Manchester (NH)
Union
April 20 1897

If that airship travels a thousand miles or more an hour, its operator may conclude to take a trip to view the North Pole some midsummer afternoon.

Manchester (NH)
(ive) Union
April 15 1897

THOSE AIRSHIPS.

It is just as well to be on one's guard against a hoax at any time, and all times, but when the one fact that must be admitted is that the perpetrators of the hoax have spread their operations over several states and six months of time, there is obviously some difficulty in the way of the hoax hypothesis. At all events, whether the recent reports have been based upon mistaken obsevations of Alpha Orionis, as suggested by the Providence Journal, or whether all who have reported seeing an airship, or lights supposed to be connected with an airship, are victims of a gigantic hoax, the reports have attracted sufficient attention to render a review of the reported facts of some interest to the curious.

As long ago as last November it was asserted that an airship had been seen in the vicinity of Sacramento, Cal., on the morning of the 16th of that month. Several persons, according to their subsequent statement, saw the object passing swiftly over the city and heard voices from it. A San Francisco lawyer, Collins by name, announced that the ship was the invention of a mysterious client of his, who had spent $100,000 upon it in five years. Collins's story is interesting, whatever measure of credence be given to it. He says that he saw the machine on an exhibition trip, and that it was at all times under the inventor's control. When it reached a height of ninety feet, he says, "the inventor shouted to me that he was going to make a series of circles

TRENTON, N. J., TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1897.

WAS IT AN AIRSHIP?

Peter McAuley Finds a Mysterious Note Hidden in a Can.

IS SIGNED "WE ARE FOUR."

The Finder Directed to Communicate With Maurice Porter, of Greenwich, N. Y., Which Has Already Been Done A Strange Story.

Trenton has not only seen the airship, but has had a message therefrom tending to prove that there are four men in the boat, and that they, having lost complete control of their machine, are drifting helplessly about in ether.

The airship was seen last night by not less than a hundred persons, many of whom had glasses. Some are willing to make affidavit that the mysterious messenger of the heavens is really a bonafide airship. The message from it is in the hands of Peter McAuley, who resides at 323 West Hanover street, and whose place of business is at 106 North Broad street.

Last night, at about 9 o'clock, when Mr. McAuley was going home from his daily labors, he and others saw immediately above them what appeared as especially brilliant shooting stars. They could not comprehend how they could see the heavens when such a drizzling rain was falling. Naturally their astonishment evolved into amazement. However, no one seemed to be able to volunteer a suggestion that would account for the strange effect. All who saw the "shooting stars" gave up in bewilderment and retired to their homes.

This morning as Mr. McAuley was passing from his residence, he saw his little girl kicking a package wrapped in manilla paper, and tied with the ravelings of a blanket, or some other piece of cloth. His curiosity was thoroughly aroused, and he picked up the package to more thoroughly satisfy his curiosity. Inside of the wrapper was a Boston baked bean can, and inside of the can was the following note, which was soaked with water, so much so that the wording, which is in ink, had run together sufficiently to be almost undecipherable.

The Message.

"In the clouds; April 26, '97; night to whom it may interest: A terrific wind and rain storm, which has been raging has just abated. Our airship revolved like a leaf in a minature whirlwind. Nearly three weeks ago we descended upon a vast prairie, evideatly in the western states (U. S.). Since then we've been sailing, we know not where. We've been out of water frequently, and as often have melted snow for relief. Please notify Maurice Porter, Greenwich, New York. He knows who we are. We hourly expect to perish." Signed "We Are Four."

Upon reading this Mr. McAuley immediately searched the heavens, but could not detect any signs of an airship. Suddenly he recalled what he had seen last night, and concluded what he took for shooting stars must have been rockets fired as signals of distress from the airship. He is inclined to think the message genuine, and does not think he has been made the victim of a joke. From Mr. McAuley's business standing in Trenton, it is known that he would not himself participate in a hoax of this nature.

View From City Hall.

Yesterday, about noon, people in the city hall were attracted by an object about a mile above them that glittered strangely in the sunlight. Some got out their glasses. The object proved to be moving very slowly. It was conical, shaped like an immense cigar, and was evidently made of some light, bright material, presumably aluminum. Many of them were emphatic in their belief that it was an airship. About one o'clock it had worked itself well over toward the west, and had disappeared behind some clouds. It is evident that when the wind storm came up about 6:30 last night that the ship was driven back east again.

While many scoff at the idea of the object being an airship, many are sanguine that if it is one, that the note Mr. McAuley received came from it.

Communication has been had with Maurice Porter, Greenwich, New York. It is hoped that something more definite may be had regarding the passengers.

