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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

A Method of obtaining Natural Flowers in Winter

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*To melt a piece of Money in a Walnut-shell,
without injuring the Shell.*

Bend any thin coin, and put it into half a walnut-shell; place the shell on a little sand, to keep it steady. Then fill the shell with a mixture made of three parts of very dry pounded nitre, one part of flowers of sulphur, and a little saw-dust well sifted. If you then set a light to the mixture, you will find, when it is melted, that the metal will also be melted at the bottom of the shell, in form of a button, which will become hard when the burning matter round it is consumed; the shell will have sustained very little injury.

*A Method of obtaining Natural Flowers in
Winter.*

Choose some of the most perfect buds of the flowers you wish to preserve, such as are the latest in blooming, ready to open; cut them off with a pair of scissors, leaving to each, if possible, a piece of the stem about three inches long; cover the end of the stem immediately with Spanish wax, and when the buds are a little shrunk, wrap each of them up separately in a piece of paper, perfectly clean and dry, and lock them up in a dry box or drawer, and they will keep without corrupting. In winter, or any other time, when you would have the flowers blow, take the buds over night, cut the end of the stem, and put

the buds into water, wherein a little nitre or salt has been infused, and the next day you will see the buds open and expand themselves, and the flowers display their most lively colours, and breath their agreeable odours.

To find whether any given Year is Leap Year or not.

Divide the given year by 4, if nothing remain, it is leap year; but if 1, 2, or 3 remain, it shews the number of years after leap year. This rule may be committed to memory in the following lines:—

Divide by 4: what's left shall be,
For leap year, 0: past, 1, 2, 3.

Example.

Was the year 1819, leap year?—Rejecting the centuries, 19 divided by 4, and 3 remain; therefore, the year 1819 was the third year after leap year.

A Liquor that shines in the dark.

Take a bit of phosphorus, about the size of a pea; break it into small parts, which you are to put into a glass half full of very pure water, and boil it in a small earthen vessel, over a very moderate fire. Have in readiness a long narrow bottle, with a well-fitted glass

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