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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Impenetrable Winter Cloaks, made of Feathers

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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.

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.

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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defence against *sleet* in particular. They constantly boast that 'the animals have been all killed by their own hands;' and this is indeed necessary to the preservation of the dress, as the feathers which come away in moulting, or through disease, would decay. A coarse linen *shape* is stretched out, and the feathers having the quill part thrust through its meshes, are attached on the wrong side by needle and thread, and then lined with baize. Some sort of pattern, or, patch-work, is generally attempted by arranging the feathers, which may be improved upon by our fair countrywomen, especially with the deeply coloured and variegated tinted plumage of South American, or Brazilian birds.

Method of making Muffs and Tippetts from the Plumage and Skins of Birds.

We are indebted to a Frenchman for having brought to perfection this useful and ornamental art. Domestic animals of all the feathered kinds, afford the material of which these articles may be made; but those with rich, variegated colours for gay wear, as they are less liable to decay than the sable coverings of birds of prey, would no doubt be preferred. Above all, those animals should be selected whose plumage lies close and smooth upon their backs—for obvious reasons. Diseased birds, or those killed in moulting time, are to be rejected, as the feathers would drop off at no distant period; but the birds must therefore be killed in full health, and the skin carefully stript