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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To prepare Fulminating Silver

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not to be compared with this invention, and the great danger attending its manufacture prevents us from giving a methodical account of its preparation to our readers, particularly as it can be purchased, properly prepared, of the chemists.

The slightest agitation or friction is sufficient to cause its explosion. When it is once obtained, it can no longer be touched with safety. The falling of a few atoms of it, from a small height produces an explosion, a drop of water falling on it has the same effect. No attempt can be made to inclose it in a bottle, but it must be let alone in the capsule, wherein by evaporation it obtains this terrible property. To make this experiment with safety, no greater quantity than a grain of silver should be used; the last process of drying should be made in a metallic vessel, and the face of the operator defended by a mask with strong glass eyes.

To prepare Fulminating Silver.

Dissolve pure silver in nitric acid, and precipitate the silver by lime-water; put the precipitate upon filtering paper, and when dry, put it into a shallow vessel, then pour liquid ammonia upon it, and when it has stood about twelve hours, pour off the liquid, and a black powder will remain, which must be carefully set by to dry.

Powder.

Chemical delena-
of volatile alkali
ating gold, are