Robert Taft photography research notes

Section 57, Pages 1681 - 1710

These research notes document the research Robert Taft undertook in writing his works on the history of American photography. This series complements the series of Taft's photography correspondence included on Kansas Memory as unit 221204.

Creator: Taft, Robert, 1894-1955

Date: 1920s - 1950s

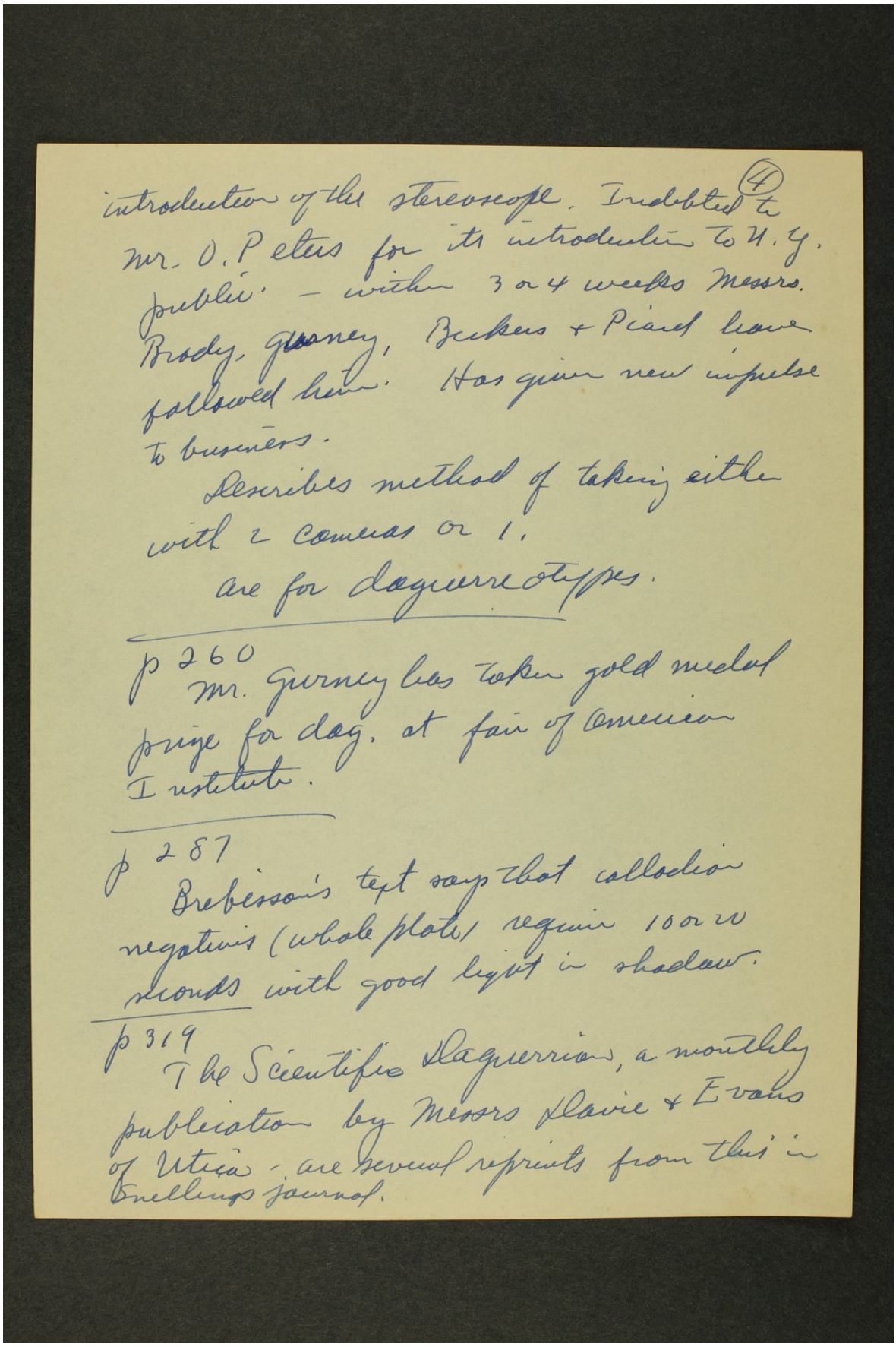
Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll. #172, Boxes 14-17

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 228066

Item Identifier: 228066

www.kansasmemory.org/item/228066

Robert Taft photography research notes



introduction of the stereoscope. Indebted to (4)
Mr. O. Peters for its introduction to N. Y.
public. — within 3 or 4 weeks Messrs.
Brady, Gurney, Bakers & Plant have
followed him. Has given new impulse
to business.
Describes method of taking either
with 2 cameras or 1.
are for daguerreotypes.

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p 260
Mr. Gurney has taken gold medal
prize for dag. at fair of American
Institute.

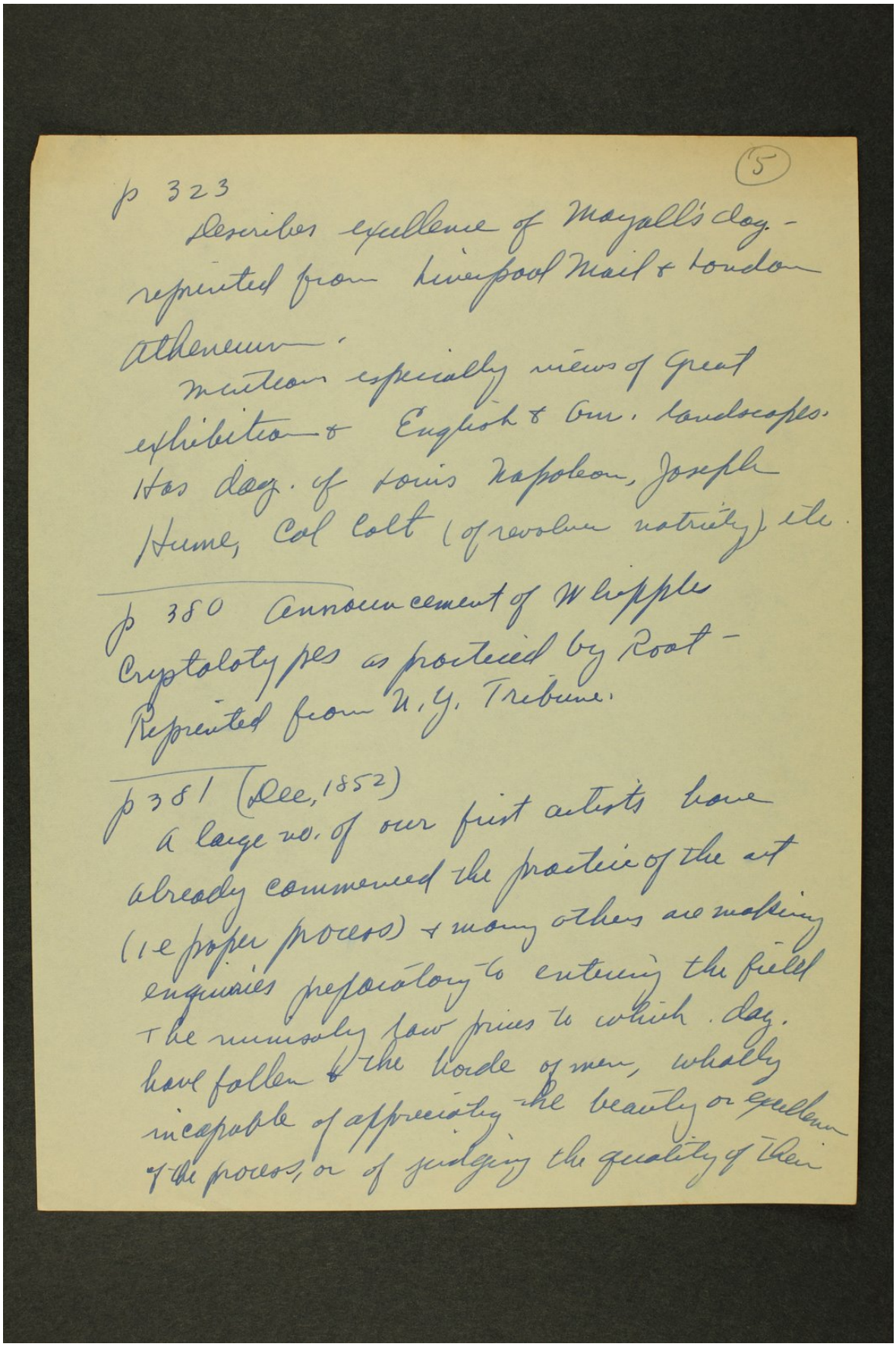
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p 287
Brebisson's text says that collodion
negatives (whole plate) require 10 or 12
seconds with good light in shadow.

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p 319
The Scientific Daguerrian, a monthly
publication by Messrs Slavie & Evans
of Utica - are several reprints from this in
Snelling's journal.

Robert Taft photography research notes

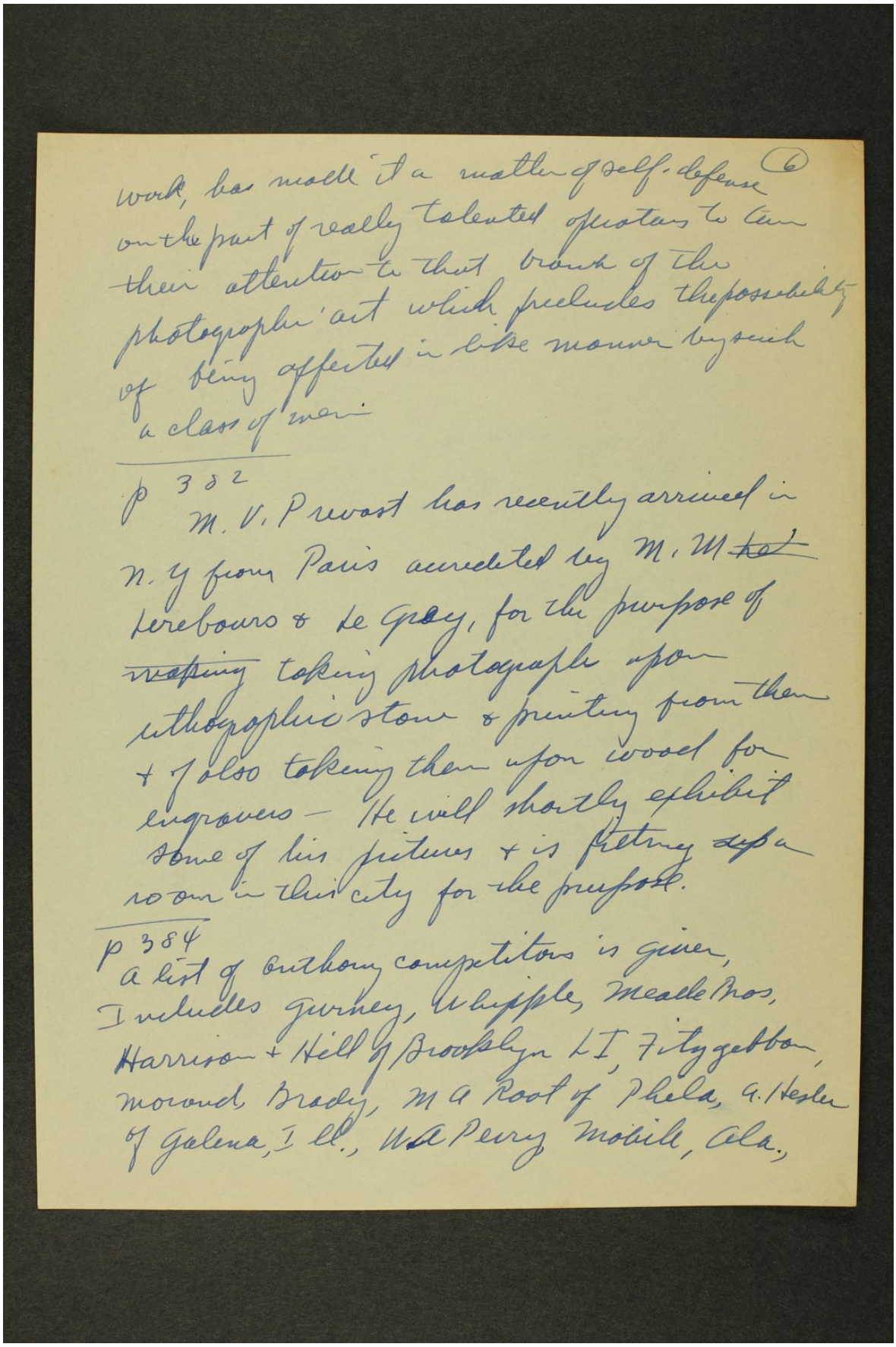


(5)

p 323
describes excellence of Mayall's dag. -
reprinted from Liverpool Mail & London
Athenaeum.
mentions especially views of Great
exhibition & English & Am. landscapes.
Has dag. of Louis Napoleon, Joseph
Hume, Col Colt (of revolver notoriety) etc.

p 380 announcement of W Whipple
Cryptolotypes as protected by Root -
Reprinted from N.Y. Tribune.

p 381 (Dec, 1852)
a large no. of our first artists have
already commenced the practice of the art
(i.e paper process) & many others are making
enquiries preparatory to entering the field
The unusually low prices to which dag.
have fallen & the horde of men, wholly
incapable of appreciating the beauty or excellence
of the process, or of judging the quality of the



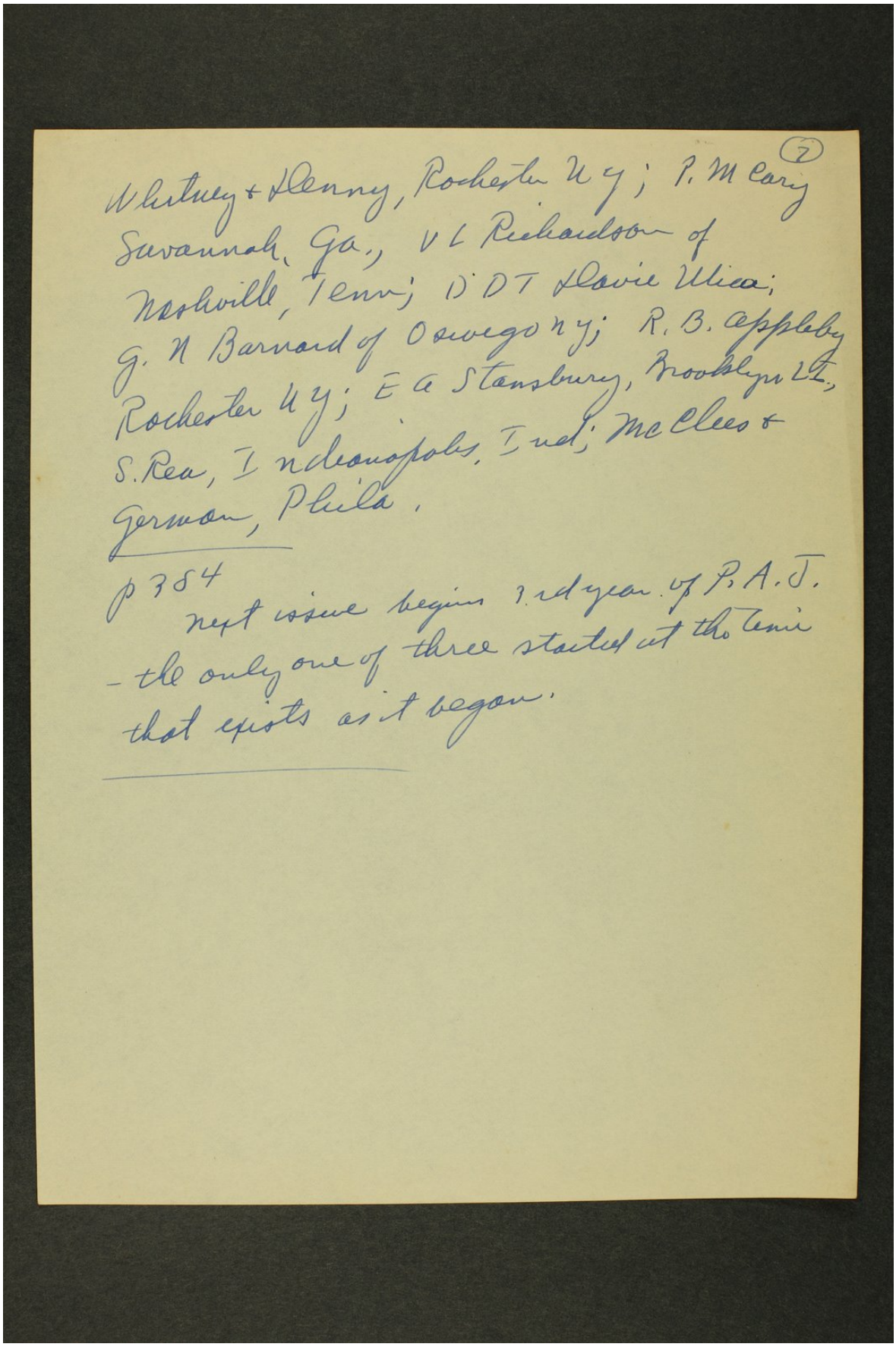
work, has made it a matter of self-defense (6)
on the part of really talented operators to turn
their attention to that branch of the
photographic art which precludes the possibility
of being affected in like manner by such
a class of men

---

p 382
M. V. Prevost has recently arrived in
N. Y from Paris accredited by M. M ~~Lot~~
Lerebours & Le Gray, for the purpose of
~~making~~ taking photographs upon
lithographic stone & printing from them
+ ~~+~~ also taking them upon wood for
engravers — He will shortly exhibit
some of his pictures + is ~~getting up a~~ getting
room in this city for the purpose.

