

W. H. Stevenson

15 Sept. 1784.

G. Lunardi Esq.

Post Office

Dublin

W. H. Stevenson

15 Sept. 1784



My dear friend

This day the grand english Air Balloon made by M. Lunardi, a Neapolitan by birth, and Secretary to the Ambassador of that Kingdom, was filled by Doct. Cordice and launched from the Artillery ground at five minutes past 2 o'clock - It was made of silk the same as ours and spherical, the stripes were green, red, and straw colours alternately, the diameter 33 feet, but it was not much more than half full, its power of ascension if full was calculated to be above 800 ^{up} but when they came to try its tendency upwards it was found so short of their calculation that a M. Biggans who was to have gone with M. Lunardi was not only obliged to resign his seat but a lighter gallery was affixed to the ^{it was the first balloon} before ~~he~~ ^{M. Lunardi} could ascend, ~~with~~ which, notwithstanding it blew pretty fresh, he did amidst the acclamations of near half a million of Spectators, He took with him two pair of Oars one pair of which was to have been wrought vertically and the other horizontally, I ever considered them as only intended to amuse the publick and the result showed it for he had not ascended 200 feet before he dropt his two largest Oars. The ^{sky} was remarkably clear - The first direction the balloon took was

was nearly due west, but did not continue in that course but about
two minutes when it took a north course, and continued in that
direction untill I lost sight of it, which was not untill a quarter
past four o'clock. He rose to an amazing height and seemed
very lightly clothed, and carried with him only one great coat.
He surely must have been very cold I long to hear of his well being.
The Doct. in falling it nearly followed our plan, He made use
of six whole Hogheads - His water ^{vessel} was eight feet high
and about five ⁱⁿ diameter - and instead of Iron he used Gun
the method of letting out the Inflammable air when he wanted
to descend was by a silk tube or pipe between 3/4 inches
diameter which hung from the top of the Balloon to the
bottom a line went over the Balloon, which I forgot to tell
you was covered with a netting, by which he could draw up
the mouth of this pipe and discharge the inflammable air
on the same principle you supply yourself with air when
in the diving Bell - so much for the imperfect account
I can give you of the english Balloon the incorrectness you
must excuse as I only write to induce you to favour me
in return, and which I hear from M. Walker you have
promised to do - M. Stevenson joins with me in Compl.
to you and M. Biddoch

You have no doubt got the new fashioned air Balloons
in Dublin which are become so common hear that they
make and launch two or three doz: every night, the common
size is three feet diameter, which is made out of half wire
of ~~tin~~ ^{iron} ~~and~~ ^{at} the bottom also of
diameter round which is fasted a hoop made of spic cane
and two pieces of small binding wire put across the bottom
to the center of which is fastened a piece of sponge about
the size of a hens egg soaked in half a gill of spirits of wine
so that the amount of the expanse is not above ~~seven~~
and the effect as ~~is~~ ^{is} good as some that has
weighs seven pounds, but I dare say they are become
common with you - My Compl. to M. Cromwell
I am happy to hear he is recovered his fright, and should
be very glad you and him with several other of my
friends would sometimes write to me - I am

