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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Cemented Bladder

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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.

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.

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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The Animated Bacchus.

Construct a figure of Bacchus, seated on a cask ; let his belly be formed by a bladder, and let a tube proceed from his mouth to the cask. Fill this tube with coloured water or wine, then place the whole under the receiver. Exhaust the air, and the liquor will be thrown up into his mouth. While he is drinking, his belly will expand.

The Artificial Balloon.

Take a bladder containing only a small quantity of air, and a piece of lead to it, sufficient to sink it, if immersed in water. Put this apparatus into a jar of water, and place the whole under a receiver. Then exhaust the air, and the bladder will expand, become a balloon lighter than the fluid in which it floats, and ascend, carrying the weight with it.

Curious Experiment with a Viper.

Many natural philosophers, in their eagerness to display the powers of science, have overlooked one of the first duties of life, humanity ; and, with this view, have tortured and killed many harmless animals, to exemplify the amazing effects of the air-