

The following is the extract sent by our correspondent :—"I object to the present education in the Board schools on two grounds. In the first place I think it bad, and in the next expensive." This was the emphatic declaration of Dean Gregory, at a meeting held in support of Mr. W. H. Kidson's candidature for West Lambeth. He considered it bad because it did not answer the purpose for which it was intended. Recently he was saying to a leading banker that he would like to recommend him some clerks, whereupon came the reply : "If you can find me boys who can write I shall be only too happy to employ them. We experience the greatest difficulty in getting clerks who can write a respectable hand." This circumstance in itself, in the opinion of the Dean, was a sufficient condemnation of the Board school system ; for, he said, the pupils are now very often taught advanced subjects which they cannot master in the time they are there, instead of receiving a sound rudimentary training which would prove useful to them in after years. Following up the remarks of Canon Gregory, a head clerk wrote as follows to the *Daily Telegraph* :—"I have had three boys under me "educated" in Board schools, and can fully corroborate the remarks about their writing. One did not know the capitals of England, Scotland and Ireland. Another, having to write the word "spinster," and being asked what he thought it meant, replied, "Something to do with machinery." Another spells Philpot-lane with "F," and "wrapper" without the "w," and says that Toronto is in Africa. And this is the sort of education for which we have to pay. Your readers may think that I am joking, but I can assure you the above statements are facts. A day after the publication the *Daily Telegraph* had to eat humble pie, and expressed itself as follows :—" 'Head Clerk,' whose letter on the above subject was published in these columns, has a great deal to answer for. His allegations against the standard of juvenile intelligence, as developed by the Board School training, has brought upon us innumerable letters of expostulation, complaint, apology, confirmation, denial, indignation, irony, and ridicule, both from those who apparently are and those who obviously are not acquainted with the subject with which they deal ; while one ingenious correspondent has taken the opportunity of sending us a large selection of specimens of hand writing, executed by his scholars of all ages and standards, in what he calls "an ordinary Board School." If his modest description of his establishment can be taken as literally correct, the handwriting of boys has been cruelly maligned." We do not know (adds the *Telegraph*) what might be the judgment of an expert in caligraphy, but to an untutored eye the happy scholars of Standard II. can describe Ramsgate and Margate as well as their parents, and probably with much better penmanship, while at the age of ten and twelve they can depict the vice of sloth with a graphic skill which ought to be a perennial rebuke to our flaccid age. Another Board School master actually proposed to his class the questions which proved to be such sad stumbling-blocks to