

FICTION

Rudyard Kipling

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# An Almanac of Twelve Sports

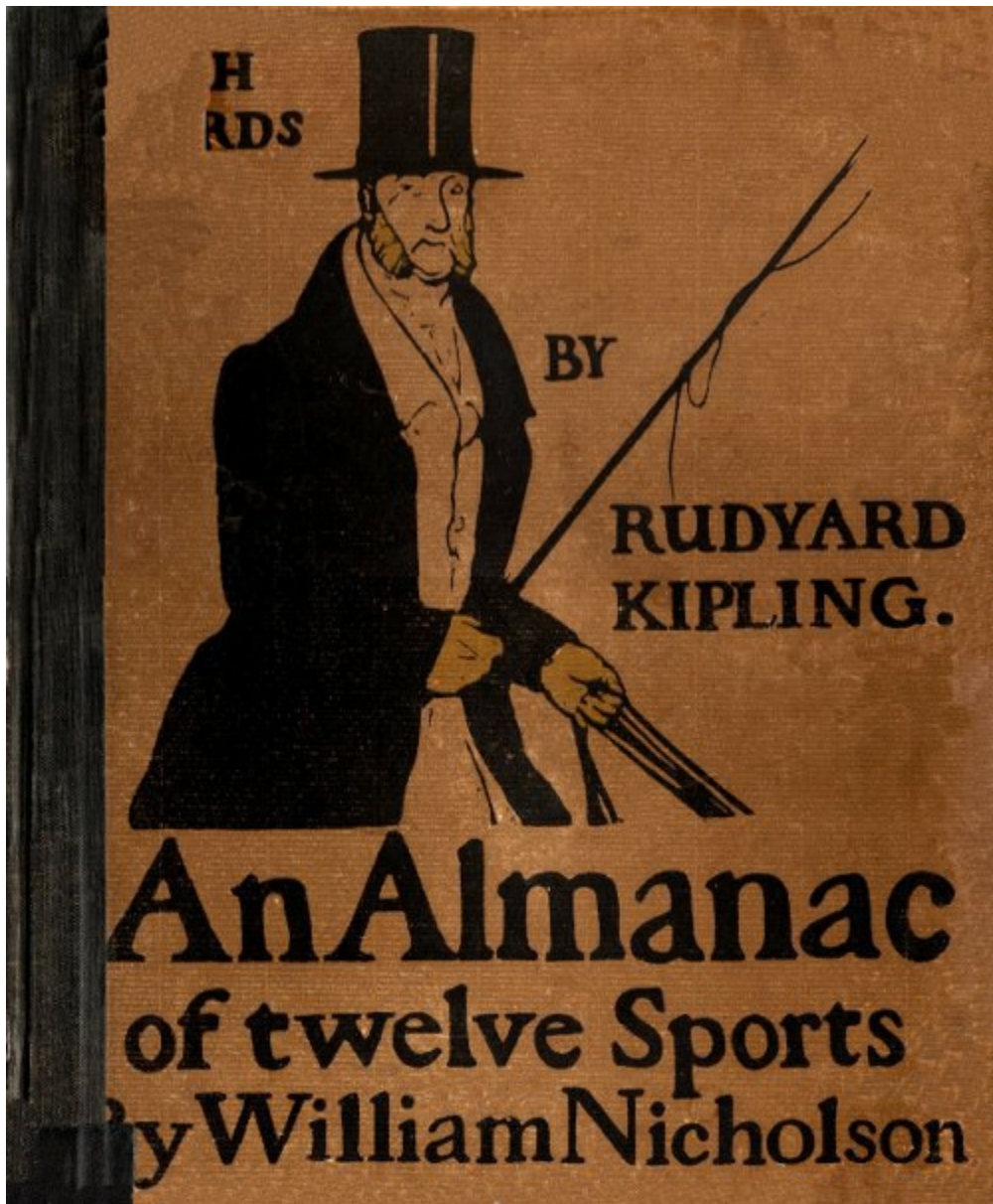
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FICTION



**An Almanac  
of twelve Sports**

By William Nicholson

*Words by  
Rudyard Kipling*

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1898.

