

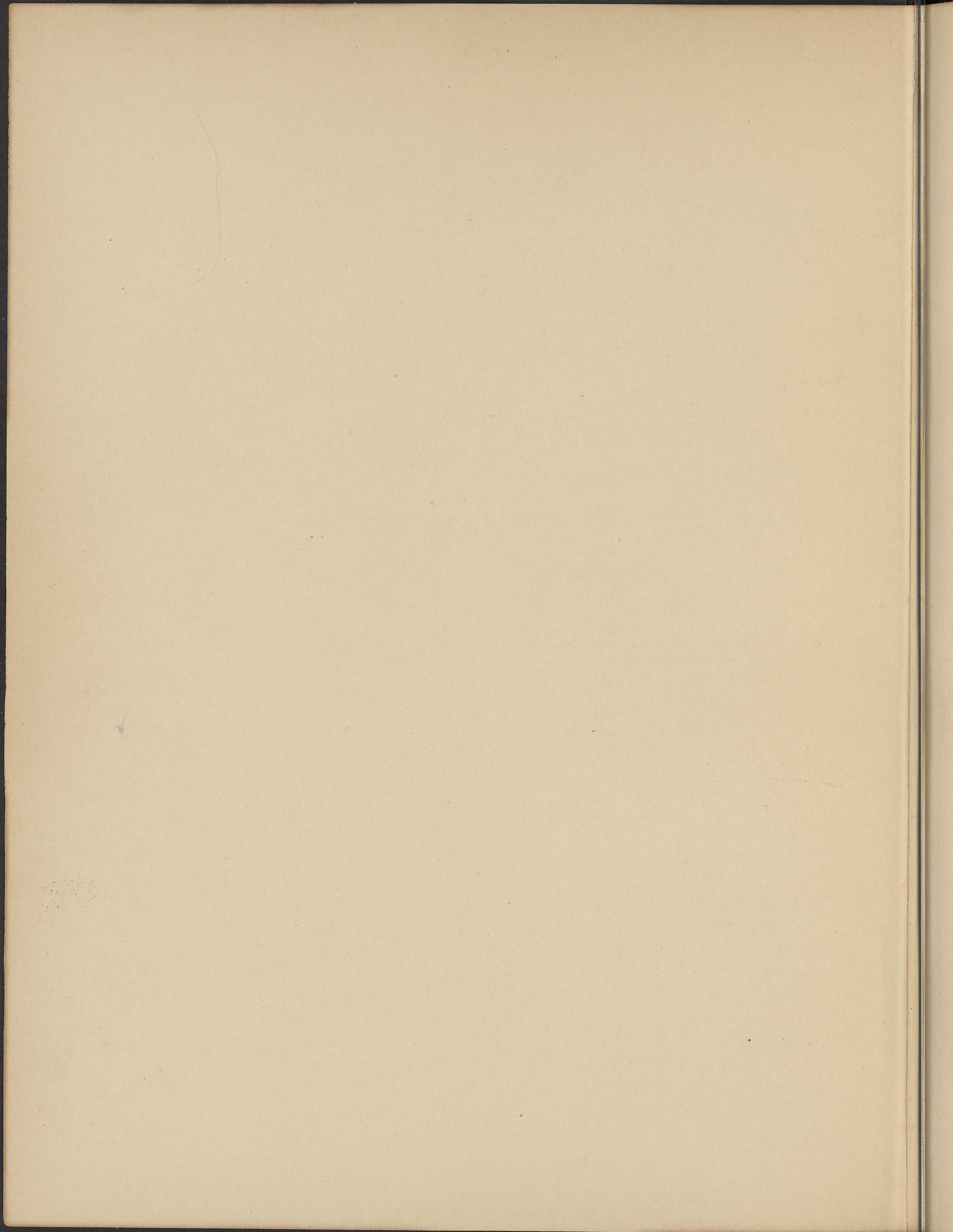
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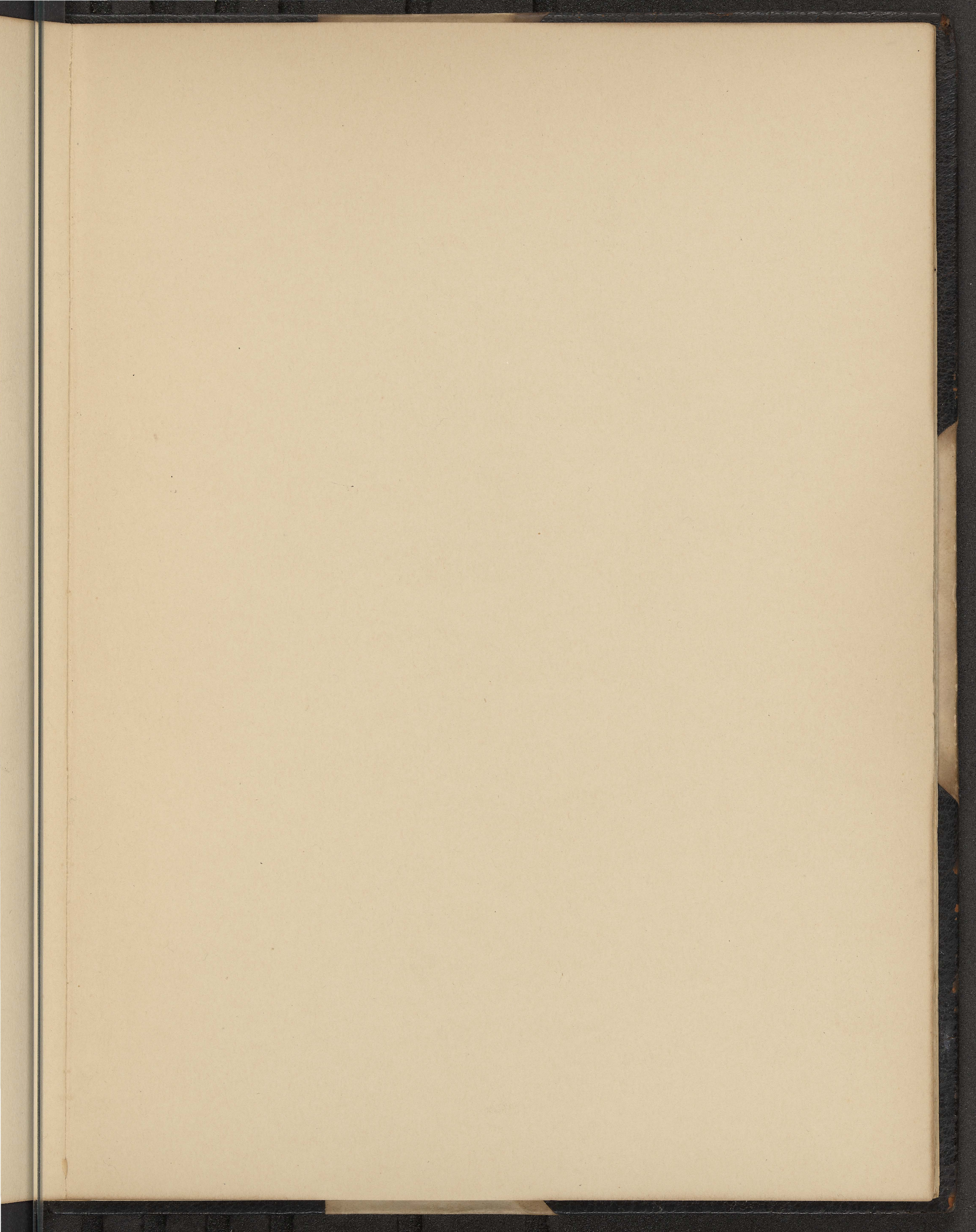
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