

## FRANCIS ASBURY KILBURN.

Francis Asbury Kilburn was one of the most prominent and successful merchants of the county in his time. He was born in Gilsum, New Hampshire, February 21, 1820, and there received a part of his education. He was the second son of Iddo and Abigail Kilburn. The father died in Gilsum, New Hampshire, at the age of eighty and the mother in Vermont at the age of ninety-two. When nineteen years of age our subject went to Vermont and attended school for a time, after which he engaged in teaching and farming. This he continued until October, 1851, when he came to Montezuma, then a village of six log houses, the frame of a house being built and a courthouse (a frame structure) on the southeast corner of the square, one room below and three offices above. The court room was the only available place, so for a time that was their home. Later a frame house was completed on the north side of the square, into which they moved. In February, 1852, Mr. Kilburn drove to Keokuk, that being the nearest



F. A. KILBURN