



ENTAL



HOTOGRAPHS

AN

ALBUM FOR CONFESSIONS

OF

TASTES, HABITS, AND CONVICTIONS

EDITED BY

ROBERT SAXTON

IMPERIAL EDITION

For 38 Photographs of 40 questions each



NEW YORK

HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY

1881

Notice.

There are now two Editions published:—

I. The copies in cloth containing seventy-six blanks of Twenty-three questions each, called, on account of the comparative brevity of the Mental Photograph, the "Carte-de-Visite" edition. This edition will be generally preferred by those to whom the Album is a comparative novelty.

II. The copies in cloth containing thirty-eight blanks of forty questions each, called, because each "Mental Photograph" is of fuller dimensions than those of the other edition, the "Imperial edition." This edition will be preferred by those already fond of the amusement.

In ordering, please state the edition wanted. The sizes and prices are the same.

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Cloth, gilt,	\$1 50
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March, 1870.

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Southern District of New York.

Preface.

This Book is intended to serve as a record for the tastes and characteristics of friends; in short, for their mental photographs, just as another class of Albums serves to keep their physical ones.

The set of questions on which the system is founded, has long been the favorite diversion of a small circle of friends, to whom this brief preface will recall many a pleasant hour. Very naturally, a mental photograph book was ultimately formed, in which both questions and answers were written, and every one giving a mental photograph was required to give also a carte de visite for the ordinary photograph book, so that as complete a portrait as possible, both of the inner and outer man, was obtained. In the present volume, better facilities for combining the two elements are furnished, and many new questions have, of course, been added to those previously in use. It is needless to say, that the questions can be multiplied ad infinitum, and that the answers can be made in jest or earnest, as best suits the mind and manner of the sitter. Examples of both modes of reply are given on a subsequent page, taken from the editor's book of "mental photographs."

Another very amusing way of using the questions, is to write down the photograph of an absent friend, or rather, what we suppose it to be, and then obtain the real answers, and compare them with those previously given. I remember two instances of this kind, in which, out of thirty answers, only one was wrong

Of course, even a slight examination of these questions will make it evident that they are intended rather to form a key to the tastes than to the characters of those who use them conscientiously; but nevertheless, however used, they are apt to give some idea of character. When (to quote instances already notorious) Napoleon III. replied to the question, "Who would you like to be?" that he would gladly be his own grandson if it were possible, we know that the answer is a humbug, and that he knows it to be so, but is it not thoroughly characteristic of the man? And when the Prince of Wales asserts with charming impudence, that his "favorite occupation" is improving his mind, we know that the reply is a piece of impertinent mockery, but is it not characteristic of the manner in which that serious and admirable young man throws impertinence and defiance in the teeth of the respectable and fastidious John Bull?

We are not claiming too much for these questions in a psychological point of view, when we assert, that if seriously and thoughtfully treated, they will lead to very interesting psychological researches; nor, on the other hand, that if treated as a mere jest and pastime, they will prove an endless source of amusement.

For the sake of variety and completeness, more questions have been given in this Album than it will ordinarily be found practicable to take time to answer. Each person should make a selection according to taste. To attempt to answer all may be sometimes found more tedious than entertaining.

R. S.

Illustrations of the manner of using this Album,

TAKEN FROM THE ALBUM OF THE EDITOR.

In the Editor's Album, the two sets of answers, were, of course, on different pages.

