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PROSPECTUS

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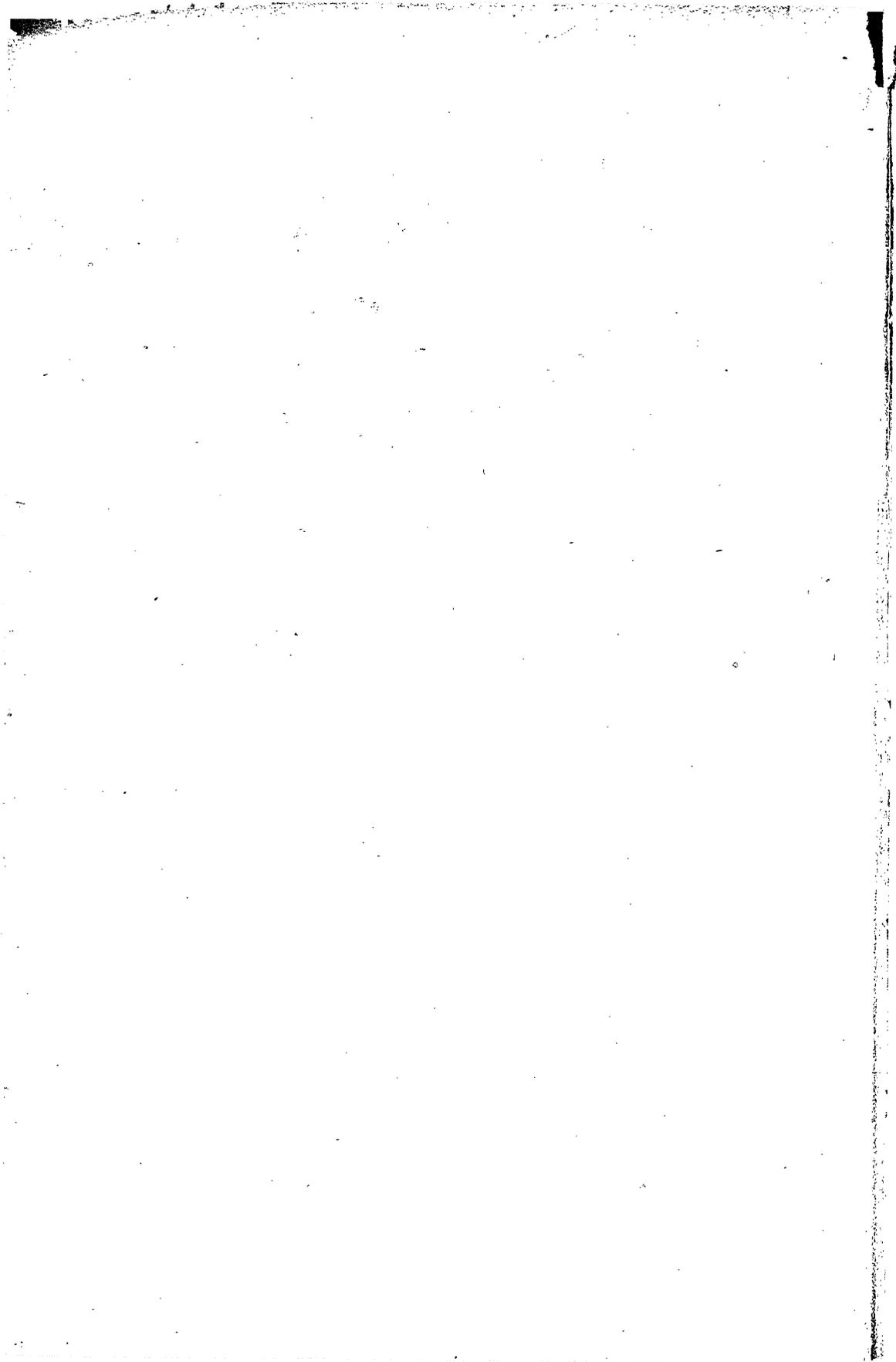
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