

Robert H. Vance, "Catalogue of Daguerreotype Panoramic Views in California," 1851

(Keywords: Robert H. Vance, lost daguerreotypes, three hundred daguerreotypes, panoramic California views, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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

The research archive of Gary W. Ewer regarding the history of the daguerreotype

<http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

EWER ARCHIVE F8510001

The following (in an approximation of the original presentation and line breaks) is the complete text of: Robert H. Vance, *Catalogue of Daguerreotype Panoramic Views in California* (New York: Baker, Godwin & Company, 1851.)

CATALOGUE
OF
DAGUERREOTYPE PANORAMIC
VIEWS IN CALIFORNIA.

—————
BY R. H. VANCE.
—————

ON EXHIBITION AT
No. 349 BROADWAY,
(OPPOSITE THE CARLETON HOUSE.)

—————
NEW-YORK:
BAKER, GODWIN & COMPANY, PRINTERS,
TRIBUNE BUILDINGS.
1851.

PREFACE.

Within a few years attention has been particularly directed to California. The discovery of Gold, spread over an extent unparalleled in the history of the Precious Metals, has given it an importance in the eyes of the world, never before equaled in the annals of history. To such a pitch has public curiosity been excited, that the smallest item of news in regard to this newly discovered El Dorado, is eagerly seized upon. Much valuable information has been given in regard to the country, by several excellent works, but inasmuch as the sight of a place affords so much more pleasure, and gives so much better knowledge than the bare description possibly can, the Artist flatters himself that the accompanying Views will afford the information so much sought after. These Views are no exaggerated and high-colored sketches, got up to produce effect, but are as every daguerreotype must be, the stereotyped impression of the real thing itself.

They embrace among a variety of others, a splendid Panoramic View of San Francisco from the heights at the head of Clay Street, taking in the whole entire range of the city, harbor, and bay, from Rincon Point to North Beach, with a distant view of the Contra Costa, and the Islands in the Bay. Also views of Stockton, Coloma, Carson's Creek, Mokelame Hill, the Old Mill where the gold was first discovered, Nevada, Gold Run, Marysville, Sacramento, Benicia, &c., &c. Also a large collection of views taken of the miners at work, in different localities; also a likeness of Capt. Sutter, and a large collection of sketches of the different tribes of Indians on the Pacific coast. Embracing in all some 300 views, on the largest sized plates, elegantly framed in rosewood and gilding. Which, taken together, furnish a complete picture of California, an object of attraction to every one, from the associations connected with the country, and doubly so to those about visiting that golden land.

C A T A L O G U E .

1. Panoramic View of San Francisco, from the top of Union Hotel in Portsmouth Square. Showing the whole surrounding country, bay, and islands.
2. Views of San Francisco, before and after the May Fire, taken from the top of Russia Hill, north of the City.
3. View of Clay Street before and after the Fire, taken from Dupont Street.
4. Views of Central Street, before and after the Fire; taken from Kearney Street.
5. View of California Street, between Montgomery and Sanson Streets.
6. Panoramic View of San Francisco, from the corner of Montgomery and Broadway Streets, before the May Fire, showing the bay and shipping, and Mission lands in the distance.
7. View of the Burnt District, from the corner of Montgomery and Broadway Streets; four days after the May fire.
8. View of the Burnt District, from the corner of Montgomery and Broadway; after the June fire.
9. View of the West side of Montgomery Street, from Clay street, before the May Fire.
10. View of the same after the Fire.
11. Panoramic View of Stockton, from the top of the Stockton House; showing the whole surrounding Country.
12. View of Stockton House.
13. Panoramic View of San Francisco, from Powell Street.
14. Ruins of the City next day after the May Fire, from the head of California Street.
15. Ruins of the Burnt District, from Powell Street; after the June Fire.
16. View of Telegraph Hill, from Union Hotel.
17. Views of Jackson Street; before and after the Fire.
18. Views of Sacramento Street; before and after the Fire.
19. East side of Portsmouth Square; before and after the Fire.
20. End of Central Wharf, and Shipping.
21. Belle Union—Sociedad and Louisiana Gambling Houses, on the North side of Portsmouth Square.
22. View of Dupont Street, from Clay Street.
23. Merchants Street, and East side of Portsmouth Square; before the Fire.
24. Merchants Street; after the Fire.
24. Views of Sanson Street; before and after the Fire.
26. Views of California Street; before and after the Fire.
27. Montgomery Street; before and after the Fire.

