

naked eye but I was watching it through the telescope that Bill had just handed me. Suddenly one of the large wings fell limp and at the same moment the huge bird began to drop like a star through space. I could see it all too plainly but did not realize it until Bill spoke.

"'My God!' he cried 'Look! Its falling.'" "And so it was. Even yet I shudder as I think of that huge thing dropping down hundreds, aye, thousands of feet. I turned sick and faint at the very thought, and though I dreaded to look yet my eyes seemed rivetted upon it. It was over three miles from where we stood to where it fell, yet we both distinctly heard it as it struck the earth.

"Too horrified to speak we only looked at each other in dumb despair. Finally I picked up the telescope that had fallen from my nerveless fingers and we

both went back to the house. The experiment had failed. Saunders was without doubt dead, yet we had sworn to keep secret and we did. Next day we set out to see were it had fallen, but it was not until the day after that we succeeded in doing so. Poor Saunders! He was crushed to a pulp beneath his own work, which had been shattered to atoms by the fall. Too much awed to speak we silently dug a hole and buried the two together—the inventor and the invention—in one grave, and left them alone while we returned to keep the secret. That was twenty-five years ago to night, and though it was hard at times I have kept my promise to the slumberer in the silent mound."

As the old man finished he slowly relit his pipe while a sudden heaving of many breasts told with what breathless attention his story had been heard.

