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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Method of Painting on Silk or Satin

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To draw Beer from a Knife.

To do this, you must have a small piece of sponge, which privately soak in some beer, taking care that the sponge be neither too large or too full of liquor, lest you be discovered. Place this either in the cavity of the right ear, or behind the ear under the hair; then, taking a knife, stick it, with the handle upwards, in a table or stool (but observe that your company is placed opposite you); then bid them look, saying, "Then you see there is no liquid either on this handle, or on the table;" stretch your empty hand towards your ear, saying, "Now, somebody cross my arm," and, speaking some powerful words, as "*Jubio bisco*," you will then have a fair opportunity to take the sponge into your hand from behind your ear. Stretch forth your hand, take up the knife, and squeeze it gently, and afterwards a little harder, which will make the beer run the faster, to the amazement of the company; at the same time saying, "Thus could I do till I had drowned you all." Then sprinkle a little in their faces, which will cause them to shut their eyes, whilst you convey away the sponge.

Method of Painting on Silk or Satin.

First make an outline according to your fancy, then lay on a wash of isinglass with great care, which will

remove the glare and sleekness of the silk, being necessary to make your colours work freely; melt the isinglass in clear water so as not to be very glutinous, otherwise it would spoil your colours and discolour your silk; observe your lights are to be made by a small tint mixed with flake white, of the colour of the intended flower, just sufficient to make a degree from the colour of the silk; for instance, if a blue flower, a very small quantity of bice or blue verditure mixed with the white, using less of the white in proportion as the shades grow darker, indigo may be used alone in the darkest. Take care never to lay your colours on the silk thick, as then they will be apt to crack, to prevent which it may be proper to mix a little white sugar candy with the gum water. If your flower is so deep as not to admit of a pure white in any part, lay on a priming of white, which being thoroughly dry, proceed to the ground colour of the flower, advancing gradually with the shades as before directed.

To make Fine Blue Sealing Wax.

Take an ounce of mountain blue, or blue ashes, an ounce of fine mastic, the fifth of an ounce of true Venice turpentine; then get a small iron pot or pan well cleaned, and made so as to have a little spout or beak, put the mastic in first, which is to be melted on the fire, taking care that it does not burn: then mix the turpentine with it: this mixture being done,

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Method of Teach

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