1. <i>What trait do you most admire?</i>	Mr. M. W. S., Feb. 29th, 1868.	Miss W. S. K., Jan. 8th, 1869.
2. <i>What most detest?</i>	<i>Repose.</i>	<i>Disinterestedness.</i>
3. <i>Who is your favorite character in history?</i>	<i>Insensibility to attraction.</i>	<i>Cruelty.</i>
4. <i>In romance?</i>	<i>Mahomet.</i>	<i>St. John.</i>
5. <i>Who is your favorite composer?</i>	<i>Jennie Deans.</i>	<i>Harley L'Estrange.</i>
6. " " " <i>artist?</i>	<i>Coffee.</i>	<i>Mendelssohn and Mozart.</i>
7. " " " <i>poet?</i>	<i>Providence.</i>	<i>Murillo.</i>
8. " " " <i>poetess?</i>	<i>Walter Scott.</i>	<i>Pope and Tennyson.</i>
9. <i>What is your favorite book to take up for an hour?</i>	<i>Mrs. Hemans.</i>	<i>Mrs. Browning.</i>
10. <i>What is your favorite flower?</i>	<i>Faust.</i>	<i>Shakspeare's Plays.</i>
11. " " " <i>color?</i>	<i>Lily of the Valley.</i>	<i>Lily of the Valley.</i>
12. <i>What is your favorite woman's name?</i>	<i>Color of Truth.</i>	<i>Lilac.</i>
13. <i>What is your favorite man's name?</i>	<i>Faith.</i>	<i>Margaret.</i>
14. <i>What is your favorite perfume?</i>	<i>Spurgeon.</i>	<i>Henry.</i>
15. " " " <i>fruit?</i>	<i>Smell of a new Tract.</i>	<i>Cologne.</i>
16. " " " <i>tree?</i>	<i>Locusts.</i>	<i>Strawberries.</i>
17. " " " <i>hour in the day?</i>	<i>The Gallows.</i>	<i>Weeping Elm.</i>
18. <i>What is your favorite object in nature?</i>	<i>The first cracks of dawn.</i>	<i>Twilight.</i>
19. <i>What is your favorite occupation?</i>	<i>Camp-meeting.</i>	<i>Trees.</i>
20. <i>What is your favorite amusement?</i>	<i>Waiting on Providence.</i>	<i>Illuminating.</i>
21. <i>What do you believe to be your distinguishing characteristic?</i>	<i>Sitting for my mental photograph.</i>	<i>Listening to clever people.</i>
22. <i>What is your bête noir?</i>	<i>Humility.</i>	<i>Love of approbation.</i>
23. " " <i>dream?</i>	<i>A Radical.</i>	<i>Bored, and dresses without pockets.</i>
24. " " <i>aim in life?</i>	<i>A cot beside a wood.</i>	<i>The realization of impossibilities.</i>
25. " " <i>motto?</i>	<i>To live to see the decline and fall of the British Empire.</i>	<i>To turn the prose of Life into poetry.</i>
26. <i>What are the saddest words in the world?</i>	<i>"Let her rip."</i>	<i>"To be, is better than to seem."</i>
27. <i>What are the sweetest words in the world?</i>	<i>Thank you, I can't take any more.</i>	<i>Too late!</i>
	<i>Gentlemen, dinner!</i>	
	W. C.	W. K. S.

Miss S. Fannie Sack October 16, 1895.

- Your Favorite
1. Color? Pink.
 2. Flower? Apple Blossoms.
 3. Tree? Weeping-willow.
 4. Object in Nature? A moonlit stream.
 5. Hour in the day? Twilight
 6. Season of the year? Autumn
 7. Perfume? Heliotrope
 8. Gem? Diamond
 9. Style of Beauty? Blonde, males; Brunette, female
 10. Names, male and female? Paul & Nellie
 11. Painters? I have no favorite, except "Jack Frost"
 12. Musicians? The birds.
 13. Piece of Sculpture? Goddess of Liberty.
 14. Poets? Longfellow & Owen Meredith.
 15. Poetesses? Mrs. Browning.
 16. Prose Authors? Dickens & Victor Hugo.
 17. Character in Romance? Lucile.
 18. in History? Wm Penn.
 19. Book to take up for an hour? Reveries of a Bachelor.
 20. What book (not religious) would you part with last? Webster's Dictionary

PLACE FOR PHOTOGRAPH.

TAKE an ordinary carte de visite, and soak it in cold water for about three hours. The thin paper on which the photograph is printed will peel off from the card without being injured. Let the portrait paper dry, trim it to the necessary size, and paste it in this place, very lightly, by the corners, and one or two spots on the side. Let the book be under pressure till the paste dries. The light pasting and pressure are necessary to prevent warping.

