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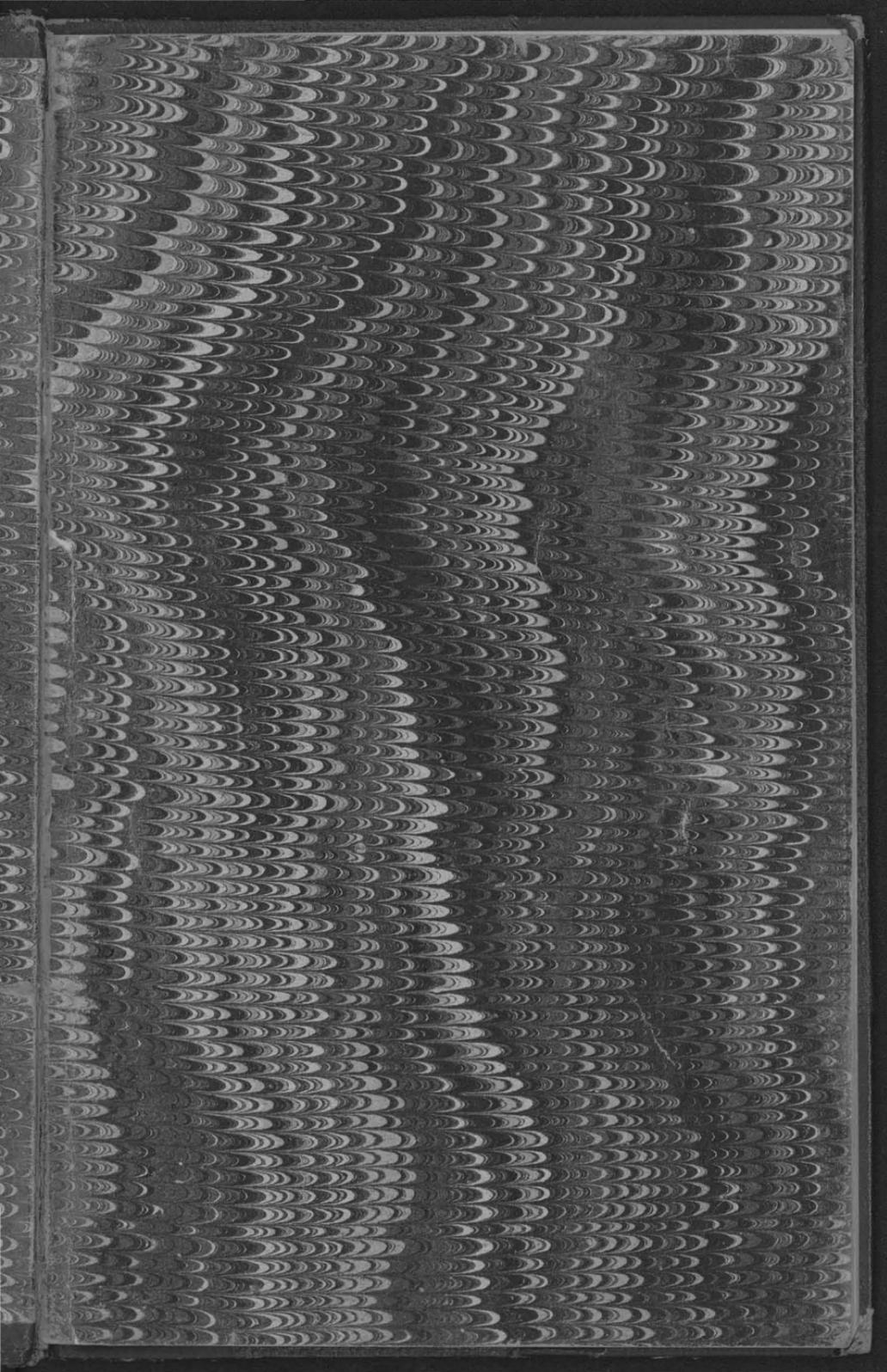
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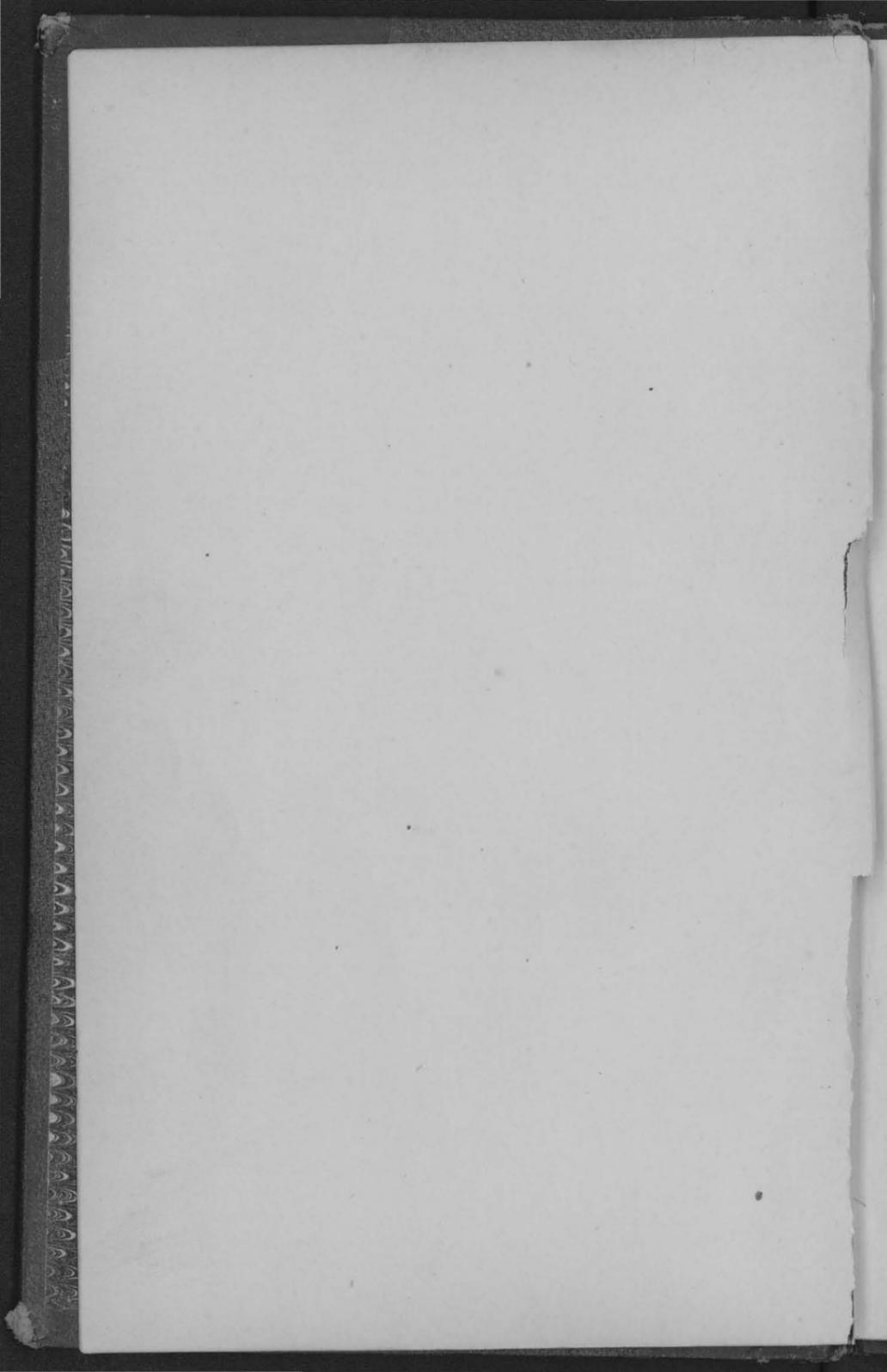
