DAGUERREOTYPE.—Great Improvements have recently been made in the fabrication of electro-plated plates. We earnestly request all Daguerrean Artists, especially those who have previously used plates manufactured under this process, to examine and try the SCALE PLATES. They are sold with the special guarantee that they will give full satisfaction, being perfect in every respect. VICTOR BISHOP, 23 Maiden-lane

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:
Daguerreotype plates marks, similar to silver “hallmarks,” were used to distinguish various attributes of the plate: the maker, the amount of silver clad to the underlying copper, or the case of the scale (a pair of scales), indicates silver deposited on copper by means of electro-plating.

For examples of “hallmarks” (or die stamps) on daguerreotype plates, see Floyd and Marian Rinhart, The American Daguerreotype (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1981): 423–35. The mark for the “scale-plate” is shown as example nine.


By at least 1840 (and likely concurrent with his activities as daguerreotype materials dealer/importer), Victor Bishop was a dealer in precious stones. He is said to be the first in the US to import precious stones. Bishop remained on Maiden lane for many years and was active in the jewelry business well into the 1890s.1
