

WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD.

William H. Crawford was born and bred in poverty. By persevering study he acquired an excellent stock of knowledge, although engaged during most of his youthful years in agricultural labour. At about the age of 25 or 26 years, he commenced the study of law, but finding his means insufficient to prosecute it, he kept school for some years in order to obtain the necessary aid. At the age of about thirty he entered on the practice of the legal profession, and rose very rapidly to the first station of eminence as a lawyer. His practice was very extensive. He was soon elected a member of the Georgia Legislature, and was there held in such esteem that he was shortly advanced to the station of Senator of the United States. In the year 1812 he was generally considered as the most able supporter of Mr. Madison's administration in the Senate, and was held in such esteem by that body that he was unanimously elected its President. He was shortly after offered the office of Secretary at War, which he then declined, but at a subsequent period accepted. He was sent by Mr. Madison as Ambassador to France, and appointed by Mr. Monroe, Secretary of the Treasury. All these stations he has filled with distinguished ability, and in the exercise of his official duties has, in a remarkable degree, obtained the respect and esteem of almost every one who knew him. He was especially esteemed by the Democrats of the original school of '98 as a firm champion of equal rights and economy; and it was probably owing partly to this fact that he received so strong a democratic support in the caucus of 1816. In that caucus he received a considerable majority over Mr. Monroe, of the votes of Representatives from all the States except Virginia, which State turned the scale in favor of our present chief magistrate. Mr. Crawford's independence and Jeffersonian principles have procured him many political enemies, who have been ceaseless and untiring in their efforts to destroy him. He has come out from their onsets triumphant and unspotted, while his traducers have been covered with infamy and shame. He is supported in the Presidential contest by the Patriarchs of Democracy, Jefferson, Madison, Macon, Callahan and Smith: and a large majority of those who have been democratic members of Congress during the last 20 years, are believed to consider him as the most suitable candidate.

There are two charges brought against Mr. Crawford which it may be well here to refute. The one is, that he supported John Adams' administration in the time of the Alien and Sedition Laws; the other, that he voted in the United States' Senate against the right of suffrage. The first charge is founded upon his having been one of a committee appointed at a public meeting at Augusta in the year '98, to draft an address to the President. It, however, appears that this meeting was *before* the passage of the Alien and Sedition Laws, that it consisted of *both political parties*, that its object related wholly to the aggressions of France, which both parties reprobated, that Mr. Crawford, though on the committee, did not draft the address, and that he was then and has been ever since a decided democrat. These facts are supported by the certificates of a number of individuals of the first character in the state of Georgia. The certificate of Mr. George Hawkins, who was *Chairman* of the meeting of '98, alluded to, and has always been a federalist, says that the meeting was "*composed of young men of a different political sentiment*;" that of the committee of five to draft resolutions, "*three were known as Republicans*," and that "*it has always been considered that Mr. Crawford never belonged to the federal party, and such has ever been my opinion.*" The certificate of Maj. George Moore, a distinguished democrat of Georgia, who settled in the same county with Mr. Crawford in the year 1798, says "*Mr. Crawford was an open Republican, when I first knew him and has remained so ever since, for aught that ever came to my knowledge.*" "Throughout the contest which terminated in the elevation of Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Crawford's sentiments, were openly declared in opposition to the principles and policy of Mr. Adams' administration, and in favor of the election of Mr. Jefferson." "Had his Republicanism been suspected I must have heard of it." The certificate of Mr. Samuel Barnett and John McKimie, two surviving members of the committee appointed to draft the resolution for the aforesaid meeting, the one of them a federalist and the other a democrat, says "Mr. Crawford was not at that period, (July 1798) nor at any other time since, considered by those most intimately acquainted with him as belonging to what was called the federal party. The meeting in question was attended by both parties, probably as much by one as the other." The testimony of Mr. Abbot, member of Congress, of Judge Tait, of Mr. Early, of Judge Clayton and others, is of the same tenor with that which we have quoted.

As to the charge of voting against the right of suffrage, it arose from the following circumstances. The state of Georgia ceded a considerable tract of territory to the United States, on several conditions, one of which was, that while it remained a territory, a freehold of 50 acres or a town lot, should be required to entitle a person to vote. The object of the state of

Georgia, was probably, to encourage emigration. The law for the government of the Mississippi territory, was originally passed in conformity to this contract. After a few years, an alteration in the law was proposed in Congress. Mr. Crawford, being a Senator from Georgia, did not feel himself, at liberty to vote for a departure from the contract which the government had made with that state, unless her consent could be first obtained. He moved to require that consent to the bill, before it should go into operation; and, on this amendment being rejected, he, with the other Senator from Georgia, voted against the final passage of the bill.

Mr. Crawford has been charged with opposition to the administration of Mr. Monroe. It is true that he has been opposed to the expensive policy which Messrs. Adams, Calhoun and other members of the cabinet wished to pursue, but has not been opposed to that which has actually been practised. The democratic majority in Congress agreed with Mr. Crawford in sentiment, and obliged the administration to pursue an economical course. The consequence has been, that a resort to loans or to new taxes, which would otherwise have been inevitable, has been avoided, a large portion of the public debt has been paid off, and a surplus of nine millions of dollars, remains in the Treasury.

On the whole, there is nothing in the accusation against Mr. Crawford, which ought to impair the confidence which the Patriarchs and Sages of our country have reposed in him, or to prevent a people jealous of Freedom and Equal Rights, from giving him their suffrages, and thus set at naught the unmanly and anti-democratic combinations, which have been formed against a great and a good man.