

organize this work, and thus make the work of our public schools more practical and efficient. I shall send you from time to time copies of all bulletins as they are published. For any editorial support you may see fit to give this movement, the state and the county superintendents will be truly thankful.

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### THE ROMANCE OF A BOOK

Purchased for the modest sum of two cents and resold for 60 cents a copy of Benjamin Franklin's "Dissertation on Liberty and Necessity," printed in 1775, was sold recently at Sotheby's auction rooms, London, for \$5,000. A romantic history is associated with this book. It is believed that only about a hundred copies of the original "Dissertation on Liberty and Necessity" were printed. The edition was suppressed by the British government and the volume sold at Sotheby's and one other are the only remaining copies known.

About 50 years ago Henry Stevens bought for 60 cents the copy just sold. He then offered it to the British Museum for \$5, but it was declined on account of the price. Next, the book was offered at \$25 to two famous collectors, but again it was refused. Then it was put up at auction and found a purchaser in Mr. Hutton, who gave \$95 for it. Sold again by auction in 1872, it fetched \$110, Mr. Huth being the purchaser. It is an ironic fact that at both of these auction sales representatives of the British Museum were unsuccessful bidders. The museum authorities had refused the book when they could have had it for \$5, and you can imagine how they felt when they saw it knocked down for a thousand times that price.

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### CONFIDENCE IN FLYING

"Confidence is nine-tenths of flying," said Mr. Moisant recently. "A man may not be afraid, but he may be nervous. If he is nervous he should not go in a flying machine. There has been too much mystery made of this flying game. It is not difficult. I find it much easier to steer a flying machine than an automobile. I can do anything I want in an aeroplane. There are no corners to cut off, no stones on the road, no dogs or cats. And the faster we go the safer we are.

"Aeroplanes will be common very soon. But we must have suitable stations for cross-country flights. We wouldn't expect a ship drawing 40 feet to dock in 20 feet of water. Aeroplanes must have landing accommodations, and not be at the mercy of the wind and rain. On my trip from Paris to London my machine was never under cover."—New York Tribune.