

Our first point may appear surprising to people who have never thought of it; but its truth is indisputable. The Russian empire, with its eighty millions of population, will at once come to the minds of most people in the way of objection. But it must be remembered that the Russian language is not by any means the speech of the whole of the Czar's subjects. In all the vast Asiatic provinces of Russia, from those in the far North to Georgia in the Southern Caucasus, Asiatic languages predominate; and if, besides these, we should preclude the Polish and some other provinces, it will be found that the Russian tongue proper was not spoken by more people than one-half of the population of the empire. The English is spoken by one-third more people than speak German, including the Germanic population of Austria. It is spoken by twice as many as speak French, and by nearly twice as many as speak Spanish, including those of the Spanish-American States. Of course the language of none of the other European countries from Norway and Holland to Italy and Turkey, can be compared with it in this respect. We must go to the Asiatic continent, among the Chinese and Hindoos, to find another language spoken by as many men as speak the English to-day.

Our second point only requires us to mention the British kingdom and the American republic as the two English-speaking powers. German, beside being the language of the German empire, is spoken by a part of the population of Austria; but it is only one of the score of Austrian languages, and is of less consequence than the Hungarian, the Czech, and several others. Spanish is spoken by one second-class European power, and it has a foothold in Mexico, and in half a dozen petty States of Central and South America. French, beside being the language of France, prevails extensively in Belgium. But these facts furnish no exception to the statement that English is the only language that is, at this time, the speech of the civilized world. We say nothing here of the fact that it is also the speech of numerous British Colonies, from the New Dominion and the West Indies to Australia and South Africa.

The third point which refers to the result that will ensue from another hundred years' growth of our language equal to that of the past hundred years, is not a pure piece of exaggeration or sensationalism. We offer no opinion as to its future career; for we are aware that if there are reasons for believing in, there are other reasons for doubting, the continuance of the extraordinary rapidity of its growth. But of the result of such continuance, during the period of time indicated, there is no doubt. A century ago, the English language was spoken, we may say, by about ten millions of mankind,—seven in Great Britain, and three in the American colonies. To-day, it is spoken we may say, by nearly a hundred millions,—thirty-two in the British Isles, forty in the United States, three in the New Dominion, two in the Australian colonies, one in the West Indies, one in the African colonies, four or five millions in the East Indies and other parts of Asia (including the natives who have acquired it), and several millions in other possessions, or in commercial parts of the globe, which numbers, added to some others that might be indicated, will run up its numerical volume to somewhat near a hundred millions. It is evident, therefore, that if this language, which, in the days of our great-grandfathers was the speech of but a few million British Islanders and British American colonists, were to move for the next with any such sweep as it has moved for the past hundred years, if, in that period, it should multiply its speakers more than ten times, it must then be spoken by a population not far short of the ten or twelve hundred millions that now inhabit the world.

*Astronomical Science*.—*New Survey of the Northern Celestial Hemisphere*.—We learn from the *Revue Scientifique*, of Paris, that a new survey of the northern celestial hemisphere is in course of execution by the astronomers of the present day. The first was performed by the celebrated Lalande from 1785 to 1798; the Sicilian Piazzi came next; Bessel revised Lalande's catalogue of stars in 1821, and finished his labours in 1833; Argelander, aided by Schoemeld and Krueger, undertook the observation of all the stars visible at Bonn, and not below the tenth magnitude. This enormous work, comprising 342,127 stars lying between the North Pole and the second degree of south latitude, was finished in 1863. Both such surveys must be renewed at intervals; mistakes may have slipped in, omissions may have to be supplied and certain stars supposed to be fixed, may turn out to be planetary in some other system than our solar one.

A new revision has therefore been commenced under the auspices of the German Astronomical Society, and fourteen

observatories have responded to the appeal, viz, Pultowa, Dorpat, Kazant, Helsingfors, Bonn, Leyden, Cambridge, Leipzig, Neuchatel, Mannheim, Berlin, Christiana, Chicago, Cambridge, United States, and Palermo. That of Pultowa, Russia, has undertaken the observation of the 529 fundamental stars considered necessary for the new catalogue. At Dorpat, Russia, M. Schwartz has assumed the survey of the zone lying between the 70th and 75th degrees north declination; it contains 6,777 stars. At Helsingfors, Russia, MM. Krueger, Fabritius and Levoennen are engaged in revising the zone 50-05 degrees north declination, at Bonn, MM. Thiele and Schoenfeld have assumed the same task for 40-50 degrees; at Leyden, M. Kaiser does the 30-35 degrees; at Harvard College, Cambridge, United States, Mr. J. Winlock has chosen the 50-55; the Observatory of Trinity, Cambridge, takes the 30-45; at Leipzig, M. Bruhus surveys the 10-15; at Neuchatel, M. Hirsén observes the 20-40; at Berlin, M. Anwers sweeps the 14-25 zone; at Christiana, Norway, Mr. C. Fearnley performs the same task as M. Schwartz at Dorpat; the 75-80 is done at Kazan by M. Kowoisly. All the zones hitherto named may be considered in their last stage of completion. The following are less advanced:—Mannheim, M. Schoenfeld, the 4-10 zone; Palermo, M. Cacciatore, that lying between 1 degree north declination and 2 degree south declination; lastly, M. Safford Chicago had observed 9,300 stars of the 35-40 zone northern declination, when the terrible fire of 1871 put a stop to his labours, and it is not to be foreseen when he may resume them in that city.

*Fifteen Follies*.—To think that the more a man eats, the fatter and stronger he will become.

To believe that the more hours children study at school, the faster they learn.

To conclude that if exercise is good for the health, the more violent and exhaustive it is the more good is done.

To act on the principle that the smallest room in the house is large enough to sleep in.

To argue that whatever remedy causes one to feel immediately better, is "good for" the system, without regard to more ulterior effects. The "soothing syrup," for example, does stop the cough of children, and does stop diarrhoea, only to cause a little later alarming convulsions, or the more fatal inflammation of the brain, or water on the brain; at least it always protracts the disease.

To commit an act which is felt in itself to be prejudicial, hoping that somehow or other it may be done in your case with impunity.

To advise another to take a remedy which you have not tried yourself, or without making special inquiry whether all the conditions are alike.

To eat without an appetite, or continue to eat after it has been satiated, merely to gratify the taste.

To eat a hearty supper, for the pleasure experienced during the brief time it is passing down the throat, at the expense of a whole night of disturbed sleep, and a weary waking in the morning.

To remove a portion of the clothing immediately after exercise, when the most stupid drayman in New-York knows that if he does not put a cover on his horse the moment he ceases work in winter, he will lose him in a few days by pneumonia.

To contend that because the dirtiest children in the street or on the highway are healthy, that therefore it is healthy to be dirty, forgetting that continuous exposure to the pure out-door air, in joyous, unrestrained activities, is such a powerful agency for health, that those who live thus are well, in spite of rags and filth.

To presume to repeat, later in life, without injury, the indiscretion, exposure and intemperances which in the flush of youth were practiced with impunity.

To believe that warm air is necessarily impure; or that pure cool air is necessarily more healthy than the confined air of a close and crowded vehicle. The latter at most can only cause fainting or nausea; while entering a conveyance after walking briskly, lowering a window, thus exposed to a draught will give a cold infallibly, or an attack of pleurisy or pneumonia, which will cause weeks and months of suffering, if not actual death within four days.

To "remember the Sabbath day" by working harder and later on Saturday than on any other day in the week, with a view to sleeping late next morning, and staying at home all day to rest, conscience quieted by the plea of not "feeling very well."—(*Journal of Health*.)