

school. If so, you might advantageously study the following sample: 'Dear Sister.—Please excuse Frank staying home. He had the measles to oblige his father.' There is nothing like an obedient child. The third example is for the sake of young men who have to explain some apparent coldness which has fallen under the afflicted notice of their best beloved. This letter was (it is averred) found among the papers of a young lady who died in Auckland last year with the flowers that bloom in the spring: 'Dear May,—The reason I didn't laff when you laft at me yesterday was a bile on my face. I kant laff, but you know I love you. P.S. Burn this up.' The postscript accounts for the letter having been found after the girl's death.

An Hour's Exploits.

Some poet, in a moment of distraction, remarked that 'a babe in a house is a well-spring of pleasure.' I showed a couple of weeks ago that a church is not a 'house' within the meaning of the Act, and that a babe in a church is about the nearest approach to a bull in a china-shop that most people can afford. It appears now that even in a house a babe is not by any means that particular kind of 'spring' mentioned by the poet, or, for the matter of that any other kind of spring—except, perhaps, a spring mattress afflicted with St. Vitus's dance. Here is a list of performances of 'mummy's ickle poppsy-woppsy' while 'mummy' was away at Mass and 'unkey' was in charge:—

Yelled fifteen minutes without taking breath, and looked quite fresh after it.

Pulled out enough hair and whiskers from uncle's head to stuff a pillow.

Swallowed six buttons—mostly bone—and afterwards discovered that a reel of cotton wasn't good eating.

Turned out his mother's work-basket into the fireplace.

Tried to squeeze the head of the cat into a pannikin, and got badly scratched in the attempt.

Endeavored to drive a nail into the fender with the head of a wax doll that cost two guineas.

Broke two panes of window-glass with a walking-stick which his uncle let him have.

Wanted to crawl into something, and, because he had a white dress on, chose the coal-scuttle.

Set fire to the carpet while his uncle was out of the room hunting up something to amuse him.

Discovered a way of twisting himself around the rungs of a chair so that the chair had to be broken to release him.

Emptied a jug of milk into his mother's best shoes, then threw the jug at the lamp. He missed the lamp.

Finally, when he saw his mother coming, he tumbled off the front steps, tore a hole a foot square in his dress, and left a portion of the skin of his nose on the asphalt.

He wouldn't have done half as much as that in church. I now know why mothers bring their babies to Mass with them on Sundays. It is a sheer matter of economy.

Quips

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL

A WEEK'S mission (says the *Southern Standard*) was opened in the Gore Catholic church on Sunday, when there were crowded congregations. The Very Rev. Father Boyle and the Rev. Father Henry are conducting the mission.

M. EDOUARD GLASSER, French Government Inspector of Mines, arrived in the Colony from Sydney some days ago to study, on behalf of the French Government, the application of our labor laws in regard to the mining industry. He is visiting all the principal mining centres of the Colony.

WE (*Temuka Leader*) were pleased to note the following local names in the list of passes for the Civil Service examinations:—T. H. Knight, St. Joseph's School, Temuka; and M. O'Brien (Temuka), St. Patrick's College, Wellington.

THE advantages of close settlement (says the *Wairarapa Star*) are strongly illustrated in the recently-acquired Mangatoro Block. Formerly, at the most, 11 people lived on the estate; now one section has a family of 11. What the other 82 sections will carry in human beings is variously estimated at from 50 to 60 for a start.

THE Government had acquired 41 blocks of land for settlement purposes during the three years ended March 31, 1901. The total area was 252,036a 1r 29p. Six estates, with an area of 29,041a 0r 10p, were purchased in Auckland; two, with an area of 27,482a 3r 19p, in Hawke's Bay; eight, with an area of 15,721a 0r 10p, in Wellington; two, with an area of 41,760a, in Marlborough; 16, with an area of 103,134a 0r 39p, in Canterbury; one, with an area of 4243a 3r 28p, in Nelson; and six, with an area of 30,653a 1r 3p, in Otago.

SIR MAURICE O'ROBKE mentioned at a meeting of the University Senate that during the 30 years in which the University of New Zealand had been in existence only two candidates had

attained the degree of Bachelor of Music. Professor Thomas (Auckland) said the reason there were so few applicants was that persons who went into music did not seek a degree. In the year 1900 only two degrees of B. Mus. were granted by the University of Cambridge, although the total number of degrees was roughly, 1000.

