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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To make a Candle Burn under Water

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.