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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Artificial Mahogany

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Nancy. It requires to be kept during winter in the hot-house.

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

ounce of carbonate of soda, are then to be mixed together and filtered, and the liquid in this thin state is to be laid on with a brush. This process is repeated, and in a short interval afterwards the wood possesses the external appearance we have described. When the polish diminishes in brilliancy, it may be restored by the use of a little cold-drawn linseed oil.

To make any Linen appear like Diaper.

When the cloths have been washed, spread upon a table, after being a little damped, then, having at hand a solution of alum in rose-water, dip into it a loose-haired painter's brush, and holding it upwards, discharge its contents gradually, by hitting its handle against a poker, held crosswise as high as one's head. If paper figures, or chimney ornaments, be laid upon the cloth, they will intercept the descent of the solution upon the cloth, and thus produce their own figures in a kind of relief.

Chimney Ornaments made of Variegated Eggs.

The eggs should be those of the wild goose or swan, as being of thicker shell, and more absorbent than those of some other feathered animals. Round one of these, let there be twined a yard or more of bright-coloured narrow ribband, rather traversely or lozenge-wise, a

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