

Dr

On my first connection with the College  
in 1801, I was given to understand by the College Council  
that it was highly probable, ~~even~~ almost more than  
certain, ~~that~~ the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Society, <sup>then</sup> might  
see of, that Gov<sup>t</sup> would purchase my Apparatus  
for the use of the College, with this <sup>in</sup> view and  
to render the Appr more complete I ordered an  
investment of Instruments from London, to the am<sup>t</sup>  
of about 300 pounds Sterl. - For four years past

I have been constantly employed in giving  
~~Alternate~~ courses of Lectures on Natural Philosophy and  
Chemistry ~~alternately~~, with <sup>occasional lectures</sup> two short courses  
on some branches of Natural History and <sup>the</sup> ancient  
and modern art of war. Besides these I have  
~~seasonally~~ given Lectures in Mathematics, to  
such Students as wished for them.

— This (day) the grand English Air Balloon  
constructed by Mr. Linnardist a Neapolitan  
by birth and Secretary to the Ambassador of  
that Kingdom, was filled by Coctw. Foudye  
and launched from the Artillery ground  
at two o'clock. The Balloon was made  
of silk the same of yours, and nearly  
spherical, the pieces were green, red and  
straw coloured alternately. The Diameter  
was 33 feet but the Balloon <sup>much more</sup> was not  
than half filled. Its power of ascension when full  
was computed at 200 Lib, but when they  
came to try it, they found its tendency  
upwards so far short of their calculation,  
that a Mr. Piggam, who was to have gone  
up with Mr. Linnardist was not only obliged  
to resign his seat, but it was also found  
necessary to affix a lighter gallery to  
the Balloon before Mr. Linnardist could  
ascend.

At ten he arose amidst the acclamations  
of half a million of Spectators. It blew  
what the sailors call a fresh breeze  
breeze. The first Direction the Balloon took  
was nearly due west. After rising or near  
as I well estimate to the height of half  
a mile it became apparently stationary,  
for some minutes but upon Mr Linnæus  
throwing out a bag of sand part of his  
ballast, the Balloon ascended to a much  
greater height, and now got into different  
current which carried it almost directly  
north. In this Direction it continued until  
I lost sight of it which was at a quarter  
of ten. Linnæus rose to an amazing  
height and seemed very lightly loaded  
carrying with him only one great  
coat. The Doctor in filling the Balloon  
followed nearly your plan. The weight  
of six white hogheads. His water <sup>weight</sup> ~~weight~~ was

eight feet high and about five or six  
feet, and instead of iron he made use of  
The method of letting out the inflation  
was by a silk rope which hung from the  
top of the balloon and was raised by a line  
in the same manner as you supply fresh  
air to the Diving Bell. It was so  
that it continued to blow fresh to the  
westward while the Balloon at least three  
a mile in height was carried by another  
current to the westward. I long to hear of  
Linnæus's fate. I got to tell you that  
he carried with him two pairs of ears  
one to be wrought vertically, the other  
horizontally. I always considered these  
as only intended to amuse the spectators  
and the result showed it, for he had not  
ascended 200 feet before he dropped his largest  
ears finding them not only useless but  
in all probability dangerous. I  
hear of his return to the Earth.