



FROM NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS Compiled by Wm. Mackrill.

OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

Adams, West Point graduate, was in the opening of the war. In a balloon...

CHAPTER VII.

I awoke early the next morning. My clothes were damp and moist.

"Where are you going?" I asked. "To the sea, then, and I will pick you up."

"I don't know. My steering fans won't work, and I cannot turn. I suppose I shall have to consider myself bound for America."

"Drop to the sea, then, and I will pick you up. My ship steers perfectly."

"I found that my guest was none other than Emil LeFevre, son of the great inventor of submarines and explosives."

"I had started the motor and was about to descend I took a telegram from the rack and waited eagerly for a sight of something that would tell me my whereabouts."

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pounds of Calinite, a new explosive whose force operated always downward. The bomb contained also a magnet and circuit-breaker so tuned as to be responsive to electrical vibrations set up in a powerful electrical instrument on the discharging ship.

Another offensive device was an aerial illuminator—a small, balloon-like affair, arranged to float at a considerable elevation, and carrying a powerful chemical light, backed by strong reflectors.

Against these devices the French had prepared an aerial bomb to discharge acid and deadly gas, and to sprinkle the enemy. They were also provided with aluminum armor, so thick and tough that an ordinary projectile would merely become imbedded therein, and held fast without being able to pass through.

As the sun drew near the horizon and the wind freshened I turned the motor of my airship to the east and prepared to spend the night aloft. I had been sailing leisurely back and forth over an area of perhaps fifty miles, in hope of seeing the German fleet.

"I had no apprehension whatever as to the stability of L'Almece, and we lay down and went to sleep that night without the least apprehension. Stanch and true was she, even as my own sweet betrothed. It was still dark, when I was awakened suddenly, starting by the sound of heavy detonations below."

"The Germans had evidently planned a night attack by the use of their illuminators. Below us the sea was alight in great spots, and dimly we could make out the vessels over which shone the strong, blue-white lights. Far off in the darkness we could see the occasional flash of a gun. The Germans were sending home great shells loaded with explosives. Their aerial bombs could not be followed at night."

"Where are you going?" I shouted. "To the sea, then, and I will pick you up. My ship steers perfectly."

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