

**“The art which comes nearest home,” October 1856**

(keywords: Charles DeForest Fredricks, 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 P8560002**

---

Published in:

*Putnam's Monthly Magazine of American Literature, Science, and Art* (New York) 8:22 (October 1856): 448. Selected text is from the article, “The World of New York,” which describes some of the city’s attractions and their appeal to the “country cousin.”

But it is the art which comes nearest home—the daguerreotype—that appeals most successfully to the curiosity or the vanity of our friends from the provinces. Fredricks’ new rooms have been filled with them daily; surprised, delighted, tittering sitters for ambrotype, Hallotype, photograph, or plain daguerreotype; groups and single sitters, lovers and sweethearts, the old folks and the toddling weans; some refreshing shape of harmless vanity evident in each, and not one in ten thousand above the beauty of those painted weaknesses which were made to be “hushed up among one’s friends.” And yet, of all the city’s wonders, there is none of so many days as this; of all the city’s pretty gifts, none which so comes home to the country’s grateful bosom.

**[End of selected text. All content related to photography herein provided.]**

---

**EDITOR’S NOTES:**

For an advertisement by Fredricks, see *EWER ARCHIVE B8590001: Advertisements for Anson, Gurney, Root, Fredricks, 1859*.<sup>1</sup>

The exterior of Fredricks gallery can be seen in an 1857 photograph.<sup>2</sup> Another view of the gallery is viewable as entry #54 of the U.S. National Archives web site, *Pictures of the American City*.<sup>3</sup>

The hallotype is a process developed by John Bishop Hall and is a layered, color-added image on glass or paper. Additional information is found in “Hallotype,” *Humphrey’s Journal* (New York) 8:21 (1 March 1857):321–26; “Hallotypes,” 8:22 (15 March 1857):337–39.

1. [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/advert/B8590001\\_ADVERT\\_CARROLLS\\_1859.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/advert/B8590001_ADVERT_CARROLLS_1859.pdf)

2. <http://www.nelson-atkins.org/art/CollectionDatabase.cfm?id=47094&theme=Photo>

3. <http://www.archives.gov/research/american-cities/images/american-cities-054.jpg>

**EWER ARCHIVE P8560002**

URL: [http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8560002\\_FREDRICKS\\_PUTNAMS\\_1856-10.pdf](http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P8560002_FREDRICKS_PUTNAMS_1856-10.pdf)

Document created by: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2009-04-06 / Last revision: 2012-05-11

Citation information: *Putnam's Monthly Magazine* (New York) 8:22 (October 1856): 448.

Prepared from: imaged original text from online resource, *Making of America* (Cornell University)

(<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/moa/moa-cgi?notisid=ABK9283-0008&byte=146211344>)

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.

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.

© 2009, Gary W. Ewer. <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

---