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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Magic Bell

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

Withered Fruit Restored.

Take a shrivelled apple, and placing it under the receiver, exhaust the air. The apple will immediately be plumped up, and look as fresh as when first gathered; for this reason, that the pressure of the external air being taken off, the air in the apple extends it so much so that it will sometimes burst. If the air be let into the receiver, the apple will be restored to its original shrivelled state.

The Magic Bell.

Fix a small bell to the wire that goes through the top of the receiver. If you shake the wire, the bell will ring while the air is in the receiver; but when the air is drawn off, the sound will by degrees become faint, till at last not the least noise can be heard. As you let the air in again, the sound returns.

The Mercurial Wand.

Take a piece of stick, cut it even at each end with a penknife, and immerse it in a vessel of mercury. When the air is pumped out of the receiver, it will at the same time come out of the pores of the wood through the mercury, as will be visible at each end

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