

Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Speaking Automata

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

Speaking Automata.

The Egyptian idols are of this class. Memnon, the head of Friar Bacon, and the statue of Albert Magnus. Darwin, in his Temple of Nature, lays down a process for forming an automatical speech. Bacon, in his Natural History, experiment 139, notes the trembling of water resembles the letter *h*; the quenching of hot things, the letter *z*; the sound of strings, the letters *n* and *o*; and the jerking of a switch the letter *g*.

Ventriloquism.

It seems that the factitious voice produced by a ventriloquist, does not (as the etymology of the word imparts) proceed from the belly, but is formed in the inner parts of the mouth and throat. The art does not depend on a particular structure or organization of these parts, but may be acquired by almost any person ardently desirous of attaining it, and determined to persevere in repeated trials. A sudden change of direction in sound, our knowledge of which does not depend on the impulse of the ear, but on other facts, will be perceived, when the original communication is interrupted, provided there be a sensible echo. This will be perceived by any person who walks along a valley intercepted with buildings, at a time that a peal of bells is ringing; for the sound of the bells, instead of arriving constantly at the ears