The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Three cards being presented to Three Persons, to guess that which each has chosen

RECREATIONS WITH CARDS.

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Many of the following recreations are performed by arithmetical calculations ; and may therefore be considered as connected with science ; but as it has been the aim of this work to unite amusement with instruction, some experiments on this subject are introduced, the performance of which depends on dexterity of hand. As this is only to be acquired by practice, and after all, is merely a mechanical operation, the study of it will produce little useful knowledge, though it may afford much entertainment ; but as it must be gratifying to know the method by which they are performed by those persons skilled in such manœuvres, who publicly exhibit them to the astonishment of the spectator, they are presented to our readers, that when they recognize them at any of these exhibitions, their eyes may not be in danger of deceiving their judgment.

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Three cards being presented to Three Persons, to guess that which each has chosen.

As it is necessary that the cards presented to the three persons should be distinguished, we shall call the first A, the second B, and the third C ; but the

three persons may be at liberty to choose any of them they please. This choice, which is susceptible of six different varieties, having been made, give to the first person twelve counters, to the second twenty-four, and to the third thirty-six; then desire the first person to add together the half of the counters of the person who has chosen the card A, the third of those of the person who has chosen B, and the fourth part of those of the person who has chosen C, and ask the sum, which must be either 23 or 24; 25 or 27; 28 or 29, as in the following table :—

First	Second	Third	Sums
12	24	36	
A	B	C	23
A	C	B	24
B	A	C	25
C	A	B	27
B	C	A	28
C	B	A	29

This table shews, that if the sum be 25, for example, the first person must have chosen the card B, the second the card A, and the third the card C: and that if it be 28, the first person must have chosen the card B, the second the card C, and the third the card A; and so of the rest.

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A certain Number of Cards being shewn to a Person, to guess that which he thought of.

To perform this trick, the number of the cards