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GIRDED LIVES.*

My greatest difficulty in view of appearing before you on this occasion was the choice of a subject that would be at once suitable and suggestive. Whether I have been happy or otherwise in my selection I leave you to prove. I swept the wide expanse for some time, as Noah's dove must have done, finding no room for the sole of my feet. For weeks I could discover nothing that was not soddened. As the day drew painfully near, I desecrated upon the bosom of the troubled waters a floating branch upon which some fruit remained, which, although not as fresh and luscious as I could wish, was the best that I could find.

I mean to speak to you on "Girded Lives." The imagery is not unfamiliar. It was the custom in Eastern lands to gather up loose robes and fix them firmly around the loins when any duties requiring agility of movement or physical exertion were in demand. The Apostle Peter in addressing the elect of the dispersion urges them "to gird up the loins of their mind." The mind is like a raw recruit until it is brought under rigid discipline. It is like a colt unbroken or an ox unaccustomed to the yoke. The first necessity with a view to efficient mental action is the girding up of the intellectual powers. The rarest natural

*Address delivered at McMaster Hall, on Founder's Day, Dec. 22nd, 1898.