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

**Halifax, 1848**

To Imitate the Luminous Appearance of the Lunar Disc

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*How Light Wood may be made to Lie at the Bottom of Water.*

Let two pieces of wood be planed quite flat, so as no water may get between them when they are put together: let one of the pieces be cemented to the bottom of a vessel, and the other piece be laid flat and close upon it, and held down to it by a stick, whilst water is poured into the vessel; then remove the stick, and the upper piece of wood will not arise from the lower one; for, as the upper one is pressed down, both by its own weight, and the weight of all the water over it, whilst the contrary pressure of the water is kept off by the wood under it, it will lie as still as a stone would do in its place. But if it be raised ever so little at any edge, some water will then get under it, which, being acted upon by the water above, will immediately press it upwards: and, as it is lighter than its bulk of water, it will rise, and float upon the surface of the water.

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*To Imitate the Luminous Appearance of the Lunar Disc.*

Introduce a few pieces of phosphorus of the size of a pea, into a hollow glass ball of three or four inches in diameter, and having heated it to cause the phosphorus to catch fire, keep turning the ball round, till half the inner surface is covered with phosphorus.

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When the inflammation has ceased, there will be left a whitish crust or lining, which in a dark place shines for some considerable time. Broad spaces will assume by degrees an obscure aspect, while circular spots, frequently interspersed, will yet glow with a vivid lustre.

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*Easy Method of obtaining Flowers of different Colours from the same Stem.*

Scoop out the pith from a small twig of elder, and having split it lengthwise, fill up each of the parts with small seeds that produce flowers of different colours, but that blossom nearly at the same time. Surround them with earth; and then tying together the two bits of wood, plant the whole in a pot filled with earth, properly prepared.

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*To fix Black Lead Pencil Drawings.*

Dissolve a small quantity of isinglass, and dilute it with warm water, till so thin that when spread upon paper, and dry, it shall be free from those sparkling particles which never fail to appear. Take a broad flat camel-hair pencil, set in tin, and fill it plentifully with the solution, and draw it slightly over the work intended to be fixed, once or twice, or according as the size of the picture may require: it must be very carefully done, to prevent