THE NOTES

Notes to Letter One

1. Charles Godfrey Leland (1824–1903), “Breitmann’s Going to Church,” from The Breitmann Ballads, 1895. His forte was German–American dialect.

2. She left Yokohama for San Francisco 11 May 1889.


4. Apcar & Company was a shipping line from Calcutta to China and Japan. Its ships carried coolies and cargo, apparently including opium. In 1888 Kipling visited and described both Calcutta and the Government opium factory at Ghazipur on the Ganges.

5. Railway line in England and Scotland.


7. Kipling omitted this sentence from the 1899 revision because he discovered that the distance between South Africa and Australia was greater.

8. A term of affection here and below.

9. shuffle board?


11. Queen Victoria was born in 1819.

12. Kipling did not attend college and had no degree.

13. A denunciation that is part of a service in the Book of Common Prayer.

14. The Haymarket riot occurred 4 May 1886 when police dispersed a demonstration by strikers at the McCormick Harvesting Machine Co. Violence exploded after an unidentified person threw a bomb. When rioting ended, seven policemen were dead and sixty other people injured.

15. During the last decades of the nineteenth century, the presence of many immigrant workmen (Irish, Chinese, southern and eastern European) prompted a “nativist” backlash that intensified hostility between labor and capital. One example is the declaration of martial law in New Orleans to quell violence in the 1870s. Other examples are the railroad strike in St. Louis (1877) and the Haymarket riot. Kipling always opposed working class protests.

16. The nation is too broad east to west, especially with the capitol, Washington, at the eastern edge.
Notes to Letter Two

1. From San Francisco, Bret Harte (1835–1902).

2. Professor Hill and his wife had already departed for Pennsylvania.

3. Kipling’s remark was pertinent in May 1889. The San Francisco newspapers clamored about the defenseless harbor. Fort Point was obsolete. The Bay was open to attack at the very time when Washington DC and London quarreled over sealing vessel rights in the Bering Sea. Kipling returned to this issue when he visited Buffalo, New York, in August. (George H. Webb, “Editorial,” The Kipling Journal, December 1989, pp. 9–17.)

4. While in Japan, Kipling discovered copies of his early fiction in a pirated American edition. He began Letter XIX (The Pioneer, 9 November 1889) with an intemperate denunciation of such publishers that ended with a sardonic “curse on America.” (See Introduction, p.xx) He omitted the last two sentences of this paragraph from the 1899 revision.

5. Opened in 1875, the opulent Palace Hotel burned in 1906 following the earthquake. It was rebuilt in 1909 and renovated in 1991.

6. Joseph Whitaker (sic) published this general Almanack annually.

7. None such has been identified.

8. “The Salon” was a group of nineteenth-century French artists who specialized in nudes.


10. Unidentified.


13. The reporter was Bailey Millard who denied saying this. Kipling: Interviews and Recollections, II, 175.

14. The first Cliff House with its seaside view, opened in 1863 and burned in 1894. Rebuilt twice since then, it has belonged to the National Park Service since 1977.

15. Kipling omitted the paragraph from the 1899 revision.

16. The two highest cards (jacks of the same color) in the game of euchre.

17. Bailey Millard believed the story about the bunco steerer was “apocryphal.” Kipling: Interviews and Recollection, II, 177.

18. Kipling’s name for a Japanese girl he believed he loved.
19. A men’s club established in 1872 by newspapermen welcomed Kipling as a guest.

20. A London club founded for writers and artists as the Bohemian Club was.

21. Kipling sent the Club a poem, “The Owl,” now preserved in Early Verse by Rudyard Kipling, ed. Andrew Rutherford (1986). There is a story that some years later a Club member, irked at Kipling’s remarks about San Francisco, destroyed the original.

22. Kipling’s term for improper or off-color tales.


Notes to Letter Three


3. Legend says it is similar to a Pisco sour which is Pisco brandy (from Peru) with syrup, lemon juice, an eggwhite and a dash of angostura. (Courtesy of Thomas Pinney.)


5. Born in Ireland, raised in New York City, Christopher A. (“Blind Boss”) Buckley arrived in San Francisco in 1862, aged seventeen. He became a saloonkeeper and ruined his eyesight apparently from drinking. His phenomenal memory and genial personality enabled him to befriend leaders of both political parties. He became the Democratic power broker controlling virtually all elections and appropriations in California. When a grand jury investigated corruption in 1891, Buckley decamped for Canada and Europe.

