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**The young man's book of amusement**

**Halifax, 1848**

Iron Transformed into Copper

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then to be replaced in their beds, and by the time the *season* comes round again, a concretion of pearly matter will be found to have covered the knobs of wire, which will become more perfect and larger the longer the oysters are suffered to remain.

The coasts of Dorsetshire, where the oyster-shells arrive at a great size, and the south-west coasts of Ireland, offer the fairest harvests to this new pearl-fishery.

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*To make Pomatum of Water and Wax.*

Water and wax are two substances that do not readily unite together; therefore, to those who witness the following process, without knowing the cause, it will have the appearance of something marvellous. Into a new glazed earthen pot, put six ounces of river water and two ounces of white wax, in which you must previously conceal a strong dose of salt of tartar. If the whole be then exposed to a considerable degree of heat, it will assume the consistence of pomatum, and may be used as such.

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*Iron Transformed into Copper.*

Dissolve blue vitriol in water, till the water is well impregnated with it; and immerse into the solution small plates of iron, or coarse iron filings. These will be attacked and dissolved by the acid of the vitriol,

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while the copper naturally contained in the vitriol will sink, and be deposited in the place of the iron dissolved. If the piece of iron be too large for dissolving, it will be so completely covered with particles of copper, as to resemble that metal itself.

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*Art of Bronzing Plaster Figures.*

Lay the figure over with isinglass-size, until it holds out, or without any part of its surface becoming dry; then with a brush, such as is termed by painters a 'sash-tool,' go over the whole; taking care to remove, while it is yet soft, any of the size that may lodge on the delicate parts of the figure. When it is dry, take a little very thin oil gold-size, and with as much as just damps the brush, go over the figure with it, allowing no more to remain than causes it to shine: set it aside in a dry place, free from smoke, and in eight-and-forty hours the figure is prepared to receive the bronze.

The bronze, which is a powder almost impalpable, may be found at the colour-shops, resembling all the metals, and should be dabbed on with a little cotton-wool. After having thus touched over the whole figure, let it stand another day, and then with a soft, dry brush, rub off all the loose powder, particularly from the *points*, or more prominent parts of the figure: it will then resemble the metal intended, and possess the quality of resisting the weather.

Brass being the metal commonly imitated, the