

In former experiments the Pilot Kite had flown with wonderful steadiness "as though glued to the sky", and at a very high altitude (55°), but now the kite went off the wind to the left (Starboard of the kite) exhibiting a tendency to dive to that side. It then recovered itself, and went to the right of the wind (port side of kite). Recovering itself it went through the whole performance again and again, oscillating from side to side like the swing of a pendulum. The only hopeful feature seemed to be that the kite would occasionally fly steadily for a considerable period of time. Then would come another period of oscillation followed by a steady flight etc. When a slight departure to one side occurred the deviation increased very rapidly as though the kite had been steered to that side.

Examining the kite closely to find out what it could be that occasioned the steering action, it appeared probable that the bow-line was the effective agent. When the keel-stick did not point directly in the wind's eye the weight of the bow-line, and the pressure of the wind upon it, acting through the leverage of the long bow, might have been sufficient to produce the effect, and I could see no other cause for the difference in the behavior of the kite from that observed in former experiments, in which no bow-line had been used.

One sweep of the kite to the left led to a side dive of great extent. A strain was immediately exerted on the bow-line, but we were unable to save the kite from a side-header right to the ground. The shock of alighting was probably lessened, however, by the tension on the bow-line as only