

consequence, in a state of considerable excitement upon the subject of navigating the air.*

2. I had heard of other newspaper editors making trips in balloons, had read their glowing accounts, and it seemed to me like a very cunning thing. Desiring to enjoy "all that was a-going," I naturally wanted a balloon-ride, too! and therefore concluded to go, expecting not to be absent from home more than 10 or 12 hours at the longest, and to have a good time. The reader will learn, as he reads the narrative, just *how good* a time I did have, and just how much I enjoyed it. In addition, being a newspaper man, and always on the alert for news, I had a natural desire to do all in my power to add to the local interest of my journal, and for that reason felt a willingness to go through with more fatigue and hazard than men are expected to endure in ordinary business pursuits.

3. I felt safe in going, as I knew that LAMOUNTAIN was an intrepid and successful aeronaut, and I thought his judgment was to be depended upon. How completely he was misled as to distance, and how little he knew, or any man can know, of air-navigation, the narrative will readily demonstrate.

With these explanations I will proceed with my original narrative, nearly as written out at the time—the sense not being materially changed, though the wording may be somewhat modified.

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* The WISE named above is the celebrated Aeronaut, Professor JOHN WISE, of Lancaster, Pa.; and I may here remark that the trip made by him and his associates is by far the longest on record. Leaving St. Louis at about 4 P. M., they passed the whole night in the air, were carried across the States of Illinois, Indiana, a portion of Ohio and Michigan, over the whole north-western breadth of Pennsylvania and New York, and were at last wrecked in a huge tree-top near the shore of Lake Ontario, at about 3 P. M. the next day, escaping with severe bruises but without broken bones, after a journey of at least eleven hundred miles. These adventurers did not travel as fast, nor encounter the perils that awaited us, but they made a longer voyage. It was with this same balloon Atlantic that LAMOUNTAIN and myself made our trip; but it had been reduced one-third in size, and was in thorough repair—indeed as good as new.