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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Artificial Fruit, with Stems of the Natural Fruit

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Artificial Fruit, with Stems of the Natural Fruit.

At the proper season of the year, pluck and put by the stalks of the fruit meant to be imitated, if possible with the *stones* thereon. Then get some pretty neat tins made in the form of the fruit meant to be imitated, but capable of being divided into two, and with a hole to admit the stalk. Care must be taken too, that the tins be smooth inside, and that the *joint* be well made.

Then take cow heels and calves feet, and boil it to a jelly; strain it through a sieve, put it into a saucepan, and sweeten it; put in some lemon-peel with perfume, and colour it like the fruit intended to be imitated. Stir up each sort well, give it a boil up, and fill your tins while it is warm, having placed the ends of the stalks (with the stones on) in the most natural way possible. Should the fruit be rather too heavy while wet, the stalks and tins must be suspended, whilst drying, by pieces of thread made fast above to nails in the wall, or on the case or box in which they may be placed to dry.

When the whole jelly may be considered quite cold, and a little consistent, open your tins, and prepare for laying on the bloom. *Powder blue* is that bloom, and beautiful specimens are to be produced by practice, which alone, it will be easily seen, must teach, *1st*, The mode of placing the tins upon the stalks, so as to dry in the proper position, and without a seam at the joint; *2nd*, The time and mode of

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taking them off again, to say nothing of repairing any defect that may occur. The stalks of other than fruit trees may also suffice, but they should in either case be plucked while in full vigour, or they are apt to break during the manufacture.

How to make a Piece of Metal, or any other Heavy Body, swim upon the surface of the Water, like a Cork.

The specific gravity of water is inferior to that of metals, and consequently water, absolutely speaking, cannot support a globe of iron or lead; but if this ball be flattened, and beat out to a very thin plate, it will, if put softly upon still water, be prevented from sinking, and will swim upon its surface like any light substance. In like manner, if a fine steel needle, which is perfectly dry, be placed gently upon some still water in a vessel, it will float upon the surface without sinking.

But if you would have a metallic body of large dimensions to swim upon water, you must reduce it into a thin concave plate, like a kettle, in which case, as the air it contains, together with the body itself, weighs less than the same bulk of water; it cannot possibly sink, as is evident from large copper boats, or pontoons, by which whole armies are frequently passed over rivers without danger.

And if this concave metallic vessel be placed upon the water with its mouth downwards, it will swim as