

is that in nearly all our schools the study of the two languages has come to be conducted simultaneously, thus giving striking evidence of the recognized co-importance of these two tongues. Philip Schaff, in his "Literature and Poetry," speaks of one of these competitors in this way, though there can hardly be said to be any competition between them, seeing the English are as eager to learn French as are the French to learn English; and no better evidence could be given of this than in our own province. "English," he says, "can never usurp all the language now spoken on the earth. Our many-sided humanity will never be content with one speech; the difference of language and dialect will last as long as the difference of nations, but the progress of humanity requires the preponderance of one language as a common medium of international intercourse and the connecting link between the various professions of the civilized world. In our age the English language is rapidly becoming the world language, and extends over a larger territory than any of its predecessors, with every prospect of a steady advancing for a long time to come. It is spoken by a greater number of civilized men than any other speech. Already it holds the balance of power among the tongues, and with its literature and science is circumnavigating the globe. It is methodical, the language of the modern age, and of the coming age of progressive intelligence and civilization." The plea is perhaps sound enough in view of the extent to which the English language is spoken, but in our opinion the so-called universal language will only be found in those communities where French and English are equally well understood.

—The burning of the Montreal High School is an event which has caused no little commotion among teachers all over the country. The suspicions, which have led to the arrest of four of the pupils, are of a nature which no teacher can look upon with equanimity. That lads can be so thoughtlessly revengeful is a phase of human depravity which fills the teacher's mind with distrust of those whom he has to train. In the newspaper reports of the occurrence a great deal of nonsense has been uttered. The plan on which the building was originally constructed has been animadverted upon; the character of the discipline and the unpopularity of some of the masters have been spoken of in an attempt to excuse the youthful incendiaries; but all this has nothing to do with the main issue. The boys have to be punished, and as a deterrent to others, if not as a means of reform in themselves, have to be punished severely. The dime novel has, as usual, come in for its share of