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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Phial of the Four Elements

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Another.

Put half a tea-spoonful of a liquor composed of iron infused in acid of vitriol, into half a glass of water; and add a few drops of phlogisticated alkali, and a beautiful Prussian blue will appear.

Iron transformed into Silver.

Dissolve mercury in marine acid, and dip a piece of iron into it, or rub the solution over the iron, and it will assume a silver appearance.

It is scarcely necessary to state that these transmutations are only apparent, though to the credulous, it would seem that they were actually transformed.

The Phial of the Four Elements.

Take a phial, six or seven inches long, and about three-quarters of an inch in diameter. In this phial put, first, glass coarsely powdered; secondly, oil of tartar per deliquium; thirdly, tincture of salt of tartar; and lastly, distilled rock oil.

The glass and the various liquors being of different densities, if you shake the phial, and then let it rest a few moments, the three liquors will entirely separate, and each assume its place; thus forming no

indifferent resemblance of the four elements, earth, fire, water, and air: the powdered glass (which should be of some dark colour) representing the earth; the oil of tartar, water; the tincture, air: and the rock oil, fire.

The Æolipiles.

The æolipile is a small hollow globe of brass, or other metal, in which a slender neck or pipe is inserted. This ball, when made red hot, is cast into a vessel of water, which will rush into its cavity, then almost void of air. The ball being then set on the fire, the water, by the rarefaction of the internal air, will be forced out in steam by fits, with great violence, and with a strange noise.

If to the necks of two or more of these balls, there be fitted those balls that are used by fowlers and hunters, and the balls placed on the fire, the steam rushing from them will make such a horrible noise, that it will astonish any person who is ignorant of the contrivance.

The Wheel Barometer in the form of a Syphon.

A small float of iron or glass rests on the exterior surface of the mercury, suspended by a slender thread, passed round a small wheel, or cylindrical axis, that carries the index. By this construction, the varia-

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