

note which I have found in Guillard's
Memoirs, in the Mémoires de l'Académie,
1752, where he refers, through a second
hand, to the public registers (of Clermont
as it seems) as throwing some light upon
the matter. It is very ^{probable} ~~possible~~ - or rather
^{almost certain} ~~probable~~, that a closer examination might
prove the idea to have originated in a mis-
take - and it is unfortunately but too like-
ly that ^{such} public documents might have disap-
peared at the Revolution. Still it appears
to me just worth an enquiry - and no time
could be more suitable than the present,
when so many of the most learned & accom-
plished Frenchmen will be assembled upon
the spot. If I had the honour of being
acquainted with any one of them personally,

I would have written to him - or if I even
knew the name of the President or Secretary
I might have taken the liberty of addressing
him - but I am unfortunately ignorant of
everything beyond the fact that there is to
be such a gathering at Clermont, & I think
the date was the 18th. inst. - Most probably
you know some of them - or may know some
Englishman who may intend to join them -
and if so I should feel very much obliged
if you would kindly forward the enclosed
note which I have copied, with a view of
drawing attention to the subject. Should it
be found that the enquiry has been already
made, I hope the remoteness of my situation
may plead my excuse. I am quite aware of
the extreme geological improbability of any
such idea - which very possibly may have