New Brunswick NJ
Daily Times
April 12 1897

MORE TOWNS SEE AIRSHIP.

BURLINGTON, Ia., April 9. — Despatches from various points along the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railway state that the mysterious airship was seen last night by every operator and station agent along the line between West Liberty, Ia., and Cedar Rapids. All report the same conditions—a blazing headlight, which reveals in some cases the smooth steel hull, dark wing-like extensions on each side, and a dull, hissing sound as the object glides through the air.

New York
World
April 27, 1897

AIRSHIP A CATTLE THIEF.

Former Member of Kansas Legislature Says He Saw Persons in a Huge Flying Machine.

(Special to The World.)

TOPEKA, Kan., April 26.—Alexander Hamilton, former member of Kansas Legislature from Woodson County, says that last Monday night he and his family were awakened by the bellowing of cattle.

Going outdoors he saw a large object with brilliant lights hovering over his cowyard. He and his son and the hired man rushed towards the lot with axes, yelling. The object rose, dragging with it a three-year-old heifer attached to a rope.

The next day Hamilton found the hide of the heifer ten miles from home. He says the supposed airship consisted of a cigar-shaped body about 300 feet long, which supported a basket-like carriage. What looked to be a propelling wheel made a great buzzing noise. He also says he saw two men, two children and a woman. He claims to have been within 300 feet of the ship.

State Oil Inspector E. V. Wharton, Sheriff M. E. Hunt, of Woodson County; Banker H. D. Winter, of Yates Centre, have made affidavit that they have known Hamilton for thirty years, and that they know him to be truthful.

New York
World
April 29, 1897

AIR-SHIP IS A BIG KITE.

One Comes to Earth in Missouri and the Apparition Is Explained.

(Special to The World.)

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., April 28.—The airship mystery has been solved as far as this part of the country is concerned. One of them has been brought to earth inside the city limits.

The air-ship is a combination hot-air balloon and kite, and is the invention of John Corter, of this city. He has sailed it in broad daylight, and when it was taken down it was seen by a crowd of several hundred people. The kite is about twelve feet square, balloon and all, and Corter has been experimenting with it and similar contrivances for several weeks.

One was turned loose by him and two others escaped by breaking the strings by which they were attached to earth. The two that escaped had red and green lights attached to them. Corter believes that they are floating yet, although the lights have doubtless gone out long since.

Seen at night, the small colored lights attached to them might readily cause them to be mistaken for aerial sailing vessels.

New York Times
March 11, 1897

EXPLOSION OF A METEOR.

One Man Rendered Unconscious and the Head of a Horse Crushed.

PARKERSBURG, West Va., March 10.—A meteor burst over the town of New Martinsville yesterday. The noise of the explosion resembled the shock of a heavy artillery salute, and was heard for twenty miles. The cylindrical shaped ball of fire was forging along in a southwesterly direction when first discovered. The hissing sound of the fire could be heard for miles, and the smoke gave the meteor the appearance of a burning balloon.

When the meteor exploded the pieces flew in all directions, like a volcanic upheaval, and solid walls were pierced by the fragments. David Leisure was knocked down by the force of the air caused by the rapidity with which the body passed before it broke. The blow rendered him unconscious. One horse had its head crushed and nearly torn from the trunk by a fragment of the meteor, and another horse in the next stall was discovered to be stone deaf.

The coming of the meteor was heralded by a rumbling noise, followed in an instant by the hissing sound, and immediately the ball of fire, spitting and smoking, burst into full view, and before the people had time to collect their senses, the explosion occurred.

New York
Sun
April 12 1897

HE FATHERS THE AIRSHIP.

An Ambiguous Omaha Chap Says He Wants 35 Acres to Exhibit It In.

OMAHA, Neb., April 11.—The mysterious airship which has caused the veracity of many reputable citizens to be questioned promises to be cleared up within a few days through the medium of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. Either this is a fact or a stupendous hoax is to be perpetrated on the exposition authorities. In the first mail yesterday Secretary Wakefield received a letter dated at Omaha and bearing the postmark of this date. The letter was signed "A. C. Clinton," and read as follows:

"TO THE EXPOSITION DIRECTORS: My identity up to date has been unknown, but I will come to the front now, *i. e.*, if you guarantee me 870,000 square feet of space. I am the famous airship constructor, and will guarantee you positively of this fact in a week. The airship is my own invention, and I am an Omaha man. I wish it to be held as an Omaha invention. It will carry safely twenty people to a height of from 1,000 to 2,000 feet. I truly believe I have the greatest invention and discovery ever made. Will see you April 17, 1897, at the headquarters."

The writer gave no address, and his name does not appear in the last city directory. The amount of space asked for by the writer of this letter is nearly thirty-five acres.

