

2.1: *Photographer's Parlour, 1880s*

With the help of a photographic "flashlight," F. W. Micklethwaite photographed his young wife in the family parlour at 40 Jarvis Street, where he also had his business. Based on Mrs. Micklethwaite's dress, with its narrow sleeves, tightly fitted bodice, dark colour and drooping bustle, the photograph was probably taken in the late 1880s.³ Clearly, the photographer, who ultimately became extremely successful, had not yet moved beyond his lower-middle-class domestic environment, with its kerosene lantern lighting, stove heating, cramped space, unevenly plastered ceiling, and multi-purpose room. Amid the late-Victorian touches of many-patterned papers and parlour piano, are evidences of the photographer's trade. Rather than paintings and knick-knacks, for example, the Micklethwaites have covered every available horizontal and vertical space with photographs — almost exclusively portraits — of all sizes, shapes, and descriptions. A camera-obscura-like box stands on the table near the lace-curtained window, a most unusual piece of furniture in a Victorian parlour.

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