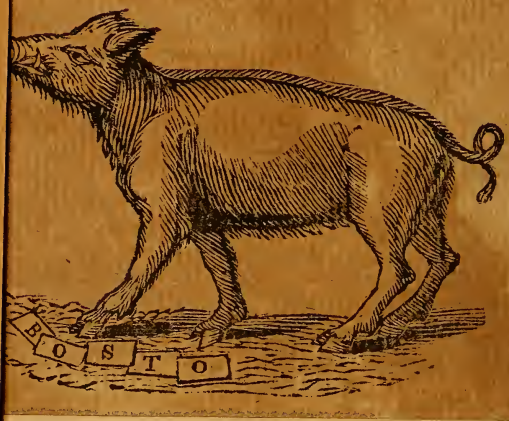
The EXPOSITER

PIG of KNOWLEDGE ! !



PROPERTY OF THE
T.94.354
17-9
Library of the City of Boston

SICUT PATRIBUS. SIT DEUS NOBIS.

BOSTONIA
CONDITA A.D.
1630.

CIVITATIS REGIMINE DONATA A.D. 1822.

THE

EXPOSITOR;

OR

MANY MYSTERIES UNRAVELLED.

DELINEATED

In a Series of Letters, between a Friend and his Correſpondent.

COMPRISING

THE LEARNED PIG,—INVISIBLE LADY AND ACOUSTIC TEMPLE,—PHILOSOPHICAL SWAN,—PENETRATING SPY GLASSES, OPTICAL AND MAGNETIC,

AND

Various other Curioſities on ſimilar Principles:

ALSO,

A few of the moſt wonderful Feats as performed by the Art of Legerdemain:

WITH

Some Reflections on Ventriloquiſm.

By WILLIAM FREDERICK PINCHBECK.

Boſton:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.
1803.

T. 97.
354

District of Massachusetts, to wit.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the sixteenth day of January, in the twenty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States of America, WILLIAM FREDERICK PINCEBECK, of the said District, hath deposited in this office the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as Author, in the words following, *to wit*:—"The Expositor, or Many Mysteries Unravelled. Delineated in a series of Letters, between a Friend and his Correspondent. Comprising the Learned Pig,—Invisible Lady and Acoustic Temple,—Philosophical Swan,—Penetrating Spy Glasses, optical and magnetic, and various other Curiosities on similar Principles: Also, a few of the most wonderful Feats as performed by the Art of Legerdemain: With some Reflections on Ventriloquism. By FREDERICK WILLIAM PINCEBECK."

IN Conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies, during the Times therein mentioned;" and also to an Act, entitled, "An Act supplementary to an Act, entitled, An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by securing the Copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such Copies, during the Times therein mentioned; and extending the Benefits thereof to the Arts of Designing, Engraving, and Etching, Historical and other Prints."

N. GOODALE, *Clerk of the District of Massachusetts.*

A true Copy of Record. Attest:
N. GOODALE, *Clerk.*

Brown University Library
Apr 30 1918

To the Public.

THE intention of this work was not only to amuſe and inſtruct, but alſo to convince ſuperſtition of her many ridiculous errors,—to ſhew the diſadvantages ariſing to ſociety from a vague as well as irrational belief of man's intimacy with familiar ſpirits,—to oppoſe the idea of ſupernatural agency in any production of man,—and laſtly, how dangerous ſuch a belief is to ſociety, how deſtructive to the improvement of the human capacity, and how totally ruinous to the common intereſts of mankind. To effect this deſign, as well as thoroughly and pleaſingly to expound thoſe once-thought myſteries the book contains, it has ever appeared to me no form was ſo adequate to the purpoſe as a ſeries of letters.

As a writer, I pretend to no particular merits, nor can I clothe my ſentiments in the luxuriant robes of a diſtinguiſhed fancy, but only in unvarniſhed narrative unfold dexterities (merely the effects of human ingenuity)

genuity) which have so long astonished the world.

The feats of which these letters give an account, are facts, and the definition of them implicitly correct; and on this the Author has founded the value of his book. Surely what is given by the inventor of some, and who has had ocular demonstration of the other feats, comprising the contents of these sheets, must admit of some certainty; and I positively affirm, that whatever I profess to define is done with honesty, and as accurately as practice and experience has determined to be [illegible]. On this principle, the estimation and success of the work is submitted to the candor of a liberal and enlightened public,

By their humble Servant,

The AUTHOR.

☞ *As the public curiosity may be excited at the suppression of the dates and places whence my friend wrote his letters, as also the concealment of his name,—I would only say that these omissions were considered as unessential to the work.*

I N D E X.

1. METHOD of teaching the Pig—from Letter I. to IX. See alſo Letter V. Appendix.
2. Principles of the Acouſtic Temple—from Letter IX. to XIV. See alſo Letter II. Appendix.
3. A Demonſtration of the philoſophical Swan—Letter XV.
4. A Demonſtration of the Manner how a Gun is to be diſcharged at a Perſon previouſly loaded with Powder and Ball, the Perſon catching the Ball on the Point of a Dagger—Letter XV. See alſo Letter II. Appendix.
5. A Demonſtration how a Card faſtened to a Table with a Fork changes its ſituation—Letter XVII.
6. A Demonſtration how Knives and Forks are ſwallowed—ditto.
7. A Demonſtration of the Manner of breaking a Watch and reſtoring it to its former State—ditto.
8. A Demonſtration how Eggs are transformed into Pan-Cakes—Letter XVIII.
9. How Dollars apparently ſink through a Table—ditto.
10. Reflections on Ventriloquiſm—ditto.
11. Abilities neceſſary to a Performer of the Art of Legerdemain—Letter XX.
12. Further Opinions on Ventriloquiſm—Letter XXII.
13. How to take a Number of Eggs from a Bag apparently empty—Letter XXIV.
14. How to make the Ace of Hearts become the Ace of Clubs, and *vice verſa*—ditto.

15. How

15. How to burn a Card to Aſhes, and reſtore it to its former State—ditto.
16. How to light a Candle with the Point of a Sword—ditto.
17. How to transfer Money from one Handkerchief to another—ditto.
18. How to fire a Lady's Ring from a Gun in ſuch a Manner, that the ſame ſhall be found confined under Lock and Key, one of the Company taking the Key—Letter XXV.
19. How to make a Handkerchief belonging to one of the Company follow the Exhibitor out of the Room—Letter XXVIII.
20. How to convey a Card into an Egg—ditto.
21. Magnetic optical Spy-Glaſs—Letter XXIX.
    Penetrating optical do. do. XXIX.
    Phyſiognotrace, do. XXIX.
22. Obſervations on the Situation of an Author—Letter IV. Appendix.
23. Reflections on the dangerous Tendency of Superſtition—Letter V. Appendix.

THE

EXPOSITOR.

LETTER I.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

IN my laſt I informed you of my indiſpoſition; but, thank Providence, I am now perfectly recovered: The journey and change of air has no doubt facilitated that recovery.

Wherever I ſtop on my tour, I am ſure to hear of the fame of your celebrated Pig, and the many different opinions prevailing relative to the mode of his tuition, makes him a ſubject of general ſpeculation. Some contend it is witchcraft; and others, like the ancient Pythagoreans, believing in the tranſmigration of ſouls, conclude that the ſpirit of the grunting philoſopher might once have animated a man.

An

An evening or two ſince, ſtopping at an inn, your Pig being the topic of converſation, I could not but liſten to a grave old gentleman, who, putting on a very affected, ſage-like look, declared his performances were the effects of the Black Art; that the Pig ought to be burnt, and the Man baniſhed, as he had no doubt but you familiarly correſponded with the devil. O monſtrous! will time and experience never remove ſuch credulity from the earth? Muſt ingenuity, the parent of manufactories, the progreſſive pillar to wiſdom and the arts, whoſe ſummit ſupports a mirror where ſuperſtition may ſee her own gorgon image, be thus broken and overturned by the rude hands of ignorance and pride? We rejoice that we live in an enlightened part of the world, where liberty extends her choiceſt bleſſings, and where the Preſiding Magiſtrate is a philoſopher, and under his patronage men of talents dare to be ſuch; and theſe abſurd opinions are but the dogmas of devotees and folly.

This

This grave old gentleman, had you and he been reſidents in Spain, would have ſummoned you before the Inquiſition. Your efforts in demonſtrating to the world, that the moſt ſtupid and ſtubborn of all animals, by patience and perſeverance, might be made the moſt learned and docile, would no doubt have coſt you your life.

As I very well know your liberality in defining all ſuch matters to me as may tend either to my inſtruction or amuſement, a ſketch of the method by which this animal could be taught to perform ſuch wonders will very much edify and oblige

Your ſincere friend,

A. B.

LETTER II.

[In answer.]

W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

IT gives me inexpressible pleasure to hear that you have so speedily returned to the enjoyment of your usual state of health. You request information relative to the teaching of animals. As I have ever considered it an incumbent duty to withhold nothing from my friend, that may tend to his information, the resolving of your question becomes an additional pleasure. Those who style themselves friends, should regard nothing as an exclusive privilege, that might tend either to the instruction or happiness of each other. But alas! how universally is the sacred appellation of FRIEND prostituted! Amongst mankind they currently palm the term upon each other. I have known those who style themselves friends, and have been well experienced in the art of shaking hands, whose souls never knew the social tie, or felt the soft effusions of

of a benevolent heart; on the contrary, I ſhould as ſoon expect to ſee an automaton ſhed tears from the violent emotion of an adamantine heart, at the fatal deſtruction of his fellow automaton, as to ſee ſuch men, willingly, and from no motive whatever but abſolute humanity, part with a ſingle five dollar bill, to relieve the diſtreſſes of a man, whom juſt before they ſtyled friend, and from whom perhaps they had received unbounded favours. However, leaving this digreſſion, I haſten to comply with your requeſt. And, as it reſpects the Pig of Knowledge, you ſhall be fully acquainted with the myſtery, which I ſhall exhibit in Leſſons.

Lesson 1.

Take a Pig, ſeven or eight weeks old, let him have free acceſs to the inferior part of your houſe, until he ſhall become in ſome meaſure domeſticated. When familiar, you may enter upon his inſtruction. Take him to an apartment for the purpoſe of teaching, ſequeſtered from any interruption, and three

times a day inſtruct him as follows: Put a card into his mouth, and hold it ſhut, giving him to underſtand he is not to drop it until you pleaſe to take it from him. At firſt, he will throw it from his mouth every moment, which you muſt immediately pick up and replace, reprimanding him in a loud tone of voice. In a ſhort time, he will underſtand when you are diſpleaſed, and conſequently will hold the ſame patiently. You muſt give him a ſmall piece of white bread, or a piece of an apple, &c. whatever he is moſt fond of. Be very obſerving not to ſuffer any perſon to feed him but yourſelf. Swill is a food the moſt natural and healthy you can give him. You need not ſtarve the Pig, as has been repreſented by a number of perſons; for that would make him ſo eager to obtain the morſel you give him by way of encouragement, that in his natural cravings for food, he would not be willing to hold the card a moment; neither muſt you violently beat him, as that would confound his inſtinct, and make him

afraid

afraid to perform that, which otherwiſe he would do with eaſe, and without fear. Having learnt him to ſtand ſtill, and hold the card, he is maſter of the firſt Leſſon.