**1898.**

**January.**

**February.**

*Sunday*    2 9 16 23 30    *Sunday*    6 13 20 27

<i>Monday</i>	3 10 17 24 31	<i>Monday</i>	7 14 21 28
<i>Tuesday</i>	4 11 18 25	<i>Tuesday</i>	1 8 15 22
<i>Wednesday</i>	5 12 19 26	<i>Wednesday</i>	2 9 16 23
<i>Thursday</i>	6 13 20 27	<i>Thursday</i>	3 10 17 24
<i>Friday</i>	7 14 21 28	<i>Friday</i>	4 11 18 25
<i>Saturday</i>	1 8 15 22 29	<i>Saturday</i>	5 12 19 26

**March.**

**April.**

<i>Sunday</i>	6 13 20 27	<i>Sunday</i>	3 10 17 24
<i>Monday</i>	7 14 21 28	<i>Monday</i>	4 11 18 25
<i>Tuesday</i>	1 8 15 22 29	<i>Tuesday</i>	5 12 19 26
<i>Wednesday</i>	2 9 16 23 30	<i>Wednesday</i>	6 13 20 27
<i>Thursday</i>	3 10 17 24 31	<i>Thursday</i>	7 14 21 28
<i>Friday</i>	4 11 18 25	<i>Friday</i>	1 8 15 22 29
<i>Saturday</i>	5 12 19 26	<i>Saturday</i>	2 9 16 23 30

**May.**

**June.**

<i>Sunday</i>	1 8 15 22 29	<i>Sunday</i>	5 12 19 26
<i>Monday</i>	2 9 16 23 30	<i>Monday</i>	6 13 20 27
<i>Tuesday</i>	3 10 17 24 31	<i>Tuesday</i>	7 14 21 28
<i>Wednesday</i>	4 11 18 25	<i>Wednesday</i>	1 8 15 22 29
<i>Thursday</i>	5 12 19 26	<i>Thursday</i>	2 9 16 23 30
<i>Friday</i>	6 13 20 27	<i>Friday</i>	3 10 17 24
<i>Saturday</i>	7 14 21 28	<i>Saturday</i>	4 11 18 25

Here is a horse to tame  
 Here is a gun to handle  
 God knows you can enter the game  
 If you'll only pay for the same,  
 And the price of the game is a candle  
 One single flickering candle!

**1898.**

**July.**

**August.**

<i>Sunday</i>	3 10 17 24 31	<i>Sunday</i>	7 14 21 28
<i>Monday</i>	4 11 18 25	<i>Monday</i>	1 8 15 22 29
<i>Tuesday</i>	5 12 19 26	<i>Tuesday</i>	2 9 16 23 30

<i>Wednesday</i>	6 13 20 27	<i>Wednesday</i>	3 10 17 24 31
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<i>Friday</i>	1 8 15 22 29	<i>Friday</i>	5 12 19 26
<i>Saturday</i>	2 9 16 23 30	<i>Saturday</i>	6 13 20 27

**September:**

**October:**

<i>Sunday</i>	4 11 18 25	<i>Sunday</i>	2 9 16 23 30
<i>Monday</i>	5 12 19 26	<i>Monday</i>	3 10 17 24 31
<i>Tuesday</i>	6 13 20 27	<i>Tuesday</i>	4 11 18 25
<i>Wednesday</i>	7 14 21 28	<i>Wednesday</i>	5 12 19 26
<i>Thursday</i>	1 8 15 22 29	<i>Thursday</i>	6 13 20 27
<i>Friday</i>	2 9 16 23 30	<i>Friday</i>	7 14 21 28
<i>Saturday</i>	3 10 17 23	<i>Saturday</i>	1 8 15 22 29

