

BACCALAUREAT E SERMONS

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Baccalaureate Sermons by Andrew P. Peabody

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ANDREW P. PEABODY

**BACCALAUREAT
E SERMONS**

BACCALAUREATE SERMONS

BY
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PREFACE.

In preparing these sermons for republication, I find that in some instances a favorite illustration, text of Scripture, or subsidiary thought occurs more than once. But as there is, as I believe, no duplication of a subject or of a continuous train of thought, I have preferred to let the sermons reappear in their original form. If they can in any humble measure serve the purpose with which they were written, the author can have no greater joy than in thus renewing and continuing the chosen work of his years of active service in the University.

10-6-23 JHR

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in the context of public administration and government operations. This section also highlights the role of technology in streamlining record management processes and reducing the risk of data loss or corruption.

2. The second part of the document focuses on the implementation of robust internal controls and risk management frameworks. It outlines the need for regular audits and assessments to identify potential vulnerabilities and ensure that organizational policies are effectively enforced. This section also discusses the importance of employee training and awareness programs to foster a culture of integrity and ethical behavior within the organization.

3. The third part of the document addresses the challenges of data security and privacy protection in the digital age. It provides guidance on how to safeguard sensitive information from unauthorized access, disclosure, or misuse. This includes implementing strong encryption protocols, access controls, and incident response plans to minimize the impact of any security breaches.

4. The fourth part of the document explores the role of external stakeholders and the public in ensuring transparency and accountability. It discusses the importance of open communication, public participation in decision-making processes, and the use of accessible channels for receiving and addressing feedback. This section also highlights the need for regular reporting and disclosure of key performance indicators and financial information to the public.

5. The fifth and final part of the document provides a summary of the key findings and recommendations. It reiterates the importance of a holistic approach to governance, one that integrates ethical principles, sound financial practices, and effective communication. The document concludes by expressing a commitment to continuous improvement and the pursuit of higher standards of public service and accountability.

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BACCALAUREATE SERMONS.

I.

RELIGION UNCHANGING IN ITS CLAIMS.

(1861.)

"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and forever."—
HEBREWS xiii. 8.

HE who would have addressed a graduating class in this University a century ago, would have assumed the paramount importance of Christ, and his religion as felt by his hearers, no less than claimed by himself. Christianity was then deemed by each and all the prime interest of each and all. Not that sincere Christian discipleship was universal; but those who were not Christians felt themselves almost pariahs,—outcasts,—in a condition in which they were afraid either to live or to die. The prevalent feeling now is—though perhaps it may not often find distinct utterance—that religion has lost something of its importance,—that it is of right a less engrossing interest than formerly,—that its claims should be pressed more modestly than they used to be,—in fine, that from a primary it has become a secondary concern.

Yet there can have been no essential change. Christ is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. It is the fashion of the world, not the Sun of Righteousness, that shows an altered phase. As the unchanging stars have in one age diligent and painstaking observers, and in the next, it may be, none who devote themselves to their study; as in one century they are believed to govern human destiny, and are consulted about affairs great and small, and in the next, even their actual uses may be ignored,—so does Christ, always occupying the same unapproached eminence, hold a more or less prominent place in the regard of different generations, he and his religion at some epochs, standing in the foreground of men's thoughts and interests, and at some, almost crowded out of life by the pressure of secular excitement.

Ours, as I have intimated, is not a religious age. One chief reason for this unfortunate distinction is the inrush, the avalanche of worldly interests through the progress of art and science, especially through the agency of steam and electromagnetism, giving us more to learn, to discuss, to hope, to fear, and often to do in a week than would have sufficed for a year of the slower life of the last century. It is the tendency of each individual to fall into the general habit of thought and feeling, and thus to regard religion as of the less importance because it has lost something of its former hold on the public mind.