

The story of Kathleen Beauchamp (1888-1923), as told by Antony Alpers, is one of almost unrelieved sadness. She was, throughout her life, in rebellion against many elements in her New Zealand background. Escaping to England, where she had received part of her education, she became a fierce seeker after "experience," taking a considerable time fully to discover and develop her talents as a writer. Her relationship with her husband, John Middleton Murry, and her long struggle against ill-health have been revealed in detail through the publication of her letters and journal. Only for brief periods was she at peace with herself or her friends.

Antony Alpers insists that throughout her stormy and broken life she was at heart deeply religious. He suggests that her great-grandfather's introspective temperament, as well as his habits as a diarist, came out again in Katherine Mansfield. He also notes that in her stories she gave to her characters family names taken from the Dyer circle. Stanley and Linda Burnell in *The Prelude*, which appeared in 1918, bear one of her mother's names, which she in turn had inherited from Agnes Burnell, John Dyer's wife. Jonathan Trout no doubt owed his name to remembrance of family tales about distant relatives called Trowt. John Dyer's sister-in-law had married Thomas Trowt, one of the early Baptist missionaries to the East Indies (see *South East from Serampore*, 1945).

Baptists cannot claim many contacts with modern English literature. The link between John Dyer and Katherine Mansfield, though it spans four generations, is worth recording and we may be grateful to Antony Alpers for the discoveries he has made, as well as for his sympathetic study of a difficult and in many ways tragic figure.

ERNEST A. PAYNE.

SAMUEL BAGSTER

When the Baptist church at Brown's Town, Jamaica was founded in 1834 it was presented with a pulpit Bible by Samuel Bagster, founder of the publishing firm of that name. With his hand-cut quill pen he inscribed it, "From this Bible may the Glorious Gospel of the Ever-blessed God be preached in all faithfulness and thousands yet unborn have eternally to rejoice the dawn of this auspicious day, August 1st, 1834."

Throughout the 120 years of the church's existence—during which the building has been repeatedly damaged by tempests and, in 1944, was unroofed by a hurricane—the same Bible has been in use. For the rededication of the building on August 1st this year, however, a new Bible, presented by Samuel Bagster and Sons Ltd., was flown out to Jamaica by air, its front cover a replica of the

original and with the first donor's actual inscription mounted within.

Samuel Bagster was born on December 26th, 1772, the second son of George and Mary Bagster, who came from Lyme Regis. George Bagster was a member of Andrew Gifford's congregation. He sent Samuel at the age of seven, to John Ryland's school and subsequently indentured him to a bookseller in the Strand. At 22 years of age Samuel opened his own bookshop at 81, Strand, and in 1797, married Eunice Birch, daughter of John Birch, a fellow-worshipper with George Bagster under Gifford. Twelve children were born to them, of whom the tenth was Jonathan, who was mainly responsible for compiling the now well-known and widely-used devotional book *Daily Light*. Their eldest son, also named Samuel, was a zealous supporter of the anti-slavery movement and printed many of its pamphlets and broadsheets. This probably accounts for the link with Brown's Town.

The Bible which Bagster presented was one of his own printing. A few years earlier he had challenged the power of the Privileged Presses and the restrictive operation of the Royal Patent relating to the printing of the Bible. In this effort he proved successful and in 1831, introduced by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Howley), he presented a copy of his folio Polyglot Bible to William IV. Since that time he and his successors have continuously printed and published editions of the Authorised Version. Samuel Bagster died in 1851; his wife lived until August 21st, 1877, the day before her 100th birthday, a few months after she had been visited by Queen Victoria who, it is said, knelt at her bedside to receive the blessing of one of her oldest and most high-principled subjects. After 125 years in Paternoster Row, Samuel Bagster and Sons, Ltd. now occupy premises in Wigmore Street, W.1, from which their Bibles, *Daily Light* and other publications go out to the ends of the earth.

The Fellowship, by Guy H. King. (Marshall, Morgan and Scott, 7s. 6d.)

This is an expository and devotional study of 1 *John* by an author who has many other works of exposition to his credit. No doubt numerous readers will find the book helpful to their understanding of the epistle, and hard-pressed preachers will find it useful in preparing sermons and devotional talks. Is it necessary, however, to be so alliterative? The title of every chapter (14 of them) begins with the letter P. and we are told on the jacket that Christians have "a Forgiven Past, a Fearless Present and a Fine Prospect." Some may find this kind of alliteration an aid; but not this reviewer.