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

**Halifax, 1848**

The Fiery Fountain

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*The Fiery Fountain.*

If twenty grains of phosphorus, cut very small, and mixed with forty grains of powder of zinc, be put into four drachms of water, and two drachms of concentrated sulphuric acid be added thereto, bubbles of inflamed phosphorated hydrogen gas will quickly cover the whole surface of the fluid in succession, forming a real fountain of fire.

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*A person having put a Ring on one of his Fingers, to name the Person, the Hand, the Finger, and the Joint on which it is placed.*

Let a third person double the number of the order in which he stands who has the ring, and add 5 to that number; then multiply that sum by 5, and to the product add 10. Let him next add 1 to the last number, and if the ring be on the right hand, and 2 on the left, and multiply the whole by 10: to the product of this he must add the number of the finger, (counting the thumb as the first finger) and multiply the whole again by 10. Let him then add the number of the joint, and, lastly, to the whole join 35.

He is then to tell you the amount of the whole, from which you are to subtract 3535, and the remainder will consist of four figures; the first of which will express the rank in which the person stands, the second the hand, (number 1 signifying