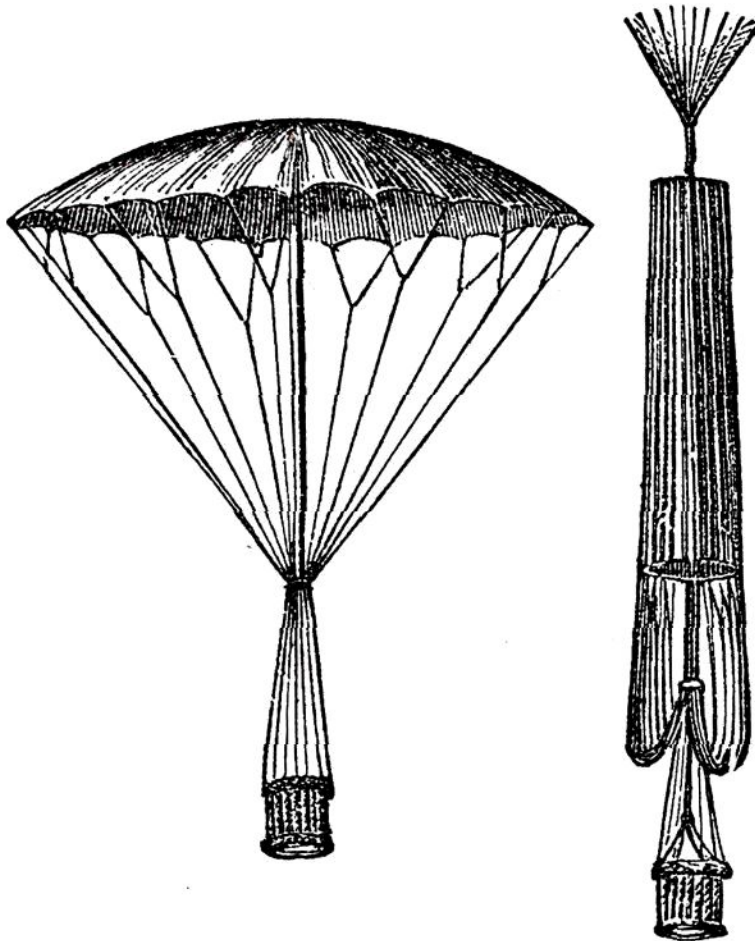


he encountered a violent current, blowing in a new direction, which carried him towards Yarmouth. The balloon fell in



The Parachute.

the sea about nine miles from land ; the major supported himself for some time on the surface of the water by holding firmly upon the balloon, and he was at last relieved from his dangerous situation by a cutter that was cruising on the coast. This is not the only instance in which the aeronaut has been deceived by a change in the direction of the wind, and the existence of a superior current having a different course from that passing over the surface of the earth.

These general remarks on the causes of floating and sinking, as illustrated by the history of aeronautics, prove the fluidity of the air. But if a balloon had never been constructed, and man had never been poised between the earth and the ethereal vault, there would be no difficulty in proving the fact. Light bodies are conveyed from place to place upon