

# Cousin Kate's Correspondents.

### 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 interests them to tell, about their games, their pets, their holidays, or their studies. Like 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.

### LETTERS AND REPLIES.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—As we are shifting this week, I am not able to send you a long letter. Our flower garden is looking very well just now. We have a great quantity of larkspurs out. The roses have been very showy this year, but they have all died off now. We have a great quantity of violets; some of them are quite as big as pansies. We have the red and pink violets growing. It has been rather blowing most of the time. Our peaches are all ripening now, so I suppose we will be making some peach jam. We had a good quantity of apples this year, but the rotting moth was rather bad on some of them.—**Cousin WINNIE.**

**D**EAR COUSIN WILMIE.—Thank you for your next little letter. Your writing is so nice and clear. Your garden must have been lovely. I have never heard of red and pink violets. Have they any perfume? Are you leaving Teanui, or only moving into a new house?—**Cousin KATE.**

Ohappo.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—I liked my badge very much. It's my birthday on the 24th of this month. I was born on the 24th of five weeks for my Christmas holidays. I went by train to Frankton, and then forty miles by coach. I came home a different way. I came about ten miles in a steam launch, and then about 24 miles by coach, and then twenty miles by train, and I was very tired.—**Cousin DELICIE.**

**D**EAR COUSIN DELICIE.—I hope you have a very happy birthday on the 24th. What a very out-of-the-way place Raglan must be! 40 miles is a long coach journey. Our trains go so slowly. Do you pass through prety country? You might have told us more about it.—**Cousin KATE.**

Wellfara.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—It is a good white blouse my last letter, so I think I will write a few lines to-night. You will see by the heading of my letter we have changed our address, as we are now living in Waitara, and it is very much better than Alton. We hope to be in Auckland later on. Our day school picnic was held at Ngairi last Friday. It was a very nice day, but we all enjoyed ourselves. Our Sunday-school picnic is next Thursday. I hope it will be fine, as we are going to the bush out of Urenui way. Thank you for the badge you sent me. I am in the fourth standard now. My sister is in the second standard, and my brother is just beginning school.—**Cousin DORIS.**

**D**EAR COUSIN DORIS.—I have been in Waitara several times. When we lived in New Plymouth, we used to drive over there, and all the country round is very pretty, but the freezing works used to smell in a very evil way in those days. I hope it is improved now.—**Cousin KATE.**

Blendheim.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—I have been a long while writing, because we have been shifting from Picton to Blendheim. It is a wonderful place to shift to, it is very pretty, but school. We have two horses and one dog. I like feeding horses; I think it is great fun. Have you ever been to Blendheim? I think it is a glorious place to live in. I hope you will have the same society.—**Cousin VICTOR.**

**D**EAR COUSIN VICTOR.—I always thought you folks liked the joys of moving into a new home, and that it was only a "grows-up" who hated it. From all accounts, Blendheim is a lovely place. I have never been there. I am sorry you are leaving us. You should find it much easier to write when you are in a new place.—**Cousin KATE.**

Wellington.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—Just a few lines to let you know I am well. I am writing for the first time, asking you can I join the writing club. We have had very bad weather here, but to-day was fine. I have two little sisters; one goes to school with me, and is just one class behind me. I am nine years old now. My birthday was yesterday. I have just finished reading the "Weekly Graphic," and think it very nice.—**Cousin BOB.**

**D**EAR COUSIN BOB.—I am glad you wanted to join our society. I am very pleased to see you really fine day in the past few days summer seems to be over, and that is sad. I hope you had a nice birthday.—**Cousin KATE.**

Ridgelands.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—I suppose you will think that I am never going to write to you. I have a black and white cat. Will you please give me a name for her. We have a cow, two calves, and a horse. We play school we play hide-and-seek, hop-scotch, donkey, and pass in the corner when it is wet. I have five sisters and four brothers. Thank you very much for the badge. It was very pretty. There are no grown-ups and one boy go to school.—**Cousin ETHIEL.**

**D**EAR COUSIN ETHIEL.—I am very pleased to hear from you, and glad to know you like the badge. I think a good name for your cat would be Tut. The only game of donkey I know is one you play with where Hagridlands is and what sort of a place it is.—**Cousin KATE.**

