

Maxim, the American, is trying to make an airship which can be steered through the atmosphere and carry passengers. The German, Otto Lilienthal, is bent on devising a literal flying machine. He makes it fast to his body and then attempts to poise himself and fly as a bird. The thing has real wings constructed of light material. It would be very interesting to know which of these inventors will succeed first, or if either will succeed at all. The prospect thus far is not promising. Maxim's machine has been made to rise and move a short distance once in awhile. Lilienthal's wings will lift him in the air, and he has literally been able to fly a short way in a still atmosphere. But a wind sends him head over heels and tilts him up or down wildly. He declares that the difficult point is to balance himself. But if a man can do that on a bicycle he ought to be able to do it in the air. Lilienthal claims to have flown in some instances as far as a quarter of a mile.