

Rudyard Kipling

Audio Guide transcript of National Sound Archive recording

This is Rudyard Kipling, addressing a Canadian Authors Association luncheon in London on 12th July 1933.

‘Strictly between ourselves, I think that this is an occasion on which we are justified in feeling a little proud of our calling. We know that when all the men who do things have done them, and after all the men who say things about those doing have said them, it is only words, nothing but words that live to show the present how men worked and thought in the past. And we do not know whose words they will be. And that is one of the reasons why there can be neither first nor last in our kingdom (it is not a republic) in our kingdom of letters. And we who use words in joy of peculiar privilege over our fellows – we cannot tell a lie.’