

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

Medorem Crawford, the author of this journal, was a native of central New York. On reaching the years of manhood he naturally as a representative American and as a young man of energy and ability, but without capital, was casting about for a field of larger opportunities than his home community afforded.

Mr. Crawford's family knew well Dr. Elijah White who came to Oregon first in 1837. In the spring of 1842 Dr. White was back in New York arranging to return to Oregon as a sub-Indian agent. Mr. Crawford resolved to accompany him. His diary is the only journal record of the trip of this first considerable band of pioneers to cross the plains.

Mr. Crawford reached Oregon when he was twenty-three years of age. He married Miss Adeline Brown who had come to Oregon in the same party with him. He taught the Methodist Mission school one year and then for several years was mainly engaged in hauling goods around the Willamette Falls with an ox team. In 1855 he moved to a farm in Yamhill county which he made his home while not engaged in public life.

He was a member of the Legislature of the Provisional Government of Oregon from 1847 to 1849. In 1860 he was elected to the State Legislature. He seemed to have been held in high estimation by both U. S. Senators from Oregon, Baker and Nesmith, as he was called to Washington to receive instructions pertaining to taking charge of the emigration escort to make trips across the plains. He conducted the expeditions of 1861, '62 and '63. He was practically in control of the first and, with rank of captain in the army, had command of the two succeeding. He was successful in shielding these emigrants from the outrages that those of preceding years had been suffering, as well as in covering a surplus into the treasury at the end of each year. In 1864 Mr. Crawford was appointed collector of internal revenue for Oregon. His duties in this involved at once the subjecting of the people to an unaccustomed form of taxation and the setting in order of a new system for raising revenue. The difficulties of a trying position were much enhanced by the distance from the source of instructions. He administered the duties of this office five years. From 1871 to 1875 he was appraiser of customs at Portland. He lived the life of an active farmer from that time on until his death in 1891 and during this last period first gained a competency.

The *Morning Oregonian*, of Dec. 27, 1891, in commenting on his life says, "he was known to every person in Oregon during many years and remembered latterly by all who retained recollections of early days in Oregon. Medorem Crawford was a man to fix the impress of his individuality and character upon any community. \* \* \* As a pioneer he was among the most intelligent, far-seeing, and energetic, and as a State-builder, he bore a very important part."

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