

Dear Cousin Kate.—Please may I join the cousins' circle? We get the "Graphic" every week, and I take great interest in reading the same. I am ten years old, and am in the 3rd standard. Will you please send me a pink badge. We have got 3 cats, 4 sheep, 1 dog, 1 cow, and 1 calf, and 1 horse. The horse is very nice to catch the flies. The blackie wanted to catch him to haul some posts. When they had nearly caught him, he swam into the swamp. We have a bagatelle board, and we have lovely fun with it. I have two brothers and one sister. We can all swim, ride, and row a boat, except the baby. With much love to all the cousins.—From Cousin EVA, Mahuna.

[Dear Cousin Koa.—What a jolly time you must have all together. I am very pleased to have you for one of my cousins. I suppose the dog is the greatest favourite out of all that crowd of pets. That was very cunning of your horse. We used to have a grand time with our own special bagatelle board when we were children. You and your sister and brothers must be very fond of outdoor sport.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I hope you will receive me for a cousin. I am ten years of age, and am in the 5th standard. I live in a pretty town called Motueka. It is famed for its fruit-growing, and we spend our summer holidays in raspberry and strawberry picking, which is very healthy and profitable. I have a dog, whose name is Toro. Our examination will be about at the end of the month, and, with industry, I hope I will pass.—From your loving cousin, GORDON B. MACKENZIE.

[Dear Cousin Godfrey.—I will certainly accept you as a cousin. Your pretty account of Motueka and its summer holiday industry is most interesting. The children up here pick strawberries, but that is becoming scarce, and the grow-up people it is. What a good name for your dog. I also hope that you will pass.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—May I become one of your cousins? I live in the country in the South Island, at a very pretty little place. Our examination is in two days, and I hope to pass. I will be in the 5th standard if I do. Will you please send me a blue badge? We have had rainy weather, and it seems very dull. I learn cooking at the technical school. We are to have a new school built soon. We have two nice little pussies.—I remain, yours truly, Cousin JOAN, Wakefield.

[Dear Cousin Joan.—You certainly may become one of my cousins. I wonder what you are like. I always think of "Joan" as a very concurring sort of name to have about. I hope that you have passed. The children seem to me to get through the standards nowadays at a tremendous rate. Do they teach you to make sets and boxes? I will be an splendid at examinations! It is like an influenza visitation, few houses escape.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—We have been having a good many concerts lately. The first was on July 7. It was first rate; there was music and comedy and a very interesting 14, the Progressive League's opening social. There is to be another meeting on the 30th, and I think Cousin Ruth is going to sing. The roads are very muddy. The new bridge is going to be of two spans. Our boys have a new run, and at feeding time the kittens come and try to share the food, and are so disappointed when there is none. Last Saturday we made some fudge, and tried to make some fruit confectionery, and on Sunday night, Cousin Kate, with love.—Cousin LUCY, Buckland.

[Dear Cousin Lucy.—You must be a very unusual folk at Buckland. Do tell me how Cousin Ruth's item goes off. I had no idea your bridge was to be of two spans. I think that is very enterprising of you Bucklanders. How comical it must look to see the kittens so disappointed. I wish I had been there last Saturday. But I had a sister, who came from your direction to spend a holiday with me. She brought some taffy—perhaps she caught the fever from you.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—May I become a cousin? I have a pet dog named Maori, a black curly retriever; and a lovely black cat named Jim. I have cousins in Australia, and they think that is a snake sleeping under their verandah. I am a native of Wellington. I thought that picture called "A Hopeless Dawn" very pretty. I go to the Newtown school. I am learning to play the piano and to play the violin. I have a lamp-lighter? It is lovely. Love to all.—From your affectionate cousin, JESSIE.—Wellington.

[Dear Cousin Jessie.—Welcome to our society. When you send me an envelope with your full address, I will send you a badge. I think curly black retrievers are not very common. Ugh! Just fancy having a snake coiled up comfortably under the verandah. A tiger purring outside the window would not be much more horrid, as very concurring sort of name without delay. I am sorry you think "A Hopeless Dawn" pretty. I thought it very sad. I am sure "The Lamp-lighter" must be good. I have often heard of it.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I am very sorry to say this is my last letter to the younger cousins' column; I have always taken an interest in their letters, and always will, but I have been reading, and have been unable to play tennis. We are being taught the "Ribbon Dances" for the children's fancy dress ball, which is to be held on the 27th August. I will bring this letter to you close. Wish all the younger cousins good-bye, but not yourself, Cousin Kate, as I am going to join the older cousins.—Cousin JESSIE, Greymouth.

[Dear Cousin Jessie.—I sympathize with you. I shall never forget being told that I must wear my dresses longer now that I was getting older. It was melancholy. Life is never the same again after one gets to long dresses. But do not take yourself too seriously, Cousin Jessie; it is better on before. I don't suppose it is had being even dirtier, when it comes to that. I am very glad you are not proposing to farewell me.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—Will you please have me for one of your cousins? My father takes the "Graphic" every week, and I do like reading the cousins' letters. Buster Brown is funny yet, but he has two bantams, a little rooster (just like a pheasant) and a little black hen with a red neck. I will have a nice lot to sell this year. You will find my photo in the Takaka High School. I have a white jersey on, and am on the left-hand bottom row. My age is eight years. I would like a red badge.—Your loving cousin, MAX, Takaka.