New York Tribune
April 29, 1897

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Apropos of the recent talk about an airship, Arthur T. Nettleton, of New-Milford, Conn., writes to "The Newtown (Conn.) Bee" saying that a History of Connecticut, published in London in 1781, chronicled the appearance of an airship in Connecticut in 1646. The people of New-Haven had sent a ship to England that year to procure a patent for the colony and a charter for the city. Some time after the vessel sailed a storm arose, and a day of prayer and fasting was observed in the hope that the safety of the ship would thereby be insured. At the close of the day the people looked up in the sky and saw their ship under full sail, and the sailors steering her from west to east. She came over the meeting where they had fasted and prayed, and then was met by a Eurocydon, which rent the sails and overset the ship; in a few moments she fell down near the weathercock on the steeple and instantly vanished. The people all returned to the meeting, where the minister gave thanks to God for answering the desires of his servants, and for giving them an infallible token of the loss of their ship and charter.

Athens Oh
Messenger + Star
April 22, 1897

Us Posted on Events Outside The County Seat.

A Panorama, as it Were, of What is Happening Every day in the County and can be Viewed only by Messenger and Herald Readers.

ALBANY.

A goodly number of Albany people saw the wonderful mysterious much talked about air ship, Monday, April 19th, just after the mail came.——in the Post.

Cleveland Plain Dealer
April 20 1897

EDITORS AND AIRSHIPS.

It will be perfectly safe for delinquents to agree to settle when their airship comes in.—Detroit Free Press.

Who saw the airship first? That fellow is a genius, who ought to live in memory as long as Col. Joe Mulhatton does.—Chicago Tribune.

It is somewhat interesting to note also that the navigators of that ubiquitous airship never have to come down to eat or get a bath.—Chicago Record.

The bottom will drop out of the whole sensation, in all likelihood, as quickly as the sensation itself developed, and then the people will see that meanwhile the best scientific minds of the world are patiently plodding along the path toward human flight, gradually overcoming the obstacles to success and with every prospect that some day, well along in the future, the announcement will be made in such a manner that it must be believed that the problem has been solved.—Washington Post.

Several thousand people living in the vicinity of Chicago saw, Friday night, in the sky, an illuminated something or other which they took to be an airship. This aerial vehicle has now been seen in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. We trust it may come south so that we may be duly satisfied that the whole northwest has not been seized with an epidemic of lying. Perhaps it is an escaped boat from the canals of Mars. Perhaps it is a Crookes tube on a rampage. Perhaps it is the star eyed goddess of reform searching for Henry Watterson. Perhaps it is the ball fired to the moon from Florida by Jules Verne some years ago. Perhaps it is a telegram from Jupiter. Perhaps it is some stellar Hawaii seeking annexation. Perhaps it is another Chicago bank doing a fly-by-night business. There is no telling. —Macon Telegraph.

Cleveland Plain Dealer
April 28 1897

SAY THEY SAW THE AIRSHIP.

Two Reputable Residents of Toledo Are Willing to Make Affidavit to That Effect.

Special to the Plain Dealer.

TOLEDO, April 27.—Howard Warn of the office of Southworth & Co. and his father, M. S. Warn, both reputable citizens, are willing to make affidavits that they saw the airship on Saturday night. Howard states that he rode his bicycle home through a light shower, about 11 o'clock at night, and after slightly cleaning his wheel he stepped to the door to see if the rain was continuing. His attention was at once attracted to bright lights of different colors moving rapidly toward the southwest.

Mr. Warn states that at that time the clouds were breaking slightly, and were very near the earth. The lights were attached to a cigar shaped object, moving close to the lower line of the clouds, and in the opinion of the observer the affair was not to exceed 500 feet above the earth, although it was much farther away from the point at which he stood. Warn called his father, and they watched the lights until they disappeared finally into heavy clouds to the southwest.

Both gentlemen agree as to the size and general shape of the airship, and say that there was nothing to indicate the use of wings or propellors, neither were they able to see any human beings aboard. Owing to the newspaper jokes that are being passed upon airships the Warns were reluctant to tell the story until today.

Cleveland Plain Dealer
April 29 1897

SAW THE AIR SHIP.

"Jud" Wickham Says He Saw the Phenomenon at the Corner of Willson and Euclid Avenues.

"Jud" Wickham, cashier in the county clerk's office, declares he saw the air ship Tuesday night. He told the story at the court house Wednesday and he was still laboring under the excitement of the sight of the strange thing.

