrepancy between Rees and Carrington.*
- 2 June 'Uncle John' comes.
- Carrie's relation, John Balestier. (See 11 May 1896)*
- June 4** A pleasant day to end a pleasant visit. Never was such kindness and consideration shown guests before, never such liberty given.
- 5 June To FND's house at Cold Springs (*on Long Island*).
Never was such kindness shown.
- June 5** I take Rud to New York, F.N.D. meets him and hands him on to Lock de Forest who takes him to Cold Spring. I come later with the children.
- Cold Spring was the de Forest's home on Long Island.*
- 8-10 June Carrie and her mother visit 'Naulakha', but stay at Mrs. Kirkland's. Howard has everything in **excellent order**.
- This was the last time that any of the Kiplings saw 'Naulakha'. They retained ownership of the house and estate until November 1903, when it was sold to Mary Cabot, who bought it for hrt sister, Grace.*

Grace Cabot had married into the prominent local Holbrook family. See The Mary Cabot Memoir in NRG.

June 8 I leave at 11 for N.Y. and Brattleboro. Stop at Mrs. Kirkland's with mother.

Mrs. Kirkland ran a guest house in Brattleboro where the Kiplings had stayed previously.

June 9 I go at 9 a.m. to Naulakha, found in excellent order and outside greatly improved.

June 10 I leave Brattleboro for Long Island.

13 June To New York. FND, L. de Forest, Pater, McClure [and Rud] all dine at a restaurant.

This was Kipling's first public outing since his illness. In writing to Mrs. Norton, the Pater said that Rudyard "was a little more cheerful. . . . I find his dim time brighter than the best of many men I know." [CARRINGTON, p. 292]

June 13 We leave for N.Y. with Pater. . go direct to Mr. Doubleday's house.

14 June Left New York by SS *Teutonic*. Many friends see Rud off, but **reporters do not get a look at him.**

The Extracts, as can be seen, make no mention of the intense worldwide interest that there had been in his illness. Most of the correspondence, etc, had been dealt with by Doubleday but before leaving New York, Kipling issued an open letter of thanks via Reuter's press agency (see CARRINGTON p.291/2).

Rud enjoys his voyage and Lucy as usual is sick.
Cameras a great trouble: folk with no manners.

A Kodak folding camera had become the accessory that every traveller had to have. Indeed. The verb 'to kodak' became everyday usage meaning 'to take a photograph'. (The 'Box Brownie', which was a really 'cheap and cheerful' camera) appeared a year later.) The Kiplings, travelling 1st class, might have expected more consideration from their well-heeled companions. (A foretaste of paparazzi to come?)

June 14 We sail at noon on the *Teutonic* for England

Despite her name, the Teutonic was, in fact, British-owned, and belonged to the White Star Line.

23 June London, Palace Hotel. FND still faithful. Mother and Father, Margaret [Burne-Jones], Phil [Burne-Jones], & Mr. Watt [A P] call.

June 23 Land at 7.30.
Arrive Euston 12.30 and Rud and I drive direct to Palace Hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Doubleday and the children follow

24 June Quietly to 'The Elms'. **Taking up the threads.**

June 24 Leave for 'The Elms'
The village greeting is most beautiful. We come quietly to The Elms to take on a sort of ghost life. Aunt Georgie meets us at the garden gate.

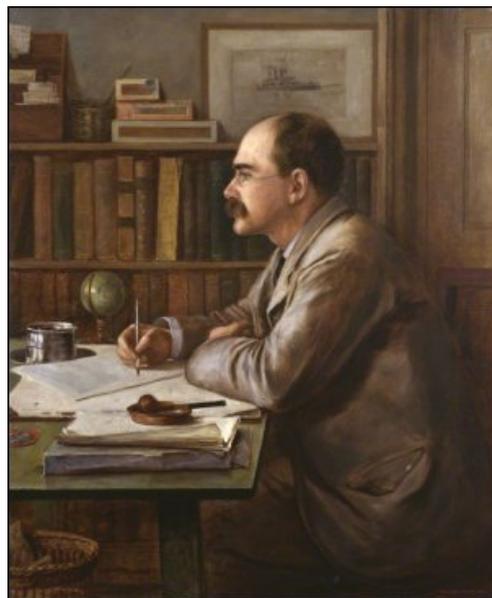
6 July Staying at Brown's Hotel. Guests of the Doubledays.