---

p 384
a list of authors competitors is given,
Includes Gurney, Whipple, Meade Bros,
Harrison + Hill of Brooklyn L I, Fitzgibbon,
Morand, Brady, M A Root of Phila, A. Hesler
of Galena, Ill., W^m Perry Mobile, Ala.,



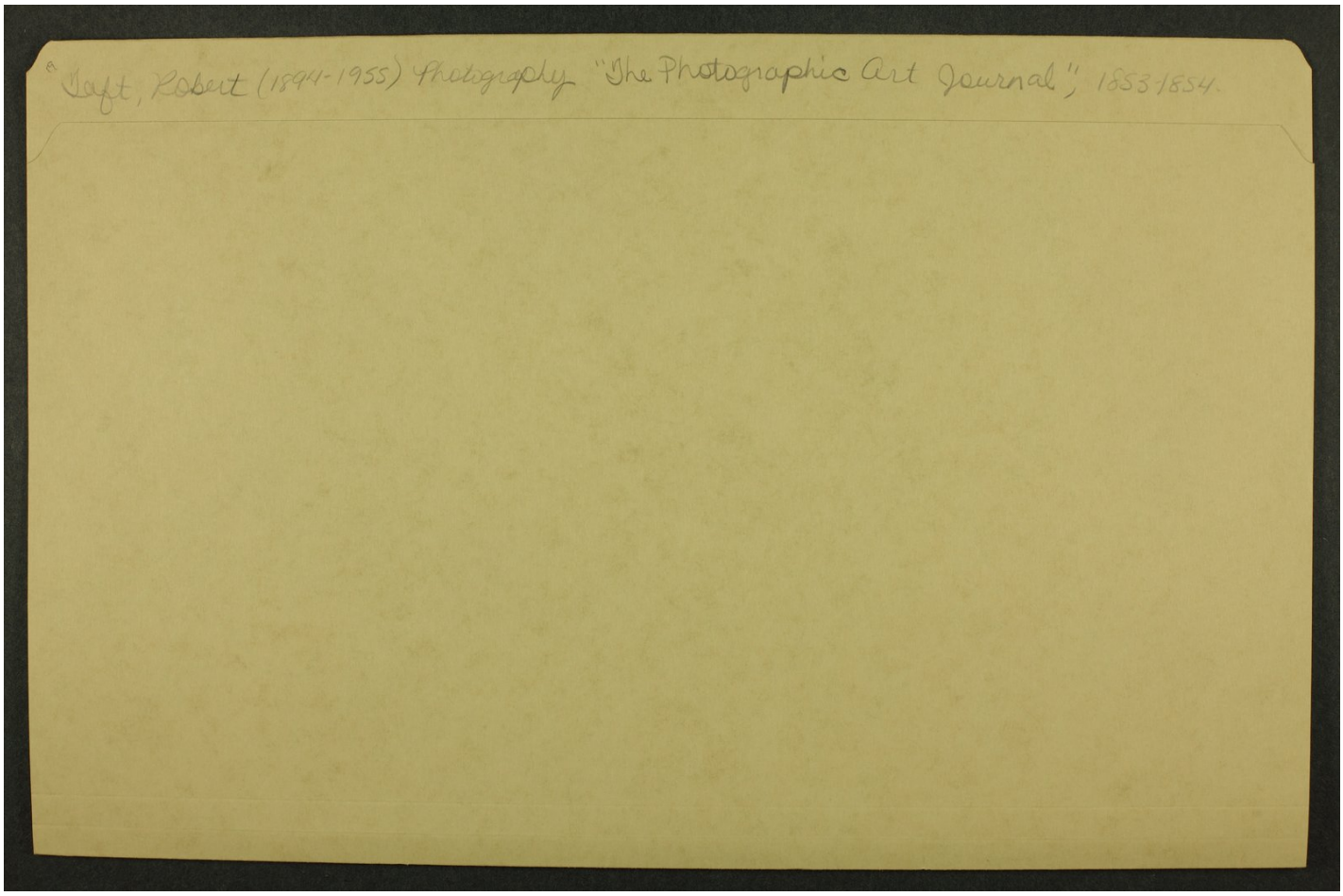
(7)

Whitney + Kenny, Rochester N.Y.; P. M Cary Savannah, Ga.; V L Richardson of Nashville, Tenn; D D T Davie Utica; G. N Barnard of Oswego N.Y.; R. B. Appleby Rochester N.Y.; E A Stansbury, Brooklyn L.I.; S. Rea, Indianapolis, Ind; McClees & Germon, Phila.

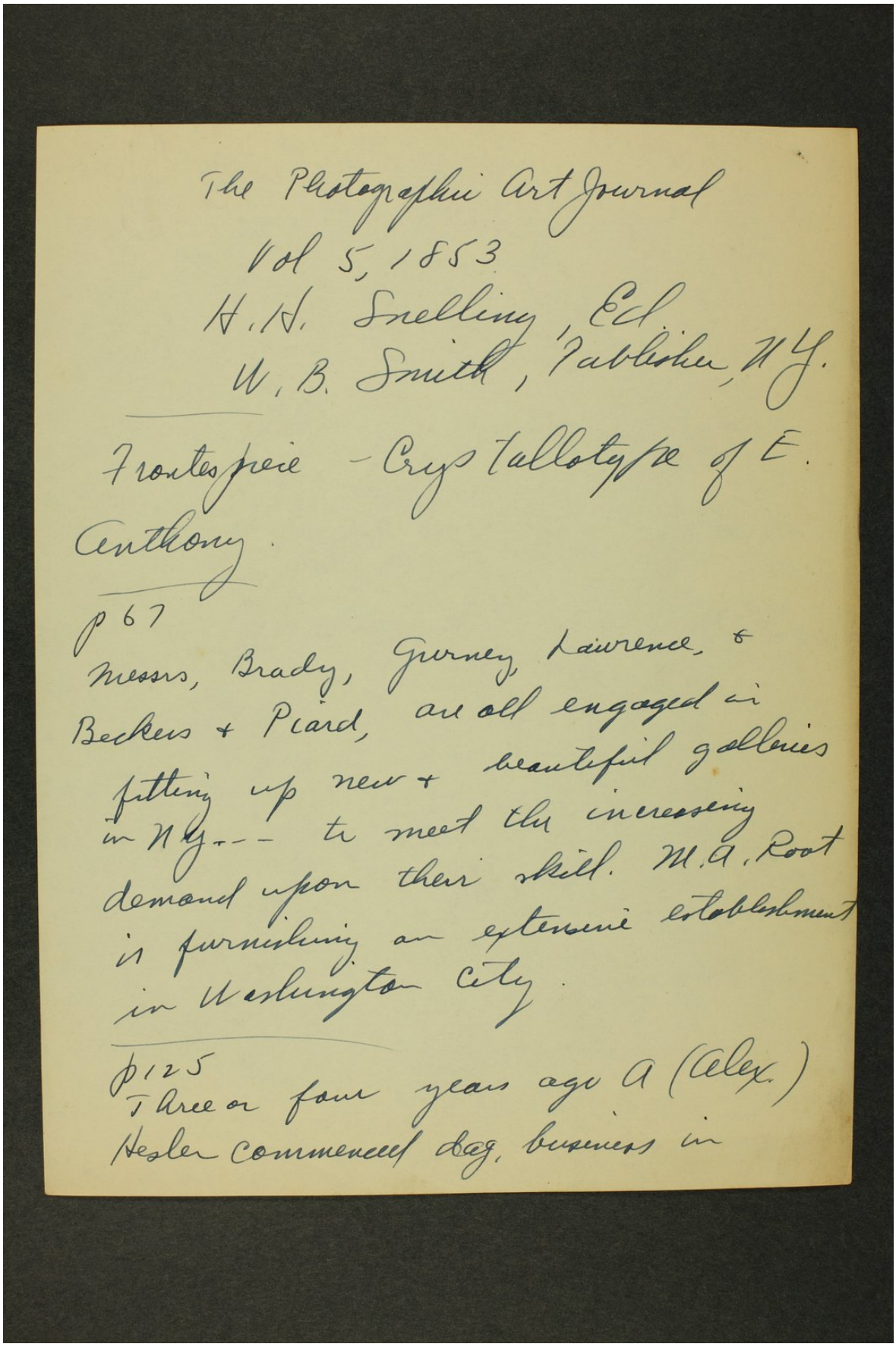
p 384

next issue begins 3rd year of P. A. J. - the only one of three started at the time that exists as it began.

Robert Taft photography research notes



Robert Taft photography research notes

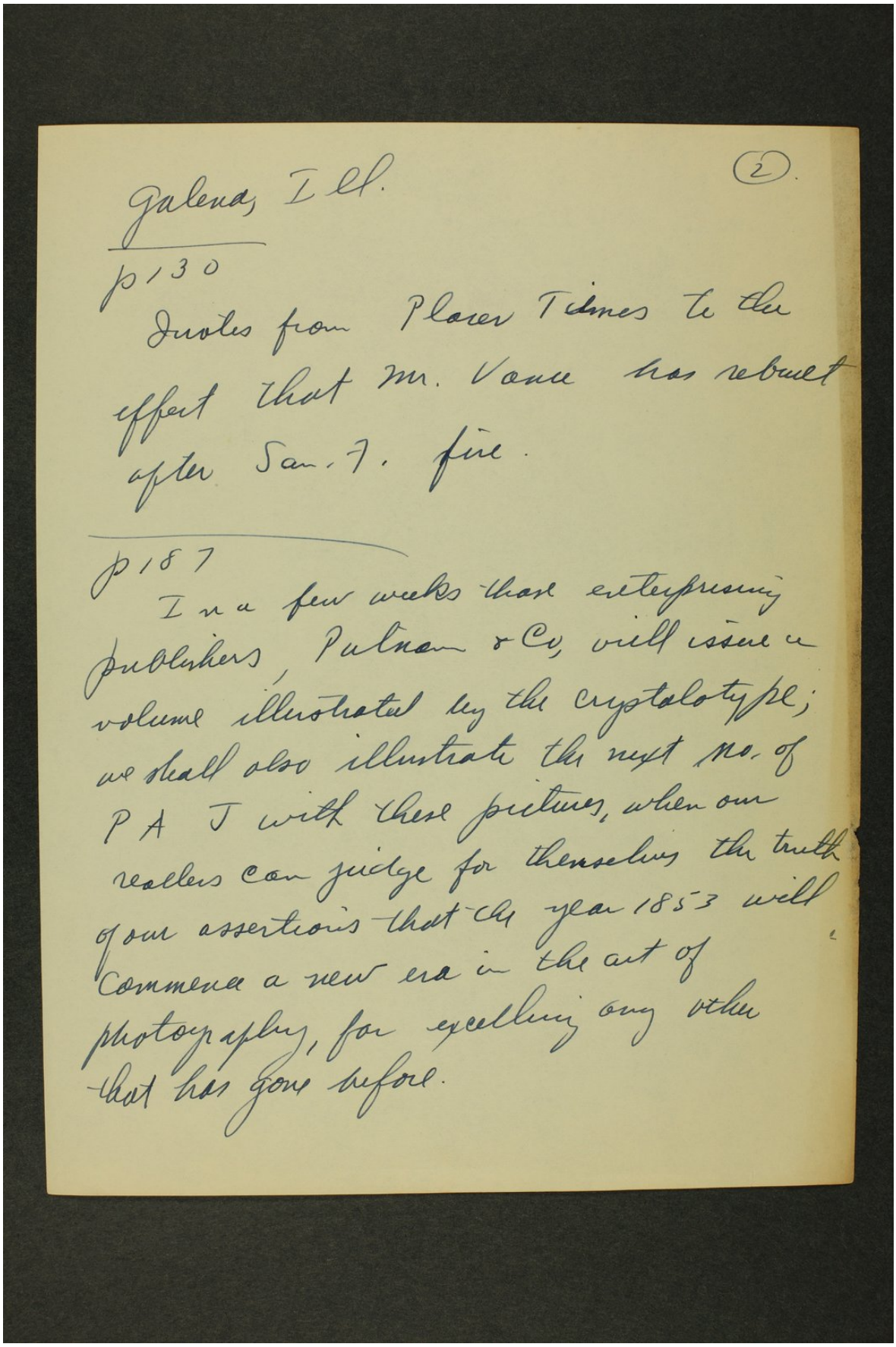


The Photographic Art Journal
Vol 5, 1853
H. H. Snelling, Ed.
W. B. Smith, Publisher, N.Y.

Frontespiece - Crystallotype of E. Anthony.

p 67
Messrs, Brady, Gurney, Lawrence, & Beckers & Picard, are all engaged in fitting up new & beautiful galleries in N.Y.--- to meet the increasing demand upon their skill. M.A. Root is furnishing an extensive establishment in Washington City.

p 125
Three or four years ago A (Alex.) Hesler commenced Dag. business in



Galena, Ill. (2).

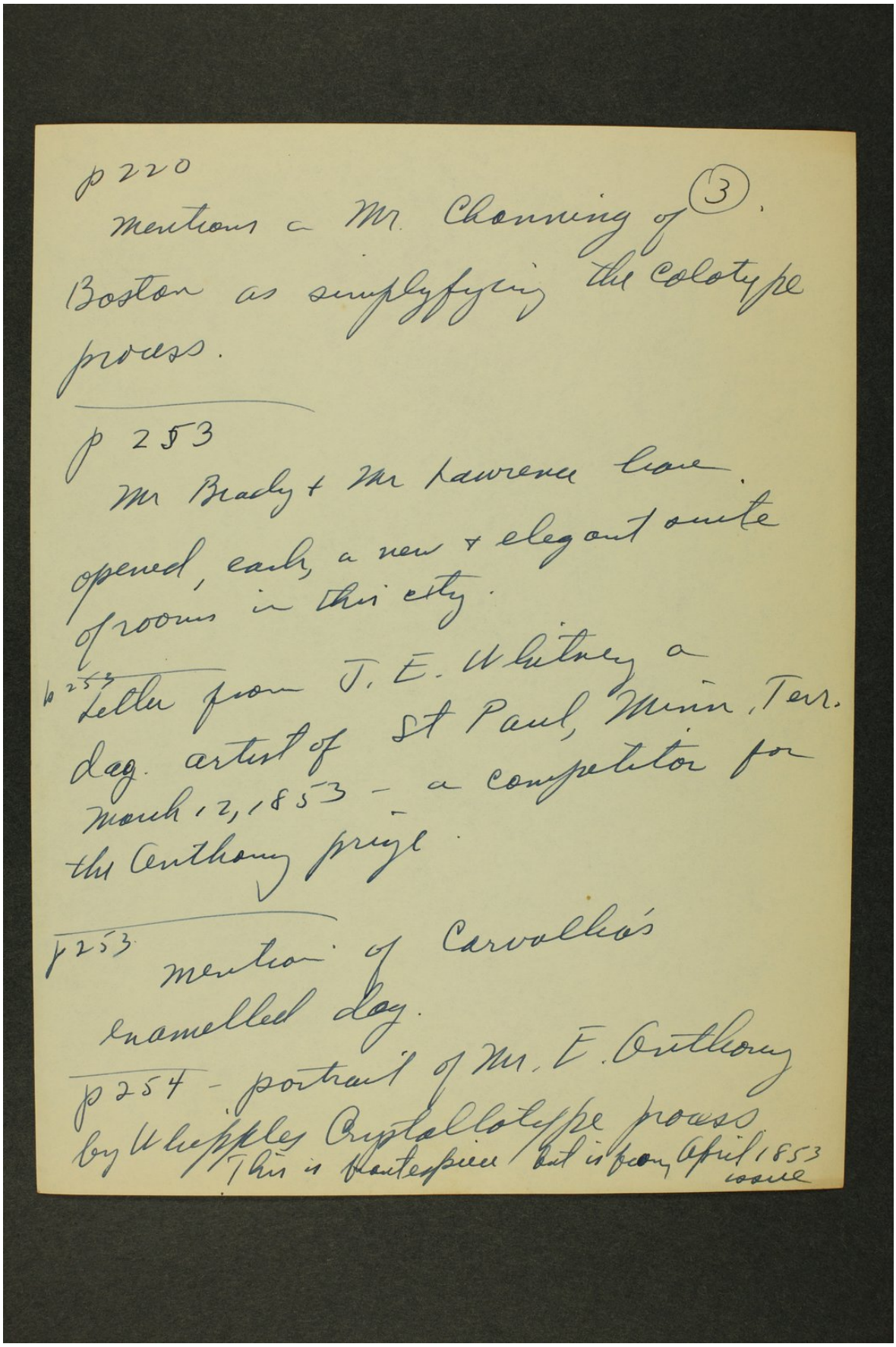
p. 130

Quotes from Placer Times to the effect that Mr. Vance has reburt after San. F. fire.

p. 187

In a few weeks that enterprising publishers, Putnam & Co, will issue a volume illustrated by the crystalotype; we shall also illustrate the next No. of P A J with these pictures, when our readers can judge for themselves the truth of our assertions that the year 1853 will commence a new era in the art of photography, for excelling any other that has gone before.

