



## CHILDREN'S CORRESPONDENCE COLUMN.

### COUSINS' CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Cousin Kate.—It is such a long time since I wrote, that I feel ashamed to write now. I have such a lot to tell you that I don't know where to begin. I have had my little dog a long time. We call him "Buller," after General Buller. He is such a dear little fellow, and one day when mother was cleaning the grate, she missed her broom, and when we had searched everywhere for it, we found that Buller had it at the top of the garden. Our school flag was hoisted last Wednesday fortnight, and although it was very wet we enjoyed it very much. I must now say goodbye.—From Cousin Lucy.

[Dear Cousin Lucy.—I am glad you have commenced to write again, and was much interested to hear of Buller. It is a very good name for a dog I think, but if he lives up to his name he will be a terror to fight. All the schools have flags now I think. Do not leave me so long without a letter this time as you did last.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I can only write a few lines just now as I am in a hurry. Will you please send me another collecting card and I will try and get some more for the cut fund. I am going to dress a doll and send it in lieu of the one you sent by mistake. I am going to have my photo taken, I think, and if so I will send you one as soon as they are finished. I think the compositions on a "Ship on Fire" and "John Flaxman" were very good. I am afraid I must now close, with love to all the cousins and yourself. I remain, Cousin Winnie, Wellington.

P.S.—I wrote a composition on "Spring," but it was too late to send it.

[Dear Cousin Winnie.—Thank you for the note and for the promise to try and collect more. You are very good indeed to do it, and I am truly grateful. Thank you also for dressing the doll; in fact my whole answer to your letter is nothing but thanks!—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate.—I was so pleased when I saw that you welcomed me to your band of cousins, and I thank you very much for the pretty badge you sent me. I suppose you will be thinking that we have forgotten to send you back the card, but you must not think that at all, as we have collected one pound ten shillings, and we are waiting for someone to go to Pokeno, about eight miles distant from here, where they can get a postal note. I am going to go in for the geographical competition, but I do not know if I have got the right places or not, as we have no post office guide. My sister and I have five calves to feed. I feed the two youngest, and they are such lively little things, and whenever I let them out of the shed they run round and round the paddock until they are tired out. What a number of competitions there are now, are there not? We have a flower garden in the front of our house, and the flowers are all beginning to come out.—I remain, your affectionate cousin, Alice.

[Dear Cousin Alice.—I was indeed astonished and most delighted to have so very large a sum returned with your cards by Cousin Bertha and yourself. You must indeed have worked hard, and I am proud to have such energetic and kindly cousins. You have just as good a chance of being right with the names as any other cousin. Five calves must be rather a trouble to feed I should think. What flowers are you planting now for the

summer? I put in some petunias this week, but the snails have damaged them sadly.—Cousin Kate.]

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Dear Cousin Kate.—Many thanks for your welcome letter, which I saw in the "Graphic." It has been very wet and rough weather here lately. It was raining very hard all day on Saturday, and the creek, which runs through the valley, rose up very high, and the plank on which we cross going to school was washed away, so now we have to go about a quarter of a mile further round to be able to cross the creek. Our cat Tiny, though she is getting so old, she is not getting blind. She can see as well as our other cats. I am going in for the geographical competition. Seeing in the "Graphic" all the letters from the different cousins, you must have a great many of them now, you must have a lot of writing to do to answer all the cousins' letters. I received my badge and collecting card quite safely. I think the badge very nice. I have collected fourteen shillings and sixpence, which I am sending.—I remain, your loving cousin, Bertha.

[Dear Cousin Bertha.—As you will see from the answer to Cousin Alice's letter I was both surprised and delighted at the great success you have had collecting, and I warmly thank you as well as Alice. At a house in the country where I sometimes go there is a plank across the creek, and it is fastened on either side by a swinging chain so that the floods cannot wash it away. It is rather a good plan, is it not?—Cousin Kate.]

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Dear Cousin Kate.—I am writing a short letter to tell you that those five sentences for the "Mafeking" Competition which had no name with them were mine. I sent a letter with them, but I did not put my name on the paper with the sentences. I am glad you thought some of them good. It is lovely weather here just now, the days are getting much longer and warmer, and the spring flowers are beginning to come out. Will you send me a collecting card, please? I asked you for one in my last letter, but have not received it. I hope I shall fill it. We have had thirteen invalided soldiers returned from the war. Such a number of their relatives were so pleased to welcome them back to Wellington again. Wellington has been full of people from all parts of the country. As the large shops have been holding sales of drapery the people were like bees coming out of a hive. The sessions are on too, but I have never been to the House. Did you see "The Geisha"? I went to see it, and liked it very much. I also went to the cinematograph and saw some wonderful pictures of the London Fire Brigade at work. There were such awful scenes, huge buildings on fire, and the men were ascending the ladders to the top-most stories, and rescuing women and little children. On one high ladder there was a dog walking up in front of a fireman, leading him up into a room where a child was supposed to be. He could not see the child at first for the dense smoke which filled the room, but at last he found it on a chair and saved its life. The brigade gets so quickly to a fire, as they (the men) harness the horses by electricity, and when a certain bell rings the horses put themselves into the shafts, and are ready to start, and soon subdue the fire. I think the picture I like best of the fire scenes was one where a fireman, after saving several lives, went back for a dog which was in the burning building. Many other pictures were shown, but they were chiefly about the war in Africa, and the battle of Sorel, such sad scenes that I was quite pleased when fighting the Boers was over, as far as the cinematograph was concerned. How sad it was the Duke of Saxe-Coburg died so suddenly at his castle in Germany, and what a shocking occurrence it was when King Humbert of Italy was assassinated. I am afraid that many other lives of great personages will be in danger from the Anarchists. Now, dear Cousin Kate, I think I have told you

all the news, so I will now conclude.—With best love to you and all the cousins, I remain your loving cousin, Athie.

