



TO OUR YOUNG READERS.

Our young readers are cordially invited to enter our wide circle of Cousins, by writing to

COUSIN KATE.

"The Weekly Graphic,"

Shortland Street, Auckland.

Cousin Kate is particularly desirous that those boys and girls who write should tell her whatever it interests them to tell, about their games, their pets, their holidays, or their studies. Their letters and Cousin Kate's replies will appear in the "Weekly Graphic," on the Children's Pages.

All Cousins under the age of fourteen are accounted Junior Cousins, all above that age Senior Cousins. Cousins may continue writing until quite grown up, and after, if they wish to do so; for we are proud to number among our Cousins some who have passed out of their teens. A Badge will be sent to each new Cousin on the receipt of an addressed envelope.

COUSINS' CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Cousin KATE, I am now taking the pleasure of writing you another letter. It has been a frost here for the last three or four mornings, and my hen hatched seven chickens on Wednesday last—2 black ones and five white ones. Since I wrote to you last my brother brought me some four dear little rabbits—3 greys and one black and white one. We only had them a week when a stray cat clawed the black one through the bars (about one inch apart), and now we have only three left. We give them lettuce, carrots, sarricry, and grass, and give them a clean bed two or three times a week. They like the sun to shine on them. Rosie goes down to see them every day. We have 16 cows in now, but they are not giving much milk—only 470 gallons and a 38 test. But I expect it will be better later on. You must excuse my writing and mistakes, as I have a burnt thumb.—ESTHER.

[Dear Cousin Esther,—Thank you very much for your letter. I had no idea anyone in the country would make pets of rabbits. They are such a pest. I hope the chickens are doing well, and that the weather has improved.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin KATE,—Our badges came by the post this afternoon, and we were so pleased to get them. Thank you very much for them. I have not much to say as I have been to the doctor. We made a Guy, and Eald's music teacher gave us twopenny.—Cousin IDA.

Dear Cousin KATE,—I received your badge today. We have a little kitten, and a hen with two little chicks. I have come home from my holidays. I enjoyed them very much. I went to the beach on Labour Day. Thanking you again for the badge.—Cousin ENID.

[Dear Cousins Ida and Eald,—I received your little letters, and I am glad to know you like the badge. Won't you be quick when the summer weather starts? then you can often go to the beach and bath and have lots of fun.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin KATE,—I am ashamed of myself for not writing to you before, but I have been having my eyes tested, and have had the moles. I saw my letter in the "Graphic." Thank you for the pretty badge you sent me. My cousin has a dear little dog named Mollie. It has long hair and is very playful. Have you ever seen a dog with such little black spots with top-knots on their heads, and they make funny noises. Their eggs are smaller than the hen's eggs, with little brown specks all over them. I will write a longer letter next time.—Cousin ELIZABETH.

[Dear Cousin Elizabeth,—I am very sorry to hear you have had trouble with your eyes. You must be careful, dare you to

wear glasses? What are guinea-fowls for? Can you eat them or their eggs? I think I should prefer the common sort of fowls.—Cousin KATE.]

Melbourne. Dear Cousin KATE,—May I be one of your cousins? I am eight years old. Will you send me a blue badge? Though we live a long way from Auckland we always get the "Graphic." I have a little brother called Jack. He is four years old.—INNES.

[Dear Cousin Innes,—I am so pleased to have a little boy cousin, who can write such nice letters. Do you go to school? Tell me when next you write.—Cousin KATE.]

Kalmaro. Dear Cousin KATE,—Just a few lines to let you know how I am. We had our examination. I passed, and I am in the fifth standard. My mother has got a little baby boy, and he is only five weeks old. We have a little pet lamb, and his name is Jimmy; we feed him with a tube and a dummy on the end of it. He is a very playful little lamb, and he follows us all over the place. We have thirty-three cows in milk, and we have twenty-two calves. I have three sisters and two brothers. My father has just come back from England, and he brought me a nice big doll, a bracelet, a necklace of green beads and white shells, and a green box. I made a white pin for myself at school. I will close with a riddle. I threw a piece of paper upstairs, and it came down. What is the answer? With love.—EILEEN.

[Dear Cousin Eileen,—Please write only on one side of the paper. Otherwise your letter is well and brightly written. You will never be dull now you have a baby brother. I am so glad you are passing a higher standard. What fun the lamb must be. It is such a pity they so soon grow up. You were a lucky little girl to get so many presents.—Cousin KATE.]

Broadwood, Hokiang. Dear Cousin KATE, Did you receive my last letter? It so has not been in print. The inspector was at our school on Thursday. Another girl and I wrote the best compositions. The inspector took them away with him. Christmas will soon be here again. Where are you going for the holidays? We may go back to Gisborne just for Christmas. All our animals are quite well except for Tiny, our little dog. One of the sliding-doors in the washhouse came down on top of her, but she is just about better now. I have a lovely black pony to ride now. It's name is Kitty. The weather is getting very fine and warm.—Cousin IDA.

