

EXPERIMENTS WITH KITES AUGUST 19, 1908;
by A. G. Bell

Exp. 1. An attempt was made to-day (Aug. 19) to fly kites A and D simultaneously in a wind of 9.08 miles per hour. Kite A was first put up, and would barely support itself. In spite of nursing it came down before Kite D could be raised. In a similar manner Kite D could not be kept up long enough to enable Kite A also to be raised.

It had been our intention to fly both at the same time, and see which would come down first, but we could not get them both up at the same time in the wind noted.

Have come to the conclusion that the flying-lines of Manilla rope are too heavy for these kites in the ordinary winds we have here, while the stout cords used for bow-lines are too weak, and we have no half way. The towing-line used in the hydroplane experiments seems to be more suitable. It is made of the sort of cord employed to form the nets into which athletes and acrobats leap from a height. Mr. Bedwin says it is reported that this sort of cord will stand a strain of 500 lbs., which I very much doubt. If he is correct it is just the sort of cord we want, for its strength would be abundantly sufficient for our purpose, while its weight would be only a fraction of the weight of the quarter inch Manilla rope now employed.

Exp. 2. Tried the Pilot Kite in a wind of 11.20 miles per hour with two lines of stout cord, one attached at + 37.5 cm with the other as a bow-line at + 175 cm. We were very much surprised at the behavior of the kite under these conditions.