A gentleman has juſt called on me in great haſte for a pair of looking-glaſſes, which I have promiſed to deliver in a time which will demand every attention. In my next I will relate the ſecond Leſſon neceſſary for his inſtruction. And while I clap my hand to my heart, I feel no inconvenience in ſtyling myſelf

Your ſincere friend,

And very humble ſervant,

W. F. P.

LETTER III.

A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

WHILE I expreſs my ſincere thanks at your manifeſting the pleaſure you receive on my reſtoration to health, I congratulate you in

in the enjoyment of that ineſtimable bleſſing, which I hope no event in the womb of fate will be ſuffered to impair.

Soon as I read your friendly letter, I felt very zealous to become a ſchool-maſter; and, anxious to convince my acquaintances of the faculty I poſſeſſed, I have undertaken to teach a Pig. Immediately upon the receipt of your's, I purchaſed a nice little Shoat: I have taught him to hold a card, and believe he will prove a very apt ſcholar, though a very noiſy one: He ſqueals and makes ſuch a terrible outcry, that ſtrangers paſſing by ſuppoſe I am ſeverely chaſtiſing him; when all I did, was holding him, and inſiſting on his taking the card.

I am anxious for information how to proceed; and although the taſk be arduous, I flatter myſelf I ſhall be able to prove to the world that all the witchcraft neceſſary is a regular method of which you was the projector, ſupported by patience and perſeverance.

I need

I need not importune other neceſſary directions by return of poſt; for as the pupil muſt fail without the inſtruction of the preceptor, ſo muſt I without your aſſiſtance; who ſtyle myſelf, without bluſhing,

Your ſincere friend,

A. B.

LETTER IV.

[In anſwer.]

W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

UPON the peruſal of your letter, forgive me, for I was obliged to ſmile at your late novel undertaking, and the earneſt deſire you ſeem to expreſs for its ſucceſs: I ſay, *ſmile*; but, my friend, not that ſmile of envy and contempt, which, while it expands the muſcles of the face, contracts the heart with ſelf-conceit and malice; ſuch grimaces I abhor; they are the ſmiles of ignorance, and want almoſt invariably the capacity they ridicule.

But rather than fill up my letter in anſwer to what your obſervation has remarked and your good ſenſe deſpiſed, I proceed to the ſecond Leſſon, relative to the inſtruction of your four-footed ſcholar.

Lesson 2.

If you have taught him to hold the card, as deſcribed in my laſt, you may lay it on the floor, with one corner bent upwards; then forcing his head down to the card, put it in his mouth, and hold it up with the card, not ſuffering him to drop it; and ſo repeatedly. Do not forget to encourage him for his good performances; and when he will pick the card off the floor without your aſſiſtance he is maſter of the ſecond Leſſon. I ſhould have told you at this time to accuſtom him to your ſnuffing the noſe, for purpoſes that will appear as he progreſſes in his learning.

Lesson 3.

You muſt now lay down three cards. He will naturally try to take the one the moſt convenient for him; and your buſineſs is to check

check him, not ſnuffing your noſe ; and, taking it from him in an angry tone of voice, replace the ſame, and force him to take the one next to him, or the third, ſnuffing your noſe. By perſevering in this manner a few days, he will ſoon underſtand he muſt not take hold, until you give him the ſignal, which is breathing from your noſe. When you have learnt him this, you may continue increaſing the cards ; and that animal, who in his rude ſtate appears the moſt ſtupid, with the leaſt ſhare of tractability amongſt all other quadrupeds, will be found ſapient, docile, and gentle.

I am, with uſual reſpect, and unfeigned ſincerity of heart,

Your well-wiſher,

And very humble ſervant,

W. F. P.

LETTER V.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

YOUR's came safe to hand. Early the next morning I proceeded to give the second Lesson, which I found him very unwilling to perform; and I confess, that had not the information come from a man, in whose veracity I could confide, and whose patience and practice had been the means of perfecting six, I should have given up the business, concluding this was not the method, and that there was another more practicable. From such suspicions the brightest geniuses fail in many of their most valuable undertakings; and thus from want of patience and perseverance fail of the termination of a design, whose accomplishment might insure themselves profit and respect, and prove a benefit to the community at large. However, I persevered; and it is with satisfaction I inform you,

you, he will now pick and fetch either of the three cards I chooſe.

In concluding this Letter, I would not forget to mention to you I intend to increaſe the cards to ſix. In the mean while, further information relative to his inſtruction will greatly oblige, and ever meet acknowledgment, from Your ſincere friend,

And very humble ſervant,

A. B.

LETTER VI.

[In anſwer.]

W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

I THINK your ſcholar makes aſtoniſhing progreſs. I almoſt feel afraid of your working him too hard, and fatiguing yourſelf. At this period you ought not to exceed three Leſſons in a day: You muſt remember the old adage, "All work and no play, makes

Jack

Jack a dull boy." Should you, in your anxiety to make him become a proficient, give him too many Leſſons a day, and by theſe means proceed faſter than inſtinct has faculty to retain he will become tired and confuſed; and, in endeavouring to learn the laſt Leſſon, he may entirely or in part forget the firſt: Such a miſtake would be no credit to the inſtructor. As he has made ſo good progreſs, I would not urge the buſineſs too rapidly. Do not enlarge the number of cards oftener than once a day; and let him be well acquainted with the object of your intention, before you take the ſtep I am about to adviſe in the next Leſſon.

Lesson 4.

Spread twelve cards on the floor, in a circular direction, four inches apart; within this circle keep the Pig, and ſtand yourſelf. We will ſuppoſe you before an Aſſembly for the purpoſe of an exhibition; therefore you muſt give up ſitting, as that poſture would be very ſingular as well as impolite. The Pig obſerving

ſerving you in this unuſual poſition, will be much embarraſſed; and not knowing the meaning, will ſeek to amuſe himſelf by running in every direction about the room. You are not to beat him into the knowledge of your deſign, but coax him to it, if poſſible. If this will not keep him by your ſide, tie a ſtring about his neck, and when he would exceed the bounds of the circle, check him, uſing a ſoft or loud tone of voice as occaſion may require; for every brute has inſtinct to decide betwixt approbation and diſpleaſure. At the length of the ſtring, he will learn to walk the circle with his noſe to the cards; and when he hears the ſignal before mentioned, will ſnatch at the card he ſhall then be oppoſite: Immediately ſtep back, and he will follow with the ſame. Give him a ſmall piece of bread as his reward, and by your approbation let him know he has done right; for one miſunderſtanding at this critical juncture will be a great ſource of unneceſſary trouble. He will ſoon readily run for the cards,

cards, making many miſtakes, which you muſt have the patience to endure and correct with good nature. If he takes the wrong card, replace it immediately, and ſhew him the one you wanted. Much is to be done by raiſing and falling the tone of the voice. In four or five days you may venture to take the reſtraint from his neck; and whenever he exceeds his limits, put it on. By practiſing in this manner, he will ſoon perfectly underſtand his buſineſs.

In my next I will give you a few more hints, which will no doubt complete your wiſhes, and your pupil will ſoon merit the title of the *Pig of Knowledge*.

I am, in reality,
what men call a Friend,
W. F. P.

P. S. You muſt not expect him to underſtand this Leſſon in leſs than a fortnight.

LETTER VII.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

THE fortnight has expired, and the Pig is completed. I have already exhibited him to a number of perſons, men of ingenuity and talents, in whoſe judgment I can confide: They are aſtoniſhed beyond deſcription. None can account for the knowledge he apparently poſſeſſes, or diſcover the ſecret communication betwixt myſelf and the Pig. In fact, amongſt the learned, I am thought a man of talents, whilſt others leſs informed accuſe me of the Black Art, and condemn me as a wizard. Shall I remonſtrate with bigots? Shall I patiently ſit down, and earneſtly detail to them the cauſe? They would not believe me. No: I leave them to the enjoyment of their different reflections, and for my ſecurity and reward look to men of knowledge, whoſe approbation is more congenial to my feelings than the unbounded eclat of a barren multitude.

With every ſentiment of reſpect,

I am, &c. A. B.

LETTER VIII.

[In anſwer to the laſt.]

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

YOU inform me that your Pig is complete, and that his performances have aſtoniſhed numbers. I confeſs I am aſtoniſhed myſelf at his ſo early completion. And has no diſcovery taken place? Hath none detected the ſecret communication by which he is actuated? What will you conclude, when I inform you that even that communication is unneceſſary? You may relinquiſh it by degrees; for the animal is ſo ſagacious, that he will appear to read your thoughts. The poſition you ſtand in, not meaning any ſtipulated place, or certain geſture, but what will naturally ariſe from your anxiety, will determine the card to your pupil. I will only add, that I have been as much amazed at the performance of this animal, as the ſpectators before whom I exhibited him. Of all other quadrupeds, the Pig in my opinion is the moſt ſapient, though writers on Natural Hiſtory ſay to the contrary, giving preference to the Elephant. Pope has bequeathed this animal

half

half the reaſon of man : How far he merits this eulogium, I am not able to determine ; but of this I am convinced, that the race of Swine claim a greater ſhare of inſtinct than belongs to the Dog or the Horſe.

I am, with the greateſt reſpect,
Yours ſincerely,
W. F. P.

N. B. For further obſervations on this ſubject, ſee the Appendix, Letter V.

LETTER IX.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

AFTER peruſing your letter ſeveral times, and attentively conſidering its contents, I have with care and obſervation taken the ſteps you adviſed.

I find the Pig really the animal you deſcribed him. I have entirely omitted the ſignal by which he was taught ; and his penetrating nature, notwithſtanding this omiſſion, readily conceives my meaning. How am I to account for this miracle ? What you have already

ready expreſſed upon the ſubject I ſhall not attempt to elucidate, but perfectly acquieſce with you in the eſtimation of his abilities.

But the Pig no longer excites admiration. There is a certain Philoſophical Machine lately arrived from France, which engroſſes univerſal attention. The admittance to viſit this curioſity is fifty cents ; and people throng in crouds to view it. The Proprietors name it *The Inviſible Lady* and *Acouſtic Temple ;* and as I think it a ſubject worthy your attention, ſhall attempt to give a deſcription of this wonder.

In the middle of a room is ſeen a railing in the form of an octagon, painted red : In the centre of this is ſuſpended a ſquare cheſt, whoſe circumference contains about twenty-four inches : Apparently iſolated on this, is a dome ſupported by four ſmall columns : A ſmall glaſs globe, ſilvered, ornaments and caps the extreme convexity of this dome. From each corner of this cheſt proceeds a trumpet : To the concavity of either of theſe you may put a queſtion, and a rational anſwer, in an effeminate tone of voice, will be immediately returned.

Aſtoniſhed,

Aſtoniſhed, I placed my ear to the floor, to the walls, and even clambered to the ceiling to diſcover the agent to whom I attributed the anſwers: I liſtened, but diſtinguiſhed no ſound. Is it poſſible that the moſt ingenious of mankind could contrive a machine capable of giving rational anſwers? No, I am convinced to the contrary: Neither has the proprietor any connexion with a familiar ſpirit. But on what principle theſe opaques are enabled to diſcourſe, is the myſtery I wiſh you to unriddle.

The Lady not only diſcourſes, but has the faculty of ſeeing, ſinging and breathing; all which I proved to be true. Preſenting a piece of ſilver to the ball, the Lady directly determined its value, by informing the company the gentleman might pocket his four-pence-half-penny.

Pray, Sir, explain where is the agent ſo diſpoſed, that he has the opportunity to ſee as well as to hear, yet not to be ſeen by any of the company, and heard from the cheſt only.