28. View of the End of Pacific Wharf.
29. View of Oriental Hotel.
30. Part of Central Wharf, from Whitehall Hotel—East view.
31. West view of Central Wharf, from same place.
32. West side of Portsmouth Square; before Fire.
33. South side of Portsmouth Square; after Fire.
34. Cunningham's Wharf and Yerba Buena Island, in the Bay.
35. Stockton Street, from Dupont Street.
36. Broadway, from Powell Street.
37. Washington Street, from Dupont Street.
38. Kearney Street, from Broadway; on Election day.
39. Panoramic View of San Francisco, from the top of Telegraph Hill; showing the entrance to the Bay, from the Ocean, the opposite coast of Sancelita, Angel Island, and entrance to San Pablo Bay.
40. View of Telegraph Hill, from Clay Street.
41. Views of Pacific Street.
42. Mining Scene in a Street of Placerville.
43. Panoramic View of Placerville, from a Hill East of City; this being the first place of arrival for those crossing the Plains.
44. View of Coloma, from a Hill north of the place on the West side of the River.
45. Coloma; showing River and surrounding Country.
46. View of Capt. Sutter's Saw-Mill and Dam across the American River.
47. Rear View of the Saw-Mill Race, where the Gold was first discovered.
48. View of Main Street, Coloma, from the Court House.
49. Panoramic View of Coloma, from the East side of the River.
50. View of Coloma, from the West side of the River.
51. Panoramic View of Sonora.
52. Holden's Garden at Sonora, from which the largest lump of Gold ever found, was taken, weighing twenty-eight pounds.
53. View of Yuba City, on Feather River, mouth of the Yuba River.
54. View of Main Street, Makalame.
55. Panoramic View of Makalame, with Ball Mountain in the background.
56. Indian Hut near Yuba City.
57. View of Indians on the Stanislaus River dressed for a War Dance.
58. Valley of Stanislaus River at Knight's Ferry.
59. View of Malones, on Carson's Creek, foot of Gold Mountain, in which is the richest quartz vein in the world, one company alone taking out \$25,000 per week!
60. Evening View at Knight's Ferry on the Stanislaus River.
61. Residence of Capt. Webber, at Stockton.
62. View of Indian Commissioners, Dr. Wozencraft, Col. Johnson, Indian Agent, and Clerks, in treaty with the Indians.
63. View of Hangtown.
64. Scenery of Yuba River near Marysville.