Robert Taft photography research notes



p 220
mentions a Mr. Channing of (3).
Boston as simplifying the colotype
process.

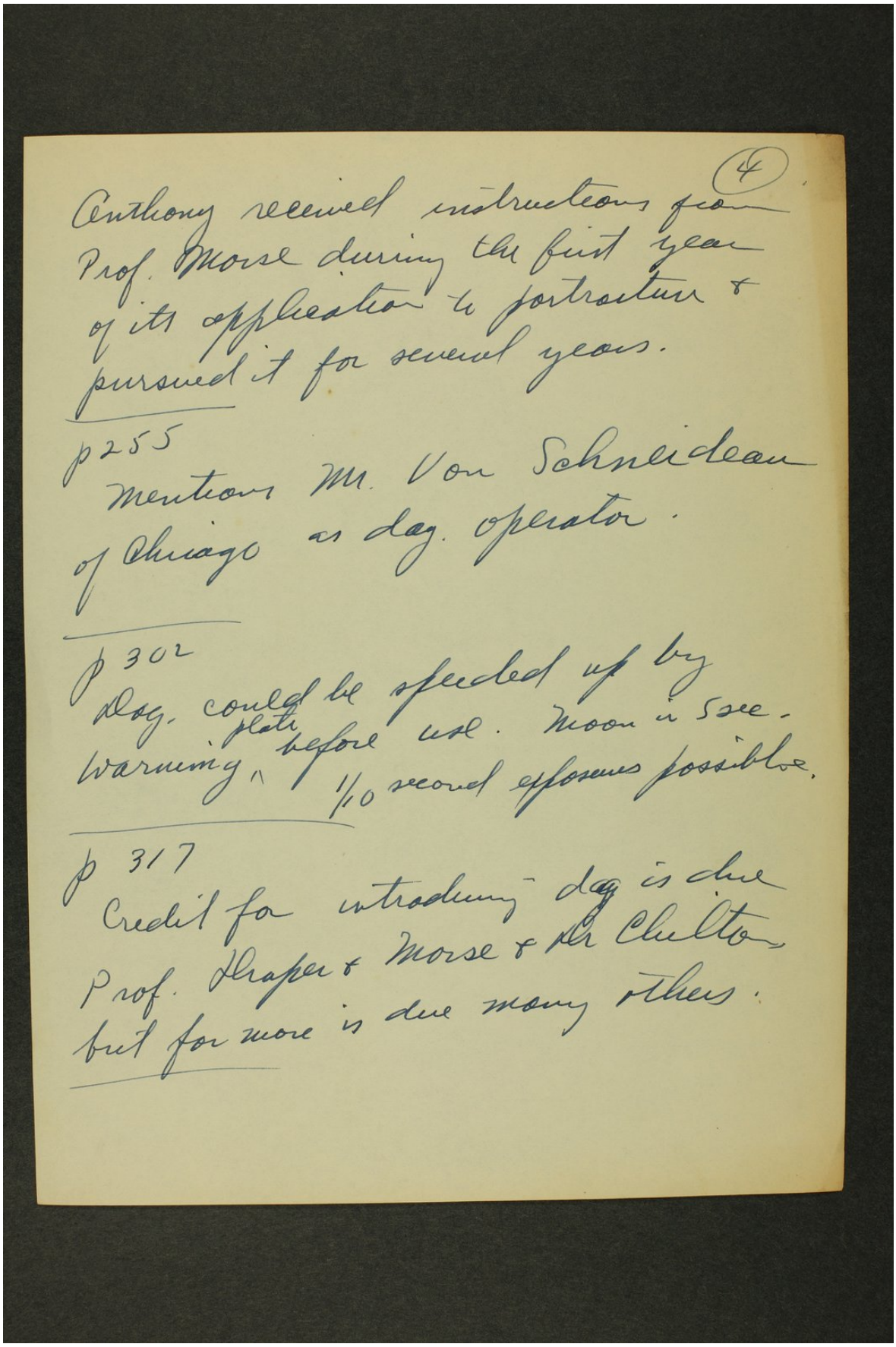
p 253
Mr Brady + Mr Lawrence have
opened, each, a new + elegant suite
of rooms in this city.

b 253 Letter from J. E. Whitney a
dag. artist of St Paul, Minn. Ter.
March 12, 1853 - a competitor for
the Anthony prize.

p 253 mention of Carvalho's
enamelled dag.

p 254 - portrait of Mr. E. Anthony
by Whipple Crystallotype process.
This is masterpiece but is from April 1853
issue

Robert Taft photography research notes



(4)

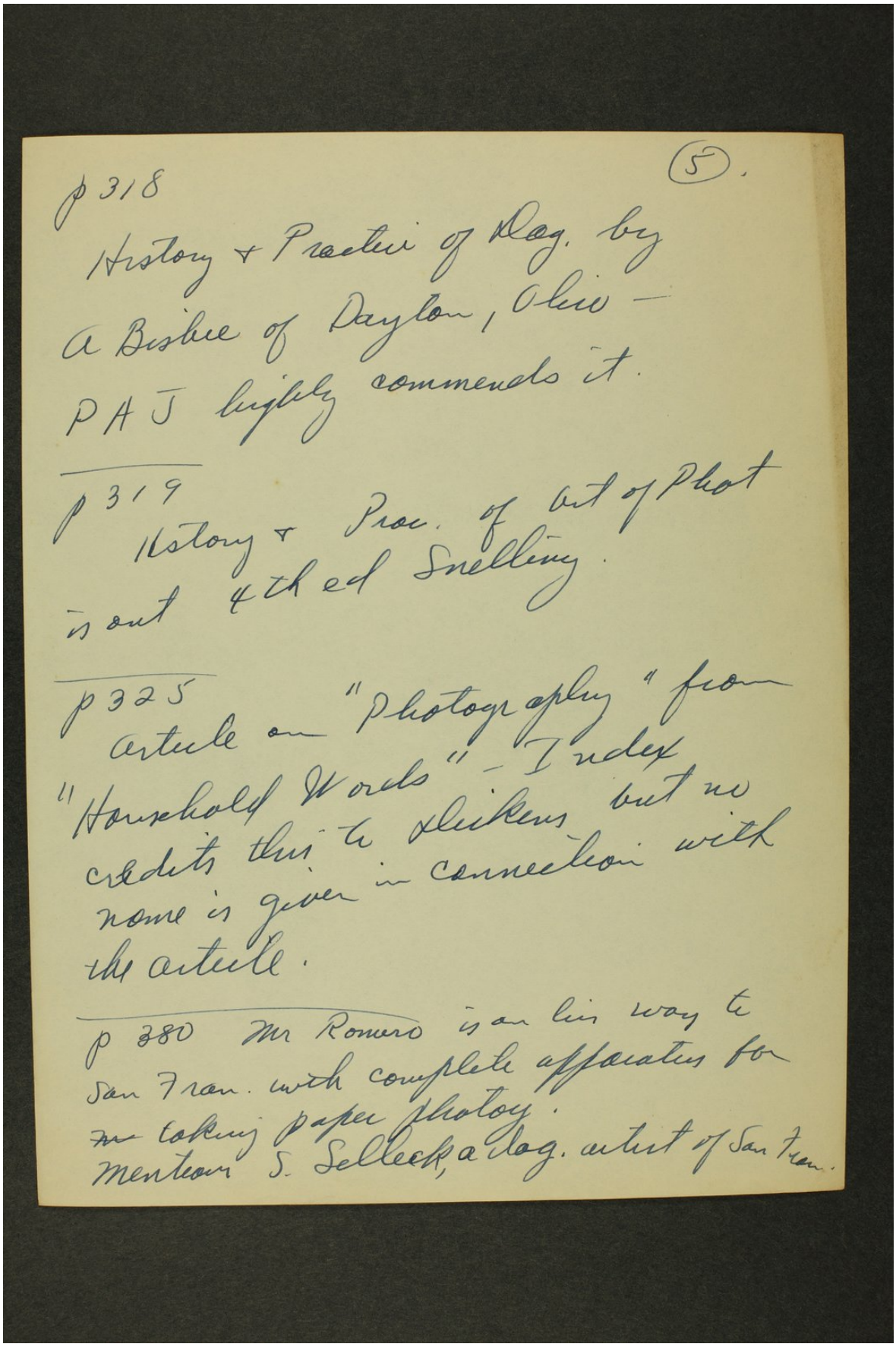
Anthony received instructions from Prof. Morse during the first year of its application to portraiture & pursued it for several years.

p 255
Mentions Mr. Von Schneidean of Chicago as dag. operator.

p 302
Dag. could be speeded up by warming plate before use. Moon in 5 sec. 1/10 second exposures possible.

p 317
Credit for introducing dag is due Prof. Draper & Morse & Dr Chilton but for more is due many others.

Robert Taft photography research notes



(5).

p 318
History & Practice of Daguerreotype by
a Bishop of Dayton, Ohio —
PAT highly commends it.

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p 319
History & Proc. of art of Photography
is out 4th ed Snelling.

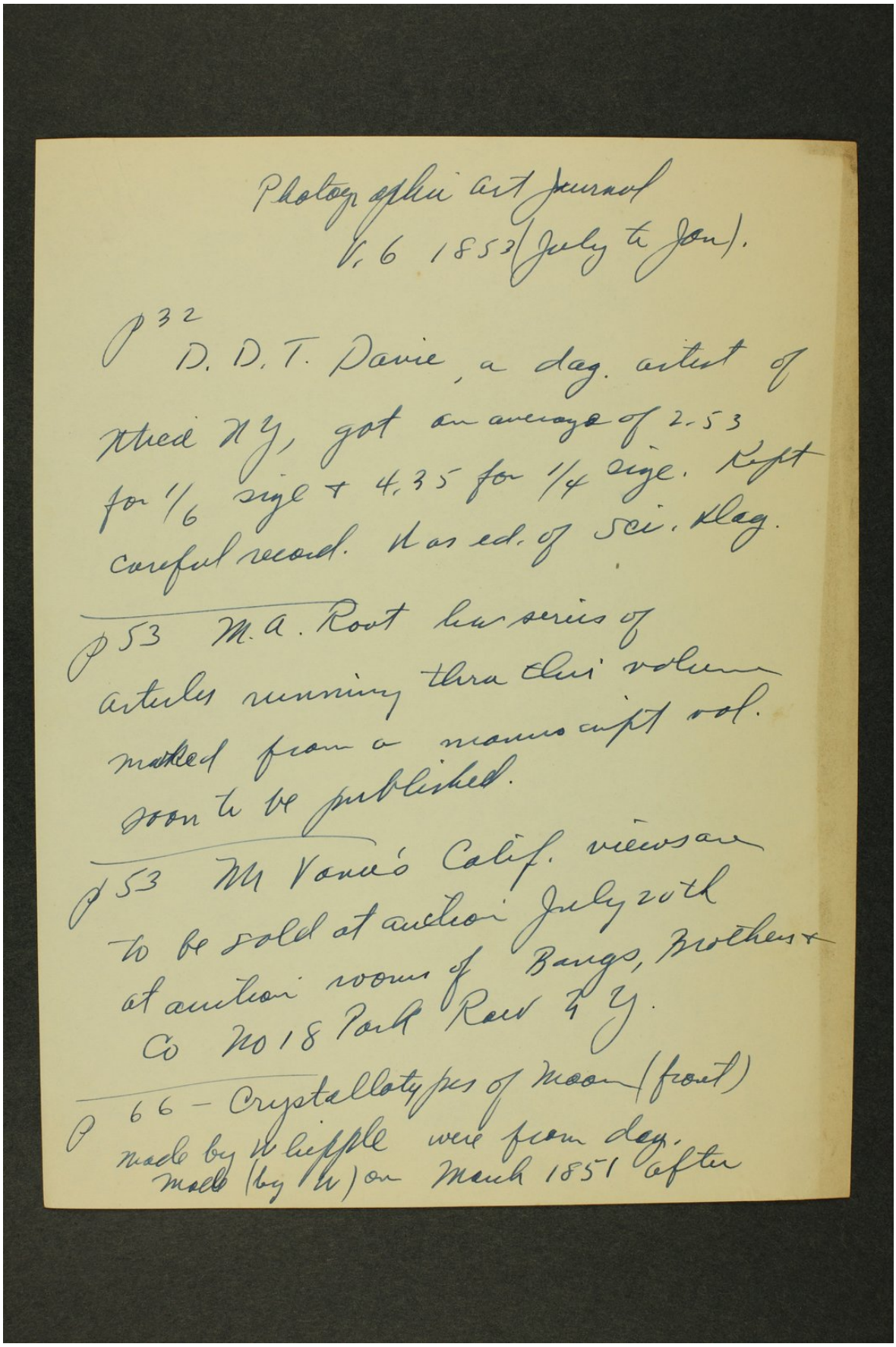
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p 325
article on "photography" from
"Household Words" — Index
credits this to Dickens but no
name is given in connection with
the article.

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p 280 Mr Romero is on his way to
San Fran. with complete apparatus for
making paper photos.
Mentions S. Selleck, a daguerreotypist of San Fran.