Notes to Letter Four

1. This letter was published, unnumbered and without title, in the Pioneer, 7 December 1889. It may have been attached to the previous letter in manuscript. Kipling never reprinted it.

2. The New York Times reported the murder of Dr. P. H. Cronin by Clan-na-Gael (7 May 1889), a widely reported event that embarrassed the Irish community.

3. Decoy.
4. This concerned European control of Samoa, See note 8 below.


6. Joseph Keppler (18939–1894) came to the U.S. from Austria and established *Puck* in 1871, first in German then as an English periodical featuring his political cartoons. It competed with *Harper's Weekly* that published many of Thomas Nast’s cartoons.

7. President Benjamin Harrison’s son, Russell B. Harrison, toured Europe in 1889. He visited the Paris Exposition and had breakfast with Queen Victoria. Some American newspapers scolded him for hobnobbing with royalty.

8. Control of Samoa was divided between Britain, Germany and the U.S., an arrangement that lasted into the twentieth century.

**Notes to Letter Five**


2. Slangander: apparently Kipling’s coinage—speech full of slang.

3. In a letter to Edmonia Hill (8 June 1889), Kipling identifies the lady as Miss Bissell. *Letters*, I, 312.

4. In a letter to Edmonia Hill, Kipling identifies her as Miss Haggin. *Letters*, I, 312.


6. Kipling was acquainted with them while a student at the United Services College, Westward Ho!

7. Spinster.

8. Scottish proverb.


10. General Albert M. Winn, a Virginian, came to California during the Gold Rush and organized the Native Sons of the Golden West in San Francisco on 11 July 1875. It survives today.


12. West Nigerian tribe whence came many slaves.

14. A tribe from coastal Liberia. The Readers’ Guide notes they were skillful
seamen, formerly recruited into the Royal Navy.

15. President Harrison considered the appointment of Blacks more than
once (even to a cabinet position) and sparked white opposition.

16. From Charles Dickens’s novel Nicholas Nickleby (1839).

17. When a hurricane struck Western Samoa in 1889, several merchant
ships, three American and three German warships, including the Vandalia,
were driven ashore. She lost her captain, four officers and forty men. Lieutenant
Carlin was, presumably, the senior survivor.

18. Muslim cry of approval.

19. Anna: a nickel coin in India worth about two cents.

Notes to Letter Six

1. William Allingham (1824–1889), “Across the Sea,” Songs, Ballads and
Stories (1877). An Anglo-Irish poet, Allingham was briefly engaged to Ki-
pling’s mother, Alice Macdonald, before she married.

2. Brietmann: see Letter One, note 1.

3. Thomas Cook & Sons, the famous English travel agency.

4. Jack Hamblin (properly spelled Hamlin), one of Bret Harte’s most fa-
amous characters.

5. The title of a Bret Harte “pet” story.

6. One of Harte’s child heroines in the story called “Mliss” (first titled “The
Work on Red Mountain”).

7. In “Tennessee’s Partner,” it was the partner who reclaimed Tennessee’s
body.

the stanza from Browning’s poem.


10. From Harte’s “The Society upon the Stanislaus.”

11. Yuba Bill was a stagecoach driver in Harte’s “Miggles” and “Brown of Ca-
lavaras.”

12. The old man and the insurance man are identified as A. J. Salsbury (or
Salisbury) and J. L. M. Shatterly respectively. Kipling went fishing with them
as described in the next letter. The man who served as their guide, C. E.
Rumelin, described their trip in 1928 and denied he was in real estate. Let-
ters, I, 321 and 324.

14. When rails were spiked directly to ties and not cradled (chaired) by steel plates, seasonal temperature changes and vibration sometimes caused rails to “spread” and derailed trains. Kipling mentions this again in the first paragraph of Letter Fifteen.

15. Text from this sentence until the end of the letter appeared as a separate (untitled) item in the *Pioneer*, 28 December 1889. Whether the *Pioneer* editor divided a single letter or whether Kipling wrote two, he joined them in the 1899 revision, as the chapter title indicates.

16. Telegraph.

17. In 1889 the name “Johnny Bull” may have had a pejorative undertone.

18. Pilothouse on a riverboat.


21. Usually spelled wickiup: a Native American hut made of willows, reeds, etc.

### Notes to Letter Seven

1. In the 1899 revision, Kipling combined letter seven (*Pioneer*, 31 December 1889) with eight (*Pioneer*, 3 January 1890) greatly abbreviating the latter.

