

“California Daguerreotypes, Photographs, &c.” 30 May 1859

(keywords: San Francisco, California, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

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

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California Daguerreotypes, Photographs, &c.

It is probably that more daguerreotypes, photographs, ambrotypes, &c., are taken in San Francisco than in any other place of its size and population in the world. A well known artist has furnished the daily journals the following statistics:

1. A thousand light-pictures are taken every fortnight.
2. Their average cost is \$3.50; some as low as fifty cents, others as high as \$20. Painted photographs sometimes cost \$50, or more.
3. There are twelve photographic establishments in the city, and their total receipts amount \$3,500 per fortnight, or \$300 each on an average.
4. Two-fifths of the light pictures are ambrotypes, one-fifth melainotypes or locket pictures taken on iron. The daguerreotypes taken are so few as scarcely to desire a place in the count.
5. Three-fourths of the light-pictures are obtained to be sent to the Atlantic States.
6. The number of pictures taken in any given fortnight is usually in proportion to the number of passengers intending to depart on the next steamer. Most of the pictures are taken to the East by the passengers.
7. Most of the pictures, of each fortnight, are taken within a few days of the departure of the steamer.

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

This text is indicative of the daguerreotype's displacement by other forms of photography.

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