

CHILDREN'S PAGE



CHILDREN'S CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN.

A really capital sentence is sent by Cousin Ella, of Wellington. Here it is: "Mafeking Aroused Furor: Even Kruger Is Now Gloomy."

I think we should give this fourth place. I shall not attempt to put any more in their order, but let you judge for yourselves.

Cousin Vivian sends this. She is only ten, remember:

"Mafeking's Attitude Finally Ends Kruger's Independent Nonsensical Gas."

Here are a whole batch, all by one cousin, who has also forgotten to send his or her name. Doubtless there was a letter with it, but I cannot remember whose it was. Some of these are good. I think:

"Malicious Adversaries Fly, Energetic Kitchener Intends No Grace."

"Mighty Armies Fight, Erasing Kruger's Impudent, Nefarious Game."

"Mendacious Antagonists Filled Every Kopje, Invisibly Noting Gatacre."

"Mere Artfulness Fails, Egotistical Kruger Is Not Game."

"Many American Friends Evince Kind Interest, Never Guessed."

Cousin Gladys tries with the following:

"Mafeking Attained Final Egress, Khaki Is Now General."

There are a host more, many of them very good, but I think these are about the best, and have room for no more just now.

Another Ingenuity Competition.

I think you all understand how it is done now, so I will offer another prize to the cousin who makes the best sentence out of

ROBERTS.

Remember, the simpler sentence the better, that is why George Empson's took the prize. Now, all try again for this one. I shall keep it open till August 1st.

Prize for Best Competition or Essay.

All of you who still go to school have compositions or essays to write, I expect. Well, I am going to give two prizes for the best composition sent me before August 8. You may send one you have written in school or you may send a special one, but it should not be more than, say, about 50 words. You must write on one side of the paper only. This is very important. You may choose any subject you like, but you must do it all by yourselves, except you may get your parents or teachers to give you a subject. Try and make your composition as original as possible. Say whatever you really think yourself about the subject you write about. I am anxious for all cousins to go in for this competition, and shall give very nice books as prizes. One prize will be for cousins over 12, and one for cousins under 12. If there are enough good compositions, I may give some extra prizes. All cousins old or new may go in for either of these competitions, so I expect a fine lot of work over them. The more you give the better I shall like it.

Remember the date of closing is August 8th.

COUSINS' CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Cousin Kate,—I was very pleased to see my last letter in the "Graphic" and thank you very much for accepting me as a cousin. I have not yet received my collecting card and badge. It has been very wet weather here lately. To-day it has been

thundering, lightning, and raining very hard. We are having our mid-winter holidays now, but on Monday we are to start school again. I would like going to school very much if we had no suns to do. I do not like suns. I have got one pet cat; her name is Tiny. My youngest sister has got two, an old cat and a kitten. The kitten is very young; it runs about the house, but it will not let anyone catch it. My cat is very old; she is twelve years old. I think I must take this letter to an end. With love to all the cousins, I must say good night.—I remain, your true cousin, Bertha Keith, Maungatawhiri.

[Dear Cousin Bertha,—I have sent the badges off to-day so you will have received them before you see this I expect. I quite sympathise with you about suns. I hated arithmetic at school. What colour is your cat? Twelve seems a great age for a cat, does it not? Can she see well, or is she nearly blind, as they usually are when they get very old? Which is the elder, you or Alice? Write again soon and tell me all about yourselves. Mind you enter for the competitions.—Cousin Kate.]

[Dear Cousin Kate,—I am entering for the Mafeking competition, but as we did not receive our "Graphic" until rather late I have not time to write more.—Ella.]

[Dear Cousin Ella,—I hope you will enter for the next ingenuity competition because some of your sentences were very good. You may have better fortune next time. Please write me a longer letter soon.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I am sending you a lot of sentences made out of the letters in Mafeking. I found 100 words; some of them I cannot put in the sentences. I did not see your notice of the Mafeking competition, so I do not know if I have done it the right way. I should like you to give us another word.—Marion.

[Dear Cousin Marion,—I am so sorry all your trouble was wasted. You did not quite understand how to do the sentences, but will now be able to pick it up and go in for the new one made out of Roberts. Get some grown-up person to explain from this week's "Graphic" and try again. Perhaps you will succeed. One never knows!—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I should like a collecting card; I have been promised one shilling, and I think that if I had a card I could collect a lot more. As you did not send me a card I am afraid that you did not get Marion's letter giving our address. I am glad to hear that Cousin Edmund keeps poultry; I shall be glad of all the information he can give about poultry keeping; we have about seventy hens, and make a good deal of money out of them in the year. I think selling the eggs pays better than rearing chickens for the market. Our butcher will never give us more than one shilling each for fine young roosters, and we live too far away from a large town to send them in without a great deal of expense. We are having our winter holidays now. It is very provoking to have so many wet days. I wanted to put my garden in good order before school began, but I have not been able to touch it; it is such dirty work pulling the weeds when the ground is wet. I have a few cabbage and cauliflower plants put in. As soon as the ground is dry enough I intend putting in a few early potatoes. We are using new potatoes now that were planted in March. What is that which is cut at both ends and yet made longer?—From Cousin Rose.