**November:**

**December:**

<i>Sunday</i>	6 13 20 27	<i>Sunday</i>	4 11 18 25
<i>Monday</i>	7 14 21 28	<i>Monday</i>	5 12 19 26
<i>Tuesday</i>	1 8 15 22 29	<i>Tuesday</i>	6 13 20 27
<i>Wednesday</i>	2 9 16 23 30	<i>Wednesday</i>	7 14 21 28
<i>Thursday</i>	3 10 17 24	<i>Thursday</i>	1 8 15 22 29
<i>Friday</i>	4 11 18 25	<i>Friday</i>	2 9 16 23 30
<i>Saturday</i>	5 12 19 26	<i>Saturday</i>	3 10 17 24 31

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**Hunting.**

Certes it is a noble sport  
 And men have quitted selle and swum  
                   for't,  
 But I am of a meeker sort  
 And I prefer Surtees in comfort.

Reach down my "Handley Cross" again.  
 My run, where never danger lurks, is  
 With Jorrocks and his deathless train  
 Pigg, Binjimin and Arterxerxes!



**January.**

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**Coursing.**

Most men harry the world for fun  
Each man seeks it a different way  
But "of all daft devils under the sun  
A grey'ound's the daftest" said Jorrocks J.



**February.**

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**Racing.**

The horse is ridden the jockey rides  
The backers back the owners own  
But ... there are lots of things besides,  
And I should leave this play alone.



### March.

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### Boating.

The Pope of Rome he could not win  
From pleasant meat and pleasant sin  
These who, in honour's hope, endure  
Lean days and lives enforced pure.  
These who, replying not, submit  
Unto the curses of the Pit  
Which he that rides (O greater  
shame!)  
Flings forth by number not by  
name...  
Could Triple Crown or Jesuit's oath

Do what yon shuffle-stocking doth?



**April.**

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**Fishing.**

Behold a parable! *A* fished for *B*.  
*C* took her bait; her heart was set on *D*.  
Thank Heaven, who cooled your blood and  
cramped your wishes,  
Men and not Gods torment you, little fishes.





**May.**

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**Cricket.**

Thank God who made the British Isles  
And taught me how to play,  
I do not worship crocodiles  
Or bow the knee to clay!

Give me a willow wand and I,  
With hide and cork and twine,  
From century to century  
Will gambol round my Shrine.



**June.**

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**Archery.**

The child of the Nineties considers with laughter  
The maid whom his Sire in the sixties ran after,  
While careering himself in pursuit of a girl whom  
The Twenties will dub a "last century heir-loom."



July.

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### Coaching.

The Pious Horse to church may trot.  
A maid may work a man's salvation.  
Four horses and a girl are not,  
However, aids to reformation.



**August.**

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**Shooting.**

"Peace upon Earth, Goodwill to  
men!"

So greet we Christmas Day.  
Oh Christian load your gun and then,  
O Christian, out and slay!



**September.**

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**Golf.**

Why Golf is Art and Art is Golf  
we have not far to seek  
So much depends upon the lie,  
so much upon the cleek.