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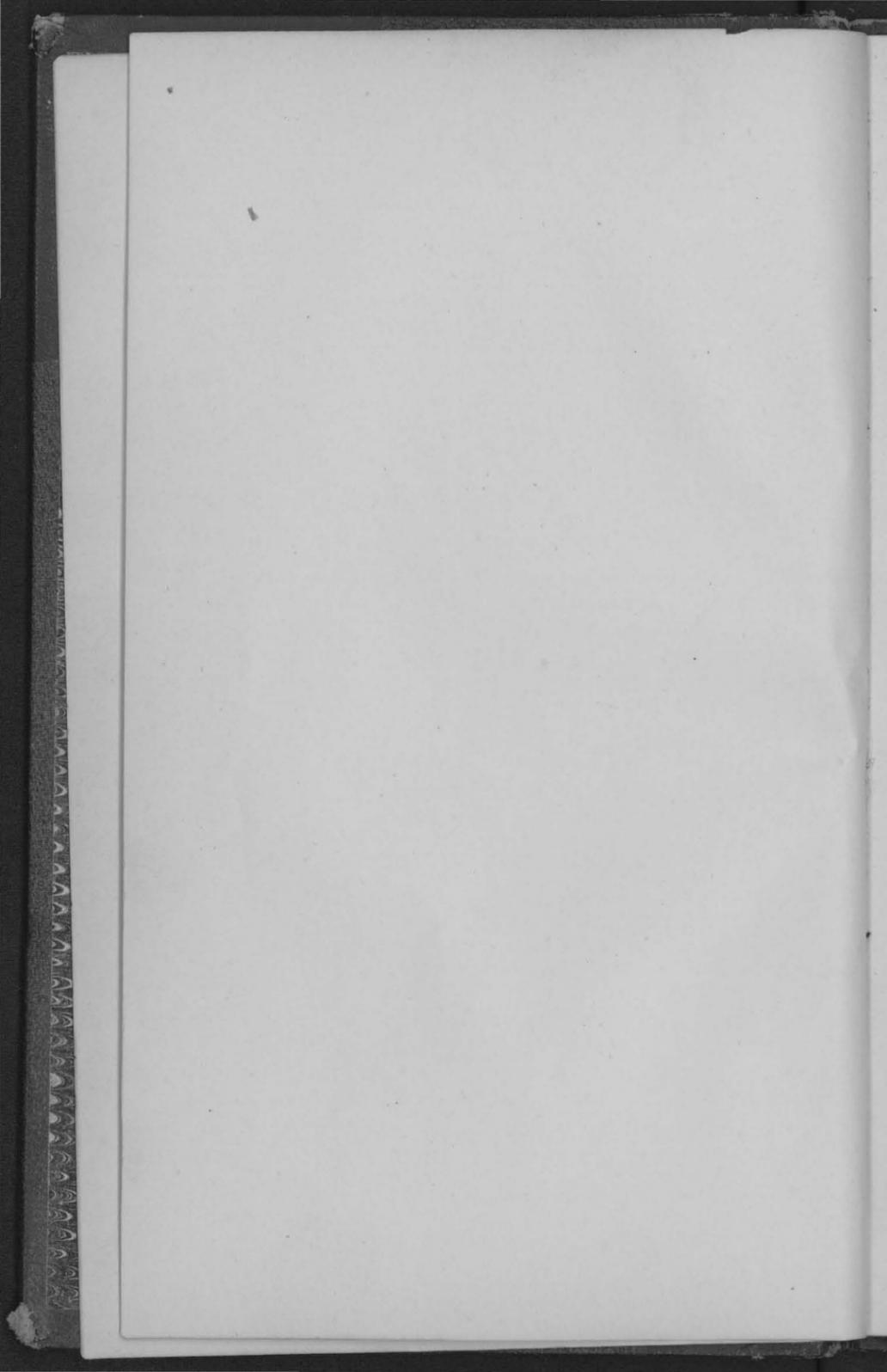
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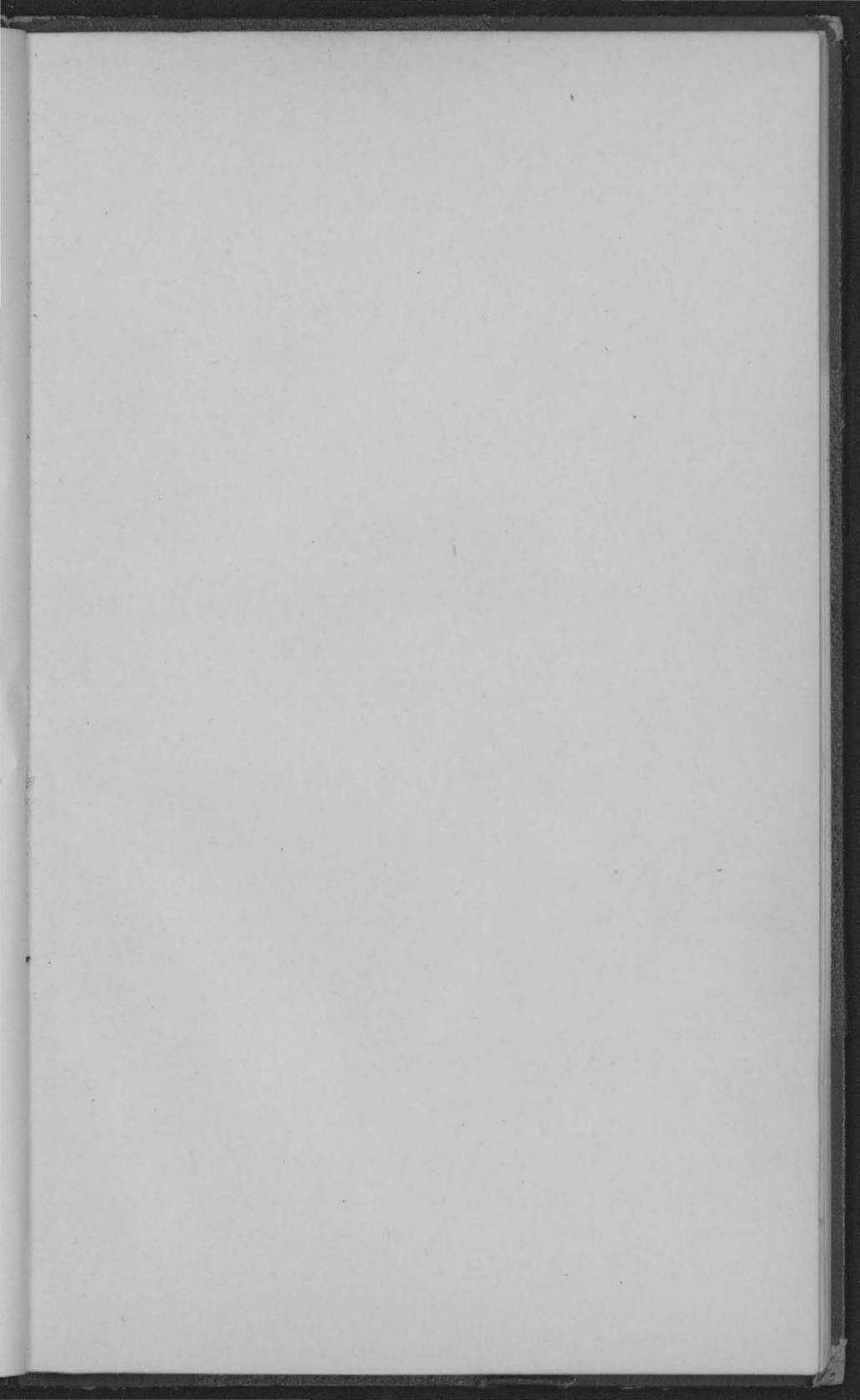
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

