

# **Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

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

**Halifax, 1848**

Excellent method of taking off Impressions of Leaves, Plants, &c.

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

*To give Plaster Figures the appearance of Marble.*

Put into four pounds of clear water, one ounce of pure curd-soap grated, and dissolved in a well glazed earthen vessel. Then add one ounce of white bees-wax, cut into thin slices; as soon as the whole is incorporated it is fit for use. Having well dried the figure before the fire, suspend it by a twine, and dip it once in the varnish; upon taking it out, the moisture will appear to have been absorbed; in two minutes' time, stir the compost, and dip it a second time, and this generally suffices. Cover it carefully from the dust for a week; then with a soft muslin rag, or cotton wool, rub the figure gently, when a most brilliant gloss will be produced.

*Excellent method of taking off Impressions of Leaves, Plants, &c.*

Take fine wove paper, which oil well with sweet oil; let it stand a minute or two to soak through, then remove the superfluous oil with a piece of paper, and hang it in the air to dry; when the oil is pretty well dried in, take a lighted candle or lamp, and move the paper slowly over it in an horizontal direction, so as to touch the flame, till it is perfectly black. When you wish to take off impressions of plants, lay your plant carefully on the oiled paper, and a piece of clean paper over it, and rub it with your finger equally in

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all parts for about half a minute ; then take up your plant, and be careful not to disturb the order of the leaves, and place it on the paper on which you wish to have the impression ; cover it with a piece of blotting paper, and rub it with your finger for a short time, and you will have an impression superior to the finest engraving. The same piece of black paper will serve to take off a great number of impressions ; so that when you have once gone through the process of blacking it, you may make several impressions in a very short time. The principal excellence of this method is, that the paper receives the impression of the most minute veins and fibres, so that you may obtain the general character of most flowers, superior to any engraving. The impressions may afterwards be coloured according to nature.

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*Alternate Illusion.*

With a convex lens of about an inch focus, look attentively at a silver seal, on which a cypher is engraved. It will at first appear cut in, as to the naked eye : but if you continue to observe it some time, without changing your situation, it will seem to be in relief, and the lights and shades will appear the same as they did before. If you regard it with the same attention still longer, it will again appear to be engraved : and so on alternately.

If you look off the seal for a few moments, when you view it again, instead of seeing it, as at first, engraved, it will appear in relief.