

**ACCOUNT OF THE LATE
ÆRONAUTICAL
EXPEDITION FROM
LONDON TO WEILBURG**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649278237

Account of the Late æronautical Expedition from London to Weilburg by Monck Mason &
Robert Hollond & Charles Green

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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MONCK MASON & ROBERT HOLLOND & CHARLES GREEN

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ACCOUNT
OF THE LATE
ÆRONAUTICAL EXPEDITION
FROM
LONDON TO WEILBURG,
ACCOMPLISHED BY
ROBERT HOLLOND, Esq. MONCK MASON, Esq.
AND
CHARLES GREEN, ÆRONAUT.

"PENNIS NON HOMINI DATIS."

LONDON:
F. C. WESTLEY, 162, PICCADILLY;
J. CUMMING, DUBLIN; BELL AND BRADFUTE, EDINBURGH.
SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1836.

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HOWLETT AND SON, PRINTERS,
10, FIFTH STREET, SOHO.

Recher. 6-15-26 A.P.

TO

ROBERT HOLLOND, ESQ.

TO WHOSE LIBERAL AND ENTERPRISING SPIRIT THE LATE
EXPEDITION OWES ITS ORIGIN AND SUCCESS,

THE FOLLOWING SKETCH

IS INSCRIBED,

AS A SLIGHT TESTIMONY OF THE REGARD AND RESPECT IN WHICH HE IS HELD

BY HIS SINCERE FRIEND AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,

M. M.

PARIS, DEC. 1836.

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ACCOUNT, &c.

The interest with which the public at all times appear to have regarded the progress of *Ærostation*, and especially the very flattering concern which they have deigned so unequivocally to express for the successful issue of our late undertaking, have concurred in inducing me to abandon the usual path of communication hitherto adopted upon such occasions, and confirm me in the opinion that some account, more accurate and detailed than is generally to be found in the columns of the public press might not prove unacceptable to those for whose sympathy and consideration we can never acknowledge ourselves sufficiently grateful. In this belief, which I hope may not be deemed fallacious, I have seized the first vacant moment since our descent to embody in the present form all those incidents and observations to which a voyage so singular is so amply calculated to give rise. It is true that many of these have already reached the public ear through the medium of the public press, while at the same time no doubt much of the interest which

owes its origin to the uncertainty and supposed peril of such exploits must have already subsided in the knowledge of the result, and of the leading features, which our duty to the public made it imperative upon us immediately to divulge. It is not, however, in the mere issue, successful or unsuccessful, that the chief merit or importance of such an enterprise can alone be said to consist. Designed with a view to special ends, and undertaken for the sole purpose of ascertaining and establishing the efficacy of certain improvements in the art, from which most beneficial results were, and I am now happy to add are, most likely to accrue, it becomes no less an obligation to ourselves than to the world in general, to make them partakers in the knowledge of whatever interesting or important circumstances either accompanied the progress of our expedition, or may justly be expected to attend the adoption of those improvements, the merits of which it was our sole object in the present instance to confirm.

From the time of the first discovery of the properties and power of the balloon,* up to a late period, (already a

* It may not be uninteresting to those concerned in the annals of aerostation, to mention that the widow of the celebrated Montgolfier, the first inventor of the balloon, to which his name continues to be attached, is at this present moment living in Paris; and, though in her eighty-second year, in the perfect enjoyment of all her faculties, ardent in the advance-

lapse of more than half a century), a variety of obstacles apparently insurmountable continued to obstruct the progress, and paralyze the efforts of all who sought to render it obedient to the sway of human will, and subservient to the purposes of human life. The chief of these impediments consisted in the uncertainty and expense attending the process of inflation from the employment of hydrogen gas; the dangers considered inseparable from the practice of the art; the difficulties which hitherto have baffled all attempts to give a direction to the ungovernable mass, and the impossibility which all previous aeronauts have experienced of remaining in the air a sufficient time to ensure the attainment of a sufficient distance.

To remove these obstacles and reduce the aerial vehicle to a more certain issue, a vast extent of actual experience, united to an intellect capable of turning it to a proper account was absolutely required; and it would be an act of much injustice were I not to declare, that it is to the combination of both these in the person of Mr. Charles Green, that we are indebted for the entire results

ment of the art, and hospitable in the reception of those who cultivate it. I had the pleasure of dining at her table, since our arrival, and of hearing from her own lips many of those curious anecdotes illustrative of its origin and progress, which, indeed, appear at all times to have accompanied the first dawning of great and important discoveries.