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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Singular Illusion with the Fingers

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middle of the beam, with a slender tongue, a foot and a half long, pointing to the division on the arched plate fitted to it; or the other extremity of the beam may be made so long, as to describe a larger arch on a board placed for the purpose.

To prepare the sponge, it may be necessary to wash it in water, and when dry, in water or vinegar in which sal-amoniac or salt of tartar has been dissolved, and let it dry again: then it is fit to be used.

Very beautiful Artificial Petrifications.

Put into a retort a quantity of pounded fluor spar, with a few bits of broken glass, and pour upon them some sulphuric acid; fluoric acid gas will be disengaged, holding silex in solution. The subjects that you wish to resemble petrifications must now be moistened with water, and placed in a vessel connected with the neck of the retort. The fluoric acid gas will be absorbed by the moisture adhering to the substances, and the silex will be precipitated upon them like a sort of hoar frost, which will have a very beautiful appearance, and is very durable.

Singular Illusion with the Fingers.

A very singular illusion may be produced, that has its origin in the touch.

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If we pass the middle finger over the fore finger, so as to make this last turn towards the thumb, and we then place a small globular body under the tips of these fingers, and press it, that it may move exactly in contact with them, we shall imagine we feel two globes. In this case, the finger that is placed out of its natural position exerts an action, which no longer in accord with the other finger, gives rise to a sensation that seems to refer to a new object.

To lay Prints on the inside of Glass Globes.

First, cut away all the white part of the impression, so that nothing appears but the print: then brush over the face side of it with strong gum water, or size; then put it into the globe, and with a long small stick, on which a camel's-hair pencil is fixed, stick it even on, and arrange what number of prints you please in the globe; let them dry about twelve hours, then pour some prepared plaster of Paris, either white or tinged with any colour you please, and turn the globe easily about, so that every part may be covered; pour out the superfluous plaster, and it is finished.

To take a Shilling out of a Handkerchief.

You must have a curtain-ring, the size of a shilling. At first, you put the shilling into the handkerchief;