

exertions of Demetrius Phalareus, the productions of the most profound thinkers the world has seen. 400,000 rolls, comprising 90,000 works, gives some idea of the extent of this immense library, the just glory and pride of antiquity. The edifice itself was just outside the main city, an admirable site indeed for the "Studium Generale," founded by Ptolemy, the son of Lagus, who, on account of his valor and prowess in war, obtained possession of Egypt, with Lybia and a part of the neighbouring territories of Arabia. He had been educated at the court of the King of Macedonia, and coming into his possessions, soon won the esteem of his subjects by his clemency and public acts of kindness. Having established the school, this beneficent prince endowed professors in all the various branches of science and the liberal arts, and organized a society called the museum, for the express purpose of making philosophical and scientific researches. From every part of the Roman Empire; from the dark and gloomy north by the Baltic; from the hardy west by the Atlantic; from the ruddy and luxurious east by the River Tigris; and from the dusky south by the Lybian desert; came youth of all nationalities to partake of her treasured lore. There were at least fourteen thousand at times in attendance studying mathematics, medicine, natural history, astronomy, jurisprudence, and other branches of education. The University of Alexandria was definite in its teachings, practical, progressive and enduring. Her reputation and attraction were far reaching. It was a sufficient guarantee of the standing of any young doctor or lawyer, the fact that he had studied at Alexandria. Here we note the rise and progress of neo-Platonism, and here also its culmination, A. D., 200. The influence of this school on succeeding ages can scarcely be over-estimated. One writer has expressed it: "It gave to the works of Aristotle their wonderful duration; it imparted not only a Grecian celebrity, but led to their translation into Syriac by the Nestorians in the fifth century, and from the Syriac by the Arabs into their tongue. Four hundred years later they exercised a living influence over Christians and Mohammedans indifferently from Spain to Mesopotamia.

The principal rival of Alexandria, and that indeed which gave it tone and vigour, was Athens; but the organization of this school was far from being of a university character. Indeed what little organization there did exist was of a loose nature and for the most part voluntary. But about the time of the Christian era, both through public and private benefits, chairs of philosophy, politics, rhetoric and other branches were endowed. There were a great many teachers, and rivalry in the number of pupils was the order of the day. Spite the laxity of organization, the Athenian school had an almost boundless and long enduring influence. While the light from other centres shone brightly for a season, such as that