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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Method of Teaching Drawing or Writing to Young Persons

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take the pan from the fire and put the blue ashes in it, then stir it all well with a little stick; take care when you put in the blue ashes that the other ingredients are not too hot, as that would make the colour too black, when all is well mixed, and before it is quite cold, take two pieces of glass, which must be made wet with water, then pour on one of them this composition in order to roll it in sticks under your fingers, which must be wet.

In order to give this wax the necessary polish, pass the sticks over the flame of spirits of wine, which are to be lighted for this purpose.

Method of Teaching Drawing or Writing to Young Persons.

An artist proposes to teach young persons the elements of drawing by making them first practise on a slate; because it may be soon cleaned with a wet cloth or sponge. This method indeed would save the expense of paper, and afford the pupils an opportunity of easily correcting their faults, without being obliged to begin their drawing again entirely.

For my part, I think it would be more advantageous to employ, instead of a slate, a piece of Bohemian glass, which might be made rough on one side, by rubbing it with a pumice-stone, or a flat bit of free-stone, or fine sand well moistened. Whatever figures have been drawn on this glass, may be effaced by a wet cloth in the same manner as from a slate; and

besides this advantage, as the glass is transparent, correct copies may be placed below it, which the scholars ought to follow till their hand is properly formed. What is here said of drawing may be applied also to writing.

How to Make a Drawing Desk.

Let a frame be made of a reasonable size, so that a tolerably large piece of crown glass may rest upon it, supported by a ledge at the bottom part; where, by two hinges, it may be fastened to a drawer of the same dimension, which may be divided to serve for pen, ink, and paper, and other small utensils or instruments for drawing. To the top of the frame, fix two stays, by which the frame may be raised higher or lower, as occasion may require.

The manner of using this frame is thus:—lay the print or drawing you intend to copy on the glass, and fasten a sheet of fine white paper, with some wafers or paste, upon it; if you work in the day-time, place the back, after you have raised the frame to a proper height, against the window; but if by night, put a *lamp* behind it, and you will see every stroke of the print or drawing, which with your pen you may copy very accurately, and finish according to the manner you think proper. If it be a solid piece you intend to copy, then place it behind the desk, and having fastened your paper to the frame, put the lamp so as as to produce a strong shade on the object

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