

he was transferred to the "Allahabad Pioneer," one of the most important of the Anglo-Indian journals. For this paper he wrote many verses and sketches, and also served as special correspondent in various parts of India. It was in 1889 that the "Pioneer" sent him on a tour of the world, and he wrote the series of letters afterwards reprinted under the title "From Sea to Sea." Kipling journeyed through America and reached London in September, 1889, and after several months of discouragement he finally induced a large publishing house to bring out "Plain Tales from the Hills." This work was instantly successful, and the author rapidly leaped into fame. He married a sister of Walcott Balestier, a brilliant young American, and after Balestier's death he moved to his wife's old home in Brattleboro', Vermont, where he built a fine country house; but constant trouble with a young brother of his wife probably caused him to abandon their home and return to England. There he has remained ever since, partly at Rottingdean, in Surrey, and in the adjoining county, Sussex. Kipling's private life is not a matter of public interest, and no real biography has yet been written of him. His career began at an extremely early age, and he has led a life since of extraordinary vicissitude, as a journalist, as a war correspondent, and as a civilian in the wake of an army. An insatiable curiosity has led him to shrink from no experience that might help to solve the strange riddles of Oriental existence; and he is distinguished from other active, adventurous and inquisitive persons in that his capacious memory retains every impression that it captures.

An authority states that in reading Kipling it is best to begin with some of the tales written in his early life, for these he has never surpassed in vigor and interest. Take, for instance, "Without Benefit of Clergy," "The Man Who Was," "The Drums of the Fore and Aft," "The Man Who Would be King," and "Beyond the Pale." These stories all deal with Anglo-Indian life, two with the British soldier, and the others with episodes in the lives of British officials and others. "The Man Who Would be King" is regarded by some as Kipling's finest story of Anglo-Indian life. It is the story of the fatal ambition of Daniel Dravot, told by the man who accompanied him into the wildest part of Afghanistan. Daniel made the natives believe that he was a god, and he could have ruled them as a king had he not foolishly become enamored of a native beauty. This girl was prompted by a native soothsayer to bite Dravot in order to decide whether he was a god or merely human. The blood that she drew on his neck was ample proof of his spurious claims, and the two adventurers were chased for miles through a wild country. When captured Daniel is forced to walk upon a bridge, the ropes of which are then cut, and his body is hurled hundreds of feet down upon the rocks. The story of the survivor, who escaped after crucifixion, is one of the ghastliest tales in all literature.

Other stories of Indian life Kipling has written are scarcely inferior to "The Man Who Would be King" in strange, uncanny power. One of the weirdest relates the adventures of an army officer who fell into the place where those who have been legally declared dead, but who have recovered, pass their lives. As a picture of hell upon earth it has never been surpassed. "William the Conqueror" is a love story, but it has a terrible background of grim work during the famine year. "Soldier's Three" was published in 1888-89. This volume is perhaps the most famous of all Kipling's literary work, and deservedly so. It consists of lively episodes in the Indian life of three British soldiers,