

# **Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

## **The young man's book of amusement**

**Halifax, 1848**

Sympathetic Ink

[urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120)

A intends to rise at 6 (this he conceals to himself;) he places the hand at 8, which he tells B, who, in his own mind, adds 12 to 8, which makes 20. B then tells A to count 20 on the dial, beginning at the next hour to that at which he proposes to rise; which will be 7, and counting backwards, reckoning each hour as 1, and including in his addition the number of the hour the hand is placed at, the addition will end at 6, which is the hour proposed; thus,

The hour the hand is placed at is .....	8
The next hour to that which A intends to rise at is 7, which counts for .....	1
Count back the hours from 6, and reckon them at 1 each, there will be 11 hours, viz. 4, 3, 2, 1, 12,	
11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, .....	11
	—
Making.....	20

### *Sympathetic Ink.*

The most curious of all kinds of sympathetic ink, is that from cobalt. It is a very singular phenomenon, that the characters or figures traced out with this ink, may be made to disappear and re-appear at pleasure; this property is peculiar to ink obtained from cobalt; for all the other kinds are at first invisible, until some substance has been applied to make them appear: but when once they have appeared they remain. To prepare this ink, take zaffre, and dissolve it in nitro-muriatic-acid, till the acid extracts from it the metal-

lic part of the cobalt which communicates to the zaffre its blue colour; then dilute the solution, which is very acrid, with common water. If you write with this liquor on paper, the characters will be invisible; but when exposed to a sufficient degree of heat, they will become green. When the paper has cooled they will disappear. Observe, if the paper be too much heated, they will not disappear at all.

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*The Magic Oracle.*

By the last mentioned kind of ink the following amusing trick may be performed:—write on several leaves of paper, with common ink, a certain number of questions, and between each question write the answer with the above kind of ink. The same question must be written on several pieces of paper, but with different answers, that the artifice may be better concealed. Then provide a box to which you may give the name of the Sybil's cave, containing in the lid a plate of iron made very hot, in order that the inside of it may be heated to a certain degree. Having selected some of the questions, take the bits of paper containing them, and tell the company you are going to send them to the Sybil, or oracle, to obtain an answer; introduce them into the heated box, and when they have remained in it some minutes take them out, and shew the answers which have been written. Take care, soon to lay aside the bits of paper; for if they remain long in the hands of

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cold.

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