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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To break a Stick, placed on two Glasses, without breaking the Glasses

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To give a ghastly Appearance to Persons in a Room

Dissolve salt in an infusion of saffron and spirits of wine. Dip some tow in this solution, and having set fire to it, extinguish all the other lights in the room.

To change Blue to White.

Dissolve copper filings in a phial of volatile alkali: when the phial is unstopped, the liquor will be blue; when stopped, it will be white.

To break a Stick, placed on two Glasses, without breaking the Glasses.

The stick, intended to be broken, must neither be thick, nor rest with any great hold on the two glasses. Both its extremities must taper to a point, and should be of as uniform a size as possible, in order that the centre of gravity may be more easily known. The stick must be placed resting on the edges of the glasses which ought to be perfectly level, that the stick may remain horizontal, and not inclined to one side more than another. Care also must be taken that the points only shall rest lightly on the edge of each glass. If a speedy and smart blow, but proportioned, as far as can be judged, to the size of the stick, and the distance of the glasses, be then given to it in the middle, it will

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break in two, without either of the glasses being injured.

Magical Transmutations.

Infuse a few shavings of logwood in common water, and when the liquor is sufficiently red, pour it into a bottle. Then take three drinking glasses, and rinse one of them with strong vinegar; throw into the second a small quantity of pounded alum, which will not be observed, if the glass has been washed, and leave the third without any preparation. If the red liquor in the bottle be poured into the first glass, it will appear of a straw colour; if into the second, it will pass gradually from bluish grey to black, when stirred with a key or any piece of iron, which has been previously dipped in strong vinegar. In the third glass, the red liquor will assume a violet tint.

To make artificial Coral for Grottoes.

To two drachms of fine vermilion add one ounce of clear resin, and melt them together. Having the branches of twigs peeled and dried, paint them over with this mixture while hot. The black thorn is the best branch for it. Hold them over a gentle fire, turning them round till they are perfectly covered and smooth. White coral may be made with white lead, and black with lamp black.