

Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Singular Experiment with a Barrel Organ

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

the jaw and eyes of the statue by the wires, will return an answer directly; which will, in like manner be distinctly heard by the first speaker.

Singular Experiment with a Barrel Organ.

In a large case, such as is used for dials and spring-clocks, the front of which, or at least the lower part of it, must be of glass, covered on the inside with gauze, let there be placed a barrel organ, which when wound up is prevented from playing, by a catch that takes a toothed wheel at the end of the barrel. To one end of this catch there must be joined a wire, at the end of which there is a flat circle of cork, of the same dimension with the inside of a glass tube, in which it is to rise and fall. This tube must communicate with a reservoir that goes across the front part of the bottom of the case, which is to be filled with spirits, such as is used in thermometers, but not coloured, that it may be the better concealed by the gauze. This case being placed in the sun, the spirits will be rarefied by the heat; and rising in the tube, will lift up the catch or trigger, and set the organ in play: which it will continue to do as long as it is kept in the sun; for the spirits cannot run out of the tube, that part of the catch, to which the circle is fixed, being prevented from rising beyond a certain point, by a check placed over it. When the machine is placed against the side of a room on which the sun shines strong, it may constantly re-

main in the same place, it inclosed in a second case, made of thick wood, and placed at a little distance from the other. When you want it to perform, it will only be necessary to throw open the door of the outer case, and expose it to the sun.—But if the machine be moveable, it will perform in all seasons by being placed before the fire; and in winter, it will more readily stop when removed into the cold.

The following interesting Account of the Echo will be, no doubt, amusing to the reader.

An echo is a reflection of sound striking against some object, as an image is reflected in a glass: but it has been disputed what are the proper qualities in a body for thus reflecting sounds. It is in general known, that caverns, grottos, mountains, and ruined buildings, return this image of sound. There is a very extraordinary echo, at a ruined fortress near Louvain, in Flanders. If a person sung, he only heard his own voice, without any repetition: on the contrary, those who stood at some distance, heard the echo but not the voice; but then they heard it with surprising variations, sometimes louder, sometimes softer, now more near, then more distant. There is an account in the Memoirs of the French Academy, of a similar echo near Rouen. As every point against which the pulses of sound strike, becomes the centre of a new series of pulses, and sound describes equal distances in equal times; therefore, when any sound