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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Crystallization of Tin

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two ounces of nitric acid, and three ounces of muriatic acid ; or eight ounces of water, two ounces of muriatic, and one ounce of sulphuric acid. Either of these mixtures is to be poured warm upon a sheet of tinned iron, placed upon a vessel of stone ware ; it is to be poured on in separate portions, till the sheet is completely watered ; it is then to be plunged into water, slightly acidulated, and washed. The operation is completed by drying. By subjecting the iron to different degrees of heat, the variety of the forms is increased ; some parts are granular, others are like architectural ruins ; others grand natural phenomena of wood, and mountain, and cataract ; in fine, there is no shape which the imagination can conceive, that accident may not produce in these exquisite sports of chemical power. The natural result of the crystallization is, to produce a surface of the shade of mother of pearl. The hues of gold, green, blue, &c. are effected by varnishes, laid on in a peculiar manner, and rubbed to the utmost degree of polish by the soft part of the hand.

Pleasing Experiments with Glass Tubes.

A most remarkable phenomenon is produced in glass tubes, placed in certain circumstances. When these are laid before a fire in an horizontal position, having their extremities properly supported, they acquire a rotatory motion round their axis, and also a progressive motion towards the fire, even when their