



CHILDREN'S PAGE.

COUSINS' BADGES.

Cousins requiring badges are requested to send and addressed envelope, when the badge will be forwarded by return mail.

COUSINS' CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Cousin Kate,—Would you mind accepting me as one of your cousins? We get the "Graphic," and I think the cousins' letters very interesting. I used to write to "Captain Kindheart" and "Dot's Little Folk," and I have my badge yet. I have ten correspondent comrades in England, Africa, Holland and British Guiana, and we exchange stamps. Dear Cousin Kate, will you please send me a badge? Hoping you will receive me as a cousin, I remain, your loving cousin, Eileen.

[Dear Cousin Eileen,—I shall be very glad indeed to have you for one of my cousins. I have never had one at Hawera before, but I hope now that you have joined some of your friends will join us too. I am glad you like reading the cousins' letters; but you will find them much more interesting now that you are writing yourself. Have you left off writing to "Captain Kindheart" and "Dot's Little Folk"? I have often seen letters to them, but I quite forget what papers they belong to. It is a very good idea to have correspondent comrades like you have. You must get a great number of good stamps, don't you? I have posted a badge to you, and I hope you will like it. Did you go to see the Hawera Exhibition? I heard it was very good indeed. I wish they would have another exhibition here soon.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I'm very sorry I did not write before this. Mother and father were at Leithfield for two days. We had such fun. We went to the bowling green on Saturday afternoon. We enjoyed ourselves very much. They play bowls, and tennis and croquet. We had afternoon tea. On Sunday Cecil and I went down to Sumner on the tram, and the band played. A lady from Leithfield, where father and mother were staying, sent us a big jar of thick cream. I have a nice big doll; the dress-maker made a nice dress for her. I think I have told you all the news. I will try and write once a fortnight if I can. Give my love to all the other cousins, and to yourself, from Cousin Doreen.

[Dear Cousin Doreen,—I was very glad indeed to get your nice little letter this morning. You are proving a better correspondent than Cecil after all. I thought he was going to be one of my "good" cousins, but he seems to have forgotten me, as I have not heard from him for weeks. I am so pleased that you are going to try and write once a fortnight. It makes it so much more interesting for everybody, I think, when the cousins write regularly. Do you and Cecil trot about Christchurch all by yourselves when your mother and father are away? I expect you enjoyed that big jar of cream, didn't you? It was a pity that strawberries are out of season, because they would have been delicious with the cream, wouldn't they? You never told me what your doll's name was, nor what colour her new frock is.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I went to the circus on Wednesday afternoon, and I thought it was lovely. The horses were lovely, and some of the tricks they performed were wonderful. Br. Gordon, the strong man, was more wonderful than them all. It was really worth going to see, I think. Dear Cousin Kate, I will try my very best to be a regular correspondent to please you. I am sure you like getting letters every week from your cousins. I simply love reading your nice answers to my letters. Lorna came back to-day, and Amy and myself were so glad. When Lorna was away I missed my rides in the evening very much. Do you collect post-cards, Cousin Kate? Amy does, and she has a good number. I collect photographs, and have a good number, too. Dear Cousin Kate, have you read "The Family at Misrule"? I think it is a lovely book. I like "Miss Bobbie" also. On Saturday morning at 9 a.m. we left for Motutapu; we arrived there about 11 o'clock. After lunch Amy, myself, and two other girls went for a walk along the beach. The water looked so tempting that we could not help taking off our shoes and stockings and going into the water, which was lovely. After that we went in for two races. I came fourth in one, and, I think, last in the other. We spent a very enjoyable day. Coming home Amy and myself were on one boat, and mother and father on another; it was awfully funny. There was somebody looking after us. We had to wait nearly an hour till mother and father came, but that did not spoil the effects of our lovely day at all. There was another picnic down there besides our school picnic. There were a great number at both picnics. I think Motutapu is a lovely place for picnics, don't you? It is Saturday to-day. This afternoon father hired a trap, and we put Lorna in it, and we went for a drive, which was simply lovely. She guesses beautifully in a trap. Dear Cousin Kate, I do wish you would have your photograph put in the "Graphic." I am sure all the cousins would like you to. I tried to do some of the puzzles in last week's "Graphic," but found them too hard for me. Dear Cousin Kate, I think your handwriting is lovely, and so does Amy. Amy hurt her hand very much at school to-day, and it prevented her from writing to you this week.—With love from Mary S.

