

of Rhodes and Tarsus; it was not of the quality that flamed from the halls of the Attic city. This beacon light shed her rays through Europe, into Asia and Africa. The rude barbarian saw and acknowledged her sway; it was in the halls of Plato and Aristotle the ambitious youth would study and complete his intellectual training.

Casting a quick glance at education in Rome, we find something approaching university education at the beginning of the second century after Christ. From Athens teachers flocked into the Capital of the Empire and carried with them Hellenic learning. Here was formed the Athenæum, much resembling in character the Alexandrian Museum, and intended for higher speculation. Chairs were endowed in all the branches of education; the trivium and quadrivium were the principal studies taught, and included a four years' course. In law, Rome held pre-eminence for a time, until Constantinople eclipsed her glory.

We are now able to trace a circle of influences. When the Hyksos were expelled from Egypt, they carried away with them the principles of Theban philosophy and science. Through this means the Phœnicians partook of the civilization of Egypt. Their fleets were in every bay, and thus their learning was transmitted to the Greeks. These in course of time instructed Rome and gave life and distinction to the Alexandrian School, and this in time had a reflex action upon the whole empire.

It is with considerable wonder we contemplate these centres of learning generated when history had just begun to dawn, and but faintly outlined in the mist of the shadowed past. Yet here were problems solved; here were theorems deduced; here were scientific points discussed, that to-day form milestones along the modern pathway of knowledge.

The University of to-day has not yet reached perfection. There is always room for improvement. Systems of teaching are far different from those in the schools two thousand years ago, and are continually changing; but who knows but that, when the universities of to-day are dead and forgotten, these *Almæ Matres* which kindly nourished the germs of early philosophical thought shall be held in high esteem. Their works were immortal.

I. E. B. '93.

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

Sir John Thompson, the leader of the Canadian House of Commons, is undoubtedly the greatest of living Canadian statesmen. Although his experience in his present political capacity has been comparatively short, yet he is the master mind of those able statesmen who figure so conspicuously in the arena of Canadian