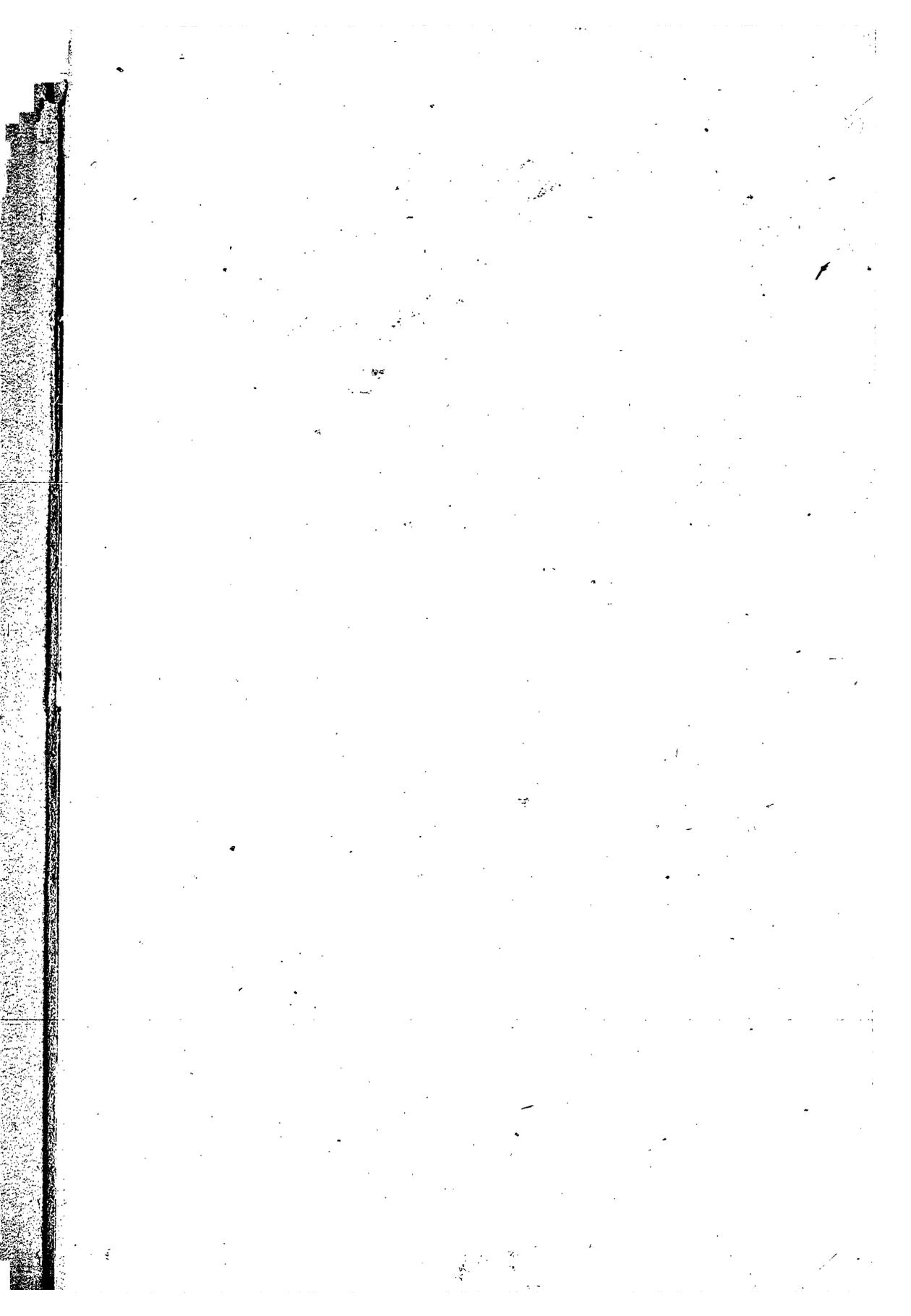
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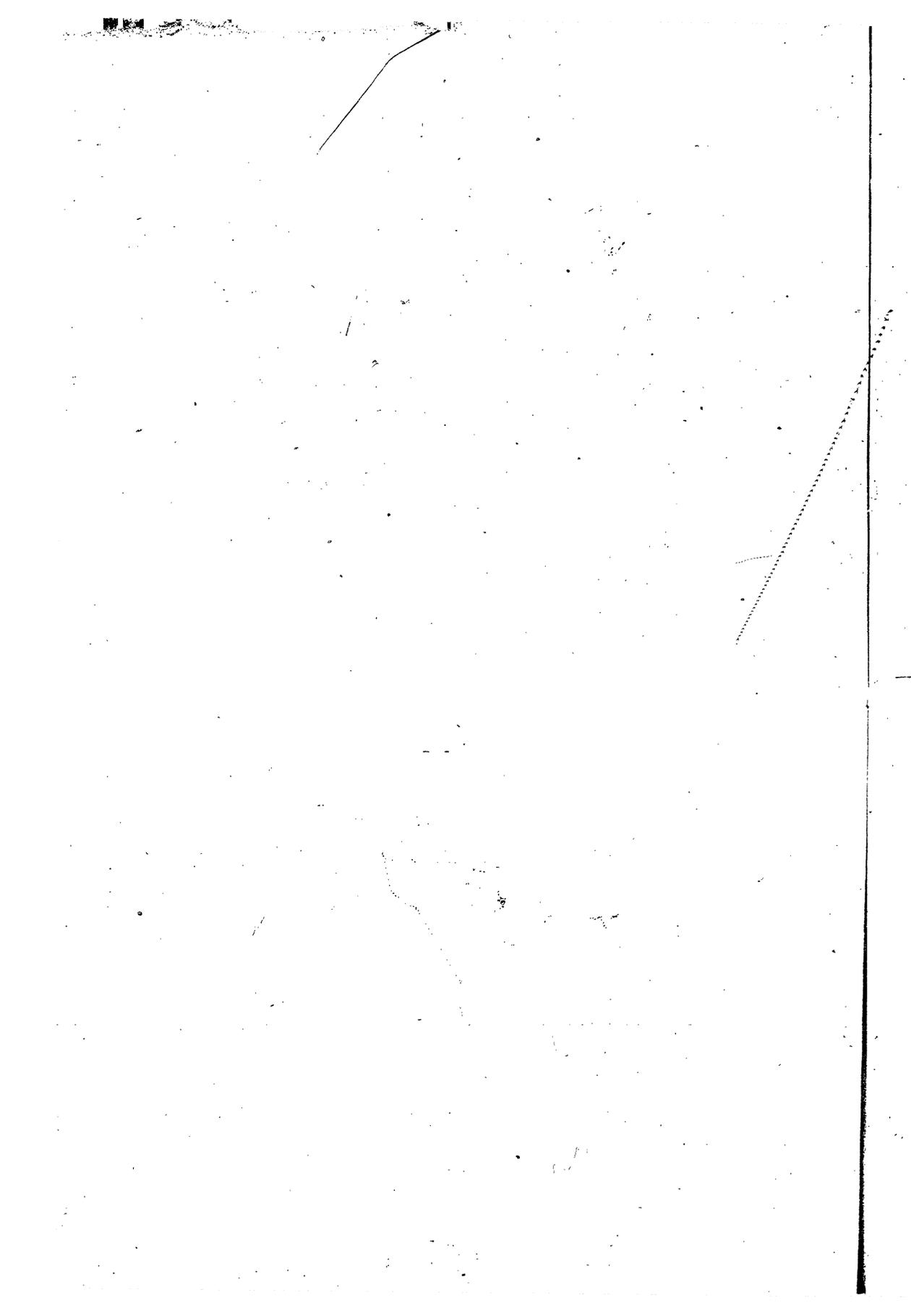
