

but only latent from want of opportunities of development, nobly emptied the coveted jar of the supply of *magnesia* which was intended to dose the infants of the place for a year or so—he would hear of neither recompense nor reward, and all I could promise him was a *shock*. A friendly blacksmith assisted me in punching the bottom out of this bottle; a well-disposed carpenter made me a *stand*—the rest I managed myself. A small supply of *amalgam* and a few sheets of *tin-foil*, had remained by me for some years, so I soon got my *rubber* mounted, and my *prime conductor* also; the latter insulated by being fastened with sealing wax into an empty castor-oil bottle. So far so good; the machine worked well; sparks came forth: one step towards the *lecture* had been gained.

In getting up a *leyden* jar, I had some difficulty. A kind lady emptied her preserved peaches from a nice-looking glass jar, and gave it me as soon as she knew what I wanted; but, alas! it proved too thick. A friend, living sixty miles off, sent me an excellent jar by the "Courier;" but his carefulness was not equal to his kindness, and so, from bad packing, the jar was broken into small pieces before it reached me.

At last, however, I found the very thing I wanted; it stood on a shelf in a distant store, and was filled with nutmegs. The ingenuous youth who "presided" had only to hear that I wanted it to give shocks: "Ah!" said he; "yes, I remember getting shocks when I was in Jersey: my! how my elbows tingled. Certainly, you must have it; the nutmegs will do very well in a box."

In this way I got on famously. Every one who could assist me did so.

I had only to pronounce the word "*electricity*," and jars, wire, copper, zinc—anything in the possession of my neighbors—was placed at my service. A needle telegraph was my next object. Two pieces of watch spring, pierced, magnetised, surrounded by a coil of covered wire, and mounted on a pivot in a little box, answered admirably.

Two cylinders of copper, and two of zinc, composed my not very formidable *battery*. One of the copper cylinders had been part of a kettle; the other had formed part of the sheathing of the good ship *Ideal*, which struck, and, I may add, *stuck*, on the rocks quite close to our village, about a year before; and the zinc had been procured from Quebec, for the purpose of rendering water-tight the house of the worthy fellow who sacrificed a good strip of it to the cause of science!

In a few weeks my apparatus was as perfect as it was likely to be; it was meagre, no doubt; but still there had never been the like in the place before, and novelty is everything in such a case.

My telegraph worked marvellously: on the face of the box I had placed a dial, showing how many *deflections* to the left made *A*, and how many signified *B*. The *commutator* was a stumbling block, but a little ingenuity and sealing wax, with a trifle of copper wire, enabled me to overcome that difficulty. Then the machine was powerful enough to charge the *leyden* jar in about twenty turns of the handle. I rehearsed the shocks upon some small boys, to make sure that

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