

# LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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## ANNUAL MEETING.

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The Literary and Historical Society held their annual meeting on Wednesday, the 12th January instant, the President, J. M. LeMoine, Esq., in the chair. After routine the following reports were read:—

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec have the honor to report to the members of the Society, that since the last annual general meeting, there has been the following change in, and addition to, the members of the Society.

They have to note with regret the loss by death of an esteemed Vice-President, Dr. William Boswell, whose experience and advice, more than once has been of service to the Board. Also, of three other associate members, Rev. G. Hamilton, Charles Henry, Inspector of the Quebec Bank, and John Lindsay, Provincial Land Surveyor.

The transfer of the B Battery of Artillery from Quebec to Kingston, Ont., has also deprived this Institution of the active co-operation of another honored Vice-President, Lt.-Col. T. Bland Strange, Dominion Inspector of Artillery, and Commander of the B Battery. Few here will have forgotten how powerfully he contributed in 1875, to the success of the historical celebration, which will ever stand in the annals of this Society, as a Red Letter Day, the centenary of the repulse of Brigadier-General Richard Montgomery and Col. Benedict Arnold, before Quebec, in 1775.

contrary to the requirements of the charter, the very great expense attending such an undertaking alone would have been an unsuperable barrier,

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. LEMOINE,  
President.

Quebec, 12th January, 1881.

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#### LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

The librarian in making his usual report has no salient circumstances to present. The library continues to be appreciated by members, as the issues for the year numbering 4,669 shew. The reading room seems to be more used than ever, and the magazines and journals lying on the tables receive constant attention, which is natural when we consider that periodicals are assuming prominent places in the field of literature, and when bound in volumes they form additions to the library of permanent interest. The additions to the library by purchase and donations have been 300 volumes. One member places on the table regularly a file of the London *Daily News*, an example worthy of imitation by others. In conclusion, the members are reminded of the numerous standard works at their disposal, not mere ephemeral productions, but English and French classics, contributions to history, especially that of our own country ; books which have borne the test of time and which merit a perusal from all who aim at a well stored mind.

Respectfully submitted,

R. MCLEOD.

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The election of officers for the coming year then took place with the following result :—

*President*—J. M. LeMoine.

*Vice-Presidents*—H. S. Scott, C. Tessier, W. Hossack, J. Whitehead.

*Treasurer*—Edwin Pope.

*Librarian*—R. McLeod.

*Recording-Secretary*—J. F. Belleau.

*Corresponding-Secretary*—W. Clint.

*Council-Secretary*—A. Robertson.

*Curator of Museum*—Th. Oliver.

*Curator of Apparatus*—F. C. Wurtele.

*Additional members of Council*—Geo. Stewart, jr., Jas. Stevenson, Theop. Ledroit, P. Johnston.

The following gentlemen were elected honorary members, Sanford Fleming, Esq., C. M. G., and Joseph W. Lawrence, Esq., of St. John, N. B., and President of the Historical Society of New Brunswick. Messrs. Henry J. Morgan, of Ottawa, G. Herbert Lee, Secretary of the Historical Society of St. John, New Brunswick; Lt.-Col. T. Bland Strange of Kingston, and Professor Campbell, M. A., of Montreal, were elected corresponding members of the Society.

## DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY, 1880.

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- Statistics of the Timber Trade of Quebec, presented by W. Schwartz, Esq., Consul of Norway and Sweden.
- Massachusetts' Historical Collections, Vol. VI.
- An address delivered before the New York Historical Society, presented by Gen. de J. Watts de Peyster.
- The Financial Reform Almanac—Free Trade and English Commerce, from the Cobden Club.
- Proceedings of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow, 1878-79.
- Annuaire de L'Institut Canadien de Québec, 1879.
- Statuts, Province of Quebec.
- Military Aspect of Canada, from Lt.-Col. T .B. Strange, Dominion Inspector of Artillery.
- Survey of the Northern Boundary of the United States, from Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky Mountains—from the Department of State, U. S.
- Geological Survey of Canada.
- Journal of the Royal Geological Society of Ireland, 1878-79.
- Journal of the Royal United Service Institute, vols. 23-24.
- Journal of the American Geographical Society, vol. 9-10.
- Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History.
- Two Maps showing route of the Canada Pacific Railway, presented by E. L. Montizambert, Esq.
- Discourse de M. D'Abbadie, of the *Académie des Sciences*, Paris.
- Proceedings of the American Society of Arts and Sciences.
- Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences.
- Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society, vol. I.
- A Paper on the Affiliation of the Algonquin Languages, from the author, Prof. J. Campbell, M. A., Montreal.
- Sketches of the Past and Present condition of the Indians of Canada, by the author, Dr. G. M. Dawson, Montreal.
- Some American Illustrations of the Evolution of New Varieties of Man, from the author, Daniel Wilson, LL. D., Toronto.
- Hibridity and Absorption in relation to the Red Indian Race, Daniel Wilson, LL. D., Toronto.
- Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, vols. 17-21-22.
- Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, vols. 10-15-16-17.
- Smithsonian Reports, vols. 73-76.
- Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, vol. 5.
- Transactions of the Academy of Sciences, St. Louis, vol. 4.
- Occasional papers of the Boston Society of Natural History.
- Contributions to the Geology of Eastern Massachusetts.