[Dear Cousin Mary,—I am glad you went to the circus, as you enjoyed yourself so much. It really was very good, and I quite agree with you that Dr. Gordon was the most wonderful of all. I am sure that some day he will break a blood-vessel or hurt himself very seriously some way. It is very good of you, dear, to want to try to please me; you are quite right. I do like to hear regularly from my little cousins. I don't wonder you are pleased to have Lorna back, because you must have missed your evening rides very much. Still, you will not be able to go out much longer now, as the evenings are getting quite chilly. I am so sorry Amy hurt her hand so badly. How did she manage it? Will you give her my love, and ask her to write to me as soon as it is better. You must have had a very pleasant day at Motutapu; weren't your mother and father nervous about your coming home in a different boat? Valerie was there too, so I suppose she and Amy enjoyed themselves together. Do you and Muriel compare notes about your photographs?—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—My letter that was in last week's "Graphic" was really meant for the one before, and it was written in time, but my brother forgot to post it. I am feeling rather sad just now, as our darling baby has gone. They went at two o'clock on Tuesday morning. I was going down to see them off, but got so sleepy while waiting up at the house that I fell asleep. On Saturday evening I went to see "Sherlock Holmes," and enjoyed it immensely. Have you ever been to it? I did not go when they were here last time. I am looking forward to "The Country Girl." I hear it is a sweetly pretty piece. Last Friday evening I and my cousin went to spend the week end at my aunt's at Epsom, and I enjoyed myself thoroughly. We had lessons in riding while out there, and I managed to stick on the horse's back, but that was all. Can you ride, Cousin Kate? I find it very difficult, but suppose it will be easier as I learn. I do hope the Japanese beat the Russians, don't you? I am afraid you will think me very lazy when I tell you I am not going to do any of those riddles and puzzles that were in last week's "Graphic," but I have really no time, as I have not half finished the point-lace bonnet I was making for Margot yet, and I want to get it done for her birthday in August. Has it not been cold these last few days, though to-day it feels quite warm. I love the cold weather, and would not mind if we had snow here. We are only going to have

three days' holiday at Easter. I don't think we might have a week at least, don't you, Cousin Kate? I am sorry to say I did not find baby's first tooth. I was always putting my finger in her mouth and looking for it. I am reading all my old books over again for about the fourth or fifth time. Do you know, we have quite a lot of roses in the garden. They are growing on a hedge, and look so lovely, as the rest of the garden is pretty bare. I thought my photograph was going to be put in the "Graphic," and I will try and find out why it was not in time for my next letter in the "Graphic." When did you go to "Sherlock Holmes"? I simply loved it, and was not a bit frightened for his safety, as I went with someone who had seen it before. Am I the only Cousin Gwen who writes? I have never seen any others that I can remember. There seem to be two similar names of all the other cousins. I am afraid I will have to close now, as my letter has got to go, with bundles of love to all the cousins, not forgetting your dear self. I remain, Cousin Gwen.

[Dear Cousin Gwen,—I was rather surprised at not getting your letter at the usual time last week, but I know what brothers are about posting their sisters' letters. I find it is much safer to post my own nowadays. I expect you do feel sad now that Margot has gone home. You will miss her dreadfully at first, but you will have more time to work at the bonnet. How much more have you got to do? What a dreadful time two o'clock in the morning was to start on a journey. I don't wonder you fell asleep. I have been to see "Sherlock Holmes" several times, and like it very much indeed. I saw it when Cuyler Hastings was here last time, and have been twice this time. Have you ever read any of Sherlock Holmes' adventures? He always comes out of them safely after the most hair-breadth escapes. I think we are all looking forward to Williamson's Comic Opera Company. They open here some time in May, and I have been told they are splendid. You seem to spend all your week ends away from home. You live so close to town that it must do you good to go further out for a day or two. I can ride a little and I am awfully fond of it. I think it is my favourite exercise. You will love it, too, when you get used to it. Yes, you are the only



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