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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To set a combustible Body on Fire, by the Contact of Water

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and desiring him to throw away the water, but save the pieces ; he will not be a little surprised at finding only one.

To set a combustible Body on Fire, by the Contact of Water.

Fill a saucer with water, and let fall into it a piece of potassium the size of a pepper corn, which is about two grains. The potassium will instantly burst into flame, with a slight explosion, and burn vividly on the surface of the water, darting at the same time from one side of the vessel to the other, with great violence in the form of a beautiful red-hot fire-ball.

To construct the Camera Obscura.

Make a circular hole in the shutter of a window, from whence there is a prospect of some distance ; in this hole place a magnifying glass, either double or single, whose focus is at the distance of five or six feet ; no light must enter the room but through this glass. At a distance from it, equal to its focus, place a very white pasteboard, (what is called a Bristol board, if you can procure one large enough, will answer extremely well;) this board must be two feet and a half long, and eighteen or twenty inches high, with a black border round it : bend the length of it

forward to the window, so that the distance from the glass to the board is equal to the distance from the glass to the eye. If, instead of a window, you have a plain wall, (which must be white,) hold the board horizontally against the wall, so that the distance from the glass to the board is equal to the distance from the glass to the eye.

Observe,

the best time for this experiment is in the forenoon, when the sun is not yet very high, and the atmosphere is clear.

Let the rays of the sun pass through the

magnifying glass, and they will be

concentrated upon the white

surface of the board, and will

form a distinct image of the

object seen through it.

The image will be inverted,

but the eye will perceive it

as it really is.

The image will be

diminished in size, but

will be very distinct.

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