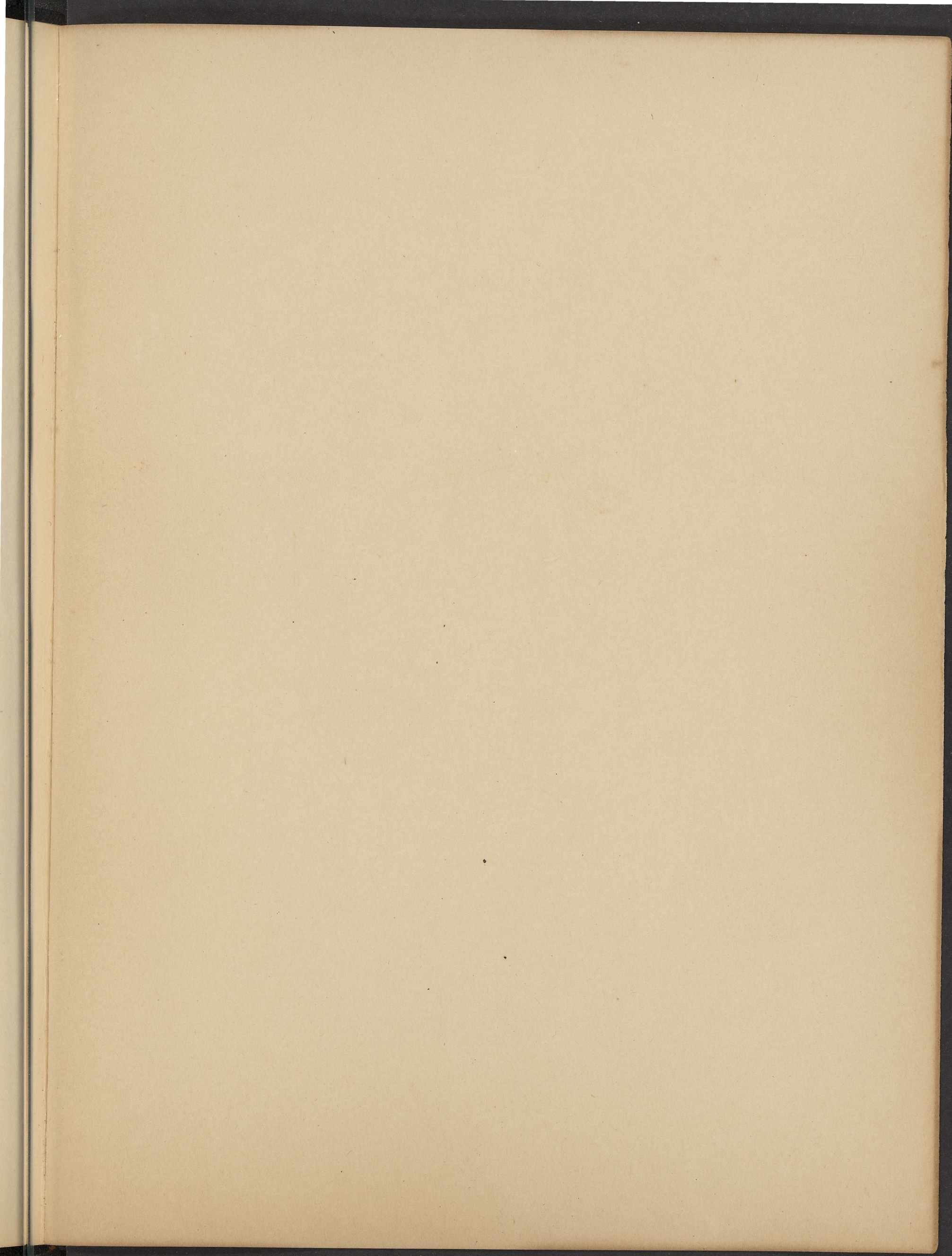
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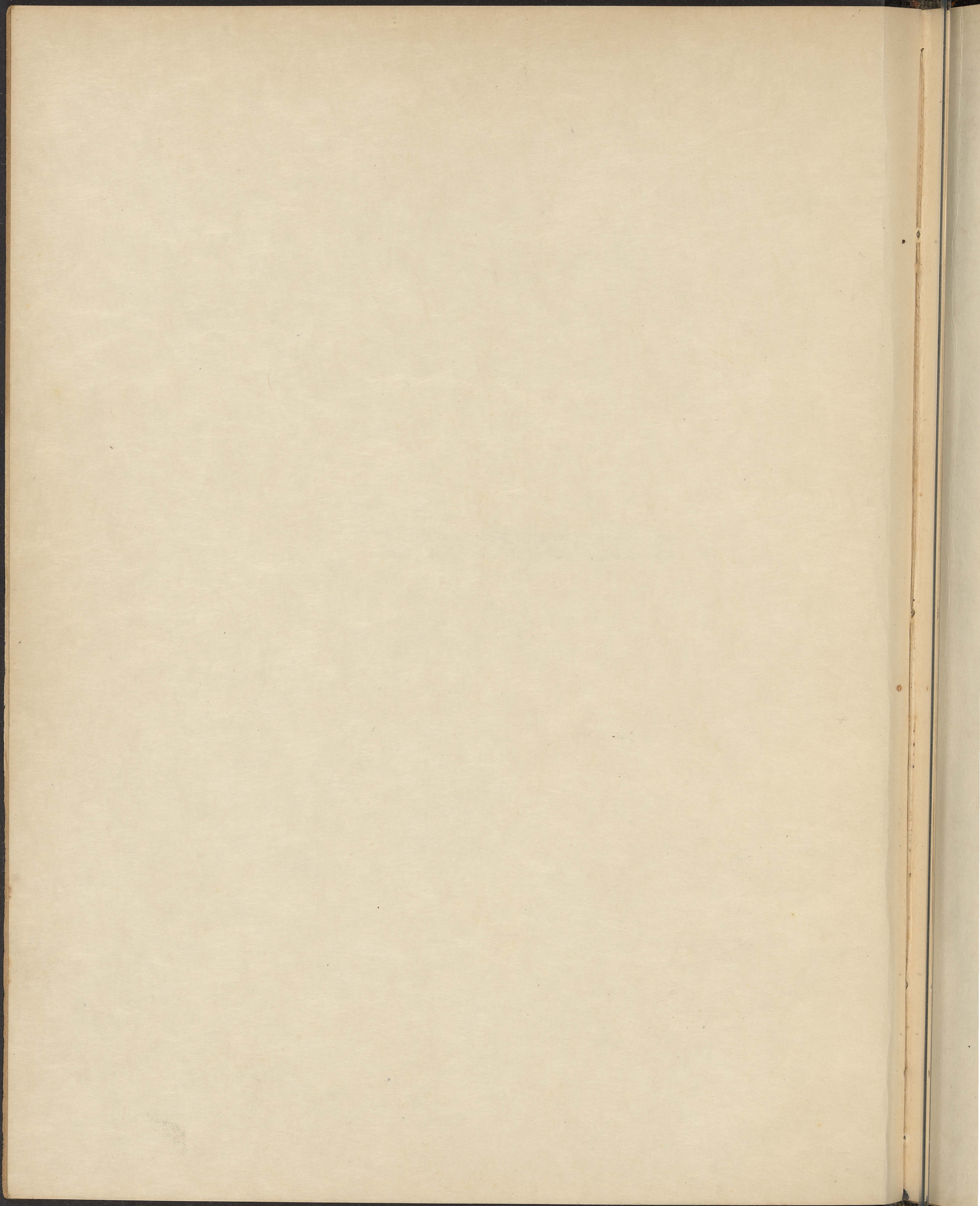
