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Castles in the Air.

Wealthy American women have recently taken up ballooning, and a friendly observer is inspired to dilate upon the inexpensiveness of the pastime, and then to let his imagination soar. A fine balloon, he says, costs only \$500, and one "sailor" can run it, whereas a yacht, or even an automobile, may easily eat up a modest fortune every year. This is fact. Fancy takes command as the author suggests the charm of vacations spent in captive balloons, or, better still, in "kite houses," moored anywhere from a thousand to 10,000 feet above the surface, in that pure and rarefied atmosphere which invalids go far to find. Provisions would be sent up and letters sent down in a traveling-basket; there could be telephone connection; and harsh sounds, unsightly scenes and disagreeable odors would all be cut off by distance. To be sure, the wind and the kite house might take a notion to fall simultaneously. Then a woman who had ascended to escape the tension of business or society or family affairs would have a fine chance to learn whether the experiment had strengthened her nerves. But, says the Youth's Companion, granting that all went well above, and granting that our women would consent to flee—or fly—their responsibilities, such an undertaking would probably be hampered from below. Unless the occupant of an air castle arranged to return to earth at frequent intervals her husband or sweetheart would get her back, even if he had to take the risk of climbing up the cable.

The attempt of the Methodist church to make \$1,000 the minimum salary which any of its ministers shall receive may be followed by similar action on the part of the Congregationalists. The Rev. Dr. George A. Gordon of Boston, in commenting on the matter recently, called attention to something which is frequently forgotten, namely, that conditions of life have changed, until now, instead of churches somewhere nearly equal in financial resources, there are some very rich and powerful churches, and some very poor and weak; and what is needed is a general sustentation fund which shall put the poorer churches more nearly on a par with the richer ones. Dr. Gordon says, probably with justice, that it is fast becoming an impossibility to get self-respecting young men, even among those who follow an ideal, to work for such small salaries as many churches pay, and therefore the churches suffer from the lack of the kind of preachers most needed.

To older graduates of American colleges, and to most adults who have not been to college, the solemnity of the undergraduate youngster is naively funny. One college paper, in such bitter style as might be appropriate to some mighty moral or political issue, chastises the entire undergraduate body for not turning out to cheer the football team at practice. All other practice, say at penmanship or the piano, can be carried on by the practitioners with the requisite tools. Football, apparently, cannot be learned except in presence of a mob. Another college paper gravely protests against the freshmen's increasing habit of walking on the prohibited side of a certain street, and declares college customs to a sacred tradition, to be reverently observed by each young batch of collegians.

The University Rowing Association at Princeton is having a much needed boathouse built on the north bank of Carnegie lake. The building will be one hundred feet long by thirty feet wide.



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