

# PROGRESS WITH THE FLYING MACHINE.

## Working Out the Man-Flight Problem Along Scientific Lines Near Chicago.

The day is almost at hand when man will dispute with the bird for supremacy in the air. For hundreds of years his ambition has been at work with such persistence of effort that he now begins to see the end. He has grappled with the invisible forces of the atmosphere, sometimes blindly, but always courageously; generally to meet with disappointment, but happily with enough success to keep alive his determination to master the most difficult of all problems in physics. Lives have been lost and fortunes have been expended in the pursuit of this baffling question of man-flight. Ridicule has been heaped upon the heads of those who sought to cope with the feathered messengers of the air, and their sanity questioned by the world at large.

The advancement made toward the full solution of the problem of man-flight during the year 1896 was greater than that of any previous year, and attracted the widest attention among scientists. Probably more interest centered in the experiments conducted thirty miles southeast of Chicago on the shore of Lake Michigan by Octave Chanute, of Chicago, than anywhere else. The prominent position occupied by Mr. Chanute in the scientific world was accepted as a guarantee that he had faith in his experiments, and that he had no other purpose in view but to demonstrate certain principles involved in the problem.

At the time he was thus engaged Mr. Chanute observed much caution in his utterances concerning the results obtained. Fearful lest his conclusions might not be properly formed, or that he might be misunderstood, he refrained as far as possible from committing himself on the subject further than to say his experiments were very satisfactory. Since then he has gained courage, so to speak, and has become enthusiastic over what has been accomplished. He is now confident that the way is clear for the solution of the problem, and modestly takes to himself a goodly share of the credit for pointing the way. He claims that his experiments have marked out the best lines for investigators to follow, and numbers them as follows in the order of their importance:

1. The development of the self-propelled aerodrome.
  2. The development of the motorless air sailer.
  3. The development of the motor.
- During the past week the experiments of last year have been renewed near Dune Park, Ind., and Mr. Chanute has been almost a daily visitor to the scene of action. His interest in the result will not let him stay away longer than one day for several reasons. One reason is that the machine being used is one of his own invention in its most important details, and another is that the experiments are following the second line of investigation, which he laid down as necessary for the solution of the problem of man-flight. It is said that Mr. Chanute is the real one who is conducting the experiments, but this he denies in favor of A. M. Herring, a young man of considerable scientific knowledge, who was associated with Mr. Chanute last year in his extensive experiments at the same place.

The machine with which Mr. Herring is now experimenting daily represents the ideas of both himself and Mr. Chanute. It belongs to the same class as the machine which the late Otto Lilienthal, of Berlin, brought out in 1894 and in the use of which he met his death last year. It might well be termed a flying machine, and yet this



PROFESSOR CHANUTE'S LATEST FLYING MACHINE.

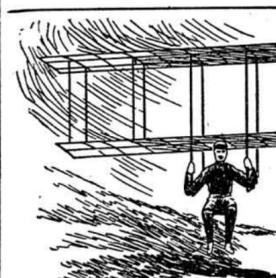
description does not fit accurately. It is technically known as an aero-curve, or a gliding machine. Better still, it might be called an air coaster, for in its action it approached very closely to the motion of those machines known as roller coasters. The resemblance is carried still further in the application of the principles of operation.

It is one of three sailing machines invented by Mr. Chanute, including a steering apparatus designed by Mr. Herring. The first machine was based upon a reverse of the principles evolved in the Lilienthal apparatus. Instead of the man moving about under the machine to bring the center of gravity under the center of air pressure, it was constructed with a view to bringing the center of pressure over the center of gravity by the aid of wings moved automatically. This machine had twelve wings, each six feet long and three feet wide, and each pivoted to a central frame. It had a total wing surface of 177 square feet, and weighed thirty-seven pounds.

By a process of evolution this apparatus became the machine in use at the present time with which such remarkable results have been obtained. Experiments showed many defects in

the machine, and it was rebuilt on a different principle. The twelve wings were discarded, and in their stead were substituted three superimposed concave surfaces, each sixteen feet long and four feet three inches wide, with an aggregate surface of nineteen square feet. Attached to the rear of this machine was a combined horizontal and vertical rudder, designed by Mr. Herring as a result of his frequent trials of the machine. In the course of the experiments it was found necessary to remove the lower surface, and this left the present machine.

