Eva Wilder McGlasson, “The Daguerreotype,” (poem) 14 May 1892
(keywords: Eva Wilder McGlasson, 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
http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org
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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 digerrtype!

That’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 tht jines her neck-gear
Is what they used to wear;
A big gold frame tht 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 mebby white
’An it was in ’41.
But her cheeks is jest as pinky.
’An her smiles aint slacked up none.
I reckon—love—er somethin’
Yerluminates her face,
Like the crimsont 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,  
What 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


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