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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Magical Transmutations

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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.