

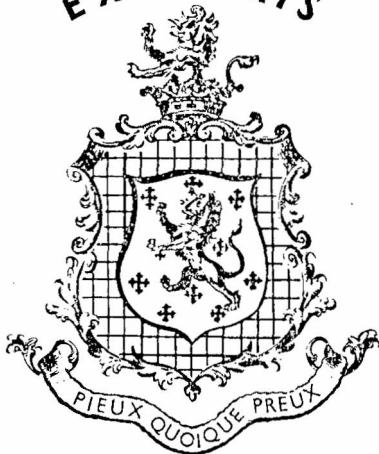
BOOK OF
TRICKS



**AMUSING.
EASILY
MANIPULATED**

**GRAND
MISCELLANEOUS
COLLECTION.**

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BOOK OF TRICKS.

AMUSING EASILY MANIPULATED.

THE WONDERFUL HAT.

Upon a table place three pieces of bread, or any other eatable, at a little distance from each other, and cover each with a hat ; take up the first hat, and removing the bread, put it into your mouth, letting the company see that you swallow it ; then raise the second hat, and eat the bread which was under that ; then proceed to the third hat in the same manner. Having eaten the three pieces, ask any person in the company to choose which hat he would like the three pieces of bread to be under, and when he has made his choice of one of the hats, put it on your head and ask him if he does not think they are under it.

THE CONFEDERATE COIN.

Put some wax on a dime, and stick it to the under edge of a table without a cover. Then borrow a dime from one of the company, and, turning up your cuffs and opening your fingers widely, to show that you have not another concealed, rub it quickly backward and forward on the table with your right hand, holding your left under the edge of the table to catch it. After two or three feigned unsuccessful attempts to accomplish your object, you loosen the concealed coin with the tips of the

fingers of the left hand, and at the same time sweep the borrowed dime into it. Rub them together for a few seconds, and then throw them both upon the table.

TO MAKE TOUCH-PAPER.

Dissolve in some spirits of wine or vinegar a little saltpetre ; then take some purple or blue paper, wet it with the above liquor, and when dry it will be fit for use. When you paste this paper on any of your works, take care that the paste does not touch that part which is to burn. The method of using this paper is by cutting it into slips long enough to go once around the mouth of the serpent, cracker, etc. When you paste on these slips, leave a little above the mouth of the case not pasted, then prime the case with meal powder, and twist the paper to a point.

A SLOW FIRE FOR WHEELS.

Must be composed of saltpetre, four ounces ; brimstone, two ounces ; and meal powder, one ounce and a half.

MAGIC BOXES.

Have seven or eight boxes, of box-wood, turned of such dimensions that the smallest will contain a coin, or a ring, and that they will shut and fit one inside the other. Observe that they must close easily, and that all the boxes consecutively may fit into the largest, while the largest lid, also, may contain all the smaller ones.

The bottoms and lids being then inserted one in another, from the smallest to the largest, you may, taking up all the lids together, and keeping them up by the aid of the finger, place them at once on the nest of boxes, and close the whole by a single movement, as easily as if there had been but one.

Having put the boxes and lids thus arranged into your pocket, or conjuror's bag, in such a manner that they cannot be displaced, you will ask for a ring or coin from one of the

company, taking care to have a similar one by you, concealed in your hand, which you will adroitly substitute for the one lent. Feeling then in your pocket, apparently for your handkerchief, or snuff-box, you place the ring or coin rapidly in the smallest box, and immediately shut the whole nest. Then drawing the box out of your pocket, you propose to make the trinket or coin pass into it, it being supposed that you are holding it in the fingers of the other hand. Pretend to make it pass into the box, concealing it quickly. Then tell the person who lent it to open the box himself and remove his property. This will cause him the more surprise that, being able to open the boxes only one at a time, he will not be able to imagine, although aware that it is only a trick of sleight-of-hand, how, in so short a space of time, you were able to open and shut so many boxes.

A BRILLIANT FIRE.

Meal powder, six pounds ; saltpetre, half a pound ; brimstone, two ounces ; and steel dust, twelve ounces.

THE MANNER OF MAKING A RING CHANGE HANDS, AND PASS ON TO ANY FINGER YOU PLEASE OF THE OPPOSITE HAND.

You will ask someone among the audience to lend you a gold ring, begging him, at the same time, to mark it, that he may be able to recognise it again.

On your side you will take good care to have a gold ring, which you will fasten by a small piece of catgut to a watch-spring, sewed into the left-hand cuff of your coat.

With the right hand take the ring that has been lent to you ; then dexterously take hold of the ring inside your cuff, attached to the watch-spring, and slip to the ends of the fingers of your left hand, unperceived by anyone ; during this operation you will conceal the borrowed ring in the fingers of your right hand, and will put it on a hook fastened on your pants, near

your hip, and concealed by your coat ; then you will exhibit the ring you have had concealed in the left hand, and ask the company on what finger of the other hand they desire it to pass.

While asking this question and receiving the answer, you put your finger on the little hook, and let the ring slip on it, at the same instant letting go the other ring by opening the fingers. The spring being no longer forcibly expanded, will contract and draw back the ring under the cuff, without its being perceived by anyone, even those who may be holding your arms, who, being desirous only of preventing your hands from touching each other, will afford you sufficient freedom for all the movements you require. These movements should be rapid, and always accompanied by a stamping of the foot.

After this operation, you will exhibit to the company the ring which has found its way to the other hand, and prove to them by the mark on it that it is actually the same one.

Much address, and great rapidity of movement are necessary in order to succeed in performing this amusing trick so that no one may suspect your imposition.

TO MAKE SQUIBS AND SERPENTS.

First make the cases of about six inches in length, by rolling slips of stout cartridge paper three times around a roller, and pasting the last fold, tying it near the bottom as tight as possible, and making it air-tight at the end with sealing-wax. Then take of gunpowder half a pound, charcoal one ounce, brimstone one ounce, and steel filings half an ounce, or in like proportion ; grind them with a muller or pound them in a mortar. Your cases being very dry and ready, first put a thimbleful of your powder, and ram it hard down with a ruler ; then fill the case to the top with the aforesaid mixture, ramming it hard down in the course of filling two or three times ; when this is done, point it with touch paper, which should be pasted on that part which touches the case, otherwise it is liable to drop off.

