

hearty sympathy. Here, as elsewhere, union is strength. In an age of unparalleled progress, and in a country in the bright flush of youth, with so much to mould and fashion for the coming time, we need the union of all available forces in the work of education. In that great age of the revival of learning to which we give the significant name of the Renaissance, mediævalism with all its imperfect illumination, with all its docile subjectiveness, all its arid scholasticism, and no less, with all the rare beauty of its marvellous art, was consigned to neglect, as gothic and barbarous; and for some generations classic letters and art ruled supreme. The influence was in the main beneficial. It recalled men from the profitless controversies of the schoolmen, and the narrow dogmas of the cloister, to study the literature of ages when it seems as if a type of humanity was developed which in some respects has scarcely been equalled and never surpassed. The change was not unaccompanied with a transient phase of scepticism; but how speedy and how comprehensive was the reaction; while the inestimable benefits remain. Homer is still the world's epic poet; Sophocles survived as its ideal of all that was conceivable of "gorgeous tragedy in sceptred pall," till Shakespeare taught the world a nobler art; the spirit of Plato has still guidance for us when we would search into the mysteries of the human soul, and give free scope to thoughts that wander through eternity. Nor will the historian or the scholar slight the literature of that other classic nation, whose more practical aptitudes "drilled the raw world to the march of mind," schooled barbarian Europe into self-govern-

ment, trained it to urbanity, and taught it the significant constraints of Roman law. But the new birth could not be arrested in its cradle. Each fresh century has witnessed progress. Science, from mere crude empiricism, has developed on every hand till in its vast compass it defies the most gifted intellect to master all its many-sided truths. It is no longer the riddle of the visionary alchemist; its power is felt in every avenue of life. Physics and metaphysics are alike affected by it. It rules in commerce, revolutionizes war, and takes hold of intellectual and social life on every side. In this new land which we are fashioning for ourselves, rich in so many undeveloped resources, and dowered with the promises of a great future: we cannot afford to slight our opportunities, or to waste our strength in narrow sectional rivalries. Let us, if possible, combine our forces in a renaissance for our New World in which we shall unite the reverent spirit of the most earnest searchers into all truth, with a just appreciation of the worth of classical literature, and some adequate estimate of the triumphs of science. Let us learn by every experience of the past, and make of it a stepping-stone to higher things; for we ourselves "are ancients of the earth, and in the morning of the times."

The president closed his address by a humorous allusion to a branch of science cultivated with much zeal by the undergraduates, and in their name invited the audience to adjourn to the lawn, and witness a scientific display of football, in a match between the Guelph Agricultural College and the University students, played in strict accordance with Rugby rules.