

## Aeroplane *v.* Airship

risk of engine failure, bringing a machine down at some point where no safe landing could be made; and owing to this danger, if night flights were persisted in, a number of men and machines might be lost by accident before the threatened raid was carried out. But an airship attack to-day, made from a long distance, and against a city prepared for defence, is in the nature of a great adventure—almost, indeed, of a forlorn hope.

Whether the large airship will survive, and play her part in struggles of the future, is a moot point. But it is unwise to judge any apparatus, and particularly a machine intended for war, till it has attained a reasonable state of perfection. The airship has not, for instance, though it is already large, reached by any means its limit of size. Technical difficulties, under which it labours to-day, might be overcome were it made bigger; and it is probable that, as time goes on, there will be airships which are six times as large as those used in this war. Such machines might be able to carry formidable guns. They would be able to fly faster than any existing craft of their type, and would possess greater climbing power.

The aeroplane, also, will move towards perfection, growing larger and swifter in flight, and being more heavily armed. So there may be a race for power between airships and aeroplanes—the power to strike a quick and crushing blow. It may be that the airship will continue to dis-