

The Little People's Page

Conducted by Anne

My dear Little People.—

I must write only two or three words this time because I have such piles of letters that I must leave room for them. Would you believe that a dreadful thing is happening to some of our letters? Some of my little friends are not addressing their letters to me, and instead of getting nice fat letters all nicely sealed up in their own envelopes, I am getting some *already opened and read* by someone else. You know how disappointing that is, just like a second-hand letter. Now, Children, please address all your letters to "Anne," c/o *Tablet* Office, Dunedin. That is all, but that is my address. You will be pleased to see that our list is growing. Look at the names this week. I hope you will all send something, even if it is only sixpence. Do you know that I have had nearly 500 letters? Think how nice it would be if we could raise 500 sixpences even.—Anne.

TAKAPUNA ORPHANAGE FUND.

Previously acknowledged, £1 2s 6d: Kathleen Butler, 10s; Eily Butler, 10s; Joyce Nicholson, 5s; Frank O'Regan, 2s 6d; Edmund Lynch, 2s 6d; Zoe Howarth, 2s; Frances Orr, 1s 6d; Jessie Orr, 2s 6d; Frances Scott, 2. Total, £3 0s 6d.

Dear Anne.—This is my first letter to the *Tablet*. I live in a pretty little town called Port Chalmers. I go to St. Joseph's Convent School. I am in standard two, I am nine years old. We had a card party to get wood and coal for our school fires. We had some nice music and a lovely supper and then the evening came to a close. We just had our term examinations. Now dear Anne I must bring this letter to a close and hence to write a long one next time. Your new friend, Jessie Orr, Port Chalmers. (Think that was a fine idea for getting fishing. Are you fond of music?—Anne.)

Dear Anne.—This is my first letter to you. I live in a small Sea Port. My father is a fisherman, there are a great many fishermen here. We get the *Tablet* weekly. I like reading the Little People's Page. I will close now. Your new friend, Nancy Perry, Port Chalmers. (Nancy dear you must write in ink, not pencil. Will forgive you this time as it is your first letter.—Anne.)

Dear Anne.—I wonder if this is the first letter you have had from Hawera. My home is at Orakeho but I stay in Hawera and go to the convent school. I am eight years old and in standard I. Sister Martini teaches me and she is very nice. My cousin Jack Joyce has just started school and stays with us. We have good fun together. I hope you will have me for a little friend. I am sending you five shillings for the Takapuna Orphanage Fund. I hope you will have a lot of money for the orphanage. My mother's name is Anne. Love from Joyce Nielson, Hawera. (Thank you Joyce for your gift. Yes, I think you are my first Hawera friend. Give my love to your mother.—Anne.)

Dear Anne.—I am sending you 2s 6d for the "Little People's Orphanage Fund," because I would like to help to build a new home for the orphans. Since I wrote to you last I have been promoted to Std. III, and I like it fine. There are four in my class, and I am the only Catholic going to our school. I like the *Far East*; do you Anne? My aunt, Mother Clare, sends them to me every month. We live quite near Woodside Bush. It is nice there in summer, and a lot of people go there for picnics. We drive to Outram to Mass every fortnight. It is cold here now, snow on the hills, but the flood water is nearly all gone from the plain. Your little friend, Edmund Lynch, Woodside, West Taieri. P.S.—I am 7 years and 4 months old.

(Thank you for your donation Edmund; glad you are getting on well at school. Yes, I like the *Far East* very much.—Anne.)

Dear Anne.—For the Orphans—2s 6d enclosed. From Frank O'Regan, St. Bathans, Central Otago.

My dear Anne.—I was so pleased to see my letter in the *Tablet*, and Kathleen O'Reilly one of my mates at school told me, she saw it too. We had two half holidays and one whole day for the show; it was very wet and cold dear Anne, but such a lot of people went to it. I went with my two sisters, and we had a ride on the merry-go-round. My mummy is sick in the Hospital, and yesterday Daddy took my two sisters and myself to see her. I would like to join the Little People's Orphanage Fund, and I enclose two shillings toward the fund, dear Anne. Good-bye dear Anne, with best love from your little friend, Zoe Howarth, Palmerston North. P.S.—My answer to your sum is 119 sheep.

(Thank you Zoe for your donation. I hope your mother is better now. Your answer is wrong but if you watch you will see that someone guessed it right.—Anne.)

Dear Anne,—I was pleased you approved of my plan and I hope we collect a lovely surprise packet for the Bishop. Well Anne this is my donation to it. You will hear from me soon again with a surprise. Your friend, Henry Campbell, Albury.

