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

**Halifax, 1848**

Art of Bronzing Plaster Figures

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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

operator may choose to make it himself. In that case, let him dissolve copper filings in *aqua fortis*. When the acid is well impregnated with the copper, pour off the solution upon some scraps of iron, whereby the powder will be precipitated to the bottom of the liquid: this being now poured off, the powder is to be repeatedly washed in clean water. When dry, it is fit for use.

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*How to make a Cone, or Pyramid, move upon a Table, without Springs or any other artificial Means.*

Roll up a piece of paper, or any other light substance, and put a lady-bird, a beetle, or some such small insect, privately under it; then, as the animal will naturally endeavour to free itself from its captivity, it will move the cone towards the edge of the table, and as soon as it comes there, will immediately return, for fear of falling; and by moving backwards and forwards in this manner, will occasion much diversion to those who are ignorant of the cause.

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*Impenetrable Winter Cloaks, made of Feathers.*

The women of Hudson's Bay prepare cloaks for their husbands of the feathers of birds, which naturally resist all kinds of weather, and are an admirable

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