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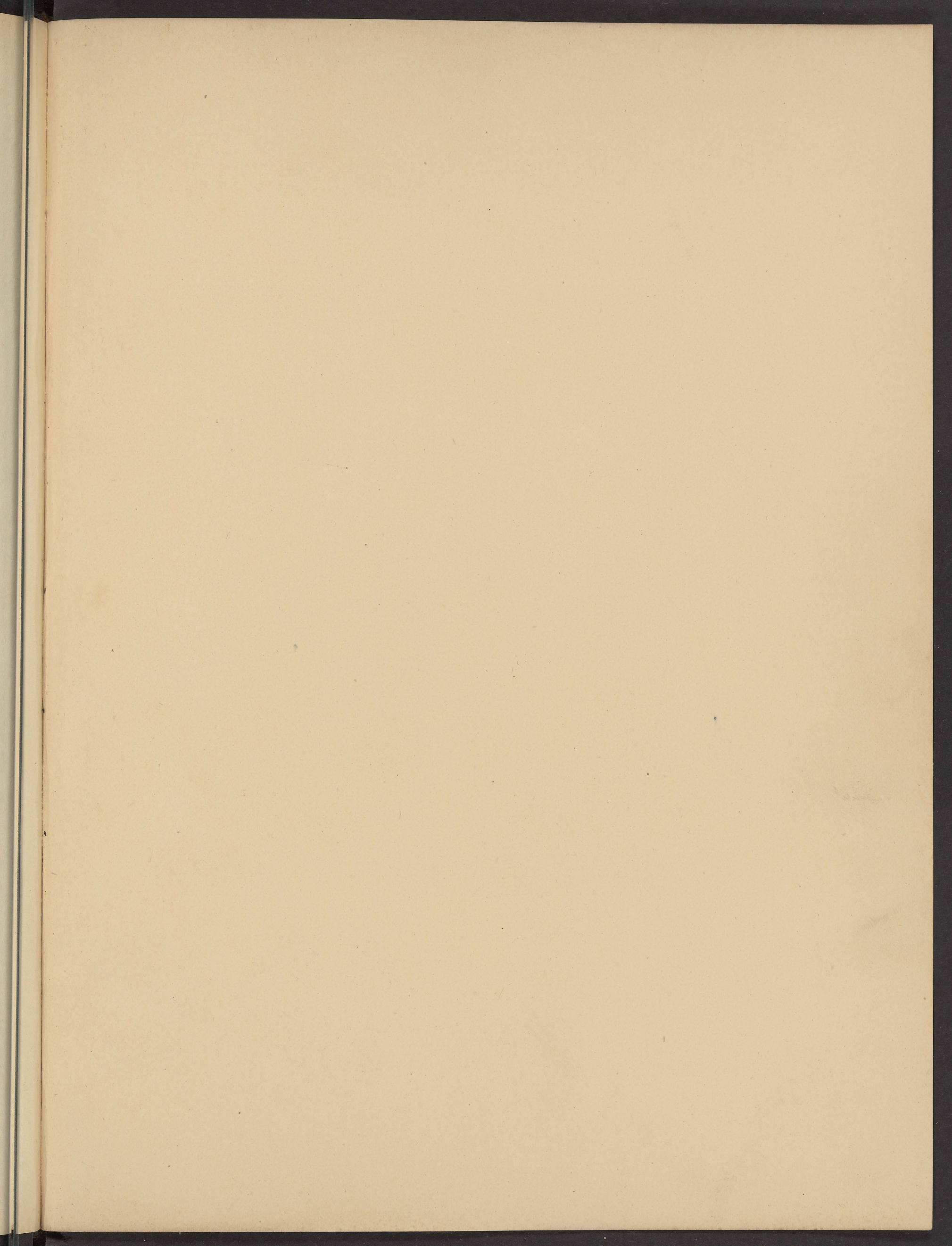
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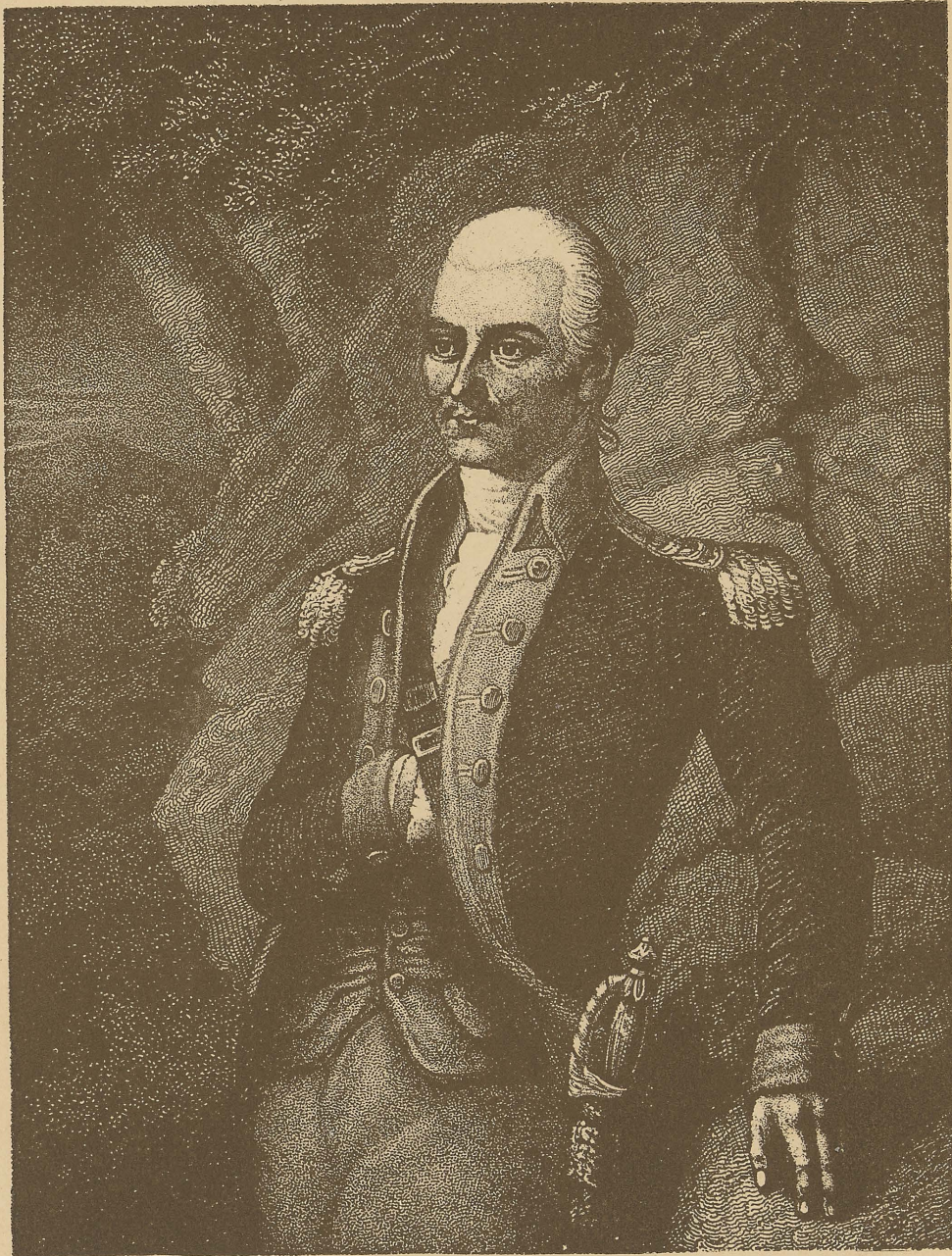