July 6 We take a Victoria o the station and reach Brown's easily. We are the guests of the Doubledays.

Frank Doubleday and his wife, having escorted the Kiplings across the Atlantic, were now staying in London, combining business with a short holiday. A Victoria was an open carriage, and not the type of vehicle which would normally be acting as a local cab. Presumably, it was a lovely summer morning, and they wished to feel the wind in their faces and to smell the tang of the sea

8 July Rud v. happy with Phil. Unpacking a small printing press. Phil starts the portrait. Rud has a poisoned finger (till the 14th.)

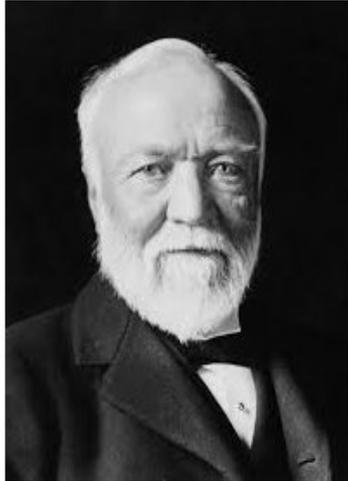
July 8 Rud arranges that Phil is to do our portraits. Rud sits first and Phil is to own his if he does me. Rud most pleased with the idea



This was the portrait of Kipling, now in the National Portrait Gallery in London. It was painted in his study at 'The Elms', and Kipling wrote to C E Norton, "Phil's portrait of me is a Regular Stunner and shows specially well in the reproduction. I resent the sleek baldness of my head, but the intellectual air and the tummy are beyond dispute."

The portrait appears on the dust-jacket of BIRKENHEAD and on the Home Page of this site. Carrie's portrait now hangs at Bateman's, and is reproduced at the head of the 1892 diaries.

- July 10** Rud amuses himself at his press (a small printing press acquired on the 8th) with Phil and we three go to an auction of lots on Telsome (*probably she means Telscombe*) Estate with distasteful results. A half-drunken crowd shake hands with Rud and as we drive away cheer him.
- 12 July Miss Anderson comes as Secretary **a great relief to us both**
- This was Miss Sarah Anderson, who became "the mainstay of the household" (CARRINGTON p.293). Kipling referred to her as "the best Secretary I ever had". and she remained in touch with the family after she had to resign in 1902 to care for her elderly parents.*
- 14 July Our dear Doubledays leave: depended on them for six months.
- July 14** Mrs. Kipling comes in the evening to stop with Aunt Georgie and our dear Doubledays leave us after dinner and sail tomorrow for America. They will be a great loss and I will feel as if my back-bone had been removed, so greatly have I depended on him for the last six months.
- July 26** I go up to town to arrange about having Rud's MSS bound.
- August Their normal life. Proofs of *Stalky*. Visit from 'Crom' Price. Phil painting.
- Aug. 3** A drive in the late afternoon and a walk home for Rud who is walking more. A pleasant evening alone at home together, an unusual treat but much appreciated by us both. We spend it reading and writing.
- 8 Aug They leave for Scotland. Kingussie. The Carnegies meet them. The Manse, Creich. Walks – fishing. Phil joins them & begins to paint Carrie. The Pater. Edith Catlin.
- Aug 8** We leave at 2.30 (*p.m.*) for Victoria, across to Euston and leave for Scotland at 7.45.



Andrew Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was a great Scottish-American industrialist and philanthropist, who was one of the richest men in the world.

He emigrated to America at the age of 13, and built up a vast industrial empire in steel.

He remained domiciled in the USA, but owned Skibo Castle on the north shore of Dornoch Firth, on the east coast of Scotland, some 40 miles north of Inverness.



Skibo Castle

Creich was a hamlet on the Skibo estate, some six miles up the firth, and the Kiplings had been lent the Manse for five weeks. The railhead, three to four miles away, was at Bonar Bridge, on the 'far north' line of the Highland Railway.

Kingussie is south of Inverness, on the route of the railway from Perth, up which they would have travelled on the overnight train from London. It was the station where the breakfast baskets were put on to the train to sustain the overnight travellers who had endured about ten hours of rumbling through the night, and who still had another two hours or so before reaching Inverness.

There they had to change to the far north line, before reaching Bonar Bridge around eleven a.m.

