

Q. "I wish to deposit \$50 in a bank; state fully the steps to be taken."

First get your \$50, no doubt; then take steps—to the bank!

In the arithmetic paper for third class certificates in 1895, three questions out of ten are the merest sums in addition, and the most difficult problems are one in multiplication and one in division. For fear that no third class candidate could solve these brain searchers, precisely the same sums, figure for figure, are repeated in the paper for the second class certificates! I wonder if anyone passed?

If it be absurd, as Mr. Wade seems to think it is, to ask in agriculture:

"How are cabbages and melons cultivated?" (15)

then I ask him why are questions put, under the present system, like this:

Q. "Describe the nature of mushrooms."

Mr. Wade makes light of questions relating to Bible history. The history of David, of Joseph, of Job, of Abraham, of Noah, of Solomon, are all objected to (15, 16). The following questions, however (set under the present system), are, I presume quite justifiable.

Q. "Write an essay on the manor house of Tully Veolan."

Q. "Write an essay on the character of Flora MacIvor."

Q. "Write an essay on Hayraddin the Herald."

Q. "Sketch briefly the character of Mr. Ephraim Jenkinson; or give a short account of the travels of Mr. George Primrose."

Q. "Write an essay on the Unwin Household."

Q. "Describe Christmas Eve at Scroog's office, using the following topics:—(a) the weather, (b) the cold office," &c.

Q. "Write an essay on Frank Lavender's Aunt."

Mr. Wade would select as subjects for study, not David, but Mr. Ephraim Jenkinson; not Joseph, but Mr. George Primrose; not Job, but the Unwin Household; not Abraham, but Scroog, and his cold office; not Solomon, but Frank Lavender's Aunt; not Jesus, but Barabas! Well, to some extent, it is a matter of taste.

### Challenge to Mr. Armour, Q.C.

Some time ago, in reply to Mr. E. D. Armour, Q.C., who cited some of the old questions that Mr. Wade has reprinted, I wrote to *The Week* as follows: