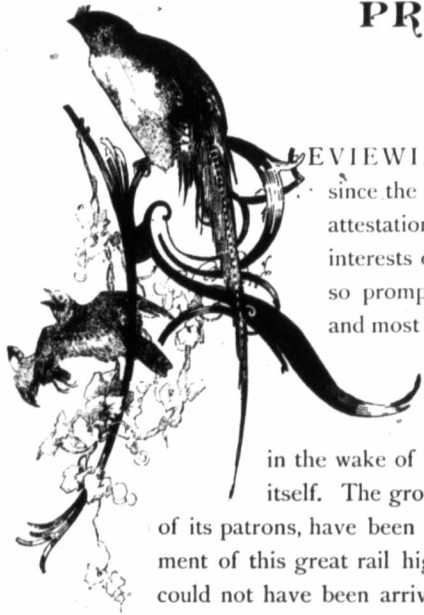


## PROGRESS.



REVIEWING the course of the Michigan Central Railroad, since the inception of the Company's business, is sufficient attestation of the fidelity of its management to the best interests of the traveling public, and its wisdom in meeting, so promptly and in such a thorough manner, the increased and most exacting requirements of an active, comfort-loving population, a veritable nation of travelers. In catering to the wants of the traveling public the Michigan Central has not been content to follow in the wake of innovation and improvement, but has led the van itself. The growing requirements of the times, and the demands of its patrons, have been met by anticipation, on the part of the management of this great rail highway. The changes brought about, however, could not have been arrived at all at once; they are the gradual work of years, and the added combinations of science and highest mechanical skill; no untried experiment could prevail, none but thorough trials and tests could answer imperative demands for absolute safety. Artistic taste as well as practicability and usefulness have been consulted. Some improvement here and there, a slight addition in this and that direction, summed up into a general improvement of the entire equipment and the comfortable and elegant accommodations of to-day. Railway traveling, on this line, is no longer an irksome task, a journey of weariness and bleakness, fraught with lurking dangers and insufferable annoyances. Increase of traffic furthered additional train service, and attention turned to improvement in tracks, roadway and motive power. Stone ballasting was vigorously applied, additional tracks constructed, improved systems of signals adopted, and powerful locomotive engines built, affording requisites of speed and safety superior to anything ever attempted since steam power has come into use in its thousand-fold applications. The ingenuity of builders and mechanics was taxed to its utmost extent to combine into the construction of a rapidly increasing and improved equipment, every point of detail and minutia calculated to increase the comfort of the passenger, and surround him with the luxuries of home-life. And it might be truly said that the forests of the world, its markets, its mines, its shops and its scientific minds have been in a sense made tributary to these railway managers.