"I was standing near the corner of Willson and Euclid avenues about 10:30 o'clock last night," said he, "when I happened to look up at the heavens and saw what at first looked like a headlight on a locomotive. If I had been drinking anything stronger than soda water I would have thought I had 'em sure. At first all I could see was the blinding glare and then it slowly turned around and I could see the shaft of light across the skies. Of course I thought of the air ship which the papers had been talking about. Finally I could dimly discern the body of the thing. It was shaped like a cigar and right above it was a balloon shaped affair. It seemed to be stationary for quite a while, and then it moved slowly off to the southeast.

"You fellows may think I am 'kiddin', but I am giving it to you straight. I saw the air ship."

Cleveland Plain Dealer
April 19 1897

As long as the airship clings to its "cigar shaped" description, it can't be charged to cigarettes.

Cleveland Plain Dealer
April 13 1897

Watch for It.

"There is something decidedly strange about this airship delusion," said a well known professional man. "In fact, if many more 'reputable' witnesses testify to seeing it, the delusive part of the affair will be completely swept away. It struck Chicago Sunday morning, and an enterprising newsdealer managed to get two photographs of it. His statement is backed up by three citizens who also saw it, and saw the photographs taken. Then, of course, the photographs speak for themselves. And yet there are lots of people who won't see anything like conclusive proof even in such evidence as this. The fact that it was a prohibition suburb where the photograph was made must be taken into account, because this point is a very necessary one in determining the credibility of the sky-gazers. If photographs can be taken of it, what is to prevent an X ray from piercing through its midst? And then, of course, next comes the kinetoscope.

"Now the airship is pretty sure to strike Cleveland within a day or two. It will, therefore, be well for belated wayfarers to look up, not down. As soon as it is seen, summon everybody in the neighborhood to attest to its genuineness. Don't try and force your individual say-so on an uncharitable public. Back up your story in every possible way—and kindly notify the newspaper offices instanter. As this is a new business, an essay on 'How to Act When Confronted by an Airship' might be difficult of compilation, but the two main requirements are as follows:

"First—See your airship.

"Second—Prove that you saw it.

"Who will be the first Clevelander to nail this daring aeronaut—or airy nothing?"

That Mysterious Airship.

For some time past there have occasionally come stories of the appearance of an airship in widely separated parts of the Western country. The first announcement of this character came from California, and since then the mysterious object is said to have been seen in Kansas City, Omaha and other cities. The stories were of the most circumstantial character; the truth of them was vouched for by persons of intelligence, whose veracity on other matters coming within their observation would not have been questioned, and all of them were agreed as to the particulars of what they saw and offered independent and corroborative testimony. In some instances it was simply claimed that what appeared to be the brilliant headlight of something in the sky had been seen, while other observers were confident that they saw the vessel and gave a description of its outlines and movement. Of course, there were many people who were incredulous as to the story and made it the subject of good-humored raillery.

The fact that the object was always seen by night was used as an argument against its existence; whereas, if some man has actually succeeded in perfecting an aerial contrivance, the most natural thing for him to do at first would be to test it after darkness had fallen, and so secure secrecy for himself. And now comes the story that the directors of the trans-Mississippi exposition to be held at Omaha have received a communication from a man who declares that he has invented an airship, and that he will disclose his identity and come to the front if the directors will guarantee him 870,000 square feet of space. He declares that the ship will carry twenty people to a height of from ten to twenty thousand feet.

Because an airship, such as that which has been dreamed of, has never been constructed, it would be foolish to argue that it never can be. In a story which is now appearing in a magazine the hero, who lived in this city during the Revolutionary War, and who is supposed to have written the story years afterwards, tells how difficult it was to reach Bryn Mawr from Philadelphia at the time that the army of Washington was in this neighborhood, and then speaks of the ease with which the trip could be made at the time of writing by a swift stage-coach. This same man, although compelled to acknowledge that better means of travel had come, would never have believed in express trains, in steamships and telegraphs. And so we, who know that they have come, are equally skeptical as to the accomplishment of aerial travel. One hundred years ago it would never have been dreamed that the sea could be navigated as it is to-day, and yet some people ridicule the idea that the air can ever be navigated and look upon the idea as the dream of the visionary or the poet.

One by one the forces of nature are surrendering themselves to man; what were once looked upon as miracles are now acknowledged to be simply the result of an acquaintance with and a mastery of natural laws, and, therefore, there is nothing that patient invention and study seek to accomplish that should be laughed at. The eyes of the people who claim to have seen an airship may have deceived them; the man who claims to have invented it may be a charlatan, but the world will yet, if we may judge from the marvelous progress of science and invention, see a contrivance of this character, while the people who laughed at the thought will acknowledge the simplicity of the vessel and wonder why it was not constructed a century earlier.

