

MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD IN CONNEXION WITH
THE FUNERAL OF LORD STRATHCONA.¹

Seekest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings.—Prov. xxii. 29.

JUST thirteen years ago we met in this hall to join in the national mourning for a great and good Queen: to-day we have, as a University, personal and intimate reasons for sharing in the general grief for the most distinguished Canadian of his time—our Chancellor, who built this College, and called it by Victoria's royal name. Before I speak these words, the grave will have closed, in the homeland, at the heart of the Empire, over the mortal and perishable remains of him whom we all revered. He had been "crowned," to use the words of the Psalmist, "with glory and honour"; and he died, as he would have wished, in harness—thinking up to the last, as I shall tell you later on, of what he could do for others. Throughout our wide Dominion, and indeed all over the English-speaking world, it may be doubted if any individual has ever been more greatly mourned. And if it now devolves on me, as the chief executive officer of the University, to pay a fitting tribute to his memory, I can at least advance the qualification that for nearly twenty years I have been constantly associated with him, and that from the first I learned to appreciate his noble qualities, in particular his whole-hearted devotion to the cause of education.

But does it not at once convey some impression of his wonderful career to be reminded that when I met him first—when nearly two decades ago he asked me to come to McGill—he had already passed the allotted span of three-score years and

¹ Royal Victoria College, January, 1914.