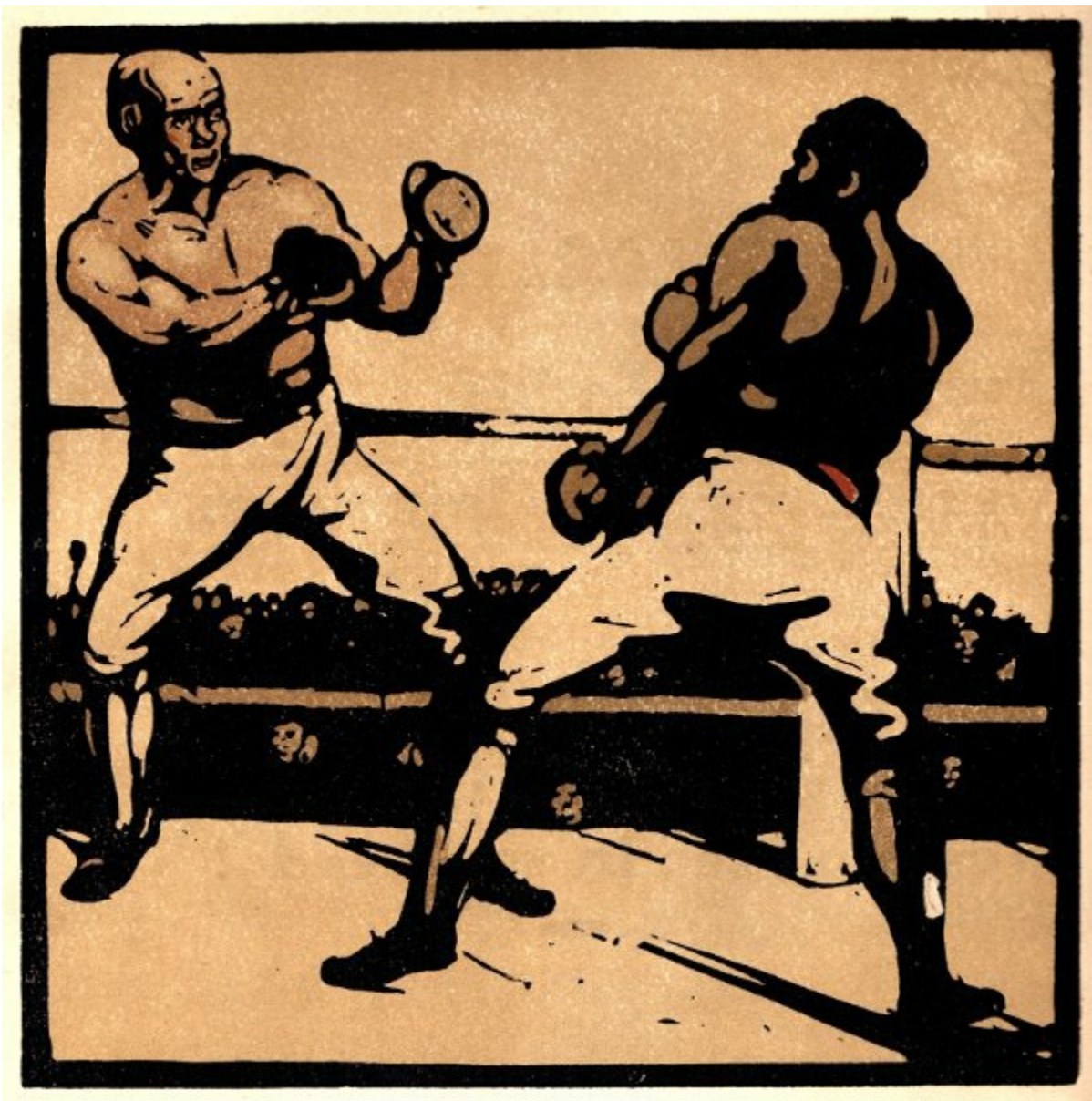
**October.**

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**Boxing.**

Read here the Moral roundly writ  
For him that into battle goes  
Each soul that, hitting hard and hit,  
Encounters gross or ghostly foes:  
Prince, blown by many overthrows  
Half blind with shame, half choked with  
dirt

*Man cannot tell but Allah knows  
How much the other side was hurt!*



**November.**

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**Skating.**

Over the ice she flies  
Perfect and poised and fair  
Stars in my true-love's eyes  
Teach me to do and to dare!

Now will I fly as she flies ...  
Woe for the stars that misled!  
Stars that I saw in her eyes  
Now do I see in my head!



## December.

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Now we must come away.  
What are you out of pocket?  
'Sorry to spoil your play,  
But Somebody says we must pay  
And the candle's down to the socket  
Its horrible tallowy socket!