London Feby 6th 1784

Dear Sir

I wrote you a long Letter under Date of 1st January, by Capt. Trenchun — I have since received your of 2 & 4th Decem —

I hope the Persons that are about to Speculate on the Ignorance & Credulity of the People of this Country, by offering them Virginia Warrants of no Validity or Estimation, will be completely disappointed in their Views — I shall neglect no Opportunity of exposing such infamous Conduct in a proper light, it being a Duty I owe to the Character of the Americans, as well as to common Justice — I am much obliged to you for your Hints on the Subject —

Whilst the United States have the pleasing Prospect of daily increasing in Power & political Importance, & of adding to their mutual Harmony & good Understanding, this Country whilst the most fatal Marks of Dissension; — A factious Competition for

Power

Power, in order to partake of the Emoluments of Office, has taken place amongst the leading Characters of the Country, which has greatly relaxed the Ton of Government, at a critical Time, when it requires the most vigorous administration of Affairs — The Kingdom appears to be in a very declining State, distressed with contending Factions, & sinking under the enormous Weight of publick Debt, which its Resources are unequal to support —

I shall not fail to make a proper Use of your Remarks on the subject of the kind & hospitable Reception, that the Emigrants who have arrived in Pennsylvania, have met with

Every Exertion is making by Government to counteract a Disposition to emigrate, which, notwithstanding, becomes more prevalent every Day — And if the Troubles & Confusion of this Country should increase, they will occasion additional Motives to fly from it; — The Stronger Reasons ~~are~~ at present, are, the Want of Employment for the industrious poor, & the extreme high Price of the Necessaries of Life —

I am happy to find that the publick Credit of America, is likely to be placed on a

respectable

respectable Footing, by the Compliance of the different States with the Recommendations of Congress, to fund the public Debt, by appropriating Revenues for the purpose of paying the annual Interest.

I do not despair of seeing in a few Years the American Stocks bear a higher Price than the British, as the Resources of the United States are comparatively far greater, considering the Amount of its public Debt, than those of this Country.

It gives me Sincere Pleasure to observe, that there is so large a Majority in the Council of Censors, in favor of calling a Convention to establish a new Constitution — I know several Persons, who had a Sincere Desire of ~~establishing the modern~~ settling in Pennsylvania, who could not get over their Objections to the Constitution & Form of Government.

In my last Letter, I introduced the subject of Air Balloons — I enclose you a Copper-plate of one, which was constructed for the purpose of accommodating a Person who intended to take a long Voyage thro the Regions of the Air.

With best Compliments to Mrs Rush, in which Mr Bingham joins me, I am with great Truth

