within eighty rods of his home. The Sioux and Chippewa Indians were frequent visitors at his home, and they would dig potatoes and do other work for food. He built a log house as soon as he was able, and his neighbors did the same, each putting up one for himself. Upon one occasion three bears were shot within a few rods of the log house.

In the course of a few years Mr. Fleming became the owner of 423 acres of land, through which he gave the railroad company a right of way. He raised grain and live stock, good horses and Shorthorn cattle, and was the first man in his locality to own an imported stallion.

By his first marriage Mr. Fleming became the father of ten children, one of whom died in infancy. His son John died of fever January 26, 1894, aged twenty-two, and his son Robert of the same illness two days earlier at the age of twenty. The children who are living are: William, who is a farmer in California; Mary, who is the wife of John Silcox and lives in Saskatchewan, Canada; David, who is a member of the police force in Crookston; Margaret, who married Thomas Cameron and is also a resident of Saskatchewan; Isabel, who is Mrs. John Chaplin, of Saskatchewan; Thomas, who is living on the old family homestead, and Frank, who is a mechanic and a resident of East Grand Forks.

In 1898 Mr. Fleming revisited Scotland, and on his return he built the fine dwelling house now on his farm. He has also put up good barns and other structures needed on the farm at a cost of $6,000. He has taken a very active and helpful part in the affairs of the Bethel Presbyterian church, which he helped to build, on the bank of the Marias river, and which all the members of his family living near enough attend regularly.

Mrs. Fleming died in California October 23, 1903, and in November, 1911, he sold the place and moved to his present residence in East Grand Forks.

ASA ALVERN MERRILL.

Owning 480 acres of well-drained, highly improved and very productive land in sections 33, 34 and 35, in Nesbit township, and knowing how to farm it to the best advantage, the late Asa A. Merrill was one of the substantial and prosperous farmers of Polk county, and he was what he was because he had the ability, pluck and self-reliance to make himself so. He was born in the state of New York May 14, 1861, and was something more than a year older than his brother, C. A. Merrill, a sketch of whom, containing the family history, is published in this volume.

Mr. Merrill came to Minnesota with his parents after a residence of some time in Boone county, Illinois. He remained at home until February 16, 1887, when he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Speiser, a native of Germany, who came to this country alone when she was twenty years of age. She lived with her brothers in Minneapolis and visited Polk county, and she thus became acquainted with Mr. Merrill, to whom she was a helpmate in the best and most serviceable significance of the term.

After his marriage Mr. Merrill formed a partnership with his brother, A. C., and together they purchased their father's farm, on which A. C. afterward lived. The partnership was dissolved at the end of two years, and then Asa A. Merrill moved to the farm on which he lived until his death. His father gave him this 160 acres unimproved and without buildings of any kind, the son having erected the buildings now standing on the farm in 1889 at a cost of over $4,000.

Mr. Merrill, after living some years on his first 160 acres, bought 160 acres more in section 35 and another in section 34, making 480 acres in all. He also owned a tract of timber land on the Red Lake river.

For the prairie land he owned Mr. Merrill paid $20 an acre. He raised grain on a large scale and farmed in the most enterprising and progressive manner after he got his land drained and in a condition to work