



CHILDREN'S PAGE

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 should like to become a cousin if you would not mind me. I would like you to send me a badge. It is very quiet where I live, and there are not many children of my own size, so I therefore have to play with my own sisters and brothers, but, all the same, I have very fine fun. We are going back to school next Tuesday, and I am very glad, because I like school. I would like you to put this letter in the "Graphic" next week if you can manage it. I have been promised a shilling, and I think if I had a card I would collect a lot more. I must now close my short letter. I will write you a longer one next week.—Signed, yours respectfully, Cissie.

[Dear Cousin Cissie,—I have written you a private note welcoming you as a cousin and sending you a card and badge. How many sisters and brothers have you to play with, and are they older or younger than you? Tell me next time you write.—Cousin Kate.]

could not get it done. Your father visited this office when he was in town and saw your photo on the editor's table. He was very much surprised. If he has returned home he will explain how the photos are made into pictures for the paper. Our editor took him round the office, so he will be able to give you an account of what sort of place Cousin Kate works in.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I should like to have gone in for that Painting Competition last April, but I was not able. I am sending you a sentence on "Roberts."—I remain your loving cousin, Charley Hobbs.

[Dear Cousin Charlie,—I daresay we shall have another Painting Competition before long. You say you have sent me a sentence made from the word "Roberts," but it was not in the envelope. Send me another instead.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I am almost ashamed to send you back your card I have kept it so long, but I have been ill, and then I have been away for three weeks, staying at the Lower Hutt. I nearly always go there for my holidays with a great friend. We are very fond of going for picnics, and if we have arranged the night before to go on one of our little expeditions, even if it is raining, it does not matter; we set off with baskets and macintoshes and come home soaked. Sometimes there is a flood at the Hutt when I am there; the river rises and rises till at last it is over the bank; in a few hours the valley is flooded

"Graphic."—I remain, your loving reader, Aileen.

[Dear Cousin Aileen,—I received the postal order for five shillings quite safely, and must warmly thank you for collecting. It must be very exciting at the Hutt in flood time I should imagine, and also very sad to think of all the poor folk whose places have been damaged or, perhaps, ruined with the water. Please write again soon.—Yours affectionately, Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—Such a muggy, damp day! and the people are all stamping their feet and rubbing their hands to try and keep off the bitter cold that seems to cling to everything. Now for a little news! The annual ball of the Wellington Garrison officers, which was held in the Sydney-street Hall last night, was a brilliant success in every way. Favoured with clear, frosty weather, which made dancing a great pleasure, the numerous guests displayed much verve in obtaining the greatest amount of pleasure out of the well arranged programme of eighteen dances. The ballroom was greatly overcrowded, but the assemblage was bright with the uniforms of the officers and those from the flagship Royal Arthur, which contrasted splendidly with the quiet evening dress of the civilian and the bright, tasty toilettes of the ladies. The hall was tastefully decorated with star-like arrangements of brightly polished bayonets, the battalion's colours, and a great quantity of bunting and greenery. Rear-Admiral Pearson was unable to attend, owing to a recent family bereavement. Just before the official set of Lancers a flashlight photograph of the assembled guests was taken. I must not say any more about the Garrison Officers' Ball or else I will fill up my pages. At the Opera House for the last two nights "Lazerte, the Great" has been giving large audiences a proof of his quickness of hand. The magician's card tricks are, for the most part, new, and are performed in a clean and business-like manner, at once entertaining and puzzling the audience. His cleverness for producing half-crowns from space should long ere this have made the fortune of a modest man. "Lazerte" was rewarded with unstinted applause from the audience throughout the evening. Dear Cousin Kate, I am looking forward to the photo of Cousin Beryl in the "Graphic," as there has only been two in so far.—With love, I remain, Cousin Winnie, Wellington.

[Dear Cousin Winnie,—Many thanks for your long and interesting letter, which will, I am sure, be read with pleasure by all the cousins. I am very fond of conjuring tricks and shall hope to see Lazerte if he comes to Auckland. I hope Cousin Beryl will send the photo soon, but do not wish to worry her for it. I wish all the cousins would send their photos.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I have not written to you before, but think I should like to. I saw in the "Graphic" a letter from a little girl saying that she sent you a map, and it made me wonder whether you would allow me to become a cousin, for I should like to very much. If I may send a map will you tell me of what continent it should be.—Hoping to hear from you some day, I am, yours truly, Freda Sim.

[Dear Cousin Freda,—I expect you will be very much surprised to hear that when I read your letter I got most dreadfully homesick. It was all because of your name. I have two favourite sisters in England, and one of them is named Elfreda, and like you, I expect, we always called her Freda for short. Your name took me back across all those thousands of miles of water, and over many many years, and I saw, oh, such a mischievous little girl. I wonder if you are like her? There was not a trick she was not up to, and she was, I fear, a most dreadful tomboy. I expect you are a much more sedate little girl. Tell me next time you write.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—In looking in the "Graphic" this week I thought I would like to become a cousin if you will be kind enough to let me. My name is Vera Gladys Caro. I go to the Parnell public school. Our examination takes place in a week's

CHILDREN'S CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN.

Any boy or girl who likes to become a cousin, can do so, and write letters to Cousin Kate, care of the Lady Editor, "Graphic" Office, Auckland.

All purely correspondence letters with envelope enclosed in are carried through the Post Office as follows:—Not exceeding 1oz. 1d.; not exceeding 2oz. 4d.; for every additional 2oz. or fractional part thereof, 4d. It is well for correspondence to be marked "Press Manuscript only."

Please note, dear cousins, that all letters addressed to Cousin Kate must now bear the words "Press Manuscript only." If so marked, and the flap turned in, and not overweight, they will come for a 4d stamp in Auckland, but a 1d from every other place.

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.

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 Composition 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 100 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



COUSIN WALTER, WHIRINAKI.

Dear Cousin Kate,—I am just going to write you a short note. I am very sorry I omitted my address from my letter, but I will send it now. I have two brothers, of which I am the youngest. My father has gone to Auckland, and I do not think he will be back for a month at least. I am trying to buy a little horse. I must finish my letter now.—I remain, yours truly, Cousin Walter, Whirinaki.

[Dear Cousin Walter,—I have been a long time answering your letter, but I wanted to put the photo in the same week, and the man who makes the reproductions was so busy he

with, oh, such dirty, muddy water, so different to the clear sparkling of the river in its usual state. Then logs float past, and sometimes cattle and small houses. Men go out in boats to rescue the people living in the valley, and then, when the flood goes down, the place is inches thick in mud. The people that have been flooded out turn to, take up the carpets, which, of course, are wet, and try to put their houses straight again. How they must envy the people living on the hill. The flood does not affect them much. Now, dear Cousin Kate, I must stop, hoping you will be able to put this in the