“Poeta Photographicus,” poetic lines, 15 July 1854
(keywords: Poeta Photographicus, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

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“If the following lines are of any use to your amateur readers they are welcome to them, and I really believe they have great practical truth in them.

Whene’er the wind is in the East,
Use twice the seconds at the least,
And if the East incline to North,
Take not the wretched sitter forth.
Come cloud electric, or of hail,
Then every picture’s sure to fail.
But with light zephyrs from the West,
In scarce five seconds ’t is imprest:
And if the West incline to South,
In three you have eyes, nose and mouth.

Your constant Reader,

POETA PHOTOGRAPHICUS.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:
This brief poem provides a rough guide to portraiture exposure times based on light and weather conditions.

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