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER—

WAS IT AN AIRSHIP

Many Camden Residents Saw a Queer Light in the Sky.

Looked Like a Huge Cylinder and Flashed Forth Red Fire.

A lot of Camden people believe they caught a glimpse last evening of the mysterious airship whose aerial gyrations have caused a sensation over a wide stretch of country. A few minutes before 8 o'clock a crowd gathered at Fourth and Market streets with eyes directed toward the western sky about half-way between horizon and zenith. The wind was blowing in swift, counter-currents, driving fleecy clouds across the sky.

Many persons in the crowd declared they had seen a dark, cigar-shaped object, emitting flashes of red-fire, darting in and out among the clouds. The late-comers, however, were dubious, and after vainly waiting for developments for a quarter of an hour the crowd melted away.

A plausible explanation of the phenomenon, as given by an eye-witness, is that while a dark cloud of cylindrical shape was being driven by a cross-current of air through the white, fleecy vapors it was suddenly lit up by rays from the sun, which was far below the horizon.

Philadelphia Pa
Inquirer
April 12, 1897

tioned.

THE AIRSHIP MAN

An Omaha Citizen Named Clinton Says He Has Invented a Flyer.

Special to The Inquirer.

OMAHA, Neb., April 11.—Yesterday Secretary Wakefield, of the Exposition Company, received the following letter:

"To The Exposition Directors:

"My identity up to date has been unknown, but I will come to the front now, that is if you will guarantee 870,000 square feet of space. I am the famous airship constructor and will guarantee you positively of this fact in a week. The airship is my own invention, and I am an Omaha man. I wish it to be held as an Omaha invention. It will safely carry twenty people to a height of from 10,000 to 20,000 feet. I truly believe I have the greatest invention and discovery ever made. Will see you April 17, 1897, at the headquarters.

"A. C. CLINTON."

The space asked for amounts to acres. The authorities await his appearance with interest.

Newport RI
Daily News
April 16, 1897

2

This Morning's News.

THE MYSTERIOUS AIR SHIP.

Many Thousands Claim to Have Seen the Stranger.

CHICAGO, April 15.—The most puzzling and interesting question residents of the Western states have had to deal with for many years is that of the so-called airship. Many thousands have seen what they call an airship, or a balloon, with various colored lights attached, but apart from a comparatively few persons, no one can say he has seen the thing closely enough to describe it.

Walter McCann, the newsdealer of Rogers Park, who says he took a snap-shot at the object Sunday morning when it was within five or six hundred feet of the earth, says: "Sunday morning, at 5:30 o'clock, I saw a strange-looking object in the sky, coming from the south. It looked like a big cigar. It came nearer, and I saw at a glance that it was not a balloon. Quick as a flash I realized it was the much-talked-of airship. I am no longer a skeptic. I distinctly saw the outlines of a man in the rear of the machine. He pulled a revolving rudder, or some sort of contrivance, which steered the course of the airship. This strange invention came within six hundred feet of the earth, as near as I could estimate it. The lower portion of the airship was thin, and made of some light, white metal, like aluminum. The upper portion was dark and long, like a big cigar, pointed in front, and with some kind of arrangement in the rear to which cables were attached. The pilot pulled these and steered the course from south to northeast. We watched the flight of the airship until it went east and disappeared from view. I can swear that I saw the airship. So can three other men here, whose word stands well in this community."

"That's right," came a popular chorus of suburbanites near the counter. "McCann is all right."

A crowd gathered at West Chicago and Hamlin avenue in this city, a point where the smoke of the town does not obscure the sky, as a rule, and they watched the mysterious "light" for half an hour last Sunday night. In the party was R. W. Allen of West Chicago avenue. "I really consider myself fortunate," said Mr. Allen, "in being permitted to see the mysterious ship, and I am willing to take the consequences of expressing the opinion that Professor Hough is wrong. It is not a star, and it has nothing to do with the solar system. Myself and half a dozen other men in the neighborhood took special pains to note every manifestation of the object, and certainly no star ever acted in the manner displayed by the lights we saw. The colors red, white and green exhibited were too distinct to have been the result of atmospheric refraction. I do not think it could have been a balloon, though I was not able to distinguish any form. I am willing to give the airship the benefit of the doubt."

Great crowds saw the aerial visitor from various points on the north side Sunday night. It appeared like an arc electric light, changing color at times from white to red and green.

Seen at Anderson, Ind.

CINCINNATI, April 15.—A local newspaper publishes this afternoon eleven affidavits of residents of Anderson, Ind., in reference to the supposed airship said to have been seen traveling over Indiana during the last week. All the affidavits are by well known citizens, and all refer to April 11 as the time when the object was seen. All say they saw it at night, and that it was a strange-looking object, from which at times a bright light flashed, which was larger than a star. It was moving north at an altitude of probably five thousand feet and at a speed of probably twenty miles an hour. None says it was an airship, but all agree that they cannot account for it on any other theory.

