

**THE PAPER-HANGER'S COMPANION:
A TREATISE ON PAPER-HANGING; IN
WHICH THE PRACTICAL
OPERATIONS OF THE TRADE ARE
SYSTEMATICALLY LAID DOWN**

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The Paper-Hanger's Companion: a Treatise on Paper-Hanging; in Which the Practical Operations of the Trade Are Systematically Laid down by James Arrowsmith

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JAMES ARROWSMITH

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PAPER-HANGER'S COMPANION:

A TREATISE ON

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IN WHICH THE

PRACTICAL OPERATIONS OF THE TRADE ARE
SYSTEMATICALLY LAID DOWN:

WITH

COPIOUS DIRECTIONS PREPARATORY TO PAPERING;
PREVENTIONS AGAINST THE EFFECT OF DAMP ON WALLS;
THE VARIOUS CEMENTS AND PASTES ADAPTED TO THE SEVERAL
PURPOSES OF THE TRADE;
OBSERVATIONS AND DIRECTIONS FOR THE PANELLING
AND ORNAMENTS OF ROOMS, &c

BY

JAMES ARROWSMITH,

AUTHOR OF "AN ANALYSIS OF DRAPERY," &c.

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P R E F A C E.

IF the practical experience, with suitable attention to his business, during a term of fifty years, can entitle a workman to hope for some attention from his brethren in the trade, little apology will be requisite for offering the results of his various practice, with some degree of confidence that his efforts may be of that utility which he reasonably anticipates.

Since the reduction on paper-hangings, the putting up of them in too many cases has been intrusted to persons of various callings, and entire strangers to the business; and from the prevalence of this cus-

tom, it may fairly be inferred that the public generally are of opinion that the operation consists of the mere sticking the paper on the wall. It is needless to say much on the erroneousness of such ideas; the professed paper-hanger is aware of many difficulties which present themselves from various causes, and which have to be surmounted before the walls or grounds are in a state to receive the paper;* this is frequently too little attended to.

Modern economists deceive themselves in the belief, that as Dick, Jack, or Tom will work at low wages by the day, that system

* During the long term of my business, I have paid every attention to means for obviating these difficulties; for each I have given directions which I found suitable to remove each of them, and in cases where I have succeeded, from my practice, or information from others, the statement will be found under the head of "Preparatory treatment of walls or grounds for papering."

is a cheap one; but on a little reflection they would be convinced of its incorrectness from the slow progress of the operation, and what they considered economical is quite the reverse: a *Paper-hanger* would do the work in half the time by the piece, and with less waste and cost than the slap-bang innovator.

In the following treatise, I have endeavoured to explain clearly the requisites for each department of work from the foundation. Some persons may think it unnecessary to commence with such an early part of the business; but I remember the time when such instruction would have been gratifying to me; from which I judge it may be acceptable to others in a like situation.

The few observations on colouring in distemper, and hanging walls with cotton, may, I trust, be considered worthy of notice.

In conclusion, I beg to draw attention to that part of the book relating to the care required in the management of hanging the crimson *stained ground* papers. I am not aware that my method has been practised, except by those I have informed of it; but if carefully attended to, I have no doubt of its proving useful, and preventing that disappointment and loss which I have witnessed, solely from mismanagement.

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