[Dear Cousin Rose,—I have just looked at the book in which I keep the names and addresses of all the cousins, and I find I have not either yours or Marion's second name and address, so I cannot have received the letter from her with them in. You do not give your surname in this letter either. Please send it me soon, so that I may send you a card, as you kindly promise

to collect. What sort of fowls do you keep? If you have really good big table birds you ought to be able to get far more than a shilling for the roosters. Write to the Stock Department, Government Buildings, Auckland, and they will send you a book telling you how to prepare poultry for freezing and sending Home. You can also learn from it about a new way of keeping eggs for winter. Is it dreadful weather for gardening, is it not? I, too, want to get some seedling done, but it is far too wet. The slugs, too, are fearful! had this year. Have you many in your garden? They destroy a terrible number of plants in mine.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I would be so pleased if you would accept me as a cousin. I thought as my sister has become one of your cousins you would have me for one also. I have been staying with some of my relations at Tamaki West for about eighteen months, and I enjoyed myself very much. The house in which I was staying at was very close to a beautiful shelly beach and a sea. When I had any spare time my cousins and I used to go out boating or fishing. Sometimes we would see who could gather the most shells. In the summer time we went for a few trips in a large sailing vessel to the Thames, Bay of Islands and Tauranga. I thought the places all very pretty. I was very glad to return to my proper home about two months ago.—With love to all the cousins, I remain, your true cousin, Alice Keith, Maungatawhiri.

[Dear Cousin Alice,—Welcome to our band of cousins. You will get your card before this appears, as I posted it to - day, with a badge. You are quite a traveller, are you not? I should have tremendously enjoyed such trips as you made all round the coast. Are you a good sailor? I think you must be, or you would never have ventured a second trip. Collecting shells is very interesting, I think. Have you ever tried covering cigar boxes with them? They look so pretty.—Cousin Kate.]

AN EMPIRE CITY LETTER.

Dear Cousin Kate,—One night recently I had the pleasure of being present at the performance of the "Grand Duke." It was in every way highly creditable, and the Amateur Operatic Society should feel proud of their production. The scene is laid in a German State, and the period is the middle of last century. A plot exists to dethrone the reigning Duke, the members of a theatrical company being a party to the conspiracy, and their manager is looking forward to filling the dukedom. In the meantime the leading comedian, Ludwig, discloses the plot to, of all persons, the Grand Duke's private detective, who is so taken back by the information that he fails to arrest the conspirator. Here is, indeed, a how-do-you-do affair; the exponents of histrionic art are betrayed, and something must needs be done. Dr. Tannhauser, a notary, suggests that Ernest (the manager) and Ludwig fight a statutory duel.

Sword or pistol neither uses.
Playing card be lightly chosen,
And the loser simply loses.
Some prefer the churchyard mould;
Strange the views some people hold!

From a pack of cards Ludwig draws an ace, and Ernest a king, which being the lower card is the loser, and accordingly considered as dead. Ludwig then goes to the Grand Duke to make a full disclosure of the conspiracy and to throw all the blame on the dead man. Duke of Rudolph, who is a frail specimen of humanity, set up on a pedestal for ridicule, and to be poked fun at in true Gilbertian fashion, is in mortal fear of his life, and is looking for some painless mode of exit from the world. Ludwig seeing this suggests the statutory duel.

Rudolph agrees, knowing that the statute providing these duels, having not been renewed, expires the next day, and the loser can, when he pleases, come to life again. The duel is fought in the market-place, and the cards having been arranged, Ludwig draws the ace. Rudolph drawing the king is deemed dead. Ludwig becomes Grand Duke. His first act is to extend the statute relating to duels for 100 years, and thus assure his position. The Grand Duke and his court appear in Greek costumes made for an intended performance of "Troilus and Cressida." Then

THE 'GRAPHIC' COUSINS' COT FUND.

This fund is for the purpose of maintaining a poor, sick child in the Auckland Hospital, and is contributed to by the "Graphic" cousins—readers of the children's page. The cot has been already bought by their kind collection of money, and now £25 a year is needed to pay for the nursing, food, and medical attendance of the child in it. Any contributions will be gladly received by Cousin Kate, care of the Lady Editor, New Zealand Graphic, Shortland street, or collecting cards will be sent on application.

Result of Ingenuity Composition.

This, you will remember, was for the best sentence composed of words beginning with the letters in the word Mafeking, arranged in their proper order. I should have given you the result of this before, but the gentleman who consented to judge for me has been away, and I had to wait till he came back. I think, however, all the cousins must have tried, and many of the answers were very clever. The prize is awarded to

COUSIN GEORGE EMISON, ROTORUA.

whose sentence is:

"Many a Faithful English Knight Is Now Gone."

I think you will admit that this is a really excellent sentence, being simple, direct, and at the same time appropriate and to the point. There was only one prize, but some of the other answers are so good that I think I shall give a few of them. This, for instance, sent by Cousin Beryl, was placed second in the order of merit by the judge:

"Many African Friends Explain Kruger Intends No Guide."

Cousin Adelaide, of Whangarei, comes third with this:

"Mafeking's Abhorrence For Eccentric Kruger Is Naturally Great."

She also sends another one:

"Mafeking Appreciates Fun, Especially Kruger's Ignorant, Noisy Grunts."

But, though it makes you laugh, this is not so good, and does not rank amongst the best.