- Thirty-first annual report of the Trustees of the Astor Library, 1879.  
Centennial Papers, one hundred years rural progress, and reports, &c.  
The New England Tour of H. R. H. Prince of Wales.  
Reports of the Meteorological office of the Dominion of Canada.  
Anales del Museo Nacional de Mexico.  
The Canadian Pacific Railway (Hewson).  
Twelfth annual report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, 1879.  
Thirty-eighth annual report of the Board of Education, 1879.  
Reports, Returns and Statistics of the Inland Revenues of Canada, 1879.  
Manual of the Board of Education, 1880, N. Y. City.  
Directory        "        "  
Narrative of a Journey Across the Unexplored Portion of British Honduras,  
&c., presented by A. Joseph, Esq.  
Pennsylvanian Magazine of History and Biography.  
Annuaire de Ville-Marie.  
"The cause of Colour among Races"—"Humanity and the Man," by W.  
Sharpe, M. D.  
Le Nord-Ouest, la Province de Manitoba, le Saguenay et le Lac St. Jean  
Exposition Universelle de 1878.  
Catalogue du Ministre de l'Instruction Publique.  
Boletin de la Real Academia de La Historia.  
Recent Social Theories.  
The Origin of Language.  
Sex in Education.  
Representative Government.  
Mélanges de Littérature, d'Histoire et de Philosophie, presented by John B.  
Dunbar, Deposit, New York.  
Wisconsin Historical Collection, vol. 8, 1877-79.  
Publications of the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis.  
Bulletin of the Essex Institute—Historical Collections, four parts, vol. XVI.  
Rules of the Quebec Horticultural Society.  
Reports—Tenant Farmers' Delegation.  
Report on Immigration and Colonization, 1880.  
Muskoka and Lake Nippissing Districts.  
Lands of Plenty in the New North-West, by E. H. Hall, Esq.  
New England Historical and Genealogical Register.  
Journals of the Legislative Assembly, Quebec.  
Foreign Relations of the United States, 1879.  
Annual Calender of McGill College, 1880-81.  
Our relations with the Imperial Government.  
Bulletin of the American Geographical Society.  
Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1878-79.  
Memorial of the Centennial Celebration of the Battle of Paulus Hook, pre-  
sented by the author.  
Western Farmer of America.

- Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society.  
Mémoires de la Société Historique de Montréal.  
Society of Friends in the 19th Century.  
Petite Grammaire Française—Hubert LaRue, M. D.  
Sessional Papers of Parliament of the Dominion of Canada.  
Sessional Papers of the Legislature, Province of Ontario.  
Life and Public Services of Jas. Garfield, presented by General de Peyster.  
Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute.  
Proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute, vol XI., 1878-80.  
Bulletin of the American Geographical Society.  
Geographical Work of the World in 1878-79.  
Journal of the Franklin Institute.  
The Calendar of King's College, Windsor, N. S., 1880-81.  
Canadian Medical Journal.  
The "Forest and Stream," presented by R. MacLeod, Esq.  
"Grip" for 1880, presented by H. S. Scott, Esq.  
The "Daily News," London, presented by J. L. Whitehead, Esq.  
Newfoundland, Its Climate, Geographical Position, Resources, &c., presented by H. Budden, Esq.  
England and Ireland, a Lecture by Rev. A. J. Bray.
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## DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM, 1880.

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- A number of Autographs of Eminent Men, presented by M. Gale, Esq.  
Photographs of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, presented by Lieutenant Colonel Strange, R.A.  
An Owl, presented by P. MacNaughton, Esq.  
A Medlet (of the Prince Imperial), presented by Dr. W. Marsden, A.M.  
A Receipt, dated 1st April, 1757, in connection with the imposition of certain taxes in Quebec, presented by the Rev. Dr. Mathews.  
A Two dollar bill, also, a quarter dollar bill of Henry's Bank, 1837, presented by George Veasey, Esq.  
A Spear Head, found in the (new) Harbour of Quebec, presented by His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne, K.T.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED BY PURCHASE, 1880.

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- English Men of Letters, Chaucer, Cowper, Bunyan, Byron, Hawthorne,  
Locke, Milton, Shelley, Southey, Spenser, Thackeray, Lover, Moore.  
History of Our Own Times, vol. I-II.  
La Salle and the Discovery of the Great West—Parkman.  
History of Nova Scotia—Duncan Campbell.  
The North Americans of Antiquity—John Shortt.  
Memoirs of the Prince Consort, vol. 5—Martin.  
Memoirs of Prince Metternich, 1773-1815, 2 vols.  
The One Hundred Prize Questions in Canadian History, and the Answers of  
“Hermes.”  
Etudes Historiques—Le Tombeau de Champlain.  
The Powers of Canadian Parliaments.—Watson.  
The Legend of the Roses, Ravlan—Watson.  
Constitutional History of Canada, vol. I—Watson.  
Sunshine and Storm in the East—Brassey.  
Memoirs of Baroness Bunsen, 2 vols.  
Land of Median Revisited, 2 vols.—Burton.  
Journey Through the Korassan, 2 vols.—MacGregor.  
Correspondence of Macvey Napier.  
Rough Ways Made Smooth—Proctor.  
Journals during the Second Empire, 2 vols.—Senior.  
Life of George Moore—Smiles.  
History of England, 2 vols.—Walpole.  
Whitaker's Almanac, 1880.  
Hakluyt Society—No. 57 Hawkens, No. 58 Schiltberger.  
Fossil Men, Chain of Life in Geology—Dawson.  
The Scot in British North America, vol. I.—Rattray.  
Memoirs of Madame de Remusat.  
Canadian Portrait Gallery, vols. 1-2.  
National Portrait Gallery, vol. 4.  
International Portrait Gallery, vol. I.  
Parliamentary Government in British Colonies.—Todd.  
Life of a British Soldier.  
The Dominion Annual Register for 1879—Morgan.

VOLS. OF BOUND MAGAZINES, 1880.

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Graphic, 1880.....	2 Vols
London Illustrated News, 1880.....	2 "
Punch, 1880.....	1 "
Canadian Illustrated News, 1880.....	1 "
Aldine, 1878-79 .....	2 "
London Quarterly, 1880.....	1 "
Edinburgh " .....	1 "
British " .....	1 "
Wetsminster " .....	1 "
Nineteenth Century, "	2 "
Fortnightly,	2 "
Contemporary,	2 "
North American,	2 "
Atlantic Monthly,	2 "
Harper's Magazine,	2 "
Scribner's "	2 "
Chambers' Journal,	1 "
All the year Round,	2 "
Fraser's Magazine,	2 "
MacMillan's "	2 "
Blackwood's "	2 "
Cornhill "	2 "
Rose Belford's Canadian Monthly, 1880.....	2 "
Bystander, 1880.....	1 "
Notes and Queries, 1880.....	2 "
Magazine of American History.....	2 "
Art Journal, 1880 .....	1 "
Nature, "	2 "
Engineer, "	1 "
Scientific American, 1880.....	1 "
Scientific American Supplement, 1880.....	1 "
Scientific Canadian,	1 "
Canadian Antiquarian	1 "
Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.....	1 "
Revue des deux Mondes, 1878, 1879, 1880.....	18 "
L'Opinion Publique, Montreal.....	1 "
Le Naturaliste Canadien.....	1 "

FRENCH CANADIAN WORKS, &c., BOUND, 1880.

