



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,—I am very sorry I did not write before. I kept putting it off all the time. I hope our band of Cousins are all well. Excuse my writing with a pencil, as we have just run out of ink; it is too far to go to the shop for some. The lake looks so beautiful. It is as blue as ever it can be. The snow is off the Kaimanawa Range now. There was an auction sale here yesterday. Mr. Landon, the Independent candidate, held a meeting in the Court House last night; and Mr. McDonald is coming to hold another here to-night. It is just beautiful here now; everywhere you look outside is just beautifully green. It was raining last night, but it is fine now. It doesn't matter to me if it is sunshine, rain or wind. I must conclude my letter as there is no more news. What does anyone want to hear anything about this out-of-the-way place for?—I remain, Your loving Cousin, Tai.

[Dear Cousin Tai,—It is certainly a very long time since I heard from you, but I can sympathise with you because I suffer rather badly from the putting-off habit myself. Taupo must be looking lovely. I am sure. We had planned a beautiful camping party for Christmas at Taupo, but I am rather afraid it will fall through because some of the party are leaving for England sooner than they expected; isn't it sad? Don't you know that the more out of the way the places are the more we want to hear about them. Isn't it lovely to be able to go out and about in all weathers like you do—to be blown right away from yourself, so to speak, is just perfect.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—May I become one of your Cousins? Please send me a blue badge. I go to the Riverlands School. I have a pet dog named Spot and a rabbit named Nambu. I have an uncle just come out from England, and his name is Tom Brown. Our examination is on Tuesday, 13th October. I am in the fifth standard, and am hoping to be in the sixth next year. I did not go to Auckland to see the fleet, but I am going to a play on Wednesday. I am twelve years old. My sister May is going to England in May, and mother has just come back. We are having fine weather just now. This is all I have to say. Good-bye, from Cousin MABEL.

[Dear Cousin Mabel,—You may become one of my cousins, of course. I shall be very pleased. You must be very clever at your lessons or very hard-working to have got into the fifth stand-

ard at your age. I hope you will pass, too, to be in the sixth will be grand. I am sorry you missed the American fleet, but I suppose you will go home, too, some day, and then you may see our own, which will be much more exciting. You don't know how I envy your sister her trip. I would give anything to be starting off, and such a number of my friends are starting in December it makes me quite ill with envy.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—May I become one of your Cousins? Please send me a blue badge. I go to the Riverlands' School, and have three miles to walk. I have a pet lamb; its name is Jill. I have two sisters and two brothers; their names are Elsie, Jessie, Willie, and Thomas. Elsie and Jessie also have a pet lamb; Thomas has a dog called Turk; Willie has a vegetable garden that his father gave him. Mother has eleven little goslings and ten chicks. I am thirteen years old. A little while ago Thomas and I were out riding, and I got thrown off, and kicked on the right ankle. I had to lie up with it for three weeks. We are going to play on Wednesday. We are having fine weather here.—IVY.

[Dear Cousin Ivy,—Of course, I shall be pleased to have you for a cousin, but I am afraid you will have to wait a little while for your badge. What a collection of animals you have got between you; aren't they rather a bother, especially the lambs, though they are dear little things? They want a lot of attention, don't they? Do the chicks ever get into Willie's garden? My brother used to get so angry when our fowls got into his, and scratched up his seeds; our day he caught one and wrung its neck, and hung it on the gate as a warning to the rest. What a horrid time you must have had with that sore ankle; it must have hurt frightfully. I hope it is quite strong again now.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I was very glad to see my letter in the "Graphic." I have not got my badge yet. We have eight pretty little yellow chickens, just three days old. One is not very strong, so we have been keeping it warm in the kitchen all day. We have a very large cat called Tiger, and I am sure if there was a cat show he would get a prize. We are having our holidays all next week, and I hope that the weather is fine, because if it is not it will spoil all our fun. Good-bye, with love to you and all your other cousins.—From COUSIN GORDON.

[Dear Cousin Gordon,—I am so sorry about the badges, but they really are coming. Do you remember the tales Cousin Lynn used to tell about his cats; I wonder if your tiger is as big and as clever as any of his. A chum of mine had a cat that used to be chained up like the dogs; it was huge, but certainly not beautiful; it was always fighting with something, dogs or other cats, in fact, anything that would fight. He had lost one eye and a bit of an ear, and I don't think he could ever use all four legs at a time; the eye was lost fighting an old turkey. I hope you had a lovely time during the holidays; the weather was fine, wasn't it?—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I suppose you will think that I am never going to write to you again, but I have been putting it off and off, and have not got it done. While I was in Auckland I went to see you three times, but you were not there, so I could not see you. I enjoyed myself very much in Fleet Week, and I hope you did too. Hunny's birthday was on the 20th of August, and I was away, so mother kept it till I came back again. Allan and I had a lot of pennies that I spent when I went to Auckland, and we got some birthday presents for her. I got her a paint box, because she is very fond of painting, and Allen got her a doll, and Daddy got some little boxes with pictures on them, and they fit inside each other. There were eight of them at first, but I am afraid there are only four left that are not broken. Mother has got somebody to help her at last, a Miss Kenny, who teaches Allen and me for an hour every day, and we like lessons very much. When Miss Kenny first came the garden was full of weeds, but now it is very much nicer, and has hardly any weeds at all. Allen has two drills of potatoes, and I have one drill of peas. Mother has a little Sunday School, and she has eight pupils, but one of them has scarlet fever now, so neither she nor her two sisters will be able to come for three weeks. I am learning to play the piano, and can play a lot of pieces now. I like practising very much. Miss Kenny put a piece of rope on the bough of a tree, and we catch hold of the rope and have great fun swinging. I think I will close this letter now, as I have not anything more to say, so good-bye, with love.—I remain, your loving cousin, NANCY.

