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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Tumbling Egg

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Common prudence will dictate the necessity of using great care in the above experiments, as an accident will soon happen, if a person does not get out of the way before the composition explodes.

The Tumbling Egg.

Fill a quill with quicksilver, seal it at both ends with good hard wax; then have an egg boiled, take a small piece of the shell off the small end, and thrust in the quill with the quicksilver; lay it on the ground and it will not cease tumbling about so long as any heat remains in it: or if you put quicksilver into a small bladder, and blow it up, then warm the bladder, it will skip about so long as heat remains in it.

Money augmented by an Optical Illusion.

In a large drinking glass of a conical shape, (small at the bottom and wide at the top) put a shilling, and let the glass be half full of water; then place a plate on the top of it, and turn it quickly over, that the water may not escape. You will see on the plate a piece of coin the size of half-a-crown; and a little higher up, another, the size of a shilling.

It will add to the amusement this experiment affords, by giving the glass to one of the company, (but who of course has not witnessed your operations)