[Dear Cousin Ida,—You must please remember to write on one side of the paper. I hope your letter has been in print. Many thanks for your nice and very well written letter. I have had my holidays, I went down to Wellington, and enjoyed every minute of it, but I am looking forward with great pleasure to Christmas. How delightful to have a pony.—Cousin KATE.]

Nelson. Dear Cousin KATE,—I think it is time I wrote to you again. It's anniversary of your birthday is the day after mine. It's the 15th of October "Graphic." I read Cousin Jack's letter, and did laugh at it. You have a number of new cousins in the circle of "Graphic" cousins. Nearly all the flowers are just about done for the season. I can ride a bike now, and think it fine fun. I think I have only one pet, and that is a horse, and her name is a queer one—it is Holman. We have four little kittens; they are only six days old. I have a little horse in Nelson. She is in Kimbolton with Tim. She is with my cousin. I did not see my second letter in print, but hope to see this one.—Cousin EDNA.

[Dear Cousin Edna,—All your letters are printed. You will see it in time. You should have lots of seedlings coming on now, to flower in the summer; and boy about sweet peas? Their best time is coming now. You never have so much fun as when you are learning to ride a bicycle.—Cousin KATE.]

Palmerston North. Dear Cousin KATE,—I am ashamed to have neglected your page for so long, but I will again bring the large spring show, which is always the great event of the year in Palmerston, took place last week, and luckily the weather was very favourable. I went, as usual, but as the saying goes, "It was a show you see them all," and it is quite true. The only section that I was much interested in was the fancywork section, as I do a fair amount of it. The last time I wrote I attended the Technical School for a commercial course, but now I am in an office, and I like the work very

much. I have six such pretty chicks, and I hope that another hen will bring out more soon, as she has been sitting for nearly two weeks.—Cousin OLIVE.

[Dear Cousin Olive,—I was so pleased to hear from you again. How important you must feel going to work every morning. I always think the only way to be interested in shows is to be an exhibitor, then you are very keen. I hope the chicks do well. We are having very rough weather.—Cousin KATE.]

Rongotea. Dear Cousin KATE,—I have been reading some of the letters in the "Graphic," and I was quite interested in them. I thought I would like to become one of your senior cousins, as I have seen a few others in the paper. We live on a small farm one and a-half miles from Rongotea. We have had an awful lot of rain down here, and it has done a great deal of good. We have a nice vegetable garden near the creek, and the flood came up and washed away nearly all the carrot seeds we planted. I would like you to send me a blue badge, please.—Cousin JEAN.

[Dear Cousin Jean,—You have forgotten to put your full name. Send me this, and I will enrol you as a cousin, and send you a badge.—Cousin KATE.]

Napier. Dear Cousin KATE,—Thank you very much for the red badge. It makes a good book-marker. We are getting ready for the 6th of November, and are busy gathering rubbish for a bonfire. I went to our school picnic on Labour Day, and came in third in a race. We are going to Wanganui for our Christmas holidays. Two of my father's draught horses died, and he had to buy six more, so they have such a lot of carting to do in the summer. We have a hen with eight little chickens, and another hen sitting on ten eggs. Our flowers and vegetable gardens are looking splendid.—Cousin ARTUR.

[Dear Cousin Arthur,—No one is allowed to light bonfires in Auckland, they are too dangerous; but there were lots of lovely fireworks, and crackers were going off on every side. What a serious loss two cart-horses dying. Do you go in for bathing in the summer? I suppose you can swim?—Cousin KATE.]

Theraru. Dear Cousin KATE,—I hope you will excuse me for not writing before, but I had no time. What is your favourite game? Our garden party is on Thursday, so I will be able to tell you about it when I write next. I am in two things—the bridge and the hoop drill. There are about five hundred children in the hoop drill, and it looks very pretty. I have two new dolls. Will you please give me a name for them. Now I think I will close for this time.—Cousin JEAN.

[Dear Cousin Jean,—I am very glad to hear from you at any time. I have two favourite games—golf in the winter and tennis in summer. I should love to see all those children tripping. How wonderful my lady Katie do for the dolls?—Cousin KATE.]

Glen Murray. Dear Cousin KATE,—I am writing to ask you if I may become one of your cousins. Will you send me a pink badge, please? I have six pets, and will tell you about them next time.—Cousin LOUISE.

[Dear Cousin Louise,—I am very pleased to enroll you as a member of our society, and shall look forward to having a nice letter from you telling me about your pets and your home life.—Cousin KATE.]

Ashhurst. Dear Cousin KATE,—I have not written to you for some time, and I hope you will excuse me, as I have not got much spare time with all the work. I suppose you are getting to the show? I have got a white pet calf for my own. I milk our cow, and make butter once a week. We have got a farm on Nikau (Grange), and the stock counts to 200 cows and five horses and one foal. I don't know how many calves we have got. The grass is growing quick now. I have not much to say to-night. I will write again. I am sure you would not be in the right mood to write after scrubbing and baking a lot, would you?—Cousin LENA.