Robert Taft photography research notes



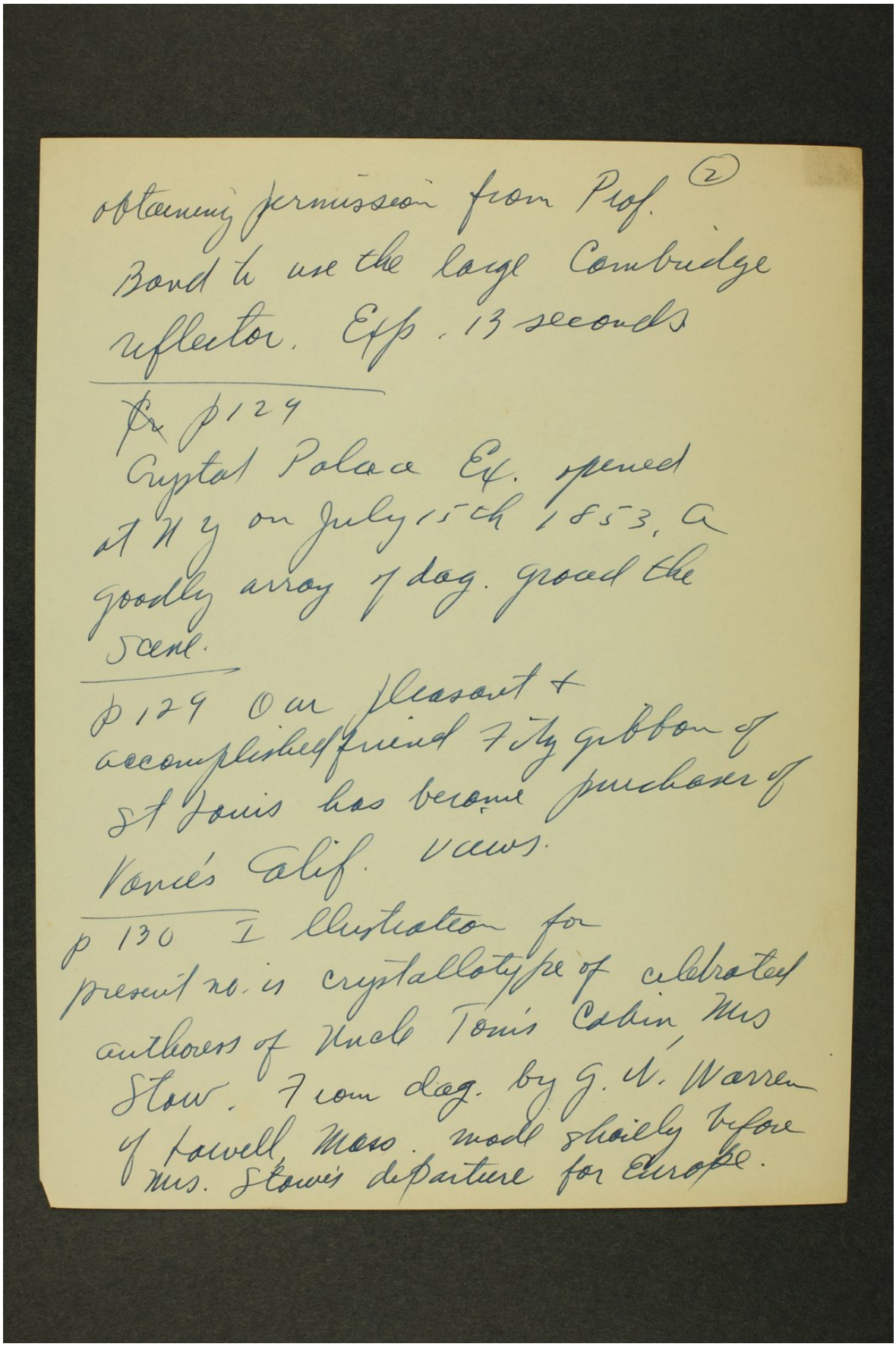
Photographic art Journal
V. 6 1853 (July to Jan).

p 32 D. D. T. Davie, a day. artist of Utica N.Y., got an average of 2.53 for 1/6 size + 4.35 for 1/4 size. Kept careful record. Has ed. of Sci. Mag.

p 53 M. A. Root has series of articles running thru this volume mostly from a manuscript vol. soon to be published.

p 53 Mr Vance's Calif. views are to be sold at auction July 20th at auction rooms of Bangs, Brothers + Co No 18 Park Row N.Y.

p 66 – Crystallotypes of moon (front) made by W. Lippincott were from daguerreotypes made (by W.) on March 1851 after



obtaining permission from Prof. (2)
Bond to use the large Cambridge
reflector. Exp. 13 seconds

Ex p 129
Crystal Palace Ex. opened
at N y on July 15th 1853, a
goodly array of dag. graced the
scene.

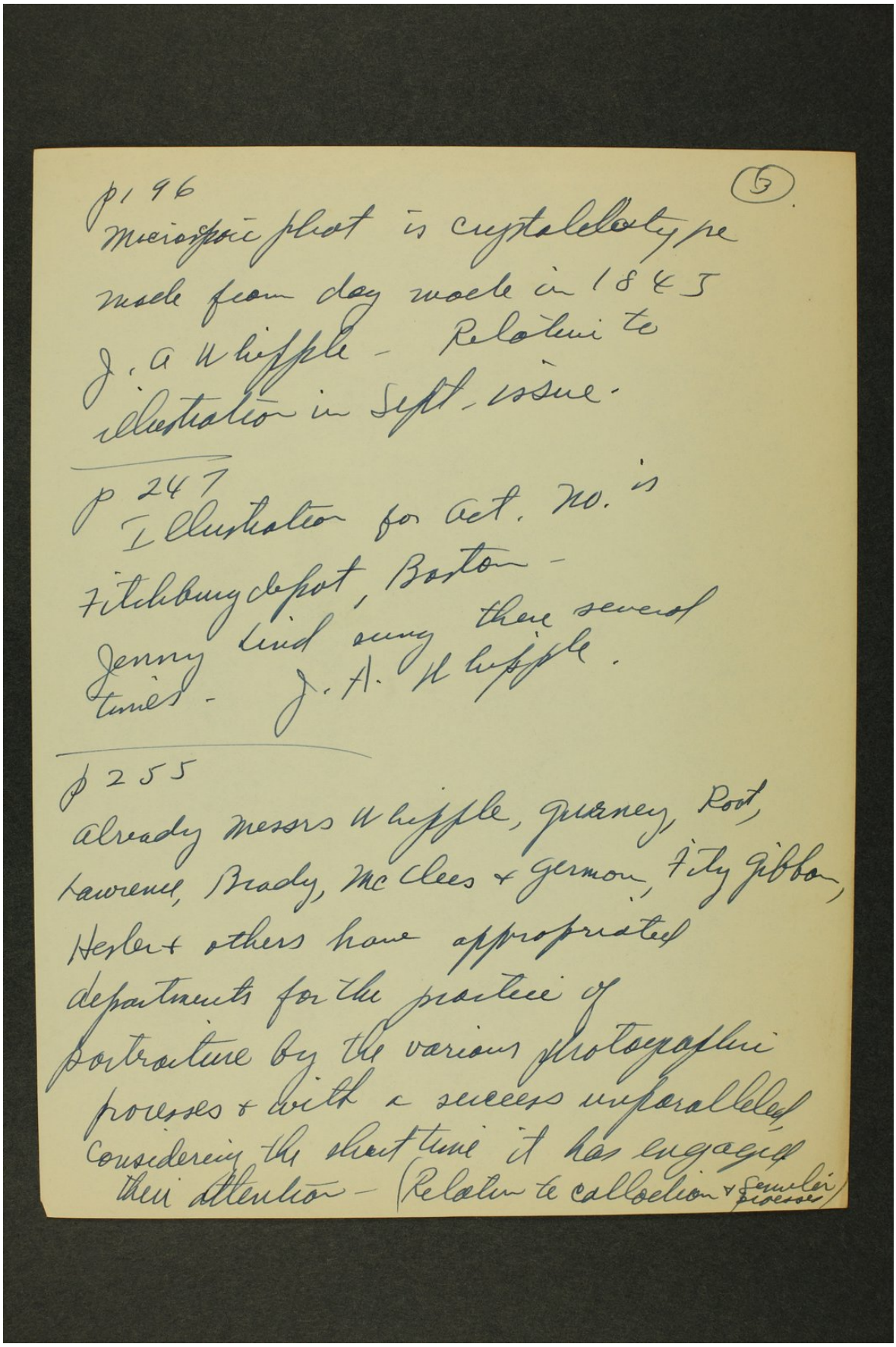
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p 129 Our pleasant +
accomplished friend Fly gibbon of
St Louis has become purchaser of
Vance's Calif. views.

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p 130 I Illustration for
present no. is crystallotype of celebrated
authoress of Uncle Tom's Cabin, Mrs
Stow. From dag. by G. N. Warren
of Lowell Mass. made shortly before
Mrs. Stowe's departure for Europe.

Robert Taft photography research notes

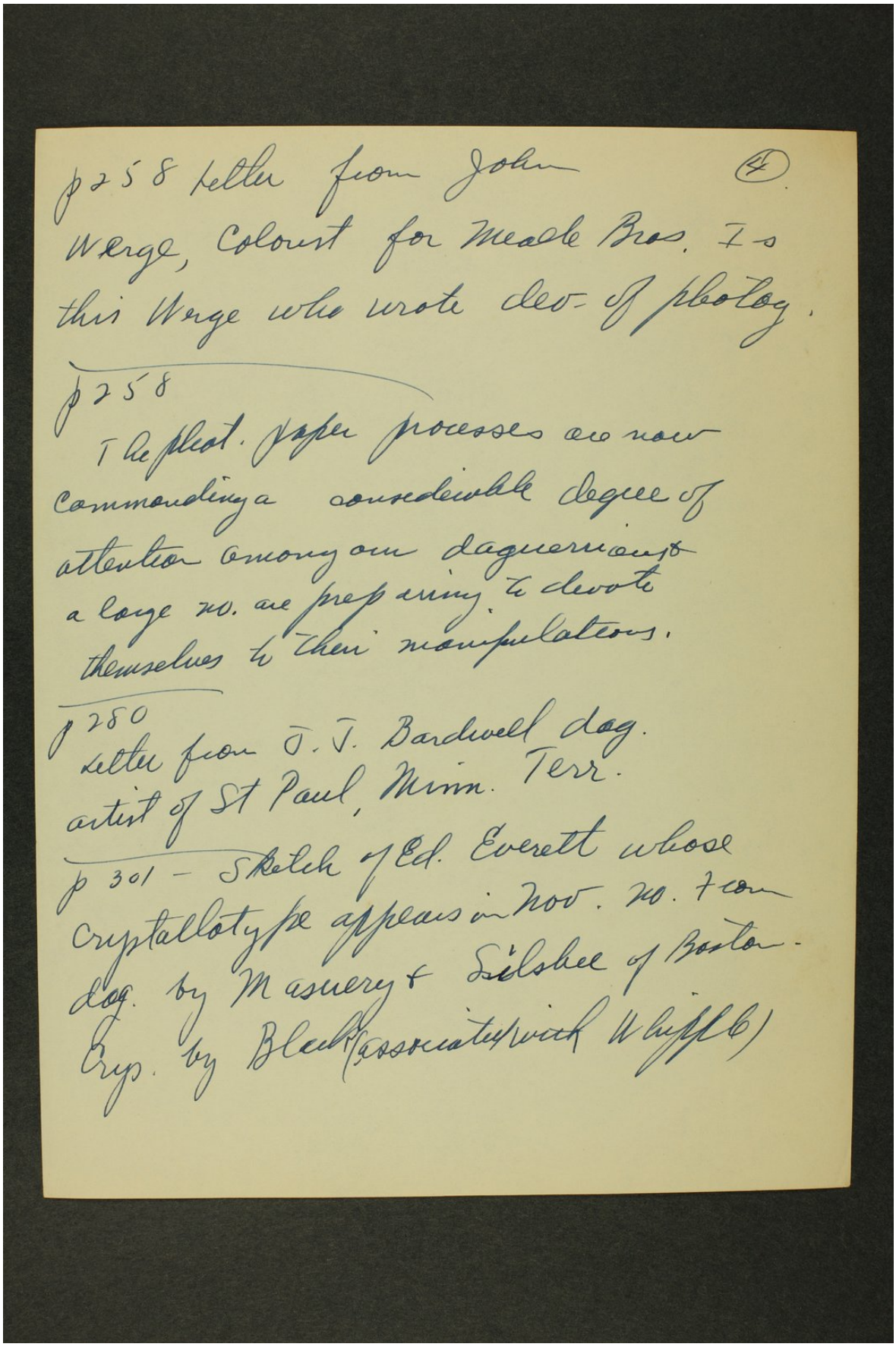


(9)

p. 96
Microscopic plate is crystalelectype
made from day made in 1845
J. A. H. Whipple - Relative to
illustration in Sept. issue.

p 247
Illustration for art. no. is
Fitchburg depot, Boston -
Jenny Lind sang there several
times. J. A. H. Whipple.

p 255
already messrs Whipple, Gurney, Root,
Lawrence, Brady, McClees & Germon, Fitz Gibbon,
Hesler + others have appropriated
departments for the practice of
portraiture by the various photographic
processes + with a success unparalleled,
Considering the short time it has engaged
their attention - (Relative to calbotion + Semeler process)



p 258 Letter from John Werge, Colonist for Meade Bros. Is this Werge who wrote Geo. S. Photog.

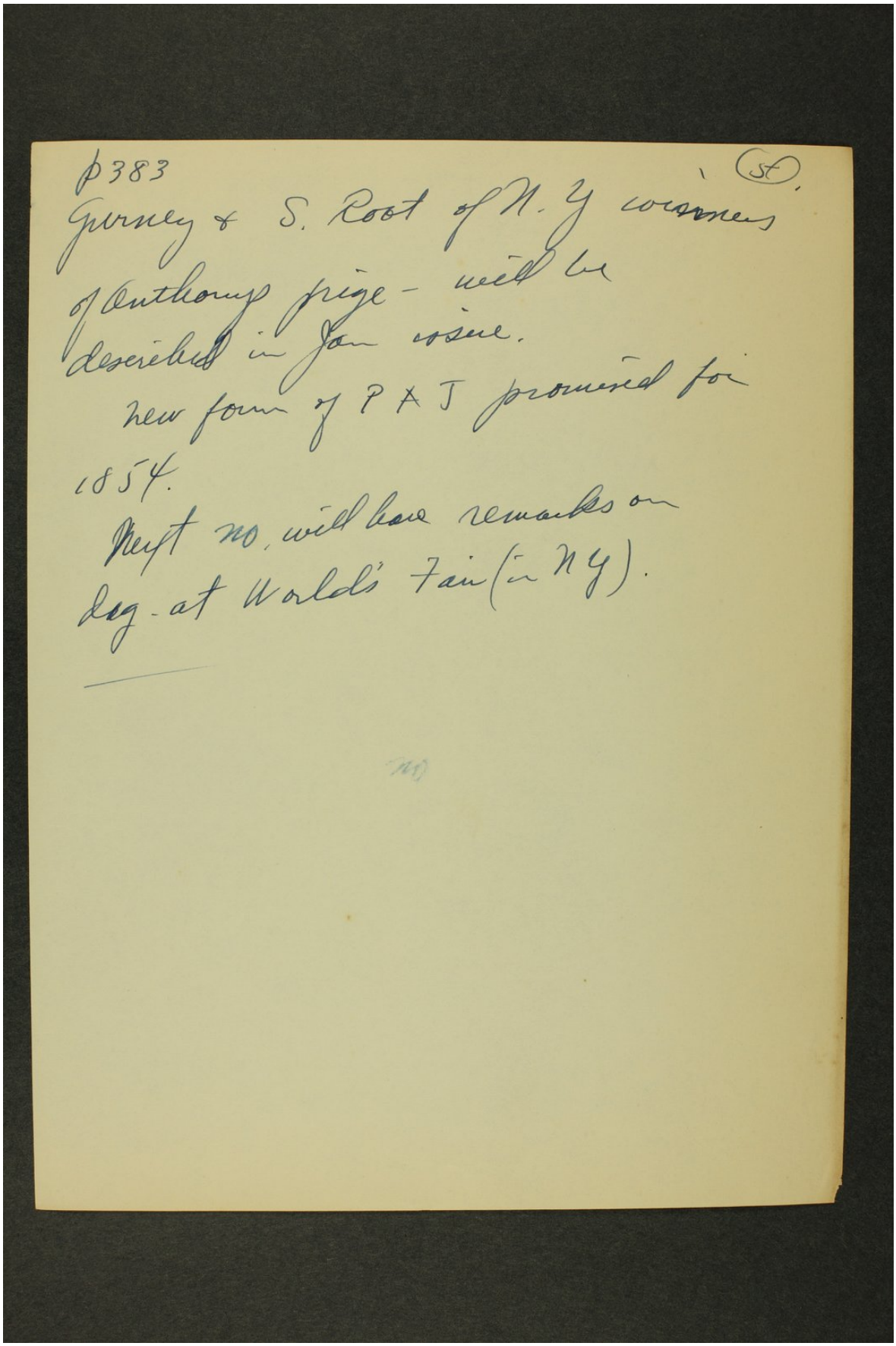
p 258

The Photog. Paper processes are now commanding a considerable degree of attention among our daguerreans & a large no. are preparing to devote themselves to their manipulations.

