



Children's Page

NOTE FROM COUSIN KATE.

Will Cousin ALLEN, 2, William street, Dunedin, send her surname, as there is a post-card from Cousin Hilda for her writing to be posted?

Also Cousin Kate would like to know which Cousin FLORENCE has arranged to exchange post-cards with Cousin ALISON, as there is one to be forwarded as soon as she learns who to send it to.

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 hope that you do not think that I have forgotten to write to you. We have given three of our kittens away, and have only one left. I took one of them to the College this afternoon. It cried all the way in the tram car, and I was very glad when I got there. The other kitten is going to a farm at Pukekohe next week. The mother cat is fretting over the loss of her kittens, but if we were to keep them, she would soon become jealous of them and scratch them. Our little dogs are growing very big. Of course you can imagine they are very jealous of one another. The weather has been dreadful for the last three weeks, and it is quite nice to have two or three fine days as we have had at the present time. We have not been able to play hockey because the weather has been too wet. We hope to play a match next Saturday if the weather promises to be fine. Next Sunday I am going to the Onehunga Tea Kiosk with my father and my two sisters. Have you been down to see the s.s. Corinthic at the wharf? It is the largest steamer that calls at Auckland, and it brought a large number of immigrants from England and America. I think I must bring my letter to a close now, as it is nearly time for me to go to bed. With love to you and all your cousins.—I remain, your loving cousin, WINNIE N. P.S.—Excuse my bad writing please.

[Dear Cousin Winnie N.,—I didn't think you had forgotten me quite so soon, and of course I am very glad you haven't, but I think I ought to scold you a little for not writing oftener. Were you not very sorry to part with all your kittens? they are such dear little things when they begin to get playful. I always want to keep ours until they are grown up. Yes, I expect the cats and dogs are jealous of one another. Most of them are, though when I was away for my holiday this time I saw a cat which was always following a big sable collie about, and they always slept together. We have a tiny puppy at home now, but all the cats are

afraid of him. If they only knew they could do him far more damage than he can them, but I expect it won't be long before he begins to tease and chase them. I hope you will win your hockey match. I think you will be able to play, for it looks as though we should have a few fine days now. We watched the Corinthic coming in, and wondered what the immigrants were thinking of their new home. She is an immense boat, isn't she?—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—It is such a long time since I wrote to you last that I am afraid you have almost forgotten me. It is raining almost all the time here now. We had a fairly strong gale yesterday too. A bullock was shot the week before last. We are enjoying the meat immensely. All my uncle's corn is cut now. I have been stripping and tying it, so that has taken some of my writing time. It is raining very hard to-day. The sparrows are all sitting on the window sill for shelter. Sometimes they fight for a place and pull feathers out of one another, which is not very wise of them for they want all the feathers that they can get to keep themselves warm. The calves that have been tied up have been let in the hay paddock as this rainy weather is very hard on them. It is getting late so I must close.—Cousin BRUCE.

[Dear Cousin Bruce,—It is indeed a very long time since you wrote to me last, but I'm very glad that you have not forgotten me altogether. I was wondering what had happened to prevent you writing. We have had some very bad weather, but to-day is so warm and sunny that it feels quite like late spring, but I suppose we shall have plenty of "real winter weather presently." The Gisborne people have been having a very bad time haven't they? Fresh meat is hard to get in the winter time in the country, so I don't wonder you are enjoying it so much. Are the sparrows very tame up your way, or is there no shelter close to for them? The ones about our place are very shy, and fly off directly one appears on the scene at all. I expect they find it very hard to get food in the winter.—Cousin KATE.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I am writing to ask you if you will have me as a cousin; if you will, please send me a badge. I go to school, and I am in the Third Standard. I have to ride three miles to school, and enjoy the ride very much. I will be ten years old next October, and I hope I will be here for my birthday.—Cousin DOUGLAS.

[Dear Cousin Douglas,—Of course I will accept you for one of the "Graphic" cousins. There are quite a lot of new ones this week—the more the merrier, though, isn't it? I will post you a badge at once—be sure and let me know if you receive it safely. Three miles' ride to school every day is rather a long way, but I suppose you have some companions to ride with, and that must be lovely in the summer time, though I should not like it much on cold wet mornings. Are you thinking of leaving Waingaro, that you say you hope you will be there for your birthday in October?—Cousin KATE.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—May I become one of your cousins? If you will have me I will try to write often; and please may I have a badge? It is wet to-day. I am seven years old, and I have two little brothers—one is called Percy and the other Bobs. Good-bye.—From Sydney.

[Dear Cousin Sydney,—I shall be delighted to have you for a cousin, and will post a badge to you this week. You and Bobs both write so well for such little people that I shall be very glad indeed to have letters from you often. Is your little brother quite well again now? The last time I heard of him he had such a dreadful cold. Bobs tells me he has a garden, so I suppose you have one too? Did you ever hear about the little girl who had a garden of her own? She used to plant all her own seeds and flow-

ers and then when they had been in the ground for a day or two she used to pull them up to see if they were growing. That was a funny way to garden, wasn't it? How are you getting on with your music? Can you play "In Happy Moments" yet?—Cousin KATE.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—May I become one of your cousins, please? Will you send me a badge? I have a little brother and sister. I am six years old. We went to the circus when it was here, and "Sinbad the Sailor." We laughed such a lot. I was quite tired of laughing. My little cousins are going to a fancy dress party. Sydney and I went to two in New Plymouth last year. I shall have a great many flowers in my garden soon. Love from Bobs.