ELMER'S ELOGY
ON
BARBER

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Heartman's Historical Series No. 24





Engr^d by Stephⁿ H. Gimber from a Painting by Jas^s Herring taken from a Sketch by an Officer in the Army.

COLONEL FRANCIS BARBER U.S.A.

F. Barber

AN
ELOGY

ON

FRANCIS BARBER, Esq.

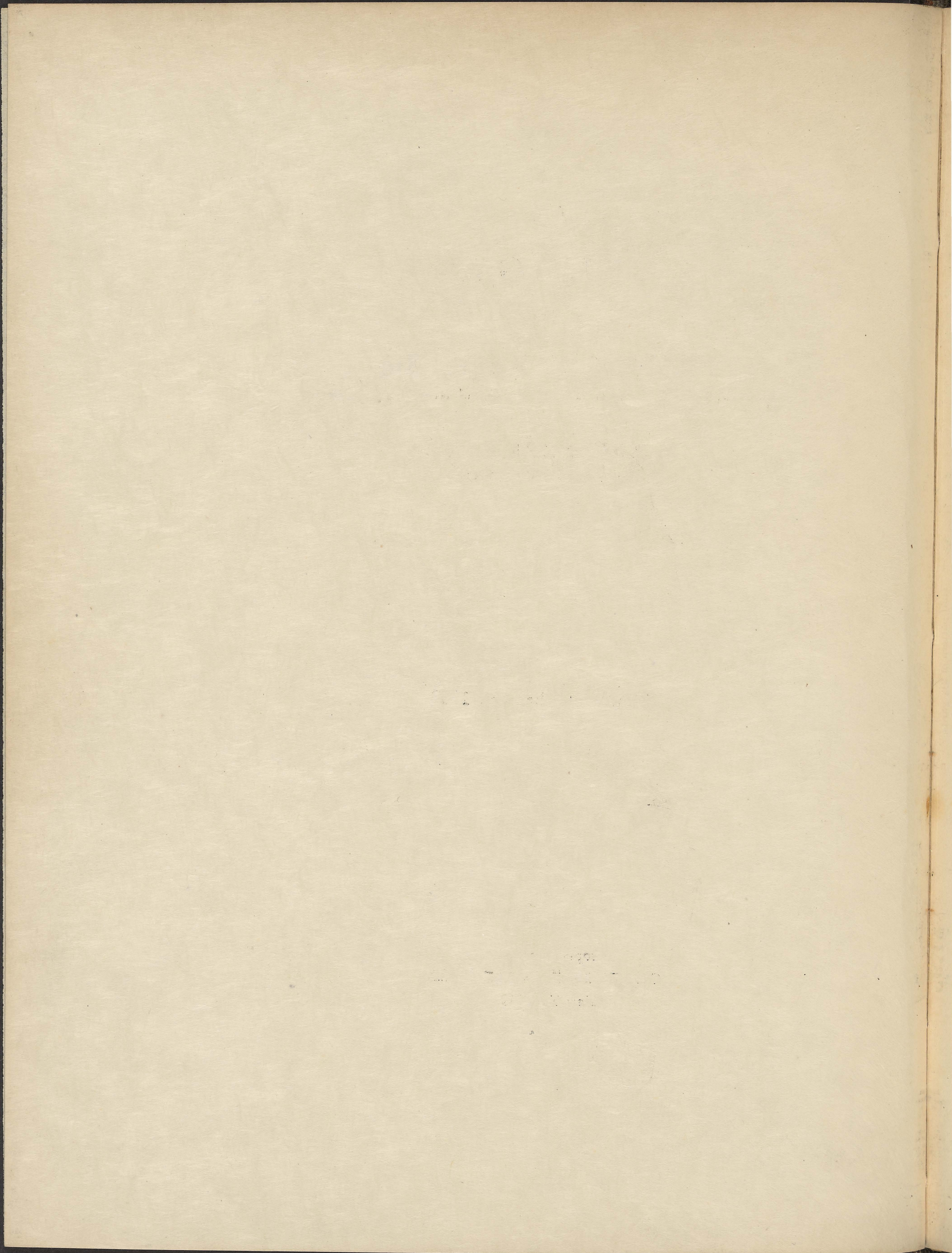
Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Second New Jersey Regiment

By EBENEZER ELMER

Surgeon of the Regiment

Printed at Chatham, 1783

6 copies reprinted for
CHARLES F. HEARTMAN
New York, 1917



Francis Barber was born at Princeton, N. J., 1751. He became head of the academy at Elizabethtown and here among others he had charge of Alexander Hamilton. On the opening of the great drama of the Revolution young Barber entered at once the service of their country. In 1777 Congress renewed his commission as lieutenant colonel in the third Jersey regiment and soon after he was appointed assistant inspector general under Baron Steuben.

During the whole course of the war, Colonel Barber was in constant and active service. His selection to that office showed the sagacity of the commander-in-chief, who, together with Steuben, did not withhold their respected approval of his conduct. Colonel Barber was ordered to join the northern army, under Schuyler, in the campaign of 1777, and rendered that general very valuable aid in the discipline of his troops. He marched from Ticonderoga with the army ordered to join Washington, then encamped on the Delaware, and was in season to take part in the unfortunate affairs of Trenton and Princeton. He was also engaged in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. In this latter contest he received a severe wound which prevented his taking an active part in the remainder of the campaign. But his active spirit could not remain idle even while his lacerated body was confined to his bed. He kept a vigilant eye on the movements of the enemy, and was in close correspondence all the while with both Washington and Steuben, each of whom paid him the highest compliments for the skilful discharge of his duties, and expressed for him the true respect and regard of a soldier and friend.

In the expedition against the Indians, conducted by General Sullivan, Colonel Barber served as adjutant general. At the battle of Newtown he received a slight wound, and at the close of the expedition the encomiums

of his superior officer. In the unfortunate mutiny of the soldiers of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey lines, which occurred in the winter of 1780-81, the popularity of Colonel Barber enabled him to exert a control over the refractory soldiers which no other officer dared undertake. Through a wise and sagacious treatment of the government, and a timely arrival in camp of supplies, the mutiny was at length completely quelled, and the confidence of the men so far restored that they consented to continue in the service.

In 1781, Colonel Barber accompanied the army in their southward march, and was in season to partake in the reduction of Yorktown, and share in the glory of that finishing stroke to the war.

When the news of the ratification of peace reached headquarters, Washington invited the officers of the army to dine with him, intending to communicate the joyful intelligence while over their wine.

He was acting officer for the day, and on passing the skirts of a wood where some soldiers were chopping, a falling tree crushed both rider and horse to the earth, and killed them instantly. Thus died this brave officer and gallant gentleman, in the prime of manhood, aged only thirty-two.

Of the original of the little item here reproduced only one copy seems to be known.

A N
E L O G Y

ON THE LATE

FRANCIS BARBER, Esq;
Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the Se-
cond New-Jersey Regiment.

By EBENEZER ELMER, Surgeon
of the Regiment.

*The grave has eloquence---It lectures teach,
In silence louder than divines can preach.*
LIVINGSTON.

Quando ullum invenies parem!

C H A T H A M:
PRINTED BY SHEPARD KOLLOCK, 1783.

To Mrs. Ann Barber.

(Relict of Colonel Barber.)

Madam: The high veneration and esteem I entertained for Col Barber, whilst living, induced me to prefer the following Elogy to his memory, now he is dead. And fully convinced that your virtues well deserved the love of so worthy a man; and as a sympathizing friend, under your grievous bereavement, I humbly present it to you. Should it afford you any satisfaction, or in the least, alleviate your grief, I shall esteem the reward more than adequate to my pains. That heaven may strew your disconsolate path of life with the richest blessings is the sincere wish of, Madam,

Your devoted

Humble servant,

The Author.

ELOGY ON FRANCIS BARBER, ESQ.

TO celebrate the virtues of the illustrious dead, has ever been esteemed a laudable and profitable employment; that the living, Elijah like, may lay hold of the mantle of the departed, and imitate their excellencies. For though we cannot add, in the least degree, to the happiness of those who have received their final doom from the Judge of quick and dead, yet the living may be greatly improved by the examples of those worthies who have gone before them, and learn from their mortality the shortness of human life.—Elogies, justly bestowed, may prove of further advantage in teaching us the importance and excellence of human nature. Too often, however, this office is abused by partiality and selfishness; but when to a found judgment, liberal and extensive improvements, are added and directed to the noble purposes of improving and supporting the rights and privileges of mankind, praise is justly due. When the heroic soldier and the persevering officer dies, every friend to his country must mourn; and when the sociable friend, the kind husband, the indulgent parent, and the tender master, is taken away, sensibility cannot refrain from a tear, nor justice from a panegyric.

