

We are in our other house now. It is just below the hills. Each of us has a little patch of garden for our own. Mine is a semi-circle just under the verandah. It has a deep border of violets all around it. I think violets are so sweet, don't you, Cousin Kate? There were some big pine trees down the side of the house, but father had them cut down to-day, because they shut out the sun. There is no more news, so I will close with love to yourself and all the other cousins.—I remain, yours affectionately, Cousin Ida, Te Aroha.

[Dear Cousin Ida.—Did you have a fine day for your trip out to the Lake? On a nice sunny day the view is simply lovely over there, but it is rather dreary in winter-time. I think, when all the leaves are off the trees, and it is very cold too. Topsy is certainly very funny, but one wants something to make one laugh. It would be horrid if it was all sad, wouldn't it? When you said the bandstand was going to be put opposite the bath-house, I wondered where they would find room for it. I expect you were very glad when you found that Flossie had not got mumps after all, weren't you? They are such horrid things, and so catching too. What a pity you do not get your music out earlier, but perhaps you would get tired of it, and not play so well, if you were able to practise it too long. I do hope you will pass. You would be very delighted if you were the Local Prize Winner, wouldn't you? Violets are lovely, aren't they? We have so few this year, I'm sorry to say. Don't you find it rather cold working in your garden this weather? It is even colder in Te Aroha than here, I think, too. My hands are so cold this morning that I can hardly hold my pen, so I will stop now.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I have started to write again, and I will write more regularly, as I have just got over a very bad cold, and I can write now. Cousin Kate, my Tom Thumb is such a thief, and when Tom Thumb does anything wrong he will run up the chimney, and stays there all day, and when my mother goes to light the fire he comes down. Dear Cousin Kate, the photos of Robert and myself in the "Graphic" were very nice.—I remain, yours sincerely.—Cousin Colin.

[Dear Cousin Colin.—Thank you very much for your nice little letter, which I received this morning, and I am so pleased that you are going to try and write oftener. Aren't colds horrid things to have? and so many people have them very badly just now. You must be careful and not catch another one this winter. Tom Thumb is the name of your little cat, isn't it? He must be very clever to know when he has done wrong, and go and hide so that he cannot be punished. I hope he will not stay up the chimney some day when the fire is lighted. It would be so dreadful if he got burnt, wouldn't it? I once heard of a cat who would always go and sleep in the oven when it got the chance, and it got very badly burnt one day, poor thing. I am so glad you liked your photos, when you saw them in the "Graphic." I liked them, too, very much indeed.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I did not write to you for some time, as I was busy with my examination, and I am pleased to let you know that I passed at school. Cousin Kate, my mother and father were very pleased with my photo, and Colin's in the "Graphic." I would like to have the photo, as I have so many cousins to send them to. With best love to you and all the cousins.—I remain, yours, Cousin Robert.

[Dear Cousin Robert.—Of course I was sorry not to hear from you for so long, but I'm glad you did not let letter-writing interfere with your lessons. I was very pleased to hear that you had passed your examination at school. What standard are you in now? Yours and Colin's photographs were exceedingly good, I thought, and I am very glad your mother and father were pleased with them. I will send you the photograph back directly I can find time to post it. I expect you have a great many people you wish to send it to. Are you interested in football? I am, and I'm looking forward to seeing the Englishmen play. I'm afraid they will beat us, though, but not so badly as they

have beaten the Australians, I hope.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I have not yet received Olive's address, but perhaps you were too busy to post it last week, so I will look for it next. You asked me if I had a nice recipe for lemon-cheese in my last letter. Well, I have a very good one, so if you would like it I will send it you. Yesterday I took Desmond and Valerie and Olga to the Museum. It was the first time I had been for ever such a long time. Olga was quite taken with the birds and animals. I don't think she had seen them before. She is staying with us this week, as we have a week's holiday. Isn't it lovely? I rang up the "Graphic" office for you yesterday morning, but was told that you were in bed with influenza, and would most likely be there for several days. I hope you are not very bad. Desmond has such a dreadful cold at present, and I am afraid I am getting one too. I hope not, though. Mr Wallace came out to school one day last week, but we did not have drawing with him. I was awfully sorry, because I love drawing. Mother read "Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" to Desmond and Valerie last week. Have you read it? It is very easy to read. I think one of the cousins mentioned it the week before last. I did not care for it much, but Desmond and Valerie seemed to like it. Dear Cousin Kate, I have just been looking for some of my post-cards, and I discovered some very good puzzles, which mother had given her when she and father were at Waiwera. I will give you some before I close. Fancy Lyndal being able to recognise me in town through seeing my photograph. I didn't think it was plain enough for that. Didn't it rain dreadfully this morning? I hope it will be fine to-morrow, as I have to pay a visit to my dentist; in fact, I would like it to be fine all the rest of the week, as I generally go out a great deal during my holidays. Yes, Cousin Kate, I have learnt "Bells at Sunset," but I haven't had it at my music lessons yet, though. To-morrow (Wednesday) a friend of mine is coming up to spend the afternoon with me, so we are going through my actors and actresses. It will be the first time I have looked at them for such a long time. Are you going to the farewell concert to Mr Arthur Towsey, at His Majesty's, on Thursday evening? I think mother and father are, so next time I write (which I hope will be next week) I will tell you what they thought of it. When I have finished this letter I am going to try and do one of Desmond's puzzles called "Omytryit." Father's funny name, isn't it? but the puzzle is anything but funny. With love to yourself and the cousins.—From Muriel J., Auckland. N.B.—You will find enclosed a few of the puzzles.—M.G.J.

