

AERONAUTICS.

The Great Balloon of Mr. Lowe—Approaching Departure for Europe—Mr. La Mountain in the City—Three New Balloons to be Built—Letter from Mr. La Mountain.

A month ago New-Yorkers were astonished to learn that a balloon was in process of construction which, when inflated, would overtop Trinity steeple a hundred feet, and embrace within its capacious diameter a building nearly as large as that occupied by the TIMES; that this monster would need 725,000 cubic feet of gas to expand its canvas sides to their full dimensions; and more than all were they surprised to learn that the balloon was designed, not for trips across the Continent or into the Canada wilds, but for sweeping over the ocean, by invoking the aid of Æolus and defying that of Neptune. Mr. LA MOUNTAIN'S recent disaster, and the thrilling story of his sufferings, have for a time caused this enterprise to be forgotten. It has been progressing, nevertheless, quietly and steadily.

Mr. T. S. C. LOWE, the daring originator of the project, has not allowed his courage to be conquered or his enthusiasm to be cooled by the adversities of others. So rapid has been the progress of the work that he has felt himself warranted in beginning to inclose Reservoir Square, the use of which the authorities have granted him for the first, and we hope not the last ascension of the "City of New-York." The fence which is to surround the Square can hardly be made of such a height as to exclude the balloon entirely from public observation. A height of fifteen feet will be enough to make the process of filling sufficiently private to give an inducement to pay a small sum for admission to the inclosure. Those who flatter themselves that the lofty sides of the Reservoir will give them an opportunity to overlook operations, will undoubtedly be disappointed, as it is the intention to make application to the authorities to have the promenade closed to the public until the balloon shall be on its way to Europe. Ordinary coal gas will be employed for the inflation, special care being taken to purify it, so as to give it as great buoyancy as possible. Public curiosity will also be gratified by an opportunity of seeing the apparatus specially designed for this trial, on the contrivance of which Mr. Lowe particularly prides himself. The lime-stove, which will give heat without endangering the balloon by fire, and the propelling and steering apparatus, which is to be driven by an Ericsson calorific engine, have been described, and will be on exhibition. Mr. Lowe has all the time kept his inventive genius hard at work devising ways and means to insure the success of his trip. Possibly he may be obliged to take a sail in the ocean before reaching the shores of the Old World, and to make this part of the trip as safe and comfortable as possible he has provided himself with numerous life-preservers, and a Francis metallic life-boat, capable of sustaining forty men in any sea, however rough. While the balloon is driving along at the rate of 100 miles an hour it is easy to see that considerable difficulty would attend a debarkation. Apparatus has been devised which, Mr. L. says, will so retard the balloon that it cannot progress at the rate of more than three or four miles an hour. Should necessity require the abandonment of the air ship, it could be accomplished easily while going at this speed. Casualties by land have been equally provided against, and that he may not be carried by his accelerated velocity over the British Isles and the continent of Europe into Asia, Mr. L. has provided himself with several anchors. Two of them are comparatively light, weighing about twenty pounds each. Another, and the sheet anchor of the trio, weighs sixty pounds, and is made of spring steel. This must stop the balloon when it reaches England, or take the Island along with it. Instruments to determine the height of the air ship from the water, and its velocity and direction, all of which will be available in the darkest night, will be taken along. These instruments will be on exhibition under a tent in the square when the inflation of the balloon commences, which will probably be by Thursday of next week.

The process of filling will occupy about a week. Experiments will be made during this time to insure the security of the envelope, and if it should be found that it leaks, two or three additional coats of varnish will be applied. The ascension will be made as soon as possible after the balloon is filled. All that Mr. L. desires is a clear, still day; the most favorable time, he thinks, will be immediately after a storm. Then the air is likely to be quiet for a day or two, and according to the theories of MERIAM, MAURY and MITCHEL, Mr. Lowe says that two days of fair weather after a storm, insures five or six of a like character. He would have preferred an earlier part of the season to make his trial trip, and according to his original plans would have started sooner. He postponed the prosecution of his arrangements for some weeks, hoping that older aeronauts might take the initiative. As all their plans have fallen through, Mr. L. does not propose to wait for them any longer.

Who he will take up with him, he has not yet decided. The description of the ship, as given in the TIMES, attracted such extended attention that about one hundred letters have been addressed to Mr. Lowe, asking for the privilege of making the ascension with him. He has made no promises, although he expresses a desire to have as a companion some one who will make a graphic and accurate account of the excursion. Among the representatives of the Press, numerous candidates will undoubtedly be found who will be daring enough to attempt the trip.

