

mission, reprinted in full. You should be able to raise this in Wellington. I did not know of it until today when a neighbour brought me in her copy.'

So you may glimpse his methods, which would stand out in full force did space permit me to quote from ninety-nine other letters. And yet each and every letter was in other respects removed from what, but for the generous human mind behind it all, might have degenerated into ruthless foot-rule investigations. Interlarded were kindly enquiries, humorous quips and turns and generous word of gifts and tokens.

I was privileged to see the so far unpublished MS. of Guy Morris's 45,000 word critical biography of Katherine Mansfield. He entered this MS. for the Centennial Essay Competition in 1940 and if I remember right was placed third. Morris sent the MS. to me in December 1945 asking for a critical estimate, also as to whether I would be prepared to publish it for him. In reply I wrote him as follows:

As you have given me a liberal time margin with your Katherine Mansfield, I just waited until the urge came and then I read it—in several sessions, all in one day. This for a 45,000 word MS. is for me a sufficient indication of its reader interest. Here are some of my opinions:

- (1) You have written the most comprehensive and understanding study of K.M. I have yet read.
- (2) It is analytical to a degree, is well balanced, and very human.
- (3) You have shown a knowledge of your subject that to me is amazing. One would think you had known her intimately. This has come from your continued and painstaking research.
- (4) I disagree with your psychological probings, bespectacled as you are with Freud, James Joyce and Cabell.
- (5) As you are dealing with a woman who was a craftsman of words, I consider your study should be carefully revised so as to improve the rhythm and balance of your prose. The literary quality is good, but it should be better.
- (6) Finally, I do not think you should call your study an essay. A 45,000 word critical biography cannot be called an essay. At all events, from a sales point of view, it should not be called an essay.