

and thus it became largely ecclesiastical. Charlemagne was the first to organize what are now called schools, which were afterwards expanded into universities and colleges. The origin and primary application of these terms were described, as were some of the great teachers of the day, their methods and influence.

The modern period succeeded a period which the Middle Ages helped so largely to introduce. The causes that led to the renaissance were traced, and the condition of Europe as prepared for the great awakening was vividly described. The lecturer then proceeded to discuss the modern curriculum—what it was fifty years ago, what it is to-day as represented by McGill and Morrin, affiliated colleges of McGill University. The discussions between the humanists and utilitarians were considered their reciprocal influence, the compromise reached under which the colleges are working to-day. The value of the subjects as educative instruments and their adaptation to the wants of the times were dwelt upon at some length, as also the question relating to the extension of the faculties. (As there were present some members of the Council of Public Instruction and other educational dignitaries, the lecturer took occasion here to recommend the establishment of a Chair of Pedagogy for Morrin.) The higher education of to-day was a development of the past, one great principle had at all its stages been giving it form and colour, and that all the conflicts which had gathered around it did, like the storm, but clear the air to bring again the elements into harmony to minister to its growth. As in human history so in education

“Thro’ the ages one increasing purpose runs,
And the thoughts of men are widened with the process of the suns :

The relation between the higher education and the masses was then discussed. Several instances of direct benefit which flow from colleges to all classes were pointed out. Never in the history of the world had our industries received such a broad and substantial development as in the present age. Never had the globe been so girdled with highways of travel both by land and sea. Never till the present age could the electric current be used to flash intelligence across vast continents or under old ocean’s depths. All the forces of nature were being brought to the service of man. Every new application was lightening his labour, and the time seemed not distant when the drudge labourer would become the directors of machinery and controllers of the forces of nature.

These marvellous advances had been brought about by the