Three weeks will probably determine the success or failure of this new attempt. It is to be hoped that Mr. Lowe's daring may be rewarded with success. He scouts the idea of failure or casualty, claiming that the precautions which he has taken guard against both.

MR. LA MOUNTAIN IN TOWN.

Mr. JOHN LA MOUNTAIN, the aeronaut, arrived in this City yesterday, accompanied by Mr. MORRISON, his Troy agent. Mr. LA MOUNTAIN looks well, notwithstanding the hardships of his recent adventure. With the exception of a slight rheumatic attack, affecting his lower limbs, which was occasioned by his exposure to wet and cold in the wilds of Canada, he experiences no inconvenience from the results of his perilous voyage. His confidence in his theory of ballooning remains unshaken, and he proposes at once to replace the wrecked *Atlantic* by no less than three balloons; two of which are to be used for local ascensions, and the third for a trans-Atlantic voyage. The work on these balloons will be prosecuted during the coming Winter. Mr. LA MOUNTAIN has no intention of relinquishing his project of a trip across the ocean; still considering it a feasible undertaking, and expressing himself able and willing to attempt it. During this Fall and Winter he proposes to make ascensions from different points, confining his trips, however, to short distances, and hopes to be able to accomplish his voyage to Europe in the early part of Spring.

The following letter from Mr. LA MOUNTAIN has been handed us for publication:

Troy, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 1859.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

Permit me an opportunity, through the medium of the Press, to express to the many generous friends, who have extended to me their hearty congratulations on my escape from the Canadian Wilderness, my heartfelt thanks. And to those noble men who assisted Mr. HADDOCK and myself to return in safety to our homes and families, I would say God bless you. Mr. ANGLIS CAMERON, who furnished us food, clothing and shelter, who in fact rescued us from the very jaws of death, will have a place in my heart's purest affection as long as life continues. And to ANDREW J. MORRISON, of the Troy Times, who lead the search, and to MESSRS. CAMP, FAYAL, CLARK, (Editor of the Journal,) CLARK, (editor of the Union,) RICE, TOMLINSON, TROWBRIDGE, and all the citizens of Watertown, who subscribed liberally, and organized in a body to search for us, evincing an interest in our behalf that was as disinterested as it was heroic, I would express my deepest obligations. And, finally, the Press, whose mighty influence was exercised to elicit an interest in our behalf, and a thorough search for the "lost balloonists," has imposed upon me a debt of gratitude which I fear I never can repay.

I have received many letters of congratulation, to which I am unable to make separate replies.

Very truly yours,

JOHN LA MOUNTAIN.

Errors in Mr. La Mountain's Narrative of the Late Balloon Voyage.

To the Editor of the New-York Times:

In reading the published account by Mr. LA MOUNTAIN of his recent perilous balloon ascension, my attention was called to some errors, which it is but just to correct.

First—As to "John Brown's Tract"—much misconception prevails as to the location and extent of this famous "Tract," many persons speaking of it as identical with, and being the "Great Northern Wilderness of New-York," whilst in fact it is but a small portion of it, containing under the original surveys but eight townships of land. The "Moose River" and other tracts, with Totten and Crossfield's purchase, (the latter containing 50 townships,) all equally belong to and together form the "Northern Wilderness" of this State.

Second—Mr. LA MOUNTAIN says, "No spruce grew in the New-York wilderness, that I knew." This shows conclusively that he had never visited it, either with a balloon or otherwise, as spruce does exist there, and in the central portions of it in great quantities, as

will be observable to any one who visits that region possessing an ordinary knowledge of the different kinds of timber.

Third—Mr. LA MOUNTAIN, in speaking of the unbroken sea of forest limbs, massive trees shooting their tapering bodies far up toward the clouds, and this "extending as far as the eye could reach in every direction," says, "I knew there were no such growths in the United States, save in the northern district of Maine." It may be a matter of surprise to those unacquainted with the fact, but it is nevertheless true, that the "northern wilderness" of the great State of New-York embraces about six thousand square miles—a surface of greater extent than the State of Connecticut. Lakes and streams abound, several ranges of mountains pass through it, sending up peaks to an altitude of from three thousand feet to one mile in height, and there are hundreds of places in this wilderness where an inexperienced person would be as irretrievably lost as in the wilds of Canada. The tourist can find, without difficulty, many places where, from the highest elevations, nothing but mountain, forest and lake can be seen as far as the eye can reach.

NEW-YORK, Oct. 10, 1859.

M.