

CENTENNIAL BIOGRAPHY.

MEN OF MARK

OF

CUMBERLAND VALLEY, PA.

1776—1876.

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ALFRED NEVIN, D. D., LL. D.

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1876.

## COL. RICHARD M. CRAIN.



COL. RICHARD M. CRAIN, son of Joseph and Mary Crain, was born November, 1777, in West Hanover township, then Lancaster, now Dauphin county, and married Elizabeth, daughter of the Hon. Robert Whitehill, of East Pennsborough township, Cumberland county. His father, Joseph Crain, was a gentleman of high standing in the community, and an active and exemplary member of the Presbyterian church of Hanover.

Col. Crain, though more thoroughly acquainted with the business of the Land Office than any other man in Pennsylvania, consented to accept of, and served for the greater part of half a century in the subordinate position of Deputy Secretary, as it was considered good policy by the successive administrations during that time to confer the appointment of Secretary of the Land Office on a citizen of one of the western counties. He was also, during that period, elected by the Legislature Treasurer of Pennsylvania, and, as colleague of Major David Nevin, chosen to represent Cumberland county in the Convention which assembled May 2d, 1837, in the hall of the House of Representatives in Harrisburg, to propose amendments to the Constitution of the state, to be submitted to the people thereof for their ratification or rejection.

Of the esteem in which Col. Crain was held by his associates the following publication of their proceedings, on receiving information of his death, furnishes very gratifying evidence :

A meeting of the Governor, heads of departments and clerks, was held at the office of the Surveyor General of Pennsylvania at 5 o'clock on Friday, the 17th day of September, 1852, the object of which was stated by General J Porter Brawley, on whose motion Gov. Wm. Bigler was called to the chair, and, on motion of Major Thomas J. Rehrer, E. S. Goodrich was appointed secretary.

The following preamble and resolutions were then offered by L. G. Dimmock, Esq., which were read and, after a brief but eloquent address by Gen. E. Banks, were unanimously adopted :

WHEREAS, God, in his inscrutable wisdom, has removed from our midst Col. Richard M. Crain, late of the Surveyor General's office ; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we deeply deplore the death of our esteemed associate and friend, Col. Richard M. Crain, who, during a long life of public service, sustained a character of unspotted integrity, and by his uprightness and affability, won the respect and confidence of all who knew him.

*Resolved*, That we tender the family of the deceased our sincere and heartfelt sympathy in their afflictive bereavement.

*Resolved*, That out of respect for the deceased the Land Department shall be closed on the day of the funeral.

*Resolved*, That as a mark of regard for our departed friend we will attend his funeral in a body.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the papers of this borough, and the officers of this meeting and the Surveyor General be appointed a committee to present a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

WILLIAM BIGLER,

E. S. GOODRICH, *Secretary*.

*Chairman*.