2. Ecclesiastes, 9:11.

3. Perhaps a misprint for Ravi, a tributary of the Indus, that Kipling knew in Lahore.

4. A hill station north of Cape Comorin and west of Madras in southern India.

5. Kipling astonished his companions by showing up “bedecked by cork helmet . . . tweed Norfolk jacket and knickers, startling Scotch plaid stockings and heavy tan walking shoes, swung over one shoulder binoculars and the other shoulder a modest-sized note case.” C. E. Rumelin, *The Portland Oregonian*, 13 March 1928.

6. C. E. Rumelin (cited above), who guided the fishing trip, noted that the fishermen used spoons not flies. In Letter Fifteen, Kipling remembers fishing for salmon with a spoon.

7. In India, a title of respect.
Notes to Letter Eight

1. In the revision (From Sea to Sea), this letter was included as part of the previous letter. It appeared in the Pioneer, 3 January 1890.


3. Robert Browning’s “A Soul’s Tragedy, Time 15–, Place, Faenza” (1846) is a two-act drama about clerical hypocrisy. The line that Kipling quotes occurs twice in Act II, first as “three-and-twenty...,” then “four-and-twenty.” “In Faenza” occurs in neither. Boom towns repeat the same boasts.


5. In fact, Kipling bought two vacant lots in Vancouver and later called the purchase “Ruddy’s folly.” He describes the purchase in the next letter.

6. Kipling travelled by ferry because the rail link to Vancouver was not open until 1891.

7. Seattle burned 6 June 1889. Both Ellensburg and Spokane Washington burned the same year.

8. The Johnstown Flood occurred 31 May 1889. Over 2200 people died.

Notes to Letter Nine

1. Kipling comments on Rayment’s travel agency in the next letter.

2. Probably by Kipling.

3. A city south of Delhi.

4. On the Fraser River east of Vancouver.

5. Mythical creatures, but in India it meant newcomers, e.g. from troopships.

6. Troopships.

7. See me!

8. Kipling held the two lots in the Mount Pleasant district of Vancouver until 1928. He called the purchase “Ruddy’s folly.”

9. Montgomery: a town in Pakistan; Sind: Indian Province on the lower Indus; Bikaneer: northern portion of Rajputana containing part of the Indian desert.

10. The Stampede Tunnel on the Northern Pacific Railroad was completed in 1888 and crossed the Cascade Mountains in Washington, not the Continental Divide in Montana.
11. Railways east of Bombay cross the Western Ghat mountains. The Bhore Ghat [sic] pass, constructed in about 1860, was steep and difficult with many tunnels.

12. A weak-minded but loveable character in Charles Dickens's *Dombey and Son* (1848).

**Notes to Letter Ten**

1. Yankee Jim (James George, 1841–1924) operated a toll road through the canyon until 1893 when the County purchased it. Doris Whithorn, “Yankee Jim’s National Park Toll Road and the Yellowstone Trail.” Privately printed pamphlet, April 1989, Livingston, MT.


3. In Robert Browning’s “A Toccata of Galuppi’s” (1847), the line reads “On her neck the small face buoyant, like a bell-flower on its bed” (fifth stanza).

4. Diana of the Crossways was heroine of the novel of the same name (1885) by George Meredith (1828–1909).

5. Thomas Cook & Son, an English equivalent to Rayment’s travel agency.

6. Perhaps from “trapes” or “traipse”—to travel, or roam.

**Notes to Letter Eleven**

1. Mazanderan is the mountainous northern province of Iran (Persia) known for its fierce people and harsh terrain except along the Caspian shore.

2. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882), “The Revenge of Rain-in-the-Face,” a poem that commemorates the Battle of the Little Bighorn (1876) and may be found in “Birds of Passage: Flight the Fifth.”

3. An avid newspaper reader, Kipling would have noted this detail, although he had not visited New Zealand—a quake-prone island. 1882 witnessed the last major eruption.

4. Myanoshita (also Miyanoshita): a popular resort west of Yokohama famous for its volcanic hot springs. Kipling visited the site in April 1889.

5. The park was established in 1872, and the U.S. Army managed it from 1876 to 1918.

6. Kipling was most familiar with the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers who were engaged in the Black Mountain campaign (1888), to which he refers at the end of this Letter. In his fiction, he called them the “Tynside Tailtwister.”