It was not a journey for the faint-hearted, but was regularly undertaken at this time of year by many Anglo-Scottish families and their guests who went north just before 'the glorious twelfth' (12 August, the start of the grouse-shooting season).

The Manse would have once been the Minister's house, and was probably the only house of any size in the parish. The Carnegies probably met the Kiplings at Bonar Bridge. The Kiplings spent the five weeks they were there relaxing, walking and fishing, though Kipling himself undertook quite a lot of work.

Aug. 9 Drive to the Manse, Creich. Children tired but very good.

Aug. 12 Phil Burne-Jones comes in the afternoon.

Aug. 14 Phil starts my portrait in a blue-green frock.

*See our note of **July 8**.*

17 Aug. Skibo Castle.

Choate, the US Minister

They paid a visit to the Carnegies, six miles down the firth.

There they met the new US Minister (Ambassador), Joseph Choate (1832-1917), who had only just taken up his new post.



Joseph Hodges Choate

Aug. 17 Pater arrives.

18 Aug. A 'Just So Story' about an elephant.

This was, of course, 'The Elephant's Child', probably the best known, and best-loved, of all the 'Just So Stories.' As we shall see later, he evidently wrote more than one such while at Creich.

19 Aug, To the Sutherlands at Dunrobin Castle in Carnegie's yacht.



Dunrobin Castle

With luck, a pleasant forenoon's sail – about 1½ hours down the firth and up the coast to Dunrobin's own pier, past a sandbank with the splendid name 'Gizzen Briggs'.

21-24 Aug Wrote the dedication to *Stalky*.

This is the poem entitled 'A School Song', whose first line is: "Let us now praise famous men", a reference to Ecclesiasticus, 44, v.1

*It was published in Harper's Weekly with that first line as its title, on 30 September 1899. It appeared, untitled, as the prelude to *Stalky & Co.* published on 6 October, and was later collected in *Songs from Books*.*

25 Aug. Duchess of Sutherland calls. Looks enchanting.

Millicent, Duchess of Sutherland (1867-1955) was a great Society hostess in London, and a social reformer.



*Millicent Leveson-Gower,
Duchess of Sutherland*

It would be interesting to know how she travelled from Dunrobin to Creich. Her husband, the Duke, was a great railway enthusiast and had paid for a substantial part of the far north line with his own money, because of the benefit it would bring to his tenants.

As a result, he was allowed to keep his own locomotive on the line at Dunrobin, and also his own private coach. When he travelled to London, he would drive his own train to Inverness, where the coach would be attached to the London train. Without doubt, the quickest and most comfortable way to have visited the Kiplings would have been by her family train from the private station at Dunrobin (now a public one) to Bonar Bridge.

Aug 27 Rud and I have a ride to Spinningdale on our bikes. *Spinningdale was about three miles away, further down the Firth towards the sea.*

Aug. 28 The Pater leaves.

5 Sep. 'Garm' finished.

The story had been a long time in gestation – see entry for 23 October 1895. It was first published in the Saturday Evening Post of 23 December 1899, then in Pearson's Magazine of January 1900. It was collected in Actions and Reactions in 1909.

Sep. 11 Phil leaves in the early morning. . a delightful quiet evening together.

Sep. 13 Our last evening at the Manse, then end of a happy and calm 5 weeks, profitable to mind and body. These few days alone have been most happy. The Carnegies have been most perfect in their kindness.

This entry shows Carrie at her most tranquil and contented in the whole of the 44 years-worth of diary entries as they remain to us, in both the Carrington and Rees versions.

15 Sep. To Euston and back to 'The Elms'.

Sep. 15 Arrive at 12.35 (having spent the night in London). The house all ready and the garden most beautiful.

18 Sep. Much anxiety over Trix.

Sep. 18 Many letters and much anxiety over Trix Fleming is our portion these days.

See entry for 5 December 1898. Now that their own problems were under control, Trix's returned to the fore.

Sep. 21 Miss Anderson our comfort and mainstay secretary, a good kind woman, comes to dinner.

24 Sep. I take Elsie to Church.

Elsie was now three-and-a-half, about the same age as Josephine had been when Carrie made a similar entry, 15 November 1896.

