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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Method of making a Cheap Aromatic Vinegar, [...]

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Illustration of the Art of Calico Printing.—To Produce White upon a Black Ground.

Boil a piece of white muslin for a few minutes in a solution of sulphate of iron, composed of one part of green sulphate of iron, and eight of water; squeeze it out and dry it. Then imprint upon it spots of any pattern you choose, with lemon-juice; render it dry again, and rinse it well in water. If the stuff now be boiled with logwood chips and water, it will exhibit white spots upon a black ground.

Method of making a Cheap Aromatic Vinegar, for Purifying large Buildings, or Manufactories, &c.

Take of common vinegar any quantity, mix a sufficient quantity of powdered chalk, or common whiting with it, to destroy the acidity; then let the white matter subside, and pour off the insipid supernatant liquor; afterwards let the white powder be dried, either in the open air, or by the fire. When it is dry, pour upon it sulphuric acid, as long as white acid fumes continue to ascend. Stone vessels are most proper to be used on this occasion, as the acid will not act upon them. This product is the acetic acid known in the shops by the name of aromatic vinegar. The simplicity and cheapness of this process, point it out as a very useful and commodious one, for purifying

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prisons, hospitals, ships, and houses, where contagion is presumed or suspected; the white acid fumes diffusing themselves quickly round.

The Mode of Constructing and Filling Balloons.

The best forms for balloons, are those of a globe, and an egg-like figure. Fire-balloons, or those raised by heated air, if very large, may be made of linen, or silk, and must be open at the bottom, having a hoop round the opening, from which is suspended the grate for the fuel, which is best of straw, or other light combustibles. Small balloons of this kind may be made of tissue paper, having a wire round the bottom. Two cross wires may support in the centre of the opening a little cup, with some cotton and spirits of wine, the flame of which will rarefy the air, and raise the machine. Large balloons for inflammable air, must be made of silk, and varnished over, so as to be air-tight. To the upper part of the balloon there should be fitted a valve, opening inwards, to which a string should be fastened, passing through a hole made in a small piece of wood, fixed in the lower part of the balloon; so that the aeronaut may open the valve when he wishes to descend. The action of the valve is effected by a round brass plate, having a hole about two or three inches diameter: on the inside there is a shutter of brass, covered also with leather, which serves to close the hole; it is fastened to the leather of the plate,