[Dear Cousin Nancy,—I am so sorry I missed you when you were in Auckland, but I was so busy about outside things that I was scarcely in the office at all in Fleet Week. Next time you come, let me know beforehand, and then come some morning soon after ten, and you are sure to find me. I am glad you enjoyed your trip. Town was very lively then, wasn't it? Miss Kenny must be a treasure. She seems to be a good playmate, as well as a teacher, which is lovely for you. Wasn't your mother rather frightened you would all catch fever from her pupils? I should have been. What a good thing it is you like practising. You will be sure to get on. I used to hate it.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I am very sorry that I have not written to you for such a long time. I have had very bad fingers and could not write. I have not been to school since I last wrote to you. I went for two drives with Cousin Myrtle in their gig. My birthday was on the 14th September, so I asked a few girl friends down to tea, amongst them being Cousin Myrtle, Alice and Lovie Holmes. I went down to Lake Ellis in my holidays for a picnic with Cousins Rita and Myrtle, and some other girls. We were sliding down the hills on cabbage trees, and we all wanted to sail in the boat, which was full of water, so the boys took all the water out of it with the Billy and some tins. We then took it in turns going for a sail, while two of the

boys rowed us across, and when we came out we were very nearly wet through, the boys splashed us so much. I have missed our third quarterly examination, but our proper examination is in a fortnight now; so it won't be long before I will be able to tell you if I have passed or not. I am going to school again now, but I cannot write properly yet, because my hands are too sore. We have been having lovely weather here lately, but it is raining very hard just now. There was a very large earthquake here last night at ten o'clock. We all rode up to Lake Ellis, and coming back there were three of us on each horse. I went to Marton in Walker's motor-car on Friday, 9th October, and had a lovely time. Well, dear Cousin Kate, I think I must close now. Best love to you and all the other Cousins.—Cousin MARY.

[Dear Cousin Mary,—What is the matter with your fingers? And do you think you will be able to pass your examinations after being away for so long? It will be very hard for you to make up all the back work, I should think. I can quite imagine what a good time you had at that picnic; splashing round and upsetting things—generally is only what we expect from boys, but, somehow, no one seems to catch cold at picnics. Still it was good of them to take the boat out in the first place. I have only felt one big earthquake, and it made me so sick. We only have very slight shocks up here. It must have been very amusing, but scarcely comfortable, for three of you riding one horse, though five of us sat quite comfortably on one once, and had our photos taken; he was huge, though and very quiet.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—It is raining very hard down here to-day, and is quite a change from the nice weather we have been having. It was very kind of Cousin Essie to say she liked my letters; I should just love to see her when she comes to Napier again, so I hope we will be able to arrange it. The Cousin Isobel has written to you, and I, are great friends. We both go to the same school. Did you go to see "The Little Breadwinner" when it was up in Auckland? I am going to see it if it comes here. Can you guess this riddle? On the fire, off the fire, yet never touching the fire. Wasn't it lovely to have a letter from Cousin Essie again? Which song did you like the best in "Humpty Dumpty"? Cousin Kate, I liked "Hayon." I am going to a play called "Dandy Dick" on Thursday; it is going to be played by the Napier amateur company. There have been swings and seesaws put up all along the beach. For the breaking up at our school we are having that play called "Red Riding Hood," and Cousin Isobel is going to be Red Riding Hood; but it is not till the end of the year. Now, dear Cousin Kate, I have to stop as I can't think of anything else to say. With lots and lots of love for yourself and all the Cousins, from MARJORIE.

[Dear Cousin Marjorie,—I didn't see "The Little Breadwinner"; was it very good? I am sure you will like "Dandy Dick." I remember the first time I saw it, I was quite a little girl, and I just loved it. I thoroughly enjoyed "Humpty Dumpty," and I don't remember what song I liked best. But I must say I liked "Mother Goose" better. Gretchen's song just haunted me for weeks. I am sure Essie would be delighted to see you too. I hope you can arrange. How about that riddle? I am afraid it is beyond me, so shall pass it on to the rest of the Cousins, and see how many of them will guess it.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—My mother reads your letters to us, and we liked one about a monkey very much. Where does he sleep? We have a baby girl named Peggy, and she is always laughing, and holds out her arms to come. I go to school with my sister. I am five and she is four, and I would like to be one of your Cousins, and get a blue badge. My little sister will write next time. From Cousin MABEL.

P.S.—Needless to say Mabel's hand was guided in this, but the wording is entirely her own.

Dear Cousin Mabel,—I am glad you like our letters, and want to join us; we have some very young Cousins, but I think you must be the youngest at