Newport RI
Daily News
April 15, 1897

the services being open to the public.

DESCENT OF THE AIRSHIP.

I write under the stress of much excitement, for I can assure the Record's readers that the mystery of "the airship" is solved at last. This morning about 8 o'clock it lit in my cattleyard, frightening my cattle almost to death. The ship is about thirty feet long and is a strangely constructed craft, but the occupants were what astonished me most. There were ten human beings in the ship—three females and seven males. Their language I could not understand. I asked them where they were from, and they seemed to understand my question, for they all pointed toward the moon. Their appearance is much the same as that of inhabitants of Iowa. The women are without beards, and much resemble our women. To me these creatures represent the missing link, each one having a short tail. From what I could gather from them they seemed to think it very fortunate that they had steamed clean through the atmosphere of their own planet and had come to ours. Yours for truth.—[Despatch to a Western paper.

Newport RI
Daily News
April 23 1897

And now they call the mysterious airship the What-is-it? When it is captured, if it ever is, it should go to some dime museum.

The people of the Western states go to see the airship in preference to the grand opera. It is cheaper, and to them far more interesting.

Newport RI
Daily News
April 19, 1897

The airship fable takes on new features every day, or rather every night. No one has yet pretended to say where it spends its days, or to decide whether it condescends to even touch our mother earth. If it comes from the moon or Mars, it should have been able to select a landing place before this.

The celebrated airship is seldom seen except through a glass, and it does not seem to be a matter of much difference what the contents may have been before the glass was emptied, rum, gin or whiskey.

THE NEWS---NEWPORT, TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1897.

The occupants of the mysterious airship have evidently decided to return to the moon or to Mars, as the case may be, without landing on this poor world of ours.

They are evidently cautious in all their ventures, and if they judged the human race by the samples of those who alone were able to see the ship, it is no wonder they did not wish a closer acquaintance.

The State.

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

THE STATE COMPANY,
1409 Main Street, Columbia, S. C.

N. G. GONZALES, Editor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The State—Daily Edition, Seven Days a Week. By Mail—One Year, $10; Six Months, $5; Three Months, $2.50; in advance. By carrier in Columbia—20 cents a week, payable weekly. All city subscriptions not paid in advance will be charged at the weekly rate and subject to weekly collections.

The State—Semi-Weekly Edition, Tuesdays and Fridays. By Mail—One year, $2; six months, $1; three months, 50 cents; in advance.

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Transient Advertisements $1 an inch for the first insertion; 50 cents an inch for each subsequent insertion.

Cash rates for Wants and Lost and Found—5 words 25 cents each insertion and 1 cent a word for each additional word each insertion.

Official advertisements at the rate allowed by law.

Other rates will be announced upon application at the office.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The State will publish brief and rational letters on subjects of general interest when they are accompanied by the names and addresses of the authors and are not of a defamatory nature. Anonymous communications will not be noticed. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned.

REMITTANCES.

Checks, Drafts and Postal or Express Money Orders should be made payable to the Order of The State Company.

A. E. GONZALES, President.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1897.

Weather forecast for South Carolina: Showers; southerly winds, becoming variable.

Kodaking an Airship.

The western papers teem with airship news, just as the eastern ones have done at times with sea serpent news. We have already indicated our belief in the possibility of a sea serpent and the probability of an airship, so it is not without pleasure that we state, on the authority of our distinguished and largely reliable contemporary, the Chicago Times-Herald, that the airship has been photographed.

"The camera never lies," is a modern axiom. Nobody has ever kodaked the sea serpent in the waters of the east, but the west is nothing if not progressive, and Chicago is easily first in western progress. Under ordinary circumstances the airship, which is essentially a nocturnal wanderer, could not have been photographed without a calcium light, and calcium lights do not hang, convenient to be plucked, on street corners, even in Chicago. But on this exceptional occasion the airship had been making a night of it somewhere and was not going home till morning, till daylight did appear. Here was the opportunity of the quick-witted Chicagoan whose story of success is thus related by the Times-Herald:

Walter McCann of Rogers Park leaped into fame at a single bound yesteday. He has a photograph which shows an airship in the sky. He says he took it with his camera at 5:30 yesterday morning. He shows two negatives. Three witnesses assert that they saw McCann take the photographs.

The Times-Herald artist, who made the pen and ink copy of the McCann photograph, and the etcher both pronounce the photograph genuine.