In reciting such distinguishing qualities, every reader will have his ideas fixed on the late worthy and justly celebrated officer, FRANCIS BARBER, Lieut. Colonel Commandant of the second New-Jersey regiment, who was unfortunately killed by the fall of a tree, the 11th of February last.

He was endued with a very comely person and majestic carriage; but as these external graces were doubly adorned with the brighter qualifications of his mind, we shall pass them by in silence.

At a very early period of life he received his literary degree at Princeton college, being designed by his parents to wear the sacred robe. But as this office did not

suit his taste, he became tutor of the academy at Elizabeth Town. During his tutorship at this place, he married the amiable Miss Polly Ogden, daughter of the Honourable Robert Ogden.—Now did our young hero appear to be perfectly blessed; but heaven saw fit to limit his earthly felicity, and deprive him of a beloved wife, after a few months enjoyment. It was upon this melancholy occasion he first particularly evinced the tenderness and sensibility of his mind. However he continued to execute the office of a tutor, until called from that employment to take his post in the field, for the defence of America, against the unjust encroachments of the court of London. Strongly averse to tyranny, and a friend to the liberties of mankind, his patriotic soul was all on fire to serve the noblest cause.

His countrymen, well aware of his merit, appointed him Major of the 3d regiment raised in Jersey, under the command of Colonel (now Brigadier General) Dayton, in February 1776, from which he was promoted to Lieut. Col. of the same the October following. Every discerning officer quickly discovered in him uncommon abilities in the office to which he was preferred. What takes many years for middling abilities to attain, has capacious soul grasped at once. He directly became a pattern for discipline and good order in the camp; and his valour became conspicuous upon his first encounter with the enemy. Such extraordinary abilities could not long remain buried. His Excellency and many other Generals, quickly discovered his talents, and directed them to the service of the army. He acted as Inspector to Lord Stirling's division, during the campaigns of 77 and 78; and it was in performing the duties of this office, that he received a wound in his side at the battle of Monmouth, in June 78, by which he was for some time confined.

Nothing happened in the life of our hero for the remainder part of that campaign; but, in the spring of 79,

ELOGY ON FRANCIS BARBER, ESQ.

he was again called upon to fill an important and conspicuous post, being appointed Adjutant-General of the western army, commanded by General Sullivan. In this office, as well as his former one, he maintained the greatest order in discipline, and accuracy, and dispatch in business. During this expedition in an encounter with the Savages at Newtown, ever foremost in danger, he received a slight wound on his head. The spring following he exhibited fresh proofs of his valor and good conduct in harrassing the enemy in their incursions into New-Jersey; and although the remainder of that campaign was not marked with any important service in this quarter, yet he was constant and assiduous in attending to the discipline of the troops. In the winter of 81, he was singled out to command the first battalion of light infantry that marked into Virginia, under the orders of the Marquis Le Fayette; and, in storming the British redoubt at York-Town, he led the battalion, and again received a slight wound in his face.

He had the most happy talents for commanding of any man on earth, which never failed of gaining him the respect, obedience, and love, of all under his command. He could animate the irresolute with a word, check the froward with a frown, and chastise the disorderly without a blow. The innocent and oppressed never applied to him without being relieved or defended; nor did the guilty ever escape him unpunished. The whole of his conduct was so upright and perfectly uniform, that every officer and soldier knew what he had to depend upon. To those who served under his immediate command I appeal.—With what ease did you execute his orders? With what facility were his commands obeyed? And that because he always gave them with perspicuity, candor, and precision.

It is too common, with persons who possess great abilities, to lessen their merit by a careless inattention to

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duty; but this was, by no means, the case with Colonel Barber. He was ever cautiously observant of the orders of his superiors, and so made himself an eminent pattern of subordination. He was also the most indefatigable in every species of service, even the most minute. He never indulged himself in ease, while those under his command were exposed to toil and danger. Witness ye who marched with him from the head of Elk, on our return from the surrender of York-Town. Was he not the foremost in stemming the torrent during the whole of that tempestuous day? Was he not among the last who betook themselves to their tents for shelter from the inclemency of the weather? His sympathizing soul seemed to bear a part in the sufferings of every soldier.

He was none of those blustering heroes who, to support their erroneous opinions of honour, are for fighting their friends upon the most trivial provocation. Deeply impressed with a sense of the value and importance of life, he did not chuse to sport with it; but in defence of his country, and the rights of mankind, none would risk, or even lay it down, more willingly than he.

With the most determinate perseverance, in strict order and discipline, he possessed the tenderest feelings for the sufferings of his soldiers. His susceptible breast could not restrain the sympathizing tear, when justice obliged him to punish their crimes.

Early in the spring of 78 he married a second wife, Miss Nancy Ogden, his mourning widow, with whom he has left three children. And though no husband ever doated more on a beloved wife, yet he never permitted his fondness for her, or his children, the dear pledges of their mutual love, to prevent the strict execution of those duties which he owed his country.

In his friendships he was generous, cautious, sincere, and disinterested. He advised with candor, applauded with modesty, and reprov'd with tenderness. As a hus-

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band, he was constant and affectionate; as a father, kind and indulgent; as a master, humane and benevolent; as an officer, brave, decisive, and persevering.

But, alas! he has gone and left us!—Taken his flight from this world of toil to the unseen region of spirits. Hail precious ghost! Whether art thou fled! Why didst thou leave us so soon? Often have I viewed the fatal spot with a sorrowful heart.

Oh! hapless moment, that deprived this country of thy valuable life! How often didst thou triumph over death in the field of danger, and yet heaven saw fit to cut short thy thread of life by the most unforeseen accident. Let all mortals learn from thy sudden death how unable they are to withstand their destiny, when appointed by providence.

How severe the stroke? How great the loss? Cut off in the full meridian of life, health and usefulness! Let every American; yea, let every advocate for the improvement of human nature, put on their sable mantles, and water his ashes with their tears. Ye lukewarm patriots, ye puny politicians, if your contracted souls never experienced a generous sentiment for the reward of his merit while living, let them, at least, expand in mournful soliloquies over the dead; and learn to admire virtues which, it is to be feared, you are incapable of imitating. Let all be assured, that with him America has lost the most disinterested patriot. How did his honest heart grieve at the misfortunes, follies, and blunders of his country; and pity that want of virtue and true patriotism which has occasioned many of the troubles and difficulties we now labour under. With him the army has lost one of their most shining officers. While others excelled in this or that particular point of duty, Col. Barber equally distinguished himself in every station. Whether in counsel, in the field of action, on the parade, or in the police of the camp, he was equally useful and dignified.

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To say that he had no foibles, would be supposing him to be more than human; but to say they were scarcely discoverable by human perception, is no more than rendering justice to the transcendency of his merit.

The principal improvement that we ought each of us to make of his life is, to strive to imitate it; and, from his sudden death, to prepare ourselves for a like exit.

Every American has just reason to mourn for his loss.—the army sensibly feel it.—To his relations he was particularly dear.—His aged and venerable parents had just cause to view the corpse of so dutiful a son with tearful eyes. Yet happy parents, in having such a son to lose!

Those in general who were most near and most familiar with him have most reason to regret his departure.

