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The young man's book of amusement

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Curious effects of Oil upon Water

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Curious effects of Oil upon Water.

Fasten a piece of packthread round a tumbler, with strings of the same from each side, meeting above it in a knot at about a foot distance from the top of the tumbler. Then putting in as much water as will fill about one-third part of the tumbler, lift it up by the knot, and swing it to and fro in the air; the water will keep its place as steadily in the glass as if it were ice. But pour gently in upon the water about as much oil, and then again swing it in the air as before; the tranquillity before possessed by the water will be transferred to the surface of the oil, and the water under it will be violently agitated.

Drop a small quantity of oil on the windward side of a pond or river agitated by the wind; it will immediately spread itself with surprising swiftness upon the surface, and the oil, though scarcely more than a tea-spoon-full, will produce an instant calm over a space several yards square. One remarkable circumstance in this experiment is, the sudden, wide, and forcible spreading of a drop of oil on the surface of the water; for if a drop of oil be put upon a highly polished marble table, or a looking-glass, laid horizontally, the drop remains in its place, spreading very little, but when dropped on the water it spreads instantly many feet round, becoming so thin as to produce the prismatic colours for a considerable space, and beyond them so much thinner as to be invisible, except in its effect in smoothing the waves at a much greater distance. It seems as if a repulsion of its particles took

place as soon as it touched the water, and so strong as to act on other bodies swimming on the surface, as straw, leaves, chips, &c. forcing them to recede every way from the drop as from a centre, leaving a large clear space

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To cut and tear into Pieces a Handkerchief, and to make it whole again.

This feat, strange as it appears, is very simple: the performer must have a confederate, who has two handkerchiefs of the same quality, and with the same mark, one of which he throws upon the stage to perform the feat with. The performer takes care to put this handkerchief uppermost in making the bundle, though he affects to mix them together promiscuously. The person whom he desires to draw one of the handkerchiefs, naturally takes that which comes first to his hand. He desires to shake them again, to embellish the operation, but, in so doing, takes care to bring the right handkerchief uppermost, and carefully fixes upon some simpleton to draw; and if he finds that he is not likely to take the first that comes to his hand, he prevents him from drawing, by fixing upon another, under pretence of his having a more sagacious look. When the handkerchief is torn and carefully folded up, it is put under a glass upon a table placed near a partition. On that part of the table on which it is deposited is a little trap, which opens and lets it fall into a drawer. The confederate, concealed behind the curtain, passes his hand