TO BREAK A STICK PLACED ON TWO GLASSES WITHOUT BREAKING THE GLASSES.

The stick intended to be broken must neither be thick nor rest with any great hold on the two glasses. Both its extremities must taper to a point, and should be of as uniform a size as possible, in order that the centre of gravity may be more easily known. The stick must be placed resting on the edges of the glasses, which ought to be perfectly level, that the stick may remain horizontal, and not inclined to one side more than another. Care also must be taken that the points only shall rest lightly on the edge of each glass. If a speedy and smart blow, but proportioned, as far as can be judged, to the size of the stick and the distance of the glasses, be then given to it in the middle, it will break in two, without either of the glasses being injured.

TO MAKE CRACKERS.

Cut some stout cartridge paper into pieces three inches and a half broad, and one foot long ; fold down one edge of each of these pieces lengthwise, about three-quarters of an inch broad ; then fold the double edge down a quarter of an inch, and turn the single edge back half over the double fold. Open it and lay all along the channel which is formed by the folding of the paper some meal powder ; then fold it over and over till the paper is doubled up, rubbing it down every turn ; this being done, bend it backwards and forwards two inches and a half, or thereabouts, at a time, as often as the paper will allow. Hold all these folds flat and close, and with a small pinching cord give one turn around the middle of the cracker, and pinch it close ; bind it with pack-thread as tight as you can ; then, in the place where it was pinched, prime one end, and cap it with touch paper. When these crackers are fired, they will give a report at every turn of the paper ; if you would have a great number of bounces you must cut the paper longer, or join them after they are made ; but if they are made very long before they are pinched, you must have a piece of wood with a groove in it, deep enough to let in half the cracker ; this will hold it straight while it is pinching.

MAGICAL TRANSMUTATIONS.

Infuse a few shavings of logwood in common water, and when the liquor is sufficiently red pour it into a bottle. Then take three drinking glasses, and rinse one of them with strong vinegar ; throw into the second a small quantity of pounded alum, which will not be observed if the glass has been washed, and leave the third without any preparation. If the red liquor in the bottle be poured into the first glass, it will appear of a straw colour ; if the second it will pass gradually from a bluish grey to black when stirred with a key or any piece of iron which has been previously dipped in strong vinegar. In the third glass, the red liquor will assume a violet tint.

SCRAP OR BLOWING BOOK.

Take a book seven inches long, and about five inches broad, and let there be 49 leaves—that is, seven times seven, contained therein, so as you may cut upon the edges of each leaf six notches, each in depth of a quarter of an inch, with a gouge made for that purpose, and let them be one inch distant ; paint every thirteenth or fourteenth page, which is the end of every sixth leaf and beginning of every seventh, with like colours or pictures ; cut off with a pair of scissors every notch of the first leaf, leaving one inch of paper, which will remain half a quarter of an inch above that leaf ; leave another like inch in the second part of the second leaf, clipping away an inch of paper in the highest place above it, and all notches below the same, and orderly to the third and fourth, and so there shall rest upon each leaf only one nick of paper above the rest, one high uncut, an inch of paper must answer to the first directly, so as when you have cut the first seven leaves in such a manner as described, you are to begin the selfsame order at the eighth leaf, descending the same manner to the cutting other seven leaves to twenty-one, until you have passed through every leaf all the thickness of your book.

TO MAKE FIRE BOTTLES.

The phosphoric fire bottles may be prepared in the following manner : Take a small vial of very thin glass, heat it gradually in a ladleful of sand, and introduce into it a few grains of phos-

phorus ; let the vial be then left undisturbed for a few minutes, and proceed in this manner till the vial is full. Another method of preparing this phosphoric bottle consists in heating two parts of phosphorus and one of lime, placed in layers, in a loosely stopped vial for about half an hour ; or put a little phosphorus into a small vial, heat the vial in a ladleful of sand, and when the phosphorus is melted, turn it around, so that the phosphorus may adhere to the sides of the vial, and then cork it closely. To use this bottle, take a common brimstone match, introduce its point into the bottle, so as to cause a minute quantity of its contents to adhere to it. If the match be rubbed on a common bottle cork, it will instantly take fire. Care should be taken not to use the same match a second time immediately, or while it is hot, as it would infallibly set fire to the phosphorus in the bottle.

THE MAGIC FLASK.

Take a glass bottle, put in it some volatile alkali, in which has been dissolved copper filings, which will produce a blue colour. Give this flask to someone to cork up, while indulging in some pleasantry, and then call the attention of the company to the liquid, when, to their astonishment, they find that the colour has disappeared as soon as it was corked. You can cause it to reappear by simply taking out the stopper, and this change will appear equally astonishing.

THE RING AND THE HANDKERCHIEF.

Previously provide yourself with a piece of brass wire, pointed at both ends and bent around so as to form a ring about the size of a wedding-ring, which conceal in your hand ; then commence your performance by borrowing from a gentleman a silk pocket-handkerchief, and from a lady a wedding-ring ; request some person to hold two of the corners of the handkerchief, and another to hold the other two, keeping them at full stretch. You next exhibit the wedding-ring to the company, and announce to them that you will make it pass through the handkerchief. Then place your hand under the handkerchief,

and substituting the false ring which you had previously concealed, press it against the centre of the handkerchief, and desire a third person to take hold of the ring through the handkerchief, and to close his finger and thumb through the middle of the ring. Hold the handkerchief in this manner to show that the ring has not been placed within a fold! Now desire the persons holding the corners of the handkerchief to let go, the person holding the ring (through the handkerchief, as already described) still retaining his hold. Let another person now grasp the handkerchief as tight as he pleases, three or four inches below the ring, and tell the person holding the ring to let it go, when it will be quite evident to the company that the ring is secure within the centre of the handkerchief. Then request the person who grasps the handkerchief to hold a hat over it, pass your hand underneath, and open the false ring by bending one of its points a little aside, and bringing one point gently through the handkerchief, the remainder may easily be drawn out. Be careful to rub the hole you have made in the handkerchief with your finger and thumb to conceal the fracture. You then put the wedding-ring you borrowed over the outside of the handkerchief, and desiring the person who holds the hat to take it away, exhibit the ring (placed as described) to the company, and while their attention is engaged, take the opportunity of concealing or getting rid of the brass ring.

