



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.

YOUNGER COUSINS' LETTERS.

Dear Cousin Kate.—Can I be one of your cousins, and get a red badge? I have two pets—a kitten and a hen. I am nine years old, and I am in the first standard.—I remain, yours truly,—HELEN.

[Dear Cousin Helen.—Certainly, you may become one of my little cousins, and I will send you a red badge very soon. A hen is a very useful kind of pet to have, I think, because if she is good, she will lay you a nice fresh egg for your breakfast every day. Our hens are very lazy just now, and we have not had any eggs for several days. Perhaps they are getting their winter clothes made and are too busy to lay; what do you think?—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—It is such a very long time now since I wrote to you last that I am afraid you have taken me off the roll by this time. I was in Lyell when I last wrote to you, and I am now by the sea-side. I came here on account of my health, and am taking doctor's medicine. Are the morning's cold in Auckland yet? The weather here is very wet now; there is no snowing when it will be wet or fine. The people with whom I am staying do not get the "Graphic," but my mother will send it to me when my letter is in it. I must try and write to you more often, or else I will be put off the roll, and not have my letters answered. It is my birthday to-day week, on the 5th of May, and I will be fourteen years of age. I must close now with lots of love to yourself and all the other cousins. I remain, you loving Cousin ANNIE.

[Dear Cousin Annie.—I was so glad to hear from you again; it is simply ages since you wrote last. I hadn't taken your name off the roll, but I was beginning to think it was time I did. I am so sorry to hear that you are not well; I know how horrid medicine is, so I can sympathize with you; but still if it does one good it is better to take it, isn't it, no matter how horrid it is? Do you like living at the sea-side? I expect you miss your own people sometimes and get home-sick, like I do when I am away from home. Many happy returns of your birthday, Annie, and when your next birthday comes I hope you will be feeling quite strong and well again.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—Kindly let me know if you will allow me to join the "Graphic" cousins. If so, will you forward me a badge to enclosed address.—Cousin WALTER.

N.B.—My age is fourteen—will soon be fifteen.—Cousin W.

[Dear Cousin Walter.—Yours is certainly a very short letter this week, and I hope that as soon as you are formally adopted as a "Graphic" cousin that you will manage to write longer ones. I will post a badge to you one day this week; let me know whether it arrives safely, will you?—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—May I join the "New Zealand Graphic" cousins? Please send me a blue badge. I am six years old. We go to school now. I have no more to say now.—From Cousin MINNIE.

[Dear Cousin Minnie.—I shall be delighted to have you for a cousin, and I would send you a badge at once if I only knew where to send it to. Next time you write will you enclose an envelope with your full name and address on it, and then I will send you a badge by return mail. Do you like going to school? I think you must, because you seem to be getting on so well; you write such a very nice letter for a little girl of only six years of age.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I sent you a letter two weeks ago, and I have been looking for it, and cannot see it. The name has faded right out of my badge, please could I have another if I enclose a stamped envelope? I have just finished reading a book called "Elsie and her Loved Ones," one of the Elsie books. I think I told you there was a Wonderland in Wellington. Auntie took me out one day before I left for Auckland, but it was raining when we got out there, and so we came home again. My brother Fred told me he would like to join the band. I must say good-bye, Cousin Kate, now, from Cousin CADIA.

[Dear Cousin Cadia.—I think your last letter was held over because there was not room for the cousins' letters that week; but you have seen the answer to it now, haven't you? Certainly you may have another badge; I will post one to you this week if I have time. I don't think I have read any of the "Elsie Series." Are they nice? Next time you write, tell me the names of some more of the same series, will you? No, you didn't tell me that you had been out to Wonderland. What a pity it rained. I suppose you did not see any of the sights when it was so wet. You will see that Fred has joined our band, and I am so pleased to have him.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—Please may I become one of your cousins, and if I do, will you send me a badge? Have you got any cousins in Sydney? The "Graphic" comes to our house every week. I have a little sister named Jean; she is a year younger than me. I am eight. We get a lot of fun when we read about the doings of Buster Brown. For a long time we thought Buster lived in New Zealand. We often wonder how it is that he does not seem to grow older. We have a little fox terrier, and we call it Patch. I think he will be a splendid rat-catcher, as he is very good at killing mice. Have you seen our harbour? I think it is very pretty. When we go across to the city in the ferry,

steamer we see many boats of all kinds, small and large, up to one as big as King Edward's warship The Powerful. I hope some day to get a trip across the ocean to your country, where I have some relations. On Easter Monday we all went to the Zoo. There was a crowd watching the lions being fed. They looked very savage, and I was glad they were in a cage. The monkeys were the most amusing among them all. There is a lot more I could tell you about the other animals, but I will leave it for another time. Good-bye, from DOROTHY.