MR HUMPHREY BERKELEY, of Fiji, had an interview with the Premier a few days ago on matters connected with the Fijians, the result of which is that Mr Berkeley has decided to proceed to England with Mr Seddon to place before the Imperial authorities the condition of the Fijians. Mr Berkeley asserts that the Fijians are in a state of absolute vassalage, and at the suggestion of the Premier he has decided to lecture throughout the Colony on the condition of slavery and oppression under which the natives of the islands are suffering.

ACCORDING to Mr. Donne, of the Government Tourist Department, Rotorua has this season attracted more visitors than ever known before. The electric light installation there has been most successful, and is, he thinks, going to prove a good investment, quite apart from the illumination of the Government buildings and the sanatorium grounds. The electric light is now being installed in the Grand Hotel at Rotorua. Visitors from all parts of the world have this season flocked into the Hot Lakes district. The Government gardens at the present time are said to be a perfect picture.

A BIG demonstration organised by the Christchurch Trades and Labor Council against trusts and combines was held in Cathedral square on Saturday night. It took the shape of a very unanimous gathering of the workers, and speeches were made by the movers of the various resolutions. The meeting protested against the necessities of life being monopolised by private individuals for the purpose of securing for themselves an unfair share of the wealth of the community, and resolved that the Government should be urged to introduce a Food Trust Bill at the beginning of next session, and that, in view of the failure of legislation in other countries to deal effectually with similar trusts, the proposed Bill should provide for the State taking over and controlling any such trust that may be formed.

DURING the next month (says the *New Zealand Times*) about 50,000 acres of land will be offered for selection at Kawahia, halfway between New Plymouth, and Onehunga. Kawahia is a splendid harbor, and offers a capital place for shipping. The land, which is covered in places with fern, manuka, and heavy timber, is tolerably rough, but good grazing country. It is well watered, not too elevated, enjoys a capital climate, and although designated second-class land, will carry from two to four sheep to the acre. The sections vary from 200 to 1600 acres, and they will be offered for cash or license, with right of purchase or lease in perpetuity. There is likely to be a scramble for the land, as the price is extremely low. About a month later some 80,000 acres in the same neighborhood will be offered for selection. This will constitute all the best country in this portion of the North Island.

THE retirement shortly of Inspectors Pardy (Dunedin) and Pender (Wellington) has given an opportunity for promotions in the police service. Inspector O'Brien, of Napier, will succeed Inspector Pardy at Dunedin, Inspector Ellison, of Christchurch, will take the place of Inspector Pender at Wellington, while Inspector Gillies, of Wanganui, has been appointed to Christchurch in succession to Inspector Ellison. Sub-inspector Kiely, of Dunedin, has been promoted to be inspector, and takes charge at Wanganui. Sub-inspector Macdonnell, of Greymouth, is also promoted to be an inspector, and takes charge of the Hawke's Bay district. He will be succeeded at Greymouth by Sub-inspector Wilson, of Wellington. The new sub-inspectors are Sergeant Dwyer, of Wanganui, who will succeed Mr. Kiely at Dunedin, and Sergeant O'Donovan, at present in charge of the probationary class at Wellington, who will be stationed at Wellington.

Master Timothy Francis Ryan, son of Mr. W. Ryan, Palmerston North, took first place in the competition for the St. Patrick's College scholarships. Apropos of the success of Master Ryan, the *Manawatu Standard* has the following: It must be satisfactory to the Sisters of Mercy at the Palmerston Convent to know that the first competitor, Master Ryan, has never attended any school but theirs, affording another proof that women are capable of giving thorough instruction in the higher branches of education. The second boy, Master Casey, of Wellington, attends the Marist Brothers' School there, and comes of a clever family. His brother has already won a similar scholarship, and his sister topped the list recently for the Colony in the Civil Service examination. It is rather a coincidence that the maiden name of the late Mrs. Ryan was Casey, although she was no relation to the boy who was second to her son.

MESSRS WOOD BROS., of Christchurch, sent a representative some time ago to South Africa to inquire into the possibilities of trade with this Colony. He has just returned from his trip, and speaks very hopefully of the prospects of opening up markets in South Africa for New Zealand produce. He points out that though Cape Colony, Orange River Colony, and, more particularly, the part known as the conquered territory, the Transvaal and parts of Natal contain land suitable for agricultural and pastoral pursuits, these districts are most precarious on account of the seasons, insect pests, and stock diseases. As the minds of all are centred in the development of the Rand, he thinks it is highly probable that the possibility of doing something big in a short time will prove more attractive than steadily plodding at farming for some considerable time. South Africa will require to make large imports of every agricultural product—oats, barley, flour, bran, oatmeal, potatoes, onions, butter, cheese, poultry, frozen and tinned meats, eggs, and fruit; also timber, boots and shoes, and woollen goods.