This method is preferable to the use of the entire carte de visite, as a book suitable for holding the heavy cards without warping, would be very cumbersome.

21. What epoch would you choose to have lived in? *The very last, to date.*
22. Where would you like to live? *Gainesville, Ga.*
23. What is your favorite amusement? *Progressive Spelling & Talking*
24. What is your favorite occupation? *Embroidering.*
25. What trait of character do you most admire in man? *Virtue*
26. What trait of character do you most admire in woman? *Modesty*
27. What trait of character do you most detest in each? *Insincerity.*
28. If not yourself, who would you rather be? *Josiah Allen's Wife.*
29. What is your idea of happiness? *Anticipation of pleasure.*
30. What is your idea of misery? *The loss of faith*
31. What is your bête noir? *A man whose wife has been dead ^{one year.}*
32. " " dream? *A luxurious home.*
33. What is your favorite game? *Parchesi*
34. What do you believe to be your distinguishing characteristics? *Impulsiveness.*
35. If married, what do you believe to be the distinguishing characteristics of your better-half?
36. What is the sublimest passion of which human nature is capable? *Love.*
37. What are the sweetest words in the world? *"Gislie", wife & mother.*
38. What are the saddest words? *Lost, good bye, never more,*
39. What is your aim in life? *"To please the children."*
40. What is your motto? *"Grin and bear it."*

Miss Louise Morrison Jan 13 1891

Your Favorite

1. Color? Blue & Green
2. Flower? Orchid
3. Tree? Magnolia
4. Object in Nature? Mountain
5. Hour in the day? The Evening
6. Season of the year? Winter
7. Perfume? Orange Blossom
8. Gem? Diamond
9. Style of Beauty? Brown eyes & hair
10. Names, male and female? George & Annie
11. Painters? Murillo
12. Musicians?
13. Piece of Sculpture?
14. Poets? Longfellow Edgar Allan Poe Browning
15. Poetesses? Mrs. Browning
16. Prose Authors? Scott G. Obed Tom Page
17. Character in Romance? Lucile Ben Hur
18. in History? Marie Antoinette
19. Book to take up for an hour? "The Old Virginia"
20. What book (not religious) would you part with last? "The Old Virginia"

PLACE FOR PHOTOGRAPH.

TAKE an ordinary *carte de visite*, and soak it in cold water for about three hours. The thin paper on which the photograph is printed will peel off from the card without being injured. Let the portrait paper dry, trim it to the necessary size, and paste it in this place, very lightly, by the corners, and one or two spots on the side. Let the book be under pressure till the paste dries. The light pasting and pressure are necessary to prevent warping.

This method is preferable to the use of the entire *carte de visite*, as a book suitable for holding the heavy cards without warping, would be very cumbersome.

21. What epoch would you choose to have lived in? *19th Century*
22. Where would you like to live? *Baltimore*
23. What is your favorite amusement? *Dancing*
24. What is your favorite occupation? *Driving & Travel*
25. What trait of character do you most admire in man? *Sincerity*
26. What trait of character do you most admire in woman? *"*
27. What trait of character do you most detest in each? *In sincerity*
28. If not yourself, who would you rather be? *Prince Sobolva from "Gonim"*
29. What is your idea of happiness? *Making others happy*
30. What is your idea of misery? *To be "wounded" in love*
31. What is your bête noir?
32. " " dream? *To be a womanly woman*
33. What is your favorite game? *Dancing*
34. What do you believe to be your distinguishing characteristics? *Having my own way*
35. If married, what do you believe to be the distinguishing characteristics of your better-half?
36. What is the sublimest passion of which human nature is capable? *Love & Power*
37. What are the sweetest words in the world? *Love & Gratitude*
38. What are the saddest words? *"I am old"*
39. What is your aim in life? *To be like Grannie*
40. What is your motto? *Ami erit qui mal of just*