Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

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The young man's book of amusement Halifax, 1848

To draw, easily and correctly, a Landscape, [...]

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To draw, easily and correctly, a Landscape, or any other object without being obliged to observe the Rules of Perspective, and without the Aid of the Camera Obscura.

Procure a box of pasteboard, A, B, C, D, (Fig, 5) of about a foot and a half long, and made in the shape of a truncated pyramid, whose base B, D, F, G, is eight inches wide, and six inches high. Fix to the other end of it a tube of four or five inches long, and which you can draw out from the box more or less. Line the inside of the box with black paper, and place it on a leg or stand of wood, H, and on which it may be elevated or depressed by the hinge I.

Take a small frame of wood, and divide it at every inch by lines of black silk drawn across it, forming forty-eight equal parts; divide these into still smaller equal parts, by lines of finer silk; the different thicknesses of silk serving to distinguish more readily the corresponding divisions: fix this frame at the end of B D, as the base of the pyramid.

Provide a drawing paper, divided into the same number of parts as in the frame, by lines, lightly drawn in pencil. It is not material of what size these divisions are; that will depend entirely on the size you propose to draw the objects by this instrument.

Place this instrument opposite a landscape, or any other object that you want to draw, and fix the leg firmly on, or in the ground, that it may not shake; then turning it to the side you choose, raise or incline it, and put the tube further in or out, till you have

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gained an advantageous view of the object you intend to draw.

Place your eye E, by the instrument which you have adjusted to the height of your eye, and looking through the tube, carefully observe all that is contained in each division of the frame, and transpose it to the corresponding division in your paper: and if you have the least knowledge in painting, or even drawing, you will make a very pleasing picture, and one in which all the objects will appear in the most exact proportion.

By the same method you may draw all sorts of objects, as architecture, views, &c. and even human figures, if they remain some time in the same attitude, and are at a proper distance from the instrument.

Illuminated Prospects.

Provide yourself with some of those prints that are commonly used in optical machines, printed on very thin white paper; taking care to make choice of such as have the greatest effect from the manner in which the objects are placed in perspective. Place one of these on the borders of a frame, and paint it carefully with the most lively colours, making use of none that are terrestrial. Observe to retouch those parts several times where the engraving is strongest, then cut off the upper part or sky, and fix that on another frame. When you colour a print, place it before you, against a piece of glass, in a position nearly erect, that it may

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