

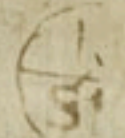
W. H. Stevenson  
15 Sept. 1784.

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 <sup>ft</sup> 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 <sup>it was also found necessary</sup> a lighter gallery was affixed to the <sup>Balloon</sup> before ~~he~~ <sup>M. Lunardi</sup> 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 <sup>sky</sup> was remarkably clear - The first direction the balloon took was

G. Lunardi Esq.  
Post Office  
Dublin



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 <sup>vessel</sup> was eight feet high  
and about five <sup>in</sup> 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~~ <sup>iron</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>at</sup> 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 expence is not above ~~one~~  
and the effect as ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> 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

My dear friend  
Yours sincerely  
W. Hart Stevenson

London

15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1784

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

W. A. Stevenson

28 Jan. 1785

Mr James Esq  
H. H. Lane Esq

W. A.

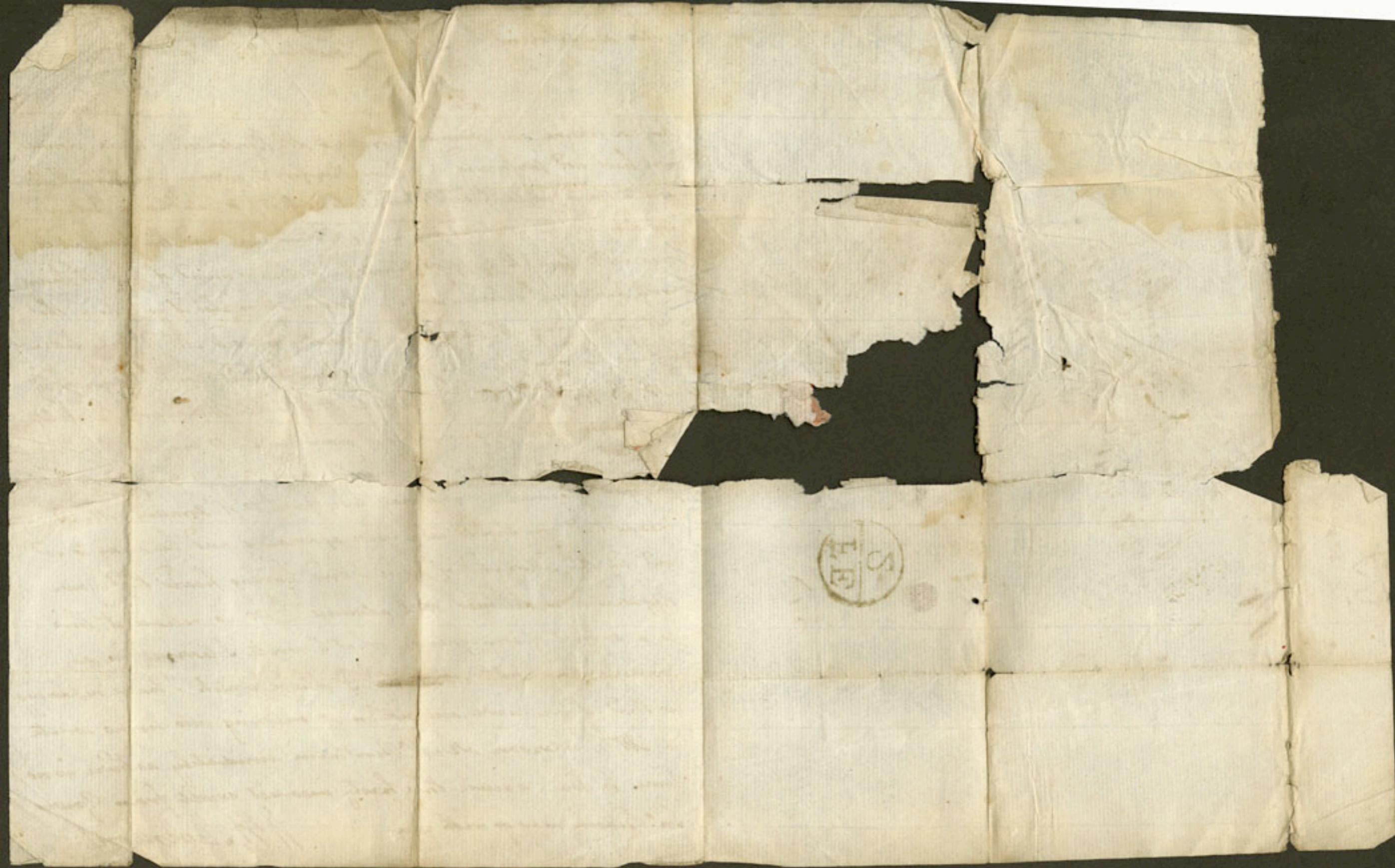
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My dear friend

London 28<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 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 C. 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



5  
H E

W. H. Newson

19 Feb. 1785

W. J. Dimyck  
old Post office Court

London



Dear Sir

I received yours of the 11<sup>th</sup> instant last night enclosed  
a letter for passing Bentham Esq: which I ~~immediately~~ carried to that  
gentleman: I also read to him your letter to me, 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  
Rusia, 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 Rusia 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 Rusia 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 in a measure of this kind, I am  
...more ready to take advantage of the necessities of those that  
...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 well  
...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  
19<sup>th</sup> Feb 1785

Mr G. if my B<sup>r</sup> has not left Dublin give my Comp<sup>ts</sup> 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<sup>ts</sup> to Mr. Biddock he promised to  
write to me but has forgot.

Edin. 5<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1787

Dear D.

All flesh is grass. Poor M<sup>rs</sup> 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<sup>rs</sup> 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 incompleat. The Electrical  
Cylinder is not a good one but as it has not yet got a  
Cupior I can say nothing of its power. The Cylinder  
of the Steam Engine is not equally wide throughout. M.

W. H. Stevenson

5 Jan. 1787

L.D.

W. Dowie

In the care of M<sup>rs</sup> Miller & M<sup>rs</sup> Miller

Edinburgh

Mr. Fair has been at London procuring a patent for his lamp and is expected home on Saturday or Sunday. The Powering 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 should 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. Mackenzie



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

3  
Mr. Murdoch  
to the care of Mr. McLean  
New Street  
Glasgow

Dear D.

Edin. 13<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1787

I rec<sup>d</sup>. your journal up to the 12<sup>th</sup> instant  
I agree with you but were it not for the scarcity  
of money we should get your man to make a drawing  
of the 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 <sup>things are</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> Arrigonie - presents our Compl<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Miller to the astonishment of every body still surviving. but is growing very day worse - M<sup>r</sup> Blair drank tea with me last night and wrote a Card to you of which the following is a Copy M<sup>r</sup> Blair's Compl<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> D saw Don Acisa w<sup>o</sup>m the Spanish Ambassador & Don Luzuriaga have been importuning again and again to hear of M<sup>r</sup> D. They have excellent offers to make M<sup>r</sup> D. as M<sup>r</sup> Blair understands The Marquis Del Campo has written of M<sup>r</sup> 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. A. M.

I have cut my thumb & can hardly write