

**SCENES OF EARLIER DAYS IN
CROSSING THE PLAINS TO
OREGON, AND EXPERIENCES
OF WESTERN LIFE**

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Scenes of earlier days in crossing the plains to Oregon, and experiences of Western life by C. H. Crawford

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C. H. CRAWFORD

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OF WESTERN LIFE**



THE AUTHOR AND WIFE.



Scenes of Earlier Days

in

Crossing the Plains to Oregon,

and

Experiences of Western Life

by C. H. Crawford.

1898.



J. T. STUDDERT,
BOOK AND JOB PRINTER,
PETALUMA, CAL.

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PREFACE.

THOSE who did not cross the plains, either to Oregon or California, in an early day have but little knowledge of the hardships endured by the way, or after their arrival at their future homes. I have frequently conversed with those who went to Oregon from 1843 to 1845 and '46 and after their arrival had to live on acorns for six weeks without meat. There were no cattle at the time in the country fit for beef, and game was very scarce, and even if it had been plenty hunting it on an acorn breakfast would have been very hard work

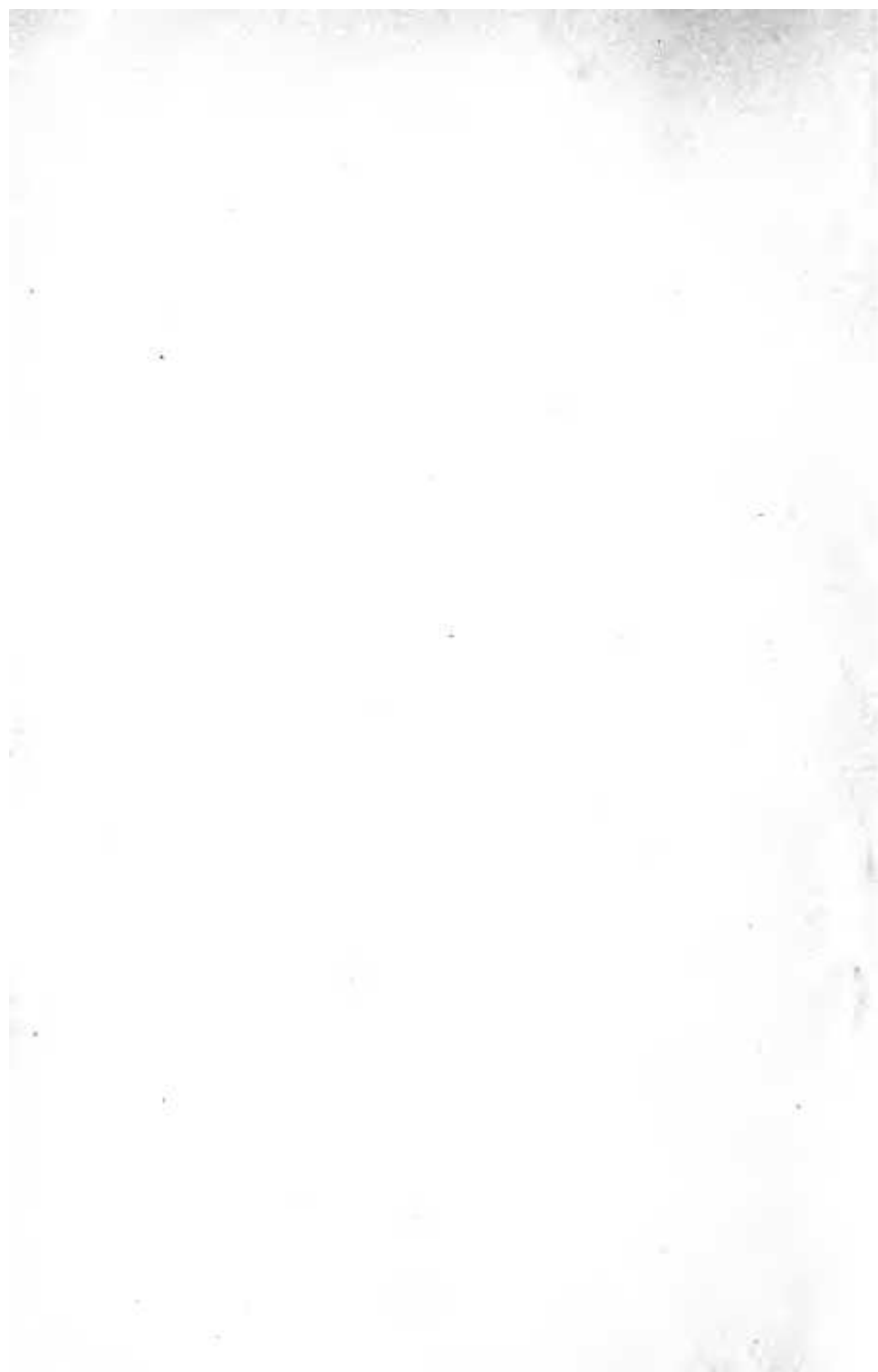
Even after our arrival in Oregon at a later date, 1851, provisions were very scarce. The winter of 1852-53 for more than a month there was no flour to be had and no meat and we paid \$8.50 for fifty pounds of very poor shorts and glad to get it at that price. In the spring a cargo of Chile flour came in and when we bought it we had to sieve out the long woolly worms and eat it or starve. In talking with friends about the scenes of earlier days and experiences of western life I have been frequently asked why do you not write them out and have them published in book form. My reply has been it always looked egotistical for a man to publish his own autobiography. The reply was this is not your autobiography, but actual history that helps to tell about the settlement of the great west, a subject in which old and young are, or should be, deeply interested. Setting all objections aside I submit in the following pages an account of our trip across the plains together with a few

of our varied experiences of western life in the hope that it will do at least a small amount of good in bettering the great state in which we live.

The scenes related in this book are true for I was an eye witness to most of them. Many of them were of a nature to stir up the soul with intense excitement. I shall be glad to know that the young people who read these truthful narratives have been benefitted by them. Those who love truth more than fiction will not object to these sketenes.

C. H. CRAWFORD,

Petaluma, Cal., 1898.



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