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REV. JOHN CRAWFORD, D.D.

The Crawford family were Jacobites. After the ultimate overthrow of their party on Culloden Moor in 1746, they withdrew from their native Scotland and made a new home for themselves in the north of Ireland. John Crawford was the only son of Lieutenant Hugh Crawford, and was born in the County of Londonderry on the 25th of December, in the year 1819, one month previous to the death of George the Third, and seven months subsequent to the birth of our gracious sovereign, Queen Victoria. That was an heroic and historic age. Those were the halcyon days of such literati as Wordsworth, Sir Walter Scott, Coleridge, Southey, Campbell and Moore. Macaulay was then a youth of nineteen. Dr. Adam Clarke was writing his commentary. In the Baptist brotherhood, Robert Hall and John Foster in England, Robert and James Haldane in Scotland, Christmas Evans in Wales, and Alexander Carson in Ireland made up such an illustrious circle as few single generations have ever seen. To be born in such a time was no ordinary advantage.

When about twelve years of age Master Crawford was sent away to school to the City of Belfast. Among the parting injunctions which his father gave him was this: "Now, John, don't let me hear of your being thrashed by the boys at school."