

○EXPLANATORY.○



It is now about thirteen years since the undersigned made the memorable balloon voyage with Professor JNO. LAMOUNTAIN—a voyage intended to be short and pleasant, but which resulted in a long and most disastrous one, entailing the loss of the valuable balloon, and seriously endangering the lives of the travelers. Since then, LAMOUNTAIN, after serving through the Great Rebellion, has made his last "voyage," and has entered upon that existence where all the secrets of the pathless skies are as well defined and understood as are the course of rivers with us here.

Within the past two or three years I have often been requested to re-publish my account of that celebrated trip, and have at last consented to do so, in order to afford my friends and the public an opportunity of perusing it, and to enable them to comprehend how a man apparently sensible as regards business affairs and every-day life, may sometimes do a foolish thing that will seriously affect his business prospects, and cause great and unnecessary distress to his friends. For now, as I look back upon the events I am about to relate, I can but regard my balloon voyage as almost impiously hazardous and foolish, and meriting censure rather than commendation.

Yet to fully understand my reasons for making the trip, some leading facts should be presented

1. There had been, as the public will remember, all through the year 1859, much excitement in the public mind upon the subject of ballooning. In August of that year I returned from Labrador, and found that the balloon Atlantic, with WISE, HYDE, GEAGER and LAMOUNTAIN, had been driven across a part of Lake Ontario, while on their great trip from St. Louis to New York city, and had landed and been wrecked in Jefferson county, N. Y., (where I was the editor of a newspaper,) and the people of that whole section were as a