

## THE PRAIRIE CHURCH

came home with us by turns after we had quit work and helped us with our crops the next day.

"I shall never forget the day the church was opened and consecrated, for we opened it free of debt. The Bishop was here, and the church was packed to the doors. My wife played the organ, and I showed the people to their seats. Oh! I often sit here on this hill alone and dream that day over and over again. I can see it all as clearly as though it was but yesterday. The Bishop went into the pulpit to preach, the eager faces of the congregation greeted him, and I can tell you we were proud of the church that we had built.

"But where is that congregation now? The Bishop himself is gone and another is in his place. Nearly all the older members who were in the church that day lie in the graveyard yonder; some have moved away to distant parts advancing as the frontier of this new country moved westward and north. The children who were there that day have grown up, and many of them now with families of their own have taken our places on the farm. That was a long time ago.

"We had no children then, but a baby boy was born to us a few years later. We had him baptized in the church, and when he was old enough he was confirmed. He always sat beside me while his mother played the