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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To produce the appearance of a Spectre on a Pedestal in the middle of a
Table

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about three inches deep. Two of the opposite sides of this box must be quite open, and in each of the other sides let there be a groove wide enough to admit a stiff paper or pasteboard. You fasten the box against a window on which the sun's rays fall direct. The rest of the window should be closed up, that no light may enter.

Next provide several sheets of stiff paper, blacked on one side. On these papers cut out such figures as your fancy may dictate; place them alternately in the grooves of the box, with their black sides towards you, and look at them through a large and clear glass prism: and if the light be strong, they will appear painted with the most lively colours. If you cut on one of these papers the form of a rainbow, about three quarters of an inch wide, you will have a very good representation of the natural one.

For greater convenience, the prism may be placed on a stand on the table, made to turn round on an axis.

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*To produce the appearance of a Spectre on a
Pedestal in the middle of a Table.*

Enclose a small magic lantern in a box, (see Fig. 17) large enough to contain a small swing dressing-glass, which will reflect the light thrown upon it by the lantern in such a way, that it will pass out at the aperture made at the top of the box, which aperture should be oval, and of a size adapted to the cone of light to pass through it. There should be a flap with

hinges, to cover the opening, that the inside of the box may not be seen.

There must be holes in that part of the box which is over the lantern, to let the smoke out: and over this must be placed a chafing-dish of an oblong figure, large enough to hold several lighted coals. This chafing-dish, for the better carrying on the deception, may be inclosed in a painted tin box, about a foot high, with a hole at top, and should stand on four feet, to let the smoke from the lantern escape.

There must also be a glass planned to rise up and down in the groove *a, b*, and so managed by a cord and pulley *c, d, e, f*, that it may be raised up and let down by the cord coming through the outside of the box. On this glass, the spectre, (or any other figure you please,) must be painted in a contracted or squat form, as the figure will reflect a greater length than it is drawn.

When you have lighted the lamp in the lantern, and placed the mirror in a proper direction, put the box on a table, and setting the chafing-dish in it, throw some incense, in powder, on the coals. You then open the trap-door, and let down the glass in the groove slowly, and when you perceive the smoke diminish, draw up the glass that the figure may disappear, and shut the trap-door.

This exhibition will afford a deal of wonder; but observe, that all the lights in the room must be extinguished; and the box should be placed on a high table, that the aperture through which the light comes out may not be seen.