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**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

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

**Halifax, 1848**

The Shower of Fire

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

cause the plate is liable to be scratched, and the smallest unevenness between the receiver and the plate would prevent the success of any experiment.

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#### *The Shower of Fire.*

Place on the top of the air-pump a small circular plate, pierced with holes, and supporting a small cylindrical receiver, terminating in a hemisphere, and cover the whole with a larger receiver, having a hole in its summit, to admit a glass funnel filled with mercury. The funnel must shut with a stopper, so as to open when necessary. Then exhaust the air from the receiver, and open the funnel which contains the mercury, which will run down, and falling on the convex summit of the interior receiver, will be thrown up in small luminous drops, so as to resemble a shower of fire.

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#### *Bottles broken by Air.*

Take a square bottle of thin glass, of any size. Apply it to the hole in the air pump, and exhaust the air. The bottle will sustain the weight of the external air as long as it is able, but at length it will suddenly burst into very small particles, and with a loud explosion.

An opposite effect will be produced, if the mouth