[Dear Cousin Max.—We shall be most pleased to have you for a cousin. If you will send me a fully-addressed envelope, I will send you your badge. I cannot seem to get just to "Max" with any certainty of its reaching you. Your bantams must be very interesting. Thank you so much for telling me where I can see your picture.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—Thank you very much for the badge. I have not seen my letter in the "Graphic" yet. We are getting up a concert in aid of the Sunday-school. There are to be three dialogues. I am in the last one. There are to be songs, recitations, and pianoforte solos. I will tell you more about it when it is over. At school we have sewing for six months and cooking for six months. I like the cooking; we have some very nice recipes. With love.—From Cousin MESSIE, Carterton.

[Dear Cousin Messie.—I am so sorry that you have had to wait for your letter. There are so many writings that waiting is sometimes unavoidable. You must be sure to tell me how you got on at the concert. The programme sounds very interesting. It is such a good thing that they teach such useful subjects at school now. I know you have good recipes; I have tasted some of the cookery.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I did not write to you last week, because there was nothing to say. Did you go to Chang Leng Soo? I did not go, but all our family went. Every wet day at our school we have a half-holiday. I have a pet brown hen, and I call her Brownie. When ever we go to feed her we have to put her under our arm so we have fed the others, because she pecks holes in our stockings. With best wishes to you and all the other cousins.—From Cousin MESSIE.

[Dear Cousin Essie.—Who can write when there is nothing to say? It takes public speakers to do that kind of thing. I did not go to Chang Leng Soo. I hope someone in your family told you what it was like. I used just to love "two o'clock days." We once had a pet pullet, and we called it "Stakey." It used to peck at my sister's teeth. I am afraid it ended in the same way. Would you mind signing your full name, please, Cousin Essie, so that I shall know which Essie you are without having to consult my register.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I received my badge safely, and thought it was very pretty. Our examination is on the 21st July. If I pass I will be in the fifth standard. My cousin Liora Gibbs is going Home next week. My sister Dorothy went down to our friend's place on Saturday, and came home Monday. The 25th August is my birthday, and I will be 12 years old.—Cousin OLIVE, Wakefield.

[Dear Cousin Olive.—I am pleased to hear from you again, and glad you liked the badge. I send you my best wishes for your examination. You will miss your cousin. How nice for your sister to have that change. Many, many happy returns of the day, Cousin Olive.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I would very much like to be one of your cousins. I have a sister, Gwendolyn, eight years old, and we have a pet dog named Spot. We often go out for walks, and take our dolls out in the pram. We had a dear little grey kitten, but it is dead. I am very sorry. I live near to St. Alban's Church. Last Sunday a lot of naval cadets came to church, and I filled up nearly one side. Last Monday I went to a concert called Blue-beard, and I am going to a concert in August called "Beauty and the Beast." Do you like concerts, Cousin Kate? Father

took me to the art gallery, and I like the pictures very much. From Cousin EDITH, Auckland.

[Dear Cousin Edith.—Welcome to our Society. You are rich in toys, are you not? Is it not lovely taking out one's dolls in a nice perambulator? I do think kittens very nice. How nice it must have seemed to have so many of the cadets at church. We have a lot of Maoria at our church. What a lot of outings you have. I am extremely fond of a good concert. I love pictures almost, if not quite, as much.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—May I become one of your cousins? My sister takes the "Graphic" weekly, and like reading the cousins' letters. I am in the 3rd standard, and am ten years old. Please will you send me the colour of your badge? With much love.—Cousin NINA, Takaka.

[Dear Cousin Nina.—I shall be very pleased to have you for one of my cousins. You have a chance of being a junior cousin for ever so long yet, and after that you can be a senior cousin as long as you live if you like. Our badges are red silk and navy silk, and both colours are relieved with gold lettering.—Cousin Kate, F.R.—When you write, please give me your full address, so that I shall know which Nina you are. I will keep your envelope until you say which colour you wish.—C.K.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I am sending you a snap of my little pony Babette and my dog Spot, also my brother George. Spot looks very much for that very nice long letter you wrote me. Hope this reaches you. Hope you like it. Mother is in Cambridge. She says it is such a pretty place. I suppose you have been there.—From Cousin BEVIE, Wanganui.

[Dear Cousin Bevie.—Thank you very much for the snap. I am very much interested to see the group. Babette is a pet I can see. Her head is lovely. I do not wonder that you prize her. Spot looks a dear old fellow. If it will not do for me to pay you brother any compliments, he might not like it; boys are shy about things like that. But I am glad to have a look at him, and would much like a photo of you also. Cambridge is indeed charming. I am so glad you liked my answer to your nice letter. But do you know, Cousin Bevie, I am obliged to cut down my letters now, because there are so many to get in on the page.—Cousin Kate.]

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