Call number: C1573
Repository: Princeton University Library. Special Collections. Manuscripts Division
One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
Size: 6.25 linear feet
3 boxes
Language(s) of Material: English
Abstract: Consists of a photograph album containing over 300 photographs of urban and rural locations in North America, Hawaii, and New Zealand, collected by Australian engineer Norman Selfe (1839-1911) during his 1884 tour to inspect engineering and architectural works abroad. The photographs document street architecture in San Francisco, California; redwood logging ventures in Humboldt County, California; as well as locations in the Oregon, Washington, and Utah Territories; the states of Colorado, Nevada, Missouri, Illinois, New York, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts; federal buildings in Washington, D.C.; and cities and natural features in Canada, including British Columbia, Montreal, Toronto, Niagara Falls, and the St. Lawrence River. Includes photographs taken by William Henry Jackson (1843-1942), George
Dobson Valentine (1852-1890), George Fiske (1835-1918), I. W. Taber (1830-1912), and others.

Location: This collection is stored onsite at Firestone Library.
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Norman Selfe (1839-1911) was an English-born Australian engineer, urban planner, naval architect, and inventor. Selfe was born in Teddington, England, into a family of engineers and inventors, including his cousin Eadweard Muybridge (1830-1904), a photographer known for his contributions to early motion picture projection. In 1855, Selfe moved with his family to Sydney, Australia, where he apprenticed with the firm P. N. Russell & Co. He worked with James Dunlop and Mort's Dock and Engineering Co. in the 1860s and 1870s, and later started his own private practice in 1876. Selfe became known as a versatile engineer well-versed in the design of steamboats, docks, bridges, mills, waterworks, and pumping stations, as well as in refrigeration engineering, hydraulics, oil and gas storage, and railway infrastructure. He was also an education reformer who fought rigorously for the establishment of an independent system of technical education to prepare workers for industrial jobs.

In 1884 and 1885, Selfe undertook a two-year exploration of the United States, Canada, New Zealand, and Europe, during which he visited seventy cities and inspected engineering works, notable bridges, and architecture. Following his return to Australia in 1886, Selfe campaigned for various infrastructural improvements in Sydney based on what he saw during his travels. His proposals included a city railway loop linking Sydney's outlying suburbs to the harbour, the redevelopment of the Rocks area, and a harbour bridge to the North Shore. Selfe submitted an early design proposal for the Sydney Harbour Bridge, though his steel cantilever design was not ultimately used. He also designed his own house ("Amesbury"), located in the Ashfield suburb of Sydney, after the large houses he saw in San Francisco, California.

Description

Consists of a photograph album containing over 300 photographs of urban and rural locations in North America, Hawaii, and New Zealand, collected by Australian engineer Norman Selfe (1839-1911) during an 1884 tour. The album comprises a photographic record of Selfe's travels across the North American continent, and to a lesser extent, Hawaii and New Zealand. These travels were a part of Selfe's larger 1884-1885 tour of North America and Europe, which he undertook to inspect and document local engineering and architectural works. Selfe appears to have collected photographs from various photographers and studios in the locations he visited; while photographers or studios responsible for individual photographs are occasionally identified, most images are unattributed. Identifiable photographers include William Henry Jackson (Colorado), George Dobson Valentine (White Terrace, New Zealand), George Fiske (Yosemite Valley), I. W. Taber (San Francisco), William Noliman and Sons (Montreal), Notman Photograph Company (Albany), and Wheeler (Colorado Springs). Though Selfe collected photographs intended to depict locations and scenery as they appeared in 1884, most of the photographs were likely taken between 1880 and 1884, and some were taken as early as 1870.