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Invasion du Canada, Verreau.....	
Invasion du Canada.....	
Les Canadiens de l'Ouest, Tassé.....	2 vols.
Chronique Trifluvienne, Sulte.....	2 "
L'Intendant Bigot, Marquette.....	1 "
Fables, Stevens.....	1 "
Helika, Dr. Chs Désguise.....	1 "
Du Suicide, LaRue.....	1 "
Comte de Selkirk et la Compagnie de la Baie Hudson.....	1 "
Les Servantes de Dieu en Canada, Lavoche Heron.....	1 "
Mélanges.....	1 "
Le Deuxième Centenaire.....	1 "
Annales de la Paroisse St. Jacques le Majeur.....	
Philemon Wright, Jos. Tassé.....	1 "
Annuaire de Ville-Marie, 1863-64-67-68.....	2 "
Causeries du Dimanche, Le Juge Routhier.....	1 "
Jean Rivard—Guerin Lajoie.....	1 "
Le Village sous l'Ancien Régime, Barbeau.....	1 "
Echos de Québec, N. Legendre.....	1 "
De Tribord à Babord, Faucher de St. Maurice.....	1 "
Poésie Canadienne, Fréchette .....	1 "
Mes Loisirs .....	1 "
La Grande Tronciade, Arthur Casgrain.....	1 "
De la Mantawa, LaVallée.....	1 "
Picounoc, Le Maudit, Lemay .....	2 "
Une Gerbe, Lemay .....	1 "
Les Vengeances, Lemay .....	1 "
Le Pelerin de Ste. Anne, Lemay .....	1 "
Montcalm et le Canada Français, De Bonnechose .....	1 "
Quatorze Mois dans l'Amérique du Nord, Vicomte de Turenne.....	2 "
Recueil de Chansons .....	2 "
Cinq Mois chez les Français d'Amérique, De Lamothe .....	1 "
Le Saguenay, Buies.....	1 "
Le Naturaliste Canadien, 1878-79 .....	2 "
Rome in Canada, Lindsey.....	1 "
Canada, by a Backwoodsman.....	1 "
8 vols. Franklin Square and Standard Library series.	
Large folio for photographs.	
Folio for autographs.	

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

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*Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, in account with  
the Treasurer.*

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Jany. 1st., 1880.	<i>Dr.</i>
To balance on hand.....	\$ 22 22
“ Government Grant.....	750 00
“ Subscriptions from members.....	1,037 00
	—————
	\$ 1,809 22

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Dec. 31st., 1880.	<i>Cr.</i>
By paid rent.....	\$ 200 00
“ “ books; periodicals, printing and advertising.....	684 29
“ “ Salary to Assistant-Secretary.....	300 00
“ “ Commission on collections.....	76 20
“ “ Gas and fuel.....	172 24
“ “ Insurance.....	52 75
“ “ Incidental expenses.....	255 25
“ “ Balance.....	68 49
	—————
	\$ 1,809 22

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W. HOSSACK,  
Treasurer.

Quebec, 12th January, 1881.

\* Presidents of the Literary and Historical Society.

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1824.....	Sir F. N. Burton, Lt.-Governor.
1828.....	Hon. Mr. Reid, Chief Justice.
1829.....	Lieut. Frederick Baddeley, R.N.
1830.....	Hon. Jonathan Sewell, Chief Justice.
1831.....	" " " "
1832.....	Hon. Andrew Stuart, Q.C.
1834.....	Hon. Wm. Sheppard.
1835.....	Joseph Skey, M.D.
1836.....	Rev. Daniel Wilkie, LL.D.
1837.....	Hon. Andrew Stuart, Q.C.
1838.....	" " " "
1839.....	Wm. Kelly, M.D., R.N.
1840.....	" " " "
1841.....	Hon. Wm. Sheppard.
1842.....	Hon. A. W. Cochrane.
1843.....	Hon. Wm. Sheppard.
1844.....	G. B. Faribault, Esq.
1845.....	Hon. A. W. Cochrane.
1846.....	John C. Fisher, Esq.
1847.....	Hon. Wm. Sheppard.
1851.....	G. B. Faribault, Esq.
1852.....	" " "
1853.....	" " "
1854.....	" " "
1855.....	E. A. Meredith, M.A.
1856.....	W. Andrew, Esq.
1857.....	" " "
1858.....	G. B. Faribault, Esq.
1859.....	" " "
1860.....	E. A. Meredith, M.A.
1861.....	" " "
1862.....	John Langton, M.A.
1863.....	" " "
1864.....	" " "
1865.....	" " "

1866.....	Com. E. D. Ashe, Lieut. R.N.
1867.....	" " " "
1868.....	Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau.
1869.....	Prof. James Douglass.
1870.....	Dr. W. J. Anderson.
1871.....	J. M. LeMoine, Esq.
1872-3.....	Dr. W. J. Anderson.
1873.....	Com. E. D. Ashe, Lieut. R.N., F.R.S.
1874.....	Prof. James Douglass.
1875.....	" " "
1876.....	James Stevenson, Esq.
1877.....	" " "
1878.....	" " "
1879.....	J. M. LeMoine, Esq.
1880.....	" " "
1881.....	" " "

# Literary and Historical Society of Quebec,

*Founded in—1824.*

*Incorporated by Royal Charter—1831.*

## PATRON :

His Excellency, the MARQUIS OF LORNE, K.T., Governor-General of Canada.

## OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1881.

J. M. LEMOINE.....	<i>President.</i>
H. S. SCOTT.....	
CYRILLE TESSIER.....	<i>Vice-Presidents.</i>
WILLIAM HOSSACK.....	
JOSEPH WHITEHEAD.....	
EDWIN POPE.....	<i>Treasurer.</i>
RODERICK MCLEOD.....	<i>Librarian.</i>
JAMES F. BELLEAU.....	<i>Recording Secretary.</i>
WM. CLINT.....	<i>Corresponding Secretary.</i>
ALEX. ROBERTSON.....	<i>Council Secretary.</i>
THEO. OLIVER.....	<i>Curator of Museum.</i>
FRED. C. WURTELE.....	<i>Curator of Apparatus.</i>
JAS. STEVENSON.....	
GEO. STEWART, JR.....	
PETER JOHNSTON.....	
THEOP. LEDROIT.....	<i>Additional Members of Council.</i>

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Henry Goadby, M.D., England.	Professor James Douglass, M.A., Philadelphia.
Prof. Sterry Hunt, F.R.S., Montreal.	Wm. Kirby, Esq., author of "Le Chien d'Or," Niagara.
General Baddeley, England.	John Reade, Esq., author of "The Prophecy of Merlin," and other poems, Montreal.
Charles Lanman, Esq., Washington.	James Ashbury, Esq., England.
John Miller Grant, Esq., London.	Professor Goldwin Smith, LL.D., Toronto.
John Langton, M.A., Toronto.	Mr. Justice Chapman, New Zealand.
E. A. Meredith, LL.D., Ottawa.	John Bigsby, M.D., F. R. S., F. G. S., England.
T. D. Harrington, Esq., Ottawa.	Joseph W. Lawrence, Esq., St. John, N.B.
E. T. Fletcher, Esq., Quebec.	

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

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Bury, Rt. Hon. Viscount, London.	D'Abbadie, Antoine, Membre de l'Institut de France, Paris.
Benavides, Don Antonio, H. E., President of the Royal Academy of History, Ma- drid.	De Sola, Rev. A., Montreal. DeSelles, Desmazières, St. Malo, France.
Baird, Professor, Spencer F., Smithsonian Institute, Washington.	De Salas, Don Javier, Mem- ber of the Royal Academy of History, Madrid, &c.
Benwick, James, New York.	D'Urban, W. S. M., England.
Bourne, F. Orlandt, New York.	De Peyster, Gen. J. W., New York.
Brackenbury, Col. H., R. A., England.	Dansereau, Arthur, Montreal.
Bois, Abbé, L. E., Maski- nongé.	Donaldson, L., St. John, N. B.
Boucher de Boucherville, Hon., Boucherville.	Fortin, Hon. P., M. P., M. D., President of the Geo- graphical Society of Que- bec, Gaspé.
Chauveau, Hon. P. J. O., Montreal.	Filippi, le Comte Woldémar, Paris.
Cherriman, J. B., M. A., Ottawa.	Graham, Lt.-Col. U. S. A., Chicago.
Chapleau, Hon. J. A., Mon- treal.	Gérin, E., Trois-Rivières.
Campbell, Prof. John, Mon- treal.	Grazillier, L'Abbé, Saintes, France.

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Henderson, W., Frampton.	Provencher, Colonel N., Manitoba.
Heap, Ralph, London, G. B.	Powis, Rev. H. D., Toronto.
Kingston, Professor G. T., University College, Toronto.	Roget, Peter Mark, London.
Huguet-Latour, Montreal.	Saban, Don Pedro, Secretary-General of the Royal Academy of History, Madrid.
Lee, G. H., St. John.	Strange, T. B., Lt.-Col. R. A., Kingston.
Lefebvre de Bellefeuille, E., Montreal.	Sewell, Rev. Henry, England.
Le Gardeur de Tilly, le comte Hypolite, Chantreau-près-Saintes, France.	Sinding, Professor Paul C., Copenhagen.
Marchand, Hon. F. G., St. Jean.	Sulte, Benjamin, Ottawa.
Morgan, Henry J., Ottawa.	Taylor, Fennings, Ottawa.
Noble, Capt., R.A., F.R.S., F.R.A.S., England.	Tilley, Sir S. L., Ottawa.
	Wynne, Thomas H., Richmond, Va.

# The Seigniorial Manor of the First *Seigneur* of Beauport, 1634.

(To the Editor of the *Morning Chronicle*.)

DEAR SIR.—I have pleasure in laying, with your permission, before the members of the Literary and Historical Society, through your columns, the enclosed communication received this day, with the plate and inscription to which it relates, from the widow of the late Col. B. C. A. Gugy, of Darnoc, Beauport. It sets forth the recovery, from the ruins of the Beauport Manor House, of a lead plate, affording a written record of the laying of the foundation stone, on the 25th July, 1634, of the historical homestead of the fighting *Seigneurs* of Beauport,—the Gifart, the Juchereau and the Duchesnay. The *fac simile* and description of the inscription, on comparing with the lead plate itself, forwarded for examination by Mrs. Gugy, are so accurate, that they leave little for me to say. Nay, I should be inclined to detect here the hand of an antiquarian, had I not strong suspicions that Mrs. Gugy's amanuensis in this case, is her clever daughter, Miss Gugy.

The massive old pile alleged to have been the headquarters of the Marquis of Montcalm, during the siege of Quebec, in 1759, and in which many generations of Duchesnays and some of Col. Gugy's children were born, became the prey of flames in 1879, 'tis said, by the act of a *vandal*,—an incendiary; thus perished the most ancient stronghold of the proud feudal Lairds of Beauport—the stone manor of Surgeon Robert Gifart—the safe retreat against the Iroquois of the warlike Juchereau Duchesnays, one of whose ancestors, in 1645, had married Marie Gifart, or Giffard, a daughter of the bellicose Esculapius from Perche, France,—Surgeon Robert Gifart. Grim and defiant the antique manor, with its high-peaked gables, stood in front of the dwelling Col. Gugy had erected, at Darnoc, in 1865: it rather intercepted the view to be had from this spot of Quebec. One of the memorable landmarks of the past, it has furnished a subject for the pencil of Col. Benson J. Lossing, author of the "American Revolution," and "Life of Washington," who, during his visit to Quebec, in July, 1858, sketched it with others, for *Harper's Magazine*, where it appeared, over the heading "Montcalm's Headquarters, Beauport," in the January number, 1859, page 180.

Whilst the deciphering of some of the letters I. H. S.—M. I. A. at the top of the inscription are likely to exercise the ingenuity of our Oldbucks and Monk-barns, to whose intelligent care I shall leave them, the plate itself and its inscription will furnish to the student of history an indefeasible proof of the exact spot, and of the date, when and where stood the oldest of our seigniorial manors,—that of Robert Gifart, on the margin of the *ruisseau de l'ours*, at Beauport, in 1634.

