

primrose does not open till evening, and hence comes its name. The flower named four-o'clock opens at that hour in the afternoon. There is a flower commonly called Go-to-bed-at-noon, that always opens in the morning and shuts up at noon.—*Central Methodist*.

SELECTIONS.

THE day is at hand when four-fifths of the human race will trace its pedigree to English forefathers, as four-fifths of the white people in the United States trace their pedigree to-day. The race thus spread over both hemispheres, and from the rising to the setting sun, will not fail to keep that sovereignty of the sea and that commercial supremacy which it began to acquire when England first stretched its arm across the Atlantic to the shores of Virginia and Massachusetts. The language spoken by these great communities will not be sundered into dialects like the language of the ancient Romans, but perpetual intercommunication and the universal habit of reading and writing will preserve its integrity, and the world's business will be transacted by English-speaking people to so great an extent that whatever language any man may have learned in his infancy, he will find it necessary sooner or later to learn to express his thoughts in English. And in this way it is by no means improbable that, as Jacob Grimm long since predicted, the language of Shakespeare will ultimately become the language of mankind.—*John Fiske*.

THE recommendation with reference to the adoption of a universal day has already been acted upon at the Greenwich Observatory, which began on the first day of this year to reckon time by this system. The universal day begins throughout the world at midnight of the Greenwich meridian, and the hours are counted consecutively from one to twenty-four, so that the time-honored abbreviations of A.M. and P.M. are rendered superfluous. This change will spread gradually to local times as well; in fact, the same system has been in use on the Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railway since December, 1883, the