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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Chimney Ornaments made of Variegated Eggs

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ounce of carbonate of soda, are then to be mixed together and filtered, and the liquid in this thin state is to be laid on with a brush. This process is repeated, and in a short interval afterwards the wood possesses the external appearance we have described. When the polish diminishes in brilliancy, it may be restored by the use of a little cold-drawn linseed oil.

To make any Linen appear like Diaper.

When the cloths have been washed, spread upon a table, after being a little damped, then, having at hand a solution of alum in rose-water, dip into it a loose-haired painter's brush, and holding it upwards, discharge its contents gradually, by hitting its handle against a poker, held crosswise as high as one's head. If paper figures, or chimney ornaments, be laid upon the cloth, they will intercept the descent of the solution upon the cloth, and thus produce their own figures in a kind of relief.

Chimney Ornaments made of Variegated Eggs.

The eggs should be those of the wild goose or swan, as being of thicker shell, and more absorbent than those of some other feathered animals. Round one of these, let there be twined a yard or more of bright-coloured narrow ribband, rather traversely or lozenge-wise, a

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like quantity of quite another colour; then another and another, until the whole egg is nearly covered. Wrap it in a cloth, and boil three or four hours, and you shall have the impression of the ribbands upon the egg, in a kind of plaid pattern. They will last many years.

Pearls.

The Chinese are reported to have constructed natural pearls (if the antithetical term may be used) by means of oysters; and we see no reason why the same way may not be adopted in our country; if indeed, as has been shrewdly suspected, the practice does not already prevail secretly. Buffon had long ago suggested, and (in 1773) when this information reached Europe, that the puncturing of oysters, while yet alive, might produce pearls, and we know that they were often found in this shell-fish on our own coasts. But two characters belonged to the *naturalist*: he was a visionary—a fabulist also; and he left us in the dark, as to the secret of *puncturing*, which the industry and discrimination of the present day has fully developed. *The process*, which is worthy of trial, whenever it can be put in execution, consists in taking the oysters alive, and having perforated holes with a wire or awl, so as not to hurt vitality, a small iron wire is to be introduced, having knobs at a small distance from each other, formed probably of knots tied in the wire. The oysters are