26 Sep. Verses to be called 'The King' practically finished.

28 Sep. 'The Old Issue' in *The Times*.

"The King" and "The Old Issue" were much the same poem. Returning to work, Kipling found that the situation in South Africa was reaching crisis point. Kipling was a strong supporter of the British position, as represented by Rhodes and Milner (see our various entries, January – April 1898). The poem compares the struggle for citizen's rights for the 'uitlanders' in the Transvaal with the struggles of English forefathers against despotic mediaeval kings, not a view that the Transvaalers would have found congenial. See Mary Hamer's notes on the poem in NRG.

2 Oct. The Catlins staying. [An irritating American post](#) & two cables. More copyright bother.

This related to Kipling's legal dispute with Putnam's, who had acquired the rights to some of his earlier material and now proposed to issue a limited edition, the 'Brushwood' Edition, in competition with Scribner's 'Outward Bound' edition. The case was not finally decided until 1901, when Kipling lost. But in the event, Putnam's did not proceed with the edition. (CARRINGTON, p. 286/7) See the 'General Article' by David Alan Richards in NRG, on "Kipling and the Pirates".

6 Oct. *Stalky* [& Co] published.

Oct. 6 *Stalky and Co* published. All morning papers seem cheered and pleased

These were nine fictionalised tales of Kipling's schooldays, most of which had been published in magazine form already. (The Times had an approving review on page 8 of the issue of 6 October..)

There were five other tales added later, and published as The Complete Stalky & Co. in 1929. See Isabel Quigly's notes in NRG.

Wed. To town (meaning 'London': and whether travelling north, south,
11Oct. east or west, one went 'up' to 'town')
Rud meets Joseph Chamberlain at his club. [An amusing day.](#)

[Sec. South African League dines with us.](#)

Joseph Chamberlain (1836-1914) was a British politician and statesman who had been a Liberal minister in Gladstone's third administration: he resigned over the question of Irish Home Rule (he was against it), and became the leader of a bloc of 'Liberal Unionist' MPs who allied themselves with the Conservatives until the end of WW2. At this time he was Secretary of State for the Colonies.



Joseph Chamberlain

He was responsible for South Africa, where the British dispute with President Kruger, the Boer leader, was at its height. It is interesting that there is no mention in the 'Extracts' of the Boer ultimatum, its rejection, and the declaration of war that day.

The South African League "had been established in the aftermath of the Jameson Raid and had quickly become the principal and most strident voice of uitlander agitation in the Transvaal."

There is an excellent summary of its involvement in the politics in the Transvaal at this time at:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Smuts_in_the_South_African_Republic#The_South_African_League

14 Oct. Aunt Edie (*Macdonald*) at North End House.

15 Oct. A long talk on family and village matters with Aunt Georgie.

16 Oct. Starts on Tommy Atkins verses (“*The Absent-Minded Beggar*”)

Oct. 17 Rud finishes his Elephant Just So story.

Started at Creich, two months earlier.

21 Oct. Rud finishes Absent-Minded Beggar.

‘The Absent-Minded Beggar’ was published in the Daily Mail on 31 October. Kipling freed the poem from copyright in order to raise funds for comforts for the troops in South Africa. ‘The Absent-Minded Beggar Fund’ closed at some £340, 000, around £25 million at present-day values. See John McGivering’s notes in NRG and LYCETT p. 329.

Trafalgar Day decorations in the village.

23 Oct. [Rud worried over the troops in S. Africa.](#)

Oct. 23 Rud excited and worried about the troops at the front in Africa.

We would suggest that this is an early use of the word ‘front’ in the sense of geographical sphere of action

24 Oct [Absorbed with anxiety.](#) Bad night.

Oct. 24 Rud is absorbed with the excitement and anxiety about the troops in Africa.

It may be suggested that Kipling was probably unusual in being worried and anxious. The great majority of Britons would have felt a sublime assurance that British arms would triumph (despite the fact that Majuba was only ten years earlier).

Oct. 25 A bad night on Rud's part with anxiety over the troops.

29 Oct. Miss Plowden for tea. Anxiety over Trix.

This, presumably, is Miss Edith Plowden, a family friend since their days in India. LYCETT has several references to her, and letters between her and the Kiplings appear passim in PINNEY, Letters.

Oct. 29 Pater leaves tomorrow – an improvement in his worn looks but still Not up to the mark. Endless anxiety over Trix and her affairs.

