

I. *Extract of a Letter from Mr. Christopher Mason, concerning a Fire-ball seen in the Air, and a great Exploſion heard, Dec. 11. 1741.*

*Read at a Meeting of the Royal Society, on January 7. 1741-2.*

ON the 11th Instant, at *Buckſteep* in *Warbleton* Pariſh, in the County of *Suffex*, about a Quarter before One o'Clock in the Afternoon, I obſerved a very dark uncommon Appearance in the North, and at the ſame time the Sun ſhone bright at my Back; when, on a ſudden, there was an Exploſion, as violent as the Report of a Mortar-piece, attended with a rumbling Echo, which run Eaſtward; and as near as I could conjecture, it came from about 40 Degrees of Elevation. Several People ſaw a Ball of Fire, which ran nearly Eaſtward, leaving a Train of Light, which continued ſome time. The Ball of Fire was ſeen, and the Report heard very loud, at *Sompting*, beyond *Shoreham*. Although I had been gazing upon the black Cloud for ſome Minutes, yet I ſaw no Fire nor Lightning. I am, &c.

Dec. 28. 1741.

Chr. Maſon.

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