

**John S. Bartlett, "Daguerreotype,"(regarding Gouraud's private exhibition)
7 December 1839**

(keywords: Dr. John S. Bartlett, Albion, François Gouraud, François Fauvel-Gouraud, Francis Fauvel-Gouraud, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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Published in:

Albion: or British, Colonial, and Foreign Weekly Gazette (New York) 1:49 (7 December 1839): 391.

Daguerreotype.—This remarkable process has largely engaged public attention both in Europe and America; attempts have been made to improve upon it, to vary from it, and to impose new names upon the original principle. M. Daguerre has consequently had much trouble in vindicating his claim to originality, as well as in protesting against innovations tending to deteriorate the value and utility of his process. To this end a friend of his, *M. Gouraud*, has arrived in this country and is about to exhibit numerous specimens of the Daguerreotype in proof of both its excellence and beauty. We have been favored with a private examination of these specimens and are free to confess that they exceed anything of which we had any conception.

The nature of the process has been freely described over and over again; but, in the manipulation, it is evident that intimate acquaintance with the chemical preparations, as well as great care and attention, are necessary; and hence it is that the effects produced by M. Daguerre are far superior to those of others. The pictures are, in the strictest sense, nature itself in little. The degree of light and shade on the plate are as nicely adjusted as that of the subject itself from whence it is derived. The figures and prominent parts stand out in round and accurate relief, softened with the utmost delicacy, and in the smoothness as well as quality of shade they are beyond all imitation. Of course the pictures are the *reverse* of the originals, and this only is the point of difference; for so minutely correct is the reflection of the solar light, that objects altogether imperceptible to the eye, are reflected on the picture and discoverable by the help of a magnifier.

We know not whether M. Gouraud intends to lecture on this interesting subject, but we find him both ready and clear in his explanations to inquirers. It will doubtless result in great advantages to the arts, although, so new is the subject, it would be premature yet to point out its peculiar adaptations. In the meanwhile we most strongly commend this exhibition to the attention of the curious.

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Dr. John S. Bartlett (1790–1863) was the founder and editor of the *Albion*. The following information regarding Bartlett and this publication is provided in Frederic Hudson, *Journalism in the United States: From 1690 to 1872* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1873): 313:

The *New York Albion*, an organ of English opinion, was established on the 22d of June, 1822. Its originator was Dr. John S. Bartlett. Daniel

Fanshaw was the printer. It acquired an influential position, and was a useful paper to the British population of the United States. Peter Simple, Midshipman Easy, Japhet in Search of his Father, were first introduced to the American public through the columns of the *Albion*. This was a time when these novels, republished by the Harpers and others, were considered too expensive for general circulation. After Dr. Bartlett had successfully managed the *Albion* for many years, he sold the establishment to William Young on the 6th of May, 1848. It then passed into the hands of W. H. Morrell, and was afterwards sold to Kinahan Cornwallis. It is now published by Piercy Wilson.

Another individual who wrote regarding this private exhibition was diarist Philip Hone.¹

To date, one extant invitation issued by François Gouraud (for the New York exhibition) has been located. The invitation received by William Sidney Mount is held at the New-York Historical Society.²

Gouraud did indeed lecture and present practical demonstrations. See an advertisement by Gouraud in the 8 February 1840 issue of this same publication.³

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/M8390001_HONE_DIARY_1839-12-04.pdf
2. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/S8390001_GOURAUD_NY_INVITE_1839-11-29.pdf
3. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N8400001_GOURAUD_ADVERT_ALBION_1840-02-08.pdf

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Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2008-10-16 / Last revision: 2009-05-26

Citation information: *Albion* 1:49 (7 December 1839): 391.

Prepared from: original volume in the collection of Gary W. Ewer.

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