

Instead of the present machinery for registering Voters, there should be established in each town and county a Board, or where that is insufficient, a number of Boards, consisting of three or five Members, chosen in such a manner as to guarantee, as near as may be, absolute impartiality in the exercise of their functions. It would be the duty of these Boards, during a certain period of each year, to receive the application of every person wishing to be placed on the roll—to take evidence of his age, residence, and legal capacity—and to examine whether he possessed the requisite amount of knowledge to entitle him to the elective franchise.

For the purposes of this examination, a fixed and invariable standard of intellectual attainment would obviously be required, as it would lead to great irregularity, and give room for gross partiality, were the Boards allowed to determine arbitrarily, in every given case, the amount of information necessary to constitute a valid claim. I admit freely that the choice of a standard is attended with some difficulty; but I do not by any means think either that it is impracticable, or that the obstacles are such as may not be easily overcome. The following has occurred to me, and I give it not as the best that could be devised, but as one to which there could be no very serious objections urged:—

1. The claimant should be made to write out, *in presence of the Board*, a legible and intelligible application for his right of suffrage.

2. He should be made to read, *ad aperturam*, any portion or portions of certain books in the English language, com-