

Joseph C. Lincoln, "The Old Daguerreotypes," (poem) 1902

(keywords: Joseph Crosby Lincoln, Edward W. Kemble, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

THE DAGUERREOTYPE: AN ARCHIVE OF SOURCE TEXTS, GRAPHICS, AND EPHEMERA

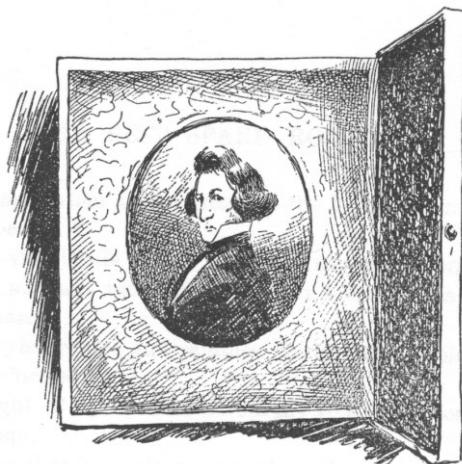
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Selected text published in:

Joseph Crosby Lincoln, *Cape Cod Ballads, and Other Verse* (Trenton, N.J.: A. Brandt, 1902): 31–32.



THE OLD DAGUERREOTYPES

UP IN the attic I found them, locked in the cedar
chest,
Where the flowered gowns lie folded , which once were
brave as the best
And like the queer old jackets and the wainscoat gay
with stripes,
They tell of worn-out fashion—these old daguerreo-
types.

Quaint little folding cases fastened with tiny hook,
Seemingly made to tempt one to lift up the latch and
look;
Linings of purple velvet, odd little frames of gold,
Circling the faded faces brought from the days of old.

Grandpa and grandma, taken ever so long ago,
Grandma's bonnet a marvel, grandpa's collar a show,
Mother, a tiny toddler, with rings on her baby hands
Painted—lest none should notice—in glittering, gilded
bands.

Aunts and uncles and cousins, a starchy and stiff
array,
Lovers and brides, then blooming,—now so wrinkled
and gray :
Out through the misty glasses they gaze at me, sitting
here
Opening the quaint old cases with a smile that is half
a tear.

I will smile no more, little pictures, for heartless it
was, in truth,
To drag to the cruel daylight these ghosts of a van-
ished youth;
Go back to your cedar chamber, your gowns and your
lavender,
And dream, 'mid their bygone graces, of the wonderful
days that were.

[End of selected text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

The poem first appeared in *Saturday Evening Post* in or prior to July 1900 as it is reprinted in "Newspaper Verse: Selections Grave and Gay," *Current Literature: a Magazine of Contemporary Record* (New York) 29:1 (July 1900): 97. The poem's wide reprinting includes *St. Louis and Canadian Photographer* 24:11 (November 1900): 534; *Photographic Times Bulletin* (New York) 34:12 (December 1902): 567.

The illustrations in this volume are by Edward W. Kemble. Additional information regarding Joseph C. Lincoln is available on the Chatham Historical Society web site. See: *2004 Joseph Crosby Lincoln Conference papers*.¹

1. <http://www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org/>

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