Grain-road.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—Will you kindly send me a badge, as I want to become one of your cousins? I am ten years old, and I like the fourth standard. I have three brothers and two sisters. We play rounders at school. I have often read the letters in the "Graphic." My birthday was on 23rd January. My mate and I always go to school together in the morning and very pretty afternoon. I go in and play with her. I love school, and once had two little kittens called Toby and Topsy, but one day they both wandered away and died. I have a little dog. Would you give it a name?—**Cousin ELOENOR.**

**D**EAR COUSIN ELOENOR.—I am pleased to have you join our society. Your letter is very nice for such a little girl. In future only write on one side of the paper. I think I would call the dog Buster. It was sad about the kittens. How nice for you to have a chum. I expect you have lots of fun. You have forgotten to put your full name and town. Send this and I will post you a badge.—**Cousin KATE.**

Reikiorangi.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—I have been away for seven weeks' holiday. The name of the place I went to is Taika, and I had a good time. I was down here for Christmas. I went in to Wellington to see the Newtown Park. They have some very pretty birds there. My mother and sister have gone away for a week. I am looking after the house for my father.—**Cousin EVA.**

**D**EAR COUSIN EVA.—What a delightful holiday you must have had. Taika is such a pretty little place. I had a happy Christmas, but we did not have very good weather. I am looking forward to the Easter time. You are a clever little house-keeper. I hope you make your father comfortable.—**Cousin KATE.**

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—Please excuse me for not writing before. Our cat has three little white kittens now, and they are very pretty little things. I have passed on to the Fourth Standard, and I think it fairly hard so far. We have all had very bad colds. I have a good way to go to school, so I ride a bicycle. I shall end up with a middle. Why is an English teacher like a school teacher?—**Cousin GLADYS.**

**D**EAR COUSIN GLADYS.—You will have lots of fun with the kittens. Are you keeping all three? Of course, you are sure to find the work harder, but it will make you a better teacher. I hope you had good weather for the picnic. Is the answer to the riddle, One mind the train, and the other trains the mind?—**Cousin KATE.**

Ashhurst.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—The local school held their annual picnic in the Ashhurst Domain the other day. I went and enjoyed myself. I had never entered the race, and attending school last year. Just at present I am the only one in the house. I am a bit nervous. When I was writing "year" in this letter I heard a thump in the scullery. It was like a hammer thump, and I fell quickly. I heard thump, thump, one after the other. I opened the door so frightened, and I couldn't help laughing, for there was Beauty, the cow, coming into the kitchen.—**Cousin LENA.**

**D**EAR COUSIN LENA.—I quite agree with you that it is nervous work staying in a house by one's self; the weird noises one hears are creepy. I think if you can it is always best to go and find out what causes the noise, and it generally ends in something very simple, and, as in your case, very funny.—**Cousin KATE.**

Sydenham.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—May I be one of your junior cousins? I am fourteen years of age, and have left school with my mate, Rosa. Would you kindly send me a pale blue badge, please? My favourite hobbies are painting, drawing, and pianoforte. I have a sister and a brother. My sister had a rooster named Kitchener. We named him that because he was hatched the day Lord Kitchener arrived in Christchurch. My little sister is seven now, but she was five when the rooster arrived. She used to bath it and then dry his feathers with a piece of rag. We had her photo taken with it. The rooster at last grew savage, and we had to kill him, for we were frightened it would pick her eyes out. Are there any of your cousins who would like to exchange postcards, for I am willing to do so? I was born in Timaru. It is a pretty place, especially the bay, which is beautiful. My uncle gave my sister a canary. Will you give it a name, please? I did not pass this time at school because I failed in that horrid arithmetic. I might just as well be home when the arithmetic time comes, for I am not a bit of good. My mother has preserved sixteen bottles of plums, and the shelf looks so nice.—**Cousin CLARA.**

**D**EAR COUSIN CLARA.—I am very pleased to enrol you as a member of our society. I don't wonder that rooster would have its feathers washed and dried. It ought to have got some comfort out of being called Kitchener. It seems so hard that so many girls simply can't do arithmetic. I was very dull in that way, but my greatest stumbling block was spelling, which to most people is so easy. How would Sweetydick do for the canary?—**Cousin KATE.**

