

THE AIRSHIP A FACT.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22.—The Chronicle prints a story which would indicate that the airship in practical form is an established fact.

About 1 o'clock last Monday morning the inhabitants of Sacramento who were asleep at that hour claim to have seen an airship passing rapidly over the city. Some merely said they saw a bright light, while others went so far as to say that they saw a cigar-shaped flying-machine and heard human voices from it. The residents of Oakland also say they saw the same sight a few nights ago.

The story of the mysterious airship has been told all over the state and has created considerable amusement, as it was generally believed to be a hoax. The Chronicle this morning prints an interview with George D. Collins, a reputable lawyer of this city, who says that the airship is a reality. Attorney Collins says:

"It is perfectly true that there is at last a successful airship in existence, and that California will have the honor of bringing it before the world. I have known of the affair for some time and am acting as attorney for the inventor. He is a very wealthy man, who has been studying the subject of flying machines for fifteen years, and who came here seven years ago from the state of Maine in order to be able to perfect his ideas away from the eyes of other inventors. During the last five years he has spent at least \$100,000 on his work. He has not yet secured his patent, but his application is now in Washington. I cannot say much about the machine he has perfected, because he is my client, and besides he fears that the application will be stolen from the patent office if people come to know that his invention is practicable.

"I saw the machine one night last week at the inventor's invitation. It is made of metal, is about 150 feet long, and is built to carry fifteen persons. There was no motive power so far as I could see, certainly no steam.

"It is built on the aeroplane system and has two canvas wings eighteen feet wide and a rudder shaped like a bird's tail. The inventor climbed into the machine, and after he had been moving some of the mechanism for a moment I saw the thing begin to ascend from the earth, very gently. The wings flapped slowly as it rose and then a little faster as it began to move against the wind. The machine was under perfect control all the time.

"When it got to a height of about ninety feet the inventor shouted to me that he was going to make a series of circles. He immediately did so, beginning by making a circle about 100 yards in diameter and gradually narrowing it till the machine got within thirty feet of the ground. It then fell straight down, very gracefully, and touched the earth as lightly as a falling leaf.

"The reports from Sacramento the other night were true. It was my clients' airship that the people saw. It started from Oroville, in Butte county, and flew sixty miles in a straight line directly over Sacramento. After running up and down once or twice over the capital my friend came right on a

distance of another seventy miles and landed at a spot on the Oakland side of the bay, where the machine now lies, guarded by eighty men. The inventor found during his trial trip that his ship had a wave-like motion that made him seasick. It is this defect that he is now remedying. In another six days the trouble will be done away with, and it is then his intention to immediately give the people of San Francisco a chance to see his machine. He will fly right over the city and cross Market street a dozen times.

"I cannot tell you where he is housing his ship or what his name is, as I am under a pledge of secrecy, but it is a fact that the machine does its work perfectly, and will astound the world and revolutionize travel when it has been displayed before the public.

"The inventor can go to New York with it if he wants to. He has forsaken the ideas of Maxim and Langley entirely in building the machine, and has constructed it on an absolutely new theory."

In reply to Mr. Collins' statement there are many skeptics who say flatly they do not believe his story. It is almost incredible that an airship 150 feet long could be secreted in any building near San Francisco without the fact being made public. The mysterious lights seen over Sacramento, if any were seen, are thought to have been meteors which passed within the range of vision of the belated citizens who thought they saw an airship.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Nov. 22.—The inventor of the mysterious airship which has been puzzling local scientists and others for the past week is believed to be one "Dr. E. H. Benjamin," an alleged dentist who has occupied rooms in Ellis street lodging house for the past two years, but so far he has successfully evaded all attempts to discover his identity. His attorney, Collins, when seen yesterday and pressed to tell something further about the alleged inventor and his machine said:

"This morning the inventor came to my office in the Crocker building, and told me that he had tested the merits of the ship in last night's storm with the greatest success. The wind currents were very contrary, and the test was one that tried the merits of the machine in the hardest possible manner, but it came out of the ordeal in good order, having crested the storm as well as the bird.

"He started from the locality where the vessel is housed and flew over Alcatraz and out to the Golden Gate, skirting the cliff house and returning by the same route across the bay. He hovered over the seal rocks for fully ten minutes and played his searchlight on the seals themselves. His intention is to make another trip this evening, probably over the same ground, running on his return trip as far as Sacramento."

IDAHO OCTOBER WEATHER.

Monthly report for October, 1896. D. P. McCaffrey, Section Director, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Summary: Temperature—The mean temperature of the state was 47.8

degrees, 0.8 degrees cooler than October of last year; the highest monthly mean temperature was 63.0 degrees at Pollock, and the lowest, 39.0 degrees at Chesterfield; the highest temperature reached during the month was 96 degrees at Fayette on the 1st, and the lowest, 8 at Chesterfield on the 6th, making an absolute range of 90 degrees for the month; the greatest local monthly range of temperature at Minidoka, 80 degrees, and the least at Moscow, 44 degrees.

Precipitation—The average precipitation was 0.72 inch, an excess of 0.65 inch over October, 1895; the greatest amount was at Ola, 1.74 inches, and the least 0, at Minidoka and Rexburg; the greatest in any 24-hour period was 1.10 inches at Ola on the 31st. Average number of rainy days, 3; clear, 19; partly cloudy 3, and cloudy 9. Wind—Prevailing direction, south west; average hourly velocity (at Idaho Falls) 6.0 miles; maximum velocity (at Idaho Falls) 31 miles an hour, from the south on the 31st.

Miscellaneous phenomena—Aurora—Gimlet, 29th; Idaho Falls, 11th. Dense fog—Coeur d'Alene, 12th, 13th, 26th, 27th; Fort Sherman, 12th and 28th. Hail or sleet—Dairy, 26th; Gimlet, 27th, 28th and 29th; Salubria, 30th.

NEWS OF THE STATE.

Wasatch Wave: There has been a change made lately in the Latter-day Saints Church choir of this city by increasing the membership to thirty people, the greater portion of whom are new additions, and by a change of conductors. That responsible position is now in the hands of Joseph A. Murdock whose capabilities in that line, with proper support from our talented vocalists, are fully equal to the occasion.

Ogden Standard: Thos Evans, who died in this city on Thursday at the age of 63, was well known and highly respected in this community. He leaves a wife and six children to mourn his loss, for whom the deepest sympathy is expressed. Deceased was the son of John and Mary Evans, and was born in the parish of St. Armond, Radnorshire, North Wales, in September, 1833. He was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on the 2nd day of November, 1863, by Elder Daniel Williams, and was confirmed by Elder Thomas Werrett, who at present is living in West Jordan, Salt Lake county, Utah. He emigrated to Utah and arrived in Ogden on the 9th day of November, 1879, with his first wife and two children, David W. and Samuel Evans, Thomas B. having emigrated a few years previous. The only daughter is now residing in Plymouth, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania.

Castle Valley News: There is not a single vacant dwelling in Price at present and every day some person enquires for a place to rent and is compelled to double up with some other family while awaiting a vacant building. Many new residences have gone up in the last year but building has evidently not kept pace with the growth of the city. A most excellent opportunity is now offered, for moneyed men to build cottages for rent.