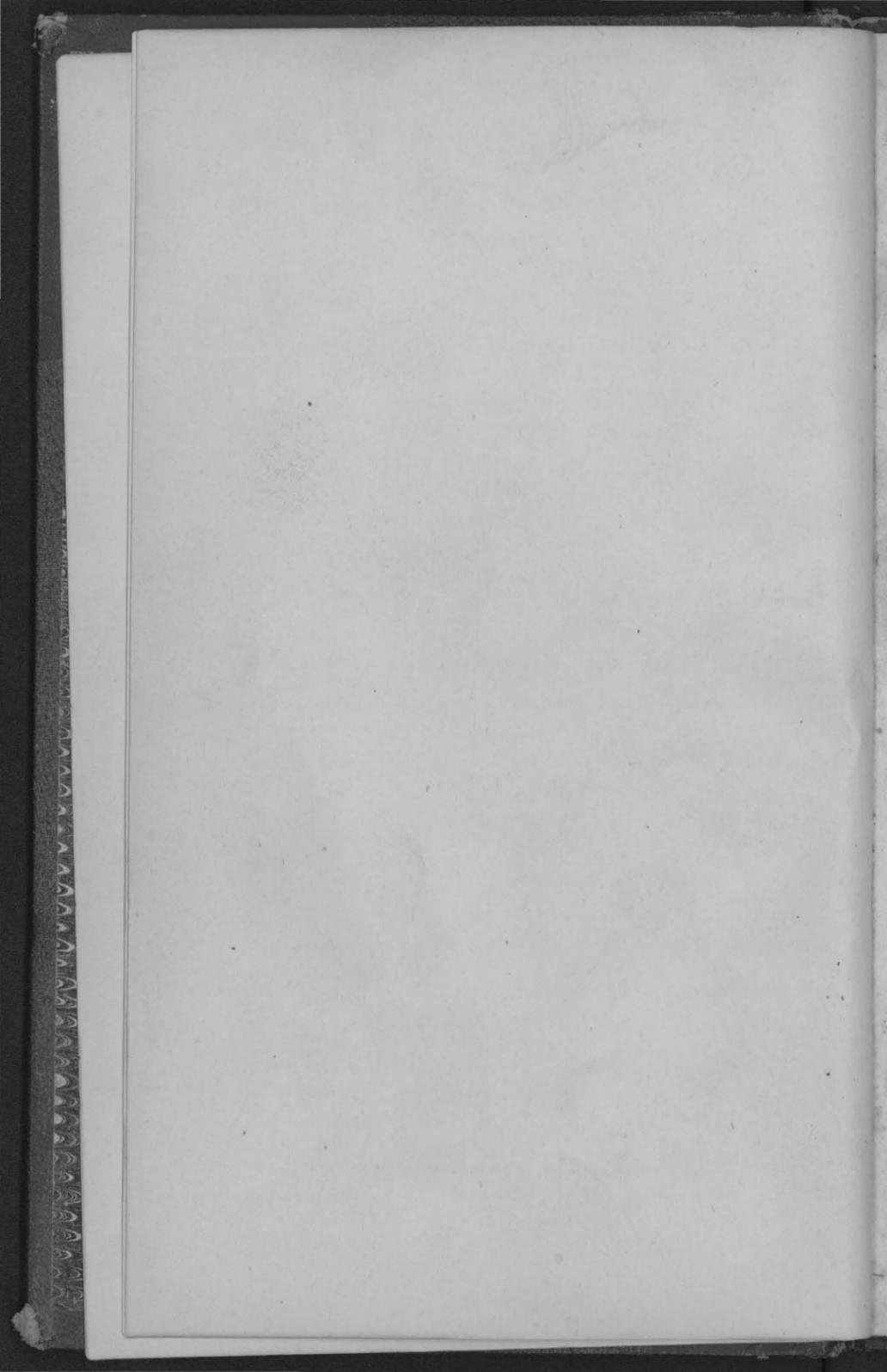












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Plattsburgh Republican,—*Extra*

THE BATTLE OF PLATTSBURGH,
11th SEPTEMBER, 1814.

AN ACCOUNT

OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE

ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE
OF PLATTSBURGH,

BY THE CITIZENS OF PLATTSBURGH

AND THE

CLINTON COUNTY MILITARY ASSOCIATION,

SEPTEMBER 11, 1843.



PLATTSBURGH: *N.Y.*

R. G. STONE,—REPUBLICAN OFFICE.

.....
1843.

m. G. W.
G. O. C.

POSITION OF THE GRAVES,

With the Inscriptions on the Monuments erected September 11, 1843.

Lieut.
Geo. W. RUNK.
6th Regt. U.S.A.
8th Sept. 1814.

Colonel
WILLINGTON,
3d Regt. Buffs,
B. Army.
6th Sept. 1814.

Ensign
Jno. GHAPMAN,
3d Buffs,
B. Army.
6th Sept. 1814.

Lieut.
Peter Gamble,
U. S. N.
11th Sept. 1814.

Lieut.
John Stansbury,
U. S. N.
11th Sept. 1814.

Sailing Master
Rogers Carter,
U. S. N.
11th Sept. 1814.

Midshipman
Ja's M. Baldwin,
U. S. N.
11th Sept. 1814.

Pilot
Joseph Barron,
Ship Saratoga.
11th Sept. 1814.

SACRED.
to the memory of
GEORGE DOWNIE, Esq.
A Post Captain in the Royal Brit. Navy,
who gloriously fell on board
His B. M S. the Confidence,
while leading the vessels
under his command
to the attack of the American Flotilla,
at anchor in Cumberland Bay,
off Plattsburgh,
on the 11th September, 1814.
To mark the spot where the remains
of a gallant officer and sincere friend
were honorably interred, this stone
has been erected by his
affectionate Sister-in-Law,
MARY DOWNIE.

Boatswain
Charles Jackson,
B. Navy.
11th Sept. 1814.

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Capt.
Purchase,
76th Regt.
B. Army.
11th Sept. 1814.

Alex. Anderson,
Capt. Marines,
B. Navy.
11th Sept. 1814.

Acting Lieut.
William Paul,
B. Navy,
11th Sept. 1814.

Midshipman
William Gunn,
B. Navy,
11th Sept. 1814.

AEB 27/2/11

CELEBRATION, &c.

At a meeting of the CLINTON COUNTY MILITARY ASSOCIATION, held on the 21st of August, 1843, it was, on motion of Major A. A. PRESCOTT,

Resolved, That this Association do celebrate, in some appropriate manner, the Anniversary of the Battle of Plattsburgh, on the eleventh of September next.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with the Trustees of the Village, and make arrangements for the Celebration.

Maj. Gen. SKINNER, Brig. Gen. HALSEY and Col. MOORE, were appointed said committee.

The following named gentlemen were duly appointed a committee on the part of the citizens to confer with the committee of the Military Association in making the necessary arrangements for the proper celebration of the day:—

WILLIAM F. HAILE, MOSES K. PLATT, D. B. McNEIL, C. S. MOOERS, R. A. GILMAN, G. M. BECKWITH, G. W. PALMER, S. COUCH, BENJ. KETCHUM, R. A. WEED, J. BAILEY, PETER S. PALMER, T. DEFORRIS, WILLIAM H. MORGAN, J. W. TUTTLE.

At a meeting of the Joint Committee of Arrangements, Col. D. B. McNEIL, (who was Acting Assistant Adjutant General of the Militia forces at Plattsburgh, in Sept., 1814,) was designated to act as President of the day, and the following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolved, That the citizens of Plattsburgh, in connection with such other persons as may unite with them, will on the 11th of September, instant, proceed to the erection of plain marble monuments to mark the several spots where rest the mortal remains of the American and British officers who fell at the memorable "Battle of Plattsburgh."

Resolved, That R. A. GILMAN, GEORGE MOORE, and ROBY G. STONE be a committee to procure the monuments and make the necessary arrangements to carry out the foregoing resolution.

