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Cover image
Cloudscape and view of the Earth from a balloon over Chester, England. The illustration was captioned by the author: ‘A circular view from the balloon at its greatest elevation ... The spectator is supposed to be in the car of the balloon, suspended above the centre of the view: looking down on the amphitheatre or white floor of clouds, and seeing the City of Chester, as it appeared through the opening which discovers the landscape below.’

Plate 1 from *Airopaidia: containing the narrative of a balloon excursion from Chester...* by Thomas Baldwin (J. Fletcher, Chester, 1786). Inscribed above: ‘To face page 58 of Airopaidia’ Inscribed below: ‘T. Baldwin Arm. delt. et pinxt. Heath sculpt. A VIEW from the BALLOON at its GREATEST elevation see Page III of published 5th May 1786 by T. Baldwin Chester.’

Thomas Baldwin made a pioneering flight from Chester on 8 September 1785 sketching the landscape as he travelled. The balloon belonged to the Italian aeronaut Vincenzo Lunardi (1759–1806).

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