

858 Collected  
May 14 1900

- The World, New York.
- The Sun, Baltimore.
- The Post, Washington.
- The Landmark, Norfolk.

After the greatest of all air ship flights this afternoon the machine of Mr Wilbur and Orville Wright was smashed into an unrecognizable ~~mass~~ <sup>mass</sup>. The navigator of the machine, Wilbur Wright, escaped from the accident ~~unhurt~~ <sup>unhurt</sup>, ~~having~~ <sup>having</sup> received nothing more than a mere scratch on his face as an ~~acc~~ <sup>acc</sup> result of the accident. The ~~machine~~ <sup>machine</sup> had already flown eight miles in seven ~~seconds~~ <sup>seconds</sup> minutes and ~~seven~~ <sup>seven</sup> seconds under beautiful control. The wrecking of ~~the machine~~ <sup>it</sup> was due to an error on the part of the navigator. Proceeding ~~slightl~~ <sup>slightl</sup> slightly in a downward course, it was the ~~Wright~~ <sup>Wright</sup> designed to elevate its course, but instead of working the lever to accomplish that result, he worked it so as to direct the course of the machine still further downward. Responding instantly to the influence of the lever the machine shot downward and to ~~th~~ <sup>th</sup> the ground with great rapidity. As strongly as it was put together it ~~could not~~ <sup>could not</sup> was crushed like an egg shell. Wilbur Wright's luck which has ~~att~~ <sup>att</sup> stood by him ever since he has commenced his ascents in the air, ~~stood by him~~ <sup>was still with</sup>.

The machine was wrecked behind a sand hill two miles from the point ~~at which~~ <sup>at which</sup> from which it was started. Leaving ~~Rising~~ <sup>Rising</sup> from the ~~haus~~ <sup>haus</sup> near the house in which it is stored, the machine ~~flew~~ <sup>flew</sup> away with twice the speed of a bird. ~~Its~~ <sup>Its</sup> course was ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> directed north along ~~th~~ <sup>th</sup> beach for a mile and a half, ~~it was then~~ <sup>it was then</sup> turned to the

not

and which was working to their satisfaction, was hard to manipulate instantaneously, without considerable practice. The Wrights had ~~never~~ not ~~yet~~ had time to practice its manipulation to perfection.

The flight of the machine was ~~truly~~ a marvelous one, ~~breaking all~~ far out distancing others ~~that~~ <sup>surpassed</sup> ~~wonderful~~ ones that have been recently made at Kill Devil Hill. The machine ~~had~~ flew upward of eight miles in seven minutes and forty seconds. Making the ascent from a point near the ~~the~~ house in which it is sheltered, one mile from the Kill Devil Hill Life Saving Station, it was steered in a <sup>300</sup> northerly direction, parallel with the coast for a mile and a half. It was then directed westward, over a ~~sand-hill-fifty-foot~~ small sand hill and between two larger. Then completely circling another sand hill, the course of the machine was turned towards the starting point. Arriving there like a giant bird on a mission requiring great haste, and under the perfect control of the navigator, the machine sped on, the navigator having determined to again fly over the four mile course which had been just completed. The course was pursued with the same great speed until exactly half of it had been <sup>(L.F.)</sup> flown. Then the fatal mistake was made. Barring the accident, the flight was ~~truly~~ a magnificent ~~one~~.

Previous to this flight, another of perhaps equal importance though shorter was flown. This consisted in ~~the~~ the complete circling a big sand hill 150 feet tall for a ~~an~~ distance of two miles, both Orville Wright and a mechanic assistant, being seated in the machine. The machine on this circuit came back to its starting point and beyond it for a quarter of a mile.

The Wrights state that they will immediately pack up the wreckage of their machine and ship it back to their home in Dayton, Ohio. ~~They have not made any statement as to their future plans.~~ ~~It cannot be told what influence the wrecking of their machine will have on their operations but the general impression is that they will lose no time in the construction of a new machine.~~

Orville Wright had intended leaving here Monday to prepare for a trip to Europe, having engagements there with representatives of foreign Governments who have ~~become~~ <sup>interest</sup> been attracted by the possibilities of their machine.

Not since the Wrights have been here did their machine appear so complete an instrument as it did today, due no doubt to its wonderful performance in the hands of its makers who were daily displaying more skill in ~~flying the machine~~ <sup>operating it</sup>. The fatal mistake was the result of the ~~unfamiliarity~~ <sup>unfamiliarity</sup> with the operation of the new steering gear which the brothers had perfected and installed on the machine. Its working was very satisfactory, but required practice <sup>for instantaneous</sup> ~~to manipulate~~.

Another extraordinary flight <sup>manipulation</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>comparatively a short one</sup> made by the machine today, ~~although a comparatively a short one~~ <sup>25</sup>, was the complete circling of a sand mountain for a distance of two miles, ~~Orville~~ <sup>Wright</sup> and Furness a mechanic occupying seats in the machine. The remarkable part about this flight was <sup>the fact that</sup> ~~the~~ the machine was on a constant curve. It sailed the distance in two minutes and a half. It returned to its starting point and ~~could~~ continued its flight for a quarter of

a mile beyond.

~~The flights~~ Owing to the refusal of the Wrights to ~~display~~ their  
 operate their machine when ~~witnessed by strangers~~ they were possessed  
 of knowledge that others besides themselves and the life-savers at  
 the Kill Devil Hill station, <sup>who were observing them</sup> and the isolation of their location,  
 but few have seen the machine fly. Those who witnessed the flights  
 today and many of the previous, besides <sup>the Wrights and life-savers</sup> ~~those already mentioned~~ were  
 the following newspaper Correspondents: Newton, of the New York Herald;  
 Hoster, of the New York American; Macgowan, of the ~~Daily~~ mail  
 London Daily Mail, <sup>Home of Colliers Weekly</sup> and Salley.

~~Salley.~~