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**The young man's book of amusement**

**Halifax, 1848**

To convert Green-Coloured Liquid to White

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ment, and let a drop or two of nitric acid fall into it, and it will become perfectly colourless.

*To make the same liquid assume various Colours.*

Mix a little powdered manganese with a little nitre, and throw the mixture into a red-hot crucible, and a compound will be obtained, possessed of the singular property of different colours, according to the quantity of water that is added to it. A small quantity gives a green solution, a greater quantity changes it to blue; more still, to a purple, and a still larger quantity, to a beautiful deep purple. The last experiment may be varied by putting equal quantities of this substance into separate glasses, and pouring hot water on the one, and a portion of cold water on the other. The hot solution will have a beautiful green colour, and the cold one a deep purple.

*To convert Green-Coloured Liquid to White.*

Pour a little of the solution of nickel into a glass, and add to it a few drops of the infusion of galls, which will convert it to a grayish white colour. If a few drops of ammonia be added to this solution of nickel, it will convert it to a deep blue; in the course of an hour or two it will change to red, and violet; if a drop of sulphuric or nitric acid be added, it will

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become green, and by adding a few drops of ammonia it will again become blue.

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*Luminous Liquor.*

Put a little phosphorus, with essence of cloves into a bottle, which must be kept closely stopped. Every time the bottle is unclosed, the liquor will appear luminous. This experiment must be performed in the dark.

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*Golden Ink.*

Take some white gum-arabic, reduce it to an impalpable powder, in a brass mortar; dissolve it in strong brandy, and add a little common water to render it more liquid. Provide some gold in a shell, which must be detached, in order to reduce it to a powder. When this is done, moisten it with the gummy solution, and stir the whole with a small hair brush, or your finger; then leave it for a night, that the gold may be better dissolved. If the composition become dry during the night, dilute it with more gum-water, in which a little saffron has been infused; but take care that the gold solution be sufficiently liquid to flow freely in a pen. When the writing is dry, polish it with a dry tooth.