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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Cohesion of Water

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tion of the height of the mercurial column is reduced to half the ordinary measure, yet the circumference traversed by the needle is greatly augmented.

Ideal Spectrum.

I was surprised, and agreeably amused, (says Dr. Darwin,) with the following experiment. I covered a paper about four inches square with yellow, and with a pen filled with a blue colour wrote upon the middle of it the word BANKS in capitals, and sitting with my back to the sun, fixed my eyes for a minute exactly on the centre of the letter N in the middle of the word; after closing my eyes, and shading them somewhat with my hand, the word was distinctly seen in the spectrum in yellow letters on a blue field; and then, on opening my eyes on a yellowish wall at twenty feet distance, the magnified name of BANKS appeared written on the wall in golden characters.

Cohesion of Water.

If a glass be filled to the brim with water, and several small articles, as counters for instance, dropped in, what is the reason the water does not run over the brim of the glass?

It is the natural quality of all dry substances to

resist water in a small degree ; hence the top of the glass being dry, the counters not being so great as to overcome the resistance, and slipped in with a steady hand, the water will rise above the dry edge, without running over, till so many are put in as to cause the weight of the heaped up part to overcome the repulsion of the dry edge. The truth of this may be proved by dipping your finger in the water, and wetting the edge of the cup with it, upon which all the water which is above the rim of the cup will run over.

Botanical Experiment.

A singular and ingenious method of multiplying the tongue-leaved eucomis, or futillary, is described in Professor Hedgwig's collection of memoirs and observations on subjects of Botany and Economy. This futillary is called by Lamarck, *Basile a epi couronne*. When this beautiful plant of the lily kind is in full flower and vigour, the flowers, leaves, and the upper part of the bulb must be cut, and wrapped up in several folds of sized writing paper, so that the whole be exactly covered. They are then to be moderately compressed between two pieces of board : and at the end of some months several small bulbs will be seen formed at the lower extremity. I cultivate, (says C. Willeret, who has made known the above conversation,) this charming unilobed plant in the National Botanic Garden, at

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