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Comment

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Comment by the Editor

ARGONAUTS OF THE AIR

When Jason sought the Golden Fleece, he first employed the skillful Argus to build a mighty ship with sails. He named the vessel *Argo*. A band of ardent heroes joined him in the quest. Strong Hercules and sagacious Nestor, courageous Theseus, swift Calais, and tuneful Orpheus were among the Argonauts. Through terrifying perils and graver hazards unsuspected, they piloted their craft to the kingdom of Colchis where Jason yoked the fiery bulls, sowed the teeth of the dragon, and finally, with the aid of Medea's charm, vanquished the crop of warriors and carried off the Golden Fleece. It was a glorious exploit.

In the present age and in a world grown small, though scarcely less mysterious, the modern argonaut soars aloft into the boundless sky alone upon his quest of the golden fleece of glory and reward. Embodied in one splendid personality are all the virtues that Jason's crew personified. Without the intervention of the gods, he sails the deep blue sky — the calmest and most treacherous of seas.

The ageless urge to do what no man else has done or dared to try impels as much the dauntless modern youth as he of ancient Greece to risk his life and all

in some magnificent adventure. The treasure and the danger then were in the land beyond the sea, whereas the unknown realm now lies above the clouds. Though the motives of ambition have remained the same, the present objects sought seem vastly more significant, for the conquest of the air will modify the lives of men far more than sailing vessels ever did.

Despite the explanation of the elements of superstition in terms of scientific formulae, the remorseless dragons of fire and storm and pestilence, which still constitute the sorcery of nature, are scarcely less formidable than in the days of yore. To fly the mail a thousand miles by night is just as thrilling as the passage of the Clashing Islands. The perils of a crossing of the north Atlantic in a little monoplane would have overawed the bold Ulysses. Whoever has the genius to build his own aerial *Argo* and the skill to guide it farther through the clouded skies than any man has flown before deserves a worthy place among the heroes of the world.

J. E. B.