

of literary people and was an especial favorite of Miss Mulock.

At the age of seventeen his father secured him a position on the "Civil and Military Gazette" in Lahore, which necessitated his immediate return to India. Lahore is the scene of his realistic sketch "The City of Dreadful Night." It is so hot at times that his father characterizes it as "Hell with the lid on."

His work on this paper until E. Kay Robinson became editor was exceedingly irksome. He was employed by an unappreciative man who put a damper on all his literary aspirations and kept him busy on the rougher work of the office. But when advised to go to England he refused saying that he had been taken on trust a boy fresh from school and would serve loyally like Jacob for his full seven years. In spite of these disadvantages he produced while there "Departmental Ditties" and "Soldiers Three."

His home life was a very happy one. Both his father and mother were exceptionally clever, while his sister who had a wonderful literary memory could quote almost every line of Shakespeare.

Mr. Robinson who first met him at this time says "His heavy eyebrows, spectacles, sallow Anglo-Indian complexion, jerky speech and abrupt movements made an unfavorable impression. But his sterling character gleamed through the humorous light that shone behind the spectacles and in ten minutes he became the most striking member of the family."

Shortly after this Mr. Robinson assumed control of the paper and entirely reversed the old order of things, encouraging in every way possible the youth's literary abilities. While under him Kipling went on missions for the paper all over India and gained that minutely detailed knowledge of the habits, language and distinctive ways of thought of the various races that is so strikingly

evident in all his Indian stories. Owing to his great power of observation everything he saw or heard seemed to photograph itself on his mind and remain there ready for future use.

His own account of his first publication is very interesting and I give it almost verbatim. "Men in the army and civil service suggested to me that my songs might be made into a book. They had been sung around camp fires to banjoes. Accordingly I made use of the office press and there was built up a sort of book, a lean oblong docket, wire-stitched to imitate a D. O. Government envelope printed on one side only, bound in brown paper and secured with red tape. It was addressed to all heads of Departments and Government officials. I took reply post cards, printed news of the birth of the book on one side, the blank order form on the other, and posted them all over India. But the wire-binding cut the pages and the red tape tore the covers, so the papers complained. This was not intentional but Heaven helps those who help themselves and a new edition was demanded. More verses were put in and at last the book came out in London with a gilt top and a stiff back."

A peculiarity of Kipling's composition is that he always conceives his verses first as a tune and when once he has fixed on the tune the words and rhyme follow readily. Much of his early success in India was doubtless due to the satirical power which is such a distinctive feature of "Departmental Ditties."

In addition to his great powers of observation and memory he had a genius for gaining the confidence of the natives which may be illustrated by the fact that Mahhub Ali, a great Pathan traveller who journeyed all over Afghanistan considered Kipling as a man apart from all other "Sahibs" and always on returning from his