

general principle and all his deductions therefrom. It is a recognized fact—if I understand them correctly—that our best schools, and particularly McMaster University, are already acting on these principles. The constant changes in the curricula of our own and other colleges, if carefully examined, will all be found to have been made upon these very principles. They are all based upon the latest “assured results of Psychology, Pedagogy and Experience.” Deduction No. 1 goes without saying; No. 2 if combined with the suggestions made in his 3rd group and with his 2nd closing recommendation, will be found to be exactly covered by McMaster’s system of specializing in the Arts department, a system which I believe might profitably be carried more largely into the Theological department.

His No. 3 I would place in the same class without hesitation, unless it is intended to mean more than it appears to mean. Our whole curriculum and our methods of instruction are calculated to make men stronger for future work. But I fear that I see under this principle apparently so clear and simple the cloven foot of the modern theory that the teaching of positive systems of truth will not develop the power of independent thought. With that I cannot agree. I believe that men may be trained to habits of investigation and power of independent thought just as well in the study of positive truth as in the pursuit of dark negations and speculative hypotheses.

No. 4, considered separately, to my thinking must be put in class 2—the impracticable and useless. The attempt to adjust education to environment is simply to try to train a man for all the subsequent changes in his life. The fact is—the best we can do for any man is to give him a training in general principles, and then his own common sense must adjust him to his environment, and without a good share of that, all the special training in the world would never make him a success.

In reference to his second general principle—I cannot see how it differs from the ground already covered. The last principle discussed has to do with the character of the field, and the first general principle looks towards the state of the society in which he is to moor. But let me say in reference to the difficulty suggested in deduction No. 2 under this 2nd principle—that if