

## VI

### AEROPLANE *V.* AIRSHIP

*"The Zeppelin is a delicate monster, fragile, and condemned to an inability to ascend to any great height."*—GENERAL CHERFILS.

NO controversy has been keener, at any rate in the world of aviation, and none based on more slender data, than that which concerns the fighting between airship and aeroplane. Even in this war, in which we have had air combats so fierce that they have outrivalled prophecy, there is no record of a duel between an airship and an aeroplane—none, that is to say, which is authenticated, or of which details are credible. Yet it was thought, before the war, that fights between these craft would be inevitable and frequent. Aeroplane pilots, certainly, have been eager for them, and have regretted they have had no opportunity of bringing matters to an issue. But airships have declined combat, and for a good reason: those who control them have realized that, with conditions as they are to-day, and with such weapons as are available, they would have no fair chance