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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Transposable Pieces

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Another way.

A gentleman sent his servant with a present of nine ducks in a box, upon which was the following direction :—

“ TO ALDERMAN GOBBLE, WITH IX DUCKS.”

The servant, who had more ingenuity than honesty, purloined three of the ducks, and contrived it so that the number contained in the box corresponded with that upon the direction. As he neither erased any word or letter, nor substituted a new direction, how did he so alter it as to correspond with the contents of the box ?

SOLUTION.

The servant merely placed the letter S before the two Roman numerals IX. The direction then read thus :—

“ TO ALDERMAN GOBBLE, WITH SIX DUCKS.”

The Transposable Pieces.

Take two guineas and two shillings, and grind part of them away, on one side only, so that they may be but half the common thickness ; and observe, that

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they must be quite thin at the edge; then rivet a guinea and a shilling together. Lay one of these double pieces, with the shilling upwards, on the palm of your hand, at the bottom of your three first fingers, and lay the other piece with the guinea upwards in the like manner, in the other hand. Let the company take notice in which hand is the guinea, and in which is the shilling. Then, as you shut your hands, you naturally turn the pieces over, and when you open them again, the shilling and the guinea will appear to have changed their places.

The Lamp Chronometer.

Refer to Fig. 1. It represents a chamber lamp, A, consisting of a cylindrical vessel made of tin, in the shape of a candle, and is to be filled with oil. This vessel should be about three inches high and one inch diameter, placed in a stand, B. The whole apparatus of lamp and stand, can be purchased, ready made, at any tin-shop in London. To the stand B, is fixed the handle C, which supports the frame D, about 12 inches high, and four inches wide. This frame is to be covered with oiled paper, and divided into 12 equal parts by horizontal lines, at the end of which are written the numbers for the hours, from 1 to 12, and between the horizontal lines and diagonals, divided into halves, quarters, &c. On the handle C, and close to the glass, is fixed the style or hand, E.

Now, as the distance of the style from the flame