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

**Halifax, 1848**

Writing on Glass by the Rays of the Sun

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*To make Luminous Writing in the Dark.*

Fix a small piece of solid phosphorus in a quill, and write with it upon paper; if the paper be carried into a dark room, the writing will appear beautifully luminous.

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*The Sublimated Tree.*

Into a large glass jar inverted upon a flat brick tile, and containing near its top a branch of fresh rosemary, or any other such shrub, moistened with water, introduce a flat thick piece of heated iron, on which place some gum benzoin in gross powder. The benzoin, in consequence of the heat, will be separated, and ascend in white fumes, which will at length condense, and form a most beautiful appearance upon the leaves of the vegetable.

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*Writing on Glass by the Rays of the Sun.*

Dissolve chalk in aquafortis to the consistence of milk, and add to that a strong solution of silver.—Keep this liquor in a glass decanter, well stopped, then cut out from a paper the letters you would have appear, and paste the paper on the decanter, which you are to place in the sun, in such a manner that its rays may pass through the spaces cut out of the pa-

per, and fall on the surface of the liquor. The part of the glass through which the rays pass will turn black, and that under the paper will remain white. You must observe not to move the bottle during the time of the operation.

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*To cause a Report like that of a Gun, with a Tobacco Pipe.*

Compose a powder with one ounce of saltpetre, one ounce of cream of tartar, and half an ounce of sulphur, pulverized singly, then mixed. Put a single grain of this powder into a tobacco-pipe, and when it takes fire, it will produce a very loud report without breaking the pipe.

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*To break a Stone with a blow of the Fist.*

Select two stones from three to six inches long, and about half as thick, lay one flat on the ground on which place one end of the other, raising the reverse end to an angle of forty-five degrees, and just over the centre of the stone (with which it must form a T,) supporting it in that position by a piece of thin twig, or stick, one, or one and a half inch long; if the raised stone be now smartly struck about the centre, with the little finger side of the fist, the stick will give way, and the stone will be broken to pieces: the stones must be laid so as not to slip, otherwise the experiment will fail.

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