Resolved, That Brig. Gen. WOOL, and Lt. Col. B. RILEY, of the U. S. Army, be requested to unite with the citizens and military of this place in the proposed celebration, and the erection of the monuments above mentioned.

Resolved, That Gen. SKINNER, Gen. HALSEY, and Col. R. G. STONE be the committee of invitation.

Resolutions were also passed inviting the U. S. Officers and troops stationed at this post, the surviving officers and soldiers of the regular army, the Clinton and Essex militia, and the Vermont volunteers who participated in the events of that time, to unite with us in the proposed celebration.

In accordance with the above arrangements, the Anniversary of the Battle of Plattsburgh was celebrated in an appropriate manner by the Clinton County Military Association and the citizens of

Plattsburgh and its vicinity generally, on Monday last. General WOOL and suite, and several other gentlemen who were in the battle of the 11th, were present by special invitation.

The procession was formed at Fouquet's Hotel at 10 o'clock, under the direction of Gen. C. HALSEY, Chief Marshal, assisted by Messrs. C. S. MOOERS, G. W. PALMER, and R. G. STONE, escorted by the U. S. Troops stationed at this post, under the command of Capt. C. A. WAITE, and moved to the Park in front of the Court House, where the Throne of Grace was addressed in an impressive manner by Rev. Mr. REED, after which an able and patriotic address was delivered by Col. A. C. MOORE, to a large and attentive audience of ladies and gentlemen, in which he alluded to all the principal events of the war, closing with the battle of New Orleans. We should be happy to give a synopsis of the address; but we understand a copy of it has been solicited for publication by the Committee of Arrangements, which will, we trust, soon be laid before the public.

After the address, the procession was again formed and moved to the burying ground, where a square was formed by the U. S. Troops and the Military Association around the unmarked graves of those who fell in the battle of Plattsburgh.

After a prayer by the Rev. Mr. WITHERSPOON, Gen. SKINNER addressed the assembled multitude nearly as follows:

"After the lapse of nearly one-third of a century since the important events we this day commemorate occurred, we are assembled on this hallowed spot, consecrated as the last resting-place of all that was mortal of those brave men who offered up their lives at the shrine of their country's glory, in defence of our homes, our families and our firesides. We have come up here on this interesting occasion, in the discharge of a patriotic and a holy duty—a duty, the performance of which, has been too long delayed. We come to do honor to the memory of a band of heroes: to bear proud testimony to their worth, and to rescue from oblivion their heroic actions.

"If the spirits of the illustrious dead are permitted to re-visit the scenes of earth, may we not believe that the venerated shades of the courageous and prayerful McDONOUGH, the gallant and courteous MACOMB, and our own brave and excellent MOOERS, who led the American forces to battle and to victory, over the combined land and naval forces of a mighty nation, are at this moment hovering over us—yes, are moving in our midst, and uniting with us in

our labor of love and patriotism? If this be so, then may we be well assured that our labor shall not be unrequited.

"No longer now shall the passing stranger in vain desire to know the number, and the names, and the resting-places of those gallant heroes who fell on Lake Champlain, and on its shores, battling in the service of the Republic against the hostile invasion of the hosts of Great Britain. No longer shall the widowed mother—the bereaved sister—the mourning father or brother, seek in vain the resting-place of the loved relative, in battle slain.

"Here they may seek, and here they will find, inscribed on plain marble monuments standing at the head of their respective graves, the names of Lieutenant PETER GAMBLE, Lieutenant JOHN STANSBURY, Sailing Master ROGERS CARTER, Midshipman JAMES M. BALDWIN, and Pilot JOSEPH BARRON of the United States Navy, and Lieutenant GEORGE W. RUNK of the 6th Regiment United States Infantry. They need no other monumental inscription to blazon forth their virtues and their heroic actions: these are engraven upon the hearts of their countrymen, and the glorious victory which was sealed with their blood, forms one of the brightest pages of American history. Here now the hand of affection may plant the box-wood and the pine, and the eye of love may water them with its tears, and the work will be completed.

"While we thus rear these simple monuments to mark the resting-places—while we thus bear proud testimony to the worth and valor of our own brave countrymen, we do not forget what is due to the memory of the vanquished whose life-blood dyed the waters of our now peaceful Lake, or was swallowed up by the thirsty earth. They fell gallantly fighting under the flag of their own country, against those by whose sides their ashes are now peacefully reposing.

"In perpetuating the memory and resting-place of the commander of the British fleet, 'who gloriously fell while leading the vessels under his command to the attack of the American flotilla,' and whose remains are here entombed, we have been anticipated by a sister's love, who long since caused the name of 'GEORGE DOWNIE, a Post-Captain in the British Navy' to be inscribed on yonder monument. It is, however, left for us, by these simple memorials, which we now rear, to point out to their countrymen where lie interred his brethren in arms, who, with him, found honorable graves in a foreign land. We tell them that this is the grave of Colonel WILLINGTON, of the 3d Buffs of the British Army—that the one

by his side is the 'narrow house' of a Lieutenant of the same Regiment—they fell almost at the same moment, at the head of the British column, while advancing against the American forces on the morning of the 6th of September, 1814, at Culver's Hill—they 'slept together at its foot,' in one grave, until a soldier's kindred feeling prompted the chivalrous WORTH, then a Major commanding this Military Post, to cause their remains to be disinterred and placed with this group of worthies. We tell them that this is the last resting place of Capt. PURCHASE of the 76th British Regiment, who fell on the plains south of the Saranac, on the 11th of September—that by his side, and on his left, are the graves of a Captain of Marines, a Lieutenant and a Midshipman of the British Navy, who fell on the same day, on board the British vessels, in the sanguinary conflict which took place between the American and British fleets. More we cannot—more we need not say. The record of their services—their valor and their worth, is with their countrymen. By them, their epitaphs must be written.

'Sweet sleep the brave who for their country die.'

Col. McNEIL then said—

"FELLOW CITIZENS:—The President of the day has designated our distinguished guest, Brigadier General WOOL, of the United States Army, who commanded the detachment of American regular troops opposed to that division of the British Army which advanced upon Plattsburgh by the Beekmantown road, on the 6th of September, 1814, to erect a monument at the head of the grave of Col. WILLINGTON of the 3d Regiment of British Buffs, who gallantly fell at the head of his Regiment at Curver's Hill, on the Beekmantown road, in the memorable battle of the 6th of September, 1814.

"The division of the British Army in which the brave and lamented WILLINGTON fell, was not less than 4000 strong; and when we take into view the fact that General WOOL, (then a Major,) with a light corps of but 250 regular troops, all told, contested every inch of ground with this formidable force in their descent upon Plattsburgh, the selection of General WOOL to perform the melancholy duty assigned to him, cannot fail to give deep interest to the solemn occasion which brought us together upon this hallowed spot. Nothing can be more appropriate than that the monument about to be erected should be raised by the hand of an officer who bore an honorable and conspicuous part in the events of the memorable day on which the gallant WILLINGTON fell. It is a pleas-

ing spectacle to see the living brave doing honor to the memory of the illustrious dead."

Gen. Wool proceeded to discharge the duty assigned him, and said:
"FELLOW-CITIZENS AND SOLDIERS:

"The duty assigned me by the President of the day, in behalf of the citizens of Plattsburgh and the Military Association of the County of Clinton, is no less gratifying to me than it is honorable and magnanimous to its authors, and will furnish an example worthy of imitation for all time to come. It is not less a holy and pious offering to the illustrious dead, than the offspring of noble and generous hearts to a fallen foe, and will furnish themes of praise to the end of time. It will be a healing balm to the wounded hearts of relatives and friends—whilst, it will not fail to call forth from every Briton who passes this consecrated spot, tears of gratitude as well as tears of sympathy.

"With these brief remarks, I now erect, in behalf of the citizens of Plattsburgh and the Military Association of Clinton County, this monument to the memory of Colonel WILLINGTON, who fell the 6th of September, 1814, at Culver's Hill, leading to the charge the advance of the British army marching on Plattsburgh."

