

BY HORSE AND WAGON.

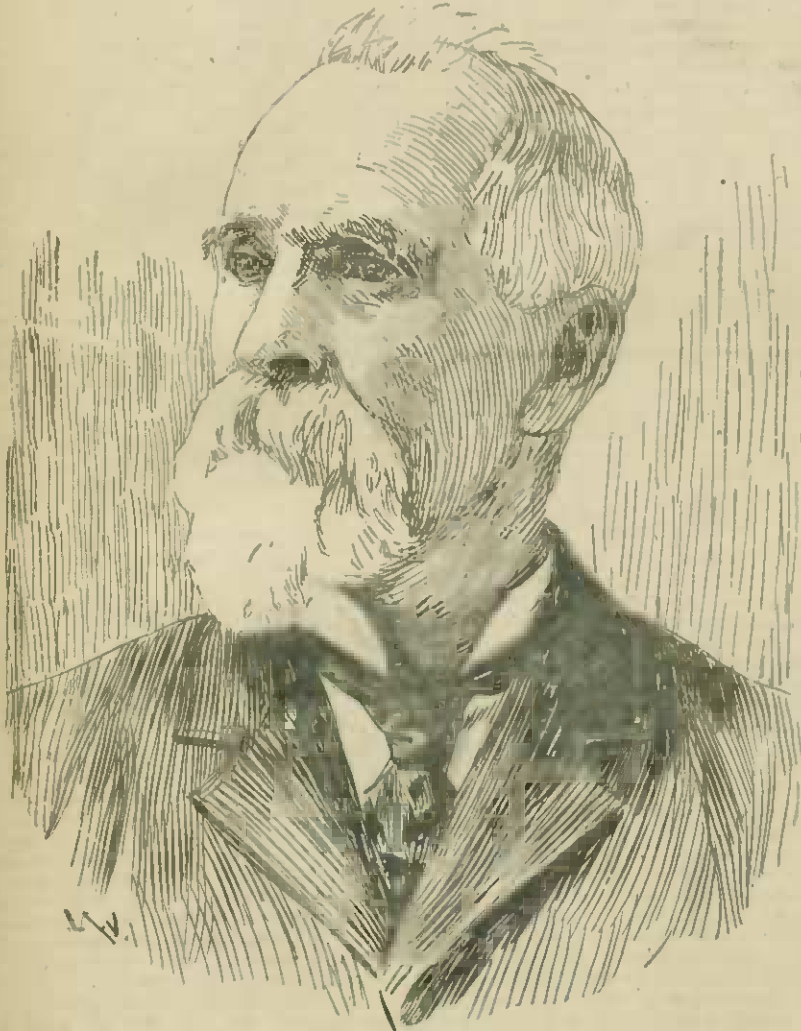
Pioneer life in all countries remote from civilization is in a degree the same; those who blaze the way, brave the dangers and endure the hardships have many experiences peculiar to each other as well as to the circumstances and conditions in which they are placed. This is the history of the development of our country. It is the history of the development of all countries. It has always been so and it will continue to be so as long as there are unknown seas to sail, strange lands to explore and arid wastes to reclaim.

But Pioneer life in Utah had its distinct feature; it carried with it expe-

which they builded better than they knew.

In these times it is pleasing to recount the deeds of men and women who played prominent parts in an epoch which is to be so magnificently celebrated in the near future. So varied, so wonderful, so thrilling were the careers of many of them that a hundredth part will never be told. There were Pioneers who stood conspicuously before the people—who risked their very lives for their fellowmen whose careers were careers of splendid accomplishment in their particular lines. Of such a Pioneer the NEWS speaks to-day.

The subject of this sketch is Hon.



HON. JOHN R. MURDOCK.
(A Famous Pioneer Horseman and Pilot.)

periences uncommon to other people; it was surrounded by difficulties never before overcome; it presented dangers, privations and adventures that made men of courage quail and women of faith falter. And yet with an eye single to the purpose for which they had abandoned their dwelling places to the far East and sought refuge and new homes in an unexplored wilderness of the far West, they indeed laid a foundation upon

John R. Murdock, of Beaver, Beaver county, Utah. He is a native of the state of Ohio and came to Utah October 12, 1847. Utah has been his home from that time to the present although he has passed to and fro beyond its borders many times. He enjoys the distinction of having piloted five emigrant trains across the plains to Utah. His expeditions were successfully and quickly made for he knew how to travel fast even in these days of uni-

formly slow and cumbersome locomotion. He understood horseflesh and its endurance as well as any living man. He knew how to treat his animals to get the most out of them. The tales of what he did reached the ears of a NEWS man a few days ago and learning that he was in the city he hunted him up. Mr. Murdock is not the man to seek notoriety, and be very reluctantly consented to an interview. This is substantially what he said:

"I first became identified with the Latter-day Saints at Kirtland in 1831. I was only a boy at that time. I am familiar with the trials of the people at that place and passed through the Missouri conflict with them. For four years I worked for the Prophet Joseph Smith being employed by him as a farm hand. This was near Nauvoo. He was a good master and a noble man. When the Latter-day Saints left Nauvoo I left with them. On the 16th of July, 1847, I enlisted in the Mormon Battalion and marched with the boys of that body to California. The story of what they did has often been told and need not be dwelt upon by me. After just exactly one year's service for Uncle Sam I got my discharge and two weeks later, about August 1, 1847, with fifteen or twenty other Battalion boys I left California for Utah. It was a pack mule train, though we had some horses. We came across a good many Indians on our journey but but succeeded in avoiding trouble with them. While it was a hard trip I have seen a good many harder. We reached Salt Lake October 12 of the same year. I put in the fall and winter at work such as the Pioneers were then engaged in.

"In 1848, the year following my arrival in Utah I went with Captain Ira Eldredge and others to meet President Brigham Young and his company on the Sweetwater. We went via Parley's canyon and Silver creek, building a road, felling timber, removing underbrush and constructing bridges. The main road was intercepted at the mouth of Echo canyon. We met the President and his company on the Sweetwater and accompanied them back to the valley of the Great Salt Lake.

"I was in the Provo Indian war of 1850 under General R. T. Burton and with Lot Smith and several others attacked and took the log house on the banks of the Provo river where the red men ran for shelter when pressed too close and from where they used to open fire upon the white settlers for they were well equipped with firearms and ammunition, having familiarized themselves with the use of both and readily recognizing their superiority over the old bow and arrow method of warfare."

In speaking of this event Whitney in his history says the engagement lasted two days, during which an almost incessant fusillade was kept up between the white assailants and the daky defenders of the redoubt. Artillery was also employed against the savages, but with little effect, as they were right under the bank, and most of the balls passed harmlessly over. A squaw was killed by a chain shot, however, during the progress of the fight. The Indians made fre-