

# Memorial Sermon

*Preached by*

*REV. PRINCIPAL R. BRUCE TAYLOR, D. D.*

PSALM 50: 5: "Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."

But a few years ago it seemed as if it were the main object of our civilization to provide against all the contingencies of life. Men insured in half a dozen different directions that they might ward off the blows of fate. Life, property, income, soundness of limb—against the loss of all these things provision was made, and the character to be admired was the one that played for safety, and fulfilling its duties in a careful domestic way towards God and man, slept the sleep of the just. It was a view of life that unquestionably had its virtues, and also its very grave defects. It is not possible to make life safe, but the effort to do so may check the fine sense that the years here are a great venture of faith. But the general attitude of providing for the future spread itself till it covered everything, even University training and education. "Efficiency" was the ideal; the "practical man" was the desired product; and the main purpose of the University was conceived to be the instilling of a certain ordered sequence of valuable facts which would at once become available for the making of a livelihood. Worldliness is not the temper of any one age in particular. But when life has for decades run in certain lines, success or failure comes to be measured simply and solely by the standards of the market place. The man who was held to have "made good" was the man who had been able to make money, while the following of learning for learning's sake, the throwing away of material advantages for more leisure in which to grow, was regarded as the mark of an oddity.