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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To fix Black Lead Pencil Drawings

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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.

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.

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

disturbing the sharpness of the pencil work: when dry, it will be found to resist the effect of Indian rubber. It is advantageous to sponge the back of the paper or Bristol-board before applying the solution, in order that the paper may dry level, as it is apt to contract round the edges when only one side is wet. If there be a margin round the drawing, it is not requisite to sponge the back.

To exhibit the Pressure of Fluids at different Depths.

The pressure of fluids at very great depths is finely illustrated by making a well corked empty bottle descend to a great depth, and then pulling it up again: however well corked it may be, the cork is always found in the inside, and the bottle full of water, when pulled up.

Two inodorous Bodies become very pungent and odorous by Mixture.

When equal parts of muriate of ammonia and slaked lime, both substances destitute of odour, are intimately blended together in a mortar, a very pungent gas (ammonia) becomes evolved.

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Experimen

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