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THE

PHOTOGRAPHIC TIMES

AN

ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF

ARTISTIC AND SCIENTIFIC PHOTOGRAPHY.

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1895.

DANIEL C. CHAPMAN.

BY O. G. MASON.

WHEN the doors of the study-laboratory, or shop, of a busy worker in a chosen field of human industry are closed for the last time, and he has gone out to join that great majority, where all must sooner or later follow, the record of his earthly journey may teach us a lesson of more than passing interest. This may surely be said Daniel C. Chapman, who went out of human existence on December 3d.

From early manhood to the end his labor seems to have been guided by singleness of purpose, that each succeeding step should be higher than its predecessor.

He was born at South Corinth, Vermont, October 27, 1826, and doubtlessly inherited his mechanical skill from his father, a progressive farmer of the district, who made his own improved implements of labor. Young Chapman earned, by farming in summer, the money with which to pay for his schooling in winter, until his graduation from Bradford Academy. After teaching school several winters he went to Manchester, New Hampshire, then fast becoming a mechanical centre, where he learned the machinist's trade.

In 1852 he came to New York, where he found a wider field for his inventive skill, one of the first results of which was the first button-hole sewing machines ever made. He once told the writer that when sewing machines were selling for sixty and one hundred dollars each, they were in their mechanical parts furnished to the dealer by him for three dollars and seventy cents.

His sewing machine business took him to California in 1856, from whence he returned to New York in 1858.

In 1863 he began his photographic work by purchasing a small gallery in the upper part of the Bowery, where he was one of the first to experiment with bromide plates. His skill in mechanics and with the camera became so well known that in 1868 he was engaged by the late Lewis M. Rutherford as one of the assistants in his private observatory, at Eleventh Street and Second

Avenue. Here he was brought in contact with many of the leading minds in science, while his inventive genius and mechanical skill contributed in no small measure to the production of some of the most wonderful photographic work for which that observatory has been justly celebrated. His work in rendering the plates more sensitive, and the skillful development of a weak image, are matters of astronomical history, while his ruling of glass plates as gratings for spectro work won for him a world-wide reputation.

In 1870 he was chosen photographer to the United States expedition for observing the total eclipse of the sun, and returned to his work at the observatory in 1871.

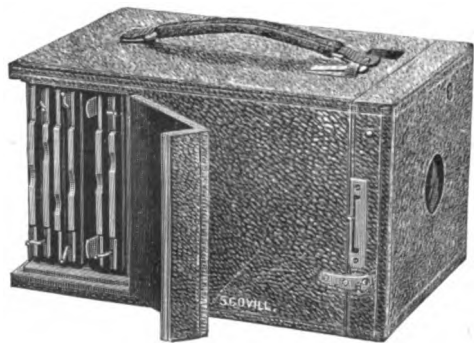
In 1878 he married Carrie R. Sullivan, of Port Chester, N. Y., whom he has left comfortably provided with a pleasant home in Washington.

In 1879 Mr. Chapman was engaged by the late Henry Draper as his assistant in his photographic investigations in spectral analysis and the constitution of the sun. After Dr. Draper's death Mr. Chapman accepted a position, which had long before been tendered to him, as chief photographer to the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey at Washington. There his mechanical skill and love of science kept him some time in the Bureau of Weights and Measures, from which he went to his last position of photographer, to which was soon added the further duty of electrotypist. His devices for making and mounting photographs to exact scale—a very important feature in map work—are ingenious and work satisfactorily, while as electrotypist he produced better results and at less cost than any of his predecessors. In a recent letter from the Department I read: "In his responsible position Mr. Chapman acquitted himself with great credit. It will be a very difficult matter to fill his place and his departure from among us is a source of deep regret." To the writer of this brief notice his loss is felt to be not only as a co-worker, but as that of a true and earnest friend, one who has done much for photography and no little toward the advancement of his fellow-men.



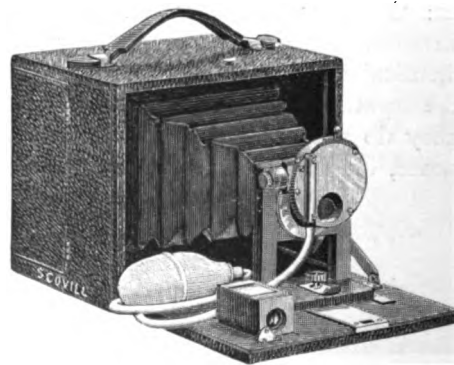
TWO NEW CAMERAS.

WE wish to call the attention of our readers to two new cameras recently emanating from the works of the well-known American Optical Co.



The first is called the New Waterbury, and sells for \$15. To all outward appearances it is the equal of the original Waterbury, which sold for \$25, as will be seen from the above cut. It contains a safety shutter, with

speed regulator, an excellent lens, with focus adjustment on top, carefully regulated to a scale, an accurate view finder, and three double plate-holders, carrying six plates. The box is leather-covered, and may be used



either in the hand or on a tripod. It is a camera which is sure to be popular with the amateur.

The other camera is the Henry Clay 2d, and, as its