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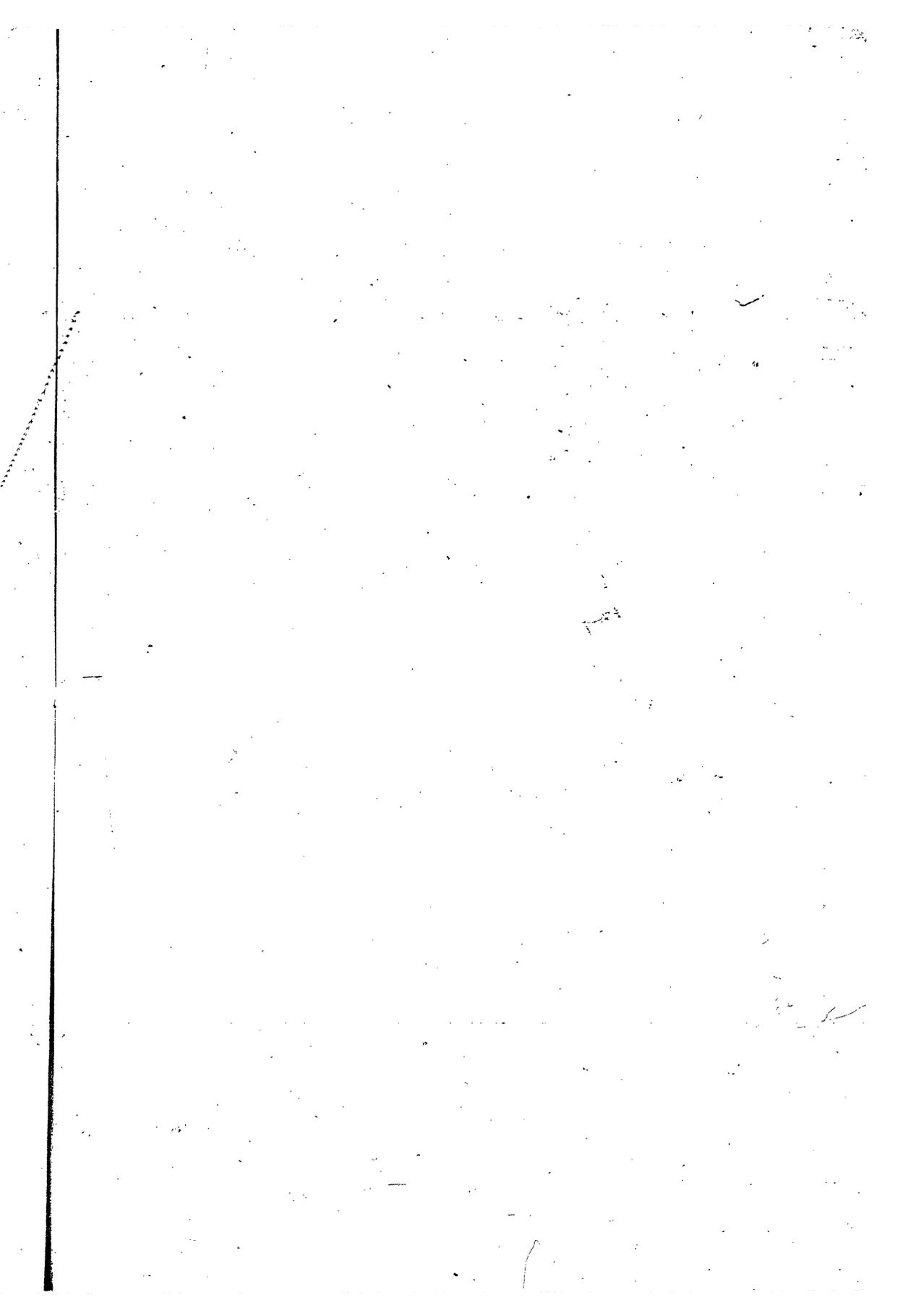


