

# **Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

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

**Halifax, 1848**

Beautiful Experiment

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ter; let there be also two curtains to cover them, which you may draw aside at pleasure.

When a person looks into one of these fictitious mirrors, instead of seeing his own face, he will see the object that is in front of the other; thus, if two persons stand at the same time before these mirrors, instead of each seeing himself, they will reciprocally see each other.

There should be a sconce with a lighted candle, placed on each side of the two glasses in the wainscot, to enlighten the faces of the persons who look in them, or the experiment will not have so remarkable an effect.

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*Tree of Crystals.*

Put a small quantity of bruised gum benzoin on a piece of thin metal or a saucer; invert over it a tumbler-glass in which place a sprig of heath, or any small-leaved plant; and apply the flame of a candle underneath, so as to melt the gum: dense fumes will soon begin to arise, and deposit themselves in most beautiful crystals of a silky texture, on the sprig of heath, in delicate soft flakes, resembling foliage.

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*Beautiful Experiment.*

Mix a grain or two of potassium with a like quantity of sodium, by rubbing them together with the

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but if the alloy  
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barometer.

point of a knife. The mixture will take place quietly ; but if the alloy of these two bodies be brought into contact with a globule of quicksilver, the compound when agitated instantly bursts into a most beautiful flame, and burns vividly.

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*Simple Barometer.*

Take a common phial bottle, and cut off the rim and part of the neck. This may be done by a piece of string, or rather whipcord, twisted round it, and pulled strongly in a sawing position by two persons ; one of whom holds the bottle firmly in his left hand. Heated in a few minutes by the friction of the string, and then dipped suddenly into cold water, the bottle will be decapitated more easily than by any other means. Let the phial be now nearly filled with common pump-water, and, applying the finger to its mouth, turn it quickly upside down : on removing the finger, it will be found that only a few drops will escape. Without cork or stopper of any kind, the water will be retained within the bottle by the pressure of the external air ; the weight of air without the phial being so much greater than that of the small quantity within. Now let a bit of tape be tied round the middle of the bottle, to which the two ends of a string may be attached, so as to form a loop to hang on a nail : let it be thus suspended, in a perpendicular manner, with the mouth downwards ; and this is the barometer. When the weather is fair, and inclined