

June 2. 1871.

Acc. 376

photography
and stereotyping

Dear George

I must apologize for not writing by last mail but really there are so many things to occupy my attention and especially when there are persons staying at the house that I can't find time to do half the things I want to.

We went to see that Lithographic establishment again, and I found out a little more about the process. In ~~taking~~ ^{taking} ~~phot~~ certain kinds of photographs need preparation before the positive can be taken from the negative. These are the photographs of natural objects which have not very strong light and shade, and which

cannot therefore be printed merely by the interposition of a series of cross lines. These then are varnished over on the side of the negative on which the film is, and then a man takes a steel point and scratches the outline through the varnish, and makes the shading with fine lines. The positive of this is then taken on a paper covered with chromate of Potash (?). This is then rolled over with common printing ink till it is a black mass, and then it is washed with water. The ink then washes off all the parts except those acted on by the light. This is then pressed against a stone and the ink leaves an impression on it from which prints can be taken. This process for transferring the positive to the stone is the one used for all the kinds of photo-graphs. There

was also another curious thing I saw there; a substitute for ~~steel~~ stereotyping. The types were printed against a piece of cardboard prepared with alum and softened, so that the types make a mould of themselves. This mould is then rubbed over with French chalk and a cast of it is taken in type metal. An edition of a book can thus be kept in a series of cards, from which casts can be taken at any time.

There are ~~no~~ hardly any spots on the sun now, and the ones there are, are small.

The ~~the~~ Natural History Society excursion comes off tomorrow, and is to ~~the~~ Mt. Buckerville.

The weather is very hot

now considering the season
It is ~~7~~ 87 in the shade
To-day & has been about this
temperature for some days.

I remain your affectionate
brother
William.