

but immediately made a second essay to ascend. This attracted the notice of the hero, who, with regret, saw the spider fall a second time from the same eminence. It made a third unsuccessful attempt. Not without a mixture of concern and curiosity, the monarch twelve times beheld the insect baffled in its aim; but the thirteenth essay was crowned with success—it gained the summit of the beam. The king upon this, started from his couch and exclaimed, “This despicable insect has taught me perseverance: I will follow its example. Have I not been twelve times defeated by the enemy’s superior force? on one fight more hangs the independence of my country.” In a few days his anticipations were fully realized by the glorious result to Scotland of the battle of Bannockburn.

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MEANS OF CHEMICALLY DETECTING SOME OF THE

## **Deleterious Ingredients in Food, &c.**

### *1. Alum in Bread*

**P**OUR half-a-pint of boiling distilled water upon a small piece of the suspected bread, pass the liquid through filtering-paper, and boil it down to half its original bulk in a florence flask; then add a few drops of muriate of barytes to the liquid thus obtained, and if a white precipitate fall down, which does not appear upon adding a few drops of pure nitric acid, the presence of alum may be inferred. Now alum is a triple salt, being a compound of sulphuric acid, alumine, and potash. In the process just mentioned the sulphuric acid is the substance detected. The detection of the other ingredients of the alum