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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Exposition of a Paradox

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of which projected overboard, while the other was fastened as a lever to the machinery of the pump. To the end which projected overboard, was suspended a water butt, half full. By this simple contrivance, every coming wave, as it raised the water butt sunk with it, and raised the piston again; thus, without the aid of the crew, the ship was cleared of water in four hours' time.

Exposition of a Paradox.

It is a vulgar paradox, "that when water is boiling in a vessel the bottom is cool, but the moment it ceases to boil the bottom becomes hotter." The whole of the paradox appears to be founded on an error of sense. When a person applies his finger to the vessel, though he applies it for a considerable time, it is not heated more than he can endure, for the blood in the course of its circulation loses some of its heat before it arrives at the extremities: and till the blood in the extremities is heated to the same degree with that of the heart, we feel no pain from burning; but as soon as this is effected, the least degree of heat becomes painful. When the finger is first applied to the bottom of the vessel, after it is taken off the fire, the heat is endured for these reasons. When the boiling ceases, it is natural to take the same finger (for, having dirtied one, people seldom choose to take another), and that finger being already heated almost as much as it could bear, now

finds the heat at the bottom of the vessel exquisitely painful.

*To shew that Water is contained in the Atmosphere
in the driest Weather.*

Take a tea-spoonful of dry muriate of lime, or acetate of potash, or sub-carbonate of potash, spread it in a saucer, and suffer it to be exposed to the open air for a few days, the dry salt will thus be rendered completely liquid, by the watery vapour which always exists in the atmosphere.

Imitative Water Spout.

The phenomenon of the water spout may be illustrated by a very easy experiment.

In a stiff paper card make a hole just large enough to insert a goose quill; after cutting the quill off square at both ends, lay the card upon the mouth of a wine-glass filled with water to within the fifth or sixth part of an inch from the lower orifice of the quill; then applying the mouth to the upper part, draw the air out of the quill, and in one draught of the breath draw in about a spoonful of water; and this you may repeat, the water remaining as before. The water will not ascend to the mouth in a stream, which it would do if the quill reached to it, but broken, and confusedly mixed with the air which