

“Fixation of Images,” February 1839

(keywords: Jean-Baptiste Biot, François Arago, Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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Fixation of Images.—MM. Arago and Biot have given their testimony of a most important discovery of M. Daguerre, in which he has discovered a substance that is so sensible to the effect of light, as to receive and retain afterwards the colours thrown on it in a darkened chamber. By this means a landscape or any external object may be taken in its due proportions and proper colours, merely by the help of a lens. It is said to be so accurate as to bear examination with a powerful magnifier. The operation requires about 8 minutes to make a permanent impression; but this will depend on the time of day and intensity of the external light. M. Arago supposes in such a country as Egypt it would not require above 2 minutes to do the same. M. Arago says that Daguerre at the request of himself and associates actually produced a white image of the moon. If so this evinces an extraordinary sensibility to light, as no means yet have been able to appreciate the intensity of the lunar light.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:

This periodical continues under the revised title, *Railway Magazine, and Steam Navigation Journal*. See also “Daguerre’s Photogenic Paper, and Fixation of Images,” *Railway Magazine, and Steam Navigation Journal* (London) 6:38 (April 1839): 178.²

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8390012_DAGUERRE-PAPER_RAILWAY-MAG_1839-04.pdf

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