

AERIAL ENGINES OF WAR

Relations of Balloons and Kites to Future Military Operations.

WHAT IS THE ELEMENT OF RISK

Extent of Experiments and Stories of Proposed Army Tests—Use of Balloons—Chambré's Kite.

One day recently Octave Chambré, the flying-machine experimenter of Chicago, said to a single gentleman in the audience of a model room: "I will build a man-carrying kite in the United States Signal Service corps within ten days of this date."

The bare fact that Octave Chambré was to build such a kite was made known, and although neither the inventor nor his experimenter was well known, the shape it might take, there appeared within a few days a dozen minute descriptions from a dozen different sources of a dozen different kites, each one of which was declared to be an exact statement in detail of the style of construction of the proposed Chambré kite.

Mr. Chambré has been given the Chicago Tribune, a model of every kind of kite known to ancient and modern ages, to the people who have been interested in the kite. It speaks well for the inventive genius of those who wrote the dozen varying descriptions of the kite Mr. Chambré is to build.

It is true that the United States Signal Service corps is turning its attention to kites. An officer of that branch of the service is soon to consult with Mr. Chambré about kite experiments and tests, and he will be the first to carry up in the face of a gale of wind an arm-kite containing a light signal.

It is true that the kite Mr. Chambré pointed out resembles the kite which he has made, and it is true that it will do the work it is intended for, but it has been found that any other form of kite, which has been ever attempted, will not do the work.

The balloon work of the army is in charge of Captain William A. Glassford and the equipment has recently been enlarged to include all kinds of balloons. A number of experiments have been made recently, both in this department and in that of the Colorado.

What kites in England. Lieutenant Baden-Powell of the British army has been going up on a kite. He writes a letter to Octave Chambré the other day and told him that he had been up in the presence of General Wolsey, and the general was satisfied, he thought, that the kite had come to stay.

It strikes the average civilian that it would be surprising to find the latest military order to order a man before a court-martial to be tried for cowardice if he should decline to make a kite ascent.

What a position is this! A soldier in all that holds him to life in an elevated position while a slight eddying of a breeze would make him voluntarily play fall to a fate in a man's hands.

Advantages in warfare. Granted that the use of the kite in the signal service will be dangerous to an extreme degree, it will be a valuable asset.

How balloons are handled. An army approaches a fortified place. It is called and the balloon corps is ordered out to observe the position of the enemy's lines, the disposition of the artillery, the number of the troops and any other facts which the glass may disclose.

KIDNAPPER'S BOLD CRIME

Story of a San Francisco Man Who Paid a Ten Thousand Dollar Ransom.

TRAPPED BY A SMOOTH CROOK

Threatened with Torture and Death. He Paid the Ransom's Demands—After Being Released—A Mark for Con. Men.

Such a story as Millard's James Campbell told and proved against Oliver Wainwright comes from Charles Montgomery, proprietor of the Brooklyn hotel, San Francisco, who is a man of means, position and high reputation—just such a story, as he declared to his kidnapper, to call him so, as he declared to his planned more widely that Wainwright had more skillfully, reaped a substantial reward for his daring crime and safe escape.

For more than a year, relates the San Francisco Chronicle, Mr. Montgomery has held his peace and kept his pledge of secrecy, and no one but his wife and his lawyer has known that he was the victim of an extraordinary piece of villainy and that he paid a large sum of money—said to be \$10,000—on his captor as the price of his liberty and personal security.

A few days ago it was learned that a year ago last July Mr. Montgomery had been lured at night into a vacant house in the most populous part of the city, had been held a prisoner and threatened with torture and death, and had finally agreed to pay his jailer the sum he demanded within a specified time after his release. Had he sworn not to betray the robber, and had paid the money as promised.

Friday the hotel man, after he had tried in every way to avoid the necessity of publication, confirmed the story in every detail. He refused, however, to give any information that might lead to the detection of the criminal.

The man who was kidnaped in broad daylight is the proprietor of the Brooklyn hotel on Bush street, and of Montgomery's hotel on Second street. He is well known in business circles, and is a man of considerable wealth. Some seven years ago he lost about \$200,000, but even now he is a man of means.

It was in the latter part of July, 1895, the story goes, that a stranger called at the Brooklyn hotel and asked Mr. Montgomery to accompany him to look at a piece of property, as he feared he might be disturbed in a purchase he thought of making. He said he was a stranger in the city, but had heard that Mr. Montgomery was a good judge in these affairs, and would give him a great favor if he would give him the benefit of his advice.

At the command of his guide Montgomery threw up his hands, and he was taken to a rear room. There he was told to sit on a rule bench, and did so. A rough board was laid across his lap, and fastened, and his feet were placed in stocks. He was surprised to find a key which he had been and turned, and found himself covered with a revolver. Sound and sight were almost simultaneous.

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THE PERIL OF VIOLETS

The purity of the life, the glow of the heart, the windows of the soul.

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