

the class or very near it. Will it be a very difficult exam, do you think?—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—Has not to-day been frightfully wet? Coming home from school to-day my coat was just dripping, and so was my hat. Mary and myself have just been practicing a singing duet; it is called the celebrated lesson duet, "A.B.C." Have you heard it, Cousin Kate? Mother teaches us regularly. We know about six singing duets and about twelve playing duets. I love music, don't you? The electric trams will be out pretty soon now. Why, they have the wires up where the trolley pole goes along. I hope they will be out soon. Valerie has not been to school yesterday or to-day, so I have had to sit by myself. I do not like sitting by myself at all. I have very little news this time, so I hope you will excuse my short note. I am reading a book called "Won by Gentleness." It is so nice. Have you read it, Cousin Kate? I think I will have to close now. So with love to all the cousins and your dear self, I remain, your loving cousin, Amy.

P.S.—We will be sending you a photo soon, Cousin Kate.—A.S.

[Dear Cousin Amy,—This letter of yours should have been in the "Graphic" last week, but had to be held over, as there was so much to fill the Children's Pages. The weather has improved this week, has it not? But the wind has been very keen and cold, and sitting in my office I have several times felt so chilly I wanted to get out and go for a run in the sun, but with so many letters to answer, besides other work to do, this was not to be thought of, so I just had to grin and bear it. I have never read "Won by Gentleness," but it sounds rather a nice title. I am very fond of music, though I only play a little, but like singing even better. No doubt you will be glad to get the trams, and also, I suppose, to get the roads decent again. Are they any better, yet? Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I suppose you will be wondering what has become of me. We gave Pincher away, but I have now a yellow dog with black stripes, named Tiger. One of my brother's dogs caught a morepork in a paddock, so we put it in a cage, as both of its legs seemed hurt, but it died. I have a black and white cat, and she always is where we keep the hay to catch some mice. I suppose I will have to write an extra long letter, as I have not written for so long. I am trying hard to pass my examination in August. I suppose I will have to work a great deal harder than I do! If we tie Tiger and Tweedie together they always fight, so we have to put them away from each other. Buster Brown is such a funny little boy. I saw in this week's "Graphic" where he tumbled off his bicycle and frightened the cows that the man was driving. With love from Cousin Helen.

[Dear Cousin Helen,—It is quite a long time since you wrote to me last, but it is a very good idea of yours to write a longer letter than usual to make up for it. I suppose your dog injured the morepork's legs when he caught it? I tried to catch a morepork once, and it pecked my hand badly. I had always been told that they couldn't see in daylight, so I thought I had only to go up to it and catch it. I soon found out my mistake, though. Do mice and rats do much damage to the hay? I expect you are working hard to pass your examination? You haven't much time left to prepare for it. What standard will you be in if you pass? It is funny that Tweedie and Tiger don't make friends, especially as they must see each other every day. Buster Brown has a great many funny adventures, doesn't he? Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I was so glad to see my letter in last week's "Graphic," so I thought I would write to you again. I did not go to church to-night. Last night there was a polka dance in the hall. I did not go. What a lot of cousins are writing to you. Mother is so busy making our dresses for the concert, so we have to help her with the housework. Three men went out fishing over to Whale Island, and they caught fifteen big fish. They gave us two such beauties. How glad I am, because my eye is getting better. We have had such fine weather down here. I suppose it will rain for the concert. My sister

Florence is going to be the Red Queen at the concert. We have got such a nice library at our Sunday-school. Marjorie and I are always trying to make toffee. It comes out so nice and hard. There is no more news, Cousin Kate. I must close now with love to you and all the cousins. Please send me a badge, Cousin Kate.—I remain, your loving Cousin Dorothy. I sent you the stamp and the envelope for the badge, but I did not get it.

[Dear Cousin Dorothy,—First of all, I hope you have got your badge safely by this time. Your letter arrived too late for last week's "Graphic," but the badge was posted long ago. Perhaps it was delayed by bad weather on the coast, for it was certainly rather rough last week. Anyway, if it has not yet reached you let me know, and I will post another. Yes, we have quite a lot of cousins now, and I sometimes wonder if my answers do not become a little dull, for it is hard to answer one after another and still keep fresh ideas. Do you ever go fishing yourself, Cousin Dorothy? We were stopping down at Waibeke years ago, and one of my sisters got a hook right through her hand. It had to be cut out with a blunt pen-knife, and of course she must have suffered dreadfully, but I am sure the poor man who had to perform the operation was far worse, for he was dreadfully nervous, having never had any experience in such matters. I hope the weather was fine for the concert, and that you all enjoyed yourselves.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I was very sorry I could not write last week. I had a great many lessons to learn, or you know I would have. I have just finished my lessons now. We were out of school at three o'clock to-day owing to the rain. I love getting out early. Have you read "Little Women"? I am just reading it, and like it immensely. I have three other books to read yet. I will tell you the names of them—"Won by Gentleness," "A Sunbeam's Influence," and "Penelope and the Others." I don't know when I will get through them. Do you like the cold weather, Cousin Kate? I do when I do not get chilblains. Are they not frightful? Isn't "The New Idea" a nice magazine? My cousin in Christchurch sends drawings to it. He is just thirteen years old, and draws magnificently. Really I can't think of anything else to tell you, as news is very scarce. With best love to you and the cousins.—I am, your loving cousin, Mary S., Auckland.