J. M. LEMOINE,  
President.

*Literary and Historical Society's Rooms, 5th April, 1881.*

N.B.—Mrs. Gugy has kindly consented to leave on our table, during the week, for the inspection of the curious, this suggestive old plate.

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J. M. LeMoine, Esquire, President *Literary and Historical Society, Quebec*:

BEAUPORT, 26th March, 1881.

The tablet found in the Manor House of Beauport by some workmen, last summer, and only recently restored to the proprietors, is a circular plate of lead or pewter much injured by the fire which consumed the building.

Owing to the unwillingness of the men concerned to give any information, it is difficult to learn much about whereabouts in the building it was found, nor what other articles may have accompanied it, but as far as can be ascertained, this oval plate (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch in thickness) was rolled up and contained a few coins and some document; the first cannot be traced and are spoken of as "quelques sous;" the latter, they say, crumbled into dust at once.

The inscription as well as can be deciphered, is as follows:—

I.H.S. M.I.A.

LAN 1634 LE

NTE

25 IVILET.IE.ETE·PLA

PREMIERE.P.C.GIFART

SEIGNEVR.DE.CE.LIEV

This is rudely but deeply cut into the plate, and underneath may be seen in patches traces of a fainter etching, part of which may be a coat of arms, but this is uncertain; underneath can be seen a heart *reversed*, with flames springing from it upwards. All these are enclosed in a larger heart, point downwards.

The enclosed rough simile may give an idea of the lettering at the top of the circle, the plate itself being about nine inches in diameter.

(With Mrs. Gugy's compliments.)

Darnoc, 26th March, 1881.

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### THE BEAUPORT MANOR INSCRIPTION.

(*To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.*)

Whilst regretting the loss of the coins and dry-as-dust document accompanying the inscription of the Beauport Manor, on account of the light it might have thrown on this remote incident of Canadian history, let us examine the case as it stands.

This rude inscription of 25th July, 1634, gives priority as to date to the Beauport Manor over any ancient structure extant in Canada this day. The erection of the Manor would seem to have preceded by three years the foundation of the Jesuits' Sillery residence, now owned by Messrs. Dobell and Beckett, which dates of July, 1637. Who prepared the inscription? Who engraved the letters? Who cut on the lead the figure of the "flaming heart?" The stars? Are they heraldic? What did they typify? Did the plate come out, ready prepared from France? Had the *Académie des Inscriptions, etc.*, or any other *académie*, any hand in the business? No, for obvious reasons.

The lead-plate was imbedded in solid masonry. It is too rude to be the work of an engraver. Could it have been designed by Surgeon Gifart, the Laird of Beauport, and cut on the lead-plate by the scribe and *savant* of the settlement, Jean Guion (Dion?) whose penmanship in the wording of two marriage contracts, dating from 1636, has been brought to light by an indefatigable searcher of the past—the Abbé Ferland? probably.

But if the lettered Beauport stone mason, who never became a Hugh Miller, whatever were his abilities, did utilize his talents in 1634 to produce a durable record, in order to perpetuate the date of foundation of this manor, he subsequently got at loggerheads with his worthy seignior, probably owing to the litigious tastes which his native Perche had installed in him. Perche, we all know, is not very distant from Normandy, the hot-bed of feuds and litigation, and might have caught the infection from this neighborhood.

Governor Montmagny, in the space of eight short years, had been called on to adjudicate on six controversies which had arisen between Gifart and his vassals, touching boundaries and seigniorial rights, though the learned historian Ferland, has failed to particularize, whether among those controverted rights, was included the *Droit de Chapons* and *Droit de Seigneur*; could the latter unchaste, but cherished right of some Scotch and German feudal lords, by a misapprehension of our law, in the dark days of the colony, have been claimed by such an exacting seignior as M. de Gifart? One hopes not.

Be that as it may, the stone mason and *savant* Jean Guion had refused to do feudal homage to "Monsieur de Beauport," and on the 30th July, 1640, six years after the date of the inscription, under sentence rendered by Governor de Montmagny, he was made to do so.

Francis Parkman, on the authority of the historian Ferland, will tell us how Jean Guion, vassal of Gifart, Seignior of Beauport, on that memorable 30th July, 1640, performed the stately ceremony of *Foi et hommage*, at this very manor to which the inscription refers:

"In the presence of a notary, Guion presented himself at the principal door of the Manor House of Beauport. Having knocked, one Bouillé, farmer of Gifart, opened the door, and in reply to Guion's question if the seignior was at home, replied that he was not, but that he, Bouillé, was empowered to receive acknowledgments of faith and homage from the vassals in his name. "After the which reply" proceeds the act, "the said Guion, being at the principal door, placed himself on his knees on the ground, with head bare, and without sword or spurs, and said three times these words: "Monsieur de Beauport, "Monsieur de Beauport, Monsieur de Beauport, I bring you the faith and homage "which I am bound to bring you on account of my fief Du Buisson, which I hold "as a man of faith of your Seigniory of Beauport, declaring that I offer to pay "my seigniorial and feudal dues in this season, and demanding of you to accept "me in faith and homage as aforesaid." (*Old Regime*, p. 246-7.)

Who will decipher the I. H. S.—M. I. A. letters at the top of the plate? Is there no descendant of the haughty Seignior of Beauport, Rob. Gifart, to give us his biography, and tell of his sporting days; of the black and grey ducks, brant, widgeon, teal, snipe, and curlew, etc., which infested the marshy banks of the stream on the *Ruisseau de l'Ours*, on which he had located, first his shooting box, and afterwards his little fort or block-house, against Iroquois aggression? Dr. Gifart was a keen sportsman, tradition repeats. Did the locality get the name of *Canardière* on account of the *Canards*, the ducks, he had tagged in his time? Who will enlighten us on all these points?

ENQUIRER.

Quebec, 8th April, 1881.

QUEAY.—Wou'd I. H. S. stand for *Jesus Hominum Salvator*? and M. I. A. for *Maria-Josephus-Anna*?—the Holy Family—asks Dr. W. Marsden.

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## COUNT D'ORSONNENS' LETTER.

