

“M. Daguerre,” October 1858

(keywords: Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre, Charles R. Meade, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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

The research archive of Gary W. Ewer regarding the history of the daguerreotype

<http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

EWER ARCHIVE P8580003

Published in:

Student and Schoolmate and Forrester's Boys & Girls Magazine (Boston) 6:6 (October 1858): 196.



M. DAGUERRE.

A FEW years ago a poor man could not place on the table of his parlor the portraits of “father, mother, and all the children,” for even a tolerable likeness cost ten dollars, and better ones all the way up to fifty, and even a hundred dollars. The art of daguerreotyping has been a blessing to those in humble life, as well as to the rich; for it certainly is a blessing for a fond mother to retain the portrait of the loved and lost child, after its little form is laid away in the cold earth; for her to look upon the features of her sailor-boy son when he is far away upon the ocean; for the young man and the young woman to be able to see the faces of father and mother when they are no more with them.

Poor as well as rich, therefore, have abundant cause to be grateful for the invention of M. Daguerre whose portrait is presented above.

A Camera obscura is an instrument by which the image of an object, much reduced in size, may be thrown upon a plane surface. The daguerreotype art consists in retaining this image or picture on the surface by chemical means. It was a very beautiful and a very important invention, and the French government gave M. Daguerre a pension, as a reward for his discover.

[End of text.]

The graphic is also available in JPG format:

http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/graphics/P8580003_DAGUERRE_STUDENT_1858-10.html

NOTES:

The wood engraving illustration is from a daguerreotype portrait by Charles R. Meade. Another version of the wood engraving, with credit to Meade, appears in *Illustrated Family Christian Almanac for The United States, for...1853* (New York: The American Tract Society, 1853) pg. 17.¹

A similarly posed daguerreotype portrait of Daguerre is in the collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.²

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8530005_DAGUERRE_FAM-XIAN-ALMANAC_1853.pdf

2. <http://historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=458>

EWER ARCHIVE P8580003

URL: <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts-advert-dags-ephem-graphics-research/>

Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2008-12-29 / Last revision (proofread/edit): 2011-05-09

Citation information: *Student and Schoolmate* (Boston) 6:6 (October 1858): 196.

Graphic details:

wood engraving: 7.0 x 5.1 cm

sheet: 22.0 x 14.0 cm

A high-resolution TIF-format file may be available. Contact the Archive for details.

Prepared from: an original issue in the collection of Gary W. Ewer.

Original spelling/punctuation/grammar generally maintained without correction. Any in-text corrections are bracketed.

The *source text* is Public Domain and may be freely quoted. As noted below, this document is copyright. Please see "Fair Use" information regarding the use of this graphic:

<http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/fairuse.html>

If citing directly from this document, please reference the Ewer Archive number and provide the following citation credit:

Gary W. Ewer, ed., *The Daguerreotype: an Archive of Source Texts, Graphics, and Ephemera*, <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

THE NECESSARY DISCLAIMERS:

The document creator has made every effort to insure the accuracy of the transcription. However, the information provided in this document is provided without warranty, either express or implied. The document creator will not be liable for any damages caused or alleged to be caused directly, indirectly, incidentally, or consequentially by the information provided by this text.

The document creator assumes no responsibility for accuracy of fact; the text is prepared "as found." Factual inaccuracies of the original text are generally **not** noted by the document creator. If this text is used in academic papers, accuracy should be confirmed by consulting original sources.

The document creator also assumes no responsibility regarding the correctness, suitability, or safety of any chemical or photographic processes that may be described by this text. Many of the chemicals used in early photographic processes are extremely toxic and should not be handled without a *thorough* knowledge of safe use.

The opinions expressed in this text are solely those of the original author and are not necessarily those of the Archive editor. Some texts may contain derogatory words. Any such word is certainly one that would not be used today. The words remain in the transcription, however, to maintain truthfulness to the original text.

© 2008, Gary W. Ewer. <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>
