

“Fitzgibbon, the Great Daguerrean,” 12 May 1855

(keywords: John H. Fitzgibbon, Monsieur Penabert, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography)

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We see from the last St. Louis papers that Fitzgibbon, the Great Daguerrean, has introduced there a new style of Photographs which beats nature desperately. Fitz went over to Paris, a short time since, and procured one of the most elegant and finely finished Frenchmen in that city; and now with the assistance of his French friend added to his own unrivalled skill he produces pictures that sit up and talk to a man just like the original.

We hope Mr. Fitzgibbon will make another trip to our section. South-west Missouri and North-west Arkansas are renowned for love of the fine arts. It is true the people may not be disposed to pay much money for pictures, (it being a distressing season on account of the drought) but that affects not the question of their admiration for pictures. But this Mr. F. knows. It will be hot and unhealthy next summer in St. Louis. Let him therefore bundle up a few materials, Monsieur Penabert, and whatever he thinks would be of service on the trip, and roll into our town about the last of June. We promise lots of fun and water-melons, cold spring water and a room up stairs in the new Court-House. The latter is alone sufficient to induce the trip. “No gentleman’s gallery can be complete without it.”

We are under obligations to Mr. F. for his generosity, and we are not backward to make the acknowledgement. But independent of all such considerations, he is the most renowned Daguerrean in the Mississippi valley; and we warn all persons visiting St. Louis not to leave that city without procuring one of the new style Photographs, under penalty of death.

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:

The article is attributed to the editor of this weekly newspaper, William Quesenbury, known familiarly as “Bill Cush.” As a sketch artist, Quesenbury accompanied John Wesley Jones during his 1851 travels in preparing views to be used for the painting of the moving panorama, “The Pantoscope of California.”¹

Quesenbury describes his visit to the Fitzgibbon gallery in “Trip to St. Louis,” *South-West Independent* (Fayetteville, AK) 2:46 3 August 1855.

1. “W. Quesenbury, Esq.,” *Daily Union* (Sacramento) 1:95 (8 July 1851): n.p. (second page of issue).

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