65. View of Indian Village on Capt. Sutter's Plantation.
66. Indian Village near Yuba City.
67. View of four Indian Chiefs, and Wife and Sister of the celebrated chief Kasuse.
68. A group of Indian Chiefs on the Feather River.
69. Indian Village on the Stanslaus River.
70. Indians, cooking.
71. View of Indians dressed for a Dance.
72. Indians, dancing.
73. Miners at Work on Little Deer Creek, at Nevada.
74. View of Gold Run.
75. View of Mission Church, three miles from San Francisco. This Mission, Dolores, now time-worn and crumbling to ruins, was a proud and influential religious establishment, of the days of the Jesuits, founded more than a century ago, and even up to the time of the deposition of the late government, was considered one of the most interesting Spanish Missions in the whole of California.
76. Part of the Mission Church turned to a Hotel, with Green and Bowen's Omnibuses in front.
77. Spanish House near the Mission, with Omnibus in front.
78. Panoramic View of the Mission and surrounding country.
79. View of the Mission, taken from the hill south of the Church, showing the country between it and San Francisco.
80. View of Miners at Work near Nevada; showing the manner of washing gold with the Long Tom.
81. Miners at Work on Deer Creek; showing the manner of sluice washing.
82. View of Gold Run, a mining district near Nevada.
83. Mining Scene at Placerville.
84. & 85. Views—Front and Back of a Saw-Mill, near Nevada, worked by mule power.
86. Panoramic View of Gold Run, so called from the rich gold diggings, it being one of the first places
87. Miners at work at Gold Run.
88. Mining Scene at Sonora.
89. View of Central Street, from a height south of the city.
90. Main Street at Sonora.
91. View of Central Street, Nevada.
92. Panoramic View of Nevada City, with the surrounding forest; giving the enormous size to which the trees attain in this region, some of them three hundred feet in height, and twenty-seven feet in circumference.
93. Panoramic View of Benicia, showing the Straits of Carquines, on the opposite coast, Martines Village, with the surrounding country, also the U. S. Barracks, Pacific Steam Navigation Company's works, &c.; this place is a port of entry, and destined to be a place of first importance as a commercial city.
94. View of Steamer Senator at the wharf.

95. View of Steamer Confidence.
96. Jay Street, Sacramento City, from the levee.
97. View of Hock Farm, the residence of Capt. Sutter, on Feather River.
98. Hock Farm, from the east side of the river.
99. View of Hock Farm, from the top of the house, and the celebrated Bute Mountains, sixteen miles distant.
100. Residence of Capt. Sutter; Group in front, of the Captain, his Daughter and Son-in-law.
101. View of Levee at Marysville, and Steamers.
102. View of Hangtown.
103. Panoramic View of Acapulco, from a hill back of the city, showing the City, Fort, Harbor, with the Steamers, Panama and Sea Bird, and others, lying at anchor.
104. Acapulco, from the Bay, show a front view of the city and mountains in the back ground.
105. Panoramic View of Panama, taken from the Cathedral, showing the surrounding country, Island of Bogata, and others in the Pacific, ruins of various churches and monasteries.
106. View of the Cathedral.
107. View of the Islands opposite Panama.
108. View of the Cathedral at Cuzco, Peru.
109. View of a portion of Valparaiso, S. A.
110. Panoramic View of Marysville, California, from the top of the United States Hotel, giving a beautiful view of the surrounding country, with its forest of oak.
111. Ferry at Marysville, on the Yuba River.
112. View of Main-st. do
113. A California Theatre, at Marysville.
114. U. S. Hotel
115. View of West Side of the Square.
116. do South Side of the Square.
117. do North Side of the Square.
118. Knight's Ferry (Stanislaus River).
- 119.
120. Washington, from the levee, at Sacramento.
121. View of the Levee at Sacramento, taken from the South End.
122. Levee and River, from Washington, opposite.
123. Jay Street, Sacramento, from top of the Hotel in 2d street.
124. Panoramic View of Sacramento, with surrounding country, giving a view of Washington opposite, separated by the Sacramento River.
125. Hotel, cor. of Second Jay Street, from which the view of Sacramento was taken.
126. East and South View of Sutter's Fort.
127. North and East View of Sutter's Fort.
128. Part of First Street and Levee.
129. Portrait of Capt. Sutter.
130. English Admiral's House, Valparaiso, S. A.
131. View of Valparaiso, from the American Consul's residence, showing Fort and Barracks in the distance.

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

The original catalogue consists of two folded and sewn sheets. The cover is counted as page one. When opened, the left-hand side sheet (counted as page two) is blank; the right-hand sheet contains the "Preface" (and is counted as page three). The following left-hand page (counted as page four) is blank; the opposing right-hand page—in which begins the catalogue entries—is counted as page five. The following opposing pages are numbered "6" and "7." The back page of the pamphlet is numbered "8." There are no additional pages or paper wrappers. In March 2010, the editor examined the original copy at the New York Public Library. The pamphlet exhibits considerable wear and has been reinforced with archival fabric. The library's copy is from the library of the American philanthropist and book collector, James Lenox.

