

Aug. 17, 1896

A. A. Merrill, Esq.

Dear Sir.

I have your letter of 14 and the printed matter for which I thank you.

I have made no experiments to determine whether the rudder should be front or back. I have thought that if placed in front it would first catch the gusts of wind, which constitute the chief disturbing element, turn the apparatus out of the wind instead of in it, and thus prove a source of danger, but the experiment ought to be tried.

I formed a different impression from you as to the cause of Lilienthal's lamentable accident. I think that he went up in a gusty wind, in a machine which had been suffered to get out of perfect order, that a wind gust caught the upper surface, and, the headway being stopped, the inertia of the weight tumbled the machine over. Have you any further advices than those published in the N. Y. Journal?

Reply

O. Chanute