

exander, the Macedonian, when, impatient at being pent up in Greece, he passed into Asia and acted his part on an inter-continental theater. As the blood more stirs to rouse a lion than to start a hare, both Alexanders, in virtue of a grander environment, made more of themselves than they would if forever kept in circumscription and confine. They also achieved more for others. The ancient Alexander diffused some tincture of Grecian culture throughout the barbarian orient. The modern Alexander laid the corner-stone of intelligent, honest and stable banking in as grand an occident, and then shot through its recesses lines of travel and traffic which made the wilderness to rejoice, roads radiating more than electric light, and darting from far cities to far cities, a sort of shuttles that weave them into closer and closer union. When he told the aunt by whom after his mother's death he was brought up, that he meant to be a laird, his childish ideal was thought high, but it was a low level compared to his accomplishment.

The great Wisconsin event of 1839 was the chartering of the Milwaukee and Rock River canal. The enactment of it, as published in Milwaukee, was headed, "Hang out the banner on the outer wall," and the Fourth of July was celebrated there by breaking ground for that canal. On that occasion the third volunteer toast was: "Internal improvements — bonds of union. May they soon join east and west Wisconsin!" This toast was by Alexander Mitchell. When I had raked this incident out of the dusty oblivion of an old newspaper, I rejoiced over it as an unconscious foreshadowing of his mammoth railway marvels, spreading civilization a thousand miles west of Milwaukee. The sentiment was all this, but in fact it was offered by another Alexander Mitchell — an engineer on the proposed canal. Its author, however, in extolling internal improvements builded wiser than he knew. His words describing the sluggish and slender waterways he had in mind, have little meaning. But their significance becomes sublime when viewed as prophetic of the St. Paul street of steel longer than from here to Scotland, and showing such a mode of shaving the earth as the