[Dear Cousin Mary,—As you will see in my answer to your sister's letter, yours like hers was crowded out last week. Of course I never expect writing to me to interfere with your lessons, or, indeed, to be any trouble to you. As I have often explained to other cousins, I want the letters for the children's page to be a pleasure, not a dull duty. "Little Women" is quite one of the most delightful books I know, and I will remember reading it—well, never mind how many years ago—but I don't think I ever enjoyed a book so much at that age. "Little Men" is also splendid. I am sure you could not help enjoying it. Have you read all the Gypsy Brenton series? They are all very pretty, and very amusing stories. Perhaps it was because I had so many brothers, but I always liked boys' books best. "Cast Up by the Sea," "Red Cloud," "Martin Rattler," and "The Three Midshipmen," were great favourites of mine. Have you read any of these?—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I have been confined to the house for the last few days with a bad cold, and also on account of the bad weather. We had very heavy frosts all last week, but the days were lovely and fine. The weather this week has been very wet so far, but this afternoon was rather fine. Mother went to vote for electricity in Te Aroha, and I went over to the school ground to play cricket. Don't you think Buster Brown is very funny this week? I shouldn't think he would be very fond of bicycle-riding after his sad accident. Last Friday night we had our Bible examination, but we do not know the results just yet, as the answers had to go to Auckland. We had the exam. down at the parsonage. There were only eight questions to answer, and we had from seven to nine o'clock to answer them in. I have been reading such a lot of books lately. The one I liked the best was the "Seven

Little Australians," by Ethel Turner. I have read "Opening a Chestnut Burr," which Cousin Lorna said she liked so much. It is by K. P. Roe, and I liked it very much. I could not go to my music lesson on Tuesday; it was so wet. My two sisters, my brother and I are going to have our photograph taken. I have had mine taken myself just lately, but my mother is going to send the last one to my aunt in Melbourne. I will close now with love to all the other cousins, not forgetting yourself.—I remain, Cousin Ida.

[Dear Cousin Ida,—I am so sorry to hear that you have been suffering from such a bad cold. A cold is uncomfortable enough at any time, but when one has it during bad weather it is really horrid, I think, don't you? Electric lighting will be a great improvement to Te Aroha, so I hope you will get it. You must tell me next time you write how the voting went. This is not the right time of the year to be playing cricket, is it? I thought football and hockey were the great winter games. Poor Buster Brown, he always seems to be in trouble—about think he had had quite enough of bicycle riding and skating, too. I hope you got on well at your examination. You had plenty of time to answer eight questions in two hours. I have read "Seven Little Australians," too, and I liked it so much; in fact, I like all Ethel Turner's books. I wish you could have sent me your photograph. It does not spoil them at all you know, and I could have sent it back to you afterwards.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—Wasn't the weather dreadful last week? We could not go to school on the Monday or Tuesday, as it was so wet. I received such a nice long letter from Olive last Saturday, and in it she gave me her address, so you need not bother now, thank you. I suppose you will be going to "The Marriage of Kitty," "Cousin Kate," etc., when the company opens. Did you get any cake from "Kitty"? Father had a piece sent last week to him, and it was lovely. I would like to see "Cousin Kate" (the opera), wouldn't you? Will you go into town on Friday to see the Governor? We had a whole holiday from school, and I, unfortunately, had to spend part of the morning in bed with neuralgia, it quite spoilt my whole day. I demand went down to Rungit's all day, and in the afternoon mother, Valerie and I went out to Ramsera. Am sorry I have no more

news, so must conclude. With love to you and the cousins.—From Muriel J., Auckland.

[Dear Cousin Muriel,—The weather wasn't very grand last week, was it? I knew you had not been to school on Monday or Tuesday, because Cousin Amy said she had been sitting by herself at school, as Valerie was away and she did not like it at all. I am so glad Olive wrote you such a nice letter—both she and Winnie write such interesting ones I think. I'm sorry I forgot to send you her address, but I have been so very busy just lately that you must make excuses for me. I hope to see "The Marriage of Kitty," and, of course, I am very anxious to see "Cousin Kate," but I think I am going away for a fortnight at the beginning of August, so I'm afraid I shall miss one or two of them. I would like to see them all; I hear they are splendid. I didn't have a piece of wedding cake, but I had a marriage certificate sent me instead. It is a very good idea to advertise that way, I think, don't you? Yes, I went into Queen-street to see the Governor arrive, but the procession was very disappointing, so you did not miss much by having to stay at home. I am sorry you have been having neuralgia again. Can't you do anything to cure it?—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—It does not seem a bit like a week since I last wrote to you, but I suppose it is. Did you see the Governor on Friday? He passed our house; but I did not think much of the procession; there was no band or anything. On Saturday afternoon we went down to the Grand Hotel to see the people going to the Governor's levee; it was so interesting watching all the different uniforms. Have you read any of the "Tip-cat" series? I have four—"Rob," "Lil," "Tip-cat," and "Laddie"; they are so pretty; the only thing is they are all rather much alike, always having a poor vicar and a huge family in them. We have such a dear little baby living next door to us; her name is Alys; she was a year old last Sunday. My little niece will be one year old next Monday week; she is beginning to say quite a lot of things now. Have you really found out the meaning of "C.Y.K."? Was your answer, "Consider Yourself Kinned"? for that is the right one. Was not that tram accident on Monday morning terrible, though? It was not so bad as it might have been! It



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