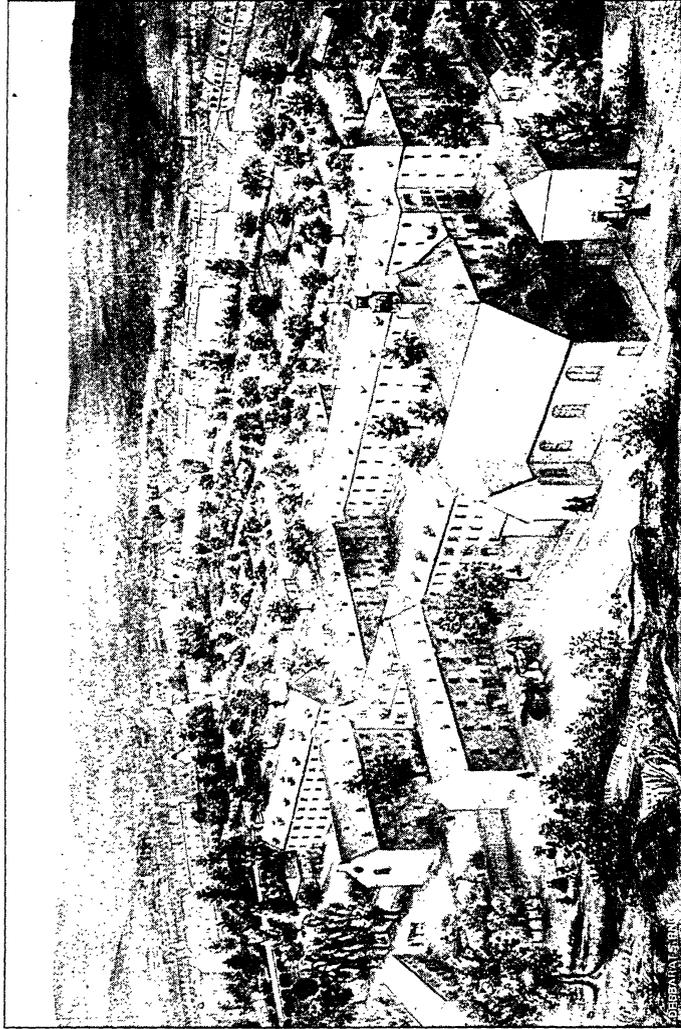
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MONASTÈRE DES URSULINES DE QUÉBEC.

