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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Divining Card

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

thus disposed, you draw off the lower cards, confined by the little finger, and the other parts of the right hand, and place them, with an imperceptible motion, on the top of the pack.

But before you attempt any of the tricks that depend on *making the pass*, you must have great practice, and be able to perform it so dexterously and expeditiously, that the eye cannot detect the movement of the hand; or you may, instead of deceiving others, expose yourself.

The Long Card.—Another stratagem, connected with the performance of many of the following tricks, is what is termed the *Long Card*; that is, a card, either a trifle longer or wider than the other cards, not perceptible to the eye of the spectator, but easily to be distinguished by the touch of the operator.

The Divining Card.

Provide a pack in which there is a long card; open it at that part where the long card is, and present the pack to a person in such a manner that he will naturally draw that card. You then tell him to put it into one part of the pack, and shuffle the cards. You take a pack, and offer the same cards in like manner to the second and third person, taking care that they do not stand near enough to see the card each other draws.

You then draw several cards yourself, among which is the long card, and ask each of the parties if his

card be among those cards, he will naturally say *yes*, as they have all drawn the same card. You then shuffle all the cards together, cutting them at the long card, you hold it before the first person so that others may not see it, and tell him that it is his card. You then put it in the pack, shuffle it, and cut it again at the same card, and hold it to the second person.

You can perform this recreation without the long card in the following manner:

Let any person draw a card, and replace it in the pack. You then *make the pass*, and bring that card to the top of the pack, and shuffle them without losing sight of that card. You then offer that card to the second person, that he may draw it and put it in the middle of the pack. You *make the pass*, and shuffle the cards the second time in the same manner, and offer the card to the third person, so again to the fourth or fifth.

The Four Confederate Cards.

A person draws four cards from the pack, and you tell him to remember one of them. He then returns them to the pack, and you dexterously place two under and two on the top of the pack. Under the bottom ones you place four cards of any sort, and then taking eight or ten from the bottom cards, you spread them on the table, and ask the person if the card he fixed on be among them. If he say *no*, you

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then pass th
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card. If he
and bid him
pack.—If, o
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and placing
bottom card
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be the knave o
of diamonds, at
top of the pack
on which are pa
First card
Second
Third...
Fourth...
Fifth...
Sixth...
Seventh...
Eighth...
Then seven or
spades, which