The several changes therefore reduced the sustaining surface of the machine from 177 square feet to 135 square feet. The weight was lowered at the same time from thirty-seven



A GOOD START.

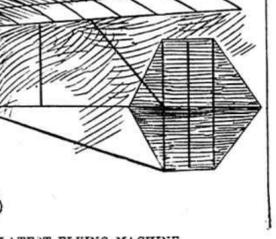
pounds to twenty-three pounds. This general reduction did not impair the strength of the machine, while at the same time it improved its efficiency to a remarkable degree. Repeated trials showed the machine capable of sustaining an aggregate weight of 178 pounds, this figure representing the combined weight of the operator and the machine. The frame is constructed of spruce wood, braced with fine piano wire, and the concave surfaces are formed by varnished silk stretched over the frame to the highest tension.

Will this machine fly? Mr. Chanute will answer this question by replying that was never intended to fly. He will inform those asking the question that the machine is made for experimental purposes solely, with the end in view of developing the motorless air sailer. At the same time, Mr. Chanute might say, the experiments may lead to a solution of the most important part of the problem of man-flight—the maintenance of the equilibrium of the machine under all circumstances. He holds that this problem must be solved first. It has been demonstrated to his satisfaction that until automatic stability at all angles of flight and conditions of wind is evolved and safety thereby secured it would be premature to seek to apply a motor or a propelling instrument to a full-sized machine.

The ordinary observer would answer that the machine does fly, nevertheless, after witnessing a day's experiments among the sand dunes. The distinction between sailing and gliding and flying would not appeal to any but the scientific mind while watching the "double-decker" travel through the air a distance of 200 yards with Mr. Herring hanging by his arms beneath. If the spectator was daring enough to tackle the machine himself and succeeded in getting the right kind of a start he would be willing to take oath that the machine flew. He would also be willing to testify that his sensations while the flight lasted

were indescribably thrilling and delightful. All the flights begin from an eminence, the numerous sand hills near Dune Park offering all the opportunities desired for starting. Another requisite is that the operator must start facing the wind, although with proficiency good results may be obtained with the machine traveling at an angle with the wind. Those who have seen a buzzard or most any other large bird from a flight from the surface of the earth will have noticed that the bird invariably faces the wind and runs a few steps before rising. For the same reasons the operator of the Chanute flying machine must face the wind, holding the machine over his head, then run a few steps down the side of the hill on which he stands and finally give a jump outward into space as though he never expected to come down. He will be doing nothing more, in effect, than he did when he jumped from the top of a fence in boyhood days with an umbrella over his head.

The wind rushing again, the lower side is hollow and contains a rattle, which proves that prehistoric children were not unlike the little ones of today.



A DOLL OF ANCIENT DAYS.

retards its motion. Sometimes a strong gust of wind comes along when least expected and suddenly raises the machine higher than the starting point. But for the automatic rudder this might prove disastrous to the operator. He would, in all likelihood, turn a back somersault with the machine and get badly hurt. Again, a blast of air from above might strike on the top of the machine and cause it to shoot downward at a terrific rate of speed. This is what happened to Lilienthal last year, and was the cause of the accident which resulted in his death.

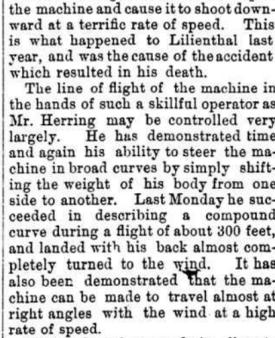
The line of flight of the machine in the hands of such a skillful operator as Mr. Herring may be controlled very largely. He has demonstrated time and again his ability to steer the machine in broad curves by simply shifting the weight of his body from one side to another. Last Monday he succeeded in describing a compound curve during a flight of about 300 feet, and landed with his back almost completely turned to the wind. It has also been demonstrated that the machine can be made to travel almost at right angles with the wind at a high rate of speed.

Flights have been made in all sorts of winds, the speed of which varied from ten to twenty-one miles an hour. The latter wind is higher in its speed than any gliding machine was ever tried in before and tested the steady-

## SHE IS A MILITIA CAPTAIN.

Two States Bestow a Title Upon a Chivalrous Young Woman.

