

inspired when you wrote that. I can see you smiling evasively at yourself when you rounded it into its perfect perfection. I fear I shall be delinquent with my Christmas gift to you—but you must be prepared for it at any future moment. Wish you were here, and Ed likewise—but be patient, “‘And so we plow along,’ as the fly said to the ox.”

Hope you and Ed are hitting it off *finely*.

Yours gratefully and faithfully,

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

INDIANAPOLIS.

October 12th, 1915.

*Dear Carman:*

Your fine letter and, doubtless, the letter to Ed likewise, remain unanswered. Simply, we can not write you a worthy message in the stress of these very epistolary times, further than to thank you for the birthday greetings, send you the *Star*, in which your poem marched very happily in tribute, and the *News* where the speeches were recorded. I can not tell how sorry I was that you could not join us at the dinner.

With old-time love and affection,

Yours gratefully and cheerily,

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

Bliss Carman, Esq.,

New Canaan, Connecticut.