The more I ponder on this ſubject, the leſs I am enabled to explain the wonder. You, Sir, may be able to trace its hidden dependencies,

cies, and penetrate its myſterious principle. I am ſenſible of your knowledge, both as a mechanic and a philoſopher. And your Writing Automaton, Magician, Speaking Figure, Penetrating Spy-Glaſs, Tumbling and Vaulting Figures, the reſult of your aſſiduous labours, have been the greateſt ornaments to the Waſhington Muſeum.

And now, dear Sir, your expoſition of this myſterious Temple will very much profit, edify and greatly amuſe one in whom you may place entire confidence; one that will never recede a ſtep from a man, whoſe ſincere friendſhip and unwearied efforts to oblige has been the making of,

Yours, &c. A. B.

LETTER X.

[In anſwer to Letter IX.]

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

THE Temple of which you ſpeak is no longer a myſtery to me; I have ſeen the ſame, and heard its reſponſes, previous to the receipt of your ninth. My chief ſtudy is how to

to erect one on the beſt principles for the Proprietor of the Waſhington Muſeum. The propoſals to obtain ſo great an acquiſition, you may readily conceive ought to be very advantageous to myſelf. The propoſitions of that gentleman are truly flattering; and I have undertaken to complete one in the courſe of a fortnight. You need not write me in the interim, unleſs ſomething particular ſhould happen. As I have made no agreement with him relative to a concealment of the ſecret, my next will contain a general view of the plan; and that it may prove beneficial to you, is the ſincere wiſh of

Your friend, &c.

W. F. P.

LETTER XI.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

[Explaining the Principles of the Acouſtic Temple.]

SIR,

THE Inviſible Lady and Acouſtic Temple is now added to the Waſhington Muſeum, and, as I underſtand, anſwers the moſt ſanguine expectations of the proprietor; as men

of

of talents, who have visited the one lately arrived from France, give this decidedly the preference.

The effect of this Acoustic's performance is much greater, and more pleasing than the common Speaking Figures, of which there are two. This Acoustic so much esteemed, and whose performances have astonished all Europe, responds by the assistance of tubes through which the sounds are conveyed. To simplify this: The form of the railing, you no doubt recollect, has been mentioned as being octagonal, containing eight posts, connected by bars from post to post (See Plate, Fig. 1.) Four of these posts diametrically opposite each other are excavated, as also their four connecting bars: These excavated posts contain tin tubes, running to the middle of their respective connecting bars: The tubes in the bars communicate the sound, on that side of the bar next the Temple, by an incision made in the tube. Have special care that the ends of these tubes be closed, and the side of the bar at the incision in the tube cut wafer thin, about the bigness of the incision, and there perforated full of small holes made with a needle. At the bottom of

the

the four excavated posts are four tin elbows, connected with the tubes in the posts; to these add a length of pipes continued to a distance sufficient to prevent the Agent's natural voice being heard by the company; making directions of the four tubes, between the floor and ceiling, by the help of elbows to where the agent is concealed: Here is a concavity of tin into which the four pipes enter, made in the form of a common tin tunnel, its outward circumference about two feet: From this concave the Agent receives the question put to the Temple, and returns the answer by speaking in the same. This prepared, suspend the Temple to the four solid posts, with the four trumpets towards the four mouths of the tubes in the perforated bars. Then a question put to either of these trumpets will appear as proceeding from the chest of the Temple, and will be distinctly understood by the person secreted at the extremity of these tubes. He putting his ear at the orifice of the concave to which the four tubes join, and by speaking in the same, the answer will appear as proceeding from the chest.

You

You may aſk why we are not able to hear the words as they proceed from the tubes in the rails, as well as when they proceed from the trumpets? I anſwer,—Air compreſſed will convey ſounds to an unlimited diſtance; and this is nothing more than a continued compreſſion; for the ſound proceeding from the inciſion in the tube is immediately collected in the concavity of the trumpet, and being thus compreſſed cannot be heard, until by virtue of this concavity it is reflected to the open air.

The ſinging and breathing are heard and felt through the ſame medium.

My next will explain the optical deception relative to this Lady.

Your friend, &c.
W. F. P.

LETTER XII.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

THE information your's contains reſpecting the Inviſible is couched in terms ſo eaſy and

and distinct, that I am encouraged to undertake the construction of one myself.

To you, Sir, I candidly confess the many favours received, and acknowledge the great benefits resulting therefrom; and my grateful heart will ever rejoice at the opportunity of proving to my friend, that a man has been found with a spark of gratitude.

Yours with sincerity,

A. B.

LETTER XIII.

W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

YOU inform me you intend erecting one of those Invisibles. I advise you to be very industrious, and aim at finishing it before the curiosity for viewing the Acoustic declines. Nothing shall be wanting on my part to forward the principles on which it is constructed; and nothing but the distance which destiny has thrown between us prevents my actual assistance in erecting the same. However, your intrepid energy will no doubt render that assistance unnecessary.

The

The faculty of the Lady's apparently seeing is all that now remains unexplained. This it is that evades the researches of philosophy; for whilst the sight is considered as the faculty of the same object from whence proceeds a voice so loud and distinct, it has and will elude all positive decision. For instance: Suppose the person, who asks and resolves the questions, was disposed in such a manner as that the sight might be made practicable to him, his nearness to the Assembly would cause his natural voice to be heard. To perfect this deception, therefore, two persons are necessary; the one to see whatever is presented to the globe on the top of the dome of the Temple, the other to inform. For this purpose, two Girandoles with lattice-work are placed in the Exhibition Room opposite each other; or Transparent Paintings will answer the same purpose: These Girandoles or Paintings are considered by the Company merely as ornaments. Behind one of these there is a small aperture, through the partition to an adjoining room, where the person appointed to see whatever is presented to the ball takes his station. His business is to communicate, in a whisper, to the person who is to inform the Company of what is presented to the ball,

or

or incomprehenſible mirror, ſo termed, on the top of the dome. To effect this, there is a pipe for the purpoſe of conveying this information leading from the apartment of the ſpectator to the perſon cloſeted for ſpeaking, ſinging, &c. who, when aſked what is held to the ball, claps an ear to the communicating pipe. The one behind the Girandole whiſpers, *a Gold Ring*, or whatever happens to be held. Then the Inviſible anſwers, *a Gold Ring*, to the aſtoniſhment of the Company.

Thus is the foregoing myſtery unriddled; and ſhould it prove any benefit to you, Sir, I ſhall always bleſs nature for that gift, whoſe value is enhanced by putting it in my power to ſerve my friend.

Believe me to be

Yours, &c.

W. F. P.

LETTER XIV.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your friendly letter in due ſeaſon: It happened at the moment when

 that

that part of the Temple which conveys the ſounds was juſt completed. I was ruminating whether ſome alteration requiſite to accompliſh the ſight would not be neceſſary, and expected that would be the reſult of your laſt Letter. On peruſal I found to the contrary; and by adding the ſight in the manner you deſcribed, it is finiſhed, and for elegance as well as myſtery equals any thing of the kind ever exhibited.

Accept my acknowledgments for this favour, amongſt numberleſs others equally intereſting; and be aſſured that though I have been ſeveral times taken for the inventor of this machine, it is a greature pleaſure to me to point out the real Projector, than take the merit to myſelf.

More wonders! Yea, more wonders!!!

A Gentleman has lately arrived here by the name of *Ranie*: His wonderful feats are performed by the Art of Legerdemain. The eaſe and dexterity with which he manages his buſineſs, and the pleaſing manner he has of accompliſhing his deſigns, is not leſs to be admired than the ſkilful performances of the inimitable *Briſloe*.

1ſt. He

1ſt. He will produce an artificial Swan, about the ſize of an humming-bird, which he places in a baſon of water, on the brim of which baſon is depicted a pack of cards: Any Lady or Gentleman may draw a card from a pack, and the little inanimate will make known the card drawn, by ſwimming to a ſimilar card on the rim of the baſon.

2d. He ſuffers a gun to be diſcharged at him, previouſly loaded with powder and ball, and catches the ball on the point of a dagger; declaring that he does it by the power of magnetiſm.

3d. Any Gentleman may pin a card to a table with a fork, and Mr. R. will cauſe the card ſo faſtened to change place with various cards of the pack, without releaſing the ſame from its confinement.

4th. He ſwallows knives and forks.

5th. He breaks a Gentleman's watch (previouſly put into a bag) or ſuffers it to be broken, and afterwards reſtores it to its former ſtate.

6th. He breaks any number of eggs into a hat, and by ſtirring them with his *metempſychoſtical*

Sychoftical ftick, transforms them to pan-cakes, without the aid of fire, leaving the hat unfullied.

7th. He places a number of dollars on a plate, one on the other, which he covers with a card, the plate he places on a table, and putting his hand under the table, they fall into it, apparently finking through the plate and table, and becoming a ball, and in this manner returning to the plate, and fo alternately. He has alfo the gift of Ventriloquifm, which he performs with much judgment and great effect.

Thefe, together with a number of deceptions of the like nature, render his exhibitions not only marvellous but amufing. If you fhould fee Mr. R. perform, you would be as highly gratified as he who ftyles himfelf

Your friend, &c. A. B.

LETTER XV.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

IT gives me great pleafure to hear that your Acouftic is found equal to your expectations.

tions. All that is now wanting is the patronage of the Public: This may or may not be the reward of your great expenſe and labour.

I have ſeen and converſed with Mr. R. The feats he performs fully equal your deſcription; and as you ſeem very much ſurprized, and appear to be unacquainted with the Art of Legerdemain, I will detail to you how ſuch deceptions are performed.

1ſt. *The Philoſophical Swan.*—The baſon in which the Swan is exhibited muſt be made of tin, with a rim projecting two or three inches beyond the circumference: This rim, (the cards being painted thereon) muſt have two rabbits underneath, forming a frame, capable of receiving a braſs hoop within it, made to turn perfectly eaſy in its reſpective rabbits: To this hoop dove-tail a magnet, with the attracting point inwards. To this magnet fix a braſs pin, projecting over the face of the frame underneath, ſo that you may eaſily turn the magnet to that part of the baſon occaſion may require. The choice of the card being made, turn the hoop, by the help of the projecting pin, with your thumb or finger, which muſt ſhift the magnet to a ſimilar one painted on the rim. To avail your-

ſelf of a ſeaſonable opportunity, expoſtulate on the great curioſity you are about to exhibit; and at this inſtant, while you are diverting the attention of the company, ſhift the magnet. The Swan being placed on the water, whoſe body may be cork, and whoſe bill muſt be ſteel, will immediately ſwim to the point of attraction, which the Exhibitor has thus contrived to be under the card contemplated.

