

A Universal Language.

WHAT an incalculable boon a universal language would be to the stamp and coin collector. With what ease he could reply to letters that are now but a source of annoyance!

That a universal language would be of great benefit to man in general, besides those interested in our study, no one will for a moment doubt. But can we ever expect such a thing to come to pass? Certainly *not in our time*; for it is impossible to *invent* a language that will be adopted by all nations. Volapuk has now had a fair trial. Has it been a success? *No*. It never will, never can be. Considerable interest is manifested in it and a large number will no doubt make a study of it, but it will gradually die out. Many will learn it, but as no one will attempt to speak it, how can we expect it to live?

A universal language must be the result of growth—must gradually spread itself over the globe, either by its superiority or by the immigrating propensity of the people who speak it. That it will be because of its superiority I doubt, but the other reason I firmly believe in.

When we give time to deep thought about the matter we cannot fail to see that the English language is fast spreading over the habitable world. The indications are that it will in time become universal. It is now spoken by over a quarter of the population of the globe, who occupy about one-fourth the dry land, and own nearly two-thirds of the tonnage of the ships. It is estimated that one-half the letters carried by the postal service of the world, are written, mailed and read by English-speaking populations; who live in all regions; handle all articles of trade; preach to all nations; own one-half of the gold and silver, and distribute more than two-thirds of the Bibles and Testaments. These figures speak for themselves.

I do not claim for the English language a superiority over other languages; although it is second to none. But the very nature and habits of the English

speaking race cannot help but lead a close observer to draw the above conclusion. They are always ready to enlighten, and being in continuous immigration to the most remote regions of the world, they are constantly adding converts to their tongue, and are laying the foundation of a language that will be of incalculable benefit to future generations.

J. R. FINDLAY.

Literature.

PERIODICALS RECEIVED:—Agassiz Companion, Agassiz Record, Badger State Philatelist, Charleston Philatelist, Collectors' Ledger, Common Sense, Curiosity World, Eastern Philatelist, Exchangers Monthly, Geologists' Gazette, Halifax Philatelist, International Collector, L'Echo de la Timbrologie, Le Courier du Timbrophile, Little Clipper, Mohawk Standard, National Philatelist, Ohio Philatelist, Old Curiosity Shop, Philatelic Advertiser, Philadelphia Philatelist, Philatelic Gazette, Philatelic World, Philatelic Journal of Ohio, Philo's Monthly, Plain Talk, Springfield Republican (Phil. Dept.), Stamp, Stamp Collector, Stamp Collectors' Figaro, Toronto Philatelic Journal, United States Philatelist,

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED:

Auction Catalogues from Messrs. Bogert, Casey, Scott.

Stamp exchange Circular, Stanley, Gibbons & Co.

Sixth Addendum to Priced Catalogue, Stanley, Gibbons & Co.

Townsend's American Stamp Collectors' Directory.

THE *Buckeye State Collector*, *Agassiz Record*, *Philatelic Herald*, *Witch City Philatelist*, and *Western Philatelist* have suspended publication.

THE *Charleston Philatelist* gives lots of advice to its contemporaries as to their appearance, etc., but continues to publish