"Taking Daguerreotypes," (Henry W. Bradley, San Francisco) 23 July 1850
(keywords: Henry William Bradley, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

THE DAGUERREOTYPE: AN ARCHIVE OF SOURCE TEXTS, GRAPHICS, AND EPHEMERA
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Daily Alta California (San Francisco) 1:175 (23 July 1850): n.p. (second page of issue).

TAKING DAGUERREOTYPES.—Some “artist,” desirous of procuring a stock of
daguerreotypes by a more rapid process than the ordinary one, adopted a new expedient
on Saturday night. The operation, as described to us, was simple and effective. Mr.
Bradley, who has an establishment in Montgomery street, over the Pacific Baths, had
hanging in front of the entrance to his place six large frames, each containing half a
dozzen portraits, taken by himself. Some modern artist “froze” to them and took them to
his own studio. Their intrinsic value was about $400—their loss to Mr. Bradley
irreparable, as many were portraits of friends far away.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:
While any gallery sign is obscured by other signs, Bradley’s gallery above the Pacific
Baths can be seen in a Frederick Coombs half-plate daguerreotype view of Montgomery
street. Attic skylights are visible in the view. The daguerreotype is reproduced in Drew
Heath Johnson and Marcia Eymann, Silver and Gold: Cased Images of the California Gold
Rush (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press for the Oakland Museum of California, 1998):
46.

See also an editorial puff for Bradley, “Daguerreotypes,” Daily Alta California (San
Francisco) 1:172 (19 July 1850): n.p. (second page of issue).1

Additional information regarding Bradley is found in Peter E. Palmquist and Thomas R.
Kailbourn, Pioneer Photographers of the Far West: A Biographical Dictionary, 1840–1865


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