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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Method of Preserving Sea Plants

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from the fire. When it is almost cold, add nearly about an equal quantity of spirits of turpentine; mix both well together, and let the mass rest till the next day. Then having warmed it a little, strain and bottle it; if too thick, add more spirits of turpentine.

N. B. This varnish should be laid upon the silk when perfectly dry, in a lukewarm state; a thin coat of it upon one side, and, about twelve hours after, two other coats should be laid on, one on each side; and in twenty-four hours the silk may be used.

Method of Preserving Sea Plants.

These grow on the rocks from which the sea occasionally recedes; they are termed *fuci*, and when dried and preserved, are exceedingly beautiful; the *curious*, therefore, and especially those who prosecute the study of botany, must be anxious to know the best method of preserving them, without destroying their colour and beauty. The following is recommended by M. Mauduyt:—Take a sheet of paper, or rather of pasteboard, and cover it with varnish on both sides, and having rowed in a boat to the rock where the *fuci* abounds, plunge your varnished paper into the water, and detaching the *fuci*, receive it upon the paper, agitate the paper gently in the water, that the plant may be properly spread over it, and lift them up together softly out of the water, then fix down with pins the strong stalks, that they may not be displaced, and leave the plant lying upon

the varnished paper, to dry in the open air: when it is fully dry, the different parts will retain their position, and the plant may be preserved within the leaves of a book. If you wish to free it from the slime and salt which adheres to it, it may be washed gently in fresh water, after being removed from the rock on which it grew.

An easy and expeditious Method of providing a Substitute for Indian Ink.

Boil parchment slips, or cuttings of glove leather, in water, till it forms a *size*, which, when cold, becomes of the consistence of jelly; then, having blackened an earthen plate, by holding it over the flame of a candle, mix up with a camel hair pencil, the fine lamp black thus obtained, with some of the above *size*, while the plate is still warm. This black requires no grinding, and produces an ink of the very same colour, which works as freely with the pencil, and is as perfectly transparent as the best Indian Ink. It likewise possesses the advantage of furnishing artists with a substitute for that article, which may be prepared in situations, where it might be difficult to obtain the ink itself.

The Almond Trick.

Get three almonds, or any other eatables, and hav-