Miss Mamie Telford Combs, better known now as Captain Combs, has created a sensation among military people. When the Fourth Regiment of Missouri National Guards was camping in Carrollton in the summer



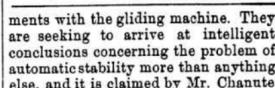
CAPTAIN COMBS.

of 1896 Miss Combs, who was visiting her sister with a number of girls from various States, went daily into camp. Miss Combs took such an unselfish interest in military affairs that she soon found herself on a footing of comradarie with all the soldiers in camp. Her favoritism, which was unusual, culminated in a suggestion to adopt her as "daughter of the regiment." Fearful, perhaps, of a complication of relationships that might ensue if their daughter offered to be a sister, etc., the boys begged that she be given a rank on the grounds that only a resident of Missouri should be accorded a daughtership. Accordingly Colonel Corby accepted her as a member of his staff. She was designated captain, and upon camp breaking up she was duly commissioned.

Of course, when she returned last fall to her home in Lexington, Ky., accounts of the "honors thrust upon her" by Missouri were heralded abroad. Infected with the fever of enthusiasm, Kentucky, her adopted State, vested her with the same title, and now she is commissioned captain by both States.

Captain Combs is a handsome woman of commanding appearance, and in her dark blue uniform, which offsets to a nice her exceptional blonde beauty, she could not fail to attract attention anywhere. Doubtless Miss Combs inherits her military instinct, as she is a granddaughter of that character well remembered in the history of Kentucky, General Combs.

Long flights are not the aim of the men who are conducting the experiments with the gliding machine. They are seeking to arrive at intelligent conclusions concerning the problem of automatic stability more than anything else, and it is claimed by Mr. Chanute that many new facts have been discovered bearing upon this question. In anticipation of an early solution of the question Mr. Herring is hard at work on a motor which he hopes to be able to apply to the gliding machine. An evidence of the faith that is within him is shown by the fact that he predicts that an air ship will be constructed within another year which will fly to New York with but four stops on the way to replenish the stock of fuel.—Chicago Times-Herald.



ALBATROSS WHICH FAILED.

Rewarded for Finding a Feather. The Gazette of Moscow says that while the King of Siam was passing through the streets of that city a white feather fell from the plume of his helmet, and was picked up by the peasant Toukianow, who is in the service of M. Koch. Toukianow hastened to restore the feather to the chief of police. He was greatly surprised several days later upon receiving from this official, in the name of His Siamese Majesty, a casket containing a portrait of the King and a massive gold chain decorated with a token of the same metal bearing the arms of Siam in enamel. Toukianow has not yet recovered from this unexpected piece of good fortune.

Odd Use for a Flower Pot. Frequently ice is hard to keep at hand with campers and picnickers and the food suffers for the want of it. A common clay flower pot may be made good use of in keeping the butter cool and firm. Place the pot over the plate of butter and wrap around it a cloth wet in cold water, sprinkling water over the outside of the cloth as it becomes dry. Milk will remain cool and sweet if treated in the same manner.

Prehistoric Mexican Doll. The sketch illustrates a prehistoric Mexican doll unearthed by a French anthropologist, Dr. Chipault. The infant

by all classes of people as in tropical America, and a tramp in those regions understands it best of all. Then South America is such an ideal place for a tramp—summer all the time, and all nature providing bountiful "hand-outs."

Here is a picture of Senor Weario Waggle and some of his companions, who pursue their vocation of Tropical Tramp in the Republic of Colombia.

Ballad Making. Ballads spring from the hearts of the people, fit from age to age, from lip to lip of the shepherds, peasants, nurses, of all the class that continues nearest to the state of nature. They make music with the flash of the fisherman's oars, the hum of the spinning wheel, and keep time with the plowman as he drives his team. The country aided man in their making, the bird notes rings in them, the tree has lent her whispers, the stream its murmur, the village bell its tinkling tune, the shells on the seashore their dreamy echoes.—Ransley.