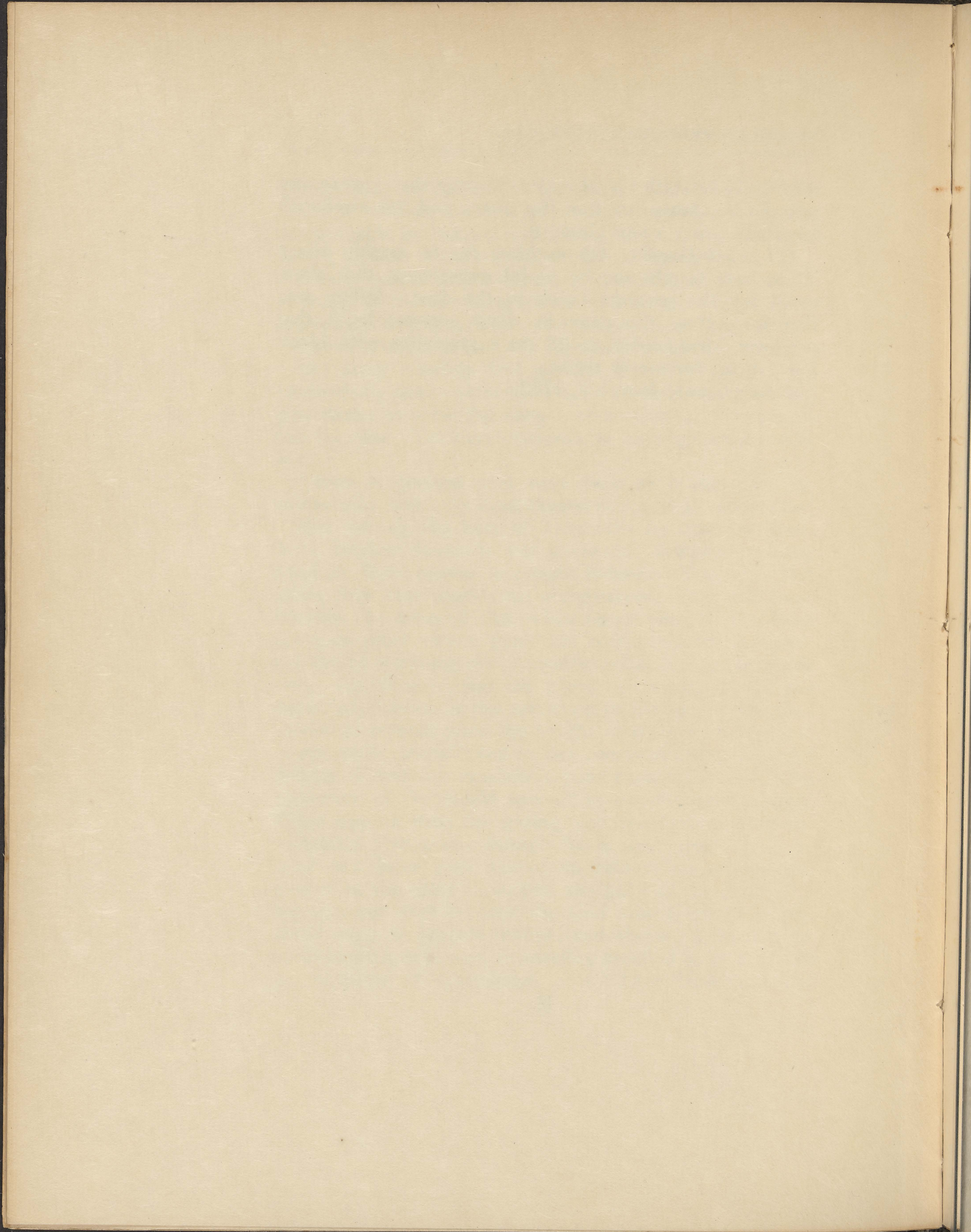
But among the host of mourners for the deceased, Mrs. Barber demands our particular attention. You, Madam, have reason to mourn indeed:—You have lost more than this world can compensate. But, for your comfort, be assured that while there remains the least spark of generosity or gratitude in this country, you cannot fail of receiving every consideration that can be made you. And if any thing can alleviate your pangs for the departed, it must be the reflection of his having left this world of trouble with the bright character of superior merit, to be transferred to the consummation of aerial felicity.—And this madam is your consolation, the wise governor of the world saw fit to deprive you of him. Bless heaven then for giving you possession of so inestimable a treasure, though for a short time. Few of your sex have ever tasted so refined an enjoyment. Learn, at the same time, that the gifts of the Almighty surpass our deserts; that the God who gives in mercy takes away in perfect justice; and above all, learn that most important lesson, so sensibly testified by this severe dispensation of providence, that “They build too low

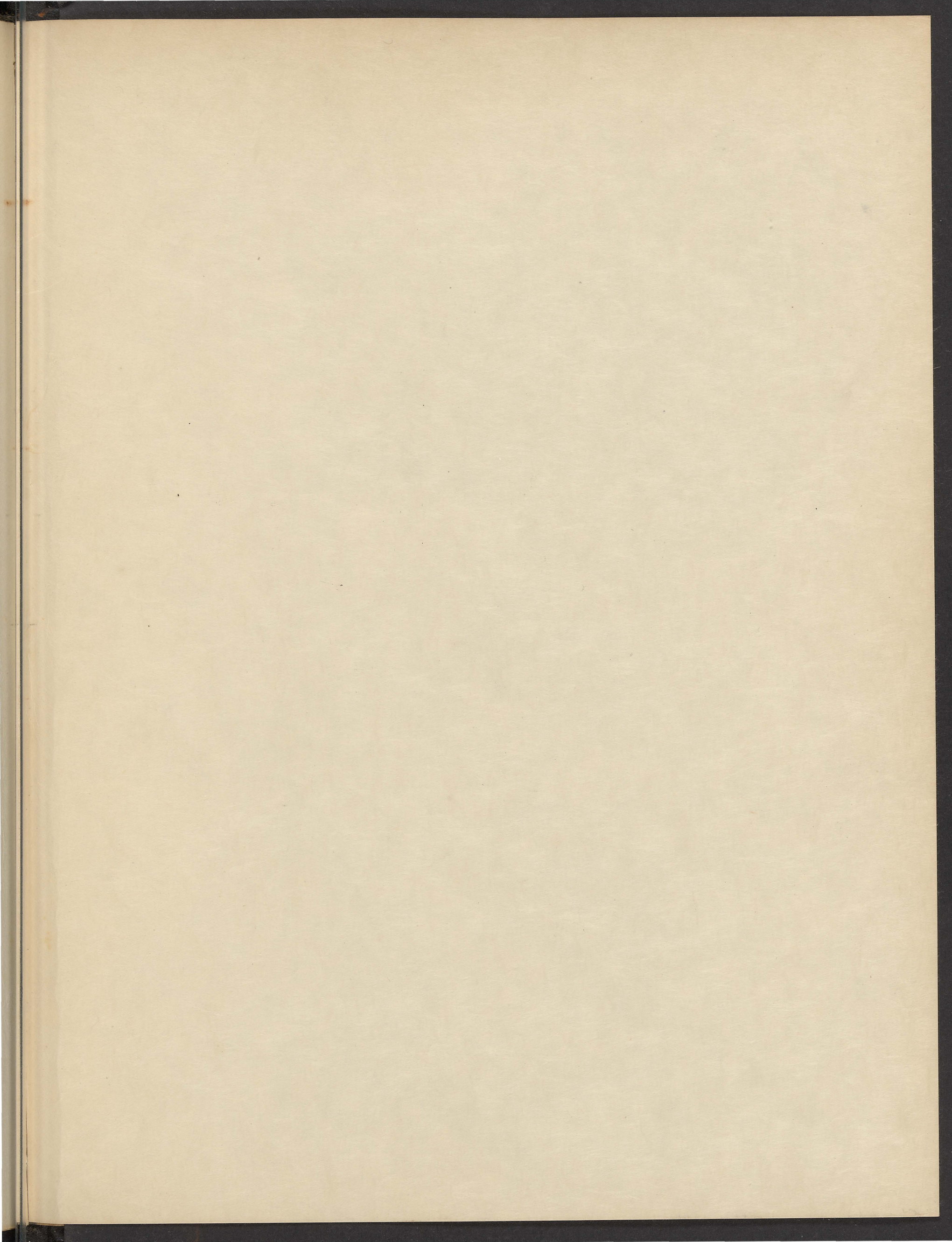
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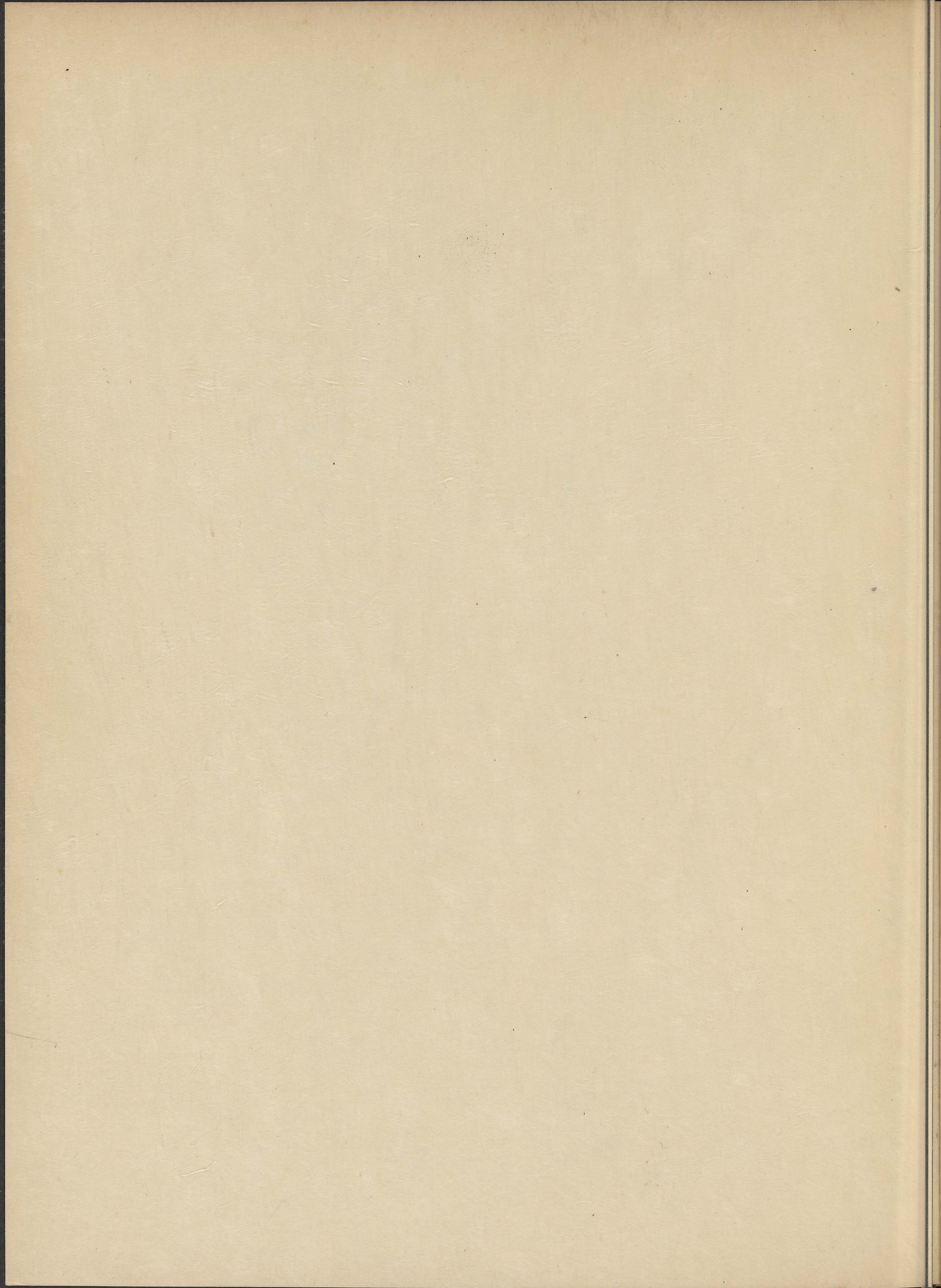
who build beneath the skies."—So may the cypress appear no less beautiful than the laurel, and this stroke of adversity prove a real blessing.

