

## The New Balloon Craze and Its Aims

**T**HE sad fate of the French aeronaut and sculptor, Paul Noequet, who lost his life on the shore of Long Island recently, has not discouraged the aeronautic enthusiasts of the Aero Club of America in their efforts to popularize the science of navigation of the air. At the very time that Noequet, after landing successfully from his balloon upon the beach of a small island, was pushing his way through marshes, swimming creeks and dragging his weary body through deep mud and sand, lured on by the lights of a distant village, his friend, Count Henri de la Vaulx, was giving an illustrated lecture on ballooning before the members of the Automobile Club of America at its clubhouse in New York city. Those who listened to the count's graphic descriptions of his many voyages in the air and admired the stereopticon views of his trips over the Mediterranean or the English channel little thought that the young artist who had taken up aeronautics with such enthusiasm was even then making a vain battle for his life. When the body of Noequet was found lying in the mud and ooze where he had fallen from exhaustion in seeking to make his way to human habitations, the comment of his friends was that his death was needless, that he had made a successful landing from his balloon and would have been alive still had he laid himself down to sleep in his basket and proceeded to the mainland in the morning. The task of crossing the marshes and creeks that lay between the ocean and mainland was too much for his strength.

Count de la Vaulx declared that Noequet was a novice in ballooning, that his trip was taken against the advice of the Aero club and that his balloon was a primitive affair. There have been several ascensions under the auspices of the club, but this was not one of them. The Aero club was organized last autumn as an offshoot of the Automobile Club of America and is chiefly composed of men who have been prominent as automobilists and take an interest in amateurs in ballooning. Count de la Vaulx came to this country with the view of giving its members the benefit of his extensive experience in aeronautics. He looks forward to the time when sailing through or above the clouds will take its place beside



**COUNT DE LA VAULX AND HIS BALLOON.**  
yachting and automobilism as a sport for men and women of wealth and courage. The count himself is regarded as the premier aeronaut of the world as he has taken the longest trip ever made in a balloon and has remained aloft the greatest number of hours of any one. The count once journeyed in a balloon from Paris to Kiev, in Russia, between 1,200 and 1,300 miles, in thirty-six hours, and with the assistance of the French government he steered a balloon over the Mediterranean sea, traveling 156 miles and being up forty-two hours. He was the first aeronaut to cross the English channel from Paris, an extremely difficult task on account of the air currents.

The count brought three balloons to this country for the experimental flights under the auspices of the Aero club. One of these is a dirigible airship which will carry three passengers besides the operator. For the type of balloon which he uses in navigating over water he has a special steering apparatus, and in one of his trips over the Mediterranean he used this so skillfully that he landed his balloon on the deck of the torpedo boat which was following him. In his trip from France to Warsaw he slept in the clouds at a temperature far below zero, and his companion had to hammer the soles of his feet with a club to keep him from sleeping too long and freezing to death.

The count has traveled more than 14,000 miles in the clouds, and in all his ascents, numbering about 150, he has never met with an accident, though he has had many narrow escapes. He is an explorer, geographer and ethnologist as well as aeronaut and spent two years among the savages of Patagonia, about whom he wrote a book, which was praised by the French academy. The count does not have much faith that balloons or airships will become of value for commercial purposes in the near future. He says "ballooning is a sport for gentlemen," and he claims it is less dangerous and more exciting than racing automobiles. In the ascents under the auspices of the Aero Club of America members of the club usually follow the aeronauts in automobiles and render the balloons the assistance in landing if the descents are made at spots which they can reach.

### COUNTESS OF SUFFOLK.

#### American Girl Who Wedded Nobleman and Her Baby.

The Countess of Suffolk, who recently presented her husband with a son, is an American woman and a daughter of Levi Z. Leiter of Chicago. Her baby will some day succeed to an ancient title and a vast English estate, and when he comes of age there will doubtless be a big celebration in honor of the event at the ancestral home, Charlton Park, near Malmesbury, in Wiltshire. In anticipation of this occasion the Earl and Countess of Suffolk and other members of their respective families repaired to the ancient brewery at Malmesbury not long



THE COUNTESS OF SUFFOLK.

after the arrival of the son and heir and there aided the brewmasters in the brewing of a vat of ale which will be stored and untapped until the coming of age of the viscount.

The Countess of Suffolk as Miss Daisy Leiter was a much sought young maiden when she visited her sister, Lady Curzon, a few years ago, in India. Lord Curzon was then at the height of his popularity as viceroy of India, and the vicereine, as Lady Curzon was sometimes called, was perhaps even more popular than her distinguished husband. Miss Daisy and her other sister, Miss Nancy, who accompanied her on the visit, being both rich and beautiful, naturally had many admirers. Among them were the Earl of Suffolk and Major Colin Campbell, both officers on the staff of the viceroy. Sometimes the earl and sometimes the major was reported engaged to Miss Daisy, but the earl at last won her affections and the major won those of her sister. The courtship of the earl and Miss Daisy was pursued in both India and America, at the durbars, in the ballroom and on horseback, for the countess is an excellent horsewoman. The earl's own title is one of the oldest in England, but he derives greater glory from his connection with the house of Howard, the aristocratic grandeur of which is summed by in the famous phrase of the poet Pope, "all the blood of all the Howards."

### WALDORF ASTOR'S CHOICE.

#### Young Millionaire Selected a "Gibson Girl"—The Langhorne Sisters.

When young Waldorf Astor, son of William Waldorf Astor, chose for his bride Mrs. Nannie Langhorne Shaw he picked out a young lady who has often been called the original Gibson girl. She was one of the Langhorne sisters of Richmond Va., noted as belles for their cleverness and beauty. One of them married Charles Dana Gibson, the artist; another became Mrs. Reginald Brooke, while in 1897 a third, Miss Nannie, married Robert Gould Shaw, a Boston millionaire, from whom she obtained a divorce, however, several years later. In creating the famous Gibson girl it is said that Charles Dana Gibson obtained many ideas from the type of feminine loveliness represented



THE FUTURE MRS. WALDORF ASTOR.

in his wife and her sisters. However that may be, the young woman who has won the heart of Waldorf Astor has a handsome face and figure of the general type made familiar in the drawings for which her brother-in-law

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is famous. She is twenty-eight and Mr. Astor is about the same age. One of these days he will inherit the greater part of a fortune now estimated at something like \$200,000,000. He is a lieutenant in the Life guards, the crack cavalry regiment of the British service. His father was anxious that he should marry some titled foreign young lady and some time ago gossip connected his name with that of Princess Ena, between whom and himself there was a pronounced friendship, but she is now to marry the Spanish monarch, and he has chosen an American for a bride. The illness of his fiancée caused delay in the preparations for the nuptials.

### TO KEEP YOUR MAID.

If you like her, tell her so sometimes. Never reprimand her before children or strangers. Do not talk as if your own was the only right way to do things. Do not expect her to be a mind reader, but tell her just what you want done. Give her as pleasant a room as possible and let her have time to keep it in order. Never allow children to treat her with disrespect or make her unnecessary work. A command given in an abrupt, disagreeable tone will often make her angry and unhappy. If she is cross or irritable, be patient with her. She may be suffering acutely, mentally or physically. Give your maid as good wages as you can; pay her regularly or give her reasons why she should wait.

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