FREEZING WITH LIQUID.

Ether poured upon a glass tube in a thin stream will evaporate and cool it to such a degree that water contained in it may be frozen.

TO KEEP A STONE IN PERPETUAL MOTION.

Put very small filings of iron into aquafortis, and let them remain there until the water takes off the iron requisite, which it will do in seven or eight hours. Then take the water and put it into a vial an inch wide, with a large mouth, and put in a stone of lapis calaminaris, and stop it up close; the stone will then keep in perpetual motion.

THE MAGNIFYING REFLECTOR.

Let the rays of light that pass through the magnifying glass in the shutter be thrown on a large concave mirror, properly fixed in a frame. Then take a thin strip of glass, and stick any small object on it; hold it in the intervening rays at a little more than the focal distance from the mirror, and you will see on the opposite wall, amid the reflecting rays, the image of that object, very large, and beautifully clear and bright.

TO MELT IRON IN A MOMENT AND MAKE IT RUN INTO DROPS.

Bring a bar of iron to a white heat, and then apply to it a roll of sulphur. The iron will immediately melt, and run into drops.

The experiment should be performed over a basin of water, in which the drops that fall down will be quenched. These drops will be found reduced into a sort of cast-iron.

TO MAKE A BIRD SEEM AS DEAD.

Take any bird out of a cage and lay it on a table; then wave a small feather over its eyes, and it will appear as dead; but directly you take the feather away it will revive again. Let it lay hold of the stem part of the feather with its feet, and it will twist and turn about just like a parrot; you may also roll it about on the table any way you like.

SYMPATHETIC INK.

The most curious of all kinds of sympathetic ink is that from cobalt. It is a very singular phenomenon that the characters or figures traced out with this ink may be made to disappear and reappear at pleasure. This property is peculiar to ink obtained from cobalt; for all the other kinds are at first invisible until some substance has been applied to make them appear; but when once they have appeared they remain. To prepare this ink, take zaffre, and dissolve it in nitro-muriatic

acid till the acid extracts the metallic part of the cobalt which communicates to the zaffre its blue colour; then dilute the solution, which is very acrid, with common water. If you write with this liquor on paper, the characters will be invisible; but when exposed to a sufficient degree of heat, they will become green.

INVISIBLE CORRESPONDENCE.

Mix up some hog's lard very intimately with a little Venice turpentine, and rub a small portion of it gently and in an equal *manner* over thin paper, by means of a piece of fine sponge. When you are desirous to employ this preparation for writing secretly to a friend, lay the above paper on that you intend to dispatch, and trace out whatever you think proper with a blunted style, by which means the fat substance will adhere to the second paper in all those places the style has passed. The person who receives the letter may easily render it legible by sprinkling over it a little coloured dust, or some pounded charcoal well sifted.

TO SO FILL A GLASS WITH WATER THAT IT CANNOT BE REMOVED WITHOUT SPILLING THE WHOLE.

This is a mere trick, but may afford some amusement. You offer to bet any person that you will so fill a glass with water that he shall not move it off the table without spilling the whole contents. You then fill the glass, and laying a piece of paper or thin card over the top, you dexterously turn the glass upside down on the table, and then, drawing away the paper, you leave the water in the glass, with its foot upward. It will therefore be impossible to remove the glass from the table without spilling every drop.

NEW CAMERA LUCIDA.

Take a piece of looking-glass, rest it on a table in any angle in front of the object to be copied; then, having a piece of

paper placed behind the mirror, by looking into it from the upper part of the glass, with one eye, and with the other making the axis of vision meet in the focus point of both, any object may be seen and sketched with singular beauty and accuracy.

TO MAKE AN OBJECT WHICH IS TOO NEAR THE EYE
TO BE DISTINCTLY PERCEIVED, TO BE SEEN IN
A DISTINCT MANNER, WITHOUT THE INTER-
POSITION OF ANY GLASS.

Make a hole in a card with a needle, and without changing the place of the eye or of the object, look at the latter through the hole ; the object will then be seen distinctly, and even considerably magnified.

TWO FIGURES, ONE OF WHICH BLOWS OUT AND
THE OTHER RE-LIGHTS A CANDLE.

Make two figures, of any shape or material you please ; insert in the mouth of one a small tube, at the end of which is a piece of phosphorus, and in the mouth of the other a tube containing at the end a few grains of gunpowder ; taking care that each be retained in the tube by a piece of paper. If the second figure be applied to the flame of a taper it will extinguish it, and the first will light it again.

AN OPTICAL GAME.

Present to anyone a ring, or place at some distance, and in such a manner that the plane of it shall be turned toward the person's face ; then bid him shut one of his eyes, and try to push through it a crooked stick, of sufficient length to reach it ; he will very seldom succeed. A person with one eye would not experience the same difficulty ; being accustomed to make use of only one eye, he acquires the habit of judging of distances with great correctness.

A VESSEL THAT WILL LET WATER OUT AT THE BOTTOM AS SOON AS THE MOUTH IS UNCORKED.

Provide a tin vessel, two or three inches in diameter, and five or six inches in height, having a mouth about three inches in width ; and in the bottom several small holes, just large enough to admit a small needle. Plunge it in water with its mouth open, and fill ; while it remains in the water stop it very closely. You can play a trick with a person by desiring him to uncork it ; if he places it on his knee for that purpose, the moment it is uncorked the water will run through the bottom, and make him completely wet.

MAGICAL COLOURS.

Put half a tablespoonful of syrup of violets and three table-spoonful of water into a glass, stir them well together with a stick, and put half the mixture into another glass. If you add a few drops of acid of vitriol into one of the glasses, and stir it, it will be changed into a crimson. Put a few drops of mixed alkali dissolved into another glass, and when you stir it it will change to green. If you drop slowly into the green liquor from the side of the glass a few drops of acid of vitriol you will perceive crimson at the bottom, purple in the middle, and green at the top ; and by adding a little fixing alkali dissolved to the other glass, the same colours will appear in different order.