"The photograph is genuine," said the artist, "and it is a mighty fine piece of photographic work at that. It would be impossible to 'fix' a negative so as to show an object so relatively small and yet have it so perfect in the picture. And besides, the color could be obtained in no other way than from an object taken in the air."

The etcher, while waiting for the artist to finish his work, satisfied himself more thoroughly of the genuineness of the photographs by applying some tests with acid. He applied acids to one of them, which was an albumen print, with the result of showing that the print had not been changed after leaving the negative.

Walter McCann told all about it last evening at his store on Greenleaf avenue.

"I had read for several days about the airship," said he. "I laughed it over and was skeptical on the subject. This morning at 5:30 when I arose to attend to my usual work of receiving the newspapers from Chicago and making my deliveries for the day, I saw a strange-looking object in the sky coming from the south. It looked like a big cigar. It came nearer and I saw at a glance that it was not a balloon. Quick as a flash I realized it was the much-talked-of airship. My boy won a camera not long ago in a contest for getting subscribers to a paper. It was in the store 50 feet from where I stood gazing at the object. I ran and got it as the thing approached. The sky was clear. Conditions favored a good photograph. A plate was ready. I ran to Greenleaf avenue and Market street and got a good shot at it. With G. A. Overocker, whose attention was attracted to it, I ran down the Northwestern tracks and got a second picture a few minutes later.

"E. L. Osborne and William Hoodless also saw the airship. I am no longer a skeptic. I distinctly saw the outlines of a man in the rear of the machine. He pulled a revolving rudder or some sort of contrivance which steered the course of the airship. This strange invention came within 600 feet of the earth, as near as I could estimate it.

"The lower part of the airship was thin and made of some light white metal like aluminum. The upper deck was dark, and long like a big cigar, pointed in front and with some kind of arrangement in the rear to which cables are attached. The pilot pulled these and steered the course from south to northwest. We watched the flight of the airship until it went east and disappeared from view. I returned to the store with the plates, attended to my morning papers, and with Overocker, finished proofs as soon as possible. I refused an offer from a Chicago paper for the negatives. I think time will prove that this is no fake. I've lived here too long to try and fool people. I have no desire for notoriety. It's an airship, and if you don't believe it, look at the picture and be convinced. I can swear that I saw an airship. So can three other men here, whose word stands well in this community."

"That's right," came a popular chorus of suburbanites near the counter, "McCann is all right."

"I saw him take the first picture," said G. A. Overocker, "and assisted him with the second. My attention was attracted to his excited conduct in Greenleaf avenue at such an early hour, looking at the sky. I looked and got excited too. 'It's the airship,' said he. Then I assisted in getting a second picture of it, and it's all there, too."

E. L. Osborne and William Hoodless corroborate the story. They say they saw it, but didn't have their cameras with them. Their description tallies with the photographs taken.

From various parts of the north side the strange aerial visitor was seen last night. Many people are willing to take an oath that they saw it, and that it was not a star, comet or anything of that nature. It appeared more like an arc electric light, changing color at times from white to red and green. Slowly it drifted across the sky, growing dim, disappearing and returning at intervals. Great crowds watched the mysterious light and marveled. At North avenue and Larabee street a group of reputable citizens watched it for nearly an hour from the room of Herman Fry's drug store.

We might doubt Mr. McCann, but we cannot doubt the artist and etcher of The Times-Herald, a great and good newspaper, founded on the substantial strata of Mr. Kohlsaat's pies and buns, and standing near to the elbow of President McKinley. The airship is a fact. The airship has been photographed. The airship, although not a "derelict," has had its features taken by the Bertillon system and is now recorded in the rogues' gallery of Chicago as an aerial tramp.

In less than a week Atlanta will take its picture also, and then the world will believe.

Aberdeen SD
Daily News
April 23, 1897

day with Miss Gene Lilley. She will return to her home in Chicago tomorrow.

Madison Sentinel: An Aberdeen man insists that he saw the airship Wednesday night. But they have had such alarming floods at Aberdeen. No wonder.

Aberdeen SD
Daily News
April 17, 1897

They are expected Monday morning.

The attention of the NEWS has been called to the fact that the brilliant star visible in the evening in the northwest, and which some persons have mistaken for the "airship," is the planet Venus.

The roads which the McDonald Sis-

Aberdeen, SD.
Daily News
April 13, 1897

the banks for that amount.

Saw That Airship.

CUMBERLAND, Wis., April 13.—The attention of people on the street of this city was called to a large red light in the sky at 9:30 last night. It was seen in the southwest and travelled swiftly to the northeast with a dipping motion.

Dallas Tx
Morning News
April 6, 1897

DENISON MAN'S FIND.