## GOD'S MESSAGE TO MAN.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR OCTOBER 10.

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17, 18. "Make haste and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem, for they will not receive thy testimony concerning Me." In our last lesson Paul was on his way to Jerusalem in spite of the Spirit's warning that he should not go (chapter xli, 4, 11, 12). He had not been many days in Jerusalem, and he had not been long in the temple, drew him out and would have killed him had he not been rescued by the chief captain with a band of soldiers and carried into the castle. He asked permission of the captain to speak to the people, and having obtained it he addressed them in Hebrew from the castle stairs. He described his former life and the manner of his conversion, and has now come to the Lord's message to him at Jerusalem. The child of God who is willing to be wholly the Lord's, may be sure of the Lord's guidance in all things, and if it should be necessary and so on them as the Lord Himself will see to it.

19, 20. "And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on Thee: It is as a right for us to confess to God all our sins, but it is not for us to argue or reason with Him when He commands us to do anything or go anywhere. He knows where and how He commands the most effectual way, and who will receive testimony through this one or through that one, and it is for us to say, 'Here am I, send me where Thou wilt and when Thou wilt.'"

**Like Drifting of Human Experience.** Up and down the wild, barren Arabian stretches of desert and mountain wilderness, which, after all, only measured from south to north a fourteen days' journey direct from Sinai to Palestine, the Hebrew people wandered and roamed, leading their nomadic life for centuries. What was it all most like, other than the drifting of our human experience up and down the earth and along the ages of it, between the first Giving of the Commandments of Life and the entering into its full fruition? With the very heaven almost within our reach—with only such a little distance between the Bidding and the Reward, if we would follow the direct way—we wind and engage our paths in a blind maze, and we make our long tarryings in a few scanty feeding-places; we grow old and pass away without ever having come to the full faith of the heavenly nearness, to the sure, realizing vision of the glory that waits for us. It is like being lost in storm and darkness, toiling exhausted up and down within short step and call of one's own door, and perishing in the night of the world's confusion.—A. E. Whitney, in "The Open Mystery."

**A Prayer of King Alfred.** Lord, who hast wrought all things worthy and nothing unworthy, to these call me ever; ever give me love, both those that know that they love and those who know not what they love—thou who art the Father of that Son who has awakened and set awake the hearts of all men, and warneth us that we come to thee. For every one falls who flees from thee, and every one rises who turns to thee, and every one stands who abides in thee, and he dies who although he abides in thee, and he lives indeed who thoroughly abides in thee. Thou who hast given us the power that we should not despise in any toll, nor in any inconvenience, as it is wonder, for thou wilt rulest and makest us well serve thee; thou hast loosed us from the thralldom of other creatures and always prepared eternal life for us as an inheritance.—Hear me, Lord, thy servant! Thee alone I love above all other things! Thee I seek! Thee I follow! Thee I am ready to serve! Under thy government I wish to abide, for thou alone reignest. Amen.

**Character Was Sunlight.** Character is like a plant. Shut up your plants in the cellar, and though you give them the richest soil, the due amount of moisture and sufficient heat, the absence of the sunlight will turn them into a collection of glooms, just as a colorless carnation or plant. So is it in the experience of the soul. Follow implicitly every rule of conduct in the Bible, grimly bend all your powers of will to the discharge of duty, and yet, if you do not have the sunlight of the love of God, you will be like a plant that has been kept in the dark. Progress in Christian manhood is determined by the measure of obedience to the apostolic injunction: "Keep yourself in the love of God." Once the geniality of Christianity is grasped by the heart, and after the white flower of holiness, the assurance of final victory is vouchsafed, for the truth dawns upon the mind that the very genius of Christianity is its sunny helpfulness.—Rev. D. Sutherland.

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**Character Was Sunlight.** Character is like a plant. Shut up your plants in the cellar, and though you give them the richest soil, the due amount of moisture and sufficient heat, the absence of the sunlight will turn them into a collection of glooms, just as a colorless carnation or plant. So is it in the experience of the soul. Follow implicitly every rule of conduct in the Bible, grimly bend all your powers of will to the discharge of duty, and yet, if you do not have the sunlight of the love of God, you will be like a plant that has been kept in the dark. Progress in Christian manhood is determined by the measure of obedience to the apostolic injunction: "Keep yourself in the love of God." Once the geniality of Christianity is grasped by the heart, and after the white flower of holiness, the assurance of final victory is vouchsafed, for the truth dawns upon the mind that the very genius of Christianity is its sunny helpfulness.—Rev. D. Sutherland.