The album is primarily arranged by location, with page titles and captions handwritten by Selfe. It begins with a group of photographs of New Zealand, taken in Auckland and at White Terrace (Te Tarata), followed by a series depicting Honolulu, Hawaii, including shots of the King's Palace (‘Iolani Palace). The rest of the album documents the United States and its territories, and to a lesser degree, Canada. California features prominently; of note are photographs of street architecture, wooden houses (including houses under construction), and hotels in San Francisco and San
Rafael, California, including seven large albumen plate images of houses in San Francisco; a series documenting logging and milling operations in the redwood and giant sequoia forests of central and northern California, including Eureka and other locations in Humboldt County; and images of Yosemite Valley, Mariposa Grove, and the Boca Brewery near Lake Tahoe. The California architecture series includes views of the grand palace-style houses of Central Pacific Railroad tycoons Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins, and Charles Crocker. There are also a number of shots documenting the Oregon and Washington Territories and nearby Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada. Photographs show urban areas such as Portland, Oregon; Seattle and Tacoma, Washington; and Victoria, British Columbia; as well as locations along the Columbia River Gorge, including Multnomah Falls and the Dalles; mills on the Puget Sound; and the Cascade Range, including Mount Hood, Mount Saint Helens, and Mount Rainier. There are also a significant number of photographs of Colorado, including Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak, the Garden of the Gods, Ute Pass, Manitou Springs, Buena Vista, and Leadville; as well as the Utah Territory, including Salt Lake City. Photographs of Nevada include three staged portraits of an American Indian man, woman, and child from an unidentified tribe. Midwestern locations represented consist of urban Chicago, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri. The last third of the album documents the eastern United States and Canada, including New York City, Albany, and Rochester in New York State; the White Mountains of New Hampshire; factories in Waltham, Massachusetts; government buildings in Washington, D.C.; and Montreal, Toronto, Niagara Falls, and the St. Lawrence River in Canada. Other frequent subjects are boats, particularly American steamboats, bridges, and railroads, photographs of which Selfe collected throughout his travels.

The title of the collection reflects the original title Selfe gave to the album. Descriptions of individual album pages also reflect Selfe's original page titles and photograph captions.

### Arrangement

The original order of pages as they were bound in the album was maintained; this arrangement is largely geographical.

### Access and Use

**Access**

Open for research.

**Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information**

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original. Inquiries regarding publishing material from the collection should be directed to RBSC Public Services staff through the Ask Us! form. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

### Acquisition and Appraisal
Provenance and Acquisition
Purchase, 2017 (AM 2018-6).

Appraisal
No materials were separated during 2017 processing.

Processing and Other Information

Encoding
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2017-08-10T10:41-0400

Descriptive Rules Used
Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

· Fiske, George, 1835-1918
· Jackson, William Henry, 1843-1942
· Selfe, Norman, 1839-1911
· Taber, I. W. (Isaiah West), 1830-1912
· Valentine, George D. (George Dobson), 1852-1890
· Architecture, American -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Logging -- United States -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Railroads -- United States -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Sawmills -- United States -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Steamboats -- United States -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· California -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Canada -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Chicago (Ill.) -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Colorado -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Hawaii -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Massachusetts -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Nevada -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· New Hampshire -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· New York (State) -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· New Zealand -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Oregon -- 19th century -- Photographs.
· Saint Louis (Mo.) -- 19th century -- Photographs.
・Utah -- 19th century -- Photographs.
・Washington (D.C.) -- 19th century -- Photographs.
・Washington (State) -- 19th century -- Photographs.
・Albumen prints -- 19th century.
・Photograph albums -- 19th century.
・Photographs -- 19th century.
・Travel
・Western Americana
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<td>White Terrace, Auckland Hospital, George Sand, New Zealand, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>Description: 4 photographs.</td>
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<td>Houses and Urban Scenes, New Zealand, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned: &quot;Hot Bath White Terrace,&quot; &quot;Cold Water Basin White Terrace&quot; (No. 28), and &quot;Top of the White Terrace&quot; (No. 15). Photographs likely taken by George Dobson Valentine.</td>
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<td>The King's Palace, Honolulu, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>Description: 4 photographs of 'Iolani Palace.</td>
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<td>San Francisco Street Architecture, California, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>San Francisco Street Architecture, California, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>San Francisco Wooden Houses, California, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>Description: 1 photograph. Includes a photograph captioned &quot;Veranda of Arlington Hotel, Santa Barbara&quot; (Taber, No. B 1497) on the verso.</td>
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<td>San Rafael and Houses, California, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>San Rafael, California, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>San Rafael, California, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>House at San Francisco, California, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>San Francisco, California, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>Description: 6 photographs, including photographs captioned: &quot;Bank of Nevada,&quot; &quot;Palace Hotel from Sutter Street,&quot; &quot;Mercantile Library,&quot; &quot;Palace Hotel&quot; (2 photographs), and &quot;Palace Hotel (Top Corridor).&quot; Includes an uncaptioned photograph of an Asian man seated in an elaborate interior on the verso.</td>
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<td>San Francisco, California, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>San Francisco, California, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>Description: 8 photographs, including photographs captioned: &quot;Live Oak, 'Hotel del Monte,' Monterey, Cal.&quot; (Taber, No. B 1187), &quot;The Sea Rocks (Pacific Ocean),&quot; &quot;Midway Point&quot; (Taber, No. B 2215), &quot;Residence Mrs. General Colton,&quot; &quot;Seals on the Farallone Islands (off San Francisco),&quot; &quot;Oakland Ferry, Foot of Market Street, S.F., Cal&quot; (No. B 95), &quot;Cliff House &amp; Seal Rocks,&quot; and &quot;Instantaneous Surf e[...]&quot;) (Taber, No. B 1066). A significant portion of the last photograph has been cut away. Includes a photograph captioned &quot;General View of San Francisco from the Twin Peaks, Cal.&quot; (Taber, No. B 3787) on the verso.</td>
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<td>Humboldt Bay, North California, circa 1880-1884</td>
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<td>Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned: &quot;Eureka Humboldt Co. (2 Street Eureka),&quot; &quot;Redwood Mills Humboldt Bay,&quot; &quot;Bowery N. York Elevated Railway,&quot; and &quot;Mule Teams at Logging Camp Near Olympia.&quot;</td>
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<td>In the Redwood Forest, Humboldt Country, California, 1880-1884</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description: 2 photographs depicting the transport of massive logs. Includes a photograph captioned &quot;Queen of the Forest&quot; (Taber, No. B 821) on the verso.</td>
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In the Redwood Forest, Humboldt Country, California, circa 1880-1884

