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The young man's book of amusement

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Safest Situation during a Thunder-Storm

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electrical, that it cannot be collected together, but will fly about the dish whenever it is moved, and over its sides into the sand-bath. It requires some little stirring before the particles of the powder are all of them sufficiently electrical to produce the effect.

Safest Situation during a Thunder-Storm.

[*Though not exactly an experiment, the following advice will be important to the reader.*]

The safest situation during a thunder-storm is the cellar; for when a person is below the surface of the earth, the lightning must strike it before it can reach him, and will of course, in all probability, be expended on it. Dr. Franklin advises persons apprehensive of lightning to sit in the middle of a room, not under a metal lustre, or any other conductor, and to lay their feet upon another chair. It will be safer still, he adds, to lay two or three beds or mattresses in the middle of the room, and folding them double, to place the chairs upon them. A hammock suspended by silk cords would be an improvement upon this apparatus. Persons in fields should prefer the open parts to the vicinity of trees, &c. The distance of a thunder-storm, and consequently the danger, is not difficult to be estimated. As light travels at the rate of 72,420 leagues in a second of time, its effects may be considered as instantaneous within any moderate distance. Sound on the contrary, is transmitted

only at the rate 1,142 feet, or about 380 yards, in a second. By accurately observing therefore the time which intervenes between the flash and the noise of the thunder which follows it, a very near calculation may be made of its distance, and there is no better means of removing apprehensions.

The Electric Kite.

Make a small cross of two light strips of cedar, the arms so long as to reach to the four corners of a large thin silk handkerchief when extended; tie the corners of the handkerchief to the extremities of the cross, and you have the body of the kite; which being properly accommodated with a tail, loop, and string, will rise in the air like those made of paper; but this being silk, is more adapted to bear the wet and wind of a thunder gust, without tearing. To the top of the upright stick of the cross is to be fixed a very sharp pointed wire, rising a foot or more above the wood. To the end of the twine is to be tied a silk ribbon, and where the silk and twine join, a key may be fastened. This kite is to be raised when a thunder-storm appears to be coming on; and the person who holds the string must stand within a door or window, or under some cover, so that the silk ribbon may not be wet; and care must be taken that the twine do not touch the frame of the door or window. As soon as any of the thunder clouds come over the kite, the pointed wire will draw the electric fire from them, and the

kite, with all
these filaments
and be attracted
the rain has
conduct the
out plentifully
knuckle.
charged; a
may be kindled
performed,
rubbed glass
the electricity
demonstrated

Provide
inch in diameter
cutting it
side, and the
ing attached
four feet in
it may just
side of which
the first of
distance, a
remain stationary
distance between
and the bottom
and will turn