

who had made a special study of aeronautics, and had therefore been sent from Washington as an official observer of Dr. Bell's experiments. He was received with open arms. Dr. Bell's gifted wife suggested then that all the above named should legally organize themselves into an "Aerial Experiment Association", in return of which she would give a considerable sum for the sole purpose to put any sort of dynamical flying machine, as fast as possible, into the air. Such good advice was immediately taken and in the beginning of winter the whole new "Association" followed Mr. Curtiss to Hammondsport where he was called back by his business.

Dr. Bell's family was included, and so the "Capitol" of Hammondsport, yonder steep hill surmounting the whole village, which is crowned by Curtiss' house and the factory buildings, became a most unique stronghold of aeronautical enterprise. For a long time past the Mecca of more or less adventurous inventors, it now became an aim for the pilgrimage of more serious promoters of the art of flying, Augustus Post and Prof. Wood might be named as visitors for several days, and Herring and Manly belonged to the pilgrims' flock of the Aero Club of America which was drawn there by the flight for the prize of the Scientific American.

In Nova Scotia the Association had taken up Prof. Bell's own experiments. Lieut. Selfridge was made there a long flight above water, aboard the gigantic tetrahedral kite "Cygnets", which was towed by a steamer. Then it became apparent that the accumulation of so many thousand cells, which of course necessitated the placing of hundreds of them