

Advertisement for Jeremiah Gurney, 28 January 1853

(keywords: Jeremiah Gurney, Albert Litch, Robert H. Vance, 189 Broadway, 349 Broadway, lost daguerreotypes, three hundred daguerreotypes, panoramic California views, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

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GOLD MEDAL.—THE FIRST PREMIUM, a gold medal, was awarded to J. GURNEY, of Nos. 189 and 349 Broadway, for his superior Daguerreotypes at the late Fair of the American Institute. The report of the Premium Committee on these Daguerreotypes read thus: “They are the best Daguerreotypes that have ever been exhibited, and show by their distinct outline, clearness of light and shadow, rotundity and relief, with artistic arrangement, the perfect state to which the Daguerrean art has arrived in this country. His stereoscopic pictures are also very fine.” These specimens together with a large collection of portraits of distinguished persons, can be seen at his new and magnificent gallery, 349 Broadway; also, a large collection of views of California, embracing all the principal cities, towns, bays, rivers, gold regions, &c. &c. Admission, free.

Chemicals of a superior quality, for artists’ use, prepared by GURNEY & LITCH. None genuine without the written signature of J. Gurney and A. LITCH. For sale by GURNEY, at No. 349 Broadway.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:

The “large collection of views of California” are the three hundred whole-plate daguerreotypes of California made by Robert Vance. An exhibition of these views was mounted at the 349 Broadway location in October 1851. Additional information regarding the exhibition is found in Robert H. Vance, *Catalogue of Daguerreotype Panoramic Views in California* (New York: Baker, Godwin & Company, 1851.)¹

It is sometimes stated that the California views were purchased by Gurney. The present editor knows of no contemporary source supporting that assertion. Rather, it appears that Gurney—by some arrangement with Vance—simply held the views in his gallery. The collection of California views was eventually sold at auction on 20 July 1853.

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/F8510001_VANCE_CATALOGUE_DAG_VIEWS_1851.pdf

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