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Rising air! All architects know that if windows in a room are to ventilate well they must reach as near the ceiling as possible. In an attic they must be near the gable, so that the warm air may get out. There must be doors or low windows near the floor to let cooler air in. The common expression is: "Warm air rises and cool air falls." This statement is in error as it imputes to hot air an inherent ability to rise. Air is a substance, and can only rise if forced to do so. What happens is this: two equal volumes of air, one hot and the other cold, exist side by side; gravity pulls upon the colder or heavier mass more than it does on the warmer or lighter, with the result that cold air descends and underruns the warmer mass of air, forcing it to rise.