**Unhappiness of Our Own Making.** Joan Bunyan, in his immortal allegory, brings his Pilgrims to certain "Delectable Mountains," which are clad with orchards and vineyards, with gardens and fountains of water. For these sunny heights they sought some glimpse of the Celestial City, and were regaled with pleasant fruits. Now there is no reason why any of us should be content to live down among the "dumps" of the low grounds, or in those marshy regions where the malaria of despondency prevails. Much of our unhappiness in this world is of our own making. We might have a great many joyous days during our longer pilgrimage, if we only had the courage to stand with some temptation, and by Christ's imparted help have conquered it, then we could have a delectable mount, and can sing our psalms of praise to God, and be glad to be brought to the master or our fellowmen, every answer to prayer, every new discovery of Christ's love, every new attainment in the spiritual life, carries us up into a higher, nobler atmosphere, and always laden with the chapter of the Romans up, and sing the one hundred and third Psalm.—The Christian.

**The Power of Prayer.** Are you in sorrow? Prayer can make your affliction sweet and strengthening. Are you in gladness? Prayer can add to your joy a celestial perfume. Are you in extreme danger, whether from illness or inward conflict? Prayer can set at your right hand an angel whose touch "could shatter a millstone into smaller dust than the flour it grinds," and whose glance could lay all armies low. When St. Paul's life was hotly pursued by murderers, he took refuge in a cave and instantly, over the rift of it, the spiders wove their webs, and seeing this the murderers passed by. Then said he: "Where God is not, a wall is but a spider's web; where God is, a spider's web is as a wall." What will prayer do for you? I answer, All that God can do for you! When He bids us pray, it is as though He said to us: "Ask what I shall give thee."—Canon Farrar.

**A Sanctifying Force Needed.** I heard some time since of an oculist who was very fond of cricket. But he had given it up, much as he enjoyed it, for he found that it affected the delicacy of his touch, and for the sake of those whom he sought to relieve he sanctified himself and set himself apart. That is what we need, a force that prompts us always to be at our best and ready for service, our fullest and richest to help—a tree that is always in leaf and in bloom and always laden with its fruit, like the orange tree, where the beauty of the blossom meets with its fragrance the mellow glory of the fruit.—Rev. Mark Guy Pearse.

**MULE SHOT TO LOOSE HIS HOLD.** Baseball Player of Lost Creek, Penn., Has His Hand Lacerated.

Michael Coyte, pitcher of the Lost Creek (Schuylkill County, Penn.) Baseball Club, was the victim of a very peculiar accident. He was putting a mule, when the animal snapped at his foot and he was thrown. It crushed his teeth through the hand, and despite all efforts made to have the animal release its hold, it obstinately refused to do so.

## GOD'S MESSAGE TO MAN.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR OCTOBER 10.

**Lesson Text: "Paul a Prisoner at Jerusalem." Acts xlii, 17-30—Golden Text: I Peter iv, 16—Commentary on the Day's Lesson by Rev. D. M. Stearns.**

17, 18. "Make haste and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem, for they will not receive thy testimony concerning Me." In our last lesson Paul was on his way to Jerusalem in spite of the Spirit's warning that he should not go (chapter xli, 4, 11, 12). He had not been many days in Jerusalem, and he had not been long in the temple, drew him out and would have killed him had he not been rescued by the chief captain with a band of soldiers and carried into the castle. He asked permission of the captain to speak to the people, and having obtained it he addressed them in Hebrew from the castle stairs. He described his former life and the manner of his conversion, and has now come to the Lord's message to him at Jerusalem. The child of God who is willing to be wholly the Lord's, may be sure of the Lord's guidance in all things, and if it should be necessary and so on them as the Lord Himself will see to it.

19, 20. "And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on Thee: It is as a right for us to confess to God all our sins, but it is not for us to argue or reason with Him when He commands us to do anything or go anywhere. He knows where and how He commands the most effectual way, and who will receive testimony through this one or through that one, and it is for us to say, 'Here am I, send me where Thou wilt and when Thou wilt.'"

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