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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Curious Transcolourations

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To exhibit the combustion of Iron-wire in Oxygen Gas.

Take a piece of fine iron wire, and coil it up in a spiral form. Fasten a little flax, or cotton, to one end of it, which must be dipped in sulphur. The other end of the wire is to be fixed to a cork, so that the spiral end may hang straight down. Fill a bottle capable of holding about a quart, with oxygen gas, and set its mouth upwards; then light the sulphur, and introduce the wire into the bottle of gas, suspending it by the cork, which is simply to be laid on the mouth of the bottle. The iron will immediately begin to burn with the most brilliant light, throwing out a number of sparks which fall to the bottom, and generally break it. This may, however, be prevented, by pouring sand into the bottle.

Curious Transcolourations.

If you put a tea-spoonful of a liquor composed of copper infused in acid of vitriol, into a glass, and add two or three table-spoonsful of water to it, there will be no sensible colour produced; but if you add a little volatile alkali to it, and stir it, you will perceive a very beautiful blue colour. Add a little acid of vitriol, the colour will instantly disappear upon stirring it; and by adding a little fixed alkali dissolved, it will return again.

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and add a
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