2d. *How to catch a Ball diſcharged from a Gun on the point of a Dagger.*—Let there be a ſmall ſemicircular iron tube, about three inches in length, firmly ſecured on the inſide the barrel next to the touch-hole: This tube you muſt charge with a ſmall quantity of powder previous to the performance: At this breech have a door to turn ſimilar to the covering of a key-hole: This door muſt be ſawed out of the breech, and ſhut with a ſpring: Through this aperture, opening the door, there muſt be free acceſs for the ball to that part of the ſtock oppoſite the lock. The braſs ornament, through which the ſcrews paſs to ſecure the lock, muſt be detached from the ſcrews, and open and ſhut with a ſpring. Let the Audience examine and mark the ball; any

any one may put the ſame into the barrel, the Performer holding the gun in ſuch a poſition as to favour the deſcent of the ball to the breech. Then with your ram-rod make ſure of its paſſing the tube, ſecretly opening the door in the breech to give it free paſſage into the ſtock. This done, all is ſecure. I need not tell you to ram in a piece of paper under pretence of ſecuring the ball. Now taking the ball from the ſtock which will readily fall into your hand, by ſecretly opening the braſs ornament, retire in order to fetch the dagger. Your dagger muſt alſo be prepared for the buſineſs: The blade muſt have two points exactly ſimilar: The handle muſt be half the length of the blade: On the one point fix your ball, which point and ball being preſſed into the handle, the other half is forced through the handle, being hollow, both ends of which (to carry on the deception) are exactly ſimilar. Then you retire to the one end of the room, and the gentleman who diſcharges the gun to the other. It is well enough to hold the candle in one hand, under pretence of ſeeing the ball, as the bottom of the candleſtick is a convenient place to ſtrike the dagger againſt, in order to force that end from the handle which is already furniſhed

furniſhed with the ball; turning your hand towards the gun the inſtant of the report. Then, with an air of ſelf-approbation, ſhew the ball on the dagger. It is well enough, after ſhewing, to take it from the point and throw it on the table, telling the Company they may look for their mark; then retire taking the gun and dagger to prevent further examination.

The explanation of the third, fourth and fifth Deceptions, will be the ſubjects of my next. Till when, with cordial eſteem,

Yours, &c.

W. F. P.

LETTER XVI.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

THE receipt of yours gave me great pleaſure, and contained as uſual much philoſophical information; the knowledge of which I am continually ſearching after, and which has become my chief ſtudy. The diſintereſted friendſhip which on every occaſion you appear to have imbibed for me, is a circumſtance peculiar

peculiar only to good men. It is a happineſs to reflect that nature beſtowed a genius, and blended in the ſame compoſition thoſe generous feelings that ornament her work, and ſtamp the man.

I am, with due ſentiments of eſteem,
Yours, &c. A. B.

LETTER XVII.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

I AM afraid you have undertaken to flatter me. Your letter intimates more in my praiſe than any inſtances of my life admit of recollecting. Flattery is of all deluſions the moſt detrimental to the human underſtanding; it retards that improvement which is ever to be made by the moſt meritorious of mankind, by implanting in the breaſt ſentiments of pride and ſelf-ſufficiency; poiſons the mental faculties; and many valuable perſons have fallen ridiculous victims to its faſcinating power; therefore the perſon who uſes flattery with a bad intention, not meaning as he ſpeaks, is a dangerous companion; but

but he who ingenuouſly gives due credit to another is a well-wiſher, and a candid man; ſuch am I convinced is my friend: I do not accuſe you of ſuch inſinuations, but conſider my conduct as approved, and the overplus of praiſe to be merely the overflowings of a warm and friendly heart.

According to my promiſe, I will now proceed to explain the third, fourth and fifth Deceptions.

3d. *The manner how a Card faſtened to a table changes its ſituation.*—Let any of the Company chooſe a card from a number you preſent them. Be careful they are all of one ſort, remembering that ſpotted cards are the moſt ſuitable: As for inſtance, ſuppoſing the cards preſented be the five of hearts, requeſt the perſon who draws from theſe to return the card drawn to you: Inſtantly ſubſtitute another, which you muſt have handily in your pocket, with falſe ſpots, reſembling hearts, and which in reality is only the five of clubs. Then take a pack of cards, and, giving them to the perſon who drew the five of hearts, requeſt him to look for the five of clubs which muſt not be in the pack. You then ſhew him a card which reſembles the five of clubs on your

your fork, but which in reality is the five of hearts. Now requeſt the gentleman to permit you to replace the ſubſtituted five of hearts, which in reality is the five of clubs, ſecretly ſhifting off the falſe ſpots as he receives it into the pack ; conſequently he has inſtead of the five of hearts the five of clubs, and you on your fork in place of the five of hearts, as to appearance, have the five of clubs, the ſpots of which muſt be ſhifted as may ſeem to you moſt convenient to deceive the Company. Recollect that the face of the card pinned to the table muſt be downwards, as will naturally be the caſe after you have ſhewn it.

4th. *The manner how he ſwallows knives and forks.*—Produce a knife and fork for the examination of the Company, ſecured to the handle ; and after they have examined and returned the ſame to you, under ſome pretence you may retire, and return with another knife and fork appearing like the former, but conſtructed as follows : The handles muſt be made of a ſufficient length to admit the blades, and tines, then preſſing the blade or tine againſt your teeth with your right hand before your lips it will appear to go into your mouth when it is only returning to the handle.

This

This done, convey your handle to your ſleeve, boſom, or pocket, as may be moſt convenient, and it will ſeem as though you actually ſwallowed the ſame, making grimaces and geſtures ſuitable for ſwallowing and digeſting ſuch delicate food.

5th. *The manner how he breaks a Watch, and reſtores it to its former ſtate.*—The bag muſt be made in the form of a pillow-caſe, with both ends entirely cloſed, one end of which being entered into the other, renders it a bag and double; then from its being ſo formed, he may ſeemingly turn the inſide outward, yet the real inſide remain undiſcovered. In this aperture there is a ſlit, leading to a pocket ſituated near the middle of the bag; in this pocket a watch is already diſpoſed, for the purpoſe of being broken. He then requeſts the Company to favour him with a watch, under pretence of breaking it. Thus accommodated, he ſecretly places it in the pocket above mentioned, and removes the one before depoſited, letting it fall to the bottom of the bag within the real inſide ſo inſtantaneouſly that it appears as though it were the borrowed watch. He then takes the bag, and placing the watch intended to be broken at one

one corner, ſuffers the Company to break this watch in any manner they pleaſe, whilſt the borrowed one remains ſafe in the pocket in the centre of the bag. Succeeding thus far, he then turns the bag inſide out, and ſhews the Company there are no pieces of the broken watch to be found; and at this time clapping his hand into the pocket mentioned, turns the borrowed watch into the ſeeming bag, whilſt the pieces of the broken watch remain unobſerved between the inſide and outſide the bag.

The ſixth and ſeventh Deceptions, with my opinion concerning Ventriloquiſm, will be ſubjects for my next; till when,

Yours, &c.

W. F. P.

LETTER XVIII.

[On the ſubject of the laſt Letter.]

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

IN my laſt I explained to you the third, fourth and fifth Deceptions, with a promiſe to explain the ſixth and ſeventh, and give you

my opinion on Ventriloquiſm in my next. I now proceed, agreeably to my promiſe.

6th. *How Eggs are transformed into Pan-cakes.*—Take the number of eggs you mean to transform, and diveſt them of their yolks, preſerving the ſhell as entire as poſſible; then make as many ſmall pan-cakes. Theſe prepared, proceed as follows: Admit you mean to transform ſix, preſent nine to the Company, ſix of theſe diveſted of their yolks, and three unblown. After borrowing two hats, requeſt ſome perſon to hold one of theſe hats upon his head with the bowl upwards, into which you muſt break the empty eggs, making it appear as though they were real ones. The pan-cakes mentioned at the time of borrowing one of theſe hats are eaſily ſlipped in to the hat, as previouſly they are wrapped together in a ſmall compaſs. With the other hat cover this, the two rims touching each other. Then ſhaking the hats, it will appear as though it were the yolks of the eggs that were ſhaking, when at the ſame time it is only the pan-cakes. After ſhaking, ſeparate them with your *metempſychoſtical ſtick*; the three eggs with their yolks remaining by you untouched, in order that if any of the Company ſhould

ſhould wiſh to examine the eggs, you may have found ones to preſent them.

7th. *How Dollars apparently ſink through a Plate and Table, change into a Ball, and return.*—Take ſix dollars and ſolder them well together, then excavate them, leaving the bottom dollar; this turned upwards has the appearance of ſix ſolid dollars. Keep this concealed at preſent: Then produce ſix dollars; place theſe on a plate, one on the top of the other; then place the plate on the table, keeping the excavated dollars ready to take the place of the real ones, having a ſmall ball in the excavation. Now addreſs the Company on the importance of your feat, at the ſame time taking up the real dollars, and letting them drop one by one on the plate. When the Company are ſufficiently ſatisfied as to the reality of the dollars which you drop on the plate, place the dollars on each other. Now, having your excavated dollars under your right ſleeve, take the real ones, chinking them in your right hand, dexterouſly throw them into the left, at the ſame inſtant ſliding your excavated dollars, with the ball in the ſame, from under your ſleeve into your hand, placing it on the plate on the table, bottom upwards,

upwards, with a ball under the ſame. Then produce a ball ſimilar to that under the ſeeming dollars on the table, ſhew it to the Company, obſerving to them, this ball which I now hold under the table (at the ſame time putting your hand underneath the table) I will cauſe to take the place of the dollars on the table, whilſt the dollars at the ſame time ſhall ſink into my hand through the table. In order to do this, have a card with the edges ſown together in the form of a tube, and with this tube cover the ſeeming dollars; then, repeating the object of the trick, take up the tube, at the ſame time pinching the ſame, the excavated dollars naturally follow unſeen, and the ball appears to view: Thus far has the ball taken the place of the dollars. Now to make the dollars take the place of the ball, replace the tube with thoſe that are excavated over the ball, and, by taking up the ſame without pinching it, the dollars appear, and the ball is concealed. At the ſame time that the Company ſuppoſes the dollars are deſcending, you may chink the real ones underneath the table, as this will make the effect appear the greater. How to remove the excavated dollars, and place the real ones and the ball, is an important queſtion in the ſame feat:

feat : This is no more than pinching the tube, taking it up, letting the excavated dollars privately fall into your hand, at the ſame time throwing the tube and real ones on the table for examination.

Thus having fulfilled my promiſe with reſpect to Mr. R.'s deceptions, I now proceed to give my opinion on Ventriloquiſm.

This performance, ſo much eſteemed and which has excited univerſal admiration, is conſidered by the learned to be a ſingular gift of nature, peculiar to a very few, they ſuppoſing the ventricle of theſe men, to be of a different formation from that of mankind in general ; whilſt bigotry views it as the effect of diabolical agency. To attribute the effect to this cauſe, or to the agency of a ſupernatural power, has ever been contrary to my opinion. I believe any perſon by practice may become a mimick in ſome degree ; and, as far as he is poſſeſſed of this faculty, ſo far he may avail himſelf of the art of Ventriloquiſm. To verify this, we will admit a perſon's ventricle ſhall be formed by nature ſo as to afford the power of ſpeaking inwardly ; will this give him the faculty of compreſſing air, in ſuch a manner as to reflect words or ſounds imperceptibly

to certain distances, and in various directions to be heard from particular places, he apparently remaining silent? Or is it possible that he, the pretended Ventriloquist, has any command upon the word or sound after escaping his lips or stomach, more than any other man to whom nature has not given the power of speaking inwardly? I answer, No! All the advantage to be derived from this gift is to avail himself of becoming a mimick. The artificial voice acquired by the practice of mimickry and imitating of sounds, as though they were at different distances, or intercepted by any particular objects, has this effect. For this purpose, let a person assiduously strive to imitate the voice of a child, shutting his lips, suffering the sound only to escape from the corner of his mouth, according to the direction he means to have it appear issuing from, which by practice will become familiar, and more and more distinct.

