

Thanks to his cash and credit, they all obtained cash and credit. Their paper was no more dishonored in any way. We have reason to apply to him Webster's words concerning Hamilton, another Alexander: "He touched the dead corpse of their credit, and it sprang on its feet. The fabled birth of Minerva from the brain of Jove was hardly more sudden or more perfect than the St. Paul financial system as it burst forth from the conception of Alexander Mitchell."

Financially, he stood behind his road in every emergency, and at times its overdrafts on his bank were very large. Several of its purchases and extensions, which he carried out, were master strokes of policy. Others which he proposed, but was not permitted to execute, it was ultimately seen would have been equally wise. Among minor railway aids in his last years, he advanced \$700,000 in procuring the terra firma for the new Milwaukee station, which he never entered alive. As one result of his railroad policy Milwaukee, and the whole state, were built up from a state of depression, and started on a career of prosperity which still continues.

His monetary circulating medium facilitated every trade made in Wisconsin during one decade. During two others, his medium of transportation increased the value of every bushel of grain raised in more than one state, and doubled the amount raised.

The nature of his railway relations did not allow him much meeting with subordinates, yet they believed in his kindly feeling, and reciprocated it. This was shown, after his death, by an Irish section hand who said: "He stood well in the St. Paul, may he stand as well with St. Peter!"

Mr. Mitchell's training was in Scotland. But as manhood drew near, he resembled an eaglet getting wings and feeling the nest too narrow and low for his soaring spirit. No new bank has been chartered in his native land since he was a clerk there. No opening befitting his yearnings there existed. If his financial faculties were not to rust in him unused, he must betake himself to a foreign arena.

Coming to our northwest, Alexander, the Caledonian, secured a vantage-ground analogous to that gained by Al-