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WILLIAM CURDY EMERSON

WAS born of pious parents in Abbeville District, S. C., April, 1818. He was early left an orphan and was reared by his brother Henry until seventeen years old; removed with him to Alabama, near Selma; had few educational advantages; professed religion at a camp meeting in Perry County, largely through the instrumentality of Dr. R. Nall and Rev. Thomas Alexander. He soon determined to seek the gospel ministry. He studied first under Prof. H. Tutwiler, and then graduated at the Presbyterian Manual Labor School near Marion, laboring part of his time to secure means. He spent two years at Princeton Seminary; was licensed Dec. 10th, 1840, by the Presbytery of South Alabama, and preached in Marengo County a short time; then went to Columbia Seminary and graduated in the class of 1841; returned to Marengo and preached six or eight years. He was ordained January 24th, 1843, by the Presbytery of South Alabama. He preached from 1848 to 1855 at Starkville, Miss., and subsequently to churches in Clark, Wayne, and Newton Counties, Miss. He organised the church at Meridian, Miss. In February, 1868, he went to Brazil, preached in Sao Paulo District to the Americans and Portuguese, laboring with his own hands to support his family; organised the first Presbyterian church in that district, now called Santa Barbara, and sowed seed from which our missionaries are now reaping.

He died July 24th, 1875, a triumphant death, leaving a widow and several children. He was an earnest Christian, a zealous and instructive preacher, a warm-hearted amiable man, and a successful laborer in the Lord's vineyard. He did much good in his day and under great difficulties, arising from feeble health and meagre support. He has left an enviable record, and the good he did lives after him. Rev. H. R. Raymond, D. D., ascribes his own entrance into the ministry to his instrumentality, and many souls now in Christ attest his usefulness.

C. A. STILLMAN.