This performance is generally carried on in the following manner: The performer provides himself with a doll, which he calls Tommy, from whom the feigned voice appears to proceed. Placing Tommy on his knee, a conversation apparently takes place between him and Tommy, in which the Exhibitor contrives

contrives to make correction neceſſary: Then puniſhes him by placing him under his coat, where Tommy is heard ſpeaking in a ſmothered tone of voice. This is done to attract the attention of the Audience to that particular tone of voice which he the Performer intends counterfeiting as the voice of a child. Now all the attention being directed to Tommy, ſo that at whatever corner of the room he places the puppet, the Company with anxious expectation wait to hear the feigned voice. At firſt he places him at a ſmall diſtance. The Performer then queſtioning in his natural tone of voice, aſks, *Where are you now, Tommy?* Mimicking a child, and directly articulating as when the pretended converſation was held, he replies, *Here, Papa.* It will now do to place him at a greater diſtance, queſtioning as before, and giving the ſame anſwer, making it appear as if at a great diſtance; and ſo proceed queſtioning and anſwering, according to the diſtance. The imagination of the Company being thus rivetted, you may venture to place him without the room, ſhutting the door, mimicking exactly that kind of ſound which would be the caſe if a child actually ſpake without doors; being careful to preſerve that articulation which took place in the converſation

tion before the Company, whilſt the puppet was under the coat, ſuch will be the effect if he ſpoke ſuppoſing him ſmothered. The faculty of attracting the attention to the object contemplated as though ſpeaking, with the art of mimicking a feigned voice, either ſmothered or at certain diſtances, is the opinion I have of Ventriloquiſm.

I am, with due ſentiments of eſteem,

Yours, &c.

W. F. P.

P. S. After cloſing this Letter, a circumſtance occurred to my mind reſpecting a Farmer who was on his road to London with a load of hay. The ſtory is thus told: Being overtaken by one of thoſe perſons, ſtyled Ventriloquiſts, who by the ſuppoſed art of his Ventriloquiſm meant to attract the Farmer's attention, and ſhow his faculty in imitating a ſuppoſed voice, after travelling familiarly together for ſome diſtance, the mimick, as if ſurprized, obſerves, "My friend, there is a perſon confined in your hay." The Farmer, diſbelieving it, gave but little attention to his obſervation. After travelling a little further, and turning to the object, with much earneſtneſs he exclaims, "For compaſſion's ſake, relieve this perſon from his embarraſſment."

The

The manner of his ſpeaking, immediately attracted the attention of the Farmer to his load. The mimick obſerving his attention turned from him to the hay, fell to imitating the voice of a perſon, as if ſmothered in the hay; which occaſioned the Farmer to exert his utmoſt efforts in unloading his hay, to relieve the imagined unfortunate. In a ſimilar manner ſounds are produced from chairs, tables, and other ſubſtances.

Such is thy power, oh Mimickry.

Adieu. W. F. P.

LETTER XIX.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

YOUR two laſt Letters came ſafe to hand. Your explanation of the Deceptions contained in them and a former Letter, induces me to attempt a trial of my ſkill, both to become a Conjurer and Ventriloquiſt: But fearing I ſhall fail in my attempts, I muſt once more trouble you with my ſolicitations, and requeſt you to favour me with your opinion of the abilities neceſſary to conſtitute a performer.

I remain with ſincere attachment,

Your obliged friend, A. B.

LETTER XX.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

THE Art of Legerdemain requires great dexterity, and abundance of confidence in the performer: There are but few who are equal to the taſk. Mr. R. before mentioned, is competent to the buſineſs, and the only one I have known, except the famous *Briſloe*. Any man who would exhibit theſe deceptions to ſatisfaction, muſt have theſe ſeveral qualifications: He muſt be nimble with his hands and fingers, poſſeſs an extraordinary ſhare of volubility, aided by a prepoſſeſſing carriage, ſuitable to command reſpect: His left hand muſt be as capable as his right: He muſt have acquired the faculty of dividing his thoughts, ſo as to accompliſh ſeveral objects at the ſame moment, and that with certainty and eaſe: The flaſhes of his wit muſt attract the eyes of the ſpectators from the feat he is performing, as occaſion may require, although he muſt not have this appear his intention. Theſe properties in conjunction, may make what is vulgarly called a Conjurer; ſo that you may readily infer that it is not altogether the inventor

ventor of a deception, but the performer, who claims the principal merit. You ſay likewiſe, you have an idea of becoming a Ventriloquiſt. Learn to be a mimick, and you may eaſily effect your purpoſe. As you likewiſe appear ſo deſirous of becoming what is commonly called a Conjurer, any thing within the compaſs of my abilities you may command.

Yours, &c. W. F. P.

LETTER XXI.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

NOTWITHSTANDING what you have ſaid on the ſubject of Ventriloquiſm, I cannot yet convince myſelf of its being acquirable. The objections ariſing in my mind are theſe: Provided a man's ventricle is ſo conſtructed as to give him the power of ſpeaking inwardly, which is perhaps not common amongſt mankind, and from this ſingular circumſtance he avails himſelf of becoming a greater mimick, than any other who profeſſes himſelf to be ſuch by a mere imitation of ſounds, what is this but a gift of nature?

Yours, &c. A. B.

LETTER XXII.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

I PRESUME every mimick has not a propenſity to become a Ventriloquiſt; and for this reaſon every great mimick has not acquired the faculty of imitating ſounds confined and at certain diſtances; ſo that being uncommon it is inconſiderately accounted a gift of nature. What is there a man cannot acquire by obſervation, aſſiſted by good rules and proper application? And what poſſeſſion not capable of improvement? I anſwer, none with reſpect to nature. Our ſenſes and all our faculties are gifts. To have a good ear for muſic is a gift; yet thoſe who have not that ear, have been known to be greater proficients in the ſcience of muſic than one ſo favoured. You may ſay, ſpeech is a gift of nature, and attribute elocution to the ſingular formation of the tongue; but in my mind, by a perſon's propenſity to become an orator, the memory becomes improved and ſupplied with a ſelection of the beſt choſen words; the imagination is brightened and enlarged; the tongue, by uſe, ſmooth and eaſy in its articulation; and confidence, the reſult of experience,

ence, gives perfection to the whole. To elucidate this my opinion,—What had nature done for Demoſthenes? Nothing! Demoſthenes did all for himſelf; and, ſurmounting the impediment ſhe threw in the way of his purſuit, became one of the greateſt orators of his age. Thus I conclude, if a man can become a diſtinguiſhed orator from the mere propenſity to be ſuch, where the imagination, memory, eyes, hands and tongue are concerned, it appears to me much eaſier to acquire the art of Ventriloquiſm, which is nothing but the imitation of ſounds. Leaving this ſentiment to your better judgment, in my next I ſhall inform you how you may, by practice and perſeverance, be able to perform a number of other Deceptions made practicable by the Art of Legerdemain. However we may differ in opinion, I am your friend,

W. F. P.

LETTER XXIII.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

AFTER properly conſidering the ſentiments on Ventriloquiſm, contained in your

Letter, I perfectly acquiesce with you on the subject.

If you have any more Deceptions in your possession, and will send them, with your explanations on the same, you will confer additional favours on

Your friend and well-wisher,

A. B.

LETTER XXIV.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

I AM happy that you have become a proselyte to my opinion on Ventriloquism. I now proceed, agreeably to your wishes, in further explaining the Art of Legerdemain, by making you acquainted with the merits of the following Deceptions.

1st. *How to take a number of Eggs, from a Bag apparently empty.*——This bag, apparently empty, must be made according to the form of the one for breaking a watch, mentioned in letter seventeenth, with this addition only, observing that as one pocket only is necessary in the former experiment, you must increase the

the number of pockets according to the number of eggs you mean to take from the bag. The eggs being buttoned in the pockets, turning the bag inside out, convince the Company it is the same as empty. When you do this, keep towards you the aperture by which you have access to the pockets. Now when you intend taking an egg, turn this bag, which naturally brings this aperture the inside; then, putting your hand within the said aperture, take an egg from a pocket, shewing it to the Company, and so proceed according to the number of eggs you intend shewing.

2d. *How to make the Ace of Hearts become the Ace of Clubs, and vice versa.*——Take two cards, on which are represented the Ace of Hearts, stripping the leaves of both about two-thirds of the cards, then painting on a thin piece of paste-board the Ace of Clubs and Ace of Hearts, paste down the two edges of the leaves to the cards, thereby forming a case for the two Aces so painted easily to slide. The original Aces being nicely taken from the leaves, you may by easily moving the slides on which these two Aces are depictured, cause either of them to appear; consequently, you can easily make them take the place of each other.

3d. *How*

3d. *How to burn a Card to aſhes, and reſtore it to its former ſtate, the Company detaining a piece of the Card in order to prove its being the ſame propoſed to be burnt.*——To accompliſh this experiment, have a tin box made in ſuch a manner as to open one half its depth, the top after opening appearing like the bottom; underneath the inſide of the top have a tin plate, the exact ſize of the box, appearing like no other but the inſide of that which forms the cover; within this, previous to exhibiting the feat, place a card with the one corner torn off, of the ſame ſort with thoſe you mean to preſent the Company, from which they are to chooſe one to be burnt: The choice of one being made, inform them they may tear off the corner, and keep it in their poſſeſſion, until you ſhall be ready to reſtore the card going to be burnt; then, placing it in the box, ſhut down the cover, and the tin plate with the ſubſtituted card there concealed will fall upon it, appearing like the bottom. Open the box, and burn this card; the corner being torn off appears like the one drawn, which is now at the bottom of the box under the tin plate. Now, while ſtirring the aſhes which were placed in the box, with your *metempſychoſtical ſtick*, dexterouſly and unſeen, turn the box;

box ; consequently the ashes are secreted under the tin plate, and the card drawn appears to view.

4th. *How to light a Candle with the point of a Sword.*——To perform this, dip the point of the Sword into Phosphorus, and by rubbing it, it will not be seen to possess fire, until you touch it to the candle, the wick of which must be previously prepared with Spirits of Wine.

5th. *How to transfer Money from one Handkerchief to another.*——In performing this, provide yourself with an Handkerchief, in one corner of which must be sewn whatever you mean to transfer. Request the favour of some one of the Company to lend you an Handkerchief : Now shew them two pieces of money of the same denomination with that concealed, putting one piece into one Handkerchief and the other piece into the other placing the Handkerchiefs at a distance, pretending to fold one of these pieces of money in your own Handkerchief, conceal it in your hand or sleeve, wrapping up the Handkerchief, with that corner in the middle in which the piece of money is sewn, telling them to convince themselves by feeling that the money is there. Now,

preſenting the other piece of money, fold that up, with the other piece you have in your hand, and the feat is done. All you have to do is, taking up the Handkerchief in which the piece of money is ſewn, ſhaking it, it will not fall out; whilſt the other Handkerchief contains the two pieces.

Concluding theſe will be ſufficient for your preſent practice, in my next I will give you further information; till then I ſubſcribe myſelf, as formerly, Your friend,

W. F. P.

LETTER XXV.

[In Continuation.]

W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

SUPPOSING you to continue in the ſame mind as when you firſt wiſhed to become a Conjurer, I will ſend you a few more Deceptions.

