



CHILDREN'S PAGE.

COUSINS' BADGES.

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

COUSINS' CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Cousin Kate.—It seems an age since I wrote to you last. Did you go away for your Christmas holidays, Cousin Kate? I did not. I think Christmas gets quieter every year, don't you? We had sports here on New Year's Day; I did not go, but I went to the concert in the evening, and it was very good.

Did you ever play in a field of oats, Cousin Kate? We have oats growing, and the other day Eileen and I were playing in it, and we trampled it all down. It is so high, much higher than my head, and when father knew we had been playing in it he said we had spoilt it. We have such a dear little pet calf; we call it Roua. With love to you and all the cousins. I remain, Cousin Eileen, Hawera.

P.S.—Please excuse this short note, as I have to hurry to be in time for the mail. I am sending you a small photo of some of Hawera's principal streets.

[Dear Cousin Eileen.—It does seem a long time since I had a letter from you, but I expect you have been busy enjoying your holidays, haven't you? I did not go away for the Christmas holidays either. There is always so much more work to be done in the office at Christmas time, so we all have to take our holidays later on. I don't remember ever playing in a field of oats, though I dare say I did when I was a small child, for we used to live in the country. Did your father scold you much for trampling it all down? Thank you so much for the photograph; it is very pretty indeed, I think. The streets look very quiet, though, don't they? I must not forget to thank you for your good wishes for the New Year, but I cannot think how you know what my name is. Will you tell me next time you write? Cousin Kate.

Dear Cousin Kate.—I am very fond of reading the "Children's Page" in the "Graphic," and I would like very much to join your large band. I have two sisters who would also like to join your band. Clemence, who is 12, is in the sixth standard, and Virginia, who is nine, is in the fifth. I am 13, and passed the seventh. We attend the Sacred Heart School, N.E. Valley. I sent you a letter four or five weeks ago, but of course it could not have reached its destination, for you neither sent the badges nor did my letter appear in the "Graphic." Dunedin is a beautiful city, surrounded by beautiful hills covered with greenery. Coming up the harbour your eyes meet the bushes which surround Dunedin. While I am writing here a heavy shower is coming down. This morning was a beautiful morning, and we did not expect the rain. I am enclosing an addressed envelope for three badges.

P.S.—In my last letter I told you that

my two sisters were in the fifth and fourth, but they have just had an examination, which they passed. Please excuse my writing, as I have got rheumatism in my fingers and arms. Here is a riddle for you. As I was walking over London Bridge I saw something floating; it had four fingers and a thumb? A glove. I must now bring this short letter to a close, hoping you will accept my two sisters and myself. I remain, Cousin Fleurdeley.

[Dear Cousin Fleurdeley.—I wonder how it is that you have never seen your letter and my answer to it in the "Graphic," for I received and answered it some weeks ago; but I can't remember what the date of the "Graphic" was it was published in? I couldn't send you the badges, because I had not one left, and in any case you never gave me your full name and address, so I couldn't have sent it to you even if I had had some. I shall be very glad indeed to have you and your sisters for my cousins. You all have such pretty quaint names, and they are French names, too, are they not? It is a good many years since I was in Dunedin. I wonder if it has altered much? It is such a pretty place, I think. Fancy a girl of your age having rheumatism in the fingers and arms. It must be dreadfully painful, and I hope you will be alright again soon. Thank you very much indeed for the riddle; it is very good indeed, I think. I will post the badges to you as soon as I get some printed. Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—You must really forgive me for not writing sooner, but I must make the holidays my plea this time. We had very fair weather for Christmas, but New Year—what shall I call it? I'm afraid I can't express it in words. We were going camping for a week, only we had to abandon the idea through the weather. On Christmas morning the carol singers woke me about five o'clock, and who should burst in upon me at that hour but Cousin Cecilia, and you may be sure the pair of us had a fine time from then onwards. Cousin Cecilia gave me a gold initial hat pin, and I gave her a silver-mounted purse. I got some splendid books at Christmas, among them, "Gold That Perisheth," by David Lyall; "My Lady Frivol," by R. Carey; and a volume of Tennyson. I think Tennyson is my favourite poet. Who is yours, Cousin Kate? I have just been doing some of my practice, but I have yet another half hour. I generally do two hours, but it is reduced to one in the holidays. Cousin Cecilia before she entered for her last examination practised four hours a day. Cousin Kate, do you think it is possible for me to exchange pictorial post cards with any of the cousins, for I have a very good collection, but a dearth of North Island ones. I think I only have five of the North Island. I should be very pleased if it is possible. Cousin Kate, I am going to sign my other name, as it must be confusing having two Stellas, so with best love to your own self and my numerous cousins, I remain, your loving cousin, Irene.