*A monsieur J. M. LeMoine, président de la Société Littéraire et Historique de Québec,  
etc., etc., etc.*

CHER MONSIEUR.—Votre lettre du 1er avril, publiée dans le *Morning Chronicle*, en groupant, autour du premier Manoir canadien, des grands noms canadiens, des faits historiques et des traditions, semble vouloir nous faire regretter encore plus la perte d'un monument dont il ne reste plus qu'une plaque de plomb gravée sans art, avec une inscription sans orthographe. Je suis allé, comme bien d'autres, voir ce morceau de plomb, qui contient, autant que l'imprimerie peut le représenter, l'inscription suivante :

I.H.S. M.I.A.  
LAN 1634 LE  
NTE  
25 IVILET-IE-ETE-PLA  
PREMIERE - P - C - GIFART  
SEIGNEVR-DE-CE-LIEV

La première ligne a été, sans doute, gravée avec une pointe, l'incision plus indécise est aussi moins profonde, de même que les lettres NTE ajoutées au-dessus de PLA, pour faire le mot planté, que l'art du graveur ou la largeur du ciseau n'avait pas su contenir dans la troisième ligne.

Les lettres des trois dernières lignes ont été coupées avec un ciseau de un demi-pouce de large, l'incision est nette et bien dessinée; on voit encore les lignes qui ont été tracées dans toute la largeur de la plaque, au moyen d'une pointe, pour guider le ciseau du graveur.

Dans le centre de la plaque, on distingue avec peine un écusson portant un cœur renversé et flammé; au centre de l'écu, trois étoiles. Impossible de dire si elles sont posées en face ou sur un champ quelconque. Le tout a dû être surmonté d'un heaume, car on voit encore de chaque côté de l'écu des lignes courbes multiples, qui doivent nécessairement représenter les lambrequins; sur le côté gauche, un bout de banderolle, mais l'*artiste* a dû abandonner sa première idée, car le haut de la banderolle se perd dans les lignes du lambrequin.

J'ai lu dans la lettre qui accompagnait l'envoi de madame Gugy, que les ouvriers, qui avaient travaillé aux ruines, disaient avoir trouvé la plaque de plomb, roulée avec certains documents qui seraient tombés en poussière au toucher. La chose me paraît impossible. Le dessous de la plaque indique qu'elle a été posée à plat sur un lit de mortier; et la partie gravée, du moins celle où sont gravées les armoiries, qu'une pierre pesante a été placée dessus, et c'est par l'enfoncement de sa surface inégale que la plupart des lignes gravées ont été détruites. On voit encore dans le plomb oxidé l'empreinte d'une coquille pétrifiée qui se trouvait agrégée au calcaire.

En roulant le bloc supérieur, les ouvriers ont pu plier le métal; de là l'erreur de croire que la plaque était roulée; elle a dû, comme toutes les choses de ce genre, être placée dans une cavité comme fond, où on avait déposé le document tombé en poussière et les "quelques sous" que ces honnêtes ouvriers ont gardés pour eux, sans doute, sans en connaître la valeur.

Peu habitué à lire de telles inscriptions, mais connaissant la piété des premiers colons du Canada, j'essayai de donner un sens courant à l'inscription et je trouvai qu'on pouvait lire ceci :

*Iesu Hominum Salvatoris, Mariae Immaculatae Auspice.*

(Sous les auspices ou la protection de Jésus Sauveur des hommes et de Marie-Immaculée.)

L'an 1634, le  
25 juillet—je—étéd planté  
première par (ou pour) C. (chirur.) Gifart, Seigneur de ce lieu.

Jusqu'à présent la chose se lit bien, le sens en est raisonnable et positif. Supposant le chirurgien un homme instruit et lettré, l'inscription latine se complète d'elle-même. Mais, hélas ! il y a un mais,—la lettre C avant Gifart me trouble un peu. Comme

Je n'ai sous la main aucun volume, aucune tradition du temps à consulter, je suis obligé de m'en tenir aux correspondances de journaux, et je trouve dans toutes le prénom de *Robert*—ce qui ne commence pas du tout par un C. I. Le mot chirurgien qui était la profession de Gifard, se présente naturellement, mais l'article manque.....

Oh ! le C, si c'était un R, ? plus de doute, l'affaire serait claire. Mais le C, le malheureux C, ne serait-il pas l'initialle de Cloutier, le charpentier ou l'entrepreneur avec lequel Gifart avait fait un contrat à Mortaigne, le 14 mars 1634, quatre mois à peu près avant la pose de la première pierre ? Alors il faudrait lire : j'ai été planté par Cloutier, Gifart étant seigneur de ce lieu.

Je m'arrête, le souvenir de certaine inscription sur certain pont vient troubler toutes ces belles speculations. A force de vouloir être savant, on pourrait faire dire à Robert Gifart des choses qu'il n'a jamais pensées

Si, après tout, ce Gifart n'était pas *savant*, et qu'il ent voulu dire par I. H. S., Jésus-Christ, et M. I. A., Maria ; ce serait trop fort.—J'aimerais mieux la théorie de M. le Dr. Marsden, et de M. Bédard, *Maria, Joachim, Anna*. Le 25 juillet étant la fête de saint Jacques, et la vigile de saint Joachim, il serait plus raisonnable de penser qu'on aurait mis la construction du premier Manoir canadien, sous la protection et les auspices du saint du jour.

Reste à savoir si la Saint Jacques se fêtait le 25 juillet, la Saint Joachim le 26, en l'an de notre Seigneur 1634.

Je laisse à d'autres de mieux trouver.

Quoiqu'il en soit, cette date 1634, est un centenaire mémorable, car c'est en 1534 que Jacques-Cartier visita le golfe Saint-Laurent, et c'est en 1535, qu'il remonta notre beau fleuve jusqu'à Hochelaga, cent ans avant la première concession seigneuriale de Beauport.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur,  
votre humble servt.,

Cte. d'ORSONNENS.

#### L'INSCRIPTION DU MANOIR DE BEAUPORT.

Parmi une masse de vieux documents que je possède, concernant la seigneurie de Beauport et ses seigneurs, j'ai trouvé le reçu suivant :

“Je, soussigné, confesse avoir reçu un billet de cent cinquante livres de monsieur de Beauport, pour ce qu'il avait promis pour faire sa bâtie de logis de Beauport.

“Faict ce 27ième juillet 1642.

“P. CLUST.”

Cela donnerait peut être une explication des abréviations “P. C.” de l'inscription trouvée dans les ruines du vieux manoir.