Puzzles:—(1) Spell cow with 13 letters. Spell brandy in 3 letters. (2) Read and fill in the blanks:
A — old woman with — intent,
Put on her — and to market went,
Said she to —, "Give me, I pray,
The wherewith all to — this day.
There is one word of four letters which is used. These letters can be arranged in such a way as to form the five missing words.

Answers:—(1) See o double you. B, r, and, y.
I will send you some more next week.—M.G.J.

(2) A vile old woman with evil intent,
Put on her veil, and to market went,
Said she to Levi, "Give me, I pray,
The wherewithal to live this day.

[Dear Cousin Muriel,—I am sorry you have had to wait for Olive's address, but I really was not able to send it before. I have been away from the office for several days with influenza, so my cousins' correspondence has got rather behindhand. I have a very good recipe for lemon cheese or lemon honey, as so many people call it. I really think lemon honey is a more suitable name for it, don't you? Thank you very much for offering to send it me all the same. Most children seem to love going to the Museum. I took my little nieces some time ago, and they enjoyed it immensely. Like Olga, they were delighted with the birds and animals, but especially the birds, I think. You have had lovely weather for your holidays, haven't you? I am very glad, because it makes such a difference to one's en-

joyment. How was it that Mr Wallace did not give you a drawing lesson after all? Is he a sort of inspector? A great many cousins seem to have read "Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." I liked it. It is so very well told, I think. Thank you very much for the puzzles. They are very good indeed. I am awfully stupid at finding puzzles out, so I never try now. Did you manage to do "Omytryit"? I suppose it should be written "O my! try it"? Don't you hate having to go to the dentist? I think I would rather do anything than have a tooth stopped. I thought you had given up collecting actors and actresses, and taken to post-cards instead. Cousin Carl sent me a post-card this week with some really lovely views in it. I had tickets for Mr Towsey's concert, and I wanted to go very much indeed, but my cold was so bad that I went to bed instead. I used to learn singing from Mr Towsey, and I am so sorry he is going away. I will post Olive's letter to her to-day, and I will answer your other one, too, if I can possibly find time.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I saw my letter in the last "Graphic." You asked me if I saw it when I was at school. Well, I do. My sister sends it over to me. I saw Cousin Ruby's letter last week, and I am almost certain I know who she is. If it is who I think, I know her. Last Saturday, as I was going out, I went over on my ankle and sprained it slightly. We have had such a lot of rain here in Wellington lately. What sort have you been having in Auckland? The band of cousins must be very large now. There always seems to be new ones joining our band. I collect stamps, and I have just commenced to collect post-cards. They are both interesting, but I think I like post-cards best. You get such pretty ones. Perhaps I like it best because I have just commenced. You must get very tired of answering letters, as you have so many to answer. Have you had a cold this winter yet? I have only just got one, but it is pretty bad now. We had such a dear little cat here at school, but we do not know where it has gone. It has been missing some time now. It was so playful. I must close this short, uninteresting letter with much love to all the cousins and yourself.—From Cousin Rosie, Pieteron.

[Dear Cousin Rosie,—I am glad you

see your own letters and the answers to them when you are at school. It would be horrid if you had to wait till holiday time to see them, wouldn't it? I had better ask Cousin Ruby to wear her badge the next time you have holidays, and then you will be able to find out whether you know her or not. I am sorry to hear that you have hurt your ankle. You must take great care of it, because sprains take such a long time to get well unless one is very careful of them. We have been having some dreadfully bad weather in Auckland, too, but the best few days have been lovely, so I hope the worst of it is over now. I never collected stamps or post-cards, but I think I should prefer post-cards. They are not so much trouble, for one thing, and they are certainly much prettier than stamps. I have a great many letters to answer, but I like doing it, so I don't get tired of it. Yes, I have had one rather bad cold this winter, and I don't want another. I hope yours will be all right again soon.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I was so pleased to see my letter in the "Graphic," and also your nice reply to it. I got the badge some days ago, and liked it very much. I am better now; it was only the mumps I had. We had a school concert last Friday, and I sang in a "Dolly Song." I got a prize, too. I am in the third primer at school. Have you sent the "Chatterbox" yet, because I am looking forward to it very much. Dear Cousin Kate, would you please give me the address and name of some little cousin like me, so that I can write to her? Now, Cousin Kate, I must stop. With love to all the cousins and yourself.—Cousin Norma, Toko.

[Dear Cousin Norma,—I was so glad to get your nice little letter this morning, and to hear that you were so much better again. I have been so busy lately, and I have been ill with influenza too, and I am sorry to say that I forgot to post the "Chatterbox" to you, but I will post it to you to-day, and I hope you will like it. I expect you will enjoy it much more now that you are quite well. Was your school concert a success? Do you know I have never heard a "Dolly Song," so you must tell me all about it next time you write, and tell me what your prize was, too. Well, dear Norma, I'm afraid I haven't time to write any more this morning so I will close. I will send you the address of



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