[Dear Cousin Bobs,—I shall be very pleased to have you for one of my little cousins, and I hope you will write to me often. I have often seen your little brother; hasn't he got lovely curls—I wonder if he will be as glad to have his hair cut off as you were. What grand times you seem to have; fancy a little boy of your age going to the circus and the pantomime, too—I don't wonder you laughed at the pantomime, I laughed a lot too. I hope your little cousins will enjoy the fancy dress; their frocks are so pretty. What did you and Sydney wear to the ones you went to in New Plymouth? I will send you a badge as soon as I can, and I think you ought to send me some of the flowers out of your garden in return. What do you think?—Cousin KATE.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I suppose you have been thinking that I had deserted the Cousins' Page, but I have had such a number of lessons to do that I have not had time, but I have not many lessons to do to-night, so I thought I would write to you. The children's plain and fancy dress ball is to be held here next Friday, July 27, and my sisters and I are going. I am going in fancy costume. I hope I will enjoy myself. The next time I write to you I will tell you all about it. Bostock and Wombwell's menagerie was here a little while ago, and I went to it and enjoyed myself very much, though I was frightened when I got near the lion's cage. I see by Cousin Allen's letter that she would like to exchange post-cards with any of the cousins. I would be very pleased if she would exchange them with me.

Will you please ask her for her address, and ask her what kind she prefers? I like the ones of actresses best. I am going to make a bag for the children in the hospital this year. I have to make a big bag, and wrap all the things up, and put them in the bag, haven't I, Cousin Kate? If you do not mind, Cousin Kate, may I change my name and sign my letters Cousin Nora, Hamilton, because I get confused when I sign Cousin Violet. Hoping you will not mind, I am, yours truly (may it be!) Cousin NORA, Hamilton.

[Dear Cousin Nora,—Of course you may sign yourself Cousin Nora, as long as you put "Hamilton" after it, so that I shan't get confused. Will you please write your full name and address on a separate slip of paper, next time you write, so that I can enter it in the cousins' book? Children's fancy dress balls are quite the fashion just now. I have heard of several lately. What are you going to wear? Bostock and Wombwell's menagerie was splendid, wasn't it? I liked it very much, too, though I never like seeing anyone go into the lion's cage. I'm always so afraid there may be an accident. I am so glad you are going to make a bag for the hospital children this year. I wonder if you could persuade any of your little friends to come too. It was funny you should have asked for Cousin Allen's address this week, for I have just written a note asking her to send it me, as I have a post-card here for her.—Cousin KATE.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I wonder if you will accept me as one of your cousins. If so, please would you send me a badge. I am not allowed to go to school for the winter, because I have had rheumatism. I go to the Devonport Girls' College, and I am in the second form. I am ten years of age. Father gets the "Graphic" every week, and I am very fond of reading the cousins' letters; and Buster Brown, is he not a little mischief? Every week he gets worse, I think. Have not we been having bad weather lately? One could not get outside the house. I have got a little cream pony. Would you give me a name for it? I have three brothers and one sister. I must close now, as I have not much to say. Good-bye. With love to yourself and all the cousins.—I remain, your loving cousin, RENE.

[Dear Cousin Rene,—I am so very sorry you have rheumatism so badly, and hope you will get quite rid of it soon. Are you sorry to miss so much school? You will have to work just twice as hard in the summer time, so as to catch up to the other girls. I am so glad you like reading the cousins' letters, and hope you will write often; then you will have the pleasure of reading your own too. Of course I shall be delighted to have you for a cousin, and I will post a badge to you one day this week. Buster Brown certainly is a most mischievous little boy, and I agree with you in thinking that he gets worse every week. We have a cream horse, which we call Creamy. Do you think that would be a pretty name for your pony? or how would Biscuits do?—Cousin KATE.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—News, as usual, is a scarce commodity here, so I have neglected writing to you for some time, but you know how fearfully hard it is to write when news is short, so I hope you will forgive me. Do you know that in some way I missed seeing my last letter in the "Graphic"? I was sorry, because I always like to see your answers. What an interesting letter Alison wrote the week before last. It is nice to hear from the older Cousins sometimes. I wonder if Cousin Roie will write again now she is in Auckland. I saw in one of the local papers that she had come "out," so perhaps she will think she is too grown-up to write now. Just at present Olive and I are busy working for a juvenile bazaar, which is to be held in the King Edward's Barracks next month. The bazaar is in aid of Nurse Maude's Consumptive Camps, so I hope it will be a success. Last night we went to see "The Fatal Wedding." I thought the children were splendid in the Tin-can Band, and the little girl who played "Jessie" is a sweet little actress. All round us the people kept melting into tears, and it was rather funny watching them, although I suppose it was a little unkind. But some people do look so funny when they cry, don't you think so? Bridget