

52. That is evidenced in your letter?—Yes.
53. Have you been with Mrs. Branting since?—I met her not very long ago.
54. Have you the same feeling to-day for her?—Yes, because I wish to bear no ill feeling against the Matron.
55. In the letter which has just been read you say, "If all the girls turn out as well as I intend to, they will be a credit to you": Were you referring to the training during the last fortnight or the training you received there generally?—I was not only referring to the training, but I had made a firm resolve to be good and do well. I was not referring to the training I received at the Home.
56. You do not think the training you received there helped you to make that resolve?—I do not think it helped me very much.
57. What do you think has helped you?—I do not see much has helped.
58. But you are a better girl than when you went to Te Oranga?—Not at all.
59. Rightly or wrongly, you were charged with being an immoral girl when you went there?—Never.
60. Was that true or not?—Quite untrue. That is not one of my faults.
61. Then you were thieving before you went there?—Certainly.
62. You mean you are better now?—That taught me a lesson.
63. You do not tell lies now?—Certainly not.
64. You would not deceive anybody?—No, I would not.
65. Not under any circumstances?—No.
66. You are quite sure of that?—Yes.
67. This is a letter you wrote from Mrs. Bean's house on the 27th November. I will read a passage from it: "I went over to the Samaritan Home this afternoon, and the Matron and Miss Osborn asked me how I was getting on. I told them I was getting on, and felt much brighter. I, of course, have to deceive them. I went upstairs, and I was telling the girls what a hard place I had." What do you mean by that, if you would not deceive anybody?—I do not remember writing those words.
68. Did you try to deceive these people or did you not?—When I first went there I told Mrs. Bean myself I would never manage the work.
69. You said you would not tell lies, or would not deceive anybody, and I ask you how you reconcile that statement with what you said to these people about two months ago?—[No answer.]
70. You cannot account for that?—[No answer.]
71. Whom have you seen about this case besides Mrs. Bean?—I saw the Rev. Mr. Fendall.
72. In what part of the house did you see Mr. Fendall?—In Mr. Bean's dining-room.
73. Who asked you to go in and see him?—Nobody; I was clearing the table.
74. And what happened?—I told the Rev. Fendall. I thought it was only my duty to do so.
75. Did any one ask you to tell him?—Certainly not.
76. You were a servant in the house, and he was a guest in the dining-room, and you suddenly thought of telling him what?—Of the flogging and hair-cutting that was going on at Te Oranga.
77. Why?—Because my heart went out to the poor girls when I left there. I had had somebody to help me in my trouble, and I thought I would do what I could.
78. How did you think Mr. Fendall could help you?—I thought his position could help. I would have told Mr. Bean the same, but I knew he had had enough trouble.
79. You told Mr. Fendall with a view to giving the matter publicity?—No; I thought he would do something to have it stopped.
80. You never had but one strapping?—Yes, over two years ago.
81. There are fifty or sixty girls at Te Oranga?—Yes.
82. Can you tell me how many were strapped when you were there?—A good few.
83. Would you be astonished to know that only about half a dozen girls have been strapped at all?—I should think more than that.
84. Can you think of any more?—I know four girls were strapped in the fortnight I was back from the Samaritan Home.
85. What for?—I think, for trying to abscond. Five, including myself, were strapped the week I was.
86. Who else have you seen besides the Rev. Mr. Fendall?—Mr. Fountain?—Yes. I visited Mr. Fountain's house.
87. How did you come to go there?—I had my teeth done there, and I knew Mrs. Fountain.
88. You told him all about it?—Certainly I did.
89. You have seen Mr. Salter?—Yes, once.
90. Any one else?—Nobody else.
91. No reporters?—No.
92. Your complaints are, first, about the tree-cutting—that that was very hard work?—Yes.
93. How many trees did you help to cut down?—Three or, at the outside, four.
94. In the twelve months?—Yes.
95. Were you working at tree-cutting all the time?—No.
96. How many months were you tree-cutting out of the twelve?—We would work a day, and then be three or four days off.
97. How many girls were cutting them down?—Generally three or four at the cutting-down.
98. And the others doing what?—Other work until the rope was on the tree. Then all would help to pull it down.
99. Is it not a fact that the girls as a whole rather like the tree-pulling business?—Some may.
100. Did they not scream with laughter when doing this?—I never heard them. They would squeal and run away as the tree came down.