

more of Britain's greatest seats of learning. No wonder the people of his acquaintance wish him well.

But he was banqueted and flattered; and his alma mater fairly beamed upon him with pride; and professors and alumni exclaimed, "See what our college can do!" It has become the fashion in New Brunswick to banquet the winner of the Gilchrist Scholarship. What does it all mean?

A graduate of a Canadian college, who, though perhaps not considered unusually brilliant among his school-mates, has by his diligence maintained a good position in his classes, spends a large part of a year in preparing himself for the entrance examination of an English university. Only a half dozen students in all Canada this year have thought it worth their while to enter for the same examination. Probably all of these are graduates. Our friend gets the highest marks among the six, and for this probably deserves praise. Only two or three of the English competitors in this same examination stand higher than he on the list. But these competitors are not college graduates. The examination is for *entrance upon* a collegiate or university course. Why, then, should grave professors, doctors of law, legislators on the floor of the House, even the highest officials in the land, be willing, or even eager to do homage to the fortunate winner of this scholarship? Is it not, in the eyes of the onlookers, "just a little flat?"

Will not somebody found a scholarship or bursary that will enable the winner to take a year or two of advanced work, as a post-graduate course, at Leipsic, or Edinburg, or Harvard, or Toronto, or whatever university he may prefer? To come out first in an examination equivalent to that on which the degree of B. A. is awarded in England, would, if the number of competitors were considerable, merit a measure of praise. But if this glorification over Gilchrist scholars is to continue, we need not weep for the predicted withdrawal of the benefit from Canadian students, though several of our young fellow-countrymen have received large advantages from it.

DOMINE.

THE VOLAPUK LANGUAGE.

Seven years ago, says the *San Francisco Call*, a Catholic priest named Schleyer, a linguist of some celebrity in Germany, gave to the world as a result of a lifetime of study, what he termed a universal language, and named it Volapuk language (pronounced Wol-a-peek).

Volapuk is defined world's speech, from *vol*, meaning world, and *puk*, speech. The language consists

of the best of over twenty tongues, omitting their irregularities. The most is taken from the English language, the others being represented according to their importance. The pronunciation is arranged to be easy for all nations; the letter "R," therefore, is seldom used. If that letter is contained in English words when brought into Volapuk, it is changed to L. All the letters are English. The consonants are pronounced as in English, and the vowels like Spanish. Every word is spelt phonetically, there being no silent letters.

The rules of the Volapuk grammar have no exception. It even goes so far that plurals from the pronoun I (ob) are formed regularly by adding an s (obs), the same as with every noun. Adjectives and verbs can be formed from every noun by adding the syllables "ik" or "on." Certain syllables are used to save memorizing a large vocabulary; an instance is the syllable "le", which, when prefixed to any word, expresses the same general idea in a larger degree. House in Volapuk is "dom." The prefix gives the word "ledom," meaning palace. The syllable "lu" prefixed to a word denotes the same idea in a smaller sense, using the same example, "ludom" is cottage. These two syllables alone save memorizing of 100 words. Out of a classification of 900 words it is necessary to memorize but 302 syllables. Volapuk is so arranged that in translation all peculiarities are retained. To one unaccustomed to the sound of the language it seems strange, but its harmony grows upon the ear.

The whole grammar is contained in four small pages. Such grammars are printed yearly in twenty-five different languages.

When the language was first given to the world its advocates were mostly Germans. It subsequently came in great favor with the Dutch. Now in every large city throughout the world there are clubs, some very strong, devoted to the study of the language.

The thought of inventing a universal language was prompted by the difficulties experienced by German immigrants in America. The language is not designed to supersede any of the living ones, but to be a means of intercommunication between people having no common tongue.

Volapuk literature has assumed larger proportions, most of the classics in the principal ancient and modern languages having already been translated into it. A new dictionary of the language has just been issued in two books of 175 pages each. At present there are eight journals printed wholly or partly in the language, all of which are well supported by the adherents of Schleyer's novel tongue.