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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To make Squibs and Serpents

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To make Squibs and Serpents.

First make the cases, of about six inches in length, by rolling slips of stout cartridge paper three times round a roller, and pasting the last fold : tying it near the bottom as tight as possible, and making it airtight at the end with sealing-wax. Then take of gun-powder half a pound, charcoal one ounce, brimstone one ounce, and steel filings half an ounce, (or in like proportion), grind them with a muller or pound them in a mortar. Your cases being very dry and ready, first put a thimble-full of your powder, and ram it hard down with a ruler ; then fill the case to the top with the aforesaid mixture, ramming it hard down in the course of filling two or three times ; when this is done, point it with touch paper, which should be pasted on that part which touches the case, otherwise it is liable to drop off.

To make Crackers.

Cut some stout cartridge paper into pieces, three inches and a half broad, and one foot long ; fold down one edge of each of these pieces lengthwise, about three quarters of an inch broad ; then fold the double edge down a quarter of an inch, and turn the single edge back half over the double fold. Open it and lay all along the channel which is formed by the fold-in of the paper, some meal powder ; then fold it