The President of the day said:

"FELLOW-CITIZENS: Our esteemed fellow-citizen, Judge HAILE, late a Captain in the United States Army, will now proceed to place monuments at the respective graves of Captain PURCHASE, late of the British Army, Lieut. RUNK, late of the 6th Regiment United States Infantry, and a British Lieutenant, late of the 3d Buffs, (name unknown.)

The President of the day, in designating Judge HAILE to perform the duty assigned to him, did so from a full knowledge of the fact, that no officer of his rank ever left the army of the United States with a higher and more enviable reputation as a fearless and fighting officer, than did Captain HAILE.

Judge HAILE proceeded to the duty assigned him, with suitable remarks.

The President of the day then said:

"FELLOW-CITIZENS: To Col.'s MILLER and MANLY, and Maj. Gen. SKINNER, all of whom bore a distinguished part in the battles of Beekmantown and Plattsburgh, is assigned the honor of erecting monuments to the memory of Lieutenant PETER GAMBLE, United States Navy, JOHN STANSBURY, U. S. Navy, and Midshipman JAMES M. BALDWIN, U. S. Navy."

The gentlemen above mentioned proceeded to discharge the duty assigned them, accompanied by appropriate remarks.

The President said—

“To our esteemed fellow-citizen, PLATT R. HALSTED, Esq., late a Lieutenant in the United States Army, I assign the honor of placing monuments at the graves of three Lieutenants of the British Navy, (names unknown,) JOSEPH BARRON, Pilot on board Commodore McDONOUGH’S ship, and a British Boatswain, whose name is not ascertained—all of whom fell in the naval engagement in Cumberland Bay, off Plattsburgh, on the 11th of September, 1814.

“JOSEPH BARRON, Pilot, was personally known to Lieut. HALSTED and myself, and was a man held in high estimation for his intelligence and patriotism by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.”

Lieut. HALSTED, in the discharge of the duty assigned him, erected the monuments at the head of the graves of the three Lieutenants of the British Navy, and proceeded to the grave of JOSEPH BARRON, and, as near as we could catch his remarks, spoke as follows :

“I take a melancholy pleasure in erecting this monument at the head of the grave of JOSEPH BARRON, Commodore McDonough’s confidential Pilot. I knew him well—he was about my own age—we were school boys together—a warmer hearted or a braver man never trod the deck of a ship.”

Lieut. SPRINGER, late of the U. S. Army, was designated by the President of the day, to erect the monument at the head of the grave of Sailing Master ROGERS CARTER, U. S. Navy, and proceeded to discharge that duty.

A benediction was then pronounced by Rev. Mr. Witherspoon, and the procession returned to Fouquet’s Hotel, where the committee of arrangements, the invited guests and the Military Association partook of an excellent dinner, got up in Fouquet’s best style.

After the cloth was removed, the President of the day rose and addressed the company as follows :

“MR. VICE PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN :—We are assembled around the festive board to celebrate an event which, in its results, was of vast importance to the whole country, and particularly so to this section of it ; an event, too, which shed lasting glory upon the American arms.

“Twenty-nine years ago to-day, all that part of Clinton County north of the river Saranac, was in possession of the most numerous and well-ordered army that ever invaded our country at any one point.

“On that day of deep and intense anxiety, a simultaneous movement was made by the British forces on the land and water—the object of which was, the capture of our fleet, then lying at anchor

in Cumberland Bay, and the destruction of our land defences this side of the Saranac.

“The brave and lamented McDONOUGH, after a protracted and bloody engagement with the hostile fleet, against fearful odds in men and metal, achieved a brilliant victory in the capture of the whole British flotilla, save a few gun boats that escaped by flight.

“Nor were the British forces more fortunate in their operations upon the land. The troops, who were ordered by the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces to storm our fortifications, were composed of the boasted veterans of Portugal, France and Spain, and were diverted from their object by the militia forces under the command of our brave and lamented fellow citizen, Maj. Gen. MOOERS, aided by the brave Vermont Volunteers. When the sun arose upon us on the morning of the 12th of September, 1814, not a single British soldier (save the prisoners captured by us) was to be seen this side of Chazy corners. The enemy’s encampment was broken up on the night of the 11th, and 14,000 troops, said to be the flower of the British army, had ingloriously fled under the cover of night, and by about noon the next day, had passed beyond latitude 45.

“But, Mr. Vice President, we are as ready now as we were then, to acknowledge that we were sustained, upon that trying occasion, by the same overruling Providence who so signally stood by and sustained Washington and his compatriots in arms in the darkest hours of the Revolutionary War—a war which resulted in our independence as a nation.

“But, gentlemen, I did not rise for the purpose of making a speech, but to discharge a duty which the occasion calls for, and which I owe to the memory of a distinguished and deceased friend, to whose staff I belonged in 1814, and with whom I had the honor to serve in the Battles of Beekmantown and Plattsburgh. It is scarcely necessary for me to tell you that I allude to the late Maj. General MOOERS.

“Gentlemen, I give you—

The memory of Major General MOOERS, the Hero of two Wars—He acted well his part in the battle field, and faithfully discharged his every duty as a citizen. His virtues and distinguished services are engraven upon the hearts of his countrymen.

To which sentiment Gen. SKINNER, (a son-in-law of the late Gen. MOOERS,) replied :—

“Allow me, Mr. President, to express the sincere and heartfelt thanks of the surviving members of the family, for the very flattering manner in which you have been pleased to allude to the gallant

public services and private worth of the distinguished individual you have just named. His public services were duly appreciated by his country—his private virtues endeared him to his family and a large circle of friends. But he has rendered up his last account. He has been gathered to his fathers,—as a shock of corn that is fully ripe is gathered into the garner,—and is now, as we humbly trust, reaping the rich rewards of a well-spent life.

“While thus paying respect to the memory of the illustrious dead, let us not forget the survivors who, on the occasion alluded to, bore a distinguished part in sustaining the honor of our country. Among the many prominent individuals who yet survive ‘to fight their battles o’er,’ (without in the least disparaging the valor and services of any other,) I know of no one who stands more preëminent for gallant conduct and noble bearing, on the Beekmantown road, on the morning of the 6th of September, 1814, or who is better entitled to be held in grateful remembrance by this community, than the individual I am about to name.

“He, sir, with a force of only 250 regular soldiers, with all the coolness and intrepidity which he had manifested on the Heights of Queenstown, and on many other occasions, there set an example of firmness to our inexperienced and undisciplined militia, which gave them confidence in themselves, and strongly impressed the enemy with the conviction that he would be obliged to *fight his way* to our works if he ever reached them.

“The Battle of Beekmantown, in my humble judgment, was vastly more important than has heretofore been supposed. It was certainly a harder fought battle than any other between the 5th and 11th of September. The loss also on both sides, in killed and wounded, was greater than at any other point, considering the number of troops engaged. For more than five miles the ground was literally contested inch by inch by this small party of regulars, with the gallant Wool at their head, aided by the brave and reassured militia, who rallied at the call of their General, and proudly sustained the honor of the American arms. More than 300 men were killed and wounded between Beekmantown and the Saranac. Had it not been for the resistance opposed to the enemy on this occasion, I have no doubt a portion of the British troops would have slept within the American works on the night of the 6th of September, 1814. The works at this time were not completed, and were incapable of resisting an attack. If the Light Brigade which came in on the Beekmantown road had followed our troops across the Sara-

nac, as they might have done with comparatively trifling loss, it is impossible to conjecture what would have been the final result upon the lake as well as on the shore. I am, however, admonished that I have occupied too much time, and will therefore beg leave to offer the following sentiment :

Brig. General WOOL, U. S. Army—The Hero of Beekmantown as well as of Queenstown—

“ His laurels are green, though his locks are gray.”

