Ernest McGaffey “An Old Daguerreotype” (poem), 29 February 1896
(keywords: Ernest McGaffey, 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
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AN OLD DAGUERREOTYPE.

Two clear, grave eyes, that wondering look
From some forgotten long ago;
A childish face that cannot know
The secrets hidden in the book
Of future years,
The care and toil, the busy strife,
The joys that jewel every life,
The tears.

From that lost time — from childhood-land —
The wistful, speaking, hazel eyes
Look out as on unclouded skies;
Where glowing hopes rise hand in hand,
And sunshine streams
Along the path of breaking day,
While all the shadows fade away,
Like dreams.

Thus kept by art’s all-saving grace
Peeps from a distant hazy nook
Of time gone by this sunny look
Upon a young, untroubled face,
That holds within
The boyish eyes, those limpid springs —
No taint of earth or earthly things,
No sin.                              ERNEST MCGAFFEY.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES: