

**Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

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

**Halifax, 1848**

Beautiful Golden Yellow Dye, for Silks, Cotton, &c.

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*The Glass of Wine under the Hat.*

Place a glass of wine upon a table, and, having put a hat over it, offer to lay any of the company a wager, that you will drink the wine without raising up the hat. When your wager is accepted, particularly request that no person will touch the hat; then get underneath the table, and commence sucking and smacking your lips as though you were swallowing the wine with considerable gusto. After a minute or two has elapsed, come from under the table, and say to the person who accepted your wager, "Now, sir." His credulity will immediately induce him to raise up the hat, in order to ascertain if the wine be drunk. Immediately he does so, take up the glass, and having swallowed its contents, say, "You have lost, sir, I have drunk the wine without lifting up the hat." This trick generally excites much laughter against the simpleton who thus dupes himself.

*Beautiful Golden Yellow Dye, for Silks, Cotton, &c.*

This fine lively and durable yellow dye, has recently been discovered by M. Lasteurie, who thus describes the process by which it is obtained from the shaggy spunk, or boletus hirsutus of Linnæus, a species of mushroom or fungus, growing chiefly on apple or walnut trees. This vegetable substance is

replete with colouring matter, which must be expressed by pounding in a mortar; after which the liquid thus acquired is to be boiled about a quarter of an hour. Six pints of water may be well tinged for dyeing by a single ounce of the expressed fluid. This being strained, the silk, cotton, &c. intended to be dyed, must be immersed and boiled in it for about fifteen or twenty minutes, when fine silk in particular, if it be afterwards passed through soft soap water, will appear of a bright golden hue, equal in lustre to that of the silk hitherto imported from China at a great expense, for imitating gold embroidery. In short, every sort of stuff retains a fine yellow colour; but it is, of course, less bright on linen and cotton. Nor is the use of this vegetable substance confined to dyeing, since it has been ascertained, that the yellow extract which it yields is applicable to the purposes of painting both in oil and in water colours.

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*To Prepare a Hortus Siccus.*

This is a Latin term, signifying "dry garden," inasmuch as specimens of all sorts of plants may be thus preserved, in order to have recourse to them upon future occasions, when botany is pursued as a science in-doors. The value of such a collection is evident, since a thousand minutæ may be preserved in the well dried specimens of plants, which the most accurate engraver would have omitted.

Among the different methods adopted by botanists