A POWDER WHICH CATCHES FIRE WHEN EXPOSED TO THE AIR.

Put three ounces of rock alum, and one ounce of honey or sugar into a new earthen dish, glazed, and which is capable of standing a strong heat ; keep the mixture over the fire, stirring it continually till it becomes very dry and hard : then remove it from the fire, and pound it to a coarse powder. Put this powder into a long-necked bottle, leaving a part of the vessel empty ; and having placed it in a crucible, fill up the crucible with fine sand, and surround it with burning coals. When

the bottle has been kept at a red heat for about seven or eight minutes, and no more vapour issues from it, remove it from the fire, then stop it with a piece of cork ; and having suffered it to cool, preserve the mixture in small bottles well closed.

If you unclose one of these bottles, and let fall a few grains of this powder on a bit of paper, or any other very dry substance, it will first become blue, then brown, and will at last burn the paper or other substance on which it has fallen.

HOW TO CUT A MAN'S HEAD OFF AND PUT IT IN A PLATTER A YARD FROM HIS BODY.

This is a curious performance, if it be handled by a skilful hand. To show this feat of execution, you must cause a board, a cloth, and a platter to be purposely made, and in each of them to be made holes fit for a person's neck ; the board must be made of two planks, the longer and broader the better ; there must be left within half a yard of the end of each plank half a hole, so as both planks being thrust together, there may remain two holes, like holes in a pair of stocks ; there must be made likewise a hole in the cloth ; a platter also must be set directly over or upon one of them, having a hole in the middle thereof, of the like quantity, and also a piece cut off the same, as big as his neck, through which his head may be conveyed into the middle of the platter, and then sitting or kneeling under the board, let the head only remain upon the board, in the frame. Then, to make the sight more striking, put a little brimstone into a chafing dish of coals, setting it before the head of the boy, who must gasp two or three times, so as the smoke may enter his nostrils and mouth, which is not unwholesome, and the head presently will appear stark dead, if the boy act his countenance accordingly ; and if a little blood be sprinkled on his face the sight will be stranger. This is commonly practised with a boy instructed for that purpose, who, being familiar and conversant with company, may be known as well by his face as his apparel. In the other end of the table, where the like hole is made, another boy of the bigness of the known boy must be placed, having on his usual apparel ; he must lean or

lie upon the board, and must put his head under it through the side hole, so as the body shall seem to lie on the end of the board, and his head lie in a platter on the other end. There are other things which might be performed in this action, the more to astonish the beholders, which, because they require long descriptions, are here omitted, as to put about his neck a little dough kneaded with bullock's blood, which, being cold, will appear like dead flesh, and being pricked with a sharp, round, hollow quill, will bleed and seem very strange; and many rules are to be observed herein, as to leave the tablecloth so long and so wide as it may almost reach the ground.

TO CONSTRUCT AND INFLATE A SMALL BALLOON.

It is an interesting and amusing experiment to inflate a balloon made of gold-beater's skin (using a little gum arabic to close any holes or fissures), filling it from a bladder or jar, and tying a thread around the mouth of it to prevent the escape of the gas. When fully blown, attach a fanciful car of coloured paper, or very thin pasteboard to it, and let it float in a large room; it will soon gain the ceiling, where it will remain for any length of time; if it be let off in the open air it will ascend out of sight. This experiment may be varied by putting small grains of shot into the car, in order to ascertain the difference between the weight of hydrogen gas and atmospheric air.

TO CAUSE A BRILLIANT EXPLOSION UNDER WATER.

Drop a piece of phosphorus, the size of a pea, into a tumbler of hot water; and, from a bladder furnished with a stop-cock, force a stream of oxygen directly upon it. This will afford a most brilliant combustion under water.

TO MELT LEAD IN A PIECE OF PAPER.

Wrap up a very smooth ball of lead in a piece of paper, taking care that there be no wrinkles in it, and that it be everywhere in contact with the ball; if it be held in this state over

the flame of a taper, the lead will be melted without the paper being burnt. The lead, indeed, when once fused, will not fail in a short time to pierce the paper, and run through.

TO PRODUCE GREAT HEAT BY PRESENTING TWO SOLIDS TO EACH OTHER.

Take a crystal or two of the nitrate of copper, and bruise them ; then moisten them with water, and roll them up quickly in a piece of tin-foil, and in half a minute, or little more, the tin-foil will begin to smoke, and soon after take fire and explode with a slight noise. Except the crystals of the nitrate of copper are moistened, no heat will be produced.

ARTIFICIAL ILLUMINATIONS.

A very pleasing exhibition may be made, with very little trouble or expense, in the following manner : Provide a box, which you fit up with architectural designs cut on pasteboard ; prick small holes in those parts of the building where you wish the illuminations to appear, observing that in proportion to the perspective, the holes are to be made smaller, and on the near objects the holes are to be made larger. Behind these designs thus perforated you fix a lamp or candle, but in such a manner that the reflection of the light shall only shine through the hole ; then placing a light of just sufficient brilliance to show the design of the buildings before it, and making a hole for the sight at the front end of the box, you will have a tolerable representation of illuminated buildings.

The best way of throwing the light in front is to place an oiled paper before it, which will cast a mellow gleam over the scenery, and not diminish the effect of the illumination. This can be very easily planned, both not to obstruct the sight, nor be seen to disadvantage. The lights behind the picture should be very strong ; and if a magnifying glass were placed in the sight hole, it would tend greatly to increase the effect. The

box must be covered in, leaving an aperture for the smoke of the lights to pass through.

The above exhibition can only be shown at candle-light ; but there is another way, by fixing small pieces of gold on the building instead of drilling the holes, which gives something like the appearance of illumination, but by no means equal to the foregoing experiment.

N.B.—It would be an improvement if paper of various colours, rendered transparent by oil, were placed between the lights behind the aperture in the buildings, as they would then resemble lamps of different colours.

