

SAINT'S DAY FIRE BALLOON.

It looked like an up-to-the-minute guided missile, but never were appearances more deceptive. For that modern design disguised a fire balloon, a thing nearly as old as the hills. Fires at the base heated the air and very quickly the balloon lost its rocket-shape and acquired a middle age spread. More or less in this way the village of San Marcello has every year celebrated its patron saint, Celestina.

While the musicians blew themselves up, the heat blew the balloon out, and up she went. It showed (as many a politician knows) what dizzy heights can be reached, just by hot air. What happened to the balloon we don't know; but it didn't go into orbit.