

which caused eastern culture to be stimulated in its passage to the west in 1453, and you have the invention of printing shortly after, and that made it possible to disseminate knowledge and information through the west, we have the discovery of America and the great amount of navigation, shortly before, which increased the amount of products that the west had, and the knowledge that they had of the world in general. We have all these things together about this time, so modern history would begin somewhere between 1400 and 1500. Now between ancient and modern history we have the medieval period, which is a very definitely different time from what preceded and followed and the thing that makes it different is the great number of the Germanic peoples who went over the Roman Empire, too fast to be assimilated, and so they flooded over the empire, and they could not be assimilated, but they overturned the great mass of the cultural life of the empire, and they made a tremendous change, and from a cultural viewpoint the world sank, Europe sank, and it took many many centuries to come out of that.

And so we have the long period, the first part of which is often spoken of as the Dark Ages, the whole of which is spoken of as the Middle Ages before modern history. It is an extremely interesting period, but it is a period which in a way is a parenthesis between the great ancient civilization and the great modern civilization. It is a parenthesis which has a great many roots in the modern, and carries on many results of the ancient, but it is an interruption, very definitely. Now it is fascinating history, the medieval period, and if this were a Roman Catholic school we would spend a tremendous amount of time on it because of the fact that the great bulk of their institutions began in the Middle Ages, and have been carried on from that time. And they regard the 13th cent. as the high point of civilization. It is the high point of their ideals and of the church, and of intellectual life. From the viewpoint of secular history and from our viewpoint, the 13th cent. is perhaps as high as anything in the Middle Ages, but way low in comparison with what preceded and with what followed. From our viewpoint we will run over the Middle Ages very rapidly.