TO SET FIRE TO SPIRITS OF WINE BY THE RAYS OF THE SUN.

Put a small quantity of spirits of wine into a glass, and put a cent or dime in with it ; then direct the rays of the sun, by means of a burning glass, upon the coin, and in a short time it will become so hot as to inflame the spirits.

A HANDKERCHIEF MARKED, CUT, TORN, AND MENDED.

Two persons in the company are requested to come forward to the stage. Put into their hands a handkerchief, which they are to hold by the four corners. Then beg several other handkerchiefs among the audience, and, as you receive them, put them into the first, to make a parcel of. When you have accumulated a dozen, the two persons who hold the heap shall desire a third spectator to draw out one at hazard. He is desired to examine the mark and number (if there be any), and to cut off a little bit with a pair of scissors. *Others may then also cut off pieces, if they wish, and finally the handkerchief is torn to pieces.*

You collect all these shreds and rags, on which you throw some drug or spirits ; fold them up, tie them strongly with a

ribbon to compress them into a small compass, and put them under a glass, which you warm with your hands. At last, after an interval of a few seconds, you remove the handkerchief to fold it; everyone recognises the mark, and the audience are amazed not to find the slightest tear in it.

This operation, which has produced so general a deception, is very simple. You have an understanding with someone in the company, who, having two handkerchiefs precisely similar, has already given one to the confederate behind the curtain, and throws the other on the stage for the performance of the trick. You manage that this one shall lie at the top of the others, although pretending to mingle them by chance. The person to whom you apply to select one naturally takes the uppermost. You beg him to turn them topsy-turvy, pretending to make the trick more difficult, and having done so yourself, to replace at the top the one required, you address someone more good-natured and less clear-sighted, who will naturally take the one most easily got at.

When the handkerchief has been torn and folded, you put it under a glass, on a table near a partition (or near the curtain). A small trap, beneath which is a drawer to receive the handkerchief, is on the spot on which you place the glass. The confederate, concealed behind the curtain, puts his arm under the table to exchange the one handkerchief for the other. He then closes the trap, which, fitting exactly the hole it covers, only appears to be part of the table top, and thus deceives the most incredulous and clear-sighted of the spectators.

MAGIC PICTURES ALTERNATELY REPRESENTING SUMMER AND WINTER.

Paint a landscape on drawing-paper, colouring the earth, trunks of trees, limbs, etc., with their appropriate hues. But brush over the foliage, leaves, grass, etc., with the liquid hereafter described, and you will have a picture, at an ordinary temperature, utterly devoid of anything green. Heat it sufficiently, but not too much, and you will perceive the trees,

leaves, and other foliage assume a summer green, or rather that of early spring.

The liquid used is a dissolution in aqua regia of zaffer, which can be had at any druggists—that is to say, the metallic earth of cobalt, which colours the zaffer blue. You temper this dissolution, which is very caustic, with common water, and with it you colour the foliage of the landscape. The design, when cold, is invisible, but exposed to heat, wherever it has been touched by this liquid, it becomes green.

INVISIBLE INK.

Dissolve green vitriol and a little nitrous acid in common water. Write your characters with a new pen.

Next infuse small Aleppo galls, slightly bruised, in water. In two or three days pour the liquor off.

By drawing a pencil dipped in this second solution over the characters written with the first, they will appear a beautiful black.

THE HYDRAULIC DANCER.

Procure a little figure of cork, which you may dress as your fancy dictates. In this figure place a small, hollow cone, made of thin leaf brass.

When the figure is placed on a jet d'eau, that plays in a perpendicular direction, it will be suspended on the top of the water, and perform a great variety of amusing motions.

If a hollow ball of very thin copper, of an inch in diameter, be placed on a similar jet, it will remain suspended, turning around, and spreading the water all about it.

THE MAGIC BOTTLE.

Take a small bottle, the neck of which is not more than the sixth of an inch in diameter. With a funnel, fill the bottle quite full of red wine, and place it in a glass vessel, similar to a show glass, whose height exceeds that of the bottle about two

inches ; fill this vessel with water. The wine will shortly come out of the bottle, and rise in the form of a small column to the surface of the water, while, at the same time, the water entering the bottle will supply the place of the wine. The reason of this is, that as water is specifically heavier than wine, it must hold the lower place, while the other rises to the top.

An effect equally pleasing will be produced if the bottle be filled with water and the vessel with wine.

TO PRODUCE BEAUTIFUL FIREWORKS IN MINIATURE.

Put half a drachm of solid phosphorus into a large pint Florence flask—holding it slanting, that the phosphorus may not break the glass. Pour upon it a gill and a half of water, and place the whole over a tea-kettle lamp, or any common tin lamp, filled with spirits of wine. Light the wick, which should be almost half an inch from the flask ; and as soon as the water is heated, streams of fire will issue from the water by starts, resembling sky-rockets ; some particles will adhere to the sides of the glass, representing stars, and will frequently display brilliant rays. These appearances will continue at times till the water begins to simmer, when immediately a curious aurora borealis begins, and gradually ascends, till it collects to a pointed flame ; when it has continued half a minute, blow out the flame of the lamp, and the point that was formed will rush down, forming beautiful illuminated clouds of fire, rolling over each other for some time, which, disappearing, a splendid hemisphere of stars presents itself ; after waiting a minute or two, light the lamp again, and nearly the same phenomenon will be displayed as from the beginning. Let the repetition of lighting and blowing out the lamp be made for three or four times at least, that the stars may be increased. After the third or fourth time of blowing out the lamp, in a few minutes after the internal surface of the flask is dry, many of the stars will shoot with great splendour from side to side, and some of them will fire off with brilliant rays ; these appearances will continue several minutes. What remains in the flask will serve for the same

experiment several times, and without adding any more water. Care should be taken, after the operation is over, to lay the flask and water in a cool, secure place.

TO MELT A PIECE OF MONEY IN A WALNUT SHELL WITHOUT INJURING THE SHELL.

