



CHILDREN'S CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN.

Any boy or girl who likes to become a cousin can do so, and write letters to "Cousin Kate," care of the Lady Editor, "Graphic" Office, Auckland.

Write on one side of the paper only. All purely correspondence letters with envelope ends turned in are carried through the Post Office as follows:—Not exceeding 3oz. 4d.; not exceeding 4oz. 1d.; for every additional 2oz. or fractional part thereof, 4d. It is well for correspondence to be marked "Press Manuscript only."

Please note, dear cousins, that all letters addressed to Cousin Kate must now bear the words "Press Manuscript only." If so marked, and the flap turned in, and not overweight, they will come for a 4d stamp in Auckland, but a 1d from every other place.

THE 'GRAPHIC' COUSINS COT FUND.

This fund is for the purpose of maintaining a poor, sick child in the Auckland Hospital, and is contributed to by the 'Graphic' cousins—readers of the children's page. The cot has been already bought by their kind collection of money, and now £25 a year is needed to pay for the nursing, food and medical attendance of the child in it. Any contributions will be gladly received by Cousin Kate, care of the Lady Editor, 'New Zealand Graphic,' Shortland street, or collecting cards will be sent on application.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL "GRAPHIC" COUSINS.

A NEW COMPETITION.

My Dear Cousins, — I want to talk to you—especially my girl cousins—very seriously about the new Competition which is now open—the Competition for the Best Dressed Doll sent me. I want you to dress these dolls for the children in the Hospital and Orphan Homes, and the children of people so poor that they never get a Christmas present. Now read over carefully the conditions and try and observe the rules strictly.

THE PRIZES.

First prize, half a sovereign.
Second prize, five shillings.
Four other prizes of half-a-crown each.

CONDITIONS.

The DOLLS WILL BE PROVIDED free until further notice. Any cousin who wants to dress a doll has only to write to me or call at the "Graphic" Office; but,

AND THIS IS IMPORTANT.

they must bring or send with their own letter one from either their parents or guardians or teacher stating that they will see that the doll is returned in good order directly it is finished. Remember, the dolls are for other children's presents and not for you to play with.

You may dress the doll in any way you like, as a boy or girl, or baby, or sailor, or soldier—any way you like

whatever—but you must make the clothes yourself, though you may have them cut out for you. They must all "put on and take off."

The Competition will remain open until further notice.

The dolls are now ready and may be obtained by any cousin sending in a request as I have explained.

I do hope, dear cousins, you will enter into this competition with spirit. For very little trouble you can in this way give a vast amount of pleasure to others. And that is always well worth doing, is it not?

COUSIN KATE.

ENQUIRIES FOR DOLLS.

I am sorry to say that dolls of the same sort as those already distributed are not at present procurable, but are expected by early shipment. I hope to have some more ready to send away next week.—Cousin Kate.

A REAL AMERICAN BOY STORY.

"Well, be sure and be here by three o'clock in the morning, as we will have to start early," said Jack Ralston. The boys whom Jack addressed and himself had been building a ship for a long time in a secret cave on the beach, and it was finished now, and they were going on a trip to see what they could of the world.

In the morning all were there on time, and at 3.30 they sailed off and journeyed on for a long time. At last they came to an island, and they an-

chored in a sort of a bay that they found on the west end of the island.

In the morning the parents, on awakening, missed the boys and hunted all over, but could not find them, and at last they gave them up for lost.

The boys started out in the morning to see what there was on the island, but could not find a soul but some monkeys, which were plentiful, and also many birds. Next the boys laid out a sort of town on the western side of the island, and laid off house lots, and on these each boy built a house of good size and furnished it with hand-made furniture. Then they caught a monkey and tamed him, and taught him the English language, and then told him to go and tell his comrades to come and be taught, and while the monkey was getting the other monkeys the boys were getting the school ready to teach the monkeys.

Soon they had all the monkeys in the island taught the English language, and to work at a trade. The monkeys built houses like the boys had, and in these they lived and brought their young ones up and sent them to school. The monkeys and boys made farms on the eastern end of the island, and planted and raised vegetables, which the monkeys thought very nice. Then they built cars and car tracks to run to the farms and other parts of the island. They next built a large wall around the island. So strong was this wall that they could keep every nation out at one time. They formed the monkeys into regiments and taught them how to handle and fire a gun. So you see that they might well hold out against the greatest army on earth.