[Dear Cousin Athie.—I hope you will see this letter as soon as it is printed, for I hate to think of your being disappointed about the badge and card. I want to send them ever so much, but by some mistake your full name is not in my address book, and you only sign yourself Cousin Athie. Send me a letter with your full name on a little scrap of separate paper. Mind you don't forget. Your letter is most delightful. I quite enjoyed it.—Cousin Kate.]

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Dear Cousin Kate.—I am sending you two sentences on the word "Children" and the four words in the "Geography" competition. What have I to do to become a cousin?—I remain your loving cousin, Charley.

[Dear Cousin Charley.—I have placed your answer in the hands of the judge. I do not yet know the result, but it will be printed on the same page as this next week. You have only to send me your full name if you want to be a cousin, and then you have to write whenever you feel inclined, which I hope will be often. Also, if you like, you can have a card and help collect for the Hospital cot.—Cousin Kate.]

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Dear Cousin Kate.—I am very glad you were pleased with my letter, and I am going to try this week, and I hope I will be more successful. I am going in for the geographical competition and so is my brother. I like reading the other cousins' letters, and some of them are very interesting and nicely put together. I see in some of the cousins' letters that they are expecting badges and cards, and I wondered what they were for, but now I know. I would like to have a card and badge too if you wouldn't mind. We had rain for eight days without stopping, and we nearly had a flood. We are going to get the "Graphic" every week now, and I am going to try and write every week. I will send my geography on another page. I must not take up too much of your space.—I remain your loving cousin, Daisy, Paeroa.

[Dear Cousin Daisy.—I hope you will not be disappointed, but it takes a whole week after I get your letter before it can appear in the "Graphic." I am really very pleased indeed to have you for a cousin and to know you like the children's page and the letters. We are getting so many new cousins that perhaps we shall soon have a third children's page. I will send a card and badge.—Cousin Kate.]

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Dear Cousin Kate.—I am going to be a cousin and try to do the best I can with the competitions and essays. We are getting the "Graphic" every week now, and so I will write whenever I can. In this week's "Graphic" I saw in it the geographical competition, and I started at once to do it. After some hard work looking through the maps I managed to find some names, and then I wrote them down on a piece of paper.—With best wishes, from Cousin Eric, Paeroa.

[Dear Cousin Eric.—I hope I shall be able to provide you with some fun in the "Graphic" and make you glad to have it regularly. I have placed your answers to the competition in the box with the others. I wonder who will win. We shall know next week.—Cousin Kate.]

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My Dear Cousin Kate.—I am writing you a short note. Last Saturday I caught a goldfinch, and put it in a cage, which I made myself, for it seemed quite lively at first, and hopped from rung to rung, peeping through at me. I gave it some grass with a tiny seed on it, and it pecked at that, but in the evening it seemed to droop, and I put it in my bedroom. But when I looked in the cage next morning I found it on its back in a corner of the cage dead. I was very sorry indeed, and hope I will be able to get another some day, but not to lose. There was a big flood in the river near our house the other day. I saw big logs coming down the river. There are plenty of goldfinches about now, flying about our house. I think I must close my letter, with love to all the cousins, and you.—I remain, your loving cousin, Norman.—

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.

Write on one side of the paper only. All purely correspondence letters with envelope ends (unrod in arc carried through the Post Office as follows.—Not exceeding 1oz. 1d.; not exceeding 1oz. 1d.; for every additional 2oz. or fractional part thereof, 1d.). 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.

### Result of the Third Ingenuity Competition.

You all seem to be fond of the Ingenuity Competitions, and I was highly delighted at the number of replies sent in. So much was I pleased that I have determined to give a second prize, though none was promised.

#### FIRST PRIZE.

The first prize for making a sentence out of

#### CHILDREN

goes to

COUSIN ELSIE WHYTE,

Onehunga.

who sends the following:—

China Has Important Legations  
Dismalness Representing Every Nation.

#### SECOND PRIZE.

COUSIN ILA FABIAN.

Children Have Impressively Learned  
Drink Ruins Every Nation.

#### OTHER SENTENCES MADE FROM "CHILDREN."

I have only room to give very few of the other sentences sent in. Here are some of them:

Cousin Hilda Intends Learning  
Dancing Regularly Every Night.—  
Cousin Newton Andrews.

Cronje Having Imprudently Left  
Doornspuit, Roberts Entered Natal.—  
Cousin Lulu Browning.

By a coincidence—an odd chance,  
that is, Cousin Sydney sends exactly  
the same sentence.

Children have ideas little developed,  
rendering education necessary.—  
Cousin Charley Hobbs.

Chinese Hate Integrity, Love Dark  
Repellent, Evil Natures.—Cousin Ade-  
laide.

Careless, happy, innocent little  
darlings, rarely ever naughty.

Childish hours induce long dreamy  
reveries each night.

Children happy in light,  
Dreading robbers each night.

These three are by Cousin Victor.  
The first would certainly have taken  
a prize, but there is no verb in it. The  
second I should place for third prize  
had there been one.