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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Floating Needle

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Amusing Explosion.

There is a tree growing in America, which they call the Devil's tree; its fruit, in a state of maturity, is elastic, and when dried by the heat of the sun, noisily splits, and bursts forth its grains. To this sport of nature, the tree owes its name; for, at the moment of bursting, the effect of a piece of artillery is produced, the noise of which succeeds rapidly, and is heard tolerably far off. If its fruit be transplanted, before it is ripe, to a dry place, or exposed on a chimney-piece to a gentle heat, it will have the same effect, and produce the same phenomenon.

The Floating Needle.

Pour some water in a plate: then drop a needle lightly and carefully upon the surface, and it will float.

The Dancing Ring.

Procure a hollow ring, and fill it with quicksilver by means of a small hole; stop up the hole with clay, and, having heated the ring over a candle, put it down upon the table, and it will dance about until the quicksilver becomes cold.

French Way of

Take a gallon of
sides, then boil the
water, when fine,
pour and as occasi
ion, &c. not only
with half the soap

Th

Place on the spot
of rare net-work; t
ball, two inches and
to the narrow part
will rise and remain
down by the wind,
seal.

To Silver Paper to
manner, per

Take two scruples
best) one scruple of
water, simmer the
mixture two-thirds ev
per being laid on a
brush in the prepar