One morning, when one of the boys went out looking around the island, he found some gold. He washed out a panful and found lots of it. That night when he went home he told the rest about it, and in the morning several crews started out and they soon found they had struck a bonanza. At the close of evening they had pan-

ned out about \$100,000 in gold. The next morning half the inhabitants were out digging, while the others were fixing the track so they could carry the gold down and pack it in great boxes, and in a week they had shovelled out millions and millions of dollars in gold.

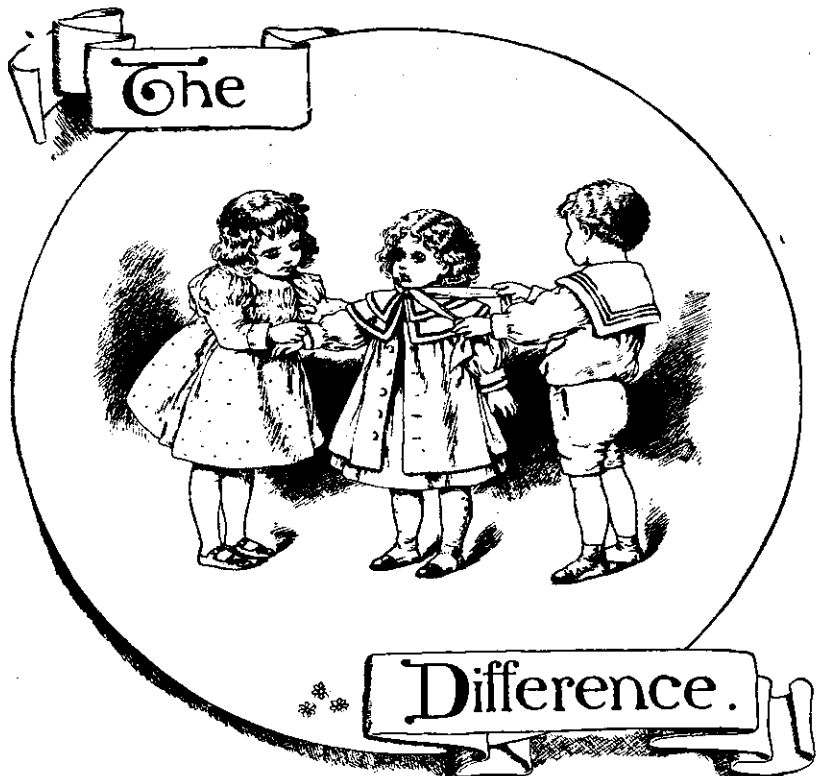
And they prepared for some of the boys to take the gold in the ship to San Francisco and get it in money. The boys while in San Francisco ordered a fleet of ships to be built, and they were to get them in two years. The boys also bought tools, cloth, and furniture enough for all the houses on the island. They got some guns, ammunition and uniforms for their regiment. When they returned and got the monkeys in their uniforms they thought it was fine, and the monkeys would not give them up if the boys had not told them that they would have another suit of clothes out of the cloth they had bought.

Two years had rolled by, and they had quite a large town and more money than they knew what to do with. The boys were ready to go for the fleet, so they took all the monkeys so as to get the ships back, and in another month they had the ships all safe, and over them waved a blue flag with a white star in the centre, and on each point of the star was a monkey.

Some of the boys took a ship and went to their old home and got there in the night, and they went in the secret cave with the ship and anchored it there. They then went out and went to one of the lodging houses and stayed all night, and in the morning went to their homes, and the folks were so glad to see them that they had a celebration, and the boys then got some of the gold they had brought and gave it to the old folks; and when they returned to their old island they took their sweethearts and the old folks there to live with them.

When the girls saw the monkeys they laughed heartily. The boys after that made trips to other countries, and got some good horses, cows, and other domestic animals that they would want. The monkeys grew up, and it was not very long before they looked like white people, and they had printing offices, packing houses, ice houses, and other great manufacturing buildings built in which they were engaged in working.

The boys sent these monkeys with



Wee Isabel is such a pet
At school among the rest!
"The baby," Lou and Charlie say,
Who love her quite the best.

They show her how to string her beads,
And weave her paper mat,
They laugh at all her cunning ways,
And kiss her fingers fat.

At noon they lift her from her chair,
And help her with her things,
They button up her little coat,
And tie her bonnet strings.

They watch and tend and talk to her,
Just like a doll alive,
Because, you see, she's only four,
And they are nearly five!

Margaret Johnson.