

**Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

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

**Halifax, 1848**

The Magic Oracle

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

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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those to whom the trick is exhibited, they would see the answers gradually disappear, as the paper became cold.

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*Invisible Ink.*

Dissolve green vitriol and a little nitrous acid in common water. Write your characters with a new pen.

Next infuse small Aleppo galls, slightly bruised, in water. In two or three days, pour the liquor off.

By drawing a pencil dipped in this second solution over the characters written with the first, they will appear a beautiful black.

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*The Magical Tea-Spoon.*

Put into a crucible four ounces of bismuth, and when in a state of fusion, throw in two ounces and a half of lead, and one ounce and a half of tin: these metals will combine, forming an alloy, fusible in boiling water. Mould the alloy into bars, and take them to a silver-smith's to be made into tea-spoons. Give one to a stranger to stir his tea, as soon as it is poured from the tea-pot; he will not be a little surprised to find it melt in his tea-cup.