[Dear Cousin Irene.—It does seem rather a long time since you wrote to me last, but of course I don't expect the cousins to write very often during the holidays. You are a much better correspondent than Cecilia is, anyway. Will you tell her from me that she is a lazy little thing about letter writing? I have only had one letter from her since she joined the cousins' band. The weather

was horrid everywhere, I think, for the Christmas and New Year holidays, but we are making up for it now. We have had more than a week of perfect weather, though it is dreadfully hot. Were you not very surprised to see Cousin Cecilia at that hour of the morning? I suppose she lives quite close to you, doesn't she? I don't think I could tell you who my favourite poet is; I can never quite make up my mind. I am sure a great many of the cousins would be delighted to exchange post cards with you, but I expect you will have to leave it until after the holidays, because so many of them are away from home just now. It is very good of you indeed to use your second name. If does make it a little confusing when there are two or three cousins with the same name. Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—Cousin Arthur is right; the puzzle was Tobacco. We have been staying at Leithfield for two weeks, and I wanted to stay longer. On Saturday morning we went to the beach to see the men trawling, and one man got on horseback, and the horse went out till the waves came over its back, and they got 27 fish. A boy had a little dog with him, and the dog caught a sea gull; it was a very old one, so they let it go. And we went paddling and digging for pipis in the sand. On Monday we went driving to Amberly, and it was very cold and windy. On Tuesday we went to

Bony Creek, and it was very nice. Somebody had to stay and watch the wakan in case they stole the lunch. We passed through a big cave, and you can see right through it. When we were coming home we found some maidenhair fern growing on some rocks. I am putting another puzzle, and I will put it at the end of my letter. On Christmas I got a lot of presents. I got a lovely big doll from father, and from mother some nice handkerchiefs; from Cecil a nice book called "The Bear's Kingdom," by E. G. Rogers, and from Lizzie a box of bricks; auntie Trol sent me a silver fruit knife, and auntie Nettie a silver tumbler. Cecil is away camping with some friends for a week. I wish you and all the other cousins a Happy New Year. I must close now, with lots of love to all the other cousins and lots to yourself, from Cousin Doreen.

The puzzle: Two eyes and can't see, two ears and can't hear; and can jump as high as the Eiffel Tower.

I will put the answer in next time I write. I wonder if Cousin Arthur can guess this one?

[Dear Cousin Doreen, Thank you very much indeed for your good wishes for the New Year, and though it is a little late, I wish both you and Cecil a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year. I hope Cecil is having nice weather for his camping trip. We are having most beautiful weather just now, though it is dreadfully hot. What a number of lovely presents you had at Christmas time. Have you got a name for the new doll yet? You will be able to use your silver tumbler to make all her clothes with, won't you? You seem to be having a delightful holiday, and I don't wonder you did not want to come home from Leithfield. Are there many pipis to be got on the beaches near Christchurch? There are heaps here. It is great fun digging for them, but they are horrid to eat, I think, don't you? Cousin Kate.]

ABOVE TEMPTATION.

Willie: I met our new minister on my way to Sunday-school, mamma, and he asked me if I ever played marbles on Sunday.

Mother: H'm. And what did you say to that?

Willie: I said, "Get thee behind me, Satan!" and walked right off and left him.



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