En effet, il est loisible de supposer que cet architecte a fait ce que ses confrères modernes font encore, et qu'il a gravé ses initiales sur l'inscription commémorative de la pose de la première pierre plantée dans la bâtie de Beauport.

H. J. J. DUCHESNAY.

La Beauce, 14 avril 1881.

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#### H. V's LETTER.

##### UNE RELIQUE HISTORIQUE.

La *Minerve* a publié l'inscription de la plaque trouvée à Beauport. Le *Journal de Québec* l'a reproduite aussi ; mais avec une certaine différence. Pour l'étude des personnes éloignées et pour l'utilité de la science, il est bien désirable qu'on en prenne de nombreuses impressions sur plâtre. Si madame Guyy accorde la permission nécessaire, elle méritera certainement la reconnaissance de ceux qui étudient notre histoire.

Il paraît que le dernier chiffre de la date se lit avec difficulté. Il est toutefois très important de le déterminer avec toute la précision possible.

A mes yeux, la date du 25 juillet entraîne plusieurs conséquences qui disparaissent avec un autre chiffre.

I. Le 25 juillet est consacré à l'apôtre saint Jacques-le-Majeur. Ne peut-on pas traduire le second groupe trilittré M. J. A. par *Majori Jacobo Apostolo*. Le premier groupe, si connu d'ailleurs, étant latin, il est naturel de supposer que le second l'est aussi.

II. La fête de saint Jacques-le-Majeur, qui tombait un mardi en 1634, était chômée; par conséquent les travaux serviles ont dû être suspendus ce jour là.

III. Le même jour, 25 juillet 1634, Robert Giffard assistait à un mariage à Québec, ce qui peut expliquer pourquoi il était remplacé à Beauport par son fils Charles.

Mais la pose de la pierre angulaire d'une simple maison, un jour de grande fête, me semble difficile à expliquer, qu'on veuille ou non y faire intervenir les cérémonies de la Religion.

L'expression: *Je été planté* offre aussi une difficulté. A cette époque on faisait de nombreuses fautes d'orthographe, mais on avait presque toujours le mot propre.

Il est bien vrai qu'en terme d'architecture, on disait *planter un édifice* pour l'asseoir sur la maçonnerie des fondements; mais je ne sache pas qu'on ait dit: *planter les pierres des fondements*.

Cette plaque n'aurait-elle pas été destinée à une croix plantée à l'endroit que Giffard voulait défricher?

Il est d'autant plus naturel qu'il ait commencé ses travaux par cet acte de foi qu'il devait songer à faire bâtir l'église près de sa demeure. Dans cette supposition, on s'explique facilement que la croix ait été plantée un jour de fête solennelle, où tout le monde, surtout à cette époque, devait vaquer à ses devoirs religieux. Je vois dans les *Archives* de Beauport, par Mgr. Langevin, que la maison de Giffard, d'après M. Ferland, devait être plus près de la petite rivière que le manoir actuel.

C. Giffard, qui est désigné comme seigneur de Beauport, est le fils de Robert. Il était né en France et devait être encore assez jeune. C'est de lui que parle le *Journal des Jésuites* en disant que le fils de M. Giffard passa en France, en 1646, avec d'autres jeunes gens "tous fripons pour la plupart qui avaient fait mille pièces "à l'autre voyage, et on donnait à tous de grands appointements."

Le 28 octobre, il était parrain, et il s'embarquait le 31.

Il n'est plus question de lui après cette date, soit qu'il ait renoncé au Canada, soit qu'il ait péri prématurément. Le père repris sa seigneurie de Beauport, qu'il fit agrandir le mieux qu'il put.

P. S.—En écrivant ce qui précède, j'étais un peu pressé; j'aurais dû remarquer cependant, que sous la lettre C, les lecteurs ne pouvaient deviner le prénom du jeune seigneur de Beauport. Il s'appelait *Charles*, et devait être né en France comme sa sœur *Marie*, qui devint Madame de la Ferté.

Dans l'intérêt de vos lecteurs je ferai remarquer que le *Dictionnaire Généalogique* renferme, à l'article *GIFFARD*, certaines erreurs. Ainsi *Frangoise* qui commence l'article est la même que *Marie-Frangoise* qui le termine: elle se fit religieuse à l'Hôtel-Dieu. L'épouse de *Jean Juchereau de la Ferté* fut *Marie*, née en France, puisque son contrat de mariage, en 1645, la dite "agée de 17 ans environ," ce qui reporte sa naissance vers 1628. Charles assiste et signe un contrat. Ce n'est pas *Robert Giffard*; mais son fils *Joseph*, dont le corps fut transporté à la cathédrale, le 31 décembre 1705.

