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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Magic Picture

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The Magic Picture.

Take two level pieces of glass (plate glass is the best) about three inches long and four wide, exactly of the same size; lay one on the other, and leave a space between them by pasting a piece of card, or two or three small pieces of thick paper, at each corner.

Join these glasses together at the edges by a composition of lime slaked by exposure to the air, and white of an egg. Cover all the edges of these glasses with parchment or bladder, except at one end, which is to be left open to admit the following composition:

Dissolve by a slow fire, six ounces of hog's lard, with half an ounce of white wax; to which you may add half an ounce of clear linseed oil.

This must be poured, in its liquid state, and before a fire, between the glasses, by the space left in the sides, and which you are then to close up. Wipe the glasses clean, and hold them before the fire, to see that the composition will not run out at any part.

Then fasten with gum a picture or print, painted on very thin paper, with its face to one of the glasses, and if you like, you may fix the whole in a frame.

While the mixture between the glasses is cold, the picture will be quite concealed, but become transparent when held to the fire; and as the composition cools, it will gradually disappear.

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