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

**Halifax, 1848**

Brilliant Electrical Star

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wire *e*, in which wire is a pointed short pin, sticking out horizontally at *c*; and there is just such another pin at *d*, sticking out in the same manner, in the wire that connects the earth and moon.

When the working of the electrical machine is commenced, and consequently these balls and wires are electrified, the fluid that flies off horizontally from the point *c* and *d*, causes *S* and *E* to move round their common centre of gravity *a*; and *E* and *M* to move round their common centre of gravity *b*: and as *E* and *M* are light when compared with *S* and *E*, there is much less friction on the point *b* than upon the point *a*; so that *E* and *M* will make a much greater number of revolutions about the point *b*, than *S* and *E* made about the point *a*. The weights of the balls may be adjusted so that *E* and *M* may go twelve times round *b*, in the same time that *S* and *E* go once round *a*.

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*Brilliant Electrical Star.*

If a plate of tin be cut into the form of a star, and be supported on its centre by a wire projecting from the prime conductor, as soon as the wheel of the machine is turned, and this apparatus electrified, a flame will appear at the extremity of every angle of the star, which will be very beautiful; and if the star be made to turn swiftly on its centre, an entire circle of fire will be seen in the dark. This experiment will appear very surprising to persons unacquainted with

electricity, if the operator now and then privately touch the prime conductor, which may easily be managed as the experiment is performed in the dark; for by this means he may command the appearance or disappearance of the star or circle of fire, at pleasure.

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*Electrical Illumination.*

To illuminate eggs by electricity, it is merely necessary to get a mahogany stand so constructed as to hold three eggs at a greater or smaller distance, according to the position of two sliding pieces of wire. A chain is then placed at the bottom in such a manner as to touch the lowest egg with one end, and with its other the outside coating of a charged jar. The sliding wire at the top is made to touch the upper egg, and the distance of the eggs asunder should not exceed the quarter or eighth part of an inch. The electricity being, by means of the discharging rod, sent down the ball and wire, will, in a darkened room, render the eggs luminous and transparent.

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*To Illuminate a Piece of Sugar by an Electrical Explosion.*

Place a piece of sugar on the top of a Leyden Jar, and bring the discharging rod in contact with it, so

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