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**Clarke, Henry (1745-1818)**  
***The School Candidates* (1788)**

CANT V

Our aerial travellers having now well fortified the inward man; and every necessary preparation made for the ELECTION, -- Hugo conspicuously elevated in the President's chair, with Epistomen at his elbow, and the principal Boudinnoirs seated around the room; a large table in the middle, furnished with the terrific instruments of examinations,--Grammars, Dictionaries, Lexicons, and various authors in both the dead and living languages, slates, pencils, pen-knives, writing-paper, rulers, quills, ink, 6c. and a chief of the Boudinnoirs seated beside it, having before him a heap of specimens, testimonials, and credentials,--it was unanimously agreed that the examination should commence with Pantagriskin.

Pantagriskin's Examination.

This Candidate being called in, Hugo thus accosts him,--“Well, Sir, from your testimonials I find, your qualifications are – Reading, writing, Arithmetic, and Merchants' Accounts, -- the most essential parts of education indeed, and what are chiefly necessary in the common concerns in life. You have no objection, I suppose, Mr. Pantagriskin, to undergo a slight examination in these branches?” To which he immediately replied, -- “Now not I, -- but con tee xamin me, dost think? I'd had tee t'no, tat I've tow't a skoo before teaw tid.” – customary and requisite, in such affairs as these, for every candidate to be examined, let his abilities be ever so well known, that it may appear there is no partiality or savour shewn.” – “Tats reet, replied Pantagriskin, -- lets hear then wot tee con saigh to me?” Hugo immediately gives him this sentence,-- Honesty is the worst Policy, desiring him to shew what part of speech each word is of, and to correct it, if necessary. “Correct dost saigh, replies Pantagriskin, -- Why mon its reet, it needs noan; teaw thinks I connaw see I reckon. And as toth parts od speech, I know a neawn and a varb, I think, as well as tee e'ry bit,” – “You are, without doubt, an excellent Grammarian,” replies Hugo. Pantagriskin immediately returns, “Why rot it mon, teaw need naw sneer, -- dosto think eh dunnaw know English, when o[?] I've larnt Greek. – and when ot et tow'r skoo, I've for being a Pearson, but as eh thow't Tread wur better.” – “I suppose, says Hugo, you are pretty conversant in Arithmetic? – “Yigh, yigh, replies Pantagriskin, tat I am mon, -- I've larnt Algebra, and speerical trigonometry till ot eh coom to'th plaguy [?] parts, rot em, they'd lik'nt t'a turnt me brean. Teaw need'nt, heaw'eer, ax me ony question in 'rathmatic, I'll upow't tee.” – “And in Book-keeping, says Hugo, you are pretty ready, Sir, I suppose?” – “Aye, Aye, mon, replies Pantagriskin, there's noan con be[??] me at tat. – I con mon tat, either at single or souble entry. When I're a book-keeper, I newer wus once masker'd with caw't or happen'd i'th way o tread.”—“Well, says Hugo, pray Sir, tell me how I am to journalize this entry, -- Bought a quantity of goods, value one hundred and fifty pounds, for which I pay down in parts five shillings, and the rest as eighteen months?” – “Why, answers Pantagriskin, as to tat, -- tat, teaw sees, -- tat, is just as foak tean it.—‘Sblood, - how my measter used to saigh, heaw reddy! I wur i'th books, and tat I're best book-



The Salamanca Corpus: *The School Candidates* (1788)

keeper that ewer he had in his life; and he'd had monny o one, I'll upowt tee." – "Well, Mr. Pantagriskin, return Hugo, your abilities are indeed very great; you many now retire, as our time is but short; you will know in the end our determination."