6th. *How to fire a Lady's Ring from a Gun in ſuch a manner, that the ſame ſhall be found confined under lock and key, one of the Company taking the key.*——To perform this feat, agency

cy is neceſſary ; but not diabolical. In ſome part of your Exhibition Room have a table, in which table you muſt have a drawer placed contiguous to a partition, through which partition there muſt be an opening to another apartment ſufficient for the drawer to ſlide through : In this apartment your Agent muſt take his ſtation. Within the drawer diſpoſe a box, in which the ring is to be found. The gun from which the ring is to be fired muſt be made ſimilar to the one for performing Deception 2, (which you will find in Letter XV.) with the tube charged as there mentioned. A Lady having lent you a ring for that purpoſe, drop it into the barrel of the gun, making ſure that it paſſes the tube, opening the breech, which gives it acceſs to the ſtock : Take it from thence as ſoon as poſſible. When you have the ring in your poſſeſſion, give ſome of the Company the gun to put in a wadding, telling them to be ſure to ram it tight ; and while thus diverting their attention, ſlide the ring into the drawer, and your Agent's buſineſs is to put the ſame into the box, locking it. Then, under pretence of going to the draw for ſomething you have forgot, take the box therefrom, and place it on a table. Finally, ſhew the Company the box,

telling

telling them your intention ; then give them the key, ordering the gun to be fired ; after which any of the Company may unlock the box, and the design is answered by finding the ring.——Or, by having your box made similar to the one in Deception 3, Letter XXIV. you may conceal the ring and shew an empty box, and by turning it as is done to re-establish the card, unlocking the same you may produce the ring.

No more at present, from

Your humble servant,

W. F. P.

LETTER XXVI.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your two last, containing a number of Deceptions, with their demonstrations, and it occurs to my mind that a building of a size convenient for containing a variety of Mechanical and Philosophical Curiosities, erected in some eligible situation, would be found profitable : I mean that the collection shall be greater than has ever been yet exhibited in the United States. For instance :

In

In addition to what you have already exhibited, ſuch as your Writing Figure, Inviſible Lady, Magician, Tumbling Figure, Miraculous Barrel, Whiſpering Figure, and Penetrating Spy-Glaſs, you may introduce the Little Conjurer, Fiſherman, Flute Player, Cupid's Feats, Vaniſhing Figure, and many other curioſities you have the faculty of making, and which if thus collected, would in my opinion render it a Muſeum of reſpectable reſort. In ſuch an undertaking I would wiſh to be your aſſociate.

From your earneſt inquirer and friend,

A. B.

LETTER XXVII.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

RELATIVE to the place mentioned, I conclude it would be found profitable. The only objection I have to it is the ſum of money neceſſary to complete a building in a ſtyle ſufficiently elegant and convenient to command ſucceſs. What if we ſpend the laſt dollar, before the place is completed? How and of whom ſhall we be certain to borrow? Where

are

are the resources to enable us to carry the plan into desired effect? Will not our pretended friends, who promise and hover around us in the season of prosperity, turn their backs and forsake us in the hour of necessity? If we tell them we have drained our purses, will they not inform our creditors? If we importune them to lend, will they not catechise us, with a stupid harangue of what we ought to have done; or, more likely, condemn the whole undertaking, in order to form an excuse for their non-assistance? They may, with a countenance of seeming concern, declare they are heartily sorry; and that is all the comfort that may be expected from professed friends of the present age. While speaking of this, it occurs to my mind, the reason why the man of ingenuity is poor. I have heard it stated, as almost an infallible rule, that to be ingenious is to be poor; and this is thus accounted for: One abruptly but modestly affirms, "He is too lazy." Another's opinion is, "He is too unsteady, and by that means forfeits the fortune he might acquire by a steady adherence to one pursuit." A third says, "He is too extravagant." All these opinions are easily confuted. The truly ingenious man cannot be lazy, for ingenuity is the result of industry:

induſtry: Yet I admit the ingenious man may not be found ſo ambitious at ſome kind of labour as he whoſe mind is confined to one object; yet his intellectual faculties are always employed. If walking, he is ruminating: If ſtanding, he is thinking: If ſitting, he is muſing: If lying down, he is meditating. And ſhould long-deſired ſleep imperceptibly ſteal upon his pillow, even then his ſlumbers are interrupted by intruding dreams relative to the object of his purſuit. Is this a ſpecies of inanimation ſimilar to that attached to the lazy man? Or, is he the ſole heir to inſtability? No: We ſee others, whom we are ſenſible have no ingenuity, as changeable and as wavering as he; and as many more extravagant, without their generoſity. Yet all theſe find a certain way to accumulate.

> It is not merit wins the golden pile;
> But partial fortune's inconſiſtent ſmile.

Poverty and ingenuity are too often born twins. Fortune ſeldom aſſiſts the perſon favoured by nature. A fool may have the faculty of accumulating: A wiſe man may want it. Let us then ſuppoſe an ingenious man poor: He has juſt finiſhed a very valuable machine, and has exhauſted his finances: Of whom ſhall he borrow? None are willing

to

to lend: He has not the bold effrontery to obtain it by falsehood, nor is he possessed of the language of persuasion. Now what is to be done? Creditors are clamorous: He has a family to support. In fact, he must sacrifice all future advantages to the present necessity. Thus, finding no alternative, he is obliged to part with the fruits of his ingenuity for half its value. The purchaser becomes rich; the inventor remains poor. And then those persons who refused their assistance, seeing the advantage the acquisition is to the purchaser, will be feeling enough to compliment the Inventor with the appellation of simpleton, for parting with his machine. This simile may be applied to us: If we succeed, we shall be accounted industrious, cunning, speculative, enterprizing men; but if we fail for the want of cash or credit, or any misfortune, no matter what, then we are stupid, void of calculation; the scheme was mad; and, to conclude, we shall be indiscriminately branded with the sarcastic appellation of fools.

These at present are my sentiments on the subject of ingenuity. In my next I shall proceed with the further demonstration of more Deceptions.

With due sentiments of esteem,

Yours, &c. W. F. P.

LETTER XXVIII.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

AGREEABLY to the promiſe in my laſt, I now proceed to explain two more Deceptions, with which I ſhall cloſe the ſubject of Legerdemain.

7th. *How to make an Handkerchief belonging to one of the Company follow the Exhibitor out of the room.*——Having borrowed an handkerchief, obſerve to the Company the intention of the feat. Take the hairs of an horſe's tail, tying ſeveral of them end to end, until you have a ſufficient length; then faſten one end of this ſtring to the fold of your coat, the other end faſten to a bunch of paper in your pocket; then dexterouſly convey this paper under the borrowed handkerchief, folding the ſame; by your walking out, the handkerchief will follow; the ſtring, by reaſon of its fineneſs, will not be ſeen by the Company.

8th. *How to convey a Card into an Egg.*—— Prepare yourſelf with three eggs, and before you exhibit depoſit a card in each, of the ſame kind you mean ſhould be drawn; this is done

by contracting the card to ſuch a compaſs as to be entered through a ſmall opening in one end of the egg, which muſt be cloſed ſo as that the egg ſhall have the appearance of being perfectly ſound. Take care that the cards you preſent the Company are like thoſe in the eggs. You may have three different kinds of cards to preſent, being ſure they ſelect from the parcel correſponding to your purpoſe. This done, inform the Company that either of the three eggs ſhall contain their card. To excite admiration, you may tell the perſon to burn it; then taking the aſhes, and ſtrewing the ſame over the egg, requeſt him to break the egg, and to his aſtoniſhment the card will appear.

With my beſt wiſhes for your welfare,

I am yours, &c. W. F. P.

LETTER XXIX.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

I NOW proceed to explain to you the effects produced by Optical Deluſions. Of theſe I have two Deceptions: Both are ſtyled Penetrating Teleſcopes, and are rendered curioſi-

ties

ties in the following manner: One by virtue of the magnet; the other by that of reflectors.——1ſt. The Magnetic Spy-Glaſs is in its effects very aſtoniſhing, and in its conſtruction very ſimple. To accommodate yourſelf with one of theſe Teleſcopes, procure a tube ſimilar to that of a common Spy-Glaſs; within this tube, and near to the end preſented to the object, fix a magnetic needle, cauſing it to traverſe perfectly eaſy on a braſs ſwivel. (See Plate, Fig. 2.) Then the ſubſtance you preſent to the Company for concealment, in order to your diſcovery, muſt be poſſeſſed of magnetic qualities. Being poſſeſſed of theſe qualities, wherever the matter is concealed you are ſure of diſcovering the ſame. The Gentleman fixed upon for this purpoſe, you muſt ſeemingly view with your glaſs, whilſt all your attention is fixed on the needle concealed within the tube, the motion of which will determine where the object of your reſearch is ſituated. In order to ſecure the ſucceſs of your experiment, previouſly borrow of the before-mentioned gentleman, his knife, keys, or any attractive ſubſtance that you ſuppoſe he may probably have in his poſſeſſion, feigning ſome pretence.——2d. The Penetrating Spy-Glaſs claims more merit in its principles,

principles, and has an effect equally as ſtriking as the Magnetic. The curioſity depends on the form of the frame. (See Plate, Fig. 3.) The tubes on the top of the frame contain each of them two glaſſes : Theſe glaſſes may be made of common window-glaſs, the exterior ones clear, the interior ones obſcured on the inſide. The frame muſt be excavated, and mirrors placed in each of the angles. Within the middle of both tubes is placed a mirror likewiſe ; theſe muſt be ſo placed as that the mirror of the tube preſented to the object ſhall reflect the image of the ſame to the mirror placed in one of the angles of the frame below ; this reflects it in a direct line to another, placed in the oppoſite angle ; this mirror reflects it upwards to another contained in the tube, where the eye of the obſerver is placed : Conſequently, by thus contriving to bend the rays of light around the frame, it makes no difference to the obſerver whatever may be placed between the two interior glaſſes ; and the aſtoniſhment ariſes from the ſuppoſition that the frame is ſolid, as an idea is conveyed that the effect is produced by the ſingular conſtruction of the glaſſes within the tubes.

While writing this, I thought I would give you an idea of a modern invention called the Phyſiognotrace,

Phyſiognotrace, famed for its correctneſs in taking profiles. The author of this invention was a Mr. *Hawkins*, but it has been greatly improved. I ſhall deſcribe it in its preſent improved ſtate. To accompliſh this, you muſt provide yourſelf with a Pentagraph; this muſt be ſcrewed to a partition, at the ſcale angle commonly made faſt, and on which it uſually traverſes; the tracing point downwards, and oppoſite to a hole cut in the partition eighteen inches ſquare: This hole muſt be glazed with plate glaſs, which muſt be covered with a piece of ſilk paper, ſtrained tight; on that ſide place the perſon whoſe profile you are about to trace. Have a ſquare trunk about five feet long, one end fourteen inches in width, the other ſix; place the wide end oppoſite the paper, your trunk being in an horizontal direction, only leaving convenient room between the trunk and the paper for a perſon to be ſeated. The uſe of this trunk is to confine and reflect the rays of light to the paper, which light muſt proceed from a lamp placed at the ſmall end. This done, direct the perſon to be ſeated; and, lighting the lamp, retire withinſide of the partition, and there you will ſee a very ſtrong and correct likeneſs, through the glaſs, of the perſon,

whoſe ſhadow appears on the paper. Now, you muſt obſerve to have your paper well pillowed and ſecured, under the ſketching point, by means of a ſmall frame, which muſt be contrived either to ſlide or open with hinges. This altogether ſliding in its place, as occaſion may require, with the tracing point of the Pentagraph follow the outlines of your ſhadow, and the pencil at the ſketching angle will perform the ſame revolution, reducing the profile to any ſize you pleaſe to fix your ſcale. I ſhould have told you it was neceſſary to have a ſmall iron rod made with a ring at the end, ſcrewed under the hole in the partition, for the perſon who ſits to ſteady his head againſt. You may cover this with green baize, or, any thing agreeable to the perſon ſo ſeated. Remember that the room muſt be perfectly dark, excepting the light proceeding from the lamp.

