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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Bottle Conjuror

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The Extinguisher and Re-Illuminator.

Make two little figures of wood, or clay, or any other material you please, only taking care there is a small hole at the mouth of each. Put in the mouth of one a few grains of bruised gunpowder, and a little piece of phosphorus in that of the other, taking care that these preparations are made beforehand; then take a lighted wax candle, and present it to the mouth of the figure with the gunpowder, which, taking fire, will put the candle out; then present your candle, having the snuff quite hot, to the other figure; it will light again immediately by means of the phosphorus. You may produce the same effect by two figures, drawn on a wall, with a pencil or piece of charcoal, by applying, with starch or a wafer, a few grains of gunpowder to the mouth of one, and a piece of phosphorus to the mouth of the other.

The Bottle Conjuror.

State to the company that it was proved some years ago, at the Haymarket Theatre, that to crawl into a quart bottle was an impossibility; but the rapid progress made by the march of intellect in these enlightened times has proved that any person *may* crawl into a pint bottle as easily as into his bed. Having thus prefaced your intentions, you get a pint bottle, and place it in the middle of the room; then

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go outside the door, and creeping into the room upon all fours, say, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is crawling in to the pint bottle!"

The Geological Phial.

In a large sized phial, three parts full of clear water, infuse pure alumine, precipitated by ammonia, till the bottle is nearly filled. Expose the bottle to the cold air in frosty weather; or, at other times, to artificial frost. As soon as the frigorific effect ensues, the alumine will divide all over the surface of the water, and form itself into separate and very regular strata.

To Dye White Gloves a Beautiful Purple.

Boil four ounces of logwood and two ounces of roche alum in three pints of soft water till half wasted. Let it stand to be cold after straining. Let the gloves be nicely mended, then with a brush rub it over them, and when dry repeat it. Twice is sufficient, unless the colour is to be very dark; when dry rub off the loose dye with a coarse cloth; beat up the white of an egg, and with a sponge rub it over the leather. The dye will stain the hands, but wetting them with vinegar will take it off before they are washed.