

RILEY AND KIPLING.

Two Good Stories of These Famous
Writers.

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J. Whitcomb Riley did his first literary work in the early '70's for the Indianapolis Journal, under an assumed name. The first pay he ever received for a poem was a suit of clothes from the late George Harding of the Indianapolis Herald. About 1876 Riley went East and was welcomed by Holmes, Whittier and Longfellow. The New England newspapers made much of his visit and when he returned he was a

"I can remember," said an old Journal man the other day, "when Riley, with his long, thin, pale face, slender figure, clad in sacerdotal garb, used to come around the office and sit on my desk and dash off nonsense verses in the same copper-plate, microscope handwriting that he uses to-day. Elijah Haiford, now in the United States Army, President Harrison's private secretary, was the editor, and it used to be Riley's chief delight to submit some of his most meaningless jingles to Haiford for the editorial page. The major, however, and the slightest gleam of humor, spent many a weary hour trying to comprehend them."

"You'd better draw a diagram to go with this," he would say. Then a shout of laughter from the boys would show him that there was a joke loose somewhere, and he would retire into his office to avoid it."

DEWEY UNDER FIRE.
The following vivid scene is from Rossiter Johnson's "Hero of Manila." It relates to the hot fight off Fort Jackson in 1862, when Dewey was serving as a lieutenant on the "spinning wheel."

—as the sailors nicknamed the big old wheeler Mississippi. While this desperate action was in progress Dewey's appearance in the ship was described by one who watched him closely:

"He stood on the high bridge, his figure alternately hidden by smoke and illuminated by the flashes of artillery. Every time the dark came back I felt sure that we never should see Dewey again. His cap was blown off and his eyes were a flame. But he gave his orders with the air of a man in thorough command of himself."

It is the same Dewey at all times and in all places. But how narrowly we missed losing him!

A QUICK VISIT TO KIPLING.
Rudyard Kipling tells a story of himself. One day, he says, I was sitting in my study, in London, when suddenly a gentleman appeared at the door unannounced, followed by two school-boys. "Is this Rudyard Kipling?" inquired the gentleman.
"Yes," I answered.

He turned around.
"Boys, this is Rudyard Kipling."
"And this is where you write?" he continued.
"Yes," I replied.
"Boys, this is where he writes."
And before I had time to ask them to take a seat they were gone, boys and all. I suppose they had all literary London to do in that way.

When Men Double Up:
 "There's one place above all other where a man exhibits his meanness," said the traveler, "and that is aboard the ocean liner and toward the man who is obliged to occupy the stateroom with him. You are mad to begin with."

that you have to bunk in with some body. If he gets the lower berth, he's done you a mortal injury. If he's sick, you have a contempt for him; if he is not, you are a bit envious. I've crossed the Atlantic nine times and a ways shared a stateroom, and I was never more than on speaking terms with my roommate. You can be a right toward everybody else aboard, but he's your enemy. The case worse when it's a pair of old travelers as each is posted as to his rights and

privilege and is zealous in enforcing them: When I crossed to London last year, I had a Chicago man for a chum. No doubt he was an all-around good fellow, but it was his sixth or seventh trip, and he'd got posted as to who he and how to exhibit his meanness. I found him in the stateroom when I came. We recognized each other as veterans, but a few words must be uttered for decency's sake.

"Name's Jones," says I, as I chuckled away my steamer trunk.

"Name's Brown," said he, as I banged on his hat.

"We didn't speak again for four days. Then we got a heavy gale and a big sea, and as I was lying on my bunk he came in for some cigars and growled:

" 'Got it?'"

" 'No; have you?'"

" 'No; hoped you had!'"


" 'Ditto!'"

"An hour before we landed I handed him a paper on which I had written down my feelings concerning him. He called him a crank, a curmudgeon.

hear, a heathen and lots of other things and expressed the hope that it might give us both shelter in Europe. As he handed out my paper he extended his hand and I pledged my word, if the two papers were not alike to the other, I would in Paris six weeks later, and we rushed to greet each other like old friends and for two weeks we walked about like two brothers and were greeted when the papers were alike as if we were old friends. I know, and we were bunkmates. I'm going over again next month, but I'm making no promises of better behavior, whether my roommate is a minister from Boston or a Jew from Amsterdam. And I think I shall probably do all I can to make his position as comfortable, and I am sure, he will do as much for me."

Modern Conveniences.
 "I don't see what hey want to stop them swindlers from usin' the machine," said Farmer Cornstossel, who was feeling ill-natured on general principles. "Seems to me the Government is alius mixin' in."
 "But it's better to have 'em stopped," I dunno whether 'tis or not. I'm certainly a heap cheaper to get you gold bricks through the post office than it is to pay railroad fare an' go to town after 'em."—Washington Star.

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