AD MAJORUM DEI GLORIAM.

PROSPECTUS

OF THE

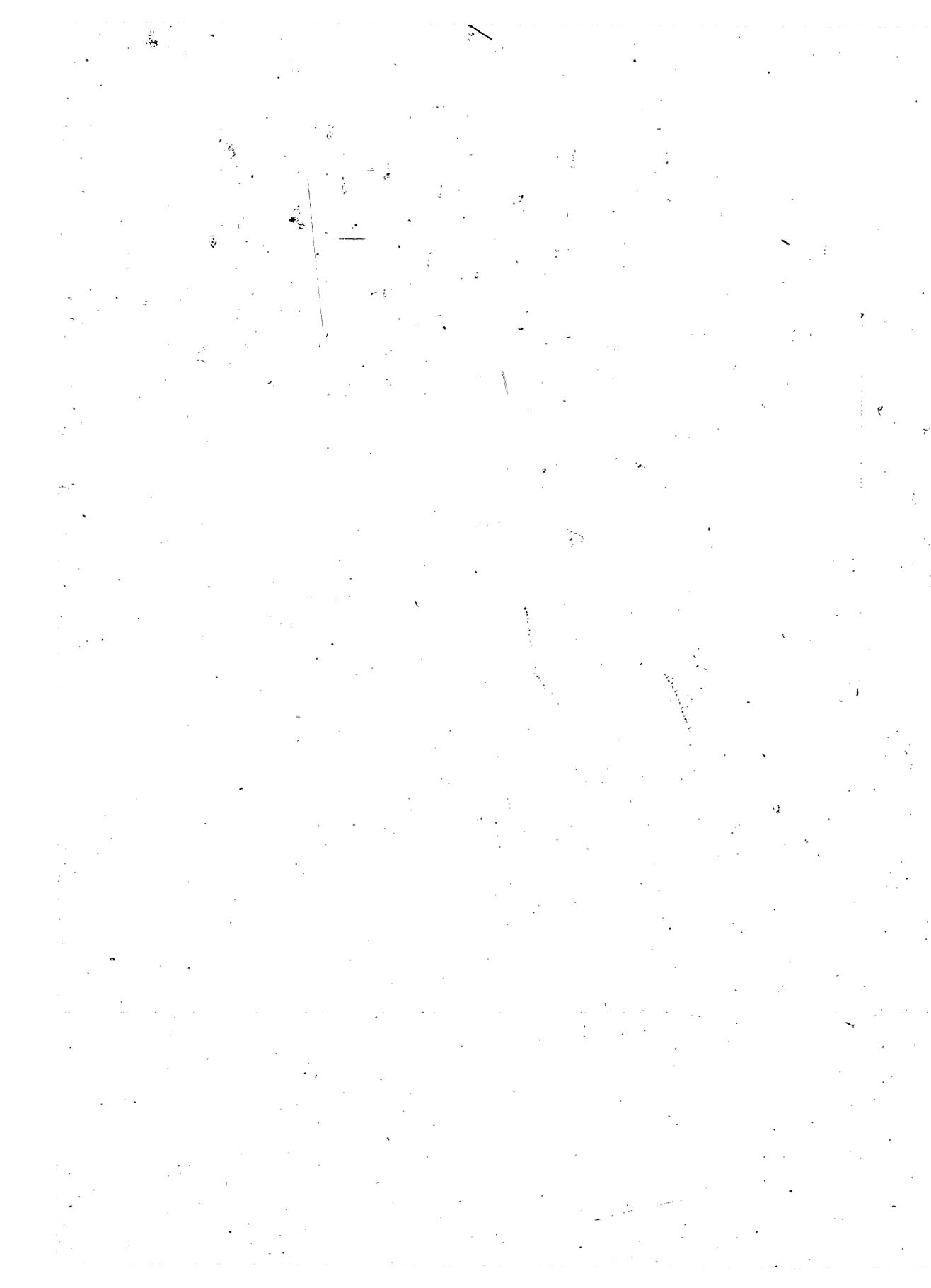
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1893



PROSPECTUS

OF THE

Ursuline Convent of Quebec

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The Ursuline Convent of Quebec was founded in 1639, by Venerable Mother Mary Guyard of the Incarnation, an Ursuline nun of Tours (France), conjointly with Madame Madeleine de Chauvigny de la Pêltrie, a noble widow lady, who was found ready to devote her fortune and her person to promote the cause of education in New France.

Four years previous to the arrival of these heroic women and their courageous companions in Canada, Samuel de Champlain, who, during the last thirty years, had rendered Quebec a permanent settlement, had descended to the tomb, leaving the little Colony, numbering not more than two hundred and fifty souls, still struggling to maintain their existence in the midst of the warlike, and often hostile Indian tribes.

The first pupils of the Ursulines, other than the children of the French settlers, were little Indian girls,—Algonquins, Hurons,

etc., to whom they taught above all the knowledge of God, and the truths of religion. During many years, it was an immense consolation for the Venerable Foundress and her Sisters, to see their labors tend to the extension of the kingdom of God among the Indian race.

Later, when the advancing tide of civilization had driven the native tribes further into the wilderness, a separate school or "Seminary" for Indian girls, was no longer needed; on the other hand the boarding and day schools were well attended.

In 1754, began that disastrous war which, after a seven years' struggle between the French and English in America, ended in the triumph of the British arms.

On beholding the country definitively exchange the sceptre of France for that of England, the daughters of Marie de l'Incarnation were not without anxiety for the fate of their Institution: but they soon experienced the truth of the words of Scripture: "They are in safety who are under the guard of the Most High."