General WOOL, with much feeling, responded to this sentiment as follows :

Mr. PRESIDENT—I rise with a heart overflowing with gratitude to respond to the sentiment just given by my friend at the other end of the table. I find it impossible, however, filled as I am with emotion, to make a speech, or give utterance to my feelings in a manner worthy of the occasion. Were it otherwise, I could say but little that has not already been said. I might speak of the campaigns of 1812 and '13, which closed with the most gloomy forebodings. I might also speak of the campaigns of 1814, when the mantle of darkness was cast off, and a blaze of light shone forth along the frontier from Fort Erie to Plattsburgh, and finally closed, with a brilliancy seldom equalled, on the plains of New Orleans. But these periods have already been noticed and described in the most eloquent and stirring language. Therefore, little remains for me to add, could I give utterance to my feelings, but to express my warmest thanks for the kind partiality with which you have been pleased to allude to my services. I would, however, remark that although at one period of the war darkness and despondency appeared to pervade our beloved country, there was one bright spot exempt from the general gloom. It was here in this place, Plattsburgh, that the patriotic inhabitants never wavered nor quailed before the legions of Great Britain. They stood by their country in the darkest hour, and never failed to cheer and comfort the war-worn soldier, and to receive him with open arms whether he returned victorious, or was driven back by the force of circumstances. Who that was at Plattsburgh in 1812, '13 and '14, does not remember with delight MOOERS, SMITH, SAILLY, DELORD, BAILEY, PALMER and RANSOM, all patriotic citizens and devoted friends of their country in war as well as in peace, but who now rest in the mansions of eternal bliss. With these few remarks, Mr. President, I would offer this sentiment—

The Citizens of Plattsburgh and the Military Association of Clinton County—This day attests their magnanimity and greatness of soul, by the homage paid to the illustrious dead who fell fighting the battles of their country.

After dinner a number of the General's friends accompanied him to Beekmantown, to the place where the enemy were first encountered by the small corps of regulars under his command, and by the militia; and every position of our troops in the retreat from Beekmantown to this village, was pointed out.

This celebration will long be remembered by those who participated in the stirring scenes of 1814, and by the assembled hundreds, many of whom listened, perhaps for the first time, to a recital of the events of those days.

NOTE.

Since issuing the Republican of the 16th of September, containing an account of the proceedings of the celebration of the 11th, the Editor of the Montreal Gazette has kindly favored us with the names of the British officers who fell in the battle of the 11th of September, 1814. We therefore insert, in this edition, the names of those officers on the monuments, in their proper order. The Editor of the Gazette says :

"Having observed with regret that the generous and high-minded gentlemen so laudably engaged in erecting these monuments, were compelled, from their ignorance of the names of some of the British officers, to leave their labor unfinished, we have taken some trouble to supply the deficiency. From the London Gazettes of the 19th and 26th November, 1814, we have obtained the following lists of the British killed and wounded :—

ARMY.

Killed. 3d Buffs.—Captain (Brevet Lieut. Col.) James Willington; Ensign John Chapman. 76th Foot.—Captain John Purchase.

Wounded. General Staff.—Captain T. Crosse, A. D. C., slightly. 3d Buffs.—Lieut. R. Kingsbury,* severely (since dead); Lieut. John West, severely; Lieuts. Benson and Holmes, slightly. 58th Foot.—Captain L. Westropp, severely; Lt. C. Brohier, and Adj. Lewis, slightly.

ROYAL NAVY.

Killed. Confiance, 36 guns—George Downie, Captain; Alexander Anderson, Captain of Marines; William Gunn, Midshipman. Linnet, 18 guns—William Paul, Acting Lieut.; Charles Jackson, Boatswain.

Wounded. — Lee, Midshipman of Confiance; John Sinclair, Midshipman of Linnet; and James M'Ghee, Lieut. of the Club.

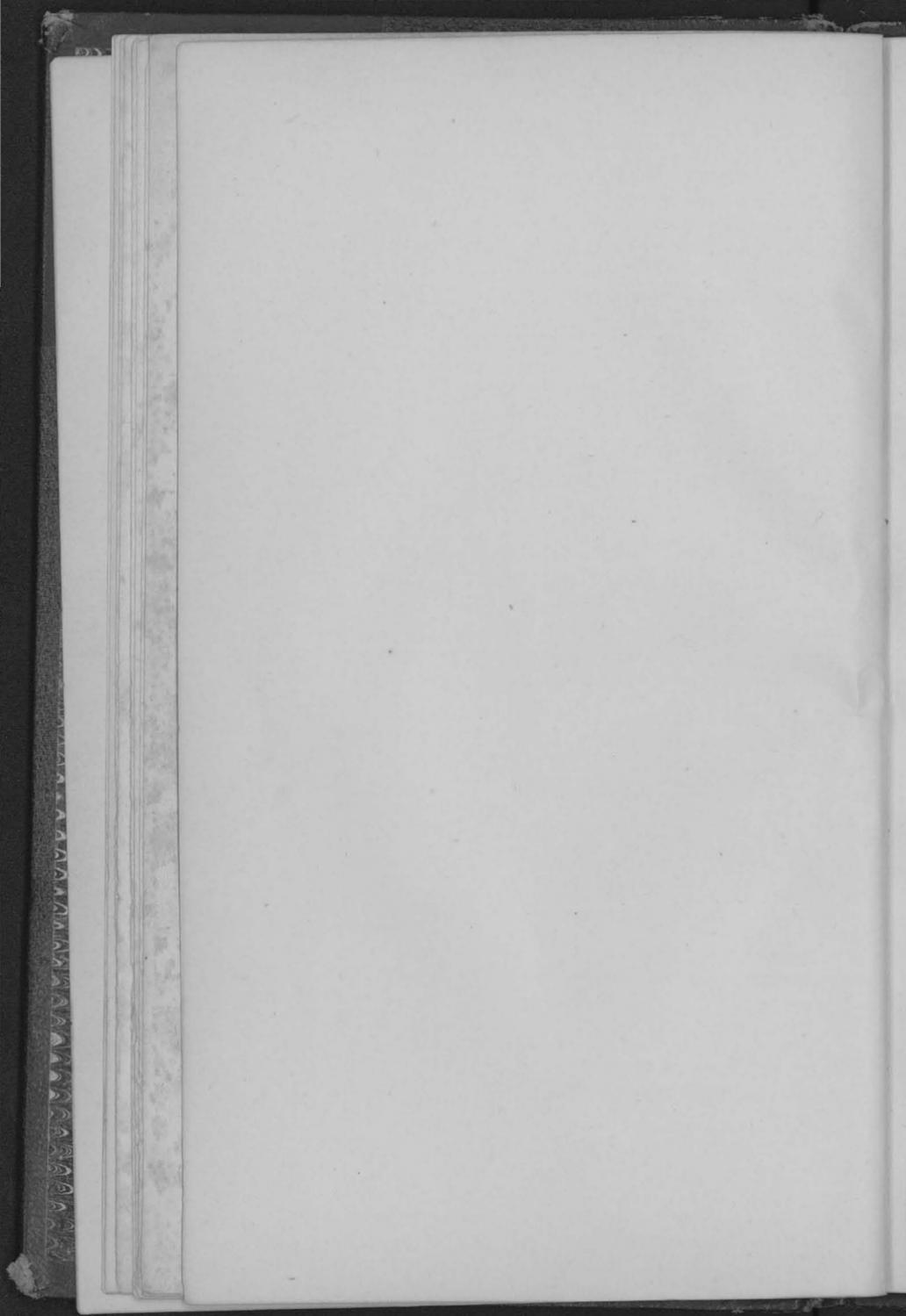
We trust that the information thus afforded the Committee at Plattsburgh may now enable them to complete the monuments."

