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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To Silver Paper without Silver, after the Chinese manner, very useful in
Fancy Work

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French Way of Washing fine Lace or Linen.

Take a gallon of furze blossoms and burn them to ashes, then boil them in six quarts of soft water; this water, when fine, you are to use in washing with your suds as occasion requires, and you will have the linen, &c. not only exceeding white, but it is done with half the soap and little trouble.

The Dancing Ball.

Place on the spout of a fountain, an inverted cone of wire net-work; throw into it a light hollow copper ball, two inches and a-half in diameter, which let fall to the narrow part of the cone to reach the spout: it will rise and remain suspended in the air till brought down by the wind, and repeatedly ascend and descend.

To Silver Paper without Silver, after the Chinese manner, very useful in Fancy Work.

Take two scruples of clear glue (Indian glue is the best) one scruple of alum, and half a pint of clear water, simmer the whole over a slow fire till it is nearly two-thirds evaporated, then your sheets of paper being laid on a smooth table, dip a varnishing brush in the preparation, and go quickly over the

paper twice, sift powder of talc through a fine sieve made of gauze, hang it to dry, and when dry, rub off the superfluous talc, which serves again for the same purpose. The talc is to be prepared in the following manner:—Take one pound of Muscovy talc, boil it in fresh water four hours, then take it off the fire, and let it stand in the water two days, wash it well, beat it to pieces in a mortar, and add to it six ounces of alum, which, when reduced to a fine powder, put again into clear water, and just give it a boil, pour off the water, and place the powder in the sun, or a warm place to dry, it will become a hard consistence. This beat in a mortar to an impalpable powder, and it is fit for use; keep it in a bottle to keep the dust from it, which is apt to make it appear dingy.

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To make a Candle Burn under Water.

Take a glass, and, fastening a piece of wood across the mouth, stick upon it a piece of lighted candle, and steadily convey the glass to the surface of the water; then push it carefully down, and the candle will be seen burning under the water, and may be brought up again alight. In the same manner, a handkerchief may be immersed without being wetted, if rolled very tightly together. The principal art consists in bringing the mouth of the glass exactly level with the surface of the water, for if it be put the least on one side, the water will rush in, and consequently defeat the object.

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Put a small quantity of a few drops of any other essential oil.

The following experiment has been given by Dr. Boerhaave. Take a plate of glass, and upon it a small flat octobled plate. When this plate is placed in the sun, or a candle, the smooth side of the plate will be the most beautiful. These beautiful haloes from the luminous body are the whitest, is formed by a pair of faces of a prism, and is coloured, when formed by a pair of faces of a prism, which is formed by a still more exquisite crystal for