p 280

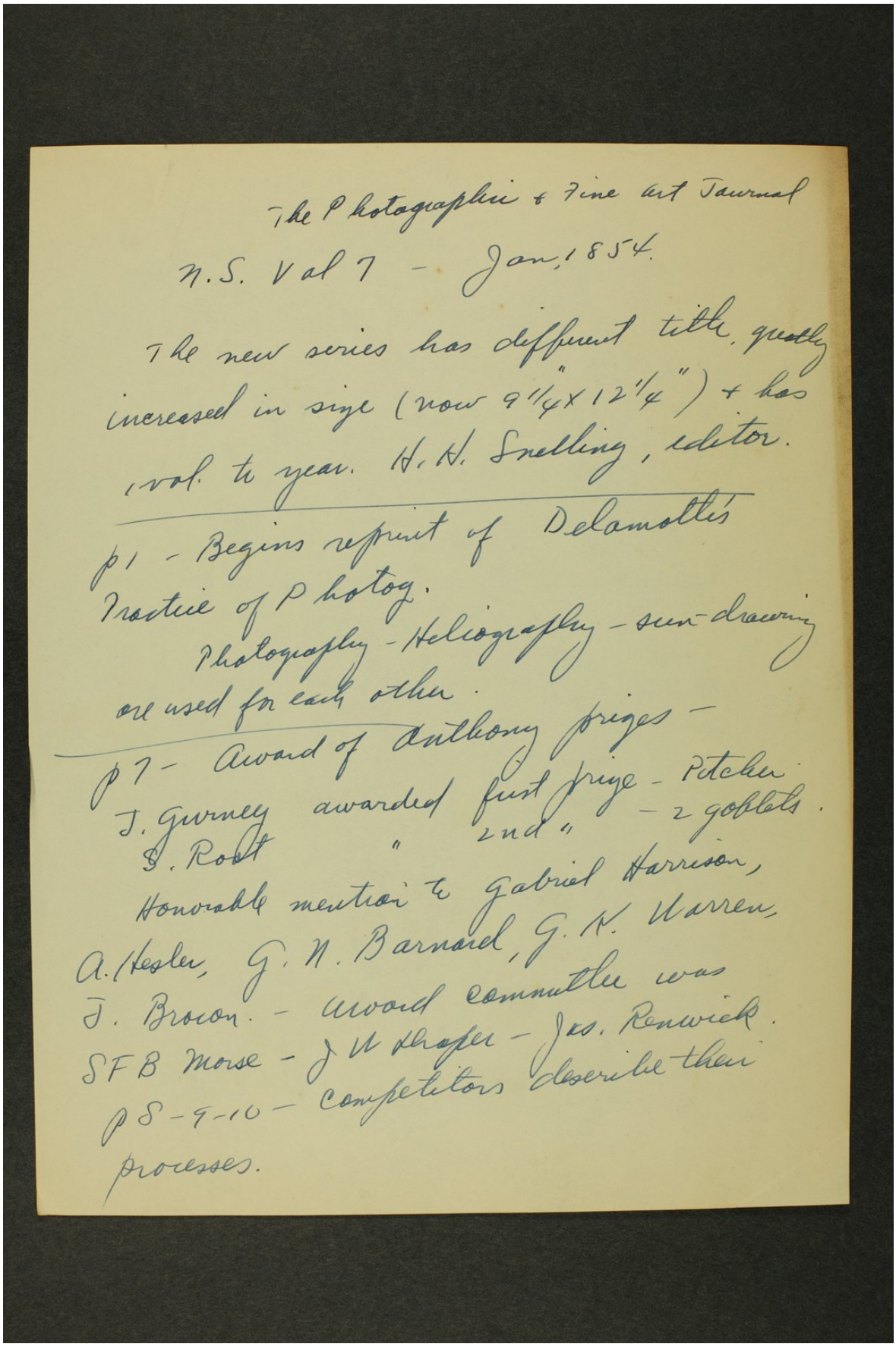
Letter from T. J. Bardwell dag. artist of St Paul, Minn. Terr.

p 301 – Sketch of Ed. Everett whose Crystallotype appears in Nov. no. I am dog. by Masury & Silsbee of Boston. Eng. by Black (associate/work Whipple)



p 383 (1) (st)
Gurney & S. Root of N. Y. consumes
of Anthonys prize - will be
described in Jan issue.
new form of P & J promised for
1854.
Kept no. will have remarks on
dag. at World's Fair (in N Y).

Robert Taft photography research notes



The Photographic & Fine art Journal
N.S. Vol 7 - Jan, 1854.

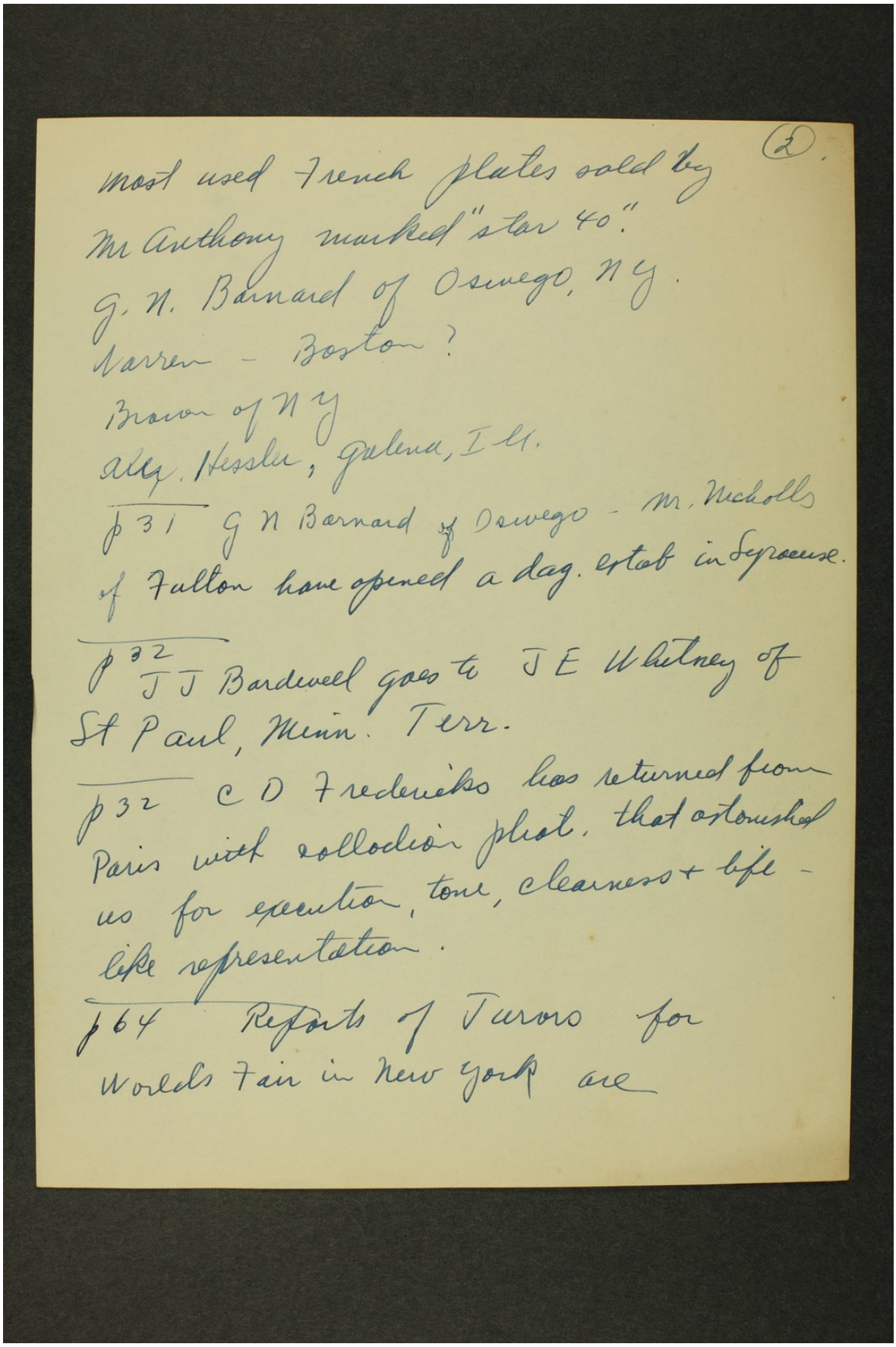
The new series has different title, greatly increased in size (now 9 1/4 x 12 1/4") + has vol. to year. H.H. Snelling, editor.

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p1 - Begins reprint of Delamotte's Practice of Photog.
Photography - Heliography - sun-drawing are used for each other.

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p7 - Award of Anthony prizes -
J. Gurney awarded first prize - Pitcher
S. Robt " 2nd " - 2 goblets.
Honorable mention to Gabriel Harrison, A. Hesler, G.N. Barnard, G.K. Warren, J. Broon. - award committee was SFB Morse - J.W. Draper - Jas. Renwick.
p8-9-10 - competitors describe their processes.



(2).

most used French plates sold by
Mr Anthony marked "star 40".
G. N. Barnard of Oswego, N Y.
Warren - Boston?
Brown of N Y
Alex. Hessler, Galena, Ill.

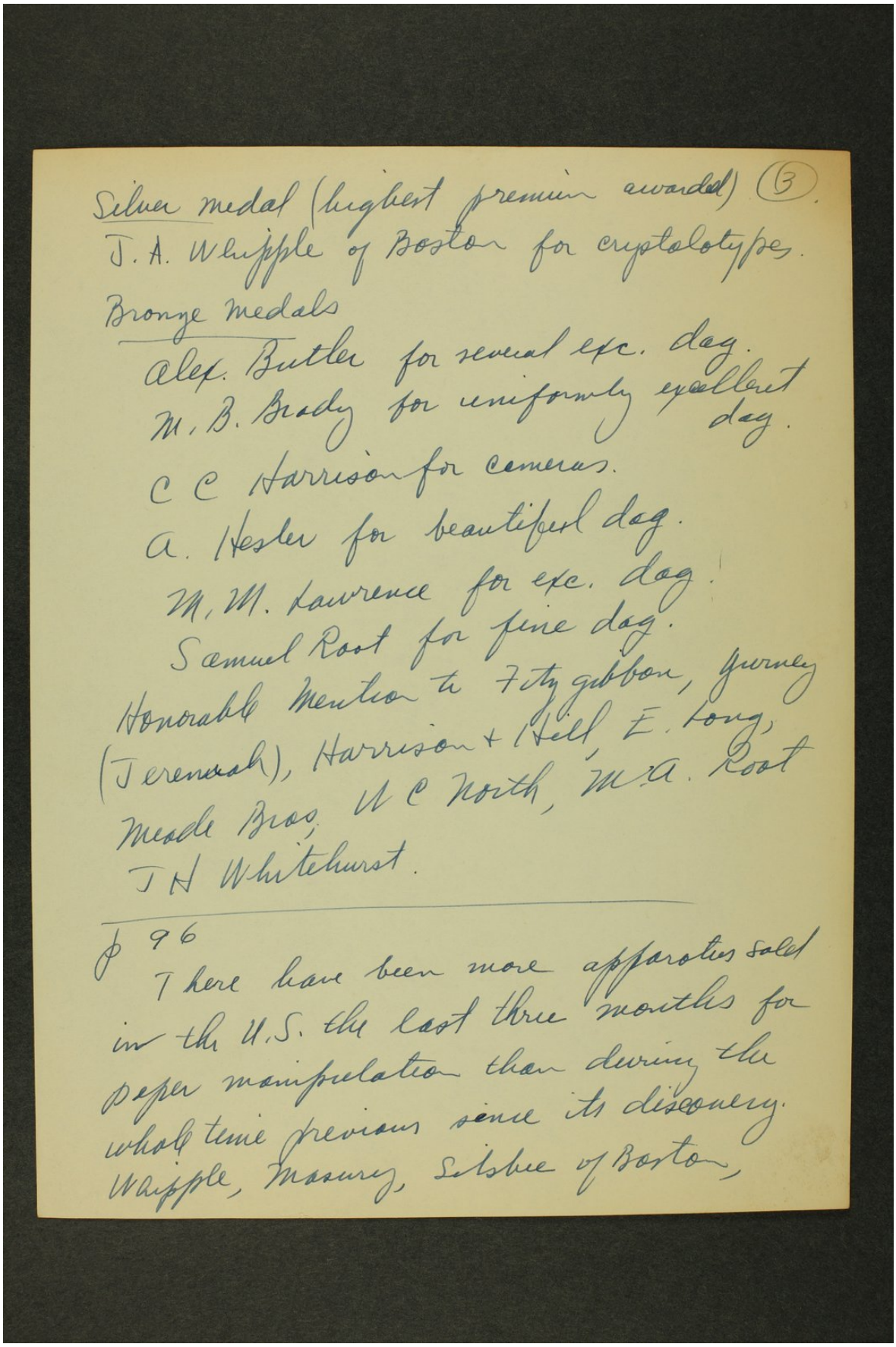
p 31 G N Barnard of Oswego - Mr. Nicholls of Fulton have opened a dag. estab in Syracuse.

p 32 J J Bardwell goes to J E Whitney of St Paul, Minn. Terr.

p 32 C D Fredericks has returned from Paris with collodion plate, that astonished us for execution, tone, clearness + life - like representation.

p 64 Reports of Jurors for Worlds Fair in New York are

Robert Taft photography research notes



Silver medal (highest premium awarded) (3).
J. A. Whipple of Boston for cryptolotypes.

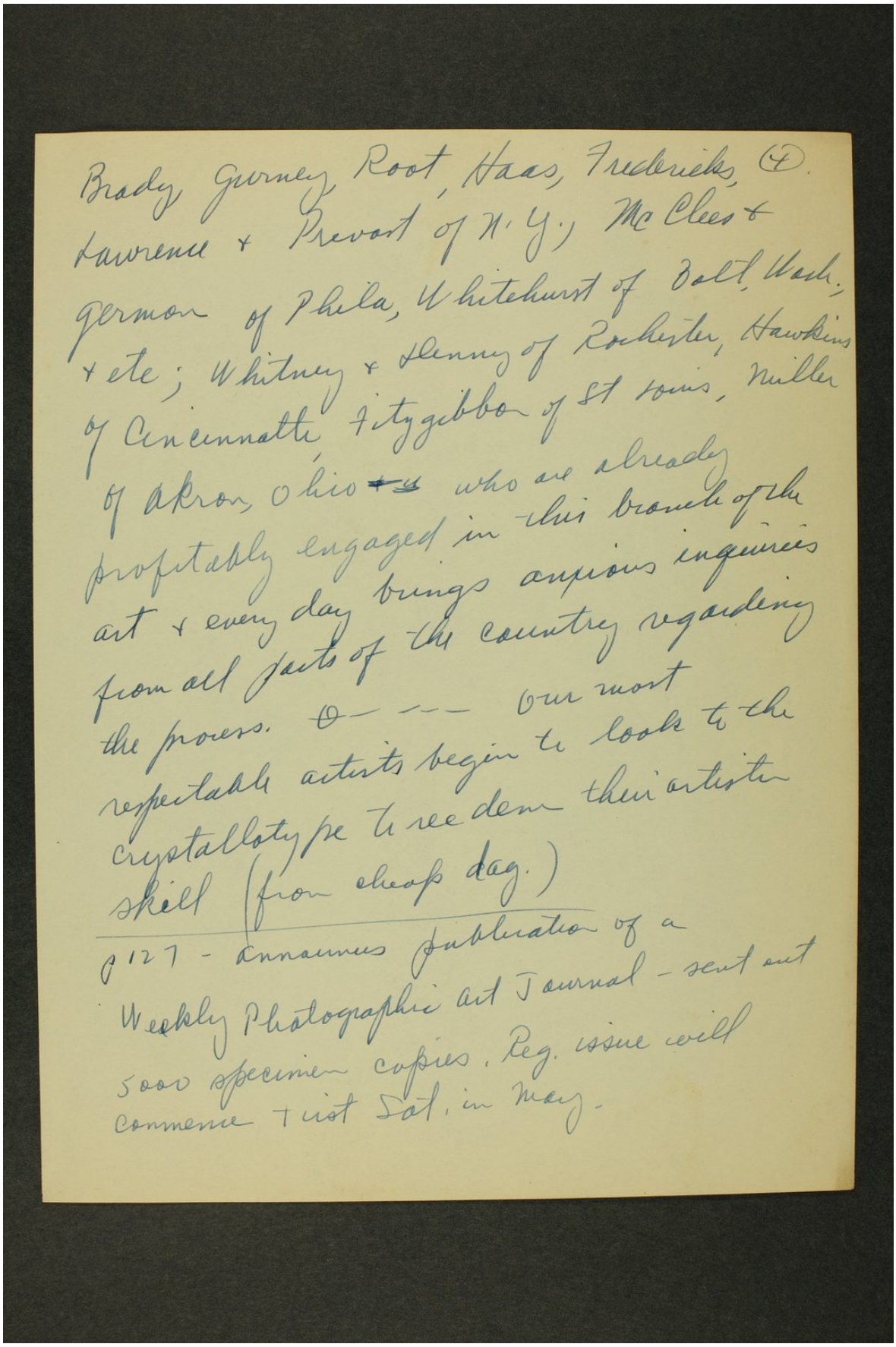
Bronze medals
Alex. Butler for several exc. dag.
M. B. Brady for uniformly excellent dag.
C C Harrison for cameras.
A. Hesler for beautiful dag.
M. M. Lawrence for exc. dag.
Samuel Root for fine dag.

