

THE PRAIRIE CHURCH

through a slough, and then go back and forth several times before we could get everything across. If it had not been that some of our friends had come cut here the year before, and we knew that they were expecting us, I do not think we ever could have come those last thirty or forty miles.

“When we got here, truly, the whole land lay before us, and it was difficult enough to choose. The river ran through the midst of the country, dividing it into two sections, one side open country and light soil, the other side a heavier soil covered with underbrush and in places heavily treed. Our friends had chosen homesteads on the open side. We remained upon the same side of the river, but we came down here into the valley with just enough of this high land to make sure of some crop even in the wettest year. For the first three years we lost nearly everything by frost; our friends were reaping good harvests and implored us to give up our homestead and come over nearer to them. We had almost decided to go, but we made up our minds to stay one more year. That fourth year we had a splendid crop. I have never since seen a finer crop of wheat. We got it cut before the frost. It was a very dry fall, and we got it threshed in splendid shape. Then fire came and swept across the