

“Daguerreotype Portraits,” 25 March 1848

(keywords: history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

THE DAGUERREOTYPE: 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 N8480002

Published in:

Spirit of the Times: a Chronicle of the Turf, Agriculture, Field Sports, Literature and the Stage (New York) 18:5 (25 March 1848): 50.

DAGUERREOTYPE PORTRAITS.

Shade of Daguerre, we in invoke thee! Thy pencil was composed of sun-beams, and thy pallette was colored o'er only by golden tints. Thou had'st not the cerulean, the beautiful blue symbol of Hope—the signal so full of joy to the mariner, who, when in the desert of a stormy ocean, looks up to Heaven for relief and succor! Thou had'st not the purple—that color which tinges and makes apparent royalty of birth or accident; nor the red, which speaks to us in a sword-like tongue, and spirts forth narrow streams of blood. And last, but aye, *not* least, thou did'st not have the yellow—that loathsome color, the emblem of hate, anger, and revenge! Thy magnificent genius taught thee, oh Daguerre! to take down the semblance of men, women, and children, on thin sheets of metal, plated with thinner sheets of silver—but oh! how much brass we frequently see in their countenances. Daguerre, step-son of Phoebus, again we invoke thee! See some of the specimens of the work which thou has't wrought:

Mrs. Jenkins.—Mr. Doggertipe, I want me and my baby takin. You need'nt say nothin about the child's shoes and pynteletts, but merely do it as the picture-people say, at half length, leavin off the baby's legs and her stockins. As for me, I want you to take me as I am, with my child upon my knee, and my right hand claspin her around the waist. I want a sweet kind of smile painted on my features, and to have the baby danglin with its left hand in my hair.

Hon. John Jones.—How do you do, sir! I wish to have my likeness taken immediately. The fact is, (nobody is here, is there?) the President has sent for *me*, upon what business, however, I know not, but as I *may* be sent to Mexico, I would like my family to have some memento—you understand. [Here the Hon. John Jones hid his face behind his hat, for he was overcome with emotion.] Paint me with a large blue coat hanging over my left shoulder, my eyes looking to the Capitol, and if you can get it in, stick a gold-headed cane in my hand.

Miss Snibbs.—(The lady has a remarkably small bonnet, and a bewitching smile.) What do you charge, sir? Can you take me with gloves on, sir? Certainly Miss. Miss Snibbs seats herself upon a chair and undergoes the solar operation.

Jack Thompson.—Look here, old feller, how long will it take you to fetch me down. I sell horses and sometimes play cards. I want you to put me down by a table—stick a decanter by my side, and let Bowse, my big dog, put his nose between my legs. Git down, you cussed dog! don't you know you are goin' to have your'e portrate takin'?

Albert Allbright.—“My dear sir, I wish you to take my daguerreotype.” “How would you like to sit, sir?” “Oh, almost any way—but I would prefer that you would take me

with a small centre-table by my side, together with a few champagne glasses, and some dominoes, an by the bye, a few promiscuous cards would not be amiss. But above all things, sir, put a cigar in my mouth, and make the smoke as curly as possible!”

Oh golden shadow—thou bright phantom of art—thou sun-born child, “can such things be, and overcome us like a summer’s cloud!” Only think that the God of Day condescends to paint in his own radiant colors the lineaments of Mrs. Jenkins.

N. O. Daily Crescent.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:

This fictional humor is akin to anecdotes related by Bogardus. See Abram [Abraham—ed.] Bogardus, “Thirty-Seven Years Behind a Camera,” *Photographic Times and American Photographer* (New York) 14:158 (February 1884): 73–78.¹

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8480002_BOGARDUS_PHOTO-TIMES_1884-02.pdf

EWER ARCHIVE N8480002

URL: http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8480002_DAG-PORT_SPRIT-TIMES_1848-03-25.pdf

Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2011-01-04 / Last revision (proofread): 2011-01-05

Citation information: *Spirit of the Times: a Chronicle of the Turf, Agriculture, Field Sports, Literature and the Stage* (New York) 18:5 (25 March 1848): 50.

Prepared from: imaged original text from *American Periodical Series Online* (ProQuest.) (Subscription required; available at many higher learning institutions.)

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 reference the Ewer Archive number and provide 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.

© 2011, Gary W. Ewer. <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>