Honorable Mention to Fitzgibbon, Gurney (Jeremiah), Harrison + Hill, E. Long, Meade Bros, H C North, M.A. Root
J H Whitehurst.

1896

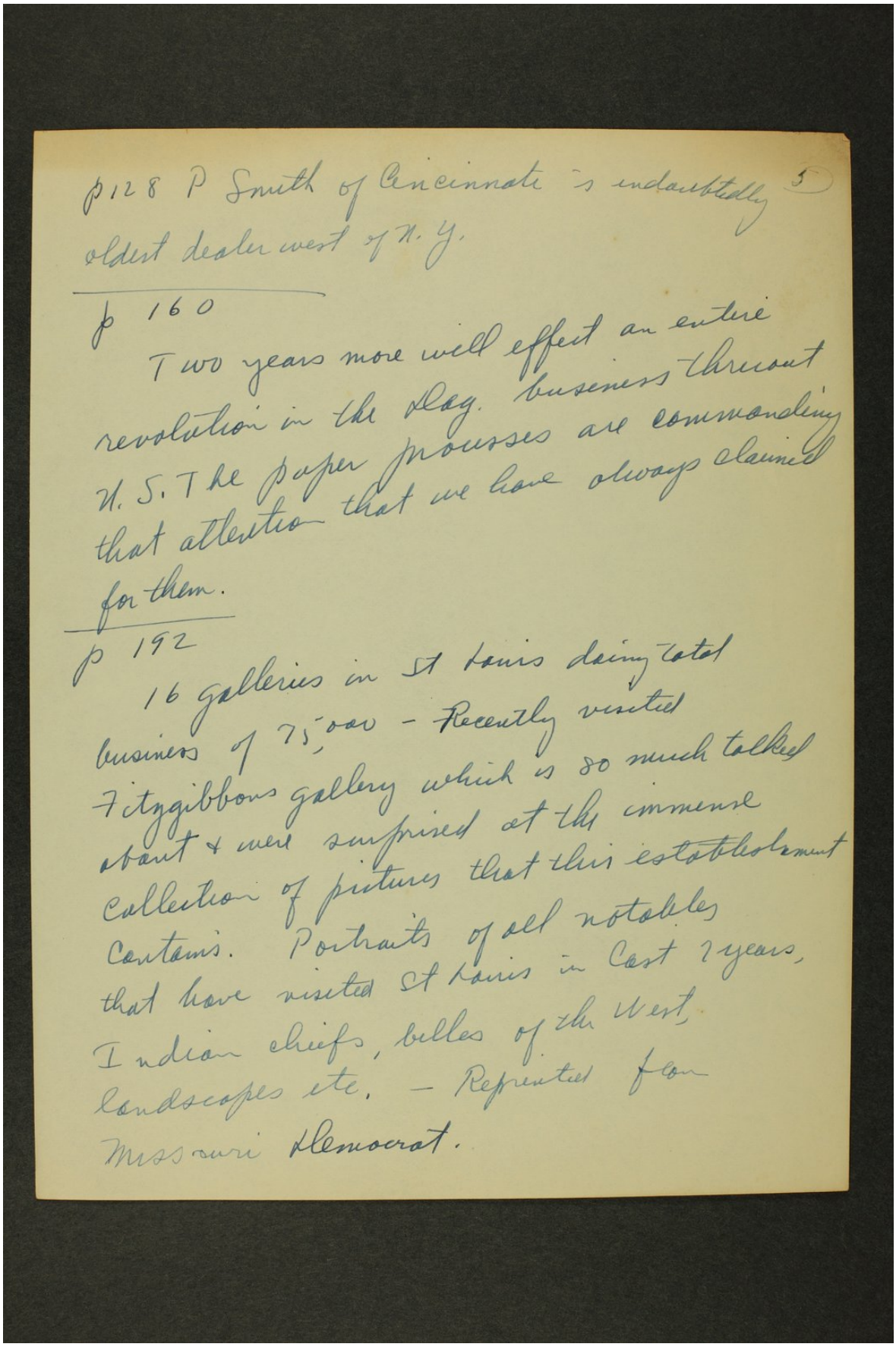
There have been more apparatus sold in the U.S. the last three months for paper manipulation than during the whole time previous since its discovery.
Whipple, Masury, Silsbee of Boston,

Robert Taft photography research notes



Brady, Gurney, Root, Haas, Fredericks, &
Lawrence & Prevost of N. Y.; McClees &
Germon of Phila, Whitehurst of Balt. Wash.;
& etc; Whitney & Henny of Rochester, Hawkins
of Cincinnatti, Fitzgibbon of St Louis, Miller
of Akron, Ohio ~~& &~~ who are already
profitably engaged in this branch of the
art & every day brings anxious inquiries
from all parts of the country regarding
the process. ~~O~~ — — — Our most
respectable artists begin to look to the
crystallotype to reedem their artistic
skill (from cheap dag.)

p 127 - announces publication of a
Weekly Photographic art Journal - sent out
5000 specimen copies. Reg. issue will
commence 1st Sat. in May.



p 128 P Smith of Cincinnati is undoubtedly oldest dealer west of N. Y. 5

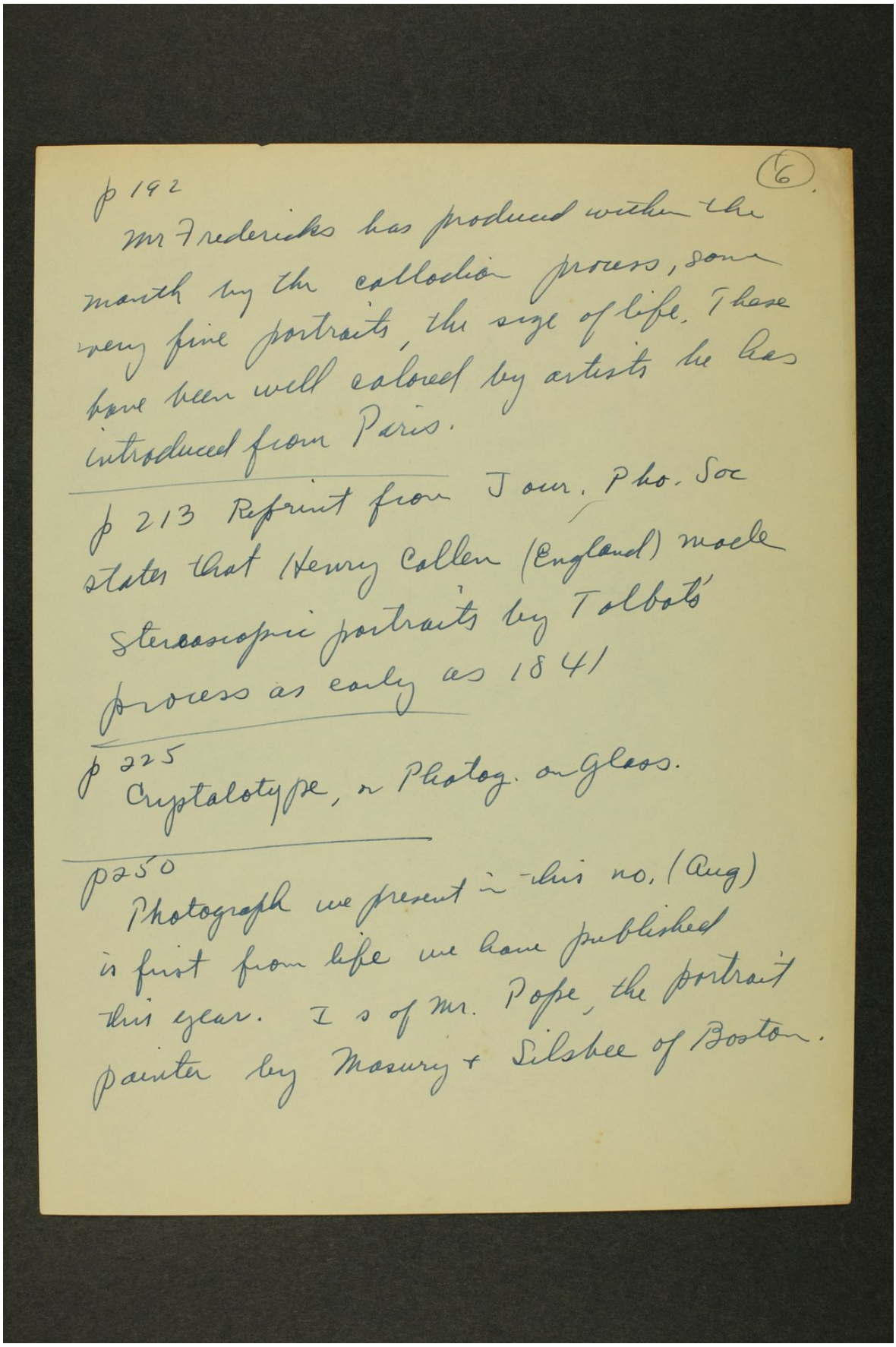
p 160

Two years more will effect an entire revolution in the dag. business throughout U. S. The paper mousses are commanding that attention that we have always claimed for them.

p 192

16 galleries in St Louis doing total business of 75,000 - Recently visited Fitzgibbons gallery which is so much talked about & were surprised at the immense collection of pictures that this establishment contains. Portraits of all notables that have visited St Louis in last 7 years, Indian chiefs, belles of the West, landscapes etc. - Reported from Missouri Democrat.

Robert Taft photography research notes



(6)

p 192

Mr Fredericks has produced within the month by the collodion process, some very fine portraits, the size of life. These have been well colored by artists he has introduced from Paris.

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p 213 Reprint from Jour. Pho. Soc states that Henry Collen (England) made Stereoscopic portraits by Talbot's process as early as 1841

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p 225

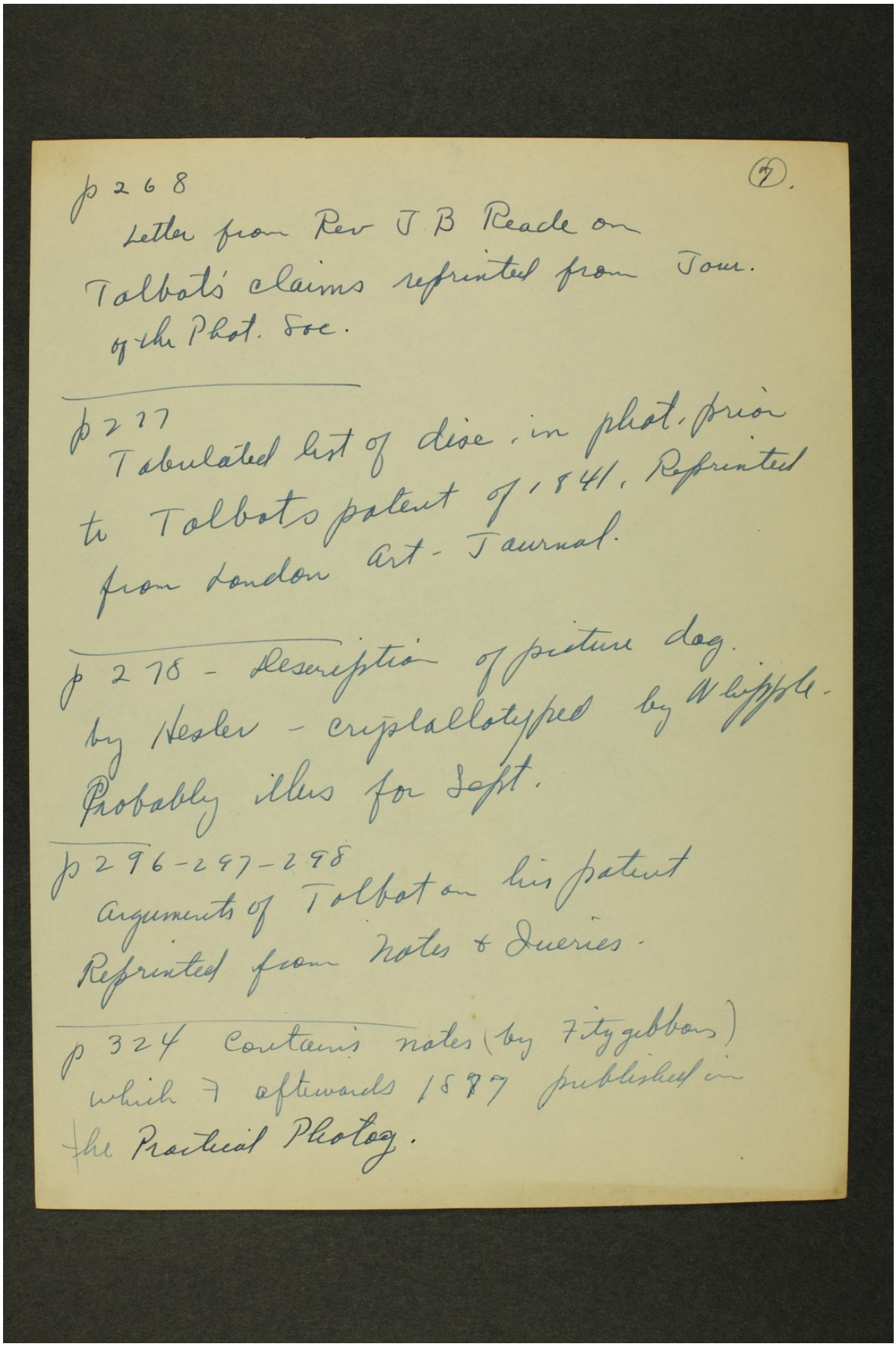
Cryptalotype, or Photog. on Glass.

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p250

Photograph we present in this no. (Aug) is first from life we have published this year. It s of Mr. Pope, the portrait painter by Masury & Silsbee of Boston.

Robert Taft photography research notes



(47).

p 268
Letter from Rev J B Reade on Talbot's claims reprinted from Jour. of the Phot. Soc.

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p 277
Tabulated list of disc. in phot. prior to Talbot's patent of 1841. Reprinted from London Art-Journal.

