

like manner, an easily recognized mark were assigned to every thing and notion, with some provision for inflections, we should have a much more easy and convenient language than any yet in being.

That suggestion, which was not, however, the one that the bishop ultimately carried out, was taken up in our own day by Don Simbaldo de Mas, envoy extraordinary from Spain to the Emperor of China, and developed in his "Idéographic." Therein he gives a list of 2600 figures, each of which has its own significance—the same sign being taken as noun, adjective, verb and adverb. (See "Science of Language," Vol. II Lecture 2). In the same connection may be mentioned the various attempts that have been made to compile a world alphabet, of which the most comprehensive and, perhaps, the latest is that of Prof. Melville Bell, an account of which is given in *Science*.

But of works of this kind, that which has undoubtedly attracted most attention is the Volapük, invented by Father Johann Martin Schleyer, of Constance, Baden, a treatise on which has been published by the firm of Hachette & Cie. An English translation, by W. A. Seret, has been published by Whitaker & Co., London, and Thomas Murray & Sons, Glasgow. A "Cours complet de Volapük," by A. Kerckhoffs, was also issued last year at Paris. It is sometimes called "the language of the world" as on the title page of the English translation, sometimes the "International commercial language," as in the title of an abridged grammar, by Karl Dornbusch, published by Hachette & Co., London, and W. Soudier, Paris.

How far it will make good its claim it is impossible to say, but it may be taken for granted that an invention which has won a large measure of approval from the scholars and business men of the three greatest nations of Europe cannot be altogether worthless, even if it should attain a success beyond what its most sanguine advocates may reasonably hope for it, there will still be occasion, for