

“View of the Plaza,” 28 January 1851

(keywords: Sterling C. McIntyre, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

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Daily Alta California 2:49 (28 January 1851): n.p. (second page of issue).

VIEW OF THE PLAZA.—We are indebted to Doctor S. C. McIntyre for a very spirited and faithful Daguerreotype of the plaza, or Portsmouth Square. It embraces all the buildings from the old adobe to the corner of Kearny and Washington street, including the office of the *Alta California*. The buildings and figures in the foreground, the background and in fact all the minutiae of the scene is admirably taken. It was executed literally instantaneously. Dr. McI. is the gentleman who has been engaged in getting up the panorama of San Francisco for the World’s Fair. His pictures prove him an adept in the interesting art daguerreotypic.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:

A sixth-plate daguerreotype in the collection of the Library of Congress depicts a similar perspective and from a similar date.¹ The McIntyre view, however, was likely a half-plate daguerreotype. See “Daguerreotype of San Francisco,” *Daily Alta California* 2:40 (19 January 1851): n.p. (second page of issue).² McIntyre’s five-panel panoramic view of San Francisco, as well as a six-panel panoramic mining view, are described in “Panorama of San Francisco and the Gold Diggings,” *Daguerreian Journal* (New York) 2:4 (1 July 1851): 115–16.³ Both of the panoramas are described as consisting of half-plate daguerreotypes.

The present editor has yet to locate any advertisements for McIntyre as a daguerreotypist during his time in San Francisco. He did advertise as a dentist “in Dr. Rabe’s Building.” (*Daily Alta California* 2:7 [16 December 1850]: n.p. [third page of issue]). His occupancy at this location was apparently short-lived as the space was soon again advertised for rent: “Furnished room for rent—In Dr. Rabe’s building . . . It as been used as a Dentist office” (*Daily Alta California* 2:71 [19 February 1851]: n.p. [third page of issue].) S. C. McIntyre is listed as among those suffering loss in the 4 May 1851 fire. His loss was stated as \$2,500.

Unrelated to daguerreian activities, McIntyre also advertised for sale “one of Genin’s patent twenty-shooting Rifles.” (*Daily Alta California* 2:60 [8 February 1851]: n.p. [third page of issue].)

Additional information regarding McIntyre is found in Peter E. Palmquist and Thomas R. Kailbourn, *Pioneer Photographers of the Far West: A Biographical Dictionary, 1840-1865* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000): 393; Peter E. Palmquist, “Sterling C. McIntyre,” *Daguerreian Annual 1990* (Lake Charles: Daguerreian Society, 1990): 190–93.

1. <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004664512/>

2. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8510027_MCINTYRE-PANO_DAC_1851-01-19.pdf

3. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8510026_MCINTYRE-PANO_DJ_1851-07-01.pdf

4. "Terrible Conflagration," *Alta California* (San Francisco) "Northerner and New Orleans" steamer edition (15 May 1851): n.p.

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