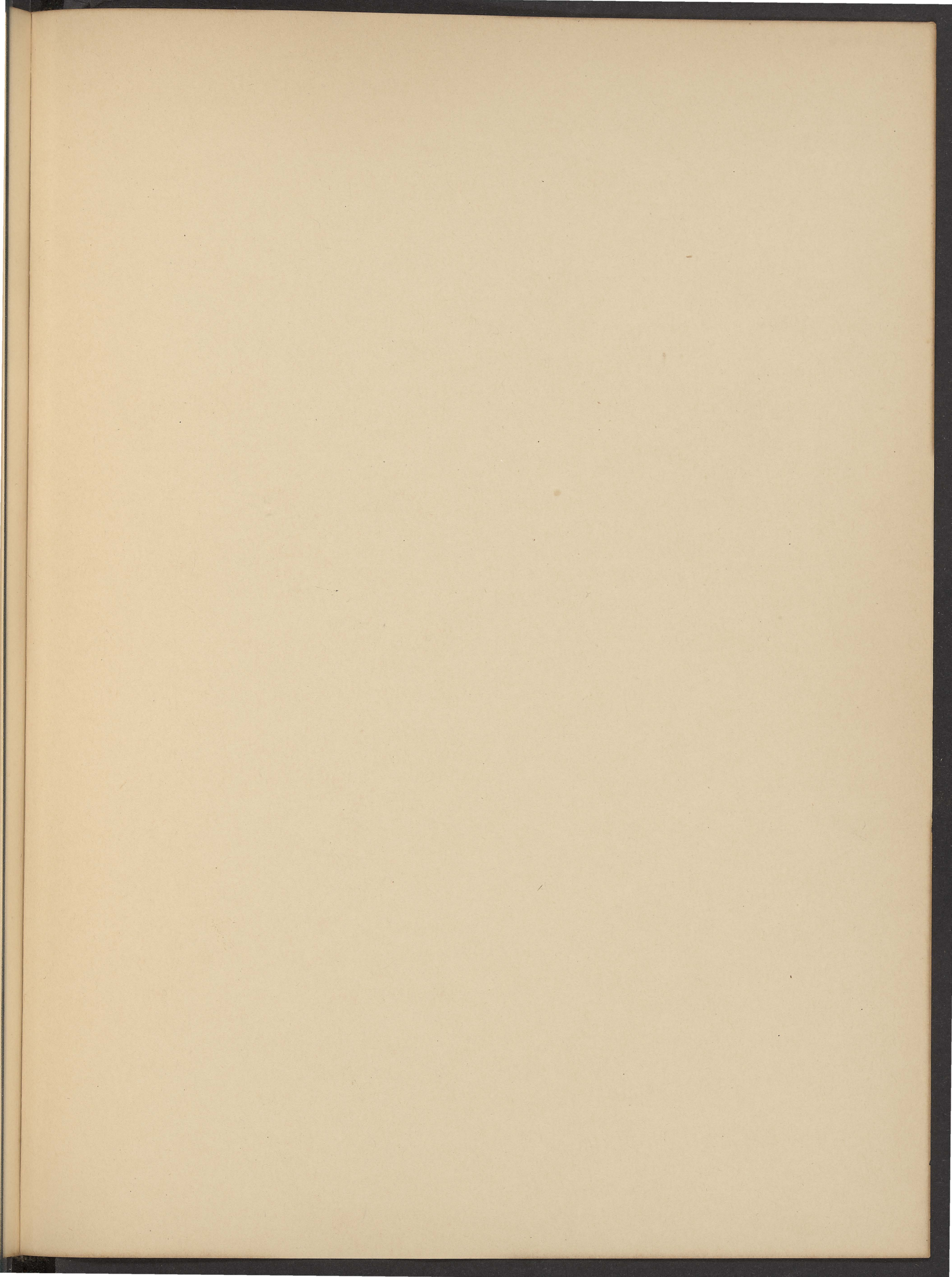
Oh cruel Death! Oh ruthless foe to earthly bliss!
Thou hast taught us, by woful experience, that thou canst lay the greatest merit in the dust. When we, therefore, close the page in silent sorrow, be it thy province, kind reader, to fill the catastrophe with ideas too painful for me to recite.

Jersey-Camp, March 7, 1783.