The catalogue includes several misspellings of place names such as "Sanson" (street) for Sansome. Original spelling used in the catalogue is maintained.

For reviews of Vance's exhibition of California daguerreotypes, see: "Mr. Vance's California Views," *Photographic Art-Journal* (New York) 2:4 (October 1851): 252–53;¹ *Literary World* (New York) 9:246 (18 October 1851): 311;² "Vance's California Views," *United States Magazine, and Democratic Review* (New York) 29:161 (November 1851): 480;³ "Daguerreotype Panoramic Views in California," *Daguerreian Journal* (New York) 2:12 (1 November 1851): 371.⁴

The exhibition was not well publicized. This author is aware of very limited runs of advertisements appearing in two newspapers: the *New-York Tribune*, and the *New-York Times*.⁵

Further information regarding Vance and his collection of California daguerreotypes is found in Delores Kilgo, "Vance's Views in St. Louis: An Update," *Daguerreian Annual 1994* (Pittsburgh: The Daguerreian Society, 1994): 210–12; Peter Palmquist, "The Sad but True Story of a Daguerreian Holy Grail," in Drew Heath Johnson and Marcia Eymann, ed., *Silver & Gold: Cased Images of the California Gold Rush* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1998): 43–73; Peter E. Palmquist and Thomas R. Kailbourn, *Pioneer Photographers of the Far West: a Biographical Dictionary, 1840–1865* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000): 559–566.

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510002_VANCE_PHOTO_ARTJOURN_1851-10.pdf
2. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510003_VANCE_LIT_WORLD_1851-10-18.pdf
3. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510004_VANCE_US_MAG_DEMO_REVIEW_1851-11.pdf
4. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510001_VANCE_DAG_JOURN_1851-11-01.pdf
5. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8510001_VANCE_NY_TIMES_1851-10-07.pdf

EWER ARCHIVE: F8510001

URL: http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/F8510001_VANCE_CATALOGUE_DAG_VIEWS_1851.pdf

Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2008-09-11 / Last revision: 2010-06-09

Citation information: Robert H. Vance, *Catalogue of Daguerreotype Panoramic Views in California* (New York: Baker, Godwin & Company, 1851.)

Prepared from: photocopy of original text.

Original spelling/punctuation/grammar generally maintained without correction. Any in-text corrections are bracketed.

The *source text* is Public Domain and may be freely quoted. As noted below, this document is copyright.

If citing directly from this document, please include the following citation credit:

Gary W. Ewer, ed., *The Daguerreotype: an Archive of Source Texts, Graphics, and Ephemera*,
<http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

THE NECESSARY DISCLAIMERS:

The document creator has made every effort to insure the accuracy of the transcription. However, the information provided in this document is provided without warranty, either express or implied. The document creator will not be liable for any damages caused or alleged to be caused directly, indirectly, incidentally, or consequentially by the information provided by this text.

The document creator assumes no responsibility for accuracy of fact; the text is prepared "as found." Factual inaccuracies of the original text are generally **not** noted by the document creator. If this text is used in academic papers, accuracy should be confirmed by consulting original sources.

The document creator also assumes no responsibility regarding the correctness, suitability, or safety of any chemical or photographic processes that may be described by this text. Many of the chemicals used in early photographic processes are extremely toxic and should not be handled without a **thorough** knowledge of safe use.

The opinions expressed in this text are solely those of the original author and are not necessarily those of the Archive editor. Some texts may contain derogatory words. Any such word is certainly one that would not be used today. The words remain in the transcription, however, to maintain truthfulness to the original text.

© 2008, Gary W. Ewer. <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>