30 Oct. Sir W. G(illegible) gives him bad news of Trix.

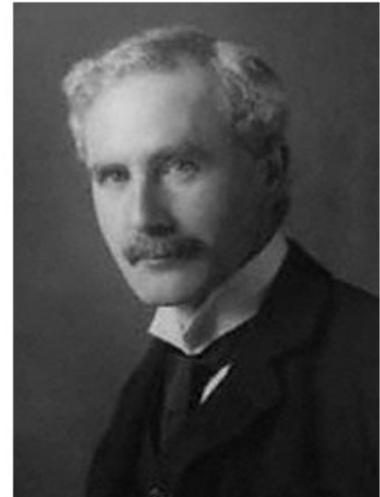
Oct. 31 My good Truster (the children's governess) leaves.

2 Nov. Rud sits to Phil B-J again.

See our entry for 8 July above,

3 Nov. Jack Mackail to stay.

J W Mackail (1859-1945) was the husband of Kipling's cousin, Margaret Burne-Jones. He was a distinguished Scottish man of letters, a civil servant, a socialist, a poet and a biographer. in 1888, before meeting him, Kipling had described Mackail in a letter to Edmonia Hill as a "portentous prig". However, he and Kipling corresponded until Kipling's death in 1936. (see PINNEY)



J W Mackail

7 Nov. Rud [gives testimony](#) in a suit against a German publisher.

Nov. 7 Rud goes to Shoreham in the afternoon to give evidence in a case against a German publisher.

8 Nov. Working at 'Bonds of Discipline'.

'The Bonds of Discipline' was the first of the 'Petty Officer Pyecroft' stories, in chronological order of the events described, though it was the second to appear in print (August 1903). It was based (very loosely) on his experiences on board HMS Pelorus in 1897 and 1898. See NRG for an article on the Pyecroft stories by Alastair Wilson.

9 Nov. Reading *Kim* to Aunt Georgie.

15 Nov. Goes to see a 'Pelorus' friend, Lieutenant Pelly.

This was Lieutenant Henry Pelly, now the First Lieutenant of the Pelorus. Kipling may have visited him to confirm details for "The Bonds of Discipline" (Traffics and Discoveries)

18 Nov. Sullivan's music to "Absent-Minded Beggar". (See 21 October)

Nov. 18 Mr. Ewell, musical publisher, comes to pay a visit and present a specially bound edition of Sullivan's music of 'The Absent-minded Beggar'.

24 Nov. Navy League meeting in the village. Rud puts up the lecturer (Mr. Wyatt) & takes the chair.

The Navy League was formed in 1894 to promote and advocate a strong British fleet. In the ensuing two decades it became a powerful political body, and was largely responsible for the "We want eight and we won't wait" campaign which successfully pressured the Liberal government in 1908-9 to increase the Dreadnought (battleship) building programme. By 1914 it had 100,000 members.

In 1908, a breakaway group was formed, The Imperial Maritime League (who thought that the Navy League wasn't being active enough). In a letter to The Spectator of 13 July 1907, p. 12, there is a letter concerning this break-up which mentions a Mr. Wyatt. It seems likely that he was an active member of the Navy League, and was the speaker at the meeting in Rottingdean in 1899.

26 Nov. Strachey of the *Spectator* calls.

The Spectator was what would today be described as a centre-right weekly magazine of political comment, first published in 1828 and still flourishing.

John St. Loe Strachey (1860-1927) was the proprietor and editor of the Spectator 1887-1925.



John St. Loe Strachey

December [Having finished “*The Bonds of Discipline*” returns to *Kim* – Miss Anderson a treasure.]

3 Dec. [Splendid talk with Mr Fitzpatrick.](#)

We think that this was Percy Fitzpatrick (1862-1931) who was a South African author, politician, mining financier and pioneer of the fruit industry. His scene of operations was in the Transvaal, and he had been involved behind the scenes in the Jameson raid in 1896. He is briefly mentioned in LYCETT (p. 322 and 355).



Percy Fitzpatrick

6 Dec. Rud hires a motor car from London. We drive to Brighton. [Aunt Georgie likes ‘*Bonds of Discipline*’.]

Dec. 6 A motor car Rud has hired comes from London.

The hire of the car had been triggered by Alfred Harmsworth, the newspaper magnate, turning up at their door earlier in the year (Something of Myself says it was in the summer) in his car, and taking them for a ‘spin’. This marked the start of Kipling’s enthusiasm for the motor-car, initially for steam-cars, though thereafter he always owned petrol-engined cars. (See ‘Kipling the Motorist’, by Meryl Macdonald.)