7. In conformance with.
8. Cook City lies in a valley outside the Park’s northeast gate.
9. Yellow-bellied marmot, also called rock chuck.
10. A place near Jerusalem used for idolatrous worship and later a refuse dump constantly afire. Hence hell.
11. Adopted by the army in 1859, the McClellan saddle had a wooden tree (frame) that was open lengthwise. It remained in use through the 1930s.
13. Pen name of Olivier Gloux (1818–1883). He was a French writer whose romances echo those of James Fenimore Cooper.
14. Kipling did see beavers at the zoo in Washington, DC (Letters, II, 188). He considered keeping beaver at his home in Vermont but learned it was impractical (Letters, II, 170).
15. The Khyber Pass marked the fluid frontier boundary between British-controlled India and Afghanistan.
16. A punitive expedition along the border of the North West Frontier Province in India—1888.
17. This chief is described in the following letter.
18. One of the murderous tribesmen described in Kipling’s verse “What Happened” (1888).

Notes to Letter Twelve
3. Riverside Geyser, beside the Firehole River, goes on performing today, as do the Beehive, Giantess, Old Faithful, and others that Kipling describes below.
4. Paradise Lost, I, 210 and 296.
5. A pool in Jerusalem that flows intermittently and is reputed to have curative properties.
6. A volcanic island that erupted in August 1883, the greatest such event on record.
7. A hill overlooking Simla in northwest India.
8. A card shark in Bret Harte’s verse. In 1877 he was the title character in Harte’s play, Am Sin, written with Twain as collaborator.

10. George Washington Cable (1844–1925), southern American author whose popularity diminished when he advocated equal rights for ex-slaves.

11. Joel Chandler Harris (1848–1908), American author of Southern dialect tales that fascinated Kipling when he was a student at Westward Ho.


13. Railway line beginning by the river Indus in western India.


15. A lake at Udaipur in Rajputana.


**Notes to Letter Thirteen**

1. Ecclesiastes x:14.


4. The distance is 500 miles across low-lying land, hence very hot.

5. The first territorial capital of the State of Montana.

6. Philip Stewart Robinson (1847–1902), *Sinners and Saints* (1883). He was the brother of E. K. Robinson under whom Kipling worked at the *Civil and Military Gazette*.

7. In 1849 Mormons proposed a provisional state called Deseret, but the U.S. Congress denied recognition. The name is still widely used in Utah.

8. Supposed curses by a wife on her co-wives. The British believed that polygamy in India caused fierce jealousy among secluded women.

9. A system of gutters ran irrigation water throughout the city.

10. Kipling saw Abdur Rahman, at Rawalpindi in 1885 when the Viceroy, Lord Dufferin, met the Amir. Kipling attended the occasion as a correspondent for the *Civil and Military Gazette*.

11. The Temple was dedicated in 1893.
12. Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism, and his brother Hyrum were jailed and murdered in Carthage, Illinois, 27 June 1844. Their “Book of Mormon” is filled with the oddities that Kipling describes.

13. When Kipling was a student at Westward Ho!, he wore glasses that were called “gig-lamps.” His nickname was “Gigger”; and his favorite schoolmaster, the sarcastic William Crofts, called him “Gigadibs,” the naive youth in Browning’s “Bishop Blougram’s Apology” (1855).

14. Runjit Singh (1780–1839) established Sikh dominance in the Punjab by tolerating all religions and became a kind of saintly warrior still honored among the faithful.


**Notes to Letter Fourteen**

1. Adapted from Tennyson’s “Ulysses.”
2. Unidentified.
3. Con man; swindler.
4. The military cantonment at Lahore—a hot place.
5. Saint Jo, a town north of Fort Worth, Texas.
6. Although this seems like a tall tale, reports of horses killed by hailstorms are common.
8. “Lieve” or “lief” means gladly, freely.
9. Colonel Conway-Gordon [sic] was Director-General of railways in Lahore. He would be responsible for trainloads of pilgrims en route to religious sites in ancient Hardwar in the Himalayan foothills. The huge Kumbh Mela festival was held there every twelve years.
10. “Agee” is a dialect word meaning awry or askew.

**Notes to Letter Fifteen**

1. *The Readers' Guide* suggests that “ellewomen” may have some relation to “Ellylon,” the ancient Welsh name for souls of the Druids, which, too good for hell, not good enough for heaven, wander on earth until Judgment Day; also “elle” is the French duplicate for woman.

