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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

A Brilliant Fire

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A Brilliant Fire.

Meal powder, six pounds ; saltpetre, half a pound ;
brimstone, two ounces ; and steel-dust, twelve ounces.

*Of such Ingredients as show themselves in Sparks
when rammed into choaked Cases.*

The set colours of fire produced by sparks are divided into four sorts, viz. the black, white, grey, and red ; the black charges are composed of two ingredients, which are meal powder and charcoal ; the white of three, viz. saltpetre, sulphur, and charcoal ; the grey of four, viz. meal powder, saltpetre, brimstone, and charcoal ; and the red of three, viz. meal powder, charcoal, and saw-dust.

There are, besides these four regular or set charges, two others, which are distinguished by the names of compound and brilliant charges ; the compound charge being made of many ingredients, such as meal powder, saltpetre, brimstone, charcoal, saw-dust, sea-coal, antimony, glass-dust, brass-dust, steel-filings, cast iron, tanners' dust, &c. or any thing that will yield sparks ; all which must be managed with discretion. The brilliant fires are composed of meal powder, saltpetre, brimstone, and steel-dust ; or with meal powder and steel filings only.