London

15th Sept. 1784

do not fail to write to me and direct N^o 3 Tan
Row Covent Garden

My dear friend

Yours sincerely
W. Hart Stevenson

W. A. Stevenson

28 Jan. 1785

Mr James Esq

St James Place

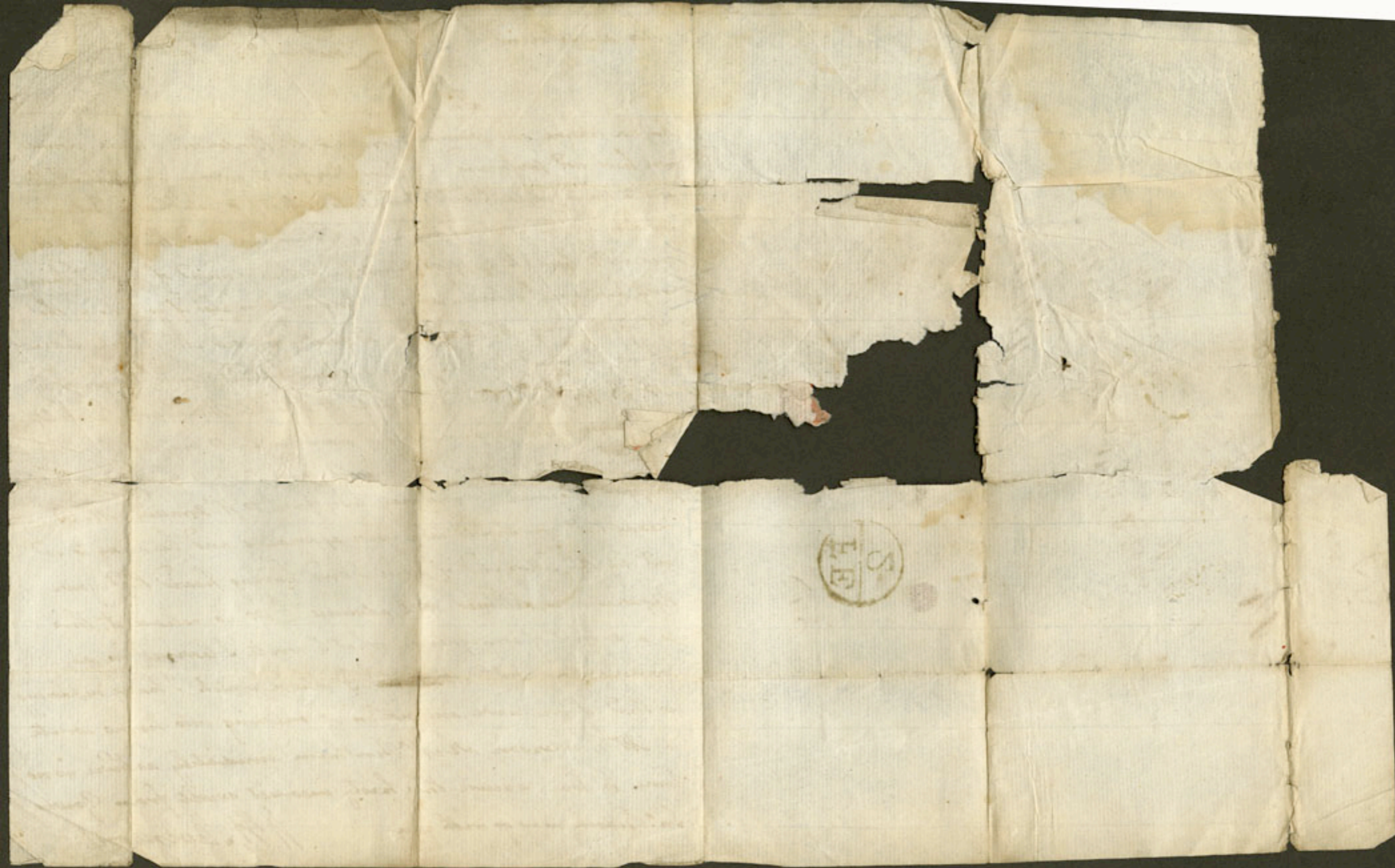
London

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My dear friend

London 28th Jan^y 85

In your letter to me you seem to approve of the Russia scheme and promise to write to Mr. Henderson which promise you have not performed - I have therefore to inform you that Mr. B goes to the Crimea (I don't know how to spell it) to establish a Botanic Garden on the estate of the prince Potanin, and the two Ladies goes with him to superintend the management of a great Dairy with handsome salaries each - You may go also if you chuse tho' not in the way Mr. Bentham at first proposed Mr. B & the ladies taking the road that he intended you and he should take. Mr. B proposes that you should go to settle there and he will assure you £140 p. annum and makes no doubt but that P. Potanin when he comes to know your merit will provide for you in a proper manner - you may live for £10 p. annum Mr. B means that you should take your apparatus and be ready to set out by the latter end of April - and having heard that your Apparatus is detained will advance £100 to release it, this is a subject of consequence, what I write I learned in a conversation with Mr. B whose watch I have repairing so that if you have any notion of entering into terms write to Mr. Henderson or Mr. Bentham immediately as there is no time to lose. excuse this hasty incorrect scrawl from Yours
 J. Bidooh may go with you
 W. A. Stevenson



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H E

W. H. Newson

19 Feb. 1785

W. J. Dimyck
old Post office Court

London



Dear Sir

I received yours of the 11th instant last night enclosed
a letter for passing Bentham Esq: which I ~~immediately~~ carried to that
gentleman: I also went to show your letter to him, but as you seem to have
mistaken his time in offering to assist you with £100 he or Mr. Henderson
will write you in explanation in a day or two. In my last letter
I would see that your place of residence was to be in the Crimea and
not at Petersburg which is distant eight hundred miles. The Crimea
was formerly the Tartars Country but now subject to the Emperors of
Russia, their King being ~~now~~ kept in exile in a remote part of her
Empire on a pension of £20000 *per Annum*. It appears that Prince
Potemkin, (who is not a prince of Russia but of Germany) has got a
grant of a large tract of country in the Crimea from the Emperors
with whom he is a great favourite. Colonel Bentham a younger
Brother of the Counsellors was bred a ship builder here and on
going to Russia was immediately made a Colonel in that service.
He now seems to be chief projector under the Prince in introducing
Arts and manufactures into this new Country by the introduction
of foreigners and caterpation of the natives who are said to be very
indolent, what your employment there is to be I believe Mr. Bentham
hardly knows himself but he seems to think your knowledge would
greatly assist his Brother in the prosecution of prince Potemkins
favourite schemes. In any conversation I have had with him on
the subject he seems exceedingly desirous you should go

...circumstances, were made as at least to make your intention
...more respectable, for men in such cases of this kind, I am
...more ready to take advantage of the necessities of those than
...to give, than to bestow rewards in proportion to their merit.
The last sentiment proceeds from the regard I have for you, I am
...far from thinking, but that your situation in this new Country
...might be very comfortable, and in some very advantageous, and so will
...am I convinced of what I say, that were I sure of being settled within
...twenty miles of you I should have no objection to become an adventurer
...also, but when you receive Mr. B or Mr. C's letter explaining matters
...clearly, you will be better able to judge, whatever is your determination
...be so kind as write me, I shall ever rejoice in your prosperity, and
...none of your friends can be more inclinable to render you every
...service in their power than

Dear Sir

Your sincere friend
& humble Servant
W. Hart Stevenson,

London
19th Feb 1785

Mr G. if my B^r has not left Dublin give my Comp^{ts} to him and tell him
to bring me, if he can, a doz. sheets best red sealing wax, and he will
find it advantageous if he can bring with him a few Coppies of
Blackstones Commentaries. My Comp^{ts} to Mr. Biddoch he promised to
write to me but has forgot.