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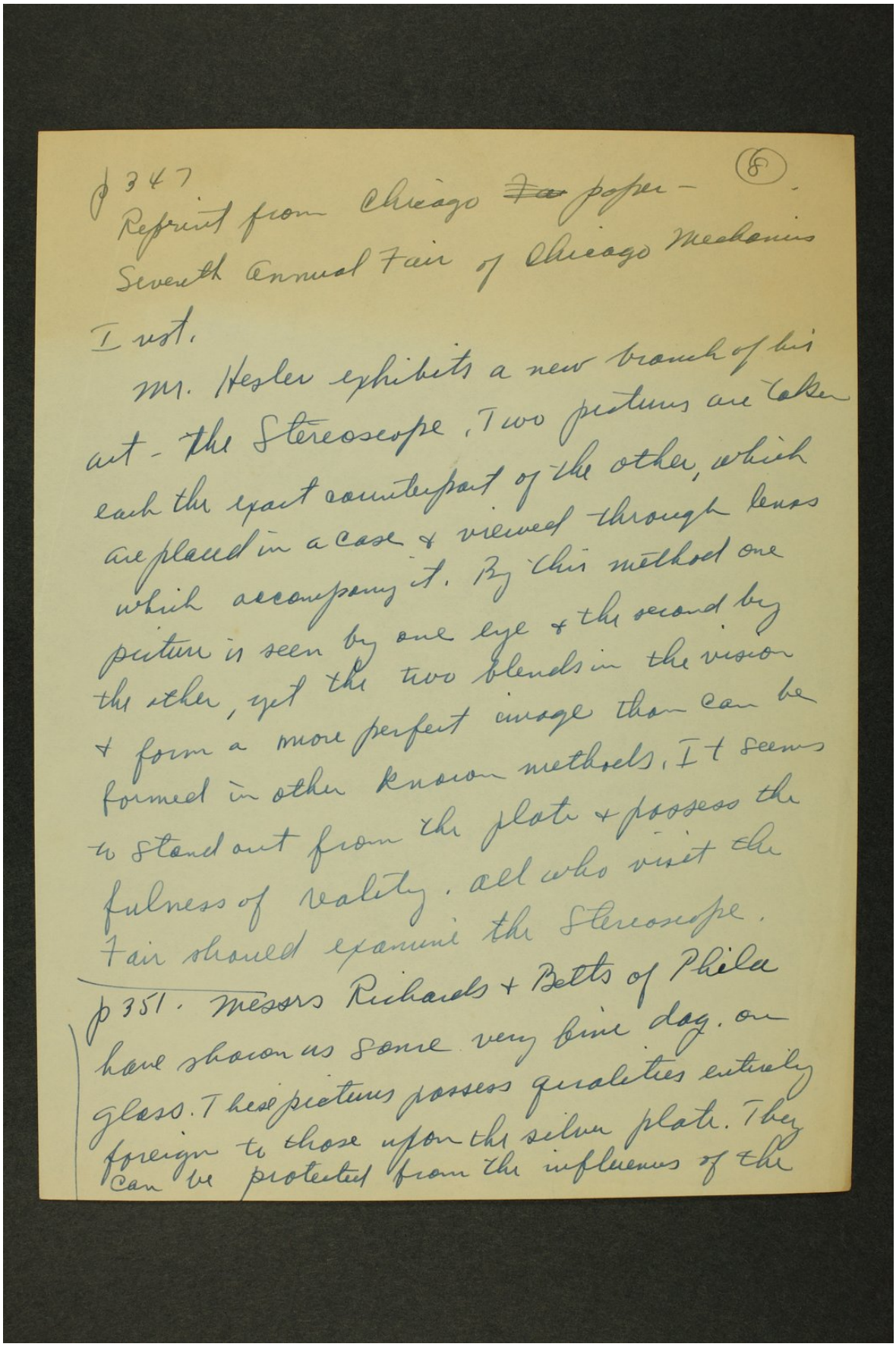
p 278 - Description of picture dog. by Hesler - crystallotyped by Whipple. Probably illus for Supt.

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p 296-297-298
Arguments of Talbot on his patent Reprinted from Notes & Queries.

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p 324 Contains notes (by Fitzgibbons) which 7 afterwards 1877 published in the Practical Photog.

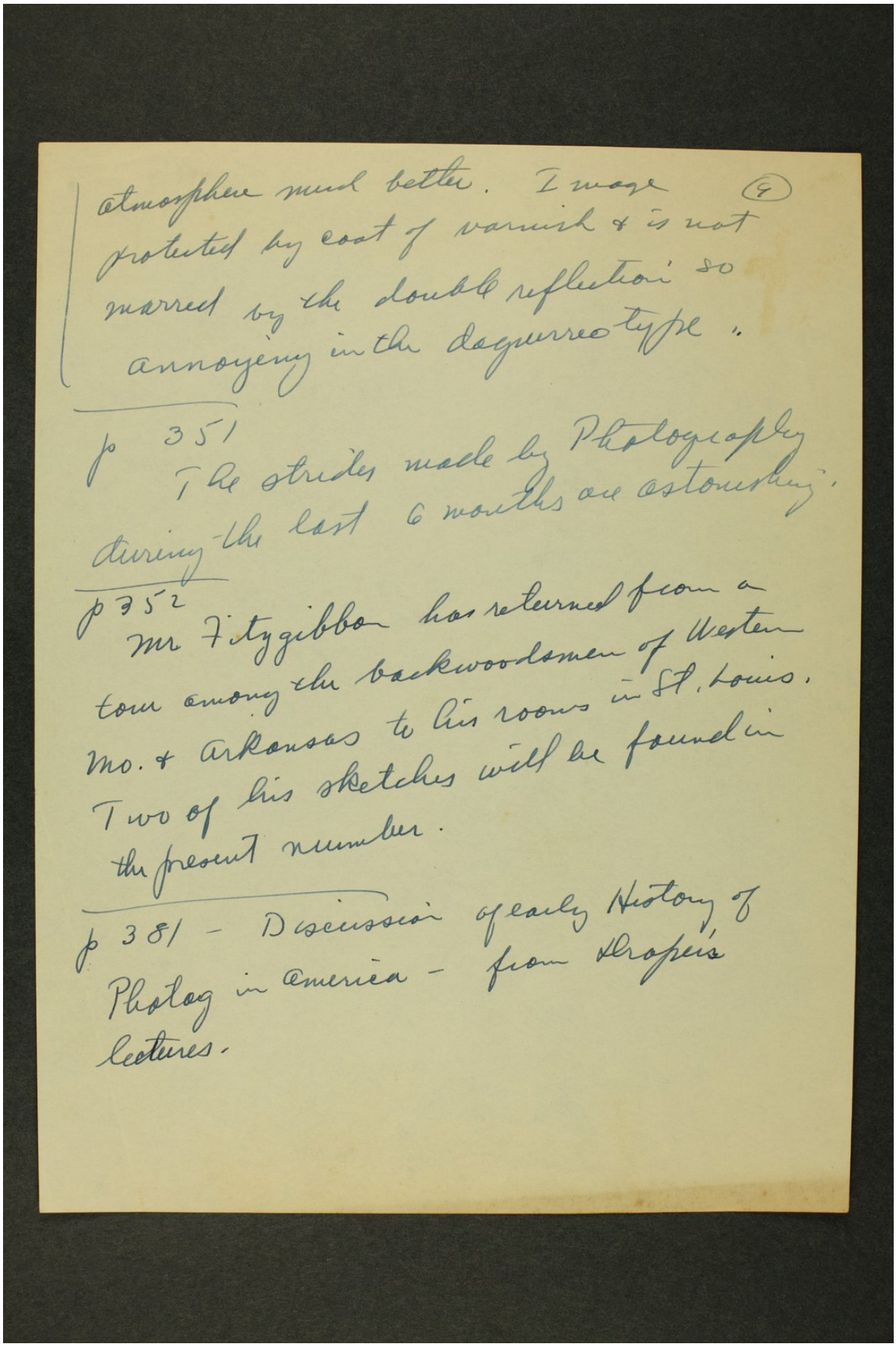


p 347 (8).
Reprint from Chicago ~~Tribune~~ paper —
Seventh Annual Fair of Chicago Mechanics
Inst.

Mr. Hesler exhibits a new branch of his art — the Stereoscope. Two pictures are taken each the exact counterpart of the other, which are placed in a case & viewed through lenses which accompany it. By this method one picture is seen by one eye & the second by the other, yet the two blends in the vision & form a more perfect image than can be formed in other known methods. It seems to stand out from the plate & possess the fulness of reality. All who visit the Fair should examine the Stereoscope.

p 351. Messrs Richards & Betts of Phila have shown us some very fine daguerreotypes on glass. These pictures possess qualities entirely foreign to those upon the silver plate. They can be protected from the influences of the

Robert Taft photography research notes



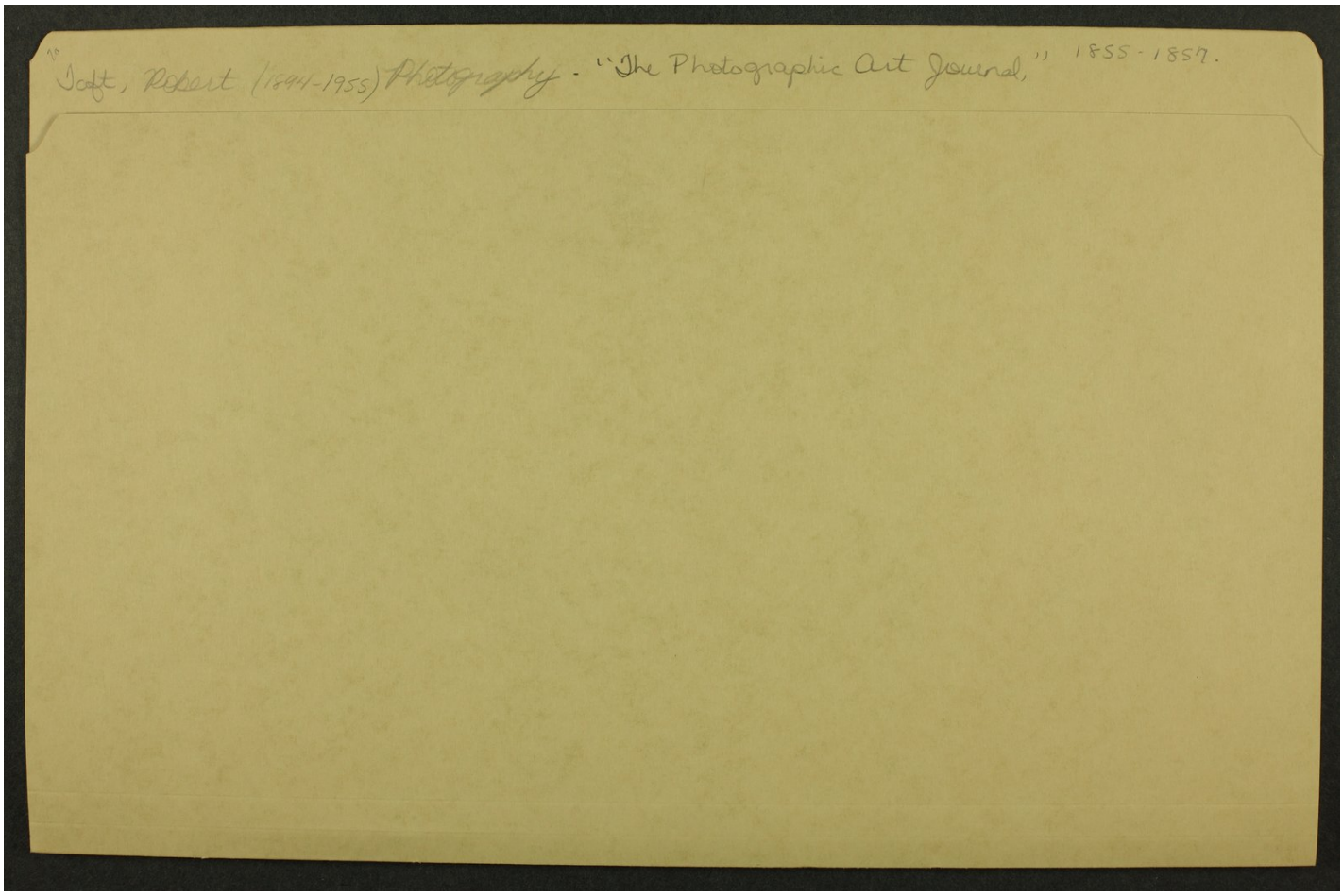
atmosphere much better. I image (4)
protected by coat of varnish & is not
marred by the double reflection so
annoyeny in the daguerreotype."

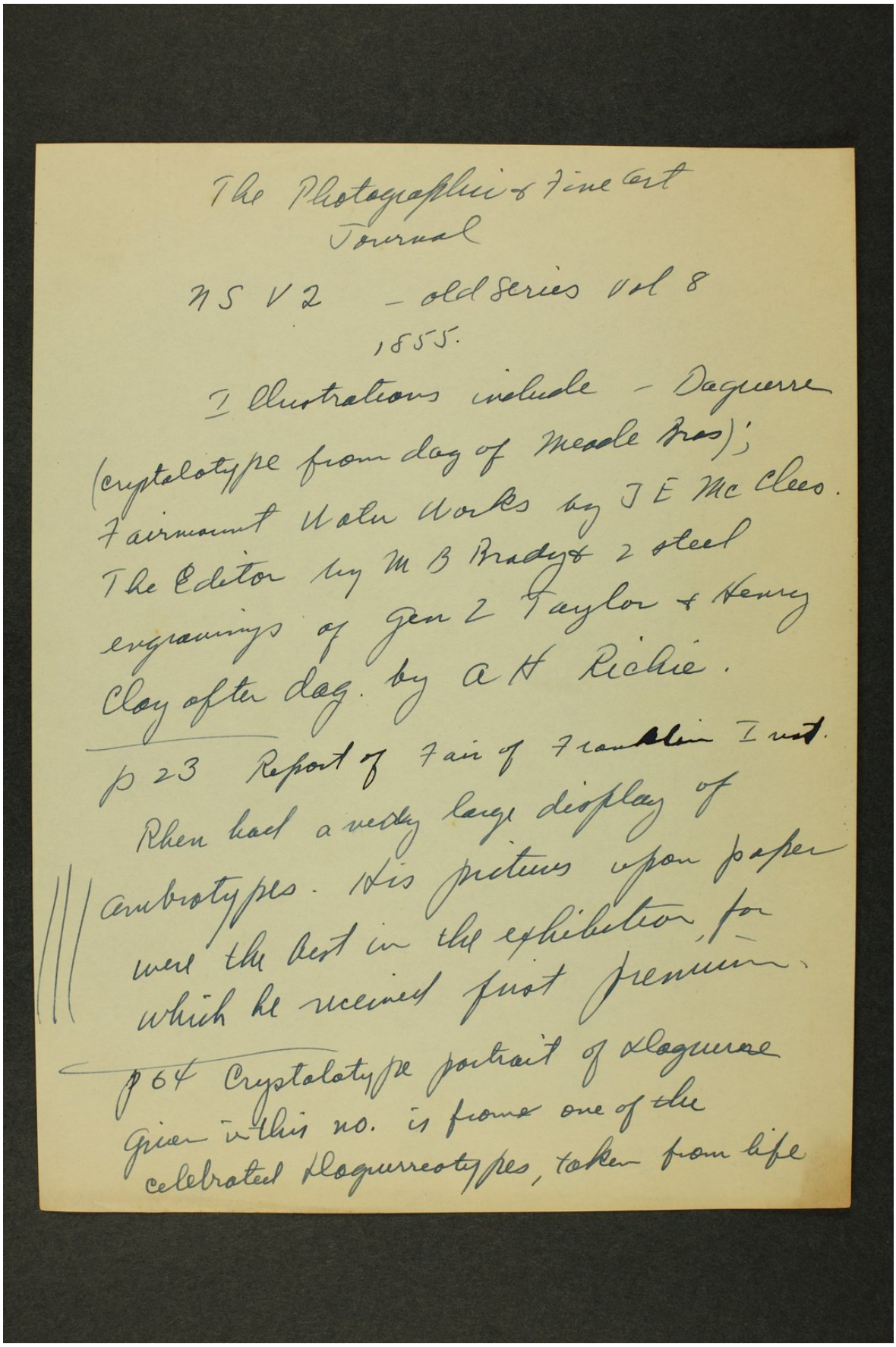
p 351
The strides made by Photography
during the last 6 months are astonishing.

p 352
Mr Fitzgibbon has returned from a
tour among the backwoodsmen of Western
Mo. & Arkansas to his rooms in St. Louis.
Two of his sketches will be found in
the present number.

p 381 - Discussion of early History of
Photog in America - from Draper's
Lectures.

