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THE MONTGOLFIER BALLOON

Thrilling Moments in FLYING HISTORY

second of a series by ALFRED OWLES

THE FIRST DEVICE which actually carried man aloft with his consent was the invention of Joseph and Stephen Montgolfier, paper manufacturers of Annonay, France. Experiments with hot air balloons and a public demonstration before the King and Queen led to the flight shown above, that of Jean Francois de Rozier (first man to ascend) and the Marquis d'Arlandes from the Bois de Boulogne, November 21, 1783. The balloon was 74 feet in height and weighed 1500 pounds. In the center of the passenger platform was an iron grate on which was maintained the fire that kept the craft aloft.