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FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MECHANICS INSTITUTE
OF
MONTREAL,
WITH
AN ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ANNUAL MEETING

Held on the 5th December, 1881.

ALSO

*A List of the names of the Life and Annual
Members on the Roll.*



MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY JOHN WILSON, 47th ST. JOHN STREET.

1881.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

RECORDS

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

FOR THE YEAR 1882.

President :

JOHN BOYD, Esq.

Vice-President :

ROBERT IRWIN, Esq.

Treasurer :

NORTON B. CORSE, Esq.

Secretary :

F. W. KELLEY, M.A., PH. D.

Past President :

GEORGE CRUIKSHANK, Esq.

General Committee :

Messrs. WM. REID.

J. FINDLAY.

J. A. HARTE.

JOHN HARPER.

JOHN MCCALLUM.

Messrs. THOS. ALLAN.

PETER LYALL.

HENRY TEULON.

HENRY LAMPARD.

CHAS. STEVENS.

Sub-Committees :

FINANCE—HENRY TEULON, Chairman.

R. IRWIN, W. REID, N. B. CORSE, J. HARPER, G. CRUIKSHANK, J. A. HARTE.

HOUSE—PETER LYALL, Chairman.

W. REID, J. FINDLAY, N. B. CORSE, T. ALLAN, R. IRWIN.

LECTURES—JOHN HARPER, Chairman.

DR. KELLEY, C. STEVENS, J. MCCALLUM, H. LAMPARD, G. CRUIKSHANK.

MEMBERSHIP—H. LAMPARD, Chairman.

T. ALLAN, P. LYALL, C. STEVENS, J. MCCALLUM, G. CRUIKSHANK.

LIBRARY—DR. KELLEY, Chairman.

H. TEULON, J. FINDLAY, J. A. HARTE, H. LAMPARD, J. HARPER.

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Members of the Mechanics Institute, Montreal.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting the forty-second Annual Report, the Committee think it advisable, in view of the large accession to our membership of late, to present a short summary of the events in connection with the history of the Institution under whose auspices we are gathered.

On the 21st of January, 1828, at the house of the Rev. Mr. Esson, then pastor of St. Gabriel Street Presbyterian church, there was founded the Montreal Mechanics Institute. Its aim was defined to be the instruction of its members in the principles of the arts, and in the various branches of science and useful knowledge, and the means employed in attaining it—

- a.* A Reading Room, and Library of Reference.
- b.* A Museum of Machines, Models, Minerals and Natural History.
- c.* An Academy for the teaching of the different branches of Mathematics.
- d.* Lectures in Natural and Experimental Philosophy, Practical Mechanics, Chemistry, Astronomy, and also in Literature and Art.
- e.* An Experimental Workshop or Laboratory.

The name "Mechanics" was to be used in its widest sense, and the membership to be open to all without distinction of age, race, color or religion. Accordingly on the roll of the first committee we find representatives of the industrial, commercial, and professional classes, with Hon. Judge Gogy as President; Hon. L. H. Papineau, Hon. John Molson, and Rev. Mr. Esson, Vice Presidents.

The work thus begun was carried on with varied success for some years, its progress being unavoidably affected by the stirring political events of this period. In 1845 the society was incorporated as the "Mechanics Institute of Montreal." Then its membership was 211; its Library contained 900 volumes, with a circulation of 1830; its income was less than \$1000, but there were large classes in Drawing, French, Mathematics, and extensive courses of evening lectures.

Ten years after, through the energy and liberality of the members, aided by other public-spirited citizens, the present building was erected at a cost of \$8000, and consecrated to its noble and philanthropic purposes.

In 1857 the Board of Arts, aided by government, undertook the work of lectures, and these were continued until the change in that body and its consequent withdrawal from the building in 1871. Since that time lectures and evening classes have not been regularly and systematically carried on by the Institute, though frequent efforts have been made in this direction.

To-night we possess a large, commodious and valuable building in the heart of the city, a membership of 850, an income of nearly \$7000, a well-selected Library of 9000 volumes with a circulation of 15,000 ; a Reading Room second to none in the Dominion, containing over 100 papers and periodicals, representing the best thought of the English speaking population of the world. And this we owe to the founders and makers of this Institution.

Have we nothing more to do? Elementary education is well given in the common schools of the city ; the colleges provide higher education for those who have time and means at their disposal ; but, while in the leading cities of Britain and the United States there are working men's colleges, Institutes of Technology, and every facility for improvement in skilled labor, in this great manufacturing city the mechanic is left to grope his way alone and unaided. And thus, abroad, our young men avail themselves of the advantages offered, and rise to the highest positions of influence and emolument ; here, with present opportunities, they see the best places too often held by outsiders, certainly not their superiors in brains and energy. Will not some patriotic citizen or citizens come forward and provide means for establishing broad and thorough courses of study with men eminent as specialists and as teachers, with museums, laboratories and workshops, like the Cooper Institute of New York, or the Boston or Worcester Institutes of Technology ? It is earnestly hoped that meanwhile our manufacturers may place at the disposal of the incoming committee sufficient means for supplying this great want of the community.

Your committee received an offer of the large and valuable Library of l'Institut Canadien, but as its acceptance would involve material changes in the arrangements of this building, it was resolved to defer final consideration until after the annual meeting.

A sub-committee, consisting of chairmen of committees, was appointed to draw up rules and regulations for the direction of the employees. Their report was adopted and ordered to be posted. It is believed the carrying into effect of these regulations will conduce to the greater comfort and convenience of the members.

In May your committee accepted with great reluctance the resignation of Mr. Teulon, who for several years had done most valuable service as Secretary and Chairman of Library Committee; Dr. Kelley was elected to fill the vacancy, and Mr. Teulon to fill his place on the general committee. Another loss was sustained by the removal of Mr. Joseph Smith from the city; his place was filled by the election Mr. G. S. Wilson.

REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES.

MEMBERSHIP.

Compared with the previous year the roll of membership is as follows:—

	1880	1881
Honorary . . .	11	11
Corresponding . . .	8	8
Life . . .	227	222
1st Annual . . .	76	90
2nd " . . .	281	349
3rd " . . .	154	179
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	757	859

These figures show a very gratifying increase, especially in the second class. It is hoped that in the coming year our ranks may be further recruited by members and employers of labor generally drawing the attention of our thinking young men to the advantages offered by this Institute. It is our painful duty to record the loss by death since our last report, of six of our life members—J. G. Mackenzie, Thomas Tiffin, James Duncan, T. E. Foster, Harrison Stephens, and lastly, George W. Weaver, a former President, and one whose services to the Institute have been constant and invaluable.

HOUSE.

Owing to the good condition of the building at the opening of the present year only a few minor repairs and improvements have been

found necessary. Constant attention has been paid to lighting, heating, cleanliness and ventilation, and every effort has been made as far as possible to meet the wishes of both tenants and members.

LECTURE AND CLASS.

On account of the expense involved the committee to whom this important work was intrusted found it impossible to organize evening classes and satisfactory courses of lectures. They determined however to do something. In the spring Dr. Sutherland gave three lectures on physiology, which were much appreciated by those who heard them. The ability of the lecturer and the care in preparation and illustration should have drawn much larger audiences.

The classes in phonography conducted by Mr. Crankshaw during last winter were very successful both in point of numbers and in interest; about 40 attended, the most of them young men from the offices of the Grand Trunk Railway. Should there be sufficient demand a class in this subject will be started immediately.

The Literary and Debating Society has again commenced its meetings. The readings and essays are instructive and entertaining and the debates conducted with spirit. The attendance is steadily increasing. The committee hope that there will soon be established evening classes and courses of lectures which shall be deservedly appreciated by the mechanics of Montreal.

LIBRARY.

The committee report that the annual examination of the Library has been made and every book checked with the following result:—

1880		1881	
Books on Shelf . . .	8707	On Shelf . . .	8936
Donations . . .	49	Imperfect . . .	13
Bound . . .	37	Missing . . .	1
Received . . .	3		
Purchased . . .	154		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	8950		8950

Complaints having been made at the last annual meeting about the wishes of members not being consulted in the purchase of books, a "suggestion book" was at once procured, and members invited to inscribe the name of any book they might desire. They have done

so very generally, and every book asked for has received the careful consideration of the committee. The circulation during the year was 14,448, being an increase of 152 over the previous year. Nor is the improvement in numbers only; while it is true that novels have been largely circulated, as heretofore, it is a pleasure to notice the growing demand for a higher class of fiction, for the latest and best works in history, biography and travel, and for all works relating to our Dominion. Of the 243 books added during the year there were of Fiction 62; History, 30; Magazines bound, 37; Biography, 33; Science and Philosophy, 17; Travels, 6; Mechanical works, 9; Law, 4; General Literature, 11; Blue Books and Pamphlets, 34.

In purchasing these volumes particular care has been taken to provide works of reference for the general student and the practical mechanic, and books which shall instruct the boys who now form such an important element in our reading membership.

The Government at Ottawa has been asked to place at the disposal of the committee the latest maps and plans of the Dominion, especially of the North West.

The Reading Room has been well patronized during this year. In order to lessen the expenditure as much as possible tenders were asked for the supply of papers and periodicals for the coming year, and resulted in a very material reduction in the cost.

In yielding up this work the committee regret they have been able to do so little, but they trust their successors may have more means at their disposal, and may carry forward more successfully what is now confessedly the great work of the Institute. Thanks of the Institute are due the publishers of papers and magazines kindly supplied gratuitously; to the Provincial and Federal governments; the Boston Public Library; the city of Montreal; the Harbor Commissioners for statutes and reports; the Mott Iron Works; the Union Brass Works; Reed & Barton for illustrated catalogue; to Messrs. Cheesman, Whitney and Olmstead for books and pamphlets.

FINANCE.

In accordance with the order of the committee the Financial Statement was mailed to each member of the Institute at the appointed time.

A supplementary statement, including all bills due to Oct. 31st, is herewith. Our receipts show an improvement over last year. It

must be remembered that in the previous report was included a sale of Gas Stock amounting to \$2170, and \$200 arrears collected from the South Eastern Railway. These amounts explain the large apparent increase of last year. On the whole they consider the annual statement favorable; and although the Hall has offered us a slight increase in revenue this year, it is hoped that some means may be devised whereby it can be more profitably occupied.

AUDITORS REPORT.

To the President of the Mechanics Institute of Montreal.

DEAR SIR,

We have carefully examined the entries in the cash book and have checked the items with the vouchers and find the same correct. We have also verified all the entries in the Ledger and find the same correct, with the exception of the item \$394.00 posted to Library account by mistake, instead of Taxes account; a cross entry has been made rectifying this error.

Notwithstanding the error referred to, we cannot refrain from expressing our approval of the systematic manner in which the accounts are kept.

R. G. STARK, }
J. TASKER, } *Auditors.*

Montreal, November 14th, 1881.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st OCTOBER, 1881.

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November 14th, 1881.

Audited and found correct.

{ R. G. STARKÉ,
JAS. TASKER, }
Auditors.

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS AT ANNUAL MEETING

Held in the Long Room of the Mechanic's Institute of Montreal, this evening, 5th December, 1881. Mr. John Boyd, President, in the chair.

Moved by Mr. Findlay, seconded by Mr. H. S. Parsons, that the annual report be received and adopted. Carried.

The President appointed Messrs. Drysdale, Harper and McCallum as scrutineers.

On the ballot being taken the following gentlemen were declared duly elected :—

JOHN BOYD, Esq., President, (unanimously.)

ROBERT IRWIN, Esq., Vice President.

N. B. CORSE, Esq., Treasurer.

F. W. KELLEY, M.A., Ph. D., Secretary, (unanimously.)

COMMITTEE.—Messrs. Wm. Reid, J. Findlay, J. A. Harte, John Harper, and John McCallum.

Moved by Mr. Loftus, seconded by Mr. Reid, that the report, including the names of the members of the Institute, be printed. Carried.

Mr. Cruikshank moved, seconded by Mr. Macfarlane, that the clergymen of the city be allowed the privileges of the reading room. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Loftus, seconded by Mr. Lampard, that the firemen of the city be allowed the privileges of the reading room. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Corse, seconded by Mr. Cruikshank, and

Resolved, That it is with the deepest regret the members of the Institute have learned of the death of GEORGE W. WEAVER, for several years the President of the Institute, for a long time a most energetic member of the Library Committee, and one, of whose invaluable services at a critical period in the history of the Institute, the "*Weaver Testimonial*" stands as a grateful remembrance.

That by his death this institute has lost one of its warmest friends, and one who, during his connection with it, did more than any other to increase its strength and extend its influence.

That the members of the Institute hereby tender to Mrs. Weaver and family their heartfelt sympathy in this their great bereavement; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to Mrs. Weaver, and published in the city press.

The Magazines and Newspapers now on file are as follows :

Those marked thus * are kindly supplied gratuitously.

CANADIAN.

DAILIES.

Montreal Witness, 4 copies.*
 " Star, 4 copies.*
 " Herald, 4 copies.
 " Gazette, 4 copies.
 " Minerve.
 " Patrie.

Montreal Post, 2 copies.*
 Hamilton Spectator.
 Quebec Chronicle.
 Toronto Globe.
 " Mail.
 Ottawa Citizen.

WEEKLIES.

Montreal True Witness.*
 " Canadian Illustrated News.
 " Spectator.
 " Journal of Commerce.
 " Railway Journal.
 Toronto Presbyterian.*
 " Grip.
 " Monetary Times.
 Cowansville Observer.*
 Richmond Guardian.*
 Waterloo Advertiser.*
 Winnipeg Free Press.

Peterborough Examiner.*
 " Review.*
 Lindsay Post.*
 St. Johns, P. Q., News.*
 " " Voix du Peuple.*
 St. John, N. B., Telegraph.*
 Kingston Chronicle.
 Halifax Chronicle.
 " Novascotian.*
 Quebec Official Gazette.*
 Ottawa do do

MONTHLIES.

Montreal Canada Medical and Surgical Journal.*
 " Vennor's Weather Bulletin.*
 " Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist.
 " Protestant Pillar.*
 " Insurance Society.
 " Journal of Agriculture, French and English copies.*
 Toronto Canadian Monthly.
 " Boys Own Paper.

QUARTERLY.

Montreal Canadian Antiquarian.

Magazines and Newspapers—(Continued.)

AMERICAN.

DAILIES.

New York Times.	Chicago Tribune.
“ Herald.	Boston Journal.
“ Graphic.	

WEEKLIES.

New York Scottish American Journal.	New York Witness.*
“ Frank Leslie's.	“ Iron Age.
“ Harper's Weekly.	“ Country Gentleman.
“ “ Young People.	“ American Machinist.
“ Scientific American.	Boston Christian Register.*
“ “ Supplement.	Danbury News.
“ Nation.	San Francisco Chronicle.
“ Sanitary Engineering.	

MONTHLIES.

New York Harper's Monthly.	Boston Atlantic Monthly.
“ The Century (Scribner's)	“ N. A. Review.
“ Popular Science.	“ Unitarian Review.
“ St. Nicholas.	Providence, R.I., Monthly Reference
“ Van Nostrand.	Bulletin.

BI-MONTHLY.

Boston Education.

COLONIAL.

Melbourne Australasian Sketcher.
The New Zealand Herald.

Magazines and Newspapers—(Continued.)

BRITISH.

DAILY.

London Times.

WEEKLIES.

Edinburgh Scotsman.	London Lancet.
Glasgow Mail.	“ Engineering.
Dublin Warder.	“ Building News.
London Pall Mall Budget.	“ Builder.
“ Saturday Review.	“ Illustrated News.
“ Spectator.	“ Graphic.
“ Punch.	“ Iron.*
“ English Mechanic.	“ Public Opinion.
“ Jewish Chronicle.*	

MONTHLIES.

London Animal World.*	London Nineteenth Century.
“ Trade Journal.*	“ Musical Times.*
“ Contemporary Review.	“ European Mail.
“ Fortnightly do	“ Journal.
“ Art Journal.	“ Journal of Science.
“ Fraser.	Edinburgh Journal.
“ Family Herald.	“ Blackwoods.
“ Temple Bar.	

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

 THE LIBRARY

Now contains 9000 volumes, comprising the best works on Agriculture and Gardening, Architecture and the Fine Arts, Astronomy, Biography, Chemistry, Engineering, Geology, History, Mathematics, Philosophy, Natural History, Political and Social Economy, Romance, Poetry, "Belles-Lettres," Voyages and Travels, in addition to a most complete

LIBRARY OF REFERENCE,

Containing Atlases, Dictionaries, Gazetteers, and the ninth edition of the Edinburgh Encyclopedia Britannica, &c. &c.

New Books in each department are added as they appear.

 THE READING ROOM

Is well supplied with the best Dailies, Weeklies and Monthlies published in the English language.

 RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Life Members.....	\$25.00
1st Class Members.....	3.00 per annum.
2nd " "	2.00 "
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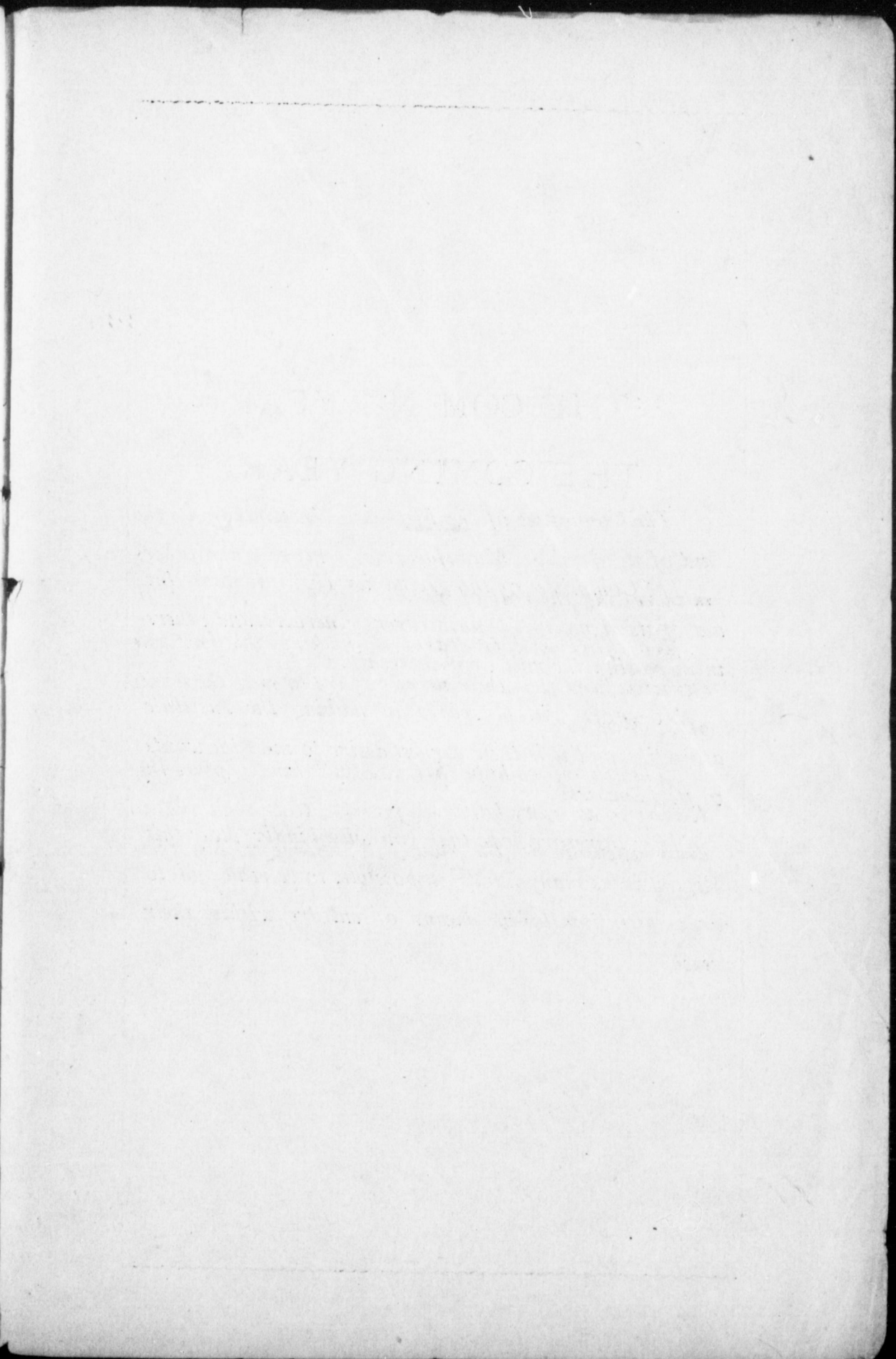
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