

us, with all its associations of unworthy manœuvring to combine the maximum of money with the minimum of education, both that we may the better appreciate our deliverance from such a state of real degradation (for it was nothing else), and be led to watch more anxiously any efforts, if haply such should be made, to check and turn back the upward movement which the new School Law has so happily initiated. In connection with this low standard—parsing a single sentence in English being practically the only test—we may mention one fact that shows, amongst many others, how terribly, in the days of which we are speaking, things were unhinged, and out of course. As soon as the new School Act became law, the Inspector received instructions from the Department to apply with greater strictness the old method and standard, until they should be superseded by the new. Just one change was made, but that was found all-sufficient: the parsing, instead of being given orally, was exacted in writing. The effect was most remarkable. About one-half of the candidates presented to the Inspector as fit subjects for High School tuition were found, to a lamentable extent, incapable of spelling correctly in writing—whatever