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

**Halifax, 1848**

The Talking Busts

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mouth, that is a little above the curve of the syphon, the latter beginning to act, at length discharges the whole contents of the cup. Similar deceptions have been practised by concealing the syphon in the handle of a drinking vessel.

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### ACCOUSTICS.

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#### *The Talking Busts.*

PROCURE two busts of plaster of Paris, place them on pedestals on the opposite sides of a room. Let a thin tube, of an inch diameter, pass from the ear of one head through the pedestal, under the floor, and go up to the mouth of the other; taking care that the end of the tube that is next the ear of the one head, be considerably larger than that end which comes to the mouth of the other.

Now when a person speaks quite low into the ear of one bust, the sound is reverberated through the length of the tube, and will be distinctly heard by any one placing his ear to the mouth of the other. It is not necessary that the tube should come to the lips of the bust. If there be two tubes, one going to the ear, and the other to the mouth of each head,

two persons may converse together by whispers, without the knowledge of any person who may stand in the middle of the room.

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*Sound.*

The French academicians made, in 1738, some experiments for measuring the velocity of sound: the Board of Longitude renewed them in the month of June last, with all possible precision, when they found that the velocity of sound in the air at the temperature of 55 degrees, Fahrenheit, differs very little from 1044 feet per second.

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*Music of Light.*

Dr. Buchanan, of Kentucky, conceives that he has found some affinity between the different rays of light, as presented in a rainbow, and the notes of music. Following up this theory, real or imaginary, he proposes to furnish a concert for the eye; that is, that the eye should experience the same pleasure by an harmonic rise and fall of the different rays of light, as the ear does by the accordance of sweet sounds. How far this plan is practicable, is a thing resting on experiment. Something analagous to this may have given birth to the fable of Memnon's harp, which was said to have uttered delightful strains of melody when touched by the solar rays.

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