

a picture called King Baby? That gives me a splendid idea of the traffic, I think. Thank you again for your interesting letter. By the way, I am going to send in your story to the editor of the "Graphic," and see what he thinks about it. If he approves of it, have you any objection to our publishing it in the paper?—(Cousin Kate.)

Dear Cousin Kate,—I was delighted to see my letter in print; thank you very much for the long answer. I am going to write regularly every week or fortnight. I forget who "Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" is by; you really ought to try and get it as it is so clever. I have not had a letter from Rosie for a long time, but am expecting one next mail. I got a new book yesterday called "The Channings," by Mrs Henry Wood; have you ever read it, Cousin Kate? Are you going to "The Fortune Teller"? We are going, but I don't know when. I quite agree with you that I don't like babies in long clothes, I like them when they are just six months old. At the end of the year our music master always gives a concert at which his pupils play. I am going to play a solo. We have a toy symphonie, and I am going to play the triangle, my sister is going to play the drum. I should so love to go to school. I have a cousin who goes to the Grammar School, and she has such fun. We are teasing mother to take us to Sydney next month, but she seems rather reluctant, and I don't think there's much chance. We are going to have our first rehearsal of "The Fairy Blossom" next Monday week. I think it is going to be a great success. I didn't envy Mr Warbrick going over Waimangu Geyser, did you? It is so awfully risky. Now, dear Cousin Kate, I must say good-bye, as I have no more news, hoping you will excuse the scrawl as I am in a hurry.—Love from Cousin Given.

[Dear Cousin Given,—You are a very good girl to write to me again so soon, and I am very glad you are going to write regularly. I wish all the other

cousins would. I must try and get "Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," as you say it is so clever. I read "The Channings" when I was quite young; but I am afraid I have forgotten most of it. I hope I shall go to the "Fortune Teller" more than once. I think Madame Slapoffski sings beautifully, and I always think May Beatty acts so well, so I am looking forward to it very much indeed. I expect you are, too? Are you nervous about the solo you are going to play, and when does the concert come off? Toy symphonies are very pretty and sometimes funny, too, don't you think so? I think Mr Warbrick was most foolishly to go over the Waimangu Geyser. If he could have done say good by it it would have been different.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I am writing these few lines to ask you if you will accept me as one of your cousins. Mother takes the "Graphic" every week, and I read it. I always read the children's column, and I like it very much. It is raining here to-day—we have had a great deal of rain here lately. People get very much afraid of a flood if we have much rain—the rivers rise very quickly. About three weeks ago we had a lot of rain, and the rivers rose very considerably, they overflowed and flooded half Blenheim. Some of the people had to suffer a great deal through it, especially the farmers. I go to the High School, and we have a hockey club to which I belong. There is another hockey club here, whom we very often play against. The last two matches we played resulted in a draw. We are going to Nelson soon to play two matches—I hope we are a little successful. Do you play hockey? I think it is a grand game; it is based very much like Association football, the rules being very similar. I also learn music and dancing, I like them very much; I think I rather like music better than dancing. Do you like music? Most people seem to be very fond of it. I have been ill and had to stay away from school, but I am glad to say I am getting on fine just now;

there has been, and still is, a great deal of sickness here. I feel very sorry for anyone who is ill, because I think it is very unpleasant. I must now close this short note, hoping you will accept me as one of your cousins. I would very much like a badge if I am accepted as a cousin.—I remain your loving Cousin Tiny.

RIDDLES FOR THE COUSINS.

Q.—What are the most difficult articles to keep on a man's hand? A.—Handcuffs.

Q.—What does an artist like to draw best? A.—His salary.

Q.—When is a ladies' cheek not a cheek? A.—When it is a little pale (pail).

[Dear Cousin Tiny.—Thank you very much indeed for writing to me. I shall be very pleased to add you to my list of cousins. You are my first Cousin Tiny. It is rather an uncommon name, isn't it? Were you really christened that, or is it a pet name? I don't wonder the Blenheim people dread a flood so much, they are so destructive as well as being alarming. You ask me if I like music and dancing. I am very fond of both, though I am not much of a musician. I am sorry you have been ill, and I don't wonder you sympathise with other sick people. Thank you very much for the riddles, they are very good. I will post you a badge to-day. Cousin Kate.]

The Poultry Yard.

Here is a jolly game, something like "This is the House that Jack Built," but a good deal more amusing. Any number of players may take part in it.

The leader requests the players to be seated in a row, all facing one way, and then stands in front of them. He begins the game by saying:—

"A good fat hen."

These words must be repeated by the players in turn. Then the leader says:—

"Two ducks and a good fat hen."

The players also repeat this, as they do all the sentences that follow. Any player that misses a word, or misplaces one, must pay a forfeit, and it may also be required that they should speak with a grave face, a smile or a laugh subjecting the offender to the payment of a forfeit. As it is well nigh impossible to go through the game without plenty of laughter, it is likely that there will be a goodly number of forfeits before it is ended. Here are the other sentences spoken by the leader:—

"Three wild geese, two ducks, and a good fat hen."

"Four plump partridges, three wild geese, two ducks, and a good fat hen."

"Five pouting pigeons, four plump partridges, three wild geese, two ducks and a good fat hen."

"Six long-legged cranes, five pouting pigeons, four plump partridges, three wild geese, two ducks, and a good fat hen."

"Seven green parrots, six long-legged cranes, five pouting pigeons, four plump partridges, three wild geese, two ducks and a good fat hen."

"Eight screeching owls, seven green parrots, six long-legged cranes, five pouting pigeons, four plump partridges, three wild geese, two ducks and a good fat hen."

"Nine turkey buzzards, eight screeching owls, seven green parrots, six long-legged cranes, five pouting pigeons, four plump partridges, three wild geese, two ducks and a good fat hen."

The list may be cut short or increased to suit the wishes of the players.

When the game is over the forfeits are paid, and this may be done by the leader ordering the players to do all sorts of amusing things.

CORRECT.

Teacher: "Tommy, if you gave your little brother nine sticks of toffee, and then took away seven, what would that make?"

Tommy: "It would make him yell."



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