Description: 2 photographs, including photographs captioned "Redwood Logs in the Forest" and "Redwood Logs Skid Road & Ox Teams in the Forest Elk River."

In the Redwood Forest, Humboldt Country, California, circa 1880-1884

Description: 2 photographs, including photographs captioned "In the Redwood Forest," and "Giant Redwood Tree 22 Feet Diameter."

State of "Oregon", circa 1880-1884

Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned: "City of Portland and Willamette River," "Portland and Mount St. Helens," "Portland River and Mount Hood," and "Columbia River Steamer (16 Miles an Hour)." Includes a photograph captioned "Eagle Creek and Tooth Bridge, Columbia River, Oregon" (Taber, No. 1198) on the verso.

Columbia River Scenery, circa 1880-1884

Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned: "The Passage of the Dalles," "Upper Cascades and Indian Block Houses," "Mount Hood and Passage of the Dalles Railway," and "Mount Hood and the Dalles."

Washington and Oregon, 1880-1884

Washington and Oregon, circa 1880-1884

Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned: "View of Columbia River from Block House," "Marent Trestle N. Pacific Railway," "Salmon Wheel Portable," and "Castle Rock Columbia River."

Washington and Oregon, circa 1880-1884

Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Twin Rocks O. & R.N.Cos. Railway" (No. 109), "Cape Horn on Columbia" (No. 68), "Salmon Wheel 24 Feet Diameter," and "Multnomah Falls 860 Feet High From O. & R.N. Railway on Bank of River."

Vancouvers Island and Washington Territory, circa 1880-1884


Puget Sound, Washington Territory, circa 1880-1884

Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Port Blakely Mills (Store and Workmens Houses)," "Port Blakely (Loading Lumber)," "Port Blakely Mills (Jerries and Shipping)," and "Port Blakely (Wharfs)."

Puget Sound Saw Mills, Washington Territory, circa 1880-1884
Description: 5 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Port Gamble Mill," "Port Ludlow Mill," and "Port Blakely Mill Panorama," a panorama consisting of 3 photographs showing the mill and ship building yard.

American Steamers / Yosemite Valley, California, circa 1880-1884

Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned: "S.G. Reed Columbia River," "Fall River Streamers N. York (Steamboat 'Providence')," "Solano' Train Ferry Straits of Carquinez California," and "S.G. Reed (Dining Saloon)." The verso includes 3 photographs captioned "The Nevada Fall, 617 feet, Yosemite Valley, Cal. (Taber, No. B 3053), "Glacier Point, 3,300 ft. from Anderson's Trail" (Taber, No. B 2628), and "El Capitan, 3,300 ft. (reflected) Tu-toc-a-nula Pass" (Taber, No. B 2630).

Yosemite Valley, California, 1880-1884

Yosemite Valley, California, circa 1880-1884

Description: 6 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Yosemite Falls 2634 Feet From Glacier Point," "The Half Dome 4953 above Valley," "The Sentinel 3270 Feet," "The Grizley Giant Mariposa Grove" (Fiske, No. 380), "Cathedral Spires" (Fiske, No. 416), and "Yosemite Falls from Glacier Point Trail" (Fiske, No. 499).

Yosemite Valley, California, circa 1880-1884

Description: 5 photographs, including photographs captioned "Half Dome and Royal Arches" (Fiske, No. 332), "The Valley during a Storm" (No. 570), "Street in Portland O.T.," "North Dome 3633 Half Dome 4953 Feet" (Fiske, No. 355), and "Scene on Columbia River."

Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove, California, circa 1880-1884

Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned "Mirror View of Half Dome," "Dead Giant Mariposa Grove," "Yosemite Valley from Inspiration Point and Bridal Veil Fall," and "Five Domes from Sentinel Dome."

State of Nevada, circa 1880-1884

Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Boca Brewery Near Reno," "Squaw," "Indian Chief," and "Squaw and Papoose on Tramp."

Utah Territory, Salt Lake City, circa 1880-1884

Description: 7 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Residence of Brigham Young's Widow (Eagle Gate and Bee Hive House)," "Grave of Brigham Young," "The Tabernacle Finished and Temple Being Erected of Granite (Temple Block, Salt Lake City)," "Interior Tabernacle 250 Ft. Long 150 Wide," "East Part Salt Lake City," and "Residence of Head of Mormon Church (Gardo House)."

Scenes in the State of Colorado, circa 1880-1884

Description: 6 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Post Office and Court House, Leadville" (W.H. Jackson, No. 638), "'Clarendon' Leadville" (No.
651), "Buena Vista Main Street" (No. 477), "Leadville, N.E. From Central Fire Station" (No. 986), "S.E. From the Court House, Leadville" (No. 991), and "Leadville from Capitol Hill" (No. 644).

Scenes in the State of Colorado Near to the City of Colorado Springs, circa 1880-1884


State of Colorado, 1880-1884

State of Colorado, circa 1880-1884

Description: 5 photographs, including photographs captioned: "City of Denver and Distant Prairie" (Denver No. 3), "Village of Manitou (Cliff House and Springs at Manitou)" (No. 782), "Gateway, Garden of the Gods (W.H. Jackson)," "Dining Room of Windsor Hotel," and "On the Denver and Rio Grande Railway (Nim's Peak Black Canyon of the Gunnison)."

State of Colorado, circa 1880-1884

Description: 7 photographs, including photographs captioned: "The 'Antlers' Tourist Hotel at 'Colorado Springs','" "Ute Pass near Manitou old Road to Leadville," "Rainbow Falls, Ute Pass" (No. 407), "Near Colorado Springs (Vulcan Anvil, Monument Park)" (Wheeler, No. 56), "Pikes Peak in the Distance (Colorado Springs)" (No. 450), "Gateway, Garden of the Gods" (No. 609), and "Tower of Babel, Garden of the Gods" (No. 607).

State of Colorado, circa 1880-1884

Description: 6 photographs, including photographs captioned: "At Manitou (Ute Iron Spring)," "Near Manitou (Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak" (No. 608), "Manitou Pikes Peak in Distance" (No. 424), "Summit of Pikes Peak 14300 ft. above Sea (U.S. Signal Station on Pike's Peak)" (No. 421), "The Seal and Bear Natural Rocks" (Wheeler), and "Weatherworn Rocks Fantastic Forms (No. 2052)."

Colorado and California, circa 1880-1884

Description: 3 photographs, including photographs captioned: "On the Denver and Rio Grande Railway (Marshall Pass, West Side)" (W.H. Jackson, No. 3011), "Colorado Mining Township (Buena Vista)" (No. 480), and "The Capitol of California at Sacramento."
Chicago, State of Illinois, circa 1880-1884

Description: 5 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Merchants Residence," "Douglas University," "North Side Water Works and Tower," "Cook County Hospital," and "Calumet Club House."

Chicago, Illinois, circa 1880-1884

Description: 6 photographs, including photographs captioned: "The Sherman House," "Scene in Union Park," "In Lincoln Park," "State St. looking North from Madison St.," "Harbour and Elevators from Viaduct," and "Corner Clark and Wisconsin Streets in Winter."

St. Louis, State of Missouri, circa 1880-1884

Description: 6 photographs, including photographs captioned: "City of Saint Louis from Court House Dome," "Great Bridge over the Mississippi," "City and Bridge from Court House Dome," "Shaw Gardens St. Louis," "The Post Office Philadelphia," and "Entrance Shaw Gardens."

Washington, District of Columbia, circa 1880-1884


Massachusetts and Colorado, circa 1880-1884


New York State and Neighborhood, circa 1880-1884

Description: 8 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Glen Falls," "On the St. Lawrence (Thousand Island House)" (No. 825), "Frozen Mineral Spring at Saratoga," "Fort Ticonderoga," "The Cave referred to in Cooper's Last of the Mohicans at Glen Falls," "For George Hotel, west front from south," "House in Woodland Park Saratoga N.Y.," and "Ticonderoga."

