

To-  
Joseph  
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Esq  
Sir  
B.  
Bloom-  
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Maldon

8<sup>th</sup> of February 1819.

Sir

On the 23<sup>d</sup> of last month I had the Honor of transmitting to you, a Pamphlet relative to a Plan for constructing an Electrical Telegraph, and a Nautical Nocturnal Communicator; and I ventured to express a hope, that you would condescend to peruse the Pamphlet, and mention the Idea to His Royal Highness The Prince Regent.

Although I am fully aware of the hesitation which may be felt, not only as to my expression of Opinion upon the subject in question, but with regard to the recognizing a communication of that nature from an Individual unaided by Introduction, and who is unacknowledged by the Philosophical World, yet, as you Sir, cannot, I apprehend be without ample means of satisfying any doubts that may have occurred to you with regard to the probable practicability of my Suggestions, I humbly trust that the Matter itself will not have appeared to be so trifling or so visionary, as to have been altogether rejected from contemplation; more especially as the Test of Experiment can easily be resorted to, upon a scale and at an expense which will scarcely be deemed objectionable on the part of the Munificent Prince and Liberal Patron of Science, to whose Notice I sought, through you Sir, humbly to offer the Plan.

I persuaded myself that the Pamphlet will demonstrate the anxious endeavours which I have used, to arrive at conviction with regard to the truth or fallacy of my Theory; and that it will also shew the important fact, that the Principles whereon that Theory is founded, remain undenied; and therefore perhaps it will seem that I am warranted in assuming them to be incontestable.

The powerful effects produced by Galvanic and by Voltaic Electricity, with regard to the Decomposition of Metallic Substances,



and the producing other results of extraordinary kinds, having, during many years past, greatly engaged the experimental attentions of Philosophers, the comparatively feeble effects which only, have of late been supposed to be producible by Vitreous Electricity, have therefore been almost wholly neglected. Added to this, the physical strength requisite to be exerted in giving action to a powerful Machine of the kind just referred to, naturally induces a preference to be given to the Voltaic Battery, which with inconsiderable effort by the Operator, will instantly melt Platina as readily as Wax is melted in the Flame of a common Candle, and will dissipate and convert into Smoke, Quartz and fragments of Diamond; and is also capable of converting the fixed Alkalies into Metals, and of imparting Crystallization and hardness to Charcoal, so as to render its action by scratch upon Glass, similar to the effect produced by a Diamond.

These effects, which have been surpassed only by the astonishing result of Dr. Urie's late experiments upon a Dead Malefactor at Glasgow (appearing in the last published Number of the Journal of Science and the Arts,) render it improbable that my humble suggestions will be viewed at present, by the first class of Scientific Men, with attention much less than a favorable eye; and perhaps I shall appear to be further warranted in hazarding that conjecture, by the fact, that although at the Royal Institution, there is an Electrical Machine upon the old construction of uncommonly large size, the great labour required to give motion to it, and the greater facility of producing more powerful effects by the means already mentioned, are causes which occasion a neglect of employing the Machine just referred to, in the prosecution of those Experiments to which it might be found peculiarly suitable.

Hence, I humbly trust, it will appear to You Sir, that if the possible result of Vitreous Electricity, so applied as I have suggested,



remains at present unascertained, it cannot be fairly contended that the Effects on which I insist, are unattainable. The Theory proposed by Columbus, that by Sailing towards the West, he should arrive at the East Indies, was then derided as a mere Speculative Vision; but the important consequences to Mankind, which have proceeded from the Cogitations of Him who was at that time an obscure Genoese Pilot, will perpetuate his Name and the Names of his Illustrious Patrons, until the Country where he was Born, together with all Europe, and America also, shall again have no other existence than in the Depths of the Ocean.

I feel Sir, that I ought to implore your Pardon for having at this length, presumed to trespass on your Attention; but impressed as I am with the firmest persuasion of the incontrovertible truth of those axioms which I have quoted in my Pamphlet, deduced from Philosophical Authority acknowledged to be of the highest description, (I particularly refer to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Mr. Cavendish, and to Sir Humphry Davy,) I humbly trust that the Idea of constructing a Telegraph of the kind proposed, cannot — unless such construction be demonstrably inefficient — prove unworthy the Patronage of the Illustrious Personage, to whose Attention, I even still venture to hope that you have been pleased to impart it. Whether this has been or will be done, I anxiously hope Sir, that you will condescend to cause me to be informed.

I have the Honour to remain, with the greatest  
Respect, Sir

Your most obedient  
and most humble Servant

To  
The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Sir Benjamin Bloomfield Bart.

Jos<sup>ph</sup> Davy

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To the ~~readers~~ ~~of~~  
the ~~company~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~year~~ ~~1700~~

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