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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Pressure of the Atmosphere

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A Substitute for Ostrich Feathers.

The extreme scarcity and dearness of this article of funeral pomp, appear to warrant us, in a commercial point of consideration, in seeking after a good substitute, at a seemingly great expense. On the hinder parts of the thighs of the turkey, when white, are those feathers to be found that so nearly resemble the ostrich's as to answer the same purposes, and to deceive tolerable good judges of the commodity. White turkeys, though not very common, are by no means scarce.

The Pressure of the Atmosphere,

Is known to pervade all space. It removes water, and may be so compressed, as to remove the more substantial bodies. Some have even asserted, that, but for it, some parts of this globe would fly off into unmeasurable space, and never return. Its effects on water may be judged by the following experiment: Take a tall drinking glass, at the edges whereof is fastened, by means of sealing-wax, a piece of string made tight, and having in its centre a lighted wax taper. This being balanced, so as to retain its position, when the glass is turned upside down, place its mouth in a vessel filled with water; as the taper consumes the air within the glass, its pressure is withdrawn; but the pressure from without still continuing, will force part of the water up

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into the glass to supply the place of the air which the taper has consumed. It must be evident, that nothing but the pressure of the atmosphere could thus cause the water within the glass to rise above its own level.

Artificial Flowers.

Make paste of divers colours, with gum-dragon, well steeped and mixed up with sugar, beating it up with the paste in a mortar. For *red*, take cochineal; for *yellow*, use gamboge, indigo and orris for *blue*; and, for the *green*, the juice of beet leaves, scalded over the fire to take away their crudeness. Mould the parts thus ordered into thin pieces, in *forms* resembling the flowers of roses, tulips, &c. by means of tin moulds, or cut out with the points of knives: finish the whole as nearly together as possible, and dry them on egg-shells, or some such substance. Out of the green paste, cut different shaped leaves, which may be mixed among the flowers, in various situations, so as to make them appear larger or smaller; make the stalks of slips of lemon-peel, or wire covered with green silk, which may be bought ready covered. Garnish the tops of pyramids of sweetmeats, fruits, &c. with those flowers, or make a separate *bouquet* of the leaves alone, to be placed in the centre of a dessert dish. It is usual also to lay such in a basket, or kind of shell, made of fine pastry work of crackling crust, neatly cut and dried for that purpose.