

**BY THE EQUATOR'S SNOWY
PEAK: A RECORD OF MEDICAL
MISSIONARY WORK AND
TRAVEL IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA**

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By the equator's snowy peak: a record of medical missionary work and travel in British East Africa by E. May Crawford

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E. MAY CRAWFORD

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View of Mt. Kemba, B.E.A., as seen from the Fuhai Mission House.

From a Sketch in oils by the Author.

BY THE EQUATOR'S SNOWY PEAK

A RECORD OF MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK
AND TRAVEL IN BRITISH EAST AFRICA

BY

E. MAY CRAWFORD

(née E. MAY GRIMES)

AUTHOR OF 'A LITTLE SANCTUARY, AND OTHER POEMS'

WITH A PREFACE BY

The Right Rev. the BISHOP OF MOMBASA

AND A FOREWORD BY

EUGENE STOCK, D.C.L.

LONDON
CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY
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1913

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EMMANUEL

MY LIFE WORK

WHAT wilt Thou have me to do, Lord?
What wilt Thou have me to be?
Where wilt Thou have me to go, Lord?
These are the questions for me.
One little life I can yield Thee,
Gladly 'tis laid at Thy feet,
May I be true to my Saviour,
Make my surrender complete!

Where Thou wilt have me to go, Lord,
That is the country for me.
What Thou wilt have me to do, Lord,
Life's sweetest guerdon shall be.
What Thou wilt have me to be, Lord,
Humble, and loving, and pure,
May I be found to Thy glory,
Seeking the things which endure.

Choosing the things that Thou choosest,
Thinking Thy thoughts after Thee,
Joyfully witnessing, toiling,
This is the service for me!
Seeking the lost and the fallen,
Telling them Jesus has died,
No other life-work so precious,
These are the joys that abide.

PREFACE

TO all who have at heart the evangelizing of African tribes this book will be of more than ordinary interest. It describes the widening influence of the British Empire in large tracts of the East Africa Protectorate which have been, until recent years, closed to all but intrepid explorers. It also portrays vividly, and with grace and skill, the progress of medical missionary effort, from the very difficult beginnings in the face of hostile superstitions, to the days when the authoress and her husband were overwhelmed by the demands made upon each day of their lives by the crowds of eager patients, whose confidence they had won by their devotion and manifested kindness, as also by God's blessing resting on the doctor's successful treatment of the sick, and of those who had need of surgical aid.

The grand highlands of Kenia Province have now established in their hills and vales several mission stations and districts of the Church Missionary Society. Dr. Krapf, long years ago, penetrated Ukamba almost as far as the Tana River, and gazed on the mountain of whiteness, the snow-capped Kirinyaga, Mount Kenia. That splendid missionary and explorer had to retrace

his steps to the coast, yet he had a conviction that a coming generation would witness the journeys of white missionaries in that region which privations, sickness and death in his caravan had prevented him from entering. At the first possible moment, the C.M.S., faithful to Krapf and his heart's projects, sent its pioneers to take their lives in their hands and to evangelize Kenia and all the wild country stretching from the River Tana to the extreme north-eastern slopes of Mount Kenia. The Society, in its discharge of its responsibility to give full effect to Krapf's noble attempts to plant the standard of the Gospel in the highlands which are crowned with the glorious masses of Kenia and Aberdare, gave Mr. (now the Rev.) A. W. McGregor the privilege of first commencing missionary operations in Kenia, after a year or two of residence in Kikuyu.

Some of the results which have followed Dr. and Mrs. Crawford's brave undertaking may be gathered from the following words of an officer who holds high rank in the Protectorate :—

FORT NYERI,
KENIA PROVINCE,
Dec. 2, 1912.

DEAR BISHOP,—It was some years ago that our valued friends, Dr. and Mrs. Crawford, came into this province and established a station in the Fort Hall district, where in the midst of privations and considerable hardships they carried on a work which has earned the gratitude and admiration of every officer in the Province.

The Commissioner's Testimony 3

The first occasion on which I saw Dr. and Mrs. Crawford in harness was when I was passing their station *en route* to a camp at Weithaga. The doctor was attending a crowd of natives,—men, women and children,—in all stages of sickness. There must have been at least two hundred at the time waiting to be treated. The number I believe was not exceptional. After spending some time at his dispensary and hospital, I visited the school, which was under the care of Mrs. Crawford. I was struck with the discipline which prevailed and the intelligence of the children, which could only have been brought to light by the devotion and the extraordinary patience of the teacher. I only mention this as an example of the good work done by this devoted couple.

After establishing a station in the Fort Hall district and putting it in excellent working order, Dr. and Mrs. Crawford were transferred to the Embu district, there to continue their good work. Their reputations had gone before them, and so they received a hearty welcome from the natives of the Embu district, though these people had only recently been brought under administration and were of a very primitive nature. The confidence of the natives was soon gained, and people from all parts of the district flocked to Dr. Crawford for treatment. Not only did he give his valuable services to the people, but he unhesitatingly placed them at the disposal of the Government, and many serious cases were sent to him for treatment.

The result of their work is very apparent in the number of natives of all ages who now attend the church and school for instruction, and in the good behaviour of the natives living within a radius of some miles from their station. Dr. and Mrs. Crawford have gained the confidence, affection and respect of every official and native with whom they have come in contact.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) C. R. W. LANE,
*Provincial Commissioner,
Kenia Province,
British East Africa.*

To the Right Reverend
the BISHOP OF MOMBASA, D.D.

4 Realities of Missionary Enterprise

Readers will not fail to comprehend what the difficult and dangerous journeys have meant to a refined white woman; they will be delightfully interested in the narratives of the customs and habits of the tribes; they will be thrilled by the recitals of the doctor's experiences, in and out of hospital; they will gaze with deep pleasure on the many pictures painted in words by the authoress depicting village life and human need of sympathy and help; but more than all they will behold the workings of the Kingdom of God in purely heathen people. Very simply Mrs. Crawford lays bare the spiritual realities of missionary enterprise. Along with Christian kindness, medical skill, ceaseless endeavour to mitigate suffering, patient teaching and the exhibition of a Christian home, there are results visible which are not of earth, and which come neither from healing in the wards nor from Christian education in the school. There are effects which plainly are only wrought by God, effects which spring from the gift of eternal life. Young men are steadfastly resisting what they now know to be evil, though parent, friend and tribe bitterly persecute them. By what power? Men and women are publicly being sealed as God's children and servants, and are entering into union and fellowship with Christ in God.

Krapf looked long and wistfully at Kenia's gigantic peak and dazzling snows, and then, overcome by hardships, suffering and bodily