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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Optical Experiment

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

Then there are some choice *jeux d'esprit*. There is on the obverse of one card a thing like a well worn bundle of birch, but by twirling the bobbins we produce a shower of fresh leaves, and these leaves falling upon that bundle produce the striking likeness of a *tree*.

—

Optical Experiment.

If a box be formed with a small aperture at one of its sides, and three candles be made to revolve on a piece of wood in the centre, the light opposite the axis will be visible on a semi-transparent screen, placed to receive its image. The other two candles will also have their flames depicted on the screen, at similar distances on each side. This experiment serves to shew the exceeding minuteness of the rays which emanate from the candles; for, if they were not exceedingly small, they would not pass each other without destroying the perfection of the image.

This experiment may be made very amusing by placing a piece of glass, with a ship or any other object painted on it, in the aperture; and when the candles are parallel to the screen, three images may be seen; but, on making them revolve through a quarter of a circle, only one image will be visible on the screen. By increasing the number of candles, the ships will be increased in an equal ratio, and a single ship, by turning the row of candles, will be converted into an entire fleet.

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