



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,—I am very sorry I did not write to you before. I had no time. I am very busy at school, studying for the examination. Our gardens were all dry by the time we went back to school. Mother is in Rotorua. We still go in for swims nearly every day, when we come home from school. There is going to be a play to-night. I am not going. There is no more news, so I must close now, with love to you and all the cousins.—I am, your loving cousin, Dolly, Whakatane.

[Dear Cousin Dolly,—Thanks very much for your letter, which I received this morning. I know you cannot find time to write very often if you are studying for the examination, so I must be content to hear from you now and then. There has been no rain for such a long time now that everyone's garden is beginning to look very dried up, but it can't be fine very much longer, and then we shall all be grumbling because we have too much rain. Is your mother going to make a long stay in Rotorua? It is horrid when one's mother is away from home, I think. I hope she will have a pleasant trip. You will soon have to leave off your swims, I expect, because it is beginning to get quite chilly in the mornings now.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—Will you please send me a cousins' badge, as I wish to become a member of your band? I am in the third standard at school. Karori is a very lonely place, so there is not very much to write about. I live on a farm called Tapuarau, and I have three brothers and three sisters. We have fifteen pigs, and there are sixteen cows to milk every day. I like milking, though. I can only write you a very short letter this time, but I hope I will be able to write a longer one next time.—I remain, your loving cousin, Jack Stubbing.

[Dear Cousin Jack,—I shall be very glad indeed to have you for one of my cousins, and I will send you a badge by the next mail. I don't suppose there is very much to write about in such a small place as Karori is, but I hope you will write sometimes and let me know how you are getting on just the same. Have you far to go to school? A nice long walk morning and evening in the summer-time must be very nice, but I don't think I should like walking any distance through the rain and mud in the winter.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—There is no news, but still I thought I would write you a few lines as I had a little while to myself. I thought I had told you that I spent a lovely few days out at Hillsboro' with Cousin Ruby. The bush out there, Cousin Kate, is really beautiful. In one part you go down a little way and come to a small spring, where Ru said they might put some gold fish. The view is simply perfect. You can see all the Manu-

kau Harbour and all around there. Have you ever read a book called "A Bad Girl's Diary," Cousin Kate? It is so funny. Gwen and I have one by the same author, called "Peck's Bad Boy," but I have not read it yet. I am at present in the middle of one of L. T. Meade's school stories called, "Girls New and Old." It is very pretty. I thought we were going to have a few wet days this morning, but it seems to have cleared now. We cannot complain, can we, for in the last two or three months we have not really had more than two or three wet days? We had snapshots of our little niece a few weeks ago. She has grown so big, but has not altered much. I would love to see her now, as I think babies are such darlings from one year till they are about four. I would have liked very much to take up rinking this year, but it was really fearfully hot in the summer. Perhaps we shall go more in the cooler weather. The first time I skated I fell about every minute. Whenever I felt as if I was going to fall I let myself fall. I find it is the best way, as then you are not so apt to hurt yourself. By the end of one morning I got on quite well. Now, dear Cousin Kate, I think my stock of news has run out, so I will have to end for this week, with love to you and all the cousins.—I remain, yours sincerely, Cousin Stella, Auckland.

[Dear Cousin Stella,—It was very good of you to take advantage of your few spare moments to write to me, and though you say you have no news, yet you managed to write a rather longer letter than usual, and an interesting one, too. I never hear from Gwen now; I suppose she thinks you can tell me all the news, though. Hillsboro' seems to be an ideal place to spend a holiday, and it must be very pretty. I have had so little time for reading lately, I don't think I have read more than a dozen books since Christmas, but I have read lots of magazines. I am very fond of magazine-reading, aren't you? We haven't had much to grumble about as far as the weather is concerned lately, but then we had horrible weather up till January, so we deserved a month or two of good to make up for it, didn't we? Marget must be getting quite a big girl now, and I suppose can run about and say almost anything; they are much nicer at that age, I think, than when they are very young. Have you heard the Bavarian band yet? It is lovely to have them back again. They were playing in front of our house yesterday, and they played such a lot of "The Country Girl" music.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—Thank you very much for that lovely purse you sent, and that dear little handkerchief; it was the very thing I wanted. I went to town on Saturday to get my photo taken, and I took my little purse with me. I have got my little cousins with me; Doris is seven, and Noel is thirteen months old. Noel is such a dear little thing. Doris comes to school with me, and is in the third primer. On Saturday Doris and I went to a little girl's to play, and her name is Gretta; we had lots of games and swings; we played ladies, hide-and-go-seek; it is such a grand game. Noel went with father and mother and auntie for a drive on Sunday, and enjoyed it very much. Thank you very much for your nice letter. I am going to have Gretta over

to play with me next Saturday, and I hope we will have a good day. At school the teacher is giving sixpence to the one who says a piece of poetry called "Two Little Stockings" the best, and I am trying very hard for it. Noel went for his first motor ride on Wednesday, and was very good. I must now stop, with lots of love to all the other cousins, and lots to yourself.—From Cousin Doreen.

[Dear Cousin Doreen,—I am so very glad you got your prize safely, and wasn't I lucky to choose just what you wanted? I think a little fairy must have told me, don't you? If your photographs are good I hope you are going to send me one; I should like it so much. I heard quite a lot about you the other day. Some friends of mine have been staying with your little friends Marjory and Jean, and though they didn't see you, because you were away, they had heard a great deal about you. I wish Marjory and Jean would be cousins too; don't you think you could persuade them to join? I expect you like having your cousins staying with you. Doris is a little younger than you are, but she is not too young to make a good playfellow, is she? I used to like playing hide-and-seek too when I was your age. I haven't heard "Two Little Stockings," and I should like to hear you recite it. I hope you will get the prize; you must be sure and let me know if you do.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—Please excuse me for not writing before. We have been having rather exciting times here lately, what with picnics, dances and then the carnival. We have had fine weather for over a month, and water is getting rather scarce. Dear Cousin Muriel, I hope your feet will be better soon. Cousin Carl, I have not seen any of your letters lately; do write soon. And what has become of Cousin Dora, too, Cousin Kate? What a dear little girl Cousin Norma is, don't you think so, cousins? Cousins Winnie and Olive, you remind me of my two youngest aunts in your photos. I am still looking forward to getting my badge some day, dear Cousin Kate. Dear Cousin Amy, do you know a girl called Lizzie Climie going to Prince Albert College? I think this is her first term. She used to go to school here, and I know her very well. She is a very nice girl, I think. Our flower garden is looking so pretty just now. I must stop now and go and practise. I have had nothing but scolden this last term to practise, so my fingers are getting that they simply fly over the keys.—With love to all, from Cousin Jenny.

[Dear Cousin Jenny,—I don't believe I have heard from you since the New Plymouth Exhibition, and that is quite a long time ago, so I was very glad to get your letter this morning. You must have been having quite a gay time in Stratford, and you have had most lovely weather for picnics. Several people have been complaining that the water is running short in the country districts, and though we had a little rain this week I am afraid there was not enough to be of any use. I am so sorry about your badge, dear Jenny, but I can't send it to you until you send me your full name and address. I have asked you for it several times, too. Next time you write put it on a separate slip of paper, and I promise I will send you a badge by the next mail. I am afraid, "Jenny, Stratford," would hardly be a sufficient address. What do you think? You are more fortunate than the Auckland people if your garden is looking nice; ours are all so dried up, and there is hardly a bloom to be seen.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—It doesn't matter how much I try, I can't keep up a regular correspondence. I have just come from the dressmaker's, so I will have



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