I have to obſerve, that many trials will be neceſſary before you take a complete profile. Much depends on placing the perſon in a proper attitude, or perhaps you will ſuffer the tracing point to err from the line of the face.

Cutting it out is a material point, and great nicety is required; to execute which with

preciſion, have a ſquare piece of block-tin, on which place your profile; provide yourſelf with a ſharp-pointed tool, made ſimilar to a lancet: In all theſe particulars you muſt be extremely accurate, as the beauty of the whole depends on the full conſent of the parts. Imitating the hair with light touches of Indian ink, well executed, has a great effect. This improvement I believe originated with Mr. *Doyle*, who I am well perſuaded takes them in a ſuperior ſtyle.

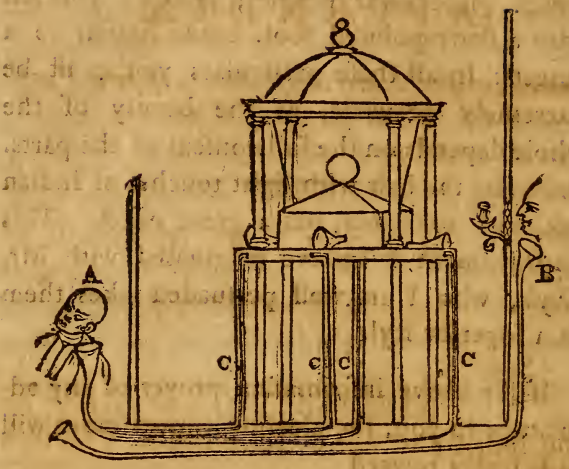
If the above information proves of any advantage to you, the pleaſing circumſtance will ſufficiently reward

Your ſincere friend,

W. F. P.

Acouſtic Temple.

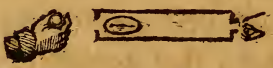
Fig. 1.



A is the perſon ſtationed to hear and ſolve queſtions.
B obſerves what is preſented, and communicates in a whiſper to A.
CCCC. The tubes by which the ſounds are ſecretly conveyed to the trumpets.

Magnetic Penetrating Spy-Glaſs.

Fig. 2.



Optical Penetrating Spy-Glaſs.

Fig. 3.

AAAA. The reflectors in the frame of the glaſs.
B. The board or other ſubſtance placed to obſtruct the ſight.

APPENDIX:

Containing five Letters explanatory of some Parts of the foregoing Work.

LETTER I.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

MEDITATING one evening on the subjects of our correspondence, I became fully convinced that to derive advantages therefrom to ourselves, concealment would be indispensably important. Notwithstanding, as it will undeceive the ignorant, and gratify the inquisitive, I should advise you to publish the same to the world, knowing that it will be acceptable to all classes of people; and although satisfied myself, that in teaching the Pig, patience and perseverance are the two essential requisites; that Acoustics and Optics, as proceeding from the Invisible Lady, are the effects of human agency; that the performance of the Deceptions principally depends on the adroitness of the Performer; that Ventriloquism is not strictly a gift of nature, nor the wonder

wonder it produces depending on diabolical agency; that the conſtruction of your Penetrating Glaſſes is plainly repreſented; yet at the ſame time, ſhould it meet with your approbation to undertake the publication, I think it would increaſe the ſale of the book, if you would explain more fully, how the Pig underſtands your meaning after the omiſſion of his ſignal; and make ſome further remarks on the Temple, and on ſome of the demonſtrations, explanatory of the Deceptions. The obſervations on the conſtruction of the other machines, as well as the demonſtration of a principal part of the Deceptions, are fully and familiarly explained.

Pleaſe ſoon to convey by Letter how far my ideas correſpond with yours, reſpecting the publication of your correſpondence.

From your long abſent friend,

A. B.

LETTER II.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

I RECEIVED your friendly letter, and after maturely deliberating on its contents, I muſt inform

inform you that I am totally averſe to becoming an Author. This Authorſhip places a man in a critical ſituation; for the writer of any work, let it be of ever ſo great import, or little conſequence, the moment he ventures to inſtruct or amuſe his fellow-creatures, places his reputation in the hands of a cruel and unfeeling world. I candidly confeſs I feel no ambition to riſque my pains and labours, fame and fortune, on the event of a mere bubble, liable to be diſperſed by every blaſt of wind. Should there be any merit in the work, this will certainly be overlooked, and all faults, (which the beſt of performances naturally poſſeſs,) pointed out and exaggerated. Nor will the unravelled myſteries of which you ſpeak, gratify him who may have ſtrangely imbibed an idea that by purchaſing this book he is to be made acquainted with moral impoſſibilities. Others will as inconſiderately ſuppoſe, they have nothing more than barely to peruſe the contents, and without farther application, or giving themſelves time to practiſe according to the rules there ſuggeſted, will inconſiſtently expect to become *Ranies*. Such unreaſonable perſons, (and there are ſuch) would be of material injury to the ſale of any publication, much more, one of this nature: And theſe are not the only obſtacles I have to encounter:

encounter: I have another to surmount still greater than these; and that is, those persons in the practice of Legerdemain, and others exhibiting the curiosities, whose principles my book is obliged to unfold, will, no doubt, together with their friends, exert their strongest efforts in endeavouring to persuade mankind that the demonstrations mine contains are incorrect; and some, for the want of actual practice, or proper calculation, be led to believe it; and thus one person brought to this belief might persuade many others. Consequently, I should have my books lay upon my hands, as a reward for my great expense and labour, and that perhaps at the cost of my reputation. This is much to be feared; for as a plagiarist has the faculty of new clothing the sentiments of other men, and thus pass them on the world for his own, so are all these Deceptions liable to be effected by a train of different appearances, notwithstanding the principle in itself remains still the same: As for instance, the experiment of the ball being fired from a gun, and caught on the point of a dagger. The Performer, in order to confute that demonstration, and destroy the credit of the book, might occasionally perform it in the following manner: Not having a gun with

with any extra preparations, excepting his ram-rod, which may be prepared as follows,— a hollow at the ramming end, ſufficient to conceal a ball, within which hollow he may have a ſharp-pointed inſtrument, and pretending to ram down the ball, by this means take it out again ; all which would be eaſily effected, by reaſon of the ſpectators expecting to ſee it done in the manner I have explained in the book, which demonſtration is the only ſafe one, and the one practiſed. In this attempt he might alſo have a common dagger, and riſque its ſtriking a ball already concealed under the candleſtick. Now, notwithſtanding this is a very uncertain way, the performer, might poſſibly ſucceed, and the book be condemned. So it is with the Inviſible Lady : I feel convinced there is one now exhibiting, where but one agent is employed ; but this principle is not perfect ; the agent is obliged to be ſo cloſe in order to make the ſight practicable, that ſuppoſing the anſwers ſhould be returned from even a brick cloſet, the perſon afraid of being overheard is obliged to ſmother the voice, by preſſing his head in the concave ; conſequently the ſame kind of ſmothered voice proceeds from the trumpet, and the auditors are obliged to repeat their queſtion ſeveral times, before they can underſtand

the anſwer ; whereas the method I have explained enables the Agent to ſpeak without fear, and as diſtinctly as he is capable. There is another thing to be obſerved : The bars mentioned, in which the holes are pricked in order to communicate the ſound to the trumpet, may be covered with green baize or bound round with your handkerchief, as this will not prevent the ſound iſſuing from the bar : The compreſſed air will force the ſound between the threads of the baize or handkerchief. Now, this experiment being ſhewn a perſon who is unacquainted with the ſcience of Acouſtics, he might be led to think my demonſtration falſe, and thus ruin the reputation of the book. Alſo, there might be no Girandoles, or Tranſparent Paintings, but ſomething ſimilar muſt be ſubſtituted through which the object preſented to the globe is to be ſeen.

There is one way to prove my demonſtration true :—Take the blade of a knife, and go round the eight poſts, between the floor and the poſts, and you will certainly find four of the poſts are connected to the floor. If the Lady ſpeaks from all four of the trumpets, and the poſts are thoſe that contain the tubes in order to convey the ſound, when the Lady is

is requeſted to breathe or blow, inſtead of putting your hand in the trumpet, as will be the advice of the Proprietor, hold the inſide of your hand to the inſide of the bar, oppoſite the trumpet, at the diſtance of two inches, and you will feel the breath or wind iſſuing from the bar; or you may clap one hand around the centre of the ſame, putting the other hand in the trumpet, and the Lady's breath from that trumpet will not be felt. To obſtruct the light, hold an handkerchief about a foot from the Incomprehenſible Mirror, (ſo called) within this handkerchief hold the things to be defined, moving the ſame around the Mirror, every time ſhewing a different thing. The Lady muſt fail, though perhaps not on the firſt or ſecond trials, becauſe the handkerchief may not come oppoſite, ſo as to intercept the ſight of the perſon ſecreted.

I will conclude this Letter with a few tragic ſentiments on the *Death of a Mouſe*, which I drew from reality; compriſed in the following

LINES.

WHAT vaſt misfortunes men are born to bear!
Here trouble calls a ſigh, there drops a tear;
At every turn, affliction new appears,
To goad our feelings, and awake our cares.

No common loſs invokes the tragic muſe,
To ſhare my grief, and mitigate my woes;

No merchant's tales of ſhips o'erwhelm'd by ſeas
Inſpires the Muſe like loſs of bread and cheeſe.

Happy the morn that gave my ſorrows eaſe ;
And bleſt the chance my vengeance did appeaſe :
Plague on all mice that have for food deſire ;
Thanks to the man who firſt invented wire.

A roguiſh mouſe to whom I lay my grief,
In trap ſecur'd, I thus addreſs'd the thief :—
Hard 'tis to live ! yet thy abandon'd mob
Our cupboards plunder, and our pantries rob.

Thou little monſter, cloth'd in jacket grizzle,
Why did you ſteal my bread, and ſugar nibble ;
Drink up my milk, and trample on my butter ;
Invade my cheeſe, and interrupt my ſupper ?

Now round the trap, the captive ſeems to fly,
And now ſagacious beams his brilliant eye ;
To pant and beg is vain, you muſt not live,
And Puſs ſhall puniſh what I can't forgive.

The Cat, poſſeſſing not the tendereſt heart,
Soon made the little quaking captive ſmart :
He's now releas'd, and now again confin'd,
Now is he ſhook, and now his life's reſign'd.

With frowning heart I view'd the little ſlain,
And, quick relenting, thus I ſpoke in vain :—
Poor little Grizzle, thou haſt dearly paid
For being *thyſelf*, and juſt what Nature made.

What has thy cravings altogether ta'en ?
No matter what : Mankind are all, in grain,
Churliſh and cruel ! Abandon'd human kind ;
For they are not what Nature firſt deſign'd.

But *Mouſe* thou art! where was my ſenſe of feel-
No way haſt thou t'obtain thy food but ſtealing; [ing,
This ſhould have mov'd my heart to let thee go;
This thought have ſav'd thee from the purring foe.

Revenge revolts! quick fetch primeval flame;
Save me the deed, and hide me from the ſhame:
It will not be; and I in future times
May find this added to my page of crimes.

Condemn my haſte! I would that thou could'ſt
All treſpaſſes in future I'd forgive; [live,
Free to my cupboard e'en to what might pleaſe,
To eat with me my bread, and ſhare my cheeſe.

