

Eva Wilder McGlasson, "The Daguerreotype," (poem) 14 May 1892

(keywords: Eva Wilder McGlasson, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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THE DAGUERREOTYPE.

You hev to hold it sidewise
Fer to make the lightness show,
'Cuz its sort uh dim an' shifty
Till you git it right—'bout *so!*
An' then the eyes winks at yeh,
An' the mouth is cherry ripe
Law! it beats your new-style picters,
This old digerrytype!

Thar's a blush across the dimples
Thet burrows in the cheeks;
F'om out them clumps o' ringlets
Two little small ears peeks,
Thet brooch thet jines her neck-gear
Is what they used to wear;
A big gold frame thet sprawled around
A lock of 'o—some ones hair.

'Twas took 'fore we was married,
Thet there—your maw an' me.
An' time I study on it,
Why, 't fazes me to see
Thet fifty year 'aint teched her
A lick! She's jest the same
She was when Susie Scriggens
Took Boone C. Curd's name.

The hair is mebbly white
'An it was in '41.
But her cheeks is jest as pinky.
An' her smiles 'ain't slacked up none.
I reckon—love—er somethin'
Yerluminates her face,
Like the crimson velvet linin'
Warms up the picter-case.

'S I say, these cyard boa'd portraits,
They make me sort uh tired ,
A-grinnin' forf upun yeh
Like their very lips was wired!
Give me the old digerrytype,
Whar the face steals on your sight
Like a dream that comes by night-time
When your supper's actin' right!

EVA WILDER MCGLASSON.

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Eva Wilder (McGlasson) Brodhead (1870–1915) wrote several novels but was especially known for her short stories and dialect verse which appeared in leading periodicals. Brodhead also was a reviewer of new books for the trade publication, *Book-Buyer* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons).¹

A biography of Brodhead appears in John Wilson Townsend, *Kentucky in American Letters: 1784–1912* vol. 2 (Cedar Rapids: The Torch Press, 1913): 267–69.

1. See the advertisement, "The Book-Buyer for October," in *Nation: A Weekly Journal Devoted to Politics, Literature, Science, & Art* (New York) 65:1683 (30 September 1897): ix.

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