

Glaisher's last stand

An aeronaut, a founding Met
with Coxwell, ballooned through the air
James Glaisher's plans came down to earth
'against the Stevenson screen in Camden Square

It may be right, it may be wrong
But it took forty years of some care
Turning Glaisher's stand at every hour
Next' a Stevenson screen in Camden Square

The air that lingered over London town
In Fahrenheit, went up and down
How could we know how really hot it was-
Rotating mercury-in-glass?
Our lighthouse man made up instead
A box so reflectively white
That sunshine missed and wind blew threw-
the Stevenson screen in Camden Square

The final score in London air
Was unequivocally there
In double-louvres at four foot seven
(of) the Stevenson screen in Camden Square

Glaisher's stand's nightmare -
That screen in Camden Square

(RGH/MHPA, with apologies to Eric Maschwitz and Manning Sherwins'
A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square).