Bend any thin coin, and put it into half a walnut shell ; place the shell on a little sand to keep it steady. Then fill the shell with a mixture made of three parts of very dry pounded nitre, one part of flowers of sulphur, and a little sawdust well sifted. If you then set a light to the mixture, you will find, when it is melted, that the metal will also be melted at the bottom of the shell, in the form of a button, which will become hard when the burning matter around it is consumed ; the shell will have sustained very little injury.

TO EAT A PECK OF PAPER SHAVINGS, AND CONVERT THEM INTO A RIBBON.

Shouts of laughter generally arise from the audience while the magician "stows away" down his bottomless throat the heaps of paper before him ; but when he "brings up" yards upon yards of ribbon, as a proof of bad digestion, the "splitting sides burst with applause." This, like all the best illusions, is exceedingly simple ; but to carry it off well requires a little gesticulation and comic spirit in the illusionist. Procure fifteen separate yards of different coloured ribbon, of that width as is sold at about three cents a yards ; sew them together to form one length, joining the contrasting colours ; then roll it up neatly around itself, and it will be about the size of four half dollars put together. Now obtain some white paper shavings from a bookbinder ; shake them up lightly, and they will look like a bushel. When you begin the trick, take the roll of ribbon in the left hand, which, with a few shavings, is effectually hidden, then "set to" and eat your paper ; as you feed, by pretending to thrust an extra handful down the throat from time to time, you can easily manage to withdraw the masticated

portions unseen and carry them down to the ground, as you lift other "tidbits" to the mouth. After this has continued long enough, that is, when your visitors have laughed "till their sides ache," the shavings are now and then pressed up, which gives the appearance of diminished quantity; finally, a last effort is made "to finish it," and you then pop the roll of ribbon in the mouth, and throwing the remaining shavings on the floor, you take hold of the end of the ribbon and begin to unwind it. By drawing it gradually from the mouth it will appear as though it came from the stomach; the teeth must be kept close enough to prevent the entire roll from being pulled out together. When cleverly performed, this trick is one of the best pieces of fun which the magician exhibits.

A WATCH POUNDED IN A MORTAR.

You request some one of the company to lend you a watch, and put it immediately into a mortar; a few moments afterwards you cause it to be pounded, by another person, with a pestle; you exhibit the wheels, face, mainspring, and drum-barrel broken and smashed; and finally, after a few minutes, you return the watch, whole and safe, to the proprietor, who recognises it.

After all that we have said, it will easily be perceived that the mortar must be placed near the trap in the table, of which we spoke in the last trick, and covered with a napkin, in order that the confederate may substitute another watch.

To produce a complete illusion in this case, you must take care to put in the mortar a second watch, the hands, works, and case of which should, in some degree, resemble those of the borrowed one. And this is by no means difficult; for you can either have an understanding with the person lending the watch, or you may manage to ask the loan of someone whom you have seen elsewhere, and whose watch you may have had an opportunity of examining shortly before, with a view of procuring a similar one.

After replacing the fragments in the mortar, cover them a second time with the napkin, and amuse the company with a

riddle or conundrum, or by some other tricks, to give your partner time to collect all the bits and replace the perfect watch in the mortar.

TO CONSTRUCT PAPER BALLOONS.

Take several sheets of silk paper, cut them in the shape of a spindle, or, to speak more familiarly, like the coverings of the sections of an orange; join these pieces together into one spherical or globular body, and border the aperture with a ribbon, leaving the ends that you may suspend from it the following lamp:—

Construct a small basket of very fine wire, if the balloon is small, and suspend it from the aperture, so that the smoke from the flame of a few leaves of paper, wrapped together, and dipped in oil, may heat the inside of it. Before you light this paper, suspend the balloon in such a manner that it may, in a great measure, be exhausted of air, and as soon as it has been dilated, let it go, together with the wire basket, which will serve as ballast.

ICE MADE IN A RED-HOT VESSEL.

Take a platinum cup and heat it red-hot; in it pour a small quantity of water, then the same quantity of sulphuric acid; a sudden evaporation will ensue; then invert the cup and a small mass of ice will drop out. The principle is this: Sulphuric acid has the property of boiling water when it is at a temperature below freezing point, and when poured in a heated vessel the suddenness of the evaporation occasions a degree of cold sufficient to freeze water.

Liquid carbonic acid takes a high position for its freezing qualities. In drawing this curious liquid from its powerful reservoirs, it evaporates so rapidly as to freeze, and it is then a light porous mass like snow. If a small quantity of this is drenched with ether, the degree of cold produced is even more intolerable to the touch than boiling water. A drop or two of this mixture produces a blister, just as if the skin had been burned. It will freeze mercury in five to ten minutes.

THE GLOBULAR FOUNTAIN.

Make a hollow globe of copper or lead, and of a size adapted to the quantity of water that comes from a pipe (hereafter mentioned) to which it is to be fixed, and which may be fastened to any kind of pump, provided it be so constructed that the water shall have no other means of escape than through the pipe. Pierce a number of small holes through the globe, that all tend toward its centre, and annex it to the pipe that communicates with the pump. The water that comes from the pump, rushing with violence into the globe, will be forced out at the holes, and form a very pleasing sphere of water.

THE WATER SUN.

Provide two portions of a hollow sphere that are very shallow; join them together in such a manner that the hollow between them be very narrow. Fix them vertically to a pipe from whence a jet proceeds. Bore a number of small holes all around that part where the two pieces are joined together. The water rushing through the holes will form a very pleasing water sun or star.

TO ILLUMINATE THE SURFACE OF THE WATER.

Wet a piece of fine loaf sugar with phosphorised ether, and throw it into a basin of water; the surface of the water will become luminous in the dark, and, by gently blowing upon it, phosphorescent undulations will be formed, which illuminate the air above the fluid to a considerable distance. In winter the water must be rendered blood warm. If the phosphorised ether be applied to the hand, or other warm objects (which may be done with safety), it renders them luminous in the dark.

BEAUTIFUL ORNAMENT FOR A ROOM.

