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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

A Vessel that will let Water out at the bottom, as soon as the mouth is
uncorked

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retained in the tube by a piece of paper. If the second figure be applied to the flame of a taper, it will extinguish it; and the first will light it again.

An Optical Game.

Present to any one a ring, or place at some distance, and in such a manner that the plane of it shall be turned towards the persons's face; then bid him shut one of his eyes, and try to push through it a crooked stick, of sufficient length to reach it: he will very seldom succeed. A person with one eye would not experience the same difficulty; being accustomed to make use of only one eye, he acquires the habit of judging of distances with great correctness.

A Vessel that will let Water out at the bottom, as soon as the mouth is uncorked.

Provide a tin vessel, two or three inches in diameter, and five or six inches in height, having a mouth about three inches in width; and in the bottom several small holes, just large enough to admit a small needle. Plunge it in water with its mouth open, and full, while it remains in the water, stop it very closely. You can play a trick with a person, by desiring him to uncork it; if he places it on his knee for that purpose, the moment it is uncorked the

water will
completely

To produce

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A Powder

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water will run through the bottom, and make him completely wet.

To produce great Heat by presenting two Solids to each other.

Take a crystal or two of the nitrate of copper, and bruise them, then moisten them with water, and roll them up quickly in a piece of tin-foil, and in half a minute, or little more, the tin-foil will begin to smoke, and soon after take fire and explode with a slight noise. Except the crystals of the nitrate of copper are moistened, no heat will be produced.

A Powder which catches Fire when exposed to the Air.

Put three ounces of rock alum, and one ounce of honey or sugar, into a new earthen dish, glazed, and which is capable of standing a strong heat; keep the mixture over the fire, stirring it continually till it becomes very dry and hard: then remove it from the fire, and pound it to a coarse powder. Put this powder into a long-necked bottle, leaving a part of the vessel empty: and having placed it in a crucible, fill up the crucible with fine sand, and surround it with burning coals. When the bottle has been kept at a red heat for about seven or eight minutes, and no more vapour issues from it, remove it from the fire, then