

Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Elecetric Kite

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

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 filamen
and be attr
the rain has
conduct the
out plentiful
knuckle.
charged; a
may be kin
performed,
rubbed gl
the electric
demonstrat

Provide
inch in dia
cutting it
side, and th
ing attach
four feet in
it may just
side of wh
the first co
distance, a
remain stat
distance bel
and the bott
and will tur

kite, with all the twine, will be electrified, while the loose filaments of the twine will stand out every way, and be attracted by an approaching finger. When the rain has wetted the kite and twine, so that it can conduct the electric fire freely, you will find it stream out plentifully from the key, on the approach of your knuckle. At this key an electric phial may be charged; and from electric fire thus obtained, spirits may be kindled, and all the other electric experiments performed, which are usually done by the help of a rubbed glass or tube, and thereby the identity of the electric matter with that of lightning completely demonstrated.

The Electric Ball.

Provide a ball of cork about three quarters of an inch in diameter, hollowed out in the internal part by cutting it in two hemispheres, scooping out the inside, and then joining them together with paste. Having attached this to a silk thread between three and four feet in length, suspend it in such a manner that it may just touch the knob of an electric jar, the outside of which communicates with the ground. On the first contact it will be repelled to a considerable distance, and after making several vibrations, will remain stationary; but if a cradle be placed at some distance behind it, so that the ball may be between it and the bottle, the ball will instantly begin to move, and will turn round the knob of the jar. moving in a