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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Lamp Chronometer

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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

of the lamp is only an inch, then, if the distance of the frame from the style be six inches, while the float that contains the light descends by the decrease of the oil, one inch, the shadow of the style on the frame will ascend 12 inches, being its whole length, and show, by its progression, the regular increase of the hours, with their several divisions.

You must be careful always to burn the same oil, which must be the best; and the wick must never vary in size; if these precautions are not attended to the dial never can be accurate.

To diversify the Colours of Flowers.

Fill a vessel of what size or shape you please, with good rich earth, which has been dried and sifted in the sun, then plant in the same a slip or branch of a plant bearing a white flower, (for such only can be tinged) and use no other water to water it with, but such as is tinged with red, if you desire red flowers; with blue, if blue flowers, &c. With this coloured water, water the plant twice a day, morning, and evening, and remove it into the house at night, so that it drink not of the morning or evening dew for those weeks. You will then experience, that it will produce flowers, not altogether tinged with that colour wherewith you watered it, but partly with that, and partly with the natural.

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