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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Inconceivable Shock

[urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120)

the working parts of a double water-mill, turning two mill-stones.

Set the mill near the prime conductor, and place the crooked wire, so that its point may be directed towards the uppermost side of the great wheel A ; then work the electrical machine, and the stream of fire that issues from the point of the wire will turn the wheel ; and consequently all the other working parts of the mill.

The Inconceivable Shock.

Put in a person's hand a wire that is fixed on to the hook that comes from the chain which communicates with one side of the battery, and in his other hand put a small wire with a hook at the end of it, which you direct him to fix on a hook which comes from the other chain. On attempting to do this, he will instantly receive a shock from his body, without being able to guess the cause.

Care should be taken that the shock be not too strong ; and regard should be had to the constitution and disposition of the party, as a shock that would hardly affect one person, might be productive of very serious consequences to another.

Much entertainment may be derived from concealing the chain that communicates with that which proceeds from the outside of the battery, under a carpet, and placing the wire that communicates with the chain from the inside, in such a manner, that a

person may put his hand on it without suspicion, at the same time that his feet are upon the other wire.

The whole company may be made to partake of the shock, by joining hands, and forming a circle. The experiment may also be varied if they tread upon each other's toes, or lay their hands upon each other's heads. It might happen, by the latter method, that the whole company would be struck to the ground; but it will be productive of no danger, and very little inconvenience; on the contrary, it has happened that they have neither heard nor felt the shock.

Electrical Orrery.

A great diversity of other experiments have been contrived to shew the power of points, one of them is the *Electrical Orrery*, represented at Fig. 12. The sun and earth go round their common centre of gravity in a solar year, and the earth and moon go round their common centre of gravity in a lunar month. These motions are represented by an electrical experiment as follows; the ball S represents the sun, E the earth, and M the moon, connected by wires *a, c*, and *b, d*; *a* is the centre of gravity between the sun and earth, and *b* is the centre of gravity between the earth and the moon. These three balls and their connecting wires are hung and supported on the sharp point of a wire A, which is set upright in the prime conductor B of the electrical machine; the earth and moon hanging upon the sharp point of the

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