The governors sent by Great Britain to rule the Colony, appreciated and patronized the French Convent, which soon began to be frequented by English pupils. Before the lapse of forty years, English subjects, whose services in the class-rooms were henceforth indispensable, had joined the Community, and in the early part of the present century (1830), the teaching of the two languages was placed on the same footing. From all parts of Canada as well as from the United States, young girls have continued to fill the Convent schools, where the acquisition of the knowledge which enlightens and refines the mind, is not separated from that higher education which fixes the principles, and prepares the way to virtue and true happiness.

BUILDINGS.

The Convent is situated on rising ground, in one of the most salubrious parts of the city, and commands an extensive prospect of the beautiful scenery around Quebec. The original grant of eight acres, is surrounded on all sides, except on Donnacona street, by a cloister-wall, beyond which extend St. Louis, St. Ursula, St. Ann, and Garden streets. The square thus enclosed is occupied by the Convent buildings, gardens, courts, and play grounds. The buildings, twelve in number, are designated as follows :—

1. The Church, (completed in 1723,) the Sacristy (enlarged 1891 — Chaplain's apartments)..... 116 × 40
2. The Nuns' Choir or Interior Chapel, (1723)..... 100 × 38
3. The Holy Family (1687, Community)..... 210 × 30
4. Marie de l'Incarnation, (1874, Novitiate,)..... 63 × 42
5. Notre-Dame de Grâce, (1853, Boarders, Senior Division) 120 × 50
6. St-Augustin or *First Convent*, (1651; rebuilt 1688,) 130 × 36
7. St. Angela, (1836, Half-Boarders)..... 100 × 40
8. Extern School (1647, r. 1836)..... 66 × 38
9. & 10. St-Ursula (1688, r. 1874, Parlors and Normal School) 136 × 40
11. St-Thomas, (1855, Infirmary, &c.)..... 63 × 42
12. St-Jo-seph (1858, Music rooms and Reception Hall). 100 × 56

These buildings, three and four stories high, exclusive of attic and basement, are of stone, and are all connected conveniently, but without regard to exterior regularity. A complete system of acoustic tubes has been introduced to facilitate the transmission of messages from one part to another of the vast establishment.

EDUCATION : MORAL, RELIGIOUS, AND PHYSICAL TRAINING.

The number of pupils who frequent our classes annually may be stated as near 600. Of these, about 200 are Boarders : from 160 to 180 are Half-boarders ; the Extern or Model School averages from 150 to 200 pupils.

The Normal School forms a separate department,, and numbers from 60 to 80 pupils, who, under the direction of a Principal, and Professors named by the government, prepare for their diplomas as teachers, while the nuns attend to their moral and religious training.

All the other pupils of the Institution are classed according to their age, — the Boarders in four Divisions, the Half-boarders in three : the care of each Division is confided to two Directresses, who are charged more especially, to watch over the health, the deportment and religious instruction of the pupils, with true maternal care and solicitude ; to develop their good qualities, to train them to habits of order and industry, in a word to prepare them to become good christians and useful members of society.

Each Division is provided with a study-room, dormitory, play-room, games, and play ground ; a well chosen library, a special Sodality, with its officers, distinctions and banner. The Sodality of the Immaculate Conception or Children of Mary, attached to the Senior Division, is affiliated to that of Rome, and enriched with the same privileges and Indulgences. The Sodalities of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Holy Angels, and the Infant Jesus, appertain respectively, to the 2d, 3d and 4th Divisions. Pupils are admitted into these Sodalities only after a

probation, during which they have given proofs of good conduct, application to study, and polite deportment.

Convinced that religion is the true basis of a good education, no pains are spared to render the religious instruction of the pupils solid and complete. In this important department, the Chaplain of the Convent gives also a regular course of instructions to the Boarders, as well as to the Half-boarders.

Domestic economy occupies an important place in the regulations of the Institution. Needlework, commencing by plain sewing, mending, knitting, etc., includes every variety, useful or ornamental, also artificial flowers and other Fancy Work.

Calisthenic Exercises form a part of the physical training, and these