

My Lady's Bower.

By ALMA.

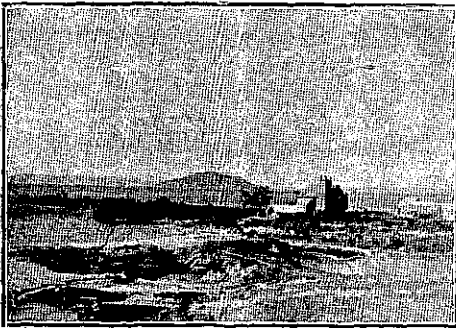
Lady readers are invited to discuss current topics in these pages, suggest subjects for discussion, and also to contribute photographic studies on any subject of interest. Contributions should be addressed: "Editor My Lady's Bower, New Zealand Illustrated Magazine," and should arrive early in the month. In all cases where stamps are enclosed for the purpose photos will be returned.

FREE SECONDARY EDUCATION.

IF anything concerns the women of New Zealand, the question now before the public of the colony certainly does. It is a question of paramount importance to the mother who has ambitions for her children, and who yet finds herself unable to realize those dreams. If, as he intends to try, Mr Seddon finds himself successful in carrying through his scheme for free secondary education, he will have earned the gratitude of every good mother in the colony.

case, that opportunities may be put in the way of her boys and girls, is a natural ambition of the mother.

Now, it very often happens that, while deeply impressed with the advantages of a thorough school education, the head of the family cannot easily see her way clear to carry out her desires. The other children have to be fed and clothed, and fees at a High School for the eldest become, in many cases, an impossibility. Or again, in the ordinary family, ages are so close that even if the fees for one child



Nettie Trewheellar, Photo.
Old Mission Church, Rotorua.



Nettie Trewheellar, Photo.
Carved Maori House at Whakarewarewa.

It is an inborn instinct that the parent shall deny herself in order that her children may have all possible advantages. Whether this is altruism or selfishness is not quite decided. Granting the former—it is yet a matter of more than doubt whether self-sacrifice on the part of the mother is altogether for the good of the children. But, in any

can be squeezed from the family income, another child has passed his standards at a primary school, and there is not enough to pay for his secondary education. He must either wait or seek employment. And it is rarely the case that, having once left school, a boy or girl will ever again seriously become fond of study.