

**Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

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

**Halifax, 1848**

Curious Optical Deception

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water being made pensile, and a considerable weight of it in the belly of the bottle, supported by a small pillar of the same liquid in the neck of the bottle, it is this circumstance which sets the motion at work, for wine and water in a vessel will not separate by long standing.

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*Brilliant Combustion.*

If a piece of inflamed phosphorus be plunged in a jar of nitrous acid gas, a very beautiful and brilliant combustion will be the consequence.

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*Another.*

Pour some of Homberg's pyrophorus into a jar containing nitrous gas, a very beautiful stream of fire will be seen to flow at the bottom of the jar.

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*Curious Optical Deception.*

Provide a sufficient number of small equilatera prisms, a few lines only in breadth, and in length equal to the height of the painting which you intend to make, and place them all close to each other on the ground to be occupied by the painting. Then

cut the painting into bands equal to each of the faces of the prisms, and cement them, in order, to the faces of the same side. When this is done, take a painting quite different from the former, and having divided it into bands as before, cement them to the faces of the opposite side. It is hence evident, that when on one side you can see only the faces of the prism turned towards that side, one of the paintings will be seen; and if the picture be looked at on the opposite side, the first will disappear, and the second only will be seen. A painting may even be made, which, when seen in front, and on the sides, shall exhibit three different subjects. For this purpose, the picture of the ground must be cut into bands, and be cemented to that ground in such a manner, that a space shall be left between them, equal to the thickness of a very fine card. On these intervals raise, in a direction perpendicular to the ground, bands of the same card, nearly equal in height to the interval between them; and on the right faces of these pieces of card, cement the parts of a second painting, also cut into bands. In the last place, cement the parts of a third picture, cut in the same manner, on the left faces of the pieces of card. It is evident, that when this picture is viewed in front, at a certain distance, the bottom painting only will be seen; but if you stand on one side, in such a manner that the height of the slips of card conceals from you the bottom, you will see only the picture cemented in detached portions to the faces turned towards that side; if you move on the other side a third painting will be seen.