Kipling never learned to drive himself – he always employed a chauffeur, and from 1911 on he owned only the best – a succession of Rolls-Royces. He once said it was cheaper because they never broke down.

13 Dec. Grieved over the Modder River reverse.

The battle of Modder River was fought two weeks before the three defeats of the army in 'Black Week' (10-17 December 1899). The British were trying to relieve Kimberley, but had a lot more hard fighting to do before succeeding in mid-February 1900.

14 Dec. Lord Salisbury's Secretary comes down to offer Rud a KCB which he declines feeling he can do his work better without it. We are most pleased to be offered it, however.

Dec. 14 Lord Salisbury's Secretary comes down to offer Rud a KCB which he declines feeling he can do his work better without it. We are much pleased to be offered it, however.



Lord Salisbury

Lord Salisbury was the Conservative Prime Minister, in whose patronage the offer was made. It was one of several offers which were made to him in his lifetime, but he always declined them, feeling that he should not be beholden in any way to any political party, if he was to continue to write his 'public interest' pieces. KCB stands for Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath, a great distinction. Kipling did however, accept Honorary Degrees from a number of universities, and the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907.

15 Dec. Does a little work on his Admiral verses.
Sat.

This was (or these were) the verses which became 'The Song of Diego Valdez', which was not published until 1901/02. See Mary Hamer's notes in NRG.

16 Dec. [Depressed over bad war news.](#)
Occupied with Volunteer business.

[Dec. 16](#) Rud occupied with volunteer business.

Although organised volunteer forces of part-time citizen soldiers had been part of Britain's armies at various times through the centuries, since Stuart times they had always been a back-up to the 'standing army'. This latter had always been a source of concern to Parliament, to the extent that an Army Act was passed annually to authorise the existence of the army. Previously, the Militia had been, in effect, the army reserve, but the militia could not be required to serve overseas. And the sending of "fifty thousand horse and foot [going] to Table Bay" put a large dent in the strength of the regular army, then round about 195,000 men.

As a result, volunteers were called for to make up infantry, yeomanry and artillery regiments, specifically for service in South Africa, and the City Imperial Volunteers served with distinction throughout the rest of the war.

(In passing, it should be noted that under all normal circumstances, Britain's regular navy and army have always been volunteers, in the sense that they enlisted of their own free will.)

17 Dec. Deeply absorbed. [Starts the notion of a Volunteer Corps.](#)

[Dec. 17](#) Rud starts the notion of a volunteer corps and is deeply absorbed in the working it out during the day

19 Dec. A recruiting meeting. Rud speaks and 33 sign on. He meets a man who knows Ladysmith.

Ladysmith was a township in northern Natal which had been invested by besieging Boer forces in November. The relief of Ladysmith at the end of February 1900 was one of the defining moments of the war.

[Dec. 19](#) Rud interested and keen about his volunteers and hard at work . . . in the evening comes the meeting for the volunteers at which Rud speaks. 33 men sign on for volunteers.

Dec. 20 We devote the a.m. to the Putnam business (?)

21 Dec. To London – lawyers.

Dec. 21 We leave at 11 for town. The lawyers come at 5.45 – from then till eight we all discuss the case.

Possibly about copyright and the American market. (See next Entry.

22 Dec. Bad news by mail. [Publishers?]

It may have been to do with copyrights, but the case with Putnams in the American courts was not decided until 1901.

The motor breaks down.

A not infrequent occurrence. This would have been the hired Car – see Something of Myself, p. 177 for some description of the trials and tribulations of car-owning in those early days.

Dec. 22 Rud goes for his examination at 10 and returns at 4. We do not arrive at Brighton until 9.30 and find our motor car has gone bust so trudge home in a fly to find a vast and dreadful mail.

We have left the conclusions in the annotations for 21 and 22 Dec. as they were originally written, on the basis of the Carrington entries alone. It is apparent that back in the 1940s and '50s when the extracts were compiled, neither Rees nor Carrington really knew what the case was about.

The entire family collect influenza starting on Christmas Day

23 Dec. Drill in a thick fog.

Presumably this was his local volunteer corps. And since it was at Rottingdean, the fog was one of “the sea fogs” that “lap and cling” (‘Sussex’, PINNEY, Poems, Vol. I, p. 519).