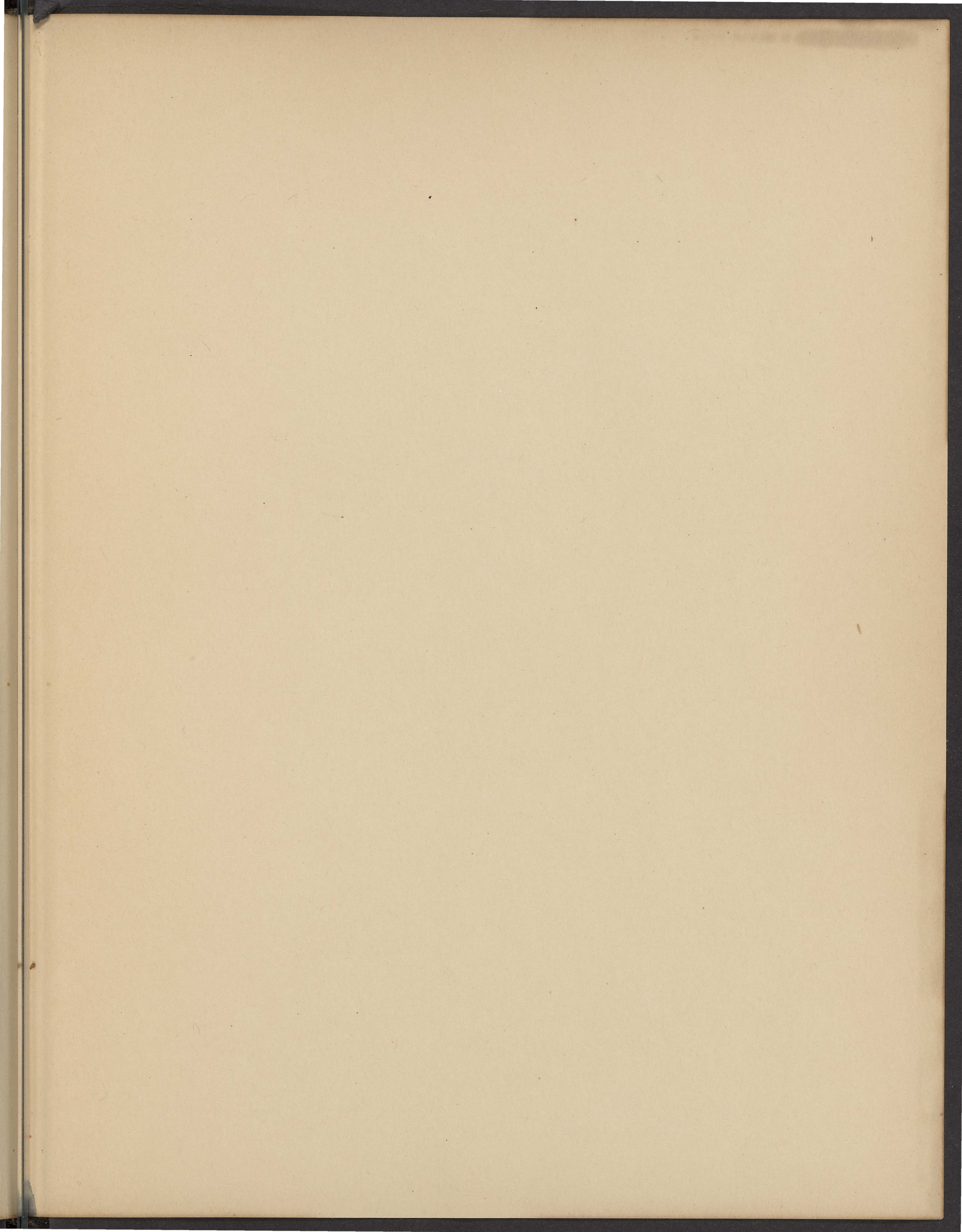


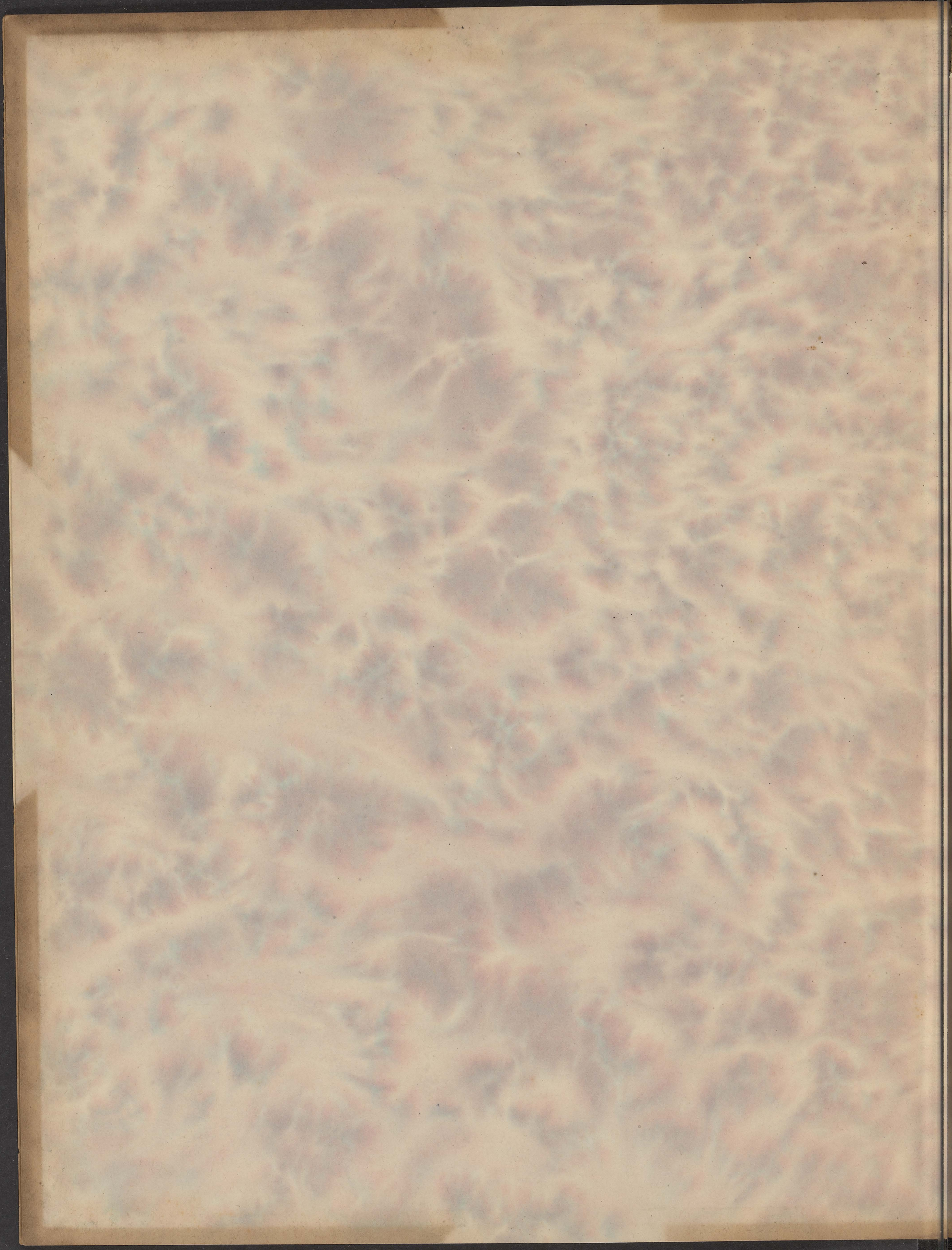






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HEARTMAN'S HISTORICAL SERIES. No. 24. An Elogy on Francis Barber, Esq. Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Second New Jersey Regiment. By Ebenezer Elmer, Surgeon of the Regiment. Printed at Chatham, 1783. *Portrait.* 4to, half morocco.

New York, 1917

One of 6 copies printed on Japanese vellum paper.