

## THE FLYING MAN.

Is man at last about to sail in the air?

It would almost seem so to judge by the article of Mr. Otto Lilienthal, which we print in this issue; it being a translation from the November number of the German aeronautical journal.

Mr. Lilienthal does not deal in speculations or projects, to be tested if capital can be obtained; he relates, soberly and candidly, what he has actually been doing in practical flight during the last three years, and this resembles wonderfully the performances of the soaring birds, with the single exception that he does not seem to have trusted himself as yet to rising indefinitely upon the wind, or to circling flight in the heavens.

Event this recent newspaper items assert that he has accomplished. Some of them are said to have been translated from the Russian paper *Technik*, and state that upon launching down from a stony perpendicular bluff 340 ft. high:

"Upon his first trial he sank nearly 50 ft., but quickly regaining what he had lost, began working his wings with such success that he nearly reached the height of 1,000 ft., after which he took a delightful sail downward until he again safely reached the earth."

This may or may not be true, but all close observers of the soaring birds will doubtless admit that it is not improbable that a man, by a sufficient wind, with a proper aeroplane and through adequate manoeuvres, can succeed in gliding upward as well as downward, if he can only *preserve his balance in the air*.

This is what Mr. Lilienthal has set out to do, and he seems to have nearly succeeded. He does not explain the exact construction of his aeroplane, but, to judge by the photographs, it appears to be very simple, and to warrant approximate imitation. Indeed, Mr. Lilienthal frankly invites others to repeat his experiments, and he liberally gives them practical hints as to the points to be observed. He is a steam-engine manufacturer in Berlin, and we shall await with very great interest the results of the new series of experiments which he says that he is about to undertake the coming summer, with the addition of a steam motor.