Dissolve in seven different tumblers, containing warm water, half ounces of sulphates of iron, copper, zinc, soda, alumina, magnesia, and potass. Pour them all, when completely dis-

solved, into a large evaporating dish of Wedgwood ware, and stir the whole with a glass rod ; place the dish in a warm place, where it cannot be affected by dust, or where it may not be agitated. When due evaporation has taken place, the whole will begin to shoot out into crystals. These will be interspersed in small groups and single crystals among each other. Their colour and peculiar form of crystallization will distinguish each crystal separately, and the whole together, remaining in the respective places where they were deposited, will display a very curious and pleasing appearance. Preserve it carefully from dust.

THE FIERY FOUNTAIN.

If twenty grains of phosphorus, cut very small, and mixed with forty grains of powder of zinc, be put into four drachms of water, and two drachms of concentrated sulphuric acid be added thereto, bubbles of inflamed phosphorated hydrogen gas will quickly cover the whole surface of the fluid in succession, forming a real fountain of fire.

THE MAGICAL TEASPOON.

Put into a crucible four ounces of bismuth, and when in a state of fusion throw in two ounces and a half of lead and one ounce and a half of tin ; these metals will combine, forming an alloy, fusible in boiling water. Mould the alloy into bars, and take them to a silversmith's to be made into teaspoons. Give one to a stranger to stir his tea as soon as it is poured from the teapot ; he will be not a little surprised to find it melt in his teacup.

THE WINE TRICK.

First, from the vessel which contains eight gallons, and is full of wine, let five gallons be poured in the empty vessel of five, and from this vessel so filled let three be poured into the

empty vessel of three, so there will remain two gallons within the vessel of five. Then let three gallons, which are within the vessel of three be poured into the vessel of eight, which will now have six gallons within it ; that done, let the two gallons which are in the vessel of five be put into an empty vessel of three ; then of the six gallons of wine which are within the vessel of eight fill again the five, and from those five pour one gallon into the vessel of three, which wanted only one gallon to fill it, so there will remain exactly four gallons within the vessel of five and four gallons within the other two vessels. This question may be resolved in another way, but I leave that as an exercise to the wit of ingenious readers.

TO MIX WINE AND WATER TOGETHER AND THEN
SEPARATE THEM BY MEANS OF A RED AND
WHITE TAPE.

To perform this trick, you must have three covers (tin) made of an obeliotic form, terminating at about one inch and a half on top ; upon the top of two of these covers is soldered a piece of thick brass, copper, or lead—say about a quarter of an inch in thickness ; in the centre make a hole about the same in diameter ; about two inches from the top, and on the inside, will be a partition or floor, through the centre of which make a small hole. (This partition must be water-tight.) Previous to performing the trick fill the two covers (the tops of them), one with water, the other with wine ; then cork them well, which excludes the air, consequently keeps the liquid from coming out at the small hole made in the centre of the partition ; then take two sound tumblers, and put about as much water in one as there is water in one of the covers ; place the cover over that—the tumbler that has the water, then put about the same quantity of wine in the other tumbler as there is in the other cover, and place that cover over it ; now have a tumbler with a hole through the centre of the bottom (made with a drill) ; have this hole closed with a long peg from the under side ; then through your trick table have a small auger hole made to admit the peg ; this tumbler must also be covered with a

similar cover in external appearance ; you then take the covers off the tumblers containing water and wine, and in the presence of the audience mix the two liquids ; then pour both into the tumbler that has the hole in the bottom ; place the tumblers back and cover them over ; now lift the tumbler up containing the mixture, that the audience may see it (keeping your hand in front of the peg), place it back with the peg through the hole ; cover it over ; then take a red and white tape string that has previously been fastened to a small stick, and place it in the top of the cover that is over the false tumbler ; then take the end of the red tape, which has a small wire to it, and after removing the cork from the cover over the wine, drop the end of the wire into the hole ; the air is then let into the wine, which lets it run down into the tumblers underneath ; do likewise with the white tape ; then reach your hand under the table and draw the peg out of the tumbler or cup secreted there for that purpose ; now remove the covers and show the audience that the tumbler you poured the mixture into is empty, and the one you poured it out of contains it again, which will greatly astonish them.

THE WELL OF FIRE.

Add gradually one ounce, by measure, of sulphuric acid, to five or six ounces of water, in an earthenware basin ; and add to it also, gradually, about three-quarters of an ounce of granulated zinc. A rapid production of hydrogen gas will instantly take place. Then add, from time to time, a few pieces of phosphorus of the size of a pea. A multitude of gas bubbles will be produced, which will fire on the surface of the effervescing liquid ; the whole surface of the liquid will become luminous, and fire balls, with jets of fire, will dart from the bottom through the liquid with great rapidity, and a hissing noise.

TO SPLIT A PIECE OF MONEY INTO TWO PARTS.

Fix three pins in the table, and lay the piece of money upon them ; then place a heap of the flour of sulphur below the piece

of money, and another above it, and set fire to them. When the flame is extinct, you will find on the upper part of the piece a thin plate of metal, which has been detached from it.

THE TUMBLING EGG.

Fill a quill with quicksilver ; seal it at both ends with good hard wax ; then have an egg boiled ; take a small piece of the shell off the small end, and thrust in the quill with the quicksilver ; lay it on the ground, and it will not cease tumbling about as long as any heat remains in it ; or if you put quicksilver into a small bladder, and blow it up, then warm the bladder, it will skip about as long as the heat remains in it.

ARTIFICIAL THUNDER.

Mix two drachms of the filings of iron with one ounce of concentrated spirit of vitriol, in a strong bottle that holds about a quarter of a pint ; stop it close, and in a few moments shake the bottle ; then, taking out the cork, put a lighted candle near its mouth, which should be a little inclined, and you will soon observe an inflammation arise from the bottle attended with a loud explosion.

To guard against the danger of the bottle bursting, the best way would be to bury it in the ground and apply the light to the mouth by means of a taper fastened to the end of a long stick.

TO SWALLOW A BARBER'S POLE.

The modern conjuror has degenerated into a serious, black tailed-coat and white necktie gentleman. As to making you laugh with a good Ha! ha!—he! he!—hi! hi—ho! oh dear! “that’s quite out of the question.” As Sam Slick says: “T’aint conjuring now ; ’tis illusion, an’ no laughing allowed!”

