



Dear Little People,

And this is what happened at our Camp Fire Evening after we'd had tea. Our log fire was lighted—a real log fire too—in our big fireplace right in the middle of our big room. Of course in the daytime you'd never know there is a fireplace there, because it disappears under the floor, just where the tables stand. But at night, when Jack Frost, the Moon and the Stars come out, so does our fireplace, and there it was. Of course, in no time, we had a gorgeous fire burning, and we just sat about on cushions, stools, rugs—anything we could find, and a lot of us sat with our arms tucked round our knees, looking at the strange pictures in the fire. And as we looked, quite unexpectedly, someone said, "Look! There's a real map of New Zealand in the red embers. Suppose we have a game with it and have a look at all our Home Towns and Country Districts too." So, we made Dunedin our starting point, and read a letter from Aidan Reilly, whose birthday is on the 11th May. Aidan used to have a cat called Jiki who did eat flies, and another called Scrap that died suddenly. (So glad to welcome you Aidan, and to tell you that you have a mate: Frank Laredo, Convent School, Hastings. Don't you think "Rosabel" is a pretty name for your sister's doll?—Anne.) Then Teresa Browne, who has a birthday on 27th March, read her letter to us, written on such pretty paper too. Teresa has an Auntie who has a cow, a cat and some hens. (Welcome Teresa, you've got a mate: Betty Phelan, Macraes Flat; and Greta Blyth, whose address I don't know. But I think they're both older than you.—Anne.) Paul and Jack Porter write to thank us for their badges. (Good boys Paul and Jack, quite a number of Anne's Little People forget to say "Thank you" even for prizes.—Anne.)

Then we skipped across to Dannevirke, right up in the North Island, to see where Leslie Lyons lives. Leslie also thanks us for his badge. (Hope you'll wear it often Leslie, and will enjoy our page for a long time to come.—Anne.)

On to Devonport, Auckland, where Sheila Walsh lives, and her birthday is on the 16th October. (Yes, Sheila dear, you have four mates: Margaret Mulvey, Geraldine; Patricia O'Rourke, 17 Vautier Street, Napier; Lallie Milne, Toko; and Bridgie Reilly, Benmore, Southland. What do you know about that Sheila, aren't you the lucky girl altogether?—Anne.)

Off to Eketahuna and Molly Kelly, who has a baby brother. Molly's father is Mayor of Eketahuna, and she learns singing and music. (Molly dear you'll be disappointed again not to see your letter in the *Tablet*, but you know just how it is, and don't you think we're having great fun? You have no birthday mate, but I'm sure someone will write to you.—Anne. P.S. Will someone please write to Molly.)

Back to the South again, to Fortrose, to Patricia Murphy's home. There's a little scamp of a baby there called Kevin, and Patricia wants to know if St. Kevin was as wild as Baby Kevin. She says too that we can't blame Baby too much, because boys are always more noisy than girls. (Patricia dear, I didn't know St. Kevin, but, if ever you meet Rev. Father Kevin McGrath, the Missioner, he'll be able to tell you all about it. Love to baby and you.—Anne.)

Now to Fort Molyneux and we'll see Honoria Macdonald's home. Honoria has three miles to walk to school and last year she used to do it all by herself, but this year she has mates. Her birthday is on the 9th October and she is seven years old. (Welcome Honoria, you're the very sort of Little Person we want, and all your brothers and sisters are welcome too. You haven't a birthday mate, but Patricia Daly's birthday is on the 1st November, and she's same age as you. Will you be friends? Her address is Box 62, Balfour.—Anne. P.S. Did you like your badge?)

Now to Gore and we'll find there Denise Mulvey's home, she's moved there lately. They had no infantile paralysis at their school and both Denise and Tom sent for badges. (Hope you like your badges, we were glad to hear you had moved safely, Denise.—Anne.)

Also Kathleen Kerr lives in this town, and she's writing to two letter friends. Her birthday is on 18th September and she is twelve. (Yes, you've a mate Kathleen: Doris Gainsford, Hiwipango, Belgrove, Nelson. I hope you'll be good mates. Did you get your prize safely?—Anne.)

Across to Greymouth where Tarcie and Billy Heffernan live. Tarcie is an old friend, Billy a new one, and they both want letter friends, although Tarcie has some already. (Tarcie, you'll forgive us for not putting all your letter in this time again, because you know we love you just the same. How are you getting on with your letter mates? Some day I'll manage to get room for a list of members. Billy, welcome, sorry I've no

birthday mate for you, I'll ask if there is one whose name has not been sent in.—Anne. P.S. Is there a mate for Billy Heffernan, whose birthday is on 16th September?—Anne.)

Where's Geraldine? We've got to find Cissy Davis's home here, and Johnny writes too in the same letter. Cissy's birthday is on 20th September, and she wants a name for kitten. (You've got two birthday mates Cissy: Molly O'Reilly, Bonnie Glen, Pongakawa; and Kathleen McCormack, Cronadun, Reefton. I think "Dainty" would be a pretty name for the kitten. Love to Johnny.—Anne.)

Monica Gresham too writes from here, telling how pleased she is to have a letter friend. She has a dear little baby sister. (Yours is a cheerful letter Monica, are you still writing to Cathleen and getting letters from her? I hope all my letter friends will meet each other some day, and become real friends. How is Baby?—Anne.)

On to Hyde, to Filly Burn, where our Little People Rosa, Katie, Mary, and Frank Kinney live. Such nice letters they all write. Mary tells me she has three letter mates. Katie wants one, her birthday is on 20th October. So does Rosa, whose birthday is on the 2nd October. And Frank wants someone to write to him. (Frank, I'm sure someone will write to you. Katie, your birthday is on the same date as Joy Brocherie's; she lives at Onuku, Akaroa. Rosa, you've no birthday mate, but Teresa Paterson, 42 Douglas Street, St. Kilda, Dunedin, whose birthday is on 15th November, has no mate either. Will you be friends?—Anne. Will someone please write to Frank Kinney?)

Now Hampden, to the Moeraki Estate, where Noel Morgan lives. Noel is nine years and has got a badge, as well as two brothers and two sisters. (Next time you'll write in INK won't you Noel? You were lucky to get a whole basketful of mushrooms. Hope you like your badge.—Anne.)

Happy Valley, where Eileen Sheehan lives, but where is it on the map I wonder? Is it North or South? (Eileen dear, you know by now that your badge came back to me after travelling all over New Zealand. Be sure you write again and give me your full address, and I'll send you the funny-looking envelope with all the postmarks on it.—Anne.)

Hawera, up in Taranaki, in the North Island, where Kathleen Pratt lives. Kathleen's birthday is on 25th June, and she has

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