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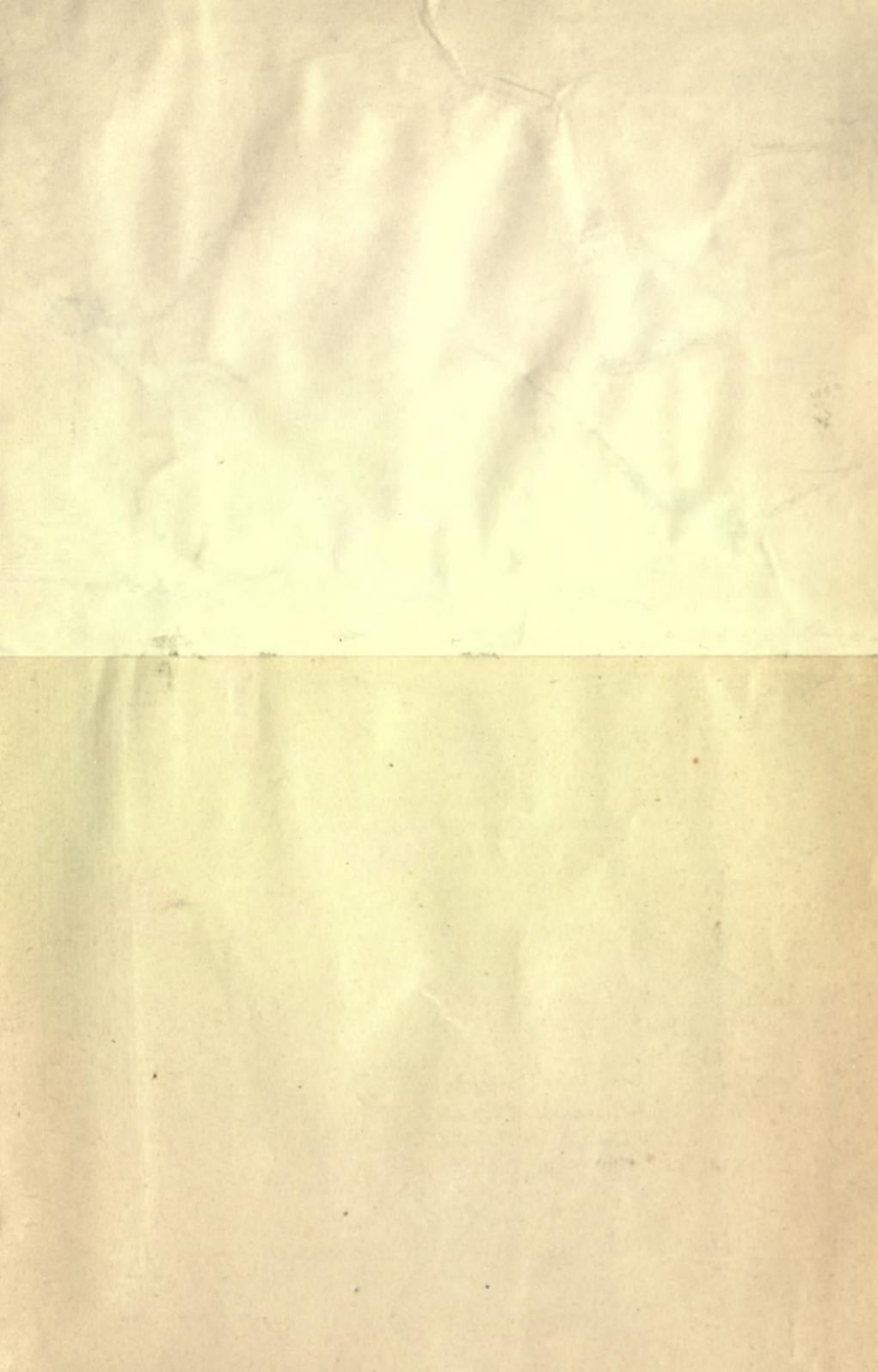
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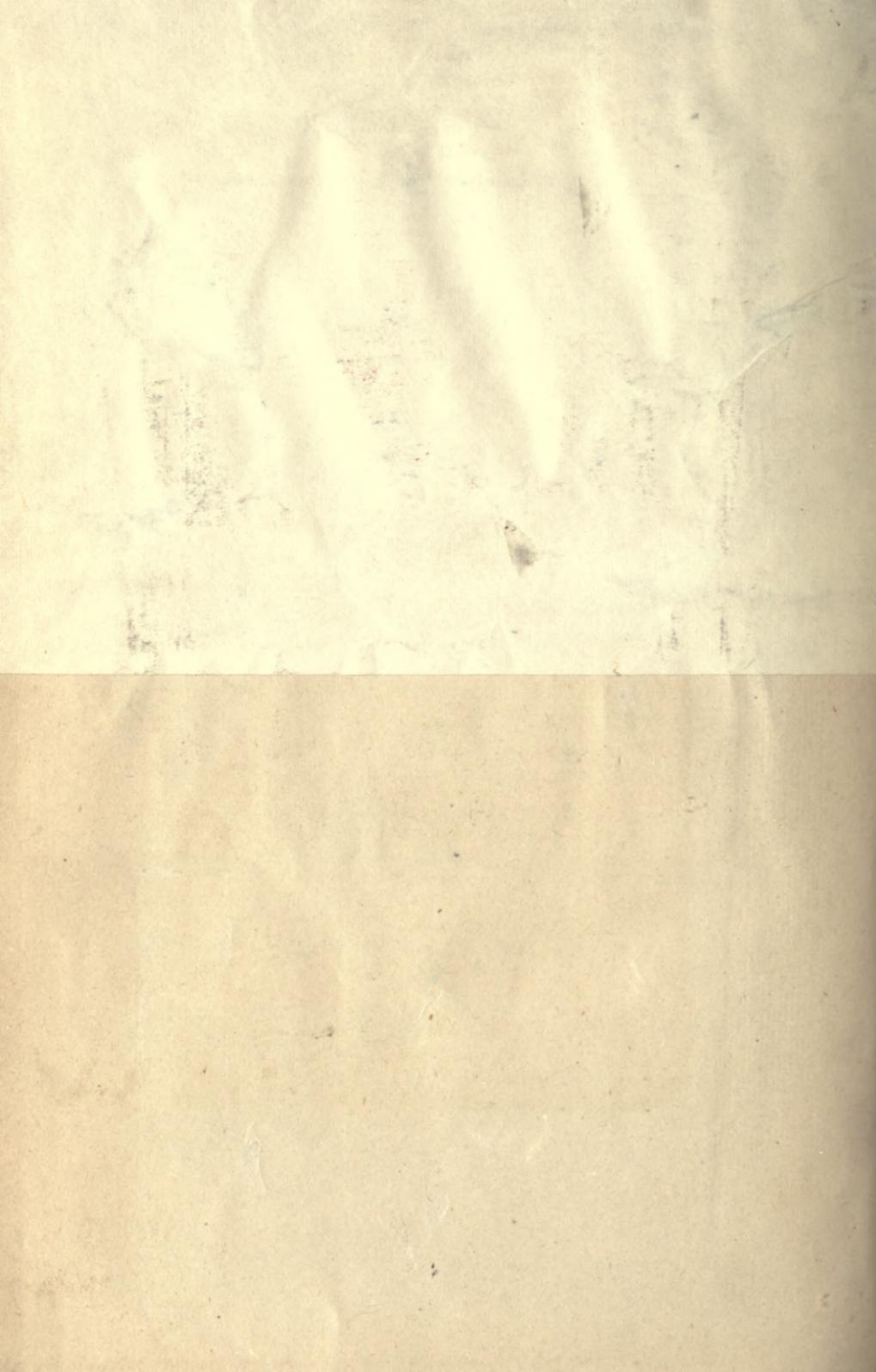
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