When I was a boy and went to see the conjuror, I didn't get over it for a week ; my sides used fairly to ache with laughing, and the tears gushed out of my eyes till I couldn't see. I remember one trick in particular that pleased me exceedingly ; and I'll tell you how it was done. First, there was the conjuror, standing before about a bushel of paper shavings ; then he used to "set to" and pretend to swallow the shavings like dainty macaroni, making all the while such queer faces, something like a boy over a dose of castor oil. "Well, then," he used to say, "I won't be greedy! Will any lady or gentleman take a little supper? There is no gravy, no salt, no pepper ; the best sauce is a good appetite." And so, at last, the paper disappeared to a quarter of the original bulk. Then followed a good deal of rubbing and puffing ; finally, a little stump, gradually growing and growing, appeared at his mouth, till, at last, a pole, reaching up to the ceiling, twisted in various colours, left us to wonder how he had such an enormous swallow. A few years ago, I found out how this pole was made, and like all other conjuring tricks, this turned out the most simple thing in the world, when explained, as you will perceive by the following instructions. Procure three sheets of wrapping paper, cut them into long strips three inches wide ; now colour each side one inch wide, one blue, the other red, leaving the middle white ; now paste all the strips together, lengthwise, and they will form a band of six yards long. Now roll up the paper upon itself, like a ribbon in a millinery shop ; leave a little piece in the centre twisted awry, so as to form something to pull at from the middle. When rolled up, the hand will grasp the whole without being scarcely perceived, especially when there are a few shavings about. When the middle of the roll is pulled, a barber's pole is instantly produced, to the surprise and delight of every beholder. In doing the trick, the chewed paper shavings are easily removed from the mouth every time a fresh handful is taken up ; and when it is time to produce the pole, you have only to put the roll up to the mouth with the left hand, and pull out the centre with the right. To swallow the pole, a slight downward pressure will cause the roll to fall into its original form. Every descent of the pole must be made with a gulp.

TWO LIQUIDS WHEN MIXED FORM ALMOST A SOLID MASS.

Put into a wine-glass a few teaspoonsful of a concentrated solution of silicated potash, and add to it gradually, drop by drop, sulphuric acid. If these two liquids be stirred together with a glass rod, they become converted into an opaque white and almost solid mass.

TO MAKE THE APPEARANCE OF A FLASH OF LIGHTNING WHEN ANYONE ENTERS A ROOM WITH A LIGHTED CANDLE.

Dissolve camphor in spirits of wine, and deposit the vessel containing the solution in a very close room, where the spirits of wine must be made to evaporate by strong and speedy boiling. If anyone then enters the room with a lighted candle, the air will inflame, while the combustion will be so sudden, and of so short a duration, as to occasion no danger.

TO DISCOVER WHICH NUMBERS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.

Suppose you have propounded unto Peter and John two numbers; the one even and the other odd, as ten and nine, and that each of those persons is to choose one of the said numbers unknown to you. Now to discover which number each person shall have chosen, you must take two numbers, the one even and the other odd, as two and three; then bid Peter multiply that number which he shall have chosen by two, and cause John to multiply that number which he shall have chosen by three; that done, bid them add the two products together, and let them make known the sum to you, or else demand of them whether the said sum be even or odd, or by any other way more secret endeavour to discover it, by bidding them to take the half of the said sum, for by knowing whether the said sum be even or

odd, you do obtain the principal end to be aimed at ; because if the said sum be an even number, then infallibly he that multiplied his number by your odd number (to wit, by three), did choose the even number (to wit, ten), but if the said number happen to be an odd number, then he whom you caused to multiply his number by your odd number (to wit, by three), did infallibly choose the odd number (to wit, nine).

TO MAKE LIQUID STEEL.

Heat a piece of steel in the fire to redness ; take it, with one hand, out with a pair of pincers ; then with the other hand, present a piece of stick sulphur to the steel ; as soon as they touch, you will perceive the steel flow like a liquid.

THE MAGICAL MIRRORS.

Make two holes in the wainscot of a room, each a foot high and ten inches wide, and about a foot distant from each other. Let these apertures be about the height of a man's head, and in each of them place a transparent glass in a frame, like a common mirror.

Behind the partition, and directly facing each aperture, place two mirrors inclosed in the wainscot, in an angle of forty-five degrees. These mirrors are each to be eighteen inches square, and all the space between must be inclosed with pasteboard painted black, and well closed that no light can enter ; let there be also two curtains to cover them, which you may draw aside at pleasure.

When a person looks into one of these fictitious mirrors, instead of seeing his own face, he will see the object that is in front of the other ; thus, if two persons stand at the same time before these mirrors, instead of each seeing himself, they will reciprocally see each other.

There should be a sconce with a lighted candle placed on

each side of the two glasses in the wainscot, to enlighten the faces of the persons who look in them, or the experiment will not have so remarkable an effect.

TO CHANGE THE COLOUR OF A BIRD OR FLOWER.

To accomplish this metamorphosis, it is necessary to have earthen vases which have little edges or rims near their mouths, and should be of a size sufficiently large to hold suspended the bird or flower which you intend placing in them. You should likewise be provided with stoppers of cork, of a diameter equal to that of their mouths. To make the experiment upon some bird, it is necessary to commence by making a hole in the stopper sufficiently large to contain the neck of the bird without strangling it. This done, you divide the diameter of the stopper into two equal parts, so as to facilitate the placing of it around the neck without doing injury to the bird. The two parts being brought together, you place at the bottom of the vase an ounce of quicklime, and beneath that a quarter of an ounce of sal ammoniac. When you perceive the effervescence commence to take place, you promptly insert the stopper, to which the bird is attached, leaving the neck outside. The plumage of the body, exposed to this effervescent vapour, will become impregnated with the various colours produced by this chemical combination. Remove the stopper and the bird, and you will perceive its feathers charged with divers shades. Two or three minutes serve to produce this effect, for you run the risk of stifling the bird, if exposed for any length of time to this vapour. In experimenting upon a flower, the hole in the stopper need only be large enough to hold the stem, which serves to suspend it in the air during the operation, which will be completed in one or two minutes.

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