(Thank you Henry for your donation, I put your name on the list last week as I knew you would come up trumps. Am terribly excited about the secret.—Anne.)

Dear Anne,—I would like to be one of your little friends. I will be ten years on the 29th of June. Don't you think I am a lucky girl to have the Sacred Heart and SS. Peter and Paul for my protectors. I am in Std. III. I play basket-ball at school. Last Tuesday we went to play against Fairlie we won by six points. I learn music and I like it very much. I just got a new piece, "Fairy Boating Song." I have three sisters and two cousins who always live with us, as their mothers is dead. The boy is at St. Bede's College, the girl is just six years old. One of my cousins just went to Sydney to be a nun. She will receive her Habit next Sunday. I am sending you 2s 6d for the Orphans. I worked hard for it, and I hope you will receive enough money from your little people to build the orphanage. I must close now dear Anne, with best wishes from your new friend, Jessie Orr, Waitohi.

(Thank you Jessie for your donation, we are getting on nicely but I hope a lot more children will go through their money boxes. How did you earn the half-crown?—Anne.)

Dear Anne.—It is a long time since I wrote to you so I think it is time I wrote again. I have also asked my sister to write to you this time. We have not been having very nice weather here lately. It is very cold to-day. With love from your little friend, Eily Butler, Waipawa. (Yes, it is ages since you wrote Eily, thank you for your donation. I thought the sun always shone in Hawke's Bay, fancy you being cold.—Anne.)

Dear Anne.—I thought I would like to join your L.P.P. I am eight years old and in standard 2. I go to the Wai-Koi-Koi school, about two miles from our place. There is no convent here. We have a farm at Pomahaka, 25 miles from Gore. My brother and I made our first Holy Communion last Sunday. We drive seven miles to church at Tapanui once a month. My brother and I are sending a little donation for the Orphan Fund. I think it is a good plan to send help for the little orphan boys. My birthday is on the fourteenth of February. I have two brothers and one sister. I will close now dear Anne, and say a prayer for me. Your little friend, Frances C. L. Scott, Pomahaka. (Thank you Frances for your donation. Pretty cold driving to church these mornings, isn't it?—Anne.)

Dear Anne.—This is my first letter to you. I would like to become a member of your "Little People's Page," as my sister and I take great interest in reading the letters. I am twelve years old and I am in standard five. I stay with my grandpa and auntie and I go to the Convent school. I have three sisters and two brothers. Dear Anne please find enclosed one pound towards the "Little People's Page"—ten shillings from my sister Eily, and ten shillings from myself. Your new friend, Kathleen Butler, Waipawa. (Glad to welcome you Kathleen, thank you for your gift. Do you like living in Waipawa?—Anne.)

Dear Anne.—This is my first letter to you. I live in Oxford and go to the Oxford School. I am 12 years old and I am in Std. 4. There is no Catholic school here so I have to go to a State School. My brother goes to St. Bede's College, Christchurch. He is 14 years old. I am very fond of animals. I have a pony called Comedy. I have also a goat named Billy, a couple of dogs and some cats. My father has a farm and I help him sometimes. I harness my goat up in a cart and you may have seen a photo of me and my goat-cart in the Christmas number of the *Sun*, at Christmas. We get the *Tablet* here and I like reading Anne's page. I also find it pleasant to read the smile-raisers at the back, and always rush to get the *Tablet*, when it comes, to read them. As this is the month of May I have an altar dedicated to "Our Lady" in my room. I want to become one of "Anne's Little Folk" and would like to see my letters to Anne in print. We had a mission here at Easter time. Well dear Anne I am afraid that I will be taking up too much space in the paper. I hope to be one of your good little folk and wish your page every success. Your new friend, Desmond Cook, Oxford. (No Desmond, I didn't see you and Billy in the *Sun*. Glad you want to join us and hope you will write again.—Anne.)

Dear Anne.—I have not written to you before, but I now desire to join your little band. I go to St. Patrick's Dominican Convent School, as you will see from the heading. I am 11 years of age and in Std. 5. We have a very nice library in our school, as Sister has just brought us some nice books. We may take a book every Friday evening after school. Recently we had a flood, but it was not as bad as that in Dunedin; some of the people took their carpets up, fearing the flood would reach their houses during the night. I am living with my auntie, as there is no school where my home is (Miller's Flat) and mother and father wish me to be educated at a Catholic School. Well dear Anne I will close, hoping to see this published soon. I remain, your little friend, May Sheehy, St. Patrick's School.

(Are you fond of reading May? I think you must be. You were lucky not to be flooded out as poor Dunedin was. Write again.—Anne.)

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