

and the act declared constitutional; another calling on the Supreme Court of this state for the first time to determine the relative rights of the Street Railway Company and travelers upon the public streets after the company had equipped its lines with electrically-propelled cars. In politics Mr. Merrick was by education and surroundings naturally a Whig, casting his first vote for Taylor and Fillmore, and after that time continuing an active worker in the Whig party until its dissolution as a national party, after which Mr. Merrick went with the free soil wing of the Whig party, which resulted in the formation of the Republican party of to-day, in the formation of which he was an active participant and member of the executive committee of the State Central Committee of Massachusetts for eight years, and with the exception of the support which he gave to Horace Greeley in 1872, and Samuel J. Tilden in 1876, his connection with the Republican party has remained unbroken, having been a desired speaker in every national campaign until the campaign of 1896, when he was compelled by his convictions to support bimetallism. In 1858 Mr. Merrick was married to Sarah B. Warriner, of Springfield, Massachusetts, and this union resulted eight children; two sons, Louis A. and Harry H., now being associated with Mr. Merrick in the active practice of the law.



President Grant. But having no taste for mercantile life, he determined to become a lawyer, and in 1878 he graduated from the Albany Law School. Seeing better opportunities for a young lawyer in the west than existed in his native state, he came to Minnesota in 1882 and established himself at Brainerd. During his fourteen years' residence in that city he has built up a large practice and has been elected to a number of positions of trust. His early experience in school teaching was recognized by his choice as Superintendent of Schools of Crow Wing County. This position he held five years. He was municipal judge of Brainerd four years, and later was city attorney and county attorney. In 1889 and again 1893, he was elected to the State Legislature from Crow Wing County. In the legislature he took an active part in furthering the best measures before the House of Representatives. He has always been a Republican and is a firm believer in the principles of protection, sound finance and reciprocity. Mr. Fleming is a member of the order of Knights of Pythias and of the Red Men. He has no church connections, though he is believer in the essentials of the Christian religion. In 1888 he was married to Miss Florence O. Foster, a daughter of Judge George B. Foster, of Peoria, Illinois. At that time Mrs. Fleming was a teacher in the high school at Brainerd. They have one daughter named Geraldine.

WILLIAM A. FLEMING.

W. A. Fleming is a lawyer and lives at Brainerd, Minnesota. His father, Patrick Fleming, was a prosperous country merchant all his life. He came from Scotland with his parents in 1819. When a young man he settled in Franklin County, New York, where he died at the age of sixty-three. He married Miss Rachel Shaw, a member of an old New England family. W. A. Fleming was born December 28, 1848, at Dickinson Center, Franklin County, New York. His boyhood was spent at home attending the village school. He attended Lawrenceville Academy several terms. He began teaching when only seventeen, and taught school ten years, most of the time at home. By economy he had saved, when he became of age, three hundred dollars, and was then taken into partnership by his father. For a while he served as postmaster at his village, being appointed to this position by