WHAR' THE HAND O' GOD IS SEEN AND OTHER POEMS

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Whar' the Hand O' God is Seen and Other Poems by Jack Crawford

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JACK CRAWFORD

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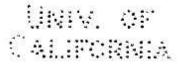


WHAR' THE HAND O' GOD IS SEEN

And Other Poems

CAPTAIN JACK CRAWFORD (Late Chief of Scouts, U. S. Army)

Roped for relief of the author, the divertisement of tenderfeet, and the joy of all those who love God's Great Out-of-Doors



1910 NEW YORK LYCEUM PUBLISHING CO. 45 BROADWAY, NEW YORE, ROOM 168

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JOHN A. HILL

Best all 'round friend I ever knew,—
Unselfish, unafraid to do,
Clean cut and unassuming, too,
All manly traits possessing,—
To you, my friend of Auld Lang Syne,
I dedicate this book o' mine,
And may you find in ev'ry line
A broncho's love and blessing.

Yours in clouds or sunshine, JOHN WALLACE CRAWFORD. ¥

A COMRADE'S FOREWORD

It is as natural for Captain Jack Crawford to weave his inspired thoughts into a fabric of song as it is for the birds of the Western wilds to warble their glad greetings to the golden dawn of a summer day. I was his companion-his "pard." as we Westerners describe close friendship-for many years, and it may not be a very great exaggeration to declare that I never knew a day to pass in which he did not, with rapidly moving pencil, give outflow to his poetic imaginings in running rhyme. In the rude cabin in the wilds of the San Andreas mountains in New Mexico which sheltered us for many months, in the saddle while on the trail, by the light of the campfire after a day's hard ride, and sometimes when apprehended dangers cautioned against the use of a fire which might attract undesirable attention from native Americans in gaudy headdress and hideous war paint, with saddle for seat and buckskin-covered knee for table he would sit in the bright light of the Southwestern moon and write, and write, and write until I sometimes thought that versification was in his case an uncontrollable mania. The pad of paper and the pencil were regarded by him as being as necessary in the saddle pocket as the hardtack and jerked meat which usually constituted the scouting menu when on the trail.

While in the West, his songs were all of the West. He saw poetry in everything from the awe-inspiring grandeur of the mountains to the sneaking coyotes which sang us to sleep at night from their perch on a distant sandhill, but since he drifted Eastward and came into touch with civilization he has tuned his poetic lyre in a different key and writes of more commonplace things.

His first book of verse was printed many years ago and was wholly made up of Western song. Such copies as are yet in existence are preserved as valued mementoes by many of his friends and companions who knew him in border life. The present volume embodies a few of his earlier wildland efforts interspersed among poems of varied character.

The literary polish which characterizes the work of the great poets will not be found in the productions of this picturesque son of the Borderland, but tender, soulful touches of human nature crop out in every verse. He never sat as a boy beneath the watchful eye of the old-time schoolmaster in vogue in the days of his boyhood who stood as a tyrant before his tousle-headed flock with a dog-eared book in one hand and a corrective hickory rod in the other. What education he possesses was picked up in the wild school of Nature and through association with army officers and their wives at the several frontier military posts at which he was stationed while in the government scouting service. Before learning to read after returning from active service at the front in the great Civil War, the page of a printed book was to him but a jumble of unmeaning black characters massed upon white paper. To use a homely colloquialism, he did not "know B from a bull's foot" until taught the alphabet by a Sister of Charity when, near the close of the War, he lay upon a hospital cot suffering from a gunshot wound received in battle. Considering all of this, the work between the covers of this volume must appeal to the educated reader as being truly remarkable.

With these simple words of introduction the drippings from his poetic pen are passed up to the reader.

Denver, Colorado.

JAMES BARTON ADAMS.

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