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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Easy Method of Silvering Ivory

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—Japan ink thickened with gum. *Green*.—Equal parts of alum and blue vitriol, with a few drops of muriate of iron. *Milk-white*.—A crystal of alum held over a glass containing ammonia, the vapour of which precipitates the alumina on its surface.

Valuable Transformation.

Pour half an ounce of diluted nitro-muriate of gold into an ale-glass, and immerse in it a piece of very smooth charcoal: expose the glass to the rays of the sun, in a warm place. The charcoal will very soon be covered over with a beautiful golden coat. Take it out with a foreceps, dry it, and enclose it in a glass for shew.

Another.

Put two or three small crystals of nitrate of silver into a crucible, containing the charcoal you intend to silver, red hot; violent detonation and combustion will take place. The charcoal will be beautifully covered with silver when taken out. Enclose it in a glass for show.

Easy Method of Silvering Ivory.

Prepare a diluted solution of nitrate of silver, in

which immerse the figure or slip of ivory, polished, you intend to silver, till it has become of a bright yellow colour; then take it out of the solution, and immerse it into a tumbler of distilled water, in which expose it to the direct rays of the sun; and in two or three days it will become intensely black; but on rubbing it a little the black surface will be changed to a bright metallic one, resembling silver. As the silver wears off, a new coating of revived metal will be found to replace it, if the ivory be well impregnated with the subnitrate of silver.

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Beautiful Metallic Crystallization.

Melt a ladle-full of bismuth, and allow it to cool slowly and gently, till a thin crust has formed on the surface; and then by means of a pointed iron, make two small opposite apertures through the crust, and quickly pour out by one the fluid portion, as carefully and with as little motion of the mass as possible, whilst the air enters by the other aperture: there will appear, on removing the upper crust by means of a chisel, when the vessel has become cold, a cup-shape concavity, studded with very brilliant crystals, and more or less regular, according to the magnitude of the quantity of mass employed, the tranquillity and slowness with which it has cooled, and the dexterity with which the fluid portion, at the moment before it commenced to solidify, was decanted from the crystallized part. The same effect will be pro-

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