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

**Halifax, 1848**

To extinguish Ladies' Clothes, catching Fire

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its length be just equal to its diameter, it may be passed horizontally through the second, or square hole; also, if the breadth of the oval be made equal to the diameter of the base of the cylinder, and its longest diameter of any length whatever, the cylinder, being put in obliquely, will fill it as exactly as any of the former.

*Mutual Exchange of different Liquors in two  
Bottles, without using any other Vessel.*

Two bottles having been procured as nearly equal as possible, both in neck and belly, let one be filled with wine, the other with water. Then clap the one that is full of water dexterously upon the other, so that the two necks shall exactly fit each other; and as the water is heavier than the wine, it will naturally descend into the lower bottle, and make the wine ascend into its place; but it must be observed, that the wine, by this experiment, will be considerably altered, both in taste and quality; and, therefore, if this be thought too expensive, the same thing may be done with any other two liquors of different specific gravities.

*To extinguish Ladies' Clothes, catching Fire.*

We often hear, and read in newspapers, when one of those deplorable accidents has happened, which

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generally deprive us of the youthful and most lovely of our kind, dry recommendations, that ladies, whose dresses may catch fire, should *lie down*. This, though undoubtedly the right method of extinguishing a flame, is better illustrated, and imprinted more deeply on our recollection, by the following experiment. Take two pieces of muslin, (the article which usually catches fire), or paper, or any other light ignitable substance, and having set on fire the lower part of both, hold one piece *upright*, as female dresses are worn; it will burn out in about one minute, blazing up to a great height, where the neck and face may be supposed to be burnt. Meantime, fling the other piece of burning muslin on the ground; it will burn slowly, the flame at no time ascending more than an inch or two, and although the burning article might not be moved—as must happen when a living person is enveloped in it—nearly ten minutes would elapse before it would be consumed. In short, it is evident that a *perpendicular* female dress, though fifty feet high, would burn out with a destructive flame in less than a single yard of the same material laid in a *horizontal* position. It results, therefore, from the foregoing experiment, that as soon as a *lady's dress* is discovered to be on fire, she should instantly lie down; and she may then call for assistance, or confidently set about extinguishing the flame herself.

*N. B.* A current of air always prevails near the floor, particularly between the door and fire-place, and therefore it must be kept in mind, not to run out of the room, nor to open a window, in such cases, as that would be fatal.