With ſentiments of eſteem and reſpect,
Your friend, &c. W. F. P.

LETTER III.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

I RECEIVED yours, and coincide with your ſentiments as they relate to becoming an Author. Notwithſtanding your ſurmiſes, I adviſe you to venture: There is nothing to be done without making a trial. Believe me, I am ſo well convinced of the ſucceſs of this publication, that no argument will perſuade me to the contrary. Remember you are not

a ſtranger to the people of America; they are already convinced that you poſſeſs a variety of talents, and their good opinion is, as Richard ſays in the play, "a tower of ſtrength."

A work of this kind will, I am purſuaded, be acceptable, and meet with a rapid ſale. And I ſhall expect to hear in your next that the work is in the preſs.

I am with cordial ſentiments,

Yours, &c. A. B.

LETTER IV.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

BEING convinced that you would not knowingly injure me, and relying on your former profeſſions of friendſhip, I place confidence in your ſound judgment. In order to gratify you, and (as you ſay) ſatisfy the public curioſity, I ſubmit our correſpondence to their inveſtigation; taking into conſideration that unravelling the ſeeming myſteries contained in the Letters may in ſome meaſure help to diſperſe the clouds of ſuperſtition, which is in my opinion of all evils the moſt dangerous to ſociety, as it not only cramps but tramples on the

the faculties of men, who, upon an enlightened and liberal ſcale, might poſſeſs them to an advantage unknown and unlimited : Methinks whoever can admit the unaccountable abſurdity, that effects have not an adequate cauſe, and that the ingenious productions of human wiſdom are the conſequence of diabolical agency, not only deceives himſelf but carries with him a veil of darkneſs, which he ſpreads over the eyes of his deluded followers ; and in that nation where ſuperſtition waves her bloody banners, Philoſophy and the arts muſt hide their heads, or retire, whilſt tyranny and oppreſſion diffuſe their baneful influence uninveſtigated and unreſtrained. Was there ever a perſon known to cheriſh this unnatural belief who became conſpicuouſly ingenious, or ſingularly enterprizing ? On the contrary, being of this opinion, his ideas are contracted ; and whatever great end Nature might have deſigned for him, he is clouded and overwhelmed in this falſe and fatal belief. Was it ſuperſtition gave the world a Newton ? I anſwer, No : But rather philoſophy inquiring into elementary bodies, the co-operation of ſubſtances, and the calculation of the effects naturally reſulting from their adequate cauſes. Was it ſuperſtition diſcovered America ? No : Bold enterpize aided by ſimilar calculations.—

Was

Was it ſuperſtition diſcovered the art of printing, the preſerver of all arts? No: Superſtition would have burnt the ingenious inventor, had he not, in order to ſave his life, diſcovered the ſecret.——Here then is the picture of ſuperſtition, tyranny and oppreſſion, hand in hand. What if *Richard Fauſt*, the ingenious inventor of this valuable art, had aſſerted his natural right, and dared to die, rather than thus be forced by the hand of ignorance to divulge the ſecret; then, from this inconſiſtent and arbitrary ſtep, the art of printing might have been forfeited even to the preſent hour: But it has and will diffuſe unbounded benefits to this and future ages.

To ſtrengthen the argument further, ſuffer me to make the following compariſon:—We will ſuppoſe that *Flavio de Gioia* was now living, and had lately diſcovered the wonderful properties of the magnet, and found that a needle touched with the ſame will invariably point to the North Pole: This diſcovery he advertizes for exhibition; it is ſingular, but thought of little or no conſequence; yet by proper improvement, how much benefit has it produced. On the other hand, we will ſuppoſe *Flavio de Gioia* is ſummoned before a body of men ſimilar to an inquiſition; here he is examined,

examined, and all he can ſay in his behalf is, he has diſcovered its properties, but cannot account for the cauſe. Muſt this man, who diſcovered the ineſtimable uſes of the magnet, the preſerver of ſo many mariners' lives; that provided the means by which the long-loſt ſailor, amidſt the wide ocean, ſurrounded by ſea and ſky, might obtain the knowledge of his courſe; and which has ſafely conducted the manufactories of one nation to another, and extended the benefits of navigation to all parts of the globe—Monſtrous thought!—Muſt this man be condemned for a wizard?

Once more.—Was it ſuperſtition conferred the glorious gift of Liberty? No:—Reſolute wiſdom, with a ſenſe of the natural privileges man has an undoubted right to enjoy.

Leaving any further compariſon, we may rationally conclude that ſuperſtition's baneful effects are theſe,—retarding the human capacity, operating dangerouſly on ſociety, and deſtructive to the common intereſt of mankind.

I remain yours, &c.

W. F. P.

LETTER V.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

BEING about to publiſh the work, agreeably to your requeſt, I ſhall cloſe our correſpondence with the following remarks, relating to the Pig of Knowledge. I obſerved, in a former Letter on this ſubject, that I was unable to diſcover the cauſe of his ſingular ſagacity in comprehending my meaning without the ſignal. Notwithſtanding, I will now further elucidate the ſubject.

You recollect that the cards are laid down in a circular direction, within which you ſtand, keeping the Pig by your ſide. Now we will ſuppoſe you wiſh him to fetch A: Step the oppoſite ſide of the circle, and the Pig, according to the nature of ſwine, being oppoſed to proceed in a direct courſe, will fetch you the letter; you obſerving to ſtep back, the moment he takes it in his mouth, and he will naturally follow. But ſhould he chance to take a letter to the right, keep your ſtation, and by inclining your body a little to the right, he will drop the card he has then got, and take the one you intend. Proceed in this manner,

manner, being careful that whatever direction you intend the Pig to take, your courſe and motion muſt be oppoſite.

By what manner the Pig is thought to know the card drawn.——Take a pack of cards; place the clubs and hearts, and ſpades and diamonds according to their ſeveral ſuits: This done, begin with the eight of clubs; on that place the king of hearts, on the king of hearts the tray of clubs, on the tray of clubs the ten of hearts, on the ten of hearts the deuce of clubs, on the deuce of clubs the ſeven of hearts, on the ſeven of hearts the nine of clubs, on the nine of clubs the five of hearts, on the five of hearts the queen of clubs, on the queen of clubs the four of hearts, on the four of hearts the ace of clubs, on the ace of clubs the ſix of hearts, on the ſix of hearts the jack of clubs. So much for the firſt aſſortment.——Then take the eight of hearts, and on that place the king of clubs; and ſo proceed with the ſecond aſſortment.——Then take the eight of ſpades, and on that place the king of diamonds; and ſo proceed with the third aſſortment.——Then take the eight of diamonds, and on that place the king of hearts; and thus proceed with the fourth aſſortment. This being done, put them together, and the cards are prepared.

Commit

Commit the manner in which the cards are placed, to memory, by learning the following words :—

Eight Kings tried to ſave nine fine Ladies for one ſick Jack.

Which are thus explained :—

eight is *eight.*
Kings are *Kings.*
tried is *tray.*
ten remember as coming between the [*tray* and *deuce.*
to is *deuce.*
ſave is *ſeven.*
nine is *nine.*
fine is *five.*
Ladies are *Queens.*
for is *four.*
one is *ace.*
ſick is *ſix.*
Jack is *Jack* or *Knave.*

Now recollect that clubs and hearts, and hearts and clubs are together ; likewiſe that ſpades and diamonds, and diamonds and ſpades are together : In the ſame order, now preſent them thus packed to the Company to chooſe a card : When a choice is thus made, ſhift the cards above the one drawn, with a ſlight, to the bottom, and by looking at this, the cards

card drawn is eaſily diſcovered, by a ſtrict adherence to the remarks before mentioned; as, for inſtance, ſuppoſe the bottom card you look at to be the eight of clubs, then of conſequence the card drawn muſt be the King of hearts; and ſo for any other in the pack. Then proceed with the Pig in the ſame manner as when he fetches a letter.

I hope this explanation will meet your approbation.

Your ſincere friend,

W. F. P.

LETTER VI.

From A. B. to W. F. P.

SIR,

IN conſideration of the many advantages derived through the medium of your information, I tender you my ſincere acknowledgments, as they have been both amuſing and uſeful. I was much pleaſed with your poetic reflections on the *Death of a Mouſe*. Preſuming that is not the firſt nor only one your muſe is capable of producing, any other will be gratefully received, and much oblige

Your's, &c.

A. B.

LETTER VII.

From W. F. P. to A. B.

SIR,

AS I have but little time to dedicate to the muſes at preſent, and ſtill wiſhing to comply with your requeſt, I can only ſend you a few lines written on reſcuing a Fly, which I did with my own hands, a few years ſince; together with my thoughts on Philanthropy.

IN that gay ſeaſon of the Spring,
When Ceres ſmiles, and birds do ſing,
And plenty crowns our joy;
Of buſineſs tir'd, and bent on eaſe,
The muſe alone my mind could pleaſe,
The vacant hour employ.

Miſs laughing Pert or ſiſter Tears*
In various images appears,
Shap'd by their votaries' pens:
But Nature view, from men to worms,
Will furniſh ſubjects in their turns,
And ſpeculative themes.

A giddy Fly, juſt wak'd to day,
From Winter's ſleep to Summer's play,
Would light on this and that:
He equal ſeem'd to taſte the Spring,
Joy mark'd his flight, and bent his wing
To where I penſive ſat.

Buſy

* *The Comic and Tragic Muſe.*

Buſy around the room he flew,
Baſk'd in the ſun, and wanton grew;
Nor ſeem'd a foe to dread:
But ah! thou heedleſs ſilly Fly,
Would inſtinct ſay that danger's nigh,
Beware of yonder web.

Quick as the thought embrac'd my mind,
The ſilly fool, (ſo fate deſign'd)
Had ſwept the ſubtle ſnare:
The ſapient Spider ſeiz'd his prey;
The Fly with ſtruggling feeble lay,
To end his Summer there.

Elate, the monſter mantles round,
In gliſt'ning cords the Fly is bound;
And bound, alas, to die!
Avaunt! thou wretch, my patience tir'd;
Twas pity mov'd, and vengeance fir'd,
To hear the harmleſs cry.

Swift as my hand could ſeize the web,
The Fly was freed, the Spider fled
To hole prepar'd hard by;
The long-legg'd ſavage drove away,
The fly unhurt I gave to play:
Methinks 'twas charity.

PHILANTHROPY.

DEAREST poſſeſſor of the human heart,
Chief ornament of man! Nor gold, nor title,
Wit, valour, wiſdom, nought can ſhare thy triumph.
Greater

Greater than all, above all, earthly angel !
Terreſtrial in form ! in godlike deeds celeſtial !
The widow and the orphan, the aged and the maim'd
Within thy balmy arms, ſweeten life's bitter cup !
Behold the mind by diſappointment worn,
Loſt to all hope, and yielding to deſpair !
Anon, thy voice, as if an angel ſpoke,
Diſpels the gloom.———
The bitter ſign of woe falls from the cheek,
Now drench'd in tears of gratitude !
The breaking heart ceaſes to ache,
And ſmiles with joy.
The tir'd ſenſes, worn by conſtant thought,
Retire to reſt.
Happy reſult of human friendſhip.
Methinks I ſee heaven's ſcrutinizing ſpirit,
Mark the fair deed ; in haſte aſcending
To the realms above ! Great news,
Acceptable to heaven ! Oh glorious tidings !—
The recording angel joyfully gives credit,
And, turning to the page of human failings,
Balances accounts.

Adieu !

W. F. P.

FINIS.