



AMERICAN NOTES

American Notes

by Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

In *American Notes*, Rudyard Kipling, the Nobel Prize-winning author of *The Jungle Book*, visits the USA. As the travel-diary of an Anglo-Indian Imperialist, these notes offer an interesting view of America in the 1880s. Kipling affects a wide-eyed innocence, and expresses astonishment at features of American life that differ from his own, not least the freedom (and attractiveness) of American women. However, he scorns the political machines that made a mockery of American democracy, and while exhibiting the racist attitudes that made him controversial in the 20th century, concludes "It is not good to be a negro in the land of the free and the home of the brave." G. A. England of Harvard University wrote to *The New York Times* in 1902: "To the American temperament, the gentleman who throws stones while himself living in a glass house cannot fail to be amusing; the more so if, as in Mr Kipling's case, he appears to be in a state of maiden innocence regarding the structure of his own domicile."

RUDYARD KIPLING

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Read by Tim Bulkeley

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