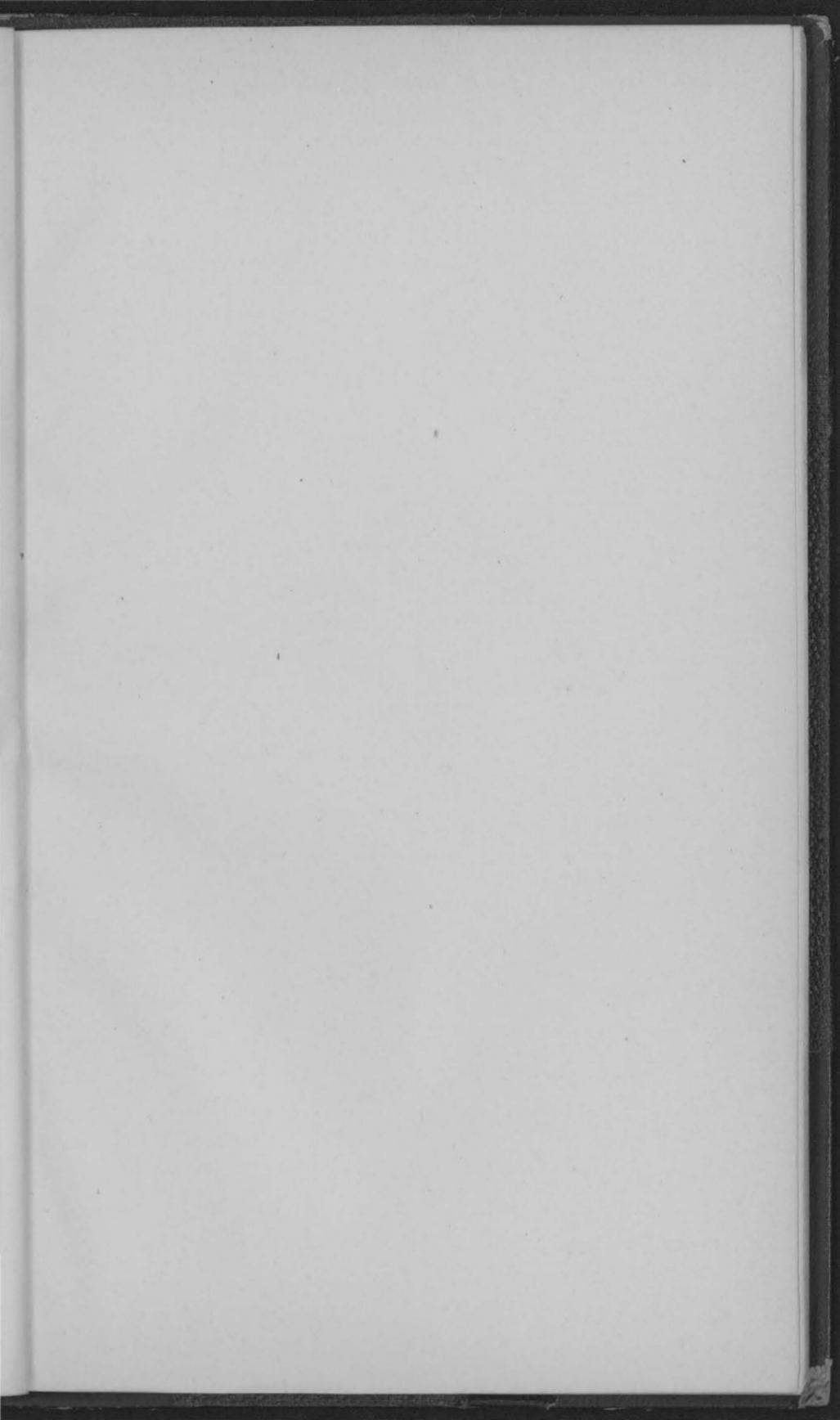
* Lieut. R. KINGSBURY, of the 3d Buffs, who was wounded on the Beekmantown Road, died at the residence of ISAAC C. PLATT, Esq., and was buried in his garden. This fact was not generally known until the present 11th of September, when it was mentioned to Gen. WOOL by Mr PLATT. We understand that Gen. WOOL has directed Capt. WAITE, commanding at this post, to have his remains removed to the burying ground, and interred on the left of Ensign JOHN CHAPMAN, of the British Army.

