



This is one of
twenty tales
in our
Midwinter
Miscellany



DECEMBER 1898 Adventure in a Balloon



The St. James's Gazette for Dec 19th reported that a private aeronaut had met with an accident in Chislehurst.

He had ***“ascended in a balloon from Bromley-by-Bow Gas Works. He was the sole occupant. When he had been journeying in mid-air for nearly an hour, he noticed that his aneroid barometer registered 4,000 ft.”***

The barometer had stuck. It was very foggy, and he couldn't see where he was, until he realised he was only 100 ft from the ground and going down fast.

The grappling iron caught and broke several branches from trees, and when the basket touched the ground the gentleman was thrown out. He escaped with minor injuries, but the balloon ***“on being released of its occupant, shot up and disappeared in a southerly direction.”***

Chislehurst Commons has responsibility for managing the 180 acres of local common land under an Act of Parliament.

The Act made no provision for funding.

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