

CUP. 21.2. 36/23.

P R O P O S A L S
A T L A R G E,
F O R T H E C O N S T R U C T I O N O F
A Grand Naval AIR-BALLOON,
Furnished with an APPARATUS, corresponding to that of SAILS OARS and RUDDER,
to be occasionally applied;

and Provided with every Accommodation, to carry three or four Persons IN THE GREATEST SECURITY, on an AIR VOYAGE, which may be continued FOR TWELVE HOURS, or longer, and pursued to any Distance at Pleasure.

I. INTRODUCTION.

THE astonishing Invention and rapid Improvements of the Balloon, must ever be considered as an important Æra in the Annals of experimental Philosophy.

To compel the invisible Fluid that surrounds us, to carry *Burdens* in Proportion to its *Levity*; to traverse this subtle Element; to enter, as it were, into a new World; to soar above all terrestrial Objects, and make the *immense Sea of Air*, like the Ocean, subservient to the Purposes of Man; was an unparalleled Discovery, reserved for modern Times, and made within the Compass of a single Year.

Yet, altho' this wonderful Art of Sailing in the Air might long continue in its infant State; *public Encouragement alone* is able to supersede the Hand of Time, and bring it at an early Period to Maturity and Perfection.

Great-Britain stands in the first Rank for Improvements throughout the Circle of the Arts and Sciences.

Every Encouragement may therefore be expected from that national Munificence and liberal Spirit which is continually exerting itself in every laudable Pursuit, that tends either to encrease the Stock of human Knowledge, or to promote *the general Intercourse* and Interests of Mankind.

An equal Motive for Encouragement arises likewise from *the obvious Utility of the Balloon*, considered in A COMMERCIAL VIEW, and brought to the State of Perfection here intended, *viz.*

“ A SAFE AND READY MODE OF CONVEYANCE FROM PLACE TO PLACE:”

and which for Pleasure, Convenience, and unparalleled Expedition, bids fair to outrival every Transport of human Invention.

It being known, moreover, that the Gentleman who undertakes the ~~Whole~~ has, some Time since, completed a Gas-Globe of varnished Silk, with which he is making Experiments; also, that by his Instructions, several Balloons have been finished, on a new Model, and on a Principle of rarified Air only, and liberated with Success in Chester, Liverpool, and other Places, and are still letting off in different Parts of the Kingdom; THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS which solicit the Patronage of the Great (when from their Dream of Politics they wake again to Leisure) are with some Degree of Confidence submitted to the Public, who are ever willing to favour an Undertaking which has for its Object as well PUBLIC UTILITY and IMPROVEMENT as AMUSEMENT and RECREATION.

II. PROPOSALS.

Subscriptions are now opened at the Bank of Robert Hesketh, Esq. in Chester, where the Subscription money is to be deposited; also at the following Places, *viz.* Mr. Poole, Bookseller, Chester; Mr. Owen Jones, Denbigh, North Wales; also in LONDON, Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Coventry, Exeter, Liverpool, Manchester, Norwich, Shrewsbury, York, and other Places. The Particulars of which will be given in a future Advertisement.

To be finished at Chester, under the Direction of THOMAS BALDWIN, Esq. a Native and Resident of that City; who intends to make a Tour in the Balloon when complete, with an express Design of passing over the Towns above-mentioned, and OTHERS, which shall have contributed their Portion in the Construction and Improvement of it.

As the naval Balloon approaches nearer to Perfection, in Proportion to its Size or Capacity, the Goodness or Durability of the Materials, and Number of Experiments in the various improveable Modes of directing it; and as the Subscription will not only determine these Degrees of Perfection, but the whole Undertaking; the Expences attending it cannot with any Precision be ascertained: varying by Calculation, from 700 to 1500l.

THE APPARATUS IS TO CONSIST OF
A GLOBE AND CYLINDER:

The Globe, for greater Security furnished with a double Cover, is to be made so large as to contain a certain invariable Portion of Gas; and occasionally to assist in raising

A * Metallic Cylinder of rarified Air, whose Heat will regulate and confine the horizontal Course of the Balloon, in general to VERY SMALL HEIGHTS above the Surface of the Earth: tho' in Order to avoid a Gale, &c. it is capable of rising into a calm Region, or into an upper and less adverse Current.

III. SUBSCRIPTIONS and CONDITIONS.

The Names of the Subscribers are to be alphabetically arranged together with their respective Titles and Residence, also the Sums advanced; and printed in the public Papers, unless by particular Request to the contrary.

And if, in one complete Year, from the Date of these Proposals, the Subscriptions prove inadequate to the Undertaking, the Money shall be returned to each Subscriber, by applying to Robert Hesketh, Esq. Banker, in Chester; where the Accounts will be open for the Inspection of all who have subscribed ONE GUINEA, or upwards.

All Letters Post paid addressed “ to T. B. Esq. Chester ” will be regularly answered: and any Hints or Cautions on the Subject pursued, and duly attended to.

N. B. The Naval Air Balloon is proposed to be worked in any Direction, even obliquely against the Wind in moderate Weather.

Any Gentleman may have an Opportunity of sailing in the Naval Air-Balloon, with the Consent of the Director.

Hoole, near Chester, the 31st of August, 1784.

* Metallic Cylinder.—“ Mankind (says Lord BACON) before a Thing is effected, think it impossible; and as soon as it is done, WONDER it was not done before.”

Sir

HAVING had the Subject of the Air-Balloon, for some Time, in Con-
templation, and made various Experiments in the Improvement of it;
—Having also received from the Gentlemen of Chester and its Neighbour-
hood, to whom the following Design was first communicated, the strongest
Assurances of their Concurrence and Support in it; I take the Liberty of
enclosing the Proposals at large: And, as an extended Patronage becomes
essential to the Accomplishment of so great an Undertaking; if, on the Pe-
rusal, which will be esteemed an Honour, you approve the Plan; and, from
a Principle of public Utility or other laudable Motive, bestow a Wish for
it's Success; you ——— may be induced both to support and
recommend it.

I am, with great Respect,

Sir,

*your most obliged
humble servant
Thomas Baldwin*

*Hoole, near Chester;
31st Dec^r - 84.*

Thomas Pennant Esq.

