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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To Illuminate a Piece of Sugar by an Electrical Explosion

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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.

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.

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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that an explosion will take place; if the room be darkened, the light will be seen upon its surface; continuing some time after the explosion. If chalk be used, it will also retain the light after the explosion, which will be of a different colour.

The Electrical Kiss.

A lady may challenge any gentleman, not acquainted with the experiment, that he will not be able to kiss her, although she may incline to meet him. If he accepts the challenge, and the machine turn while they are inclining their heads to kiss each other, provided their clothes do not touch before their lips meet, a spark of fire will fly from the lady to the gentleman, which will be sure to make him draw back, without accomplishing his design.

The Miraculous Luminaries.

You must previously prepare the following phosphorus: Calcine common oyster-shells, by burning them in the fire for half an hour; then reduce them to powder; of the clearest of which take three parts, and of flowers of sulphur one part; put the mixture into a crucible, about an inch and a half deep. Let it burn in a strong fire for rather better than an hour; and when it is cool, turn it out and break it in pieces;