

was spoken by a large proportion of the learned men of the world, and partly because it was so largely derived from the Latin, and in close family relation to Italian and Spanish. But in our times British colonization and missionary enterprise are slowly, but on a vast scale, extending the use of the English tongue in every part of the world. Commercial enterprise and travel are now rendering the use of English necessary on all the great routes of travel; and it is being taught in France and Germany in many of the public schools.

The only languages which can compete for the first place in the race are the English, German and French. Taking the statistics of 1870, M. de Candolle gives the numbers which speak these three languages thus: French, 40½ millions; German, 62 millions; English, 77 millions. At present the showing would be still more favorable to English. But the more rapid increase of population of English-speaking countries gives a strong pledge of the ascendancy of the English language. Supposing the relative increase of the people of these three languages to continue from 1870 to 1970 at the same rate as in the past, the result would be in 1970: English, 860 millions; German, 124 millions; French, 69½ millions. That is, the German-speaking people would be one-seventh of the English-speaking, the French less than a twelfth. M. de Candolle has no partiality for the religion, or views of the English, yet he admits that such a spread of the English language will be in the interests of the race. But to all who look at the matter from an English and Protestant standpoint, the prospect is of great interest. Our scientific discoveries, our free institutions, our rich literature, our justice and morality, and, above all, our Christian faith, will be carried, through the spread of our language, to enrich and vivify every part of the world. The people who speak this language have a great destiny before them.
—*Selected.*

KNOWLEDGE and timber should not be much used until they are seasoned.