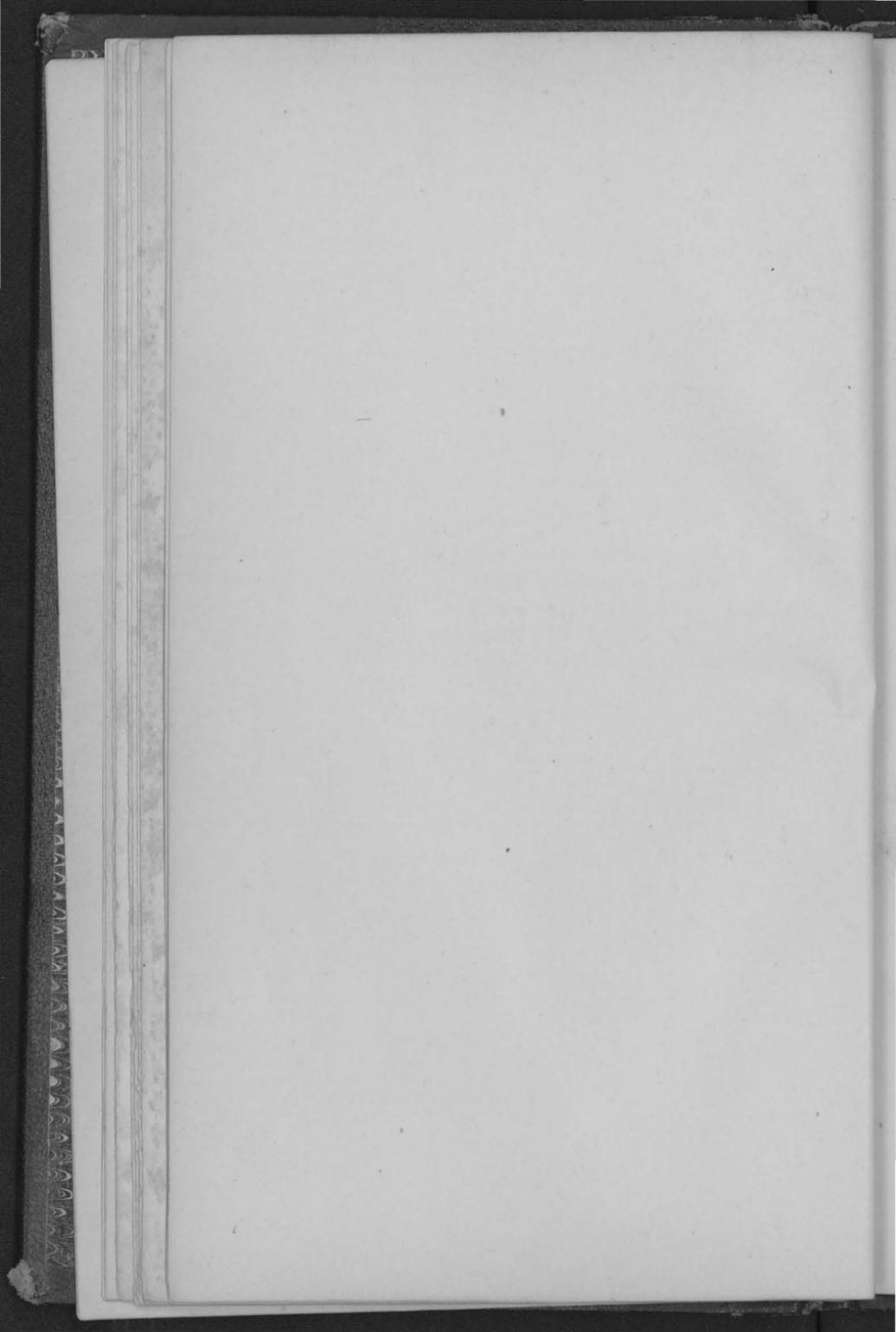
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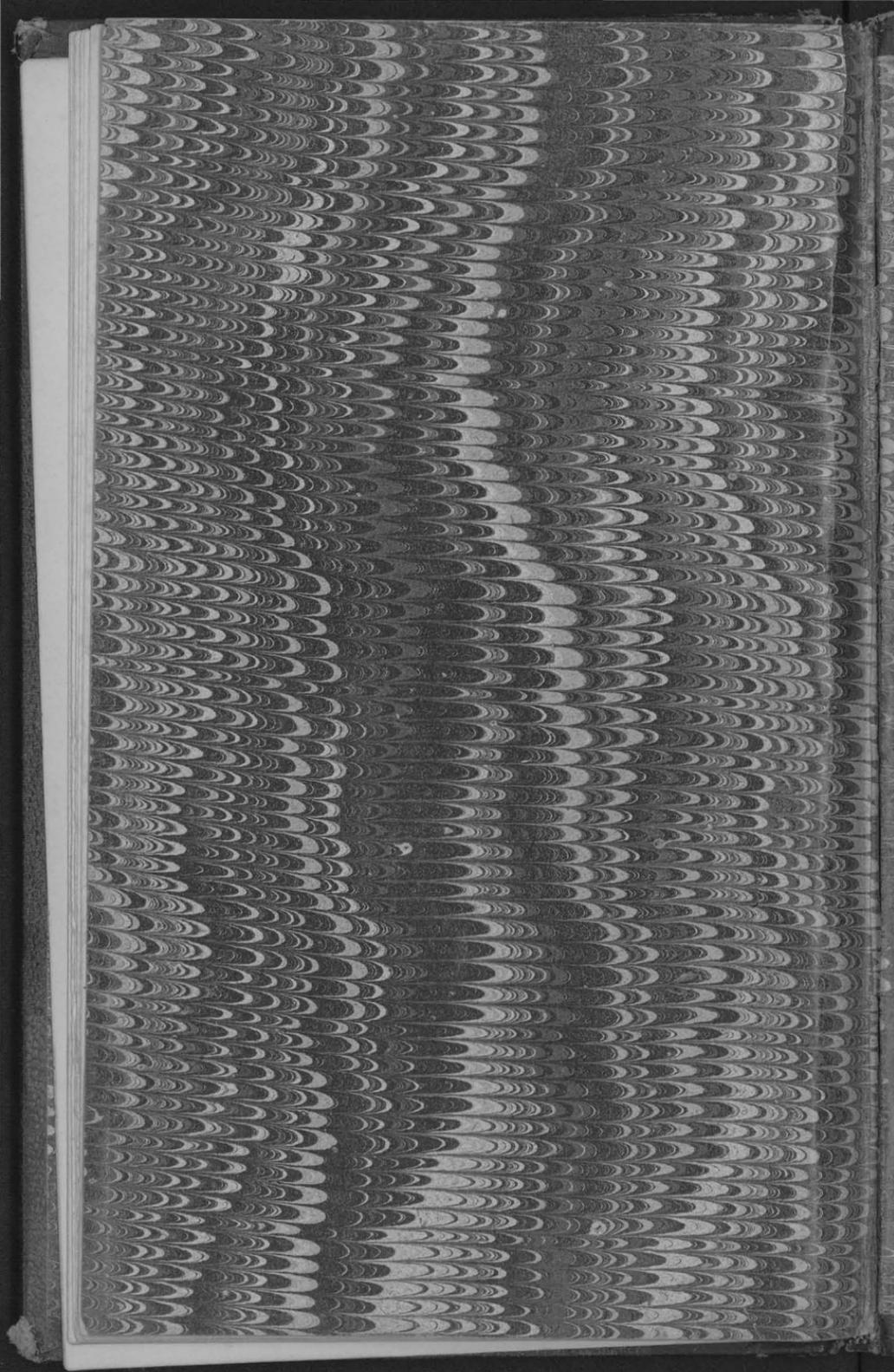


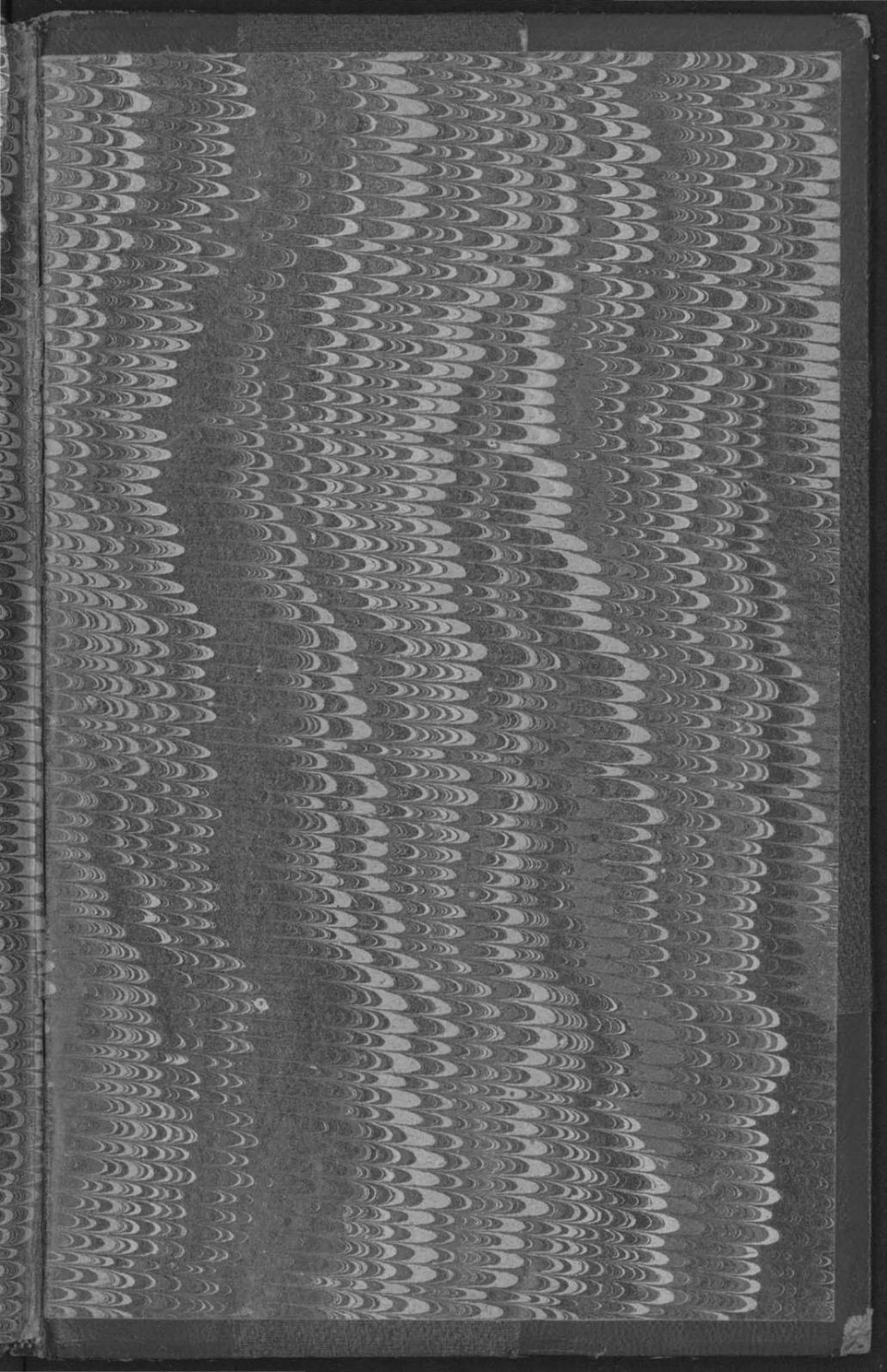












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