

manipulated that it did duty in ten banks. The inspector would see it to-day in bank A, but it would be spirited away to bank B before the bank official could arrive there, and so, through all the bank alphabet, it still outstripped the inspector. Hard money had become as ubiquitous as the ghost of the royal Dane which, however Hamlet shifted his ground, after every remove still cried out to him from the cellarage, till Hamlet exclaimed, "O day and night, but this is wondrous strange, that the old mole, true-penny, can work under ground so fast."

Banks were naturally a bad odor in all nostrils. When a Crow Indian first saw lucifer matches, he lighted one after another and used up a box before becoming satisfied that he could thus produce fire. Those who took the first Mitchell certificates made as many trials of their ability to get gold for paper. But his works wrought faith in a crowd ever increasing and over an area ever widening. As early as 1841 some of his paper turned up in La Porte, Indiana, where no convertible money was then in circulation. A hundred dollars of these new comers were gathered up from incredulous holders, and a messenger was dispatched to Smith's Chicago redemption office. His prompt return with the gold — dollar for dollar — was a miracle which not a little increased faith in Milwaukee paper, and so gave it wings to fly faster and further.

La Porte is one specimen of a hundred outside of Wisconsin, and many more inside of it, showing how the Mitchell silver certificates supplied a pressing need, won confidence, and were more and more sought for.

Thus all things worked together for good to the Scotch adventurer. Though he did not admit that he had a bank at all, he had all its parts,— and what was more, his was the only bank in a region twice as large as Scotland. When a scathing sermon against high interest had been preached somewhere in New England, and the hearers had obtained a copy for the press, the arch-usurer of the place offered to pay half the expense.

Indeed, he said to the author: "Preach more such sermons, and still more sharply; I will pay for printing them