He Sees a Brilliantly Illumined Air Ship Sailing Northward.

South McAlester, I. T., April 5.—A gentleman who came in from Denison last night says that at 3 o'clock this morning, when he was returning to his room he saw a large airship going in a northern direction. It was brilliantly illuminated, and was going at the rate, he supposed, of about fifty miles per hour. There was a peculiar swishing sound to it, and as near as he could judge it was a quarter of a mile up from the earth.

His attention was first directed toward the stars by the peculiar sound from the ship, or whatever it may be called, and he watched until it passed over the hills to the north.

The gentleman is a Mason and a K. of P., and his reputation for truth is beyond question.

Galveston Tx
Daily News
April 8 1897

The Mysterious Airship.

Guthrie, Ok., April 7.—About 11 o'clock last night the attention of Landlord Trumbull of the Arlington hotel was attracted by a dark looking object moving through the air above the city. Soon a bright light was seen at the front of the object, which seemed to be thrown out in different directions. Mr. Trumbull called a number of people, who watched the strange shadow object for a long time, and are confident it is the mysterious air ship seen at so many places during the past few weeks. Its outlines were indistinct, but a light was thrown out from the front, and at times there were flashes of light along the sides. It moved swiftly backward and forth, sank almost to the ground just north of the city, and then rose straight into the air at great speed and disappeared.

MR. SMITH'S AIRSHIP.

This One Carried Ten or Twelve Passengers, Wearing Easter Bonnets.

Mr. L. G. Smith, steward at the Hermitage hospital, at 3 o'clock Sunday morning saw the mysterious air ship. He said he was on the upper veranda looking south, when he discovered an immense shadow falling across the lawn. This was followed by brilliant streams of light, which came from a rapidly approaching object of oblong shape, coursing also downward and from the east. The velocity was lessened, and suddenly the vessel rested upon the spire of the federal building. From his position Mr. Smith could see through the windows small but decorative apartments, and was sure that eight or ten passengers were aboard. Several were ladies, dressed in handsome Easter costumes. The stop occupied about three minutes. Two men came to the outside. One descended the steeple, presumably to drop a letter, while the other, with lantern in hand, appeared to be applying oil at the junction of the wings.

Mr. Smith states that he hastily aroused his wife, but before she could reach him the mysterious pilgrim was away, going toward the south, leaving in its journey Oak Cliff, immediately to the left.

Dallas Tx
Morning News
April 10, 1897

McKnight's Air Ship.

Paris, Tex., April 9.—For several days past The News has contained specials from different points stating that parties had seen an airship in the night. A man named McKnight has been working on an airship at United States Marshal Williams' ranch for some time and it is claimed he has been traveling around by night in his ship. While McKnight will not corroborate the statement, many who are in a position to know say his aerial navigation has at last become a success.

Brownsville (Tx)
Daily Herald
April 10 1897

GALVESTON NEWS: It is now explained that the air ship which the people of Kansas saw recently was nothing more than a flock of wild geese going north. It is remarkable that the Kansans did not recognize them.

Dallas Tx
Morning News
April 15, 1897

go home!

The rumor that mysterious battleships are flying about in the sky above us was probably set afloat by enterprising jingoes who want to enlarge still further the army and navy.

Galveston (Tx)
Daily News
April 24, 1897

MR. WREN SAW IT.

He Was Privileged to Converse With the Airship Inventor.

They were discussing the airship and much doubt was expressed relative to the existence of such a thing. Mr. P. S. Wren, deputy customs collector, was of the party, and, being in a happy mood, told how he saw the airship:

"Last Friday night, or, at least, Saturday morning, between the hours of 1 and 2 o'clock, I saw traveling through space that wonderful airship, or whatever one may term it. It was a beautiful object, illuminated as it was from end to end, the body was cigar-shaped, with two wings, and right in front of the wings was what seemed to be a bicycle guide, with a seat for the navigator, and sitting there I saw a man who would move first one and then the other handle of the guide. After sailing or flying toward me for some distance, the thing started downward and soon landed upon the gulf beach near my residence. As soon as I saw this I repaired to my telephone and told the Western Union telegraph people what I had witnessed. I then returned to the rear of my premises and soon saw four gentlemen and three ladies coming in from the beach. They entered the house and were made welcome. They were all fine looking people, healthy and ruddy, and very talkative. The inventor of the peculiar craft was also the navigator. He was a fine looking old gentleman and fond of explaining his pet invention, as he termed it. He it was that informed me that when he started on this tour his intention was to land on Galveston island. Our conversation was quite prolonged, and when the inventor produced drawings of his aerial vessel and commenced to explain its mechanism, I awaked and saw nothing except a lovely moonlight night."