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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Botanical Experiment

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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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To exhibit the Pressure of the Atmosphere.

Procure two hollow hemispheres of Brass, (A & B Fig. 19,) to one of which let there be a pipe annexed having a stop cock C. the pipe terminating in a screw so as to fit the plate of the air pump; bring the other hemispheres in contact, with a wet leather between them, and having exhausted the air from the inside, turn the stop-cock C, take the whole from the pump and screw on the handle; and then try if you can separate them. You will find that there is a tremendous pressure to overcome, a pressure which if the diameter of the cups were only four inches, would be equal to 180 pounds weight.

Artificial Mahogany.

The following method of giving any species of wood of a close grain the appearance of mahogany in texture, density, and polish, is said to be practised in France with such success, that the best judges are incapable of distinguishing between the imitation and mahogany. The surface is first planed smooth, and the wood is then rubbed with a solution of nitrous acid. One ounce and a half of dragon's blood, dissolved in a pint of spirits of wine, and one third of an