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I Acted from Principle: The Civil War Diary of Dr. William M. McPheeters, Confederate Surgeon in the Trans-Mississippi (Civil War in the West)

William M. McPheeters

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William M. McPheeters : I Acted from Principle: The Civil War Diary of Dr. William M. McPheeters, Confederate Surgeon in the Trans-Mississippi (Civil War in the West) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Acted from Principle: The Civil War Diary of Dr. William M. McPheeters, Confederate Surgeon in the Trans-Mississippi (Civil War in the West):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A fair read
By Amy Whiteman
When reading the blurb on this book I thought Dr McPheeters was more into surgery, but every page he was always socialising. I was a bit disappointed with the book.
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A long way from Virginia
By A Customer
St. Louis physician and Southern sympathizer, Dr. McPheeters' experience with Federal arrest and banishment, plus his day-by-day account of life in camp and with the local populace, gives an excellent picture of the impact of the Civil War in the Western Theater. You'll also gain knowledge of medical treatment, Confederate Trans-Mississippi politics, and military excursions by General Stirling Price.

At the start of the Civil War, Dr. William McPheeters was a distinguished physician in St. Louis, conducting

unprecedented public-health research, forging new medical standards, and organizing the state's first professional associations. But Missouri was a volatile border state. Under martial law, Union authorities kept close watch on known Confederate sympathizers. McPheeters was followed, arrested, threatened, and finally, in 1862, given an ultimatum: sign an oath of allegiance to the Union or go to federal prison. McPheeters "acted from principle" instead, fleeing by night to Confederate territory. He served as a surgeon under Gen. Sterling Price and his Missouri forces west of the Mississippi River, treating soldiers' diseases, malnutrition, and terrible battle wounds. From almost the moment of his departure, the doctor kept a diary. It was a pocket-size notebook which he made by folding sheets of pale blue writing paper in half and in which he wrote in miniature with his steel pen. It is the first known daily account by a Confederate medical officer in the Trans-Mississippi Department. It also tells his wife's story, which included harassment by Federal military officials, imprisonment in St. Louis, and banishment from Missouri with the couple's two small children. The journal appears here in its complete and original form, exactly as the doctor first wrote it, with the addition of the editors' full annotation and vivid introductions to each section.