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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Silver Tree

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Two cold Liquids when mixed become boiling hot.

Put into a thin phial two parts (by measure) of sulphuric acid, and add to it one part of water : on agitating or stirring them together, the mixture instantly becomes hot, and acquires a temperature above that of boiling water.

The Silver Tree.

Dissolve an ounce of fine silver in three ounces of strong aqua fortis, in a glass bottle. When the silver is dissolved, pour the aqua fortis into another glass vessel (a decanter will be best), with seven or eight ounces of mercury, to which add a quart of common water ; to the whole add your dissolved silver, and let it remain untouched.

In a few days the mercury will appear covered with a number of little branches of a silver colour. This appearance will increase for a month or two, and will remain after the mercury is entirely dissolved.

The Lead Tree.

A more modern invention, and an easier method by far than the above is the following :

To a piece of zinc fasten a wire, crooked in the