

the love of education was on our lips but not in our hearts. He would be astounded that our Government, when it does control our schools, has in the past ignored expert opinion; and he would be likewise astonished that few headmasters, and still fewer governing bodies, have paid proper attention to the qualifications of those teachers on whom the whole work of education within our schools depends. Preceiving

that assistant masters in secondary schools enter their profession without preparatory training, and in the great majority of cases are expected to work under impossible conditions, both as regards labor and remuneration, he will search in vain for any signs of the influence of a new ideal productive of reform. And yet in our literature he will find expressed the noblest educational ideals which the world has conceived

THE TONGUES OF BABEL.

Never, perhaps, was the curse which fell upon man in the plain of Shinar more severely felt than it is to-day. The shrinkage of the world through the rapidity of transit and intercommunication, which brings India nearer to London than was Edinburgh formerly, and makes Paris a listener to the conversation of Piccadilly, accentuates in a manner hitherto unknown the disabilities of the confusion of tongues. The cynical definition of language as the means of concealing thought becomes strictly true when the diversities of speech are taken into account. In every country the remedy is being applied by increasing instruction in foreign languages, and the defects of our educational curriculum in this respect form the basis of a vigorous propaganda. The restoration of the primeval unity of speech by the instillation of a universal language constitutes the ideal solution of the question; but attempts in this direction, like most ideals, have proved splendid failures. Volapuk, or "world-speech," put forth twenty years

ago by M. Schleyer, of Constance, was excellent in idea and theory. It is based on the principal European languages, and comprises the familiar features of Teutonic and Romanic speech. Each letter has its distinctive sound, the vowels being practically the same as in French and the consonants as in English. Anomalous pronunciations, such as "dough," "rough," and "cough," are eliminated, and simplicity reigns. The grammatical vagaries of gender, conjugation, and number are excluded, and the words and sentences constructed simply and regularly. Having learnt the root-words of Volapuk all the rest is plain sailing, every plural being formed by the addition of "s," every verb, adjective, and adverb being conjugated and formed in a regular manner. "Puk" is a noun, meaning speech or language; by adding "on," the verb "to speak" is made; prefixing "vola," or world, "Volapuk," or "world-speech," is obtained. The Latin root "dol" is the Volapuk word "pain"; the addition of "ik" transforms it into