Dr Sir Your friend & obedt Servt

Wm Bingham

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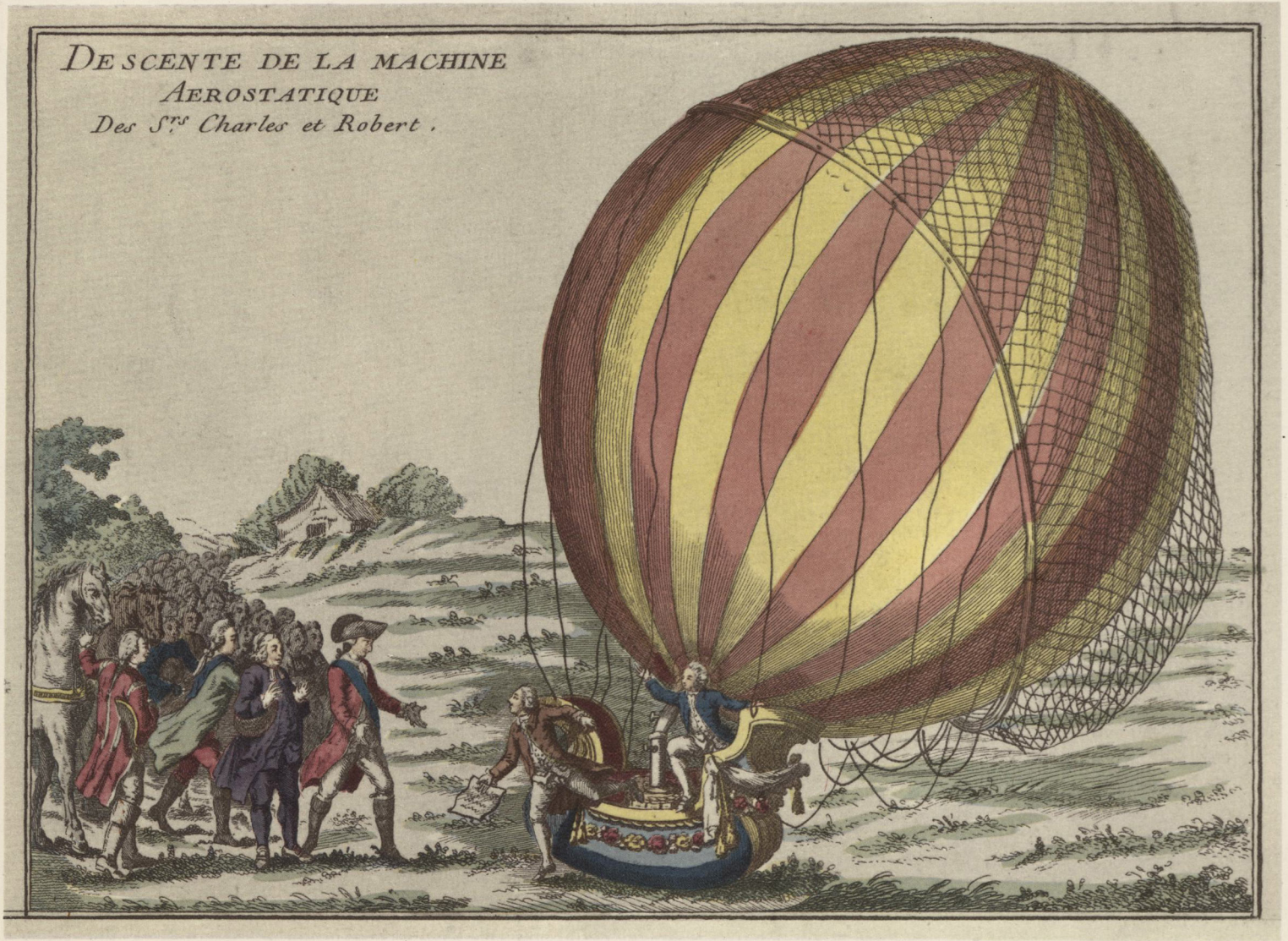
Feb 6 1704



THE FIRST HYDROGEN BALLOON

The Landing near L'Ile Adam

London Feby 6th 1784

Dear Sir,

I wrote you a long Letter under Date of 1 January by Capt. Truxtun. I have since received yours of 2d & 4th Decem.

I hope the Persons that are about to speculate on the Ignorance or Credulity of the People of this Country, by offering them Virginia Warrants of no validity or Estimation, will be completely disappointed in their views. I shall neglect no Opportunity of exposing such infamous Conduct in a proper light, it being a Duty I owe to the Character of the Americans, as well as to common Justice. I am much obliged to you for your Hints on the Subject.

Whilst the United States have the pleasing Prospect of daily increasing in Power & political Importance, & of adding to their mutual Harmony & good Understanding, this Country exhibits the most fatal Marks of Disunion. A factious Competition for Power, in order to partake of the Emoluments of Office, has taken place amongst the leading Characters of the Country, which has greatly relaxed the Ton of Government, at a critical Time, when it requires the most vigorous administration of Affairs. The Kingdom appears to be in a very declining state, depressed with contending Factions, & sinking under the enormous Weight of public Debt, which its Ressources are unequal to support.

I shall not fail to make a proper Use of your Remarks on the subject of the Kind of hospitable Reception, that the Emigrants who have arrived in Pennsylvania have met with.

Every Exertion is making by Government to counteract a Disposition to emigrate, which, notwithstanding, becomes more prevalent every Day. And if the Troubles & Confusion of this Country should increase, they will occasion additional Motives to fly from it; The strongest Reasons, at present, are, the Want of Employment for the industrious Poor, & the extreme high price of the Necessaries of Life.

I am happy to find that the public Credit of America, is likely to be placed on a respectable Footing, by the Compliance of the different States with the Recommendations of Congress, to fund the public Debt, by appropriating Revenues for the purpose of paying the annual Interest.

I do not despair of seeing in a few Years the American stocks bear a higher Price than the British, as the Ressources of the United States are comparatively far greater, considering the Amount of its public Debt, than those of this Country.

It gives me sincere Pleasure to observe, that there is so large a Majority in the Council of Censors, in favor of calling a Convention to establish a new Constitution. I know several Persons, who had a serious Desire of settling in Pennsylvania, who could not get over their Objections to the Constitution & Form of Government.

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WM BINGHAM