New York State and New Hampshire, circa 1877-1884

Description: 5 photographs, including photographs captioned: "The Great Factory and Town of Pullman," "On Lake Champlain (Mt. Defiance, from Fort Ticonderoga, 1877)" (No. 295), "Frankenstein Trestle New Hampshire," "On Lake George N. York (Caldwell from beach east of Ft. Wm. Henry Hotel, Lake Geo)" (No. 838), and "Summer Hotels on Lake George (Lake George, the Sagamore from the west)" (No. 1162).
The White Mountains, New Hampshire, circa 1880-1884
Box: P-000091
Folder: 19
Description: 3 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Railway to the Summit of Mount Washington," "Mount Washington and Summit Houses," and "Crawford's' Through the 'Notch.'"

The River St. Lawrence, circa 1880-1884
Box: P-000091
Folder: 20
Description: 5 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Thousand Island Scenery," "Thousand Island and Residences," "Shooting the Great Rapids (Lachine)," "Summer Residences Thousand Islands, and "Thousand Island Scenery." Includes a photograph captioned "St. Lawrence River Steamer at Thousand Island House" on the verso.

City of Rochester, City of Schenectady, State of New York, circa 1880-1884
Box: P-000091
Folder: 21

Canada, Toronto, circa 1880-1884
Box: P-000091
Folder: 22
Description: 8 photographs, including photographs captioned: "City from Metropolitan Hall," "General View of Toronto," "Masonic Hall," "St. James Cathedral," "Instantaneous View Burning Toronto Mail Office," "Canadian Park Cottage (Cottage, Sunset Point, Westminster Park)" (No. 878), "City From St. Lawrence Hall," and "St. Lawrence Hall."

Canada, Montreal, 1883-1884
Box: P-000091
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Montreal, circa 1880-1884
Box: P-000091
Folder: 24
Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned: "From Custom House Montreal Looking E." (No. 841), "Montreal-From Mount Royal Park" (No. 5), "Cathedral of Notre Dame," and "Victoria Square-Montreal" (No. 57).

New York City, 1880-1884
Box: P-000091
Folder: 25
Description: 6 photographs, including photographs captioned: "The Great Bridge," "Dime Saving Bank and Elevated Railway," "Fifth Avenue Hotel," "View From Roof of Post Office (Panorama from Post Office, N.Y.)," "From the Bridge (View from East River Bridge, N.Y.)," and "Near South End of the City (Bowling Green, New York)."

New York City, circa 1880-1884
Box: P-000091
Folder: 26
Description: 6 photographs, including photographs captioned: "The Great Bridge," "Dime Saving Bank and Elevated Railway," "Fifth Avenue Hotel," "View From Roof of Post Office (Panorama from Post Office, N.Y.)," "From the Bridge (View from East River Bridge, N.Y.)," and "Near South End of the City (Bowling Green, New York)."
Description: 5 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Vanderbilt Mansion," "Post Office," "The Stock Exchange," "Mansion 5th Avenue and 59th St.," and "Produce Exchange."

The Capitol at Albany, New York State, circa 1878-1884

Description: 8 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Assembly Chamber" (No. 2199), "Senate (Senate Chamber, Notman Photo Co., 1878)" (No. 2323), "The Capitol," "Assembly" (No. 2852), "Governor's Room," "Grand Staircase Capitol" (2 photographs), and "The City Hall."

Niagara, 1880-1884

Niagara, circa 1880-1884

Description: 6 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Canadian Fall from Canadian Side (from below)," "Goat Island end of Canadian Fall (from Canada)," "American Fall from Canadian Side and Town of Niagara Falls," "Canadian Fall from Goat Island," "House on Canadian Side Winter," and "The Two Falls from American Side."

Niagara, circa 1880-1884

Description: 2 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Upper Suspension Bridge" and "Cantilever Railway Bridge Suspension Railway and Roadway Bridge Looking Down the River towards Webbs Rapids."

Lakes, Rivers, and Boats, circa 1880-1884


Boats, circa 1880-1884

Description: 4 photographs, including photographs captioned: "Fall River a Boston Steamer Long Island Sound," "Hudson River Boat," "Portion of 'Pilgrim's' Saloon," and "Cunard Steamer "Aurania.""

Back Cover, circa 1880-1884

Description: Consists of loose clippings and printed materials that were tucked into the front and back covers of the original album, including a layout design of the State Capitol in Albany, New York (1870); a transparency showing the lifecycle of the emperor gum moth, clippings of a frog and a snake tail, and the cover of a box of Italian matches.

Original Binding, circa 1884