

March 9, 1894

Mr. L. P. Mouillard

My dear sir,

In the same mail which brought me your letter of February 3 I received a booklet from Lilienthal which contained the article which has been translated in the January issue of the "Aeronaute". In this translation the article has been curtailed, garbled, deprived of practical information and very poorly appreciated besides. It took me several days to make a good translation of this article. After I have it proofed you may find it in the next month's issue of "Aeronautics" which magazine I am having sent to you regularly.

Lilienthal suggests frankly to all investigators who think to have some ideas to imitate his experiments, and he points out what precautions to take to avoid accidents. He says there is room for everybody and tells what he is going to do next summer. I suppose those who clipped these sentences off his article intend to follow his advice, but they have to be careful not to break their necks.....

There is another point: what may happen to Lilienthal when a gust of wind strikes his machine from the rear. He is very cautious, very wise, but he is taking a great risk by installing an engine from now on. He is not lacking any models, for he has the stork and the falcon but he is quite certain that you understand gliding much better than he and that your machine is better designed than his. I therefore agree entirely with you that it should pass the test. What I want to know is where, how, and what it will cost. I should be very glad to have your opinion on this subject.

It is also obvious that now is the time to get busy with your book, without altogether revealing the practical construction of your machine. Lilienthal, although very frank, does not give away any secrets of his airplane. I wrote him and sent him the articles in which I wrote about him. He sent me his article without any letter. Under his signature he publishes only his experiences during descending or undulating flights, but I agree with you that he did make ascending flights as stated in the small newspaper item I sent you, which (as I have learned since) came from the Russian magazine, "Technik."

Will you kindly inquire whether Sir Benjamin Baker, an English engineer is in Cairo now and how long he intends to stay in Egypt.

Very truly yours, O. Chanute