[Dear Cousin Dorothy.—I haven't any cousins now in Sydney. I used to have several, but they have left off writing lately, so I shall be more than pleased to have you for a cousin. You must write often, because there must be always something happening in such a big place as Sydney that would interest all the cousins to hear about. I'm very glad Buster Brown does not live in New Zealand. I might happen to come across him, and I think he would be much nearer at a distance or in a cage like the lions you went to see at the Zoo, don't you? I am sure he is very nearly as mischievous as a monkey, and though they are very amusing to watch, they are a great nuisance, too, I think. I hope you will come to New Zealand some time, but you must come in the early summer, because Auckland is at its prettiest then. We are having such cold, rainy days just now. I am sure you would not like it at all. Do your relations live in Auckland? I have sent you a badge and hope it will arrive safely.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I should like to become a cousin. My name is Fred; I am 13 years old. My sister Cadia belongs to the cousins' league. Will you send me a red badge in the envelope I enclosed? I used to have a lovely dog named Prince, but I lost him when I went away for my Christmas holidays. I was so disappointed to find him gone when I returned, but I am going to get another one soon. I have not much more to tell you.—I remain, yours sincerely, FRED.

[Dear Cousin Fred.—Of course you may become a cousin. I hope you liked the badge I sent you. You know I want some more boys to join the cousins' league, so just tell any of your special chums that I shall be very glad for them to join too. I wonder what became of poor Prince. I can quite understand that you were very disappointed not to find him there to welcome you when you got home. I do hope he has got a kind master, don't you? I expect he has, or he would have come home directly he got loose. What sort of a dog are you going to have next time?—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I am very sorry I did not write before. Our new school is a very nice one, with nice big rooms. My Auntie Annie has come to stay with us, and we are going for a drive to-morrow from half-past one until half-past four. We have a lovely cat called Tim. He is not quite eight months old, but he is very big. I have been reading such a lot of books lately. I don't

think I have anything more to say, so good-bye, with much love for yourself and cousins, RINI.

[Dear Cousin Rini.—It is indeed a long time since you wrote to me last; I had nearly forgotten I had a Cousin Rini. I hope you had a lovely day for your drive; it is not very nice to drive in the rain, is it? Besides, everything looks so much prettier in the bright sunshine, and I expect you wanted your auntie to see Napier looking its best. Have you ever tried to teach Tim any tricks? A friend of our has a cat that has been taught to go to a tin, open it, and take out a biscuit for himself, don't you think that

Dear Cousin Kate.—I am sorry I did not send you my full name before. I would like a blue badge. I went over the hills to gather mushrooms, and I got two great baskets full. My grandma has a lovely garden, it is one of the best in Nelson. My mother has a very nice garden, too, but it is not quite so nice as grandma's. We all went for a picnic down to the beach on Easter Monday, and there was a big crowd of children down there. I have eight cousins, one sister, and no brothers. The Stoke schoolboys go into town once a week to learn carpentering, and I like it very much. I have no more news to tell you, Cousin Kate, with love to all the cousins, from Cousin JIM.

[Dear Cousin Jim.—Thank you very much for sending me your address, and I am sorry I could not send you your badge before, I hope it will arrive safely at its destination now, though, and that you will like it. I am going to send both yours and Mabel's in one envelope. I wish I lived close to you, I am so fond of mushrooms, and I like to gather them for myself; there does not seem to be any within walking distance of Auckland this year; in fact, I have seen very few, even in the shops. What are you learning to make at your carpentering lessons? It is a good thing for boys to have some idea of it, and I often think it is a pity girls don't learn to hammer nails in straight, too.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I suppose you think I have forgotten you because I have not written for such a long time. Do you know how Curran-street has been dug up, well, St. Mary's-road is just the same. When it rains the mud is something dreadful, but is getting better now. I had a brother in the hospital with the fever, but he is better now, hasn't there been a lot about? Some time ago I was put into Std. III, and I am only nine. We have not much of a garden now, flowers in our garden have been a real failure this year. Have you heard of Professor Potter's gymnasium? Well it has just commenced, and I am going. I am trying to write a nice long letter to pay for all these I have not written. For my birthday father gave me such a big doll, and I call it Theima. Just before I stop I am going to ask you a riddle—Why does a little boy make his coat last? With love to all the cousins, not forgetting yourself, ADVE.

[Dear Cousin Olive.—I have not been to Ponsonby for quite a long time, so I have not seen St. Mary's-road or Curran-street since they were dug up, but I can quite imagine what they are like. They are laying new gas pipes in several of the streets close to us, and we have all had to walk in the middle of the road because the side paths are just mud and clay heaps. I wish they would do all the road mending, etc., in the summer time, don't you? There has been a great deal of fever about this year; I am glad to hear that your brother is better; is he home yet? Flowers are very scarce just now, we have such a few in our garden, only a few roses and one or two chrysanthemums, and the rain has made them all look rather draggled. Yes, I have heard a great deal about Professor Potter's gymnasium classes, and have seen his pupils perform in public several times; he is a most successful master, I think. I am afraid I cannot guess the answer to your riddle, for one thing, I don't believe little boy's coats ever do last.—Cousin Kate.]