2. The Bolan Pass links southern Pakistan (Baluchistan) with Kandahar in Afghanistan. Like the Kyber Pass further north, leading to Kabul, it is sometimes called “the Gateway to India.”
3. Two unintelligible and incomplete sentences follow.


5. Ancient cities in Rajasthan that Kipling visited and wrote about.

6. Congressman Elijah Pogram, a character in Charles Dickens’s Martin Chuzzlewit, Chap. 34 (1844), is a patriotic buffoon and Anglophobe whose American dialect Kipling often copies.


8. In Madras India, a “maund” is about 25 pounds.

9. Twenty-five years later, Kipling remembered the Omaha undertaker in “The Prophet and the Country” (1924; collected in Debits and Credits, 1926), a story satirizing America’s occasional partiality for gimpick remedies for all problems, religious or secular.

Notes to Letter Sixteen

1. From Bret Harte’s “San Francisco.”

2. Polluted west channel of the Ganges River at Calcutta.

3. Thomas de Witt Talmage (1832–1902), prominent Presbyterian minister.

4. The city burned on 8 October 1871.

5. As a Congressman in the 1880’s, William McKinley advocated increased tariff on foreign goods. His bill passed in 1890. Kipling alludes to the “M’Kinley Bill” in the letter below, “Across the Continent.”


Notes to Letter Seventeen

1. A fictional name for Beaver, Pennsylvania (on the Ohio River) where Kipling stayed at the home of Edmonia Hill. Her father, the Reverend R. T. Taylor, was President of Beaver College for Women, a rigidly Methodist institution. Between journeys, Kipling lived for a time in a vacant dormitory. “Musquash” means “beaver.”


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4. Walers: horses imported to India from Australia.

5. Toff: British slang for a dandy or swell.

6. One who has had experience.

7. Unidentified.

8. Taxes.

9. Kipling came from a line of English Methodists. Both his grandfathers were ministers.

10. Kipling knew this by firsthand experience when he was a boarder in “The House of Desolation.” His story “Baa Baa Black Sheep” (1888) records the scars.

11. Louisa May Alcott (1832–1888), American author of Little Women, in which the character “Jo” (not Joe) is herself.

12. Chats, conversations.

13. Chick-pea and other legumes with nutritious seeds.

14. The Johnstown flood occurred 31 May 1889, about two months before Kipling arrived in Pennsylvania. He describes it in Captains Courageous, chapter 3.

15. Pittsburgh.

16. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries German Pietists (“Sect” people, as they were called) established many communities in Pennsylvania. The one Kipling visited is the Harmony Society founded by George Rapp (1757–1847). The community was founded in Harmony, Pennsylvania, in 1805, moved to New Harmony, Indiana, in 1815 and settled in Economy (now Ambridge), Beaver County, Pennsylvania (1825). It dissolved in 1916.

17. Professor S. A. (Aleck) Hill appears frequently in the letters Kipling wrote in Asia, and he is important in the following letter about Chautauqua.

Notes to Letter Eighteen

1. This letter appeared in the Pioneer on 1 April 1890. Kipling excluded it from From Sea to Sea, but it was collected in both pirated and authorized editions of Abaft the Funnel (1909) under the title “Chatauquaed.” Two protestant ministers founded the Chautauqua movement in 1874. Beginning as a summer training program for Sunday school teachers in western New York, it spread within fifty years to 10,000 communities annually. Theodore Roose-
velt called it “the most American thing in America.” Radio and film gradually displaced it.

2. Jean Baptiste Poquelin Moliere (1622–1673), *Les precieuses ridicules* (1659; *The Affected Young Ladies*).


5. William Makepeace Thackeray (1811–1863). In the final section of “Mrs. Perkins’ Ball” (1846), *Christmas Books etc.* , The Mulligan says to Mr. Perkins, “I tell ye, ye are the butler, ye big fat man. Go get me some more champagne. It’s good at this house.” Perkins replies, “It is good at this house.”

6. The hill station in northern India to which the British government migrated from Calcutta during the hot weather.


9. Polytechnics: beginning as general educational programs for shopmen and artisans in London, “Polytechnics” thrived in the 1880s. They resembled Community Colleges in the U.S. but with a religious component. Cassell: John Cassell (1817–1865) was a publisher of “self-help” books and magazines. His company flourished in the 80s. Monday Pops were popular chamber concerts held at St. James’s Hall from 1859 to 1898. Perhaps Kipling recalled a joke about them in Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Patience* (Act 2).

