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

**Halifax, 1848**

The Exploded Bladder

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*A Fountain to play by the pressure of Air.*

To produce a fountain in vacuo, it is merely necessary to exhaust a glass receiver by means of the air-pump, and when that is effected, to place the lower end of the stop cock in a basin of water, which will be driven up in a continuous jet by the pressure of the air. The apparatus is represented at Fig. 18.

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*Effect of the Air respired from the Lungs.*

Half fill a wine glass with fresh prepared lime water or barytic water, and breathe into the fluid for a few minutes, by means of a tobacco pipe or glass tube, air from the lungs. The lime water will speedily become turbid, and a white precipitate fall to the bottom of the glass.

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*The Exploded Bladder.*

Take a glass pipe open at both ends, to one of which tie fast a wet bladder, and let it dry. Then place it on the plate of the pump. While the air presses the bladder equally on both sides, it will lie even and straight; but as soon as the air is exhausted, the bladder will become more stretched; it will soon yield to the incumbent pressure, and burst with a loud

explosion. To make this experiment more easy, one part of the bladder should be scraped with a knife, and some of its external fibres taken off.

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*Magic Fountain.*

Take a tall glass tube, hermetically sealed both at top and bottom, by means of a brass cap screwed on to a stop cock, and that to the plate of the pump. When the air is exhausted, turn the cock, take the tube off the plate, and plunge it into a basin of mercury or water. Then the cock being again turned, the fluid, by the pressure of the air, will play upon the tube, in the form of a beautiful fountain.

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*The Cemented Bladder.*

Tie the neck of the bladder to a stop-cock which is to be screwed to the plate of the pump, and the air exhausted from the bladder; then turn the stop-cock to prevent the re-entrance of the air, and unscrew the whole from the pump. The bladder will be transformed into two flat skins, so closely applied together, that the strongest man cannot raise them half an inch from each other; for an ordinary sized bladder, of six inches across the widest part, will have one side pressed upon the other with a force equal to 396 pounds' weight.

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