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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Fulminating Powder

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Fulminating Powder.

Mix together one drachm of sulphur, three drachms of nitre of potass, and two drachms of carbonate of potass (all previously powdered) in a sheet of writing-paper. When properly mixed, put them into a small stoppered phial. An eighth or a sixteenth part of this, put into a fire-shovel of tin-plate, held over the fire for a few minutes will explode; immediately before the explosion, a violet-coloured flame will be seen to hover over it.

Another way.

Rub together in a hot marble mortar, with a wooden pestle, three parts, by weight, of nitre, two of mild vegetable alkali, and one of flowers of sulphur, till the whole is accurately mixed. If a drachm of this powder be exposed to a gentle heat, in an iron ladle, till it melts, it will explode with a noise as loud as the report of a cannon.

A more powerful Fulminating Powder.

The most wonderful instance of chemical detonation is formed by the combination of volatile alkali with silver. Gunpowder, or fulminating gold, are

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