**D**EAR COUSIN CLARA.—This is my fifth letter I am writing now. I am in the Third Standard, and I am trying to pass into the fourth, and I hope I will not fail. I am nine years of age, and on July 5th I will be ten. I am trying to go to school every day now, and get a prize at the end of the year.—**Cousin DESMOND.**

**D**EAR COUSIN DESMOND.—Your nice little letter I received with pleasure. I shall wish very hard that you pass. I expect you will find the work much harder, but you won't mind that. Have you time to go to school? We have one little cousin who had four miles to walk and did not miss once in a year.—**Cousin KATE.**

Sydenham.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—I find tailoring rather tiresome, and have to sit still for such a long time. Anyway, I am going to stick at it, and perhaps in time I will like it better than I do now. I have a boy friend who lives in Dunedin. His name is Carl and he has great talent for it. Next year he is going to play the cornet in the Mornington Band. I hope he gets on successfully. We are having fine weather down here now, and our boys are rickshing foot. I am very fond of cooking and ironing, and I do most of it when I am at home. In the last cooking examination I got first prize in my own class for cooking. The prize was a book entitled "Tales from Shakespeare." The tales in it are very interesting, but some of them are hard to understand. Have you ever read any of the Rev. Roeb's books? I am reading one now, entitled "Without a Home." I like it very much. I suppose that you will think my writing is very careless, but I hope you will excuse it as I run the machine myself in my finger, and I cannot write properly. I will try to write a neater letter next time.—**Cousin ROSIE.**

**D**EAR COUSIN ROSE.—You are sure to find the nonmenthence threosone at first, especially in summer. It is nice to be interested in some one outside, and I expect your friend hopes you will get to like your work. You must lead a busy life, and yet I am glad to see you find time for reading. I hope your finger will soon be well.—**Cousin KATE.**

Tawa Flat.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—I saw my letter in the "Graphic," and was very pleased. We had our school picnic on Wednesday, and it was held at Pimmeton. We were by the ten o'clock train and we came home in the eight train at night. While we were up there we went in for two baths, and we had races, too. I went in one race, and came second, and got a skipping rope. My name got outside. Will you send me a name for it? I will end with a riddle: Why are potatoes in the ground like thieves?—**Cousin MAJORIE.**

**D**EAR COUSIN MAJORIE.—You must have had a lovely picnic. I have only paid Pimmeton in the train; it looks such a pretty place. I had a glorious bath the other day. The big curly breakers came right over us, and the water was quite warm. We had such fun, and several times were washed off our feet.—**Cousin KATE.**

Levith.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—Thank you very much for the badge. I saw my letter in the "Graphic." My cousin Harold, at Otaki, writes to you. I had a pet lamb, but it got out of the paddock, and went away with some of the sheep. I am glad you liked the badge. We have a few Otaki cousins. What a silly little lamb; it would have had a much better life if it had stayed at home. They are not very satisfactory pets.—**Cousin KATE.**

Huntly.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—I suppose you think I have forgotten you, but I haven't. My auntie and grandmother and two cousins are up from the South Island for a holiday. I passed the exam, and am in Standard IV now. There are five new teachers at the Huntly School, and there are three who were here before the holidays. I am going up to Auckland next Saturday with my grandmother and auntie. I am going to stay two or three days.—**Cousin IVE.**

**D**EAR COUSIN IVE.—I am quite content to get a letter now and again. It is nice to have visitors from other parts. I am afraid they won't think very much of the summer weather we have had so far. It has been quite a hot summer. I have never known anywhere. I hope you enjoy your visit.—**Cousin KATE.**

Reikiorangi.

**D**EAR COUSIN KATE.—It is a long time since I wrote you a letter, and accordingly, I suppose, you think I have forgotten you. Not so. I was ill for a long time, and though I am quite well now, I have not seen any of the letters for some time. I have intended to write to you several times, but having either forgotten it, or put it off for some reason, I determined to do so tonight. I have now told you the reason of my neglect, and so hope you will forgive me. I hope also that you will agree with me in saying that the old proverb, "Better late than never," might very well be applied in this instance. It is rather strange how to-night, and I wonder whether it is so up in "Sunny Auckland?" Our summer has

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