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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Metallic Vegetations

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Metallic Vegetations.

Place a few filings of copper and iron on a glass plate, at a certain distance one from the other; drop a little nitrate of silver on each parcel—the silver will soon begin to precipitate, while the iron and copper will oxidise and become coloured; then, by a small wooden point, the ramifications may be arranged at will, whilst the flame of a taper, being placed under the plate, will increase the evaporation, facilitate the re-action of the substances, blacken the lower side of the plate, and thus form a design.

To make a Ring suspend by a Thread, after the Thread has been burned.

Soak a piece of thread in urine, or common salt and water. Tie it to a ring, not larger than a wedding ring. When you apply the flame of a candle to it, it will burn to ashes, but yet sustain the ring.

Light produced by Sugar.

If two pieces of loaf-sugar (about a pound each) are struck against each other in the dark, a light-blue flame, like lightning, will be elicited. The same effect takes place when a loaf of sugar is struck with an iron instrument.