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**The young man's book of amusement**

**Halifax, 1848**

Beautiful Ornament for a Room

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*Invisible Correspondence.*

Mix up some hog's lard very intimately with a little Venice turpentine, and rub a small portion of it gently and in an equal manner, over very thin paper by means of a piece of fine sponge. When you are desirous to employ this preparation for writing secretly to a friend, lay the above paper on that you intend to dispatch, and trace out whatever you think proper with a blunted style, by which means the fat substance will adhere to the second paper in all those places the style has passed. The person who receives the letter may easily render it legible by sprinkling over it a little coloured dust, or some pounded charcoal well sifted.

*Beautiful Ornament for a Room.*

Dissolve in seven different tumblers, containing warm water, half ounces of sulphates of iron, copper, zinc, soda, alumine, magnesia, and potass. Pour them all, when completely dissolved, into a large evaporating dish of Wedgwood's ware, and stir the whole with a glass rod; place the dish in a warm place, where it cannot be affected by dust, or where it may not be agitated. When due evaporation has taken place, the whole will begin to shoot out into crystals. These will be interspersed in small groups and single crystals amongst each other. Their colour

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and peculiar form of crystallization, will distinguish each crystal separately, and the whole together, remaining in the respective places where they were deposited, will display a very curious and pleasing appearance. Preserve it carefully from dust.

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*To make Fire Bottles.*

The phosphoric fire bottles may be prepared in the following manner:—Take a small phial of very thin glass, heat it gradually in a ladle-full of sand, and introduce into it a few grains of phosphorus; let the phial be then left undisturbed for a few minutes, and proceed in this manner till the phial is full. Another method of preparing this phosphoric bottle, consists in heating two parts of phosphorus and one of lime, placed in layers, in a loosely stopped phial for about half an hour; or put a little phosphorus into a small phial, heat the phial in a ladle-full of sand; and when the phosphorus is melted, turn it round, so that the phosphorus may adhere to the sides of the phial; and then cork it closely. To use this bottle, take a common brimstone match, introduce its point into the bottle, so as to cause a minute quantity of its contents to adhere to it: if the match be rubbed on a common bottle cork, it will instantly take fire. Care should be taken not to use the same match a second time immediately, or while it is hot, as it would infallibly set fire to the phosphorus in the bottle.