

**WILLIAM STERLING
LACY: MEMORIAL,
ADDRESSES, SERMONS**

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William Sterling Lacy: memorial, addresses, sermons by William Sterling Lacy

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ADDRESSES,
SERMONS.

"A good man leaveth an inheritance."



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MEMORIAL.

By REV. JAMES P. SMITH, D. D.

IT is a pleasant task to write of one so good and true as the subject of this sketch. When there are only "things lovely and of good report" to be remembered, the thoughts of a friend of many years flow with pleasure and the pen moves with ease. The wise man says, "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance," and it is a pious duty to perpetuate the profitable memory of those that have served God faithfully in their generation.

William Sterling Lacy was born in Raleigh, N. C., March 25, 1842. His father was the Rev. Drury Lacy, D. D., then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Raleigh, and for some years president of Davidson College; and his mother was Williana Wilkinson, daughter of William Wilkinson and Elizabeth Smith. He was the grandson of the Rev. Dr. Drury Lacy, president of Hampden-Sidney College, an honored and eloquent minister in Virginia. So to him came the inherited traits, the traditions, the covenant promises of one who is—

"The son of parents passed into the skies."

His mother was taken from him when he was but four years of age, and he scarcely remembered her from whom he inherited his physical frame and appearance, and something of her refinement of manner and taste; and, no doubt, also the love of music and of verse. A step-mother,

who was Mary Rice, the daughter of the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Rice, became a fond and faithful mother to him, and was dearly loved in return, and most gratefully remembered.

In a home of godliness and love, of truth and duty and cheerfulness, there was a childhood of gentleness and purity. Amid such influences there came, according to the promise of his father's God, the early growth of piety. The grace of God came he never knew how soon. From youngest days he was led, and gladly followed, in the ways of love to Christ and obedience to his word. At six years of age, small in frame, he stood on a table in the Sunday-school and recited the Shorter Catechism. At ten years he was the leader of the singing among the children of the school. At eleven he wrote a sermon on the text, "And now also the axe is laid at the root of the tree," a copy of which is on our table. The image of the axe at the root of the tree, ready to cut it down, had taken strong hold of his mind. Under three heads, he follows a logical method, closing with an earnest appeal. It was the boy's beginning of a life of good preaching. The catechism, the sweet singing and the serious sermon were the promises of his good and faithful life.

When William Lacy was thirteen years old, his father removed to the academic village of Davidson, as the president of the college. At the early age of seventeen, in 1859, he was graduated from the college, showing both the precocity of his mind and the directness with which in a scholarly home and amid such studious surroundings he was led through his course of learning. It was his disadvantage that he completed the college course at an age when he should have been entering upon it. From Davidson College he went at once to Union Theological Seminary, at Hampden-Sidney, Va., and began his preparation