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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Artificial Lightning

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Beautiful Phenomena.

Dip a long slip of wood in melted sulphur, so that one-half, upwards, may be covered. Light it, and whilst burning with a weak bluish flame, introduce it into a jar of nitrous oxide gas; the flame will be instantly extinguished. Withdraw the match, inflame it again, and let it burn for two or three seconds until the flame be vivid, then immerse it once more. Instead of extinction, the flame will be now kept up with great splendour. It will be of a delicate red colour.

Artificial Lightning.

Provide a tin tube that is larger at one end than it is at the other, and in which there are several holes. Fill this tube with powdered resin; and when it is shook over the flame of a torch, the reflection will produce the exact appearance of lightning.

To split a Piece of Money into two Parts.

Fix three pins in the table, and lay the piece of money upon them; then place a heap of the flowers of sulphur below the piece of money, and another above it, and set fire to them. When the flame is extinct, you will find on the upper part of the piece a thin plate of metal, which has been detached from it.