

Since there has been so much vying between sky-cruisers, to secure and keep the record for a sustained flight, as well as extended occupancy of the air, the writer asks pardon of his readers for suggesting that rivalry having either object in view might appropriately cease, since none may hope to equal, much less excel, the triumph won by Aladdin's Palace—the largest courser of the heavens which imagination has pictured, as the equipage of Queen Mab ("her chariot was an empty hazel nut") is the smallest—the first sailing the arch immense from China to the farthest confines of Arabia and back, in a hardly appreciable moment of time, each way.

Before passing altogether from the realm of the fabulous, and taking up the drier line of reasoning which prompted this contribution, the diverting chronicle which the famed author of *Rasselas* hands down to us of the implement, his character (whom he calls the "artist"), designs, constructs, and finally commits heavenward, may, the writer conceives, be, with advantage, rescued from the dull recesses in which he fears that lively romance now lies unperused.

The episode is found in the chapter entitled, "A dissertation on the art of flying." Certain of the views propounded by the sanguine contriver are well worth presenting:—

"He that can swim need not despair to fly; to swim is to fly in a grosser fluid, and to fly is to swim in a subtler. We are only to proportion our power of resistance to the different density of matter through which we are to pass. You will necessarily be upborne by the air if you can renew any impulse upon it faster than the air can recede from the pressure. The labour of rising from the ground will be great, as we see it in the heavier domestic fowls, but as we mount higher, the earth's attraction and the body's gravity will be greatly diminished, till we shall arrive at a region where the man will float in the air without any tendency to fall." He theorizes again: "I have considered the structure of all volant animals, and find the folding continuity of the bat's wings to be most easily accommodated to the human form. Upon this model I shall begin my task to-morrow."