

# **Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

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

**Halifax, 1848**

The Mysterious Watch

[urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120)

the north or south end of the needle, it will recede from it.

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*The Learned Swan.*

Have a large marble or china bowl, painted inside the rim with the letters of the alphabet; a small swan in which is concealed a steel or iron pin, is set to swim in the bowl, and on being desired, will select any letters, say those which compose your name—to effect this, the performer of the trick must have a magnet in his pocket, by means of which, as he moves round the table, the swan will be attracted to every letter at which it is required to stop.

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*The Mysterious Watch.*

You desire any person to lend you his watch, and ask him if it will go when laid on the table. He will, no doubt, say it will; in which case, you place it over the end of the magnet, and it will presently stop. You then mark the precise spot where you placed the watch, and moving the point of the magnet, you give the watch to another person, and desire him to make the experiment; in which he not succeeding, you give it to a third (at the same time replacing the magnet) and he will immediately perform it.

This experiment cannot be effected, unless you use a very strongly impregnated magnetic bar, (which

may be purchased at an optician's) and the balance of the watch must be of steel, which may be easily ascertained by previously opening it, and looking at the works.

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*Concealed Money,*

May be discovered by means of the magnetic compass, if it be previously loaded with a touched needle. This may be effected by boring a hole in the edge of the money, and having driven in the needle, let the hole be filled with a bit of pewter, or silver, to hide the head of it. Next take a needle that is balanced on a pivot, in the same manner as the mariner's compass, and this will turn towards the needle inclosed in the money. Desire any person to lend you a crown, or other piece of money, and having dexterously changed it, let him at his option, secretly place the piece in a snuff-box, or not, as he thinks fit, and it then becomes your task to say whether he has or has not done so, without touching the box. Your own compass, or needle upon a pivot, enables you to do this, by placing it near the box: if the needle maintains its northerly direction, unalterably, be assured the money is not contained in the box, unless the north-pole of the needle, (which lies hid within the money) happens to be placed in a northerly direction—a thing not very likely to happen. However, to be quite sure, find fault with the position of the snuff-box—contrive to move it—and if the needle

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