Edin. 5th Jan'y 1787

Dear D.

W. N. Stevenson

5 Jan. 1787

All flesh is grass. Poor M^{rs} Miller, on the evening of New years day taking her usual nap by the fire side her cloaths caught fire and before she awoke they were almost all burnt off her - She still lives but is become a spectacle too shocking to look upon, it is next to impossible that she can long survive, I am of opinion your presence will be necessary before your things are got out of the house, Before this dreadful accident M^{rs} Stevenson wanted to take some articles which seemed to be in the way, for all her Rooms are let, down to a Room but she would not allow her, She would hardly let John have any of the Volumes of the Dictionary altho it was your express desire that he should have access to them I found things here very incomplete. The Electrical Cylinder is not a good one but as it has not yet got a Cuprior I can say nothing of its power. The Cylinder of the Steam Engine is not equally wide throughout M.



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 W. Dowie
 in the care of M^{rs} Miller & M^{rs} Miller
 Edinburgh

Mr. Fair has been at London procuring a patent for
his Lapp and is expected home on Saturday or Sunday
The Roving Machine is the most paltry piece of work
for the money ever you saw - The Carding Machine is
(at least what I have seen of it) far from being of a piece
with the spinning part, the brass and iron work is most
contemptible and far from being finished Mr. John
Smith returned from Glasgow last night he is become
a most compleat Fop gets his Hair dressed every day, and
boots and an Umbrella are now as necessary a part of
his drels as a Hat and Shoes are to you and I.

I shall now keep him at work and get things done
out of and before I leave Edinb. I am convinced he is but
an eyeserv. and indeed hardly that but I shall take
matter very easy untill our work is done - Let me
know when you will be in town and where I
shoud take a room for you - The Vessel is not arrived
I have wrote to Dundee to learn if she has left that
Port. I am Dear D Yours sincerely
W. Mackintosh

Tim A.M.
Mr. H. Stevenson
13 Jan. 1787

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Mr. Murdoch
to the care of Mr. McLean
New Street
Glasgow

Dear D.

Edin. 13th Jan'y 1787

I rec^d. your journal up to the 12th. instant
I agree with you but were it not for the scarcity
of money we should get your man to make a drawing
of a frame especially as I have taken it into my head
that John is very deficient in the mill business &
that his last jaunt to the West was chiefly to procure
some instructions concerning the Carding Engine
which is not yet finished the cards will be done
this night ~~which~~ they come to no less than
£4..17..0 which with Fiers, Watts and Strach's bills
has reduced me very much - I have got nothing
done concerning my own Bill the holder is in the
Country and his wife directs me to apply to Law
the Messenger Thus situated I hardly know how
to advise. if you can see the Model of the Spinning
frame I dare say you will be able to remember it
so as we may be able to introduce it into a frame
be particular in getting a description how the
Spindles

spindles in the late improvement you mention are turned so that they may be easily stoped - what the calculation is for spinning with two rollers - the best method he knows of preparing the Cotton what Machinery is used in preparing it - One of them is called the Devil - if in spinning yarn of different sizes he alters any of the train of wheels but the driver & what are the newest calculations he knows of also his best method of tempering the spindles - I make no doubt but a week or ten days exhibition would be worth trying but you see I have no way of doing it but by employing my Wife and John which I intend doing as soon as ^{things are} ready you'll please therefore to write what you think a proper Bill and send it first post -

The Dundee Vessel only came to Leith yesterday and I have got up the things this day - so that for want of my tools I have come poorly on with Doctor Stewart's Col. Apparatus - I was obliged to get a new Cyhinder which is little inferior to your large one, if your man could get the Brass and Iron work of the drawing

frame done I think it would be advisable to employ him please to call at Doctor Steinson's for your old friend M^r Arrigonie - presents our Compl^{ts} to M^r Miller to the astonishment of every body still surviving. but is growing very day worse - M^r Blair drank tea with me last night and wrote a Card to you of which the following is a Copy M^r Blair's Compl^{ts} to M^r D saw Don Acisa w^om the Spanish Ambassador & Don Luzuriaga have been importuning again and again to hear of M^r D. They have excellent offers to make M^r D. as M^r Blair understands The Marquis Del Campo has written of M^r D. to the Spanish Court. St Andrews Street New York

I beg you will write me a few lines immediately informing me what you have determined on I am

Yours Sincerely

J. M.

I have cut my thumb & can hardly write