[Dear Cousin Lena,—You are a dear little cousin to write when I am sure you must have been so tired. I should have just gone to bed. I am looking forward to the show. It is to be held on the 13th and 14th. Can you ride?—Cousin KATE.]

Dear Cousin KATE,—I now have the pleasure in answering your welcome letter. My mother and I are going up to Auckland in the autumn to one of my cousins' wedding. They shifted up from Greytown about three years ago. They are not living right

to Auckland, but Progress. I am looking forward to this trip. I suppose you have a good many cousins writing to you now.—Cousin DOLLY.

[Dear Cousin Dolly,—I am sure you will enjoy your trip to Auckland, and the autumn is a very good time. Are you going to see a briliant? Yes, we are a large and happy family of cousins.—Cousin KATE.]

Otaki. Dear Cousin KATE,—Just a line or two to ask you how you are. I hope you are in your circle. We have some chickens now. We had ten, but this afternoon two fell into the fowls' water, and got drowned. My brother and I were looking for them for a long time, and could not find them. On our hawk's day we had a big bonfire and a lot of crackers, and on Monday we had a bigger bonfire and a lot more crackers. We had good fun. Do you like reading and sewing? I do. Has not this year gone quick? The few weeks left will be Christmas. Our school examination will soon be here. I am going away for my Christmas holidays. Do you save stamps? I have 200 different kinds, and such a lot of foreign ones.—Cousin MAUDA.

[Dear Cousin Mauda,—Over five hundred new cousins joined in the last year and a-half, and we have about three hundred old ones who write at rare intervals, and many of them have grown up. I am glad you had such fun on my hawk's day. I hope you are enjoying your Christmas holidays. With love.—Cousin KATE.]

Hastings. Dear Cousin KATE,—We often take the "Weekly Graphic," and think it is very nice. I like reading the children's page, and some of the letters are very nice. I would very much like to join the page, so hope you will call me as one of your senior cousins. I am sixteen years old, and the eldest of a family of seven, consisting of four boys and three girls. Hastings is a very nice town, and we have lived in it five years last March. We have a cow, a calf, a dog, two cats, a kitten, and a canary. We have also about sixty fowls and a few young ducks, and a goose and a gander; so you see we have quite a small farm. I will write a long letter next time.—Cousin VERA.

[Dear Cousin Vera,—Please write only on one side of the paper. I am delighted to welcome a senior cousin. You must be quite a little mother. I don't suppose you ever had a doll; you would always have a baby to nurse. I have often heard that Hastings is a very pretty place. I suppose you have left school. Cousin KATE.]

Hastings. Dear Cousin KATE,—I have often thought of writing to you, as I would like very much to join you as one of your cousins. I am fourteen years old on January 21st. My sister and I are writing to you in the children's letters. If you would not mind sending me one of your badges, I would be very pleased. I would like very much to see my letter in the "Weekly Graphic." I have got many pets. Hastings is a very nice little town, and you would could give me a nice name to call my calf? I have left school now, and think it is much nicer at home.—Cousin THELMA.

[Dear Cousin Thelma,—I am very pleased to welcome you as a cousin. Your letter will surely be in print. Perhaps you may have to wait some time; there are so many letters and only a little space. Tell me what your calf is like. Please write on only one side of the paper.—Cousin KATE.]

Marton. Dear Cousin KATE,—I have often read the cousins' letters in the "Graphic," and I wish to become one of your cousins. I am thirteen years old, and am in the fifth standard. I have seven brothers and six sisters. Please would you send me a blue badge.—Cousin ANNE.

[Dear Cousin Anne,—I am pleased to enroll you as a member of our society. Do you mean to say there are fourteen of you? Are you all at home? What a time you must all have.—Cousin KATE.]

Kati Katu. My dear Cousin KATE,—Please excuse me for not writing sooner, as I have been very busy preparing for the examination. Our inspector, Mr. Iva, came here yesterday to examine us. The day was a farewell social to Mr. Herries last night, and I think almost all enjoyed themselves immensely. I have over 200 chickens to feed and look after, besides 60 fowls. We have several young ducklings, and they are lovely little things. They are only a few days old. Our chief amusements at school are tennis and rounders. I love reading Uncle Mutt, but I think Buster Brown much more. The roses and sweet peas have all the picture in our garden just now. There is to be a floral fête here on December 1st.—Cousin HITA.

[Dear Cousin Hita,—I was so glad to hear from you again; I thought you had got galled us. You have plenty of work to do with all those fowls and ducks, but it must be rather fun. You don't feed them all together, I suppose; you have to mix them in different yards. I hope the floral fête will be a success.—Cousin KATE.]

Millton. Dear Cousin KATE,—I received the badge last week, and was very pleased to get it. Thank you very much for the badge. I have five sisters and five brothers besides myself. We are going to milk about fifty cows this summer. Last year we milked eighty-seven. Will you please ask some of the cousins to exchange part of work with us. As it is winter, but cow show I think I will show.—Cousin IBARICA.

[Dear Cousin Ibarica,—I suppose you are a very busy little girl. Do you have to milk any of the cows, or do you only bring them in? I hope when some of the