Robert Taft photography research notes





The Photographic & Fine Art Journal

NS V 2 – old Series Vol 8

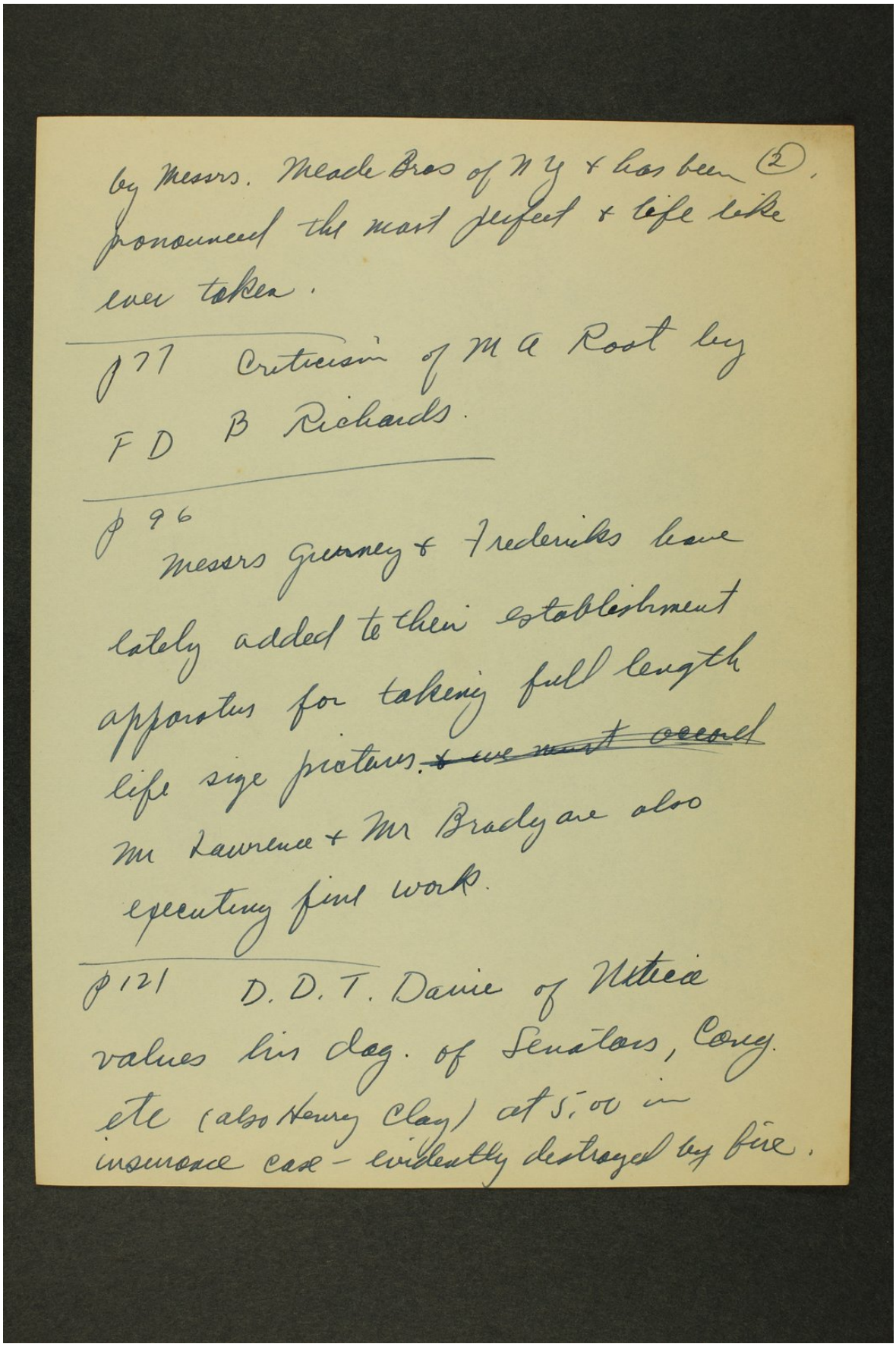
1855.

Illustrations include – Daguerre (cryptalotype from day of Meade Bros); Fairmount Water Works by J E McClees. The Editor by M B Brady & 2 steel engravings of Gen Z Taylor & Henry Clay after day. by A H Richie.

p 23 Report of Fair of Franklin Inst. Rhen had a verdy large display of ambrotypes. His pictures upon paper were the best in the exhibition, for which he received first premium.

p 64 Crystalotype portrait of Daguerre given in this no. is from one of the celebrated Daguerreotypes, taken from life

Robert Taft photography research notes

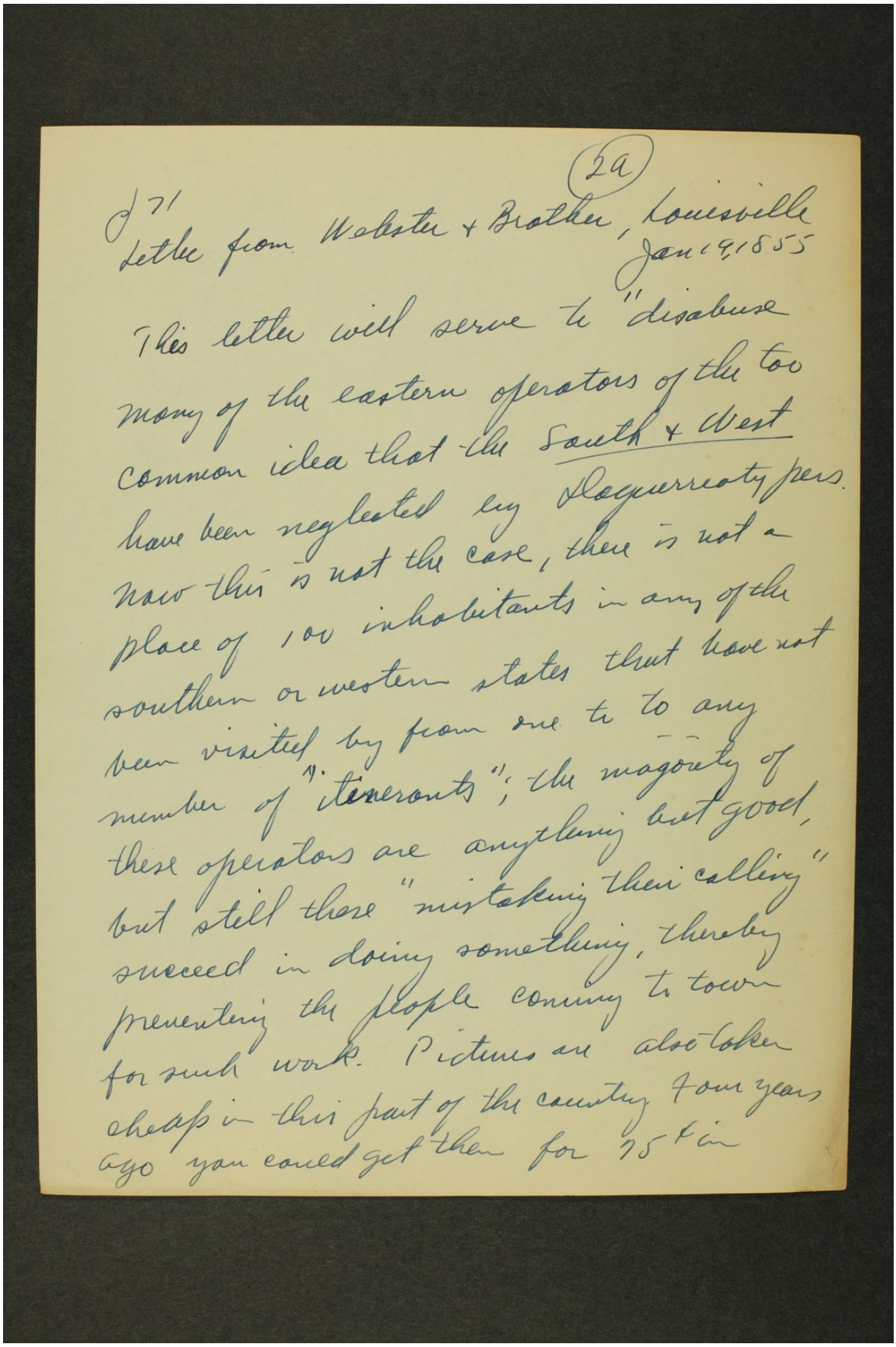


by Messrs. Meade Bros of N Y & has been (2).
pronounced the most perfect & life like
ever taken.

p 77 Criticism of M A Root by
F D B Richards.

p 96
Messrs Gurney & Fredericks have
lately added to their establishment
apparatus for taking full length
life size pictures. ~~& we must accord~~
Mr Lawrence & Mr Brady are also
executing fine work.

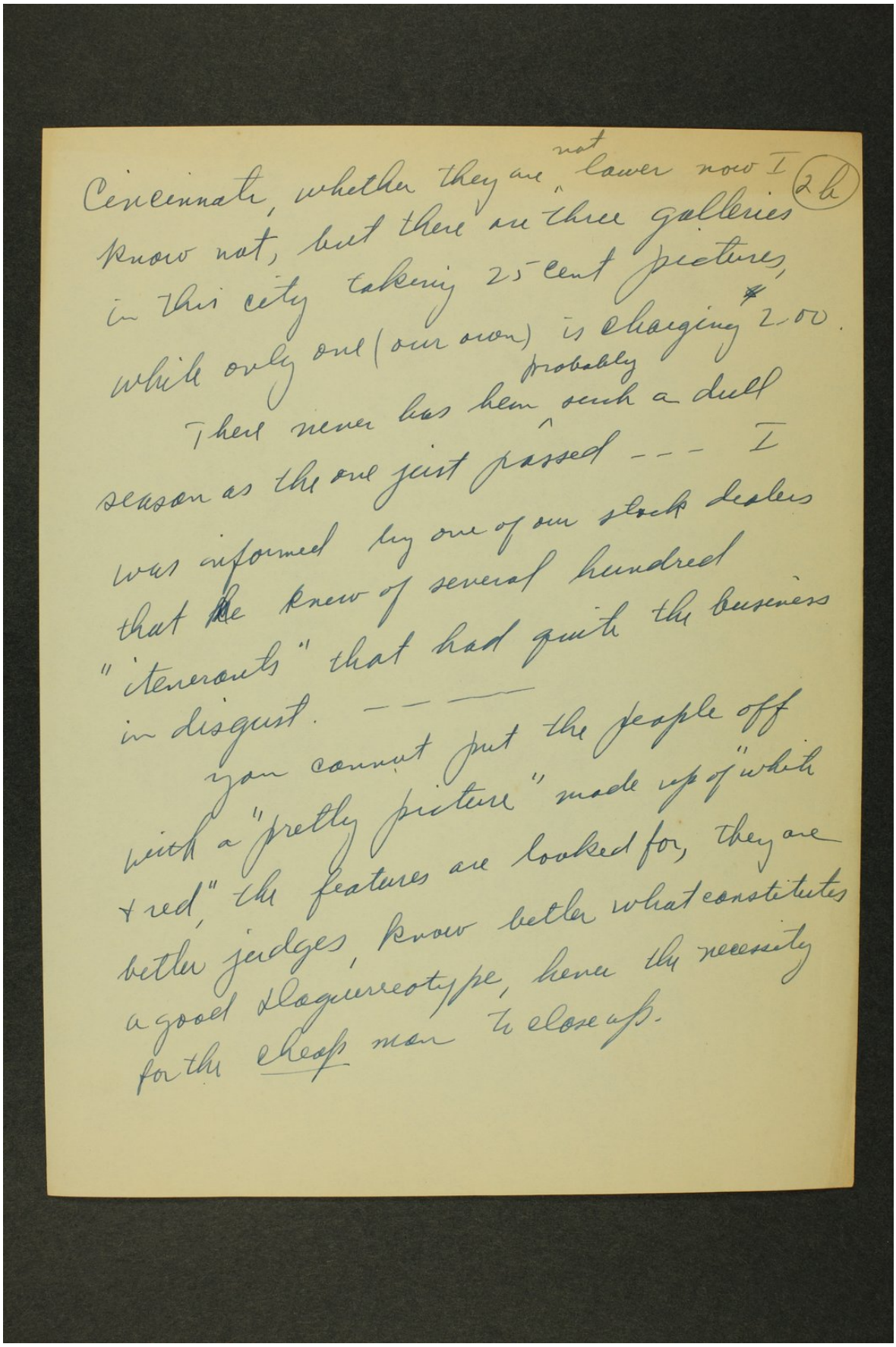
p 121 D. D. T. Davie of Utica
values his dag. of Senators, Cong.
etc (also Henry Clay) at $5.00 in
insurance case - evidently destroyed by fire.



(2a)

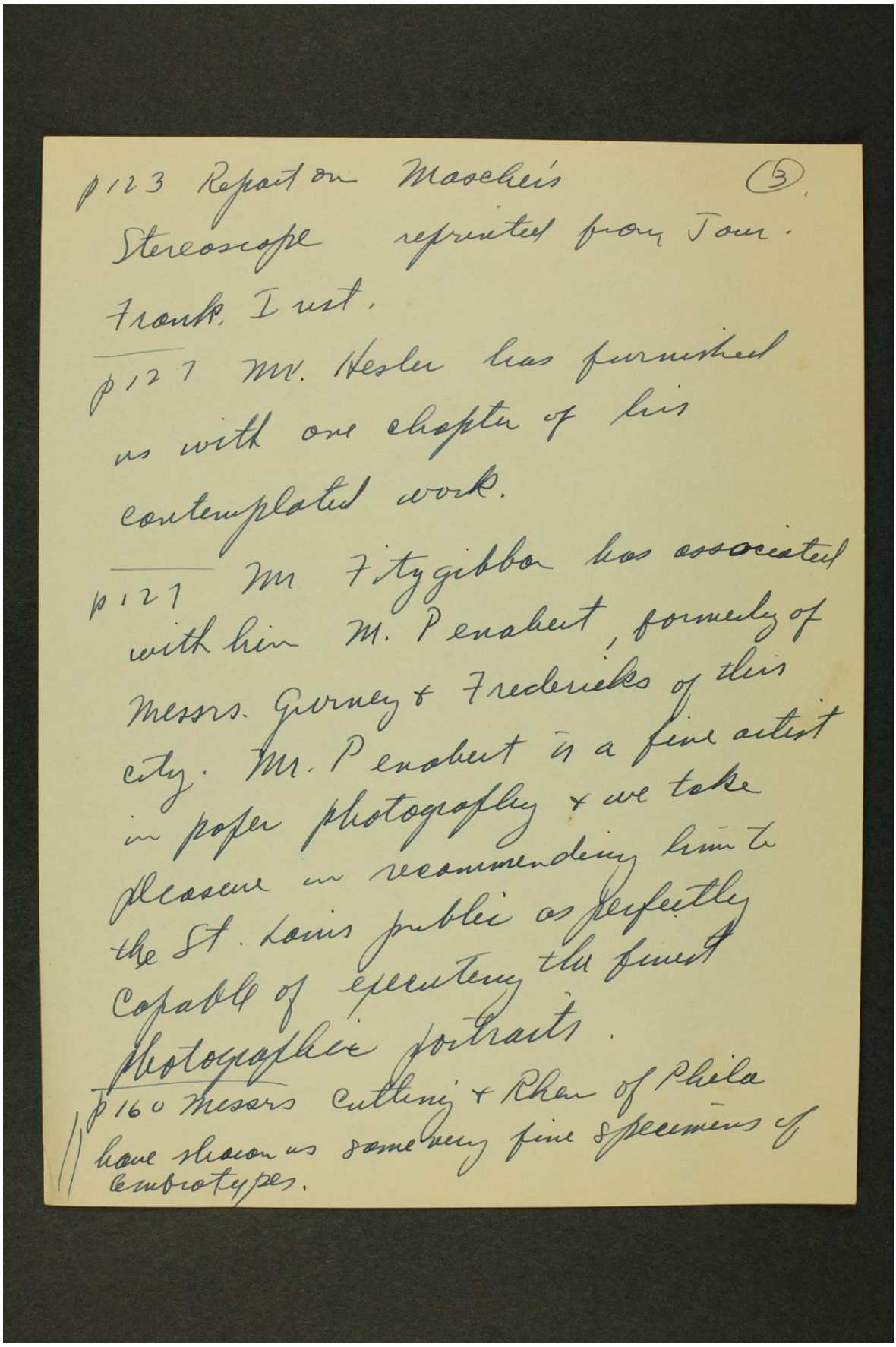
of 71
Letter from Webster + Brother, Louisville
Jan 19, 1855

This letter will serve to "disabuse many of the eastern operators of the too common idea that the South + West have been neglected by Daguerreotypers. Now this is not the case, there is not a place of 100 inhabitants in any of the southern or western states that have not been visited by from one to to any number of "itinerants"; the magority of these operators are anything but good, but still these "mistaking their calling" succeed in doing something, thereby preventing the people coming to town for such work. Pictures are also taken cheaper in this part of the country 4 or 5 years ago you could get them for 75¢ in



Cincinnati, whether they are not lower now I know not, but there are three galleries in this city taking 25-cent pictures, while only one (our own) is charging $2.00. There never has been probably such a dull season as the one just passed --- I was informed by one of our stock dealers that he knew of several hundred "itineraants" that had quit the business in disgust. ---

You cannot put the people off with a "pretty picture" made up of "white + red," the features are looked for, they are better judges, know better what constitutes a good Daguerreotype, hence the necessity for the cheap man to close up.



p 123 Report on Moschen's (3).
Stereoscope reprinted from Jour.
Franklin Inst.

p 127 Mr. Hesler has furnished us with one chapter of his contemplated work.

p 127 Mr Fitzgibbon has associated with him M. Penabert, formerly of Messrs. Gurney & Fredericks of this city. Mr. Penabert is a fine artist in paper photography & we take pleasure in recommending him to the St. Louis public as perfectly capable of executing the finest photographic portraits.

p 160 Messrs Cutting & Rhen of Phila have shown us some very fine specimens of Ambrotypes.