10. Another hill station.

11. Valley traversed en route to Mussoorie.


13. John Pentland Mahaffey (1839–1919). A scholar and provost at Trinity College Dublin, he specialized in the history of ancient Greece. Although a clergyman, he was reputed to be man about town—a crack shot, accomplished musician and witty conversationalist. This may explain Kipling’s question about his presence at Chautauqua.

14. Frank Wakely Gunsaulus (1856–1921), protestant minister, educator and author, was a prominent preacher in Chicago and popular Chautauqua lecturer.


16. Elizabeth Browning (1806–1861), a novel in blank verse (1857). Self-educated and idealistic, Aurora was ill prepared for adult life.
17. Tomas de Torquemada (1420–1498) was the first Grand Inquisitor of Spain, appointed in 1483.


**Notes on Letter Nineteen**

1. Kipling tried to disown this belated letter and never reprinted it. Published first in London with the title “Food and War,” it appeared in America with a new title in the New York Herald (22 February 1891) and other papers. It became a fixture in the pirated American Notes where it did Kipling’s reputation little good because he reverted to the contentious attitude of his earlier accounts in San Francisco. The Herald version abbreviated the paragraphs and added subtitles that were not Kipling’s.

2. From one end of the country to another (Judges, xx. 1).

3. Oriental proverb.

4. Fictional names of cultivators in India.

5. A well known British battleship.

6. The Statue of Liberty.

7. Indians from Rawal Pindi who were allegedly ready to fight and loot, even kindred.

8. The theatre opened in 1887 and provided a place where amateur theatricals flourished. Kipling himself participated.

9. The interview (Buffalo Courier, 12 August 1889) is printed in the appendix.

**Notes to Letter Twenty**

1. The interview was published, not in the Pioneer, but in the New York Herald (17 August 1890), and also in the Civil and Military Gazette (23 September 1890). Kipling added the final paragraph after reading A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court (1890). The Herald version includes it. The title and abbreviated paragraphs illustrate the editorial liberty that syndication permitted.

2. This is the title of a song composed in 1889 by J. W. Kelly (sic) referring to the exploits of Michael Kelley (1857–1894), a base runner for Chicago and Boston baseball teams.
3. The Chemung River begins at the confluence of the Tioga and Cohocton rivers and flows southeast through Elmira, New York, to the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania.

4. This would be Harper's Weekly (illustrated), founded in 1857 by Fletcher Harper (one of four Harper brothers). It became a forum for political cartoonists.

5. He was forty-four years old.

6. Tuttle town [sic] was in Tuolumne County west of Sonora. The ruins of Swerer's store remain. Bret Harte clerked and Twain shopped there. Twain's cabin was nearby.


8. Frontier vernacular intrigued Kipling. He occasionally adopted it, albeit inappropriately, as here. Compare the final sentence of Letter Eleven.

**Part II  Notes to Letter One**


2. Kipling's brother-in-law, Beatty Balastier.

3. A practice in India, not Vermont.

4. Kipling visited New Zealand the previous October.

5. Will Cabot, whose family bought Kipling's house in Vermont many years later.

6. Fox hunting on horses is impossible in mountain terrain.

7. Bayard Taylor (1825–1878), from The Echo Club (1872).

8. *The Readers’ Guide* explains that David Garrick (1717–1779), the great actor, admired George Whitefield (1714–1770), the famous preacher, and claimed: “His voice is so wonderfully modulated that he could make men either laugh or cry by pronouncing the word Mesopotamia” (p. 1457).


**Part II  Notes to Letter Two**

1. Kipling intended to continue his practice in 1889 of giving each letter a general title (“From Sea to Sea”) followed by a descriptive subtitle. The general title for the second series, “From Tideway to Tideway,” became irrelevant
once his trip around the world terminated in Japan and he returned to Vermont. The New York Sun (May 8 & 15, 1892) gave this letter a double title: “Across and Continent” and “From Tideway to Tideway.”

2. African waterfronts or cattle pens are unpleasant.

3. Presumably he means streetcar or trolley car.

4. Before he became president (1897), Congressman William McKinley advocated high tariffs on foreign goods, and his bill passed in 1890. See Letter Sixteen, Note 6.