25 Dec. Xmas rather sad. Both children and nurse suffering(?) with influenza.

27 Dec. Matthew Howard (on holiday) brings Josephine's portrait.

Matthew Howard was now the Kiplings caretaker at 'Naukakha'. The portrait was the one by Grace Holbrook – see our entry for 19 December 1894.

28 Dec. Rud to bed with 'flu.

31 Dec. Better. Ambo and Stanley come to play with Rud.

Ambrose Poynter and Stanley Baldwin were his cousins.

One year ended. I owe my life to Carrie.

RK's post-script One year ended. I owe my life to Carrie.

The end of 1899 marks the end of Book 1 of Carrie's diaries and of the 'Extracts'. It was followed by a two-page summary 'July '97 – December '99' which we have not reproduced, because there is nothing therein which is not in the 'Extracts' as we have reproduced them. Those pages are followed by a list of "Published Works 1897-99" and a page headed "Politics 1898".

Published Works 1897-99

1897

Feb. "Bell Buoy".

27 Apr. "Our Lady of Sorrows".

"Slaves of the Lamp".

19 July "Recessional".

29 Aug. "Pharaoh and the Sergeant".

".007".

December "Feet of the Young Men".

The Whale ("How the Whale Got His Throat")

"Tomb of His Ancestors".

[Vampire]

1898

- Jan. The Camel (“How the Camel Got His Hump”).
Feb. The Rhino (“How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin”).
May School Budget(?) Speech to African Writers’ Club.
Aug. “In Ambush”.
Oct. “Truce of the Bear”
Nov. *Fleet in Being*
Dec. “Stalky”.

1899

- Jan. “An Unsavoury Interlude”.
4 Feb. “White Man’s Burden”.
Feb-Jun. Four Stalky stories.
Easter Day. Kipling’s Letter of Thanks (*but see our entry above of 4 June – Easter day was surely too early, premature for such a letter.*)
1 July “Literary Property” in *The Author*: an account of the Putnam suit.
24 Sep. “The Old Issue”.
Sep. *Stalky & Co.*
31 Oct. “Absent-Minded Beggar.”
Dec. “Garm – a Hostage”.
“A School Song”.
6 Dec. Speech to ‘The Navy League’, in *The Times*.

Politics 1898

It is interesting that none of these five occurrences are mentioned in the ‘Extracts’ (although of course, they may have been in the original diaries.)

- Feb. Re-election of Kruger. Dismissal of Judge Rotner.

Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger (1825-1904) (Oom Paul – Uncle Paul) was elected four times to be President of the South African Republic (“the Transvaal”) in 1880, 1888, 1893 and this final time. In each case his opponent was General Piet Joubert,

We have so far been unable to identify Judge Rotner. It seems likely that he was a judge in the South African Republic who had clashed with President Kruger.

- Mar. Milner’s Graaf Reinet speech.

This was on 3 March, on the occasion of the opening of the Graaf-Reinet-Middelburg railway line. Milner, having taken up his duties in the previous

year, was on a fact-finding' tour of the British-controlled provinces. Graaf-Reinet was an Afrikaner Bond stronghold in the eastern Cape, (it still is – 78% of the population today are Afrikaans-speakers). Milner outlined his determination to secure freedom and equality for British subjects in the Transvaal, and he urged the Dutch colonists to induce the Pretoria government to assimilate its institutions, and the temper and spirit of its administration, to those of the free communities of South Africa. The effect of this pronouncement was great and it alarmed the Afrikaners who, at this time, viewed with apprehension the virtual resumption by Cecil Rhodes of leadership of Cape's Progressive (British) Party. (Wikipedia)

April German Naval Act.

This was Admiral von Tirpitz's first Naval Act, the effect of which (with a second act in 1900) was to build up a German fleet to challenge the British. Germany, and the Kaiser, had been mortified in 1896, when, after a speech by the Kaiser in support of the Boers, which the British regarded as unfriendly, the British mobilised a powerful naval squadron which could have threatened the German coast, and to which the Germans had no ability to respond.

Oct. Rhodes rejects the Chartered Board & sets up Rhodesian Government.

It is not quite clear what Carrington had in mind when he wrote this note. October 1898 saw the first use of the name Southern Rhodesia, but the British South Africa Company continued to run Southern Rhodesia until 1922.

Nov. Milner in England.

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