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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Almond Trick

[urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120)

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-

ing placed them upon the table a short distance apart, put a hat over each. Tell the company that you will eat the three almonds, and, having done so, will bring them under whichever hat they please. When you have swallowed each separately, request one of the spectators to point out the hat under which they shall all be. When choice has been made of one of the hats, put it upon your head, and ask the company if you have not fulfilled your promise.

The Three Knives.

Wager any sum with a person that you will give him three knives to hide, one after the other, and will tell him where he deposits the *last*. He will doubtless stipulate that he shall be permitted to hide them out of the room. This you readily agree to, and on presenting him with the first and second knives, he will go out and carefully deposit them in some secret hole or corner. During his absence, put the third knife into the fire, so that it will be moderately heated by the time he is prepared to receive it. As soon as he takes hold of it, he will very naturally deposit it upon the floor, with sundry ejaculations incidental to the touching any thing too hot to hold. You then say, "There it is, you have deposited the *last* upon the floor, and I have won the wager." This trick generally causes much laughter.