5. Goldwin Smith (182–1910) was an English historian, journalist and anti-imperialist. He moved to Cornell University in 1868 and to Canada in 1870. He wrote many books, including Canada and the Canadian Question (1891), and advocated a commercial union between Canada and the U.S., which explains Kipling’s disapproval.

Part II  Notes to Letter Three

1. This is an excerpt of a letter that recounts Kipling’s return to America via Canada. In this passage he recalls his experience with boomtowns in 1889. The poem was later renamed “The Voortrekker,” and it does not appear at the head of this letter when reprinted in Letters of Travel (1920). The letter was retitled “Captains Courageous.”

2. No doubt, Kipling himself.

3. Maine to Oregon.

Part II  Notes to Letter Four

1. Actually Brattleboro, Vermont. The text was probably written somewhat later than dated. It appeared 4 December 1892 in the New York Sun. Neither this “letter” nor the one following belongs in the travel series.

2. Here Kipling added a footnote: “See ‘In Sight of Monadnock.’”

3. Rutherford B. Hayes (19th President, 1877–1881). His grandfather lived in Brattleboro, Vermont, where Kipling may have seen him.

4. Perhaps “by and by” is a good translation for these terms.

5. The Saguenay River in Quebec flows into the St. Lawrence River.

6. In India, a low-caste street sweeper (mehter) has his own divinity and symbol.

7. A standard florist’s item used in displays for churches and funeral parlors. One may recall the Omaha mortician (Part I, Letter Fifteen).
Part II  Notes to Letter Five

1. This was not one of the “Tideway” letters but was later added to the series. Written in 1894, it first appeared in Harper’s Magazine, May 1900. Kipling describes it in Letters, II, 136–37. He revised the title in Letters of Travel (1920): “Leaves from a Winter Note-book (1895).”

2. Baltimore orioles, so named because their red-orange and black color are those of Lord Baltimore’s Coat-of-Arms.

3. A character in Rider Haggard’s (1856–1925) Alan Quartermain and Nada the Lily. His weapon was an axe.

4. By trapping with nets.

5. Cooper: an Americanism—one who coops, confines.

6. Founded in 1836, “The Retreat” was one of the first asylums in the country to treat mental illness scientifically.


8. Ponds of melted snow—sometimes used for ducking obnoxious people.


11. Ledges or cliffs.

Notes to Second San Francisco Interview

1. Letter Two in Part I explains Kipling’s contempt for journalists. Readers may suspect that he, well acquainted with Mark Twain’s work, was accommodating the American taste for tall tales. His treatment of snakes and elephants is dramatically different in “Rikki-tikki-tavi” (1893) and “Toomai of the Elephants” (1892).

2. Usually spelled “krait.”

3. Sometimes spelled “musth,” it describes the behavior of bull elephants during breeding season.

4. To prepare or dress, as hemp, by beating; hence, to scourge.

Note to An Interview at Buffalo

1. This interview supplements Letter Nineteen.
Notes to London Interview

1. The final omitted portion of this interview contains lengthy extracts from various letters, for example on Chautauqua, girls and journalism. The interviewer links them with bits of invented conversation so that each extract seems to be a direct quotation. The passages chosen justify his notion that Kipling would be unwelcome in the United States. “T.G.” mentions both Kipling’s “manifold book” and also the “scrap-book,” so that one cannot be certain whether he saw handwritten manuscripts or clippings from the Pioneer. His text differs slightly from the Pioneer version. —In any case, the length of quotations from the letters is surprising if we are to believe that “T.G.” copied them while he was in Kipling’s apartment. This interview (signed “T.G.”) appeared in the New York World, 6 July 1890, nine months after Kipling returned to England. His opinions about America are somewhat revised. The interview is interesting because “T.G.” quotes at length from Letter Four (7 December 1889 in the Pioneer). Kipling never republished it.

2. Partridge, Dictionary of Slang, says that “Dennis” is nautical for pig, and that “hullo Dennis” was an insulting catch-phrase in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

3. Leon Paul Blouet (1848–1903) was a correspondent in England for French newspapers writing under the name “Max O’Reill.”

4. Henry Morton Stanley (1841–1904), the man who located David Livingstone in Zanzibar (1871), was famous as an African traveler, journalist and empire builder.

5. In an article by Thomas Humphrey Ward, 25 March 1890.

6. Henry Du Pre Labouchere (1831–1912) was a liberal journalist who founded the journal Truth. For political reasons, he was no supporter of Kipling.