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AEROSTATION.

Authentic Narrative of an Aerial Voyage of Mr. SADLER across the Irish Channel.

On Thursday, the 1st of October, 1812, Mr. SADLER ascended in his Balloon from the Lawn of Belvedere-House, a place admirably calculated for the purpose, whether the accommodation of the public or the facility afforded for the great object he had in view is considered; with reference to the former, nothing as to situation or arrangement could be better—the day was of the most favorable kind, a strong Military Guard of Horse and Foot protected the Avenues of approach and prevented by the preservation of order, those accidents which so frequently occur in a concourse of so incalculable an extent as that assembled on the present occasion.

The entire of Belvedere-House was thrown open for the reception of Company; the rooms on the ground floor in the right wing were appropriated to their Graces, the Duke and Duchess of Richmond; those immediately over were occupied by the friends of Mr. Beresford, the hospitable and benevolent owner of the House; and the remainder almost entirely laid out with suitable refreshments; the Lawn was divided by a temporary railing—and in the upper division a Platform raised, from whence the undaunted Aeronaut proposed to ascend; the space around which was kept clear by a Military Guard to prevent the pressure of the anxious Spectators, and afford facility at the moment of Ascension—two Military Bands stationed in convenient situations enlivened the scene, a number of Marquees judiciously placed, while they served to ornament, at the same time afforded a shelter from rain, should such a circumstance have taken place; in short, it is but justice to say, that the mind of Mr. SADLER did not rest alone on personal objects, but extended itself to whatever could gratify or accommodate the numerous and splendid assemblage that attended; and the result was such as might naturally be expected; for whether we contemplate the vast Machine with which the Aerial Voyager entered upon his dauntless track—the brilliant and crowded concourse—the appearance of the Military—the process of Inflation—the sensation of the moment—all combined to produce an effect which as far exceeded expectation as it baffles description.

In a sheltered part of the upper Lawn, the Balloon suspended between two lofty poles, received the inflammable Gas through a silk Tube, and when prepared for removal, was visited by her Grace, the Duchess of Richmond, in order to see the process of Inflation before it finally closed. At half past twelve, the signal was given; a number of Gentlemen who had formed themselves into a Committee for the purpose, collected together within the enclosed space where it was suspended; to them were entrusted the Cords by which it was held—the railing was removed—an escort of Cavalry cleared a passage to the Platform, and string-

gling on the Wind, the Balloon, with its depending Car was slowly moved along, and placed upon the Platform; this circumstance as unexpected as grand, struck with irresistible effect on the beholders, restraining the burst of approbation by the strong feeling of astonishment.

Within the Area which surrounded the Platform the Duchess of Richmond, the Ladies Lennox, &c. had placed themselves to take a final leave of Mr. Sadler, who when every arrangement was made, receiving one Flag from the hand of her Grace, and the second from that of Lady Mary Lennox, seated himself in his Car, with that coolness and security which indicated his perfect acquaintance with the bold undertaking he had entered upon, and confidence of the results; having placed his Barometer, Telescope, Compass, &c. in their proper situations in the Car, and ascertained the certainty of the Balloon's power to ascend, the Gentlemen holding the Cords were requested to give them in, and after an affectionate farewell to his son, who stood by his Car on the platform, and assisted in the business of the day, the Balloon was released and the undaunted voyager floated from the stage, majestically rising from the earth on the bosom of the Air, and presenting a spectacle at once awful and sublime, which as it mocks description so was its effect attested by the unbidden tears that stole down many a cheek—for a moment all was silent extacy and tremulous fear followed by bursts of applause, not drawn forth by factitious circumstances, but excited by real and undisguised admiration.

As the Balloon rose Mr. Sadler stood up in his Car saluting the astonished multitude by waving his Hat, and as it ascended higher paid the same tribute with his Flag, and continued to do so as long as the strained sight aided by the sunbeams dancing on the variegated silk, could discern the dauntless Aeronaut—for a few moments the Balloon appeared to be stationary, but soon evinced that the ascent was rapid by plunging into a thick cloud, which giving a temporary obscurity, rendered its bursting on the sight the more impressive—Every eye was turned with anxious looks to the receding Globe, which from the impulse of the wind took a direct course to the Sea and by increasing the apparent danger heightened the feeling which throbbed in every bosom for the traveler's safety—the multitude seemed rooted to the spot, and only began to disperse, when dwindling to a point, the object which fixed their attention sunk from sight.—

"So on the shoreless Air the intrepid Gaul,

"Launch'd the vast concave of his buoyant ball.

"Journeying on high, the silken Castle glides,

"Bright as a Meteor through the azure skies;

"O'er Towns, and Towers, and Temples wins its way,

"Or mounts sublime, and gilds the vault of day.

"Silent with upturn'd eyes unbreathing crowds,

"Pursue the floating wonder to the clouds;

"And flush'd with transport, or benumb'd with fear,

"Watch as it rises, the diminished sphere.—

"Now less and less—and now a speck is seen;

"And now the fleeting-rack obtrudes between.—

"The calm Philosopher in Ether sails,

"Views broader stars and breathes in

purser gales:
"Sees like a Map in many a waving-line,
"Round Earth's blue plains her lucid waters shine;
"Sees at his feet the forked lightnings glow,
"And hears innocuous Thunders roar below."

It is gratifying to reflect, that notwithstanding the vast concourse of people which thronged not only the Lawn of Belvedere-House, but every Avenue leading to the place of ascent; crowding the roads, and cloathing the tops of every house from which the slightest view could be had, not a single accident appears to have taken place.

Nor can too much praise be given to the Military for the propriety of their conduct, or to the Peace Officers who attended for the Judiciousness of their arrangements, and Vigilance of their attention.

The Balloon at the time it ascended was not more than two-thirds inflated, in order to afford space for expansion of the Gas as it rose into the higher Regions of the Air—its Diameter when fully inflated is Fifty-five feet, presenting a surface of Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Three Square Feet, the actual contents Eighty Seven Thousand and One Hundred and Fourteen Cubic Feet, and its power when fully inflated with Hydrogen Gas is equal to Five Thousand Four Hundred and Forty-four Pound, Ten Ounces.

The form of the Balloon is spherical, made of fine silk, with a Net-work, woven in its texture, by which additional strength is attained, and when inflated presented a splendid appearance, being composed of alternate stripes of Crimson and White, connected in the centre by a zone, decorated with appropriate and emblematic devices.

The Car in which Mr. Sadler ascended was of an extremely light texture, suspended to a Hoop formed of Cane and which was attached by Twenty-four Cords to a Net made of Italian Hemp with which the Balloon was entirely covered.

The materials used for inflating the Balloon were cast Iron Turnings and Vitriol, of the latter a quantity was expended amounting to four thousand one hundred and nineteen pounds weight, but which under other circumstances might have been decreased, for as Mr. Sadler had intended to ascend at an earlier day, (a determination which he was prevented carrying into execution by the unfavorable state of the weather,) the Iron prepared for that occasion became oxidated by the water, and so much cemented as to prevent the free action of the Vitriol, an event which while it retarded the inflation for a short time, required a greater expenditure of the latter material.

The following account of the AERIAL VOYAGE, is taken from Mr. SADLER'S MEMORANDA, and corrected by Himself.

"On Thursday, the 1st day of October, at 38 minutes past 12, I ascended from the Lawn of Belvedere-House, with the Wind at South West; my professed object was to cross the Irish Channel, and my inclination to terminate the Journey at Liverpool; a City to which I was bound by every tie of Friendship, and by those feelings which kindness of the most marked and flattering kind excited; to accomplish this purpose, my Balloon was not more than two thirds inflated, and my Ballast was at least, eleven hundred weight, the latter of which I determined to preserve as much as possible, so as to en-

able me to act with more facility in the attaining of the object I had in view."

"My ascent after clearing the trees which surrounded the Lawn, extremely rapid, at the same time without any visible motion to myself, and only evidenced by the receding objects, which seemed to retire with increasing velocity—in eleven minutes after I ascended, the Balloon entered a thick cloud, which for the moment obscured every thing from sight, but for which I was amply repaid on emerging, by one of the most splendid prospects that imagination could picture; beneath me, lay stretched the City of Dublin, with its Suburbs skirting the Bay, which like a burnished Mirror reflecting the beams of the Sun, exhibited a blaze of Lustre too dazzling for the eye to rest upon—a Grove of Masts marked the course of the River, and the passing vessels animated by their swelling sails the richness of the scene."

"From my elevated situation I was not only enabled to penetrate into the recesses of the Wicklow Mountains, but to overlook their ridges and bring within the field of vision the distant ocean, and the blue Horizon here and there broken by a sail—in a word, the country to the South and West of Dublin, interspersed with Villages and cultivated Fields, the Amphitheatre of Hills and Mountains, the broad expanse of Ocean, the Bay, small brakers beating on the Islands and the rocky shore, the sails of vessels glancing in the Sun; all combined presented a prospect which fancy may contemplate, but words can form no adequate idea of, and to enjoy which was in itself a reward for any hazard that might attend my undertaking."

"I cannot here forbear to add, that amidst the glowing prospect, my eyes were instinctively turned to the spot which I had but a few minutes before quitted, the Lawn was no longer distinctly visible; but the Marquees white in the sun-beam was still discernable, and as they marked the situation, brought home to my mind the affectionate and solicitous regard which sat on every countenance, as rising from the earth, I waved my last farewell, and with truth I can aver that the reflection excited in my heart the warmest sensations of esteem and gratitude."

"At the period of ascending the Barometer was at 29.95 and the Thermometer at 49, at which time I was perpendicularly over Ireland's eye, and as from the elevation the Balloon had become completely distended, I perceived, that from a sudden gust of wind which took place just before rising from the Platform, a rent had been made in the Balloon at the joining of the tube, through which the Valve-cord passed and that in consequence of the expansion of the Gas, a large proportion of it was escaping through the orifice, a circumstance which rendered it necessary (however hazardous the attempt) to endeavour to close it; to effect this, I raised myself from the Car on to the Hoop to which it was attached, in the hope of being able to reach the bottom of the Balloon, but in this I was disappointed, for as it had assumed a more globular form, the lower part, which on rising appeared pendant, was now drawn up and completely without my reach; the object was not to be given up, for as the ultimate success of my undertaking depended on the preservation of the Gas, and as I was