

**THE PEARL: A MIDDLE
ENGLISH POEM; A
MODERN VERSION IN THE
METRE OF THE ORIGINAL**

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The Pearl: A Middle English Poem; A Modern Version in the Metre of the Original by Sophie Jewett

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SOPHIE JEWETT

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A MIDDLE ENGLISH POEM

A MODERN VERSION IN THE
METRE OF THE
ORIGINAL

BY
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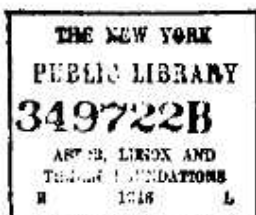


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Fourth Thousand

To
KATHARINE LEE BATES

46X239

THE TRANSLATOR
TO THE AUTHOR

POET of beauty, pardon me
If touch of mine have tarnishèd
Thy Pearl's pure luster, loved by thee ;
Or dimmed thy vision of the dead
Alive in light and gaiety.
Thy life is like a shadow fled ;
Thy place we know not nor degree,
The stock that bore thee, school that
bred ;
Yet shall thy fame be sung and said.
Poet of wonder, pain, and peace,
Hold high thy nameless, laurelled head
Where Dante dwells with Beatrice.

PREFACE

AMONG the treasures of the British Museum is a manuscript which contains four anonymous poems, apparently of common authorship: "The Pearl," "Cleanness," "Patience," "Sir Gawayne and the Green Knight." From the language of the writer, it seems clear that he was a native of some Northwestern district of England, and that he lived in the second half of the Fourteenth Century. He is quite unknown, save as his work reveals him, a man of aristocratic breeding, of religious and secular education, of a deeply emotional and spiritual nature, gifted with imagination and perception of beauty. He shows a liking for technique that