

across the mountains, are well described in Washington Irving's *Astoria*. His life among savage Indians was frequently in great jeopardy. Black Hawk, when visiting New York, and while dining with Mr. Crooks and a party of friends, declared that he was the best friend the Indians had ever had. He was said to be the first white man who passed over a route and discovered a pass in the Rocky Mountains, which Colonel Frémont was led to suppose that he had discovered.

He was, however, too modest to claim his right to the discovery, in a public manner, through the press of the country, and it was through his many friends that the fact became well established and known. Mr. Astor formed a high opinion of Mr. Crooks, who was always a welcome guest at his house, and at the time of his death acted as one of the pall-bearers for his old and much respected employer, who it was supposed had liberally provided for him in his will; but unexpectedly the amount was comparatively small. But, while the public found fault with it, Mr. Crooks himself never complained. He was named in the will as one of the trustees of the Astor Library, on a salary allowed to each trustee, which position he held until the day of his death. He was also, we believe, elected a member of the Geographical and Statistical Society, and also a member of the New York Historical Society, and of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. He was likewise a director in one or more insurance companies and in other institutions.

He had an interview with Dr. Rae, the discoverer of the relics of Sir John Franklin's party, in which he was able to correct some of the Doctor's opinions regarding the peculiarities of climate, &c., of high latitudes, together with the natural traits and instincts of animals inhabiting the colder regions of country.

He seemed to die of no peculiar disease. He quietly passed from the world as one retired to sleep. The "sword had worn out the scabbard." The frame had become too much dilapidated by an active life to be longer a fit habitation for the occupation of a noble spirit, and it departed to the God who gave it. His