

the most valuable improvements that are from time to time presented; content to follow the "good old" plan of operating, never learning that every day presents something new in the Art. The whole process possesses so many details of operation, that it becomes almost indispensable to study daily from the vast fields before us. Surely we have not yet reached the highest point in the perfection of this wonderful discovery; nor shall we so long as that bright sun, on which we are so dependent, holds its course in the heavens.

In view of these facts, how valuable is your Journal. Here can be noted down all the important discoveries that may present themselves, which will tend as an incentive to other and perhaps greater improvements. If all who are engaged in the Daguerreian Art would lend a helping hand, your work would transcend, in interest, many scientific journals now before the public.

I trust, therefore, we may hear freely from operators; and that they will not allow their light to be obscured as "under a bushel," knowing, as they well do, that good success depends upon good light; and rather than that we should *group* in the dark, let us speak out one to another, through the columns of your Journal.

AN OPERATOR SINCE 1840.

New York, Oct. 5th, 1850.

COPYING.

In copying paintings, engravings, &c. by the Daguerreotype process, arrange them in a position where the light will fall evenly over the surface, and see that the picture is as nearly as possible at right angles with the camera; otherwise the different parts will be out of proportion. Daguerreotypes are more difficult, on account of the reflection of the light on the plate. This must be avoided by turning the picture, until it can be distinctly seen on the ground-glass. It is well to cover the front of the camera, by pinning a piece of black cloth around the tube, to

prevent reflection. In order to copy a picture the size of the original, slide the ground glass to the back end of the camera, and make the distance between the lenses and glass equal to that between the lenses and the object to be copied. The copy can be magnified so as to produce a quarter size from a medium picture; but this requires a double, or copying camera-box, which admits of drawing out so as to increase the distance from the ground glass to the lenses, to any requisite degree. This can be obtained of any dealer, and should be in the possession of every artist; and it will undoubtedly supercede all others.

When called upon to take a miniature for a pin, or ring, it is frequently least trouble to take an impression of the ordinary size, and copy from it.

BEATING TIME.—On the arrival of the Steam ship Atlantic at this port, October 9th, the news was telegraphed to Washington City, D C., and from thence, at a quarter past twelve o'clock, to New Orleans, where it was received at a quarter before twelve, thus beating time by half an hour. The news was published in the afternoon papers at New Orleans, at the same time as in New York and other northern cities. Ten years ago who could have believed that such wonders could take place in the nineteenth century? Who can tell, or dare even imagine what may transpire before another quarter century shall pass.

It is said that TURNER the eminent painter, who is reported for the vacant chairmanship of the Royal Academy, has realized not less than £500,000 by his brush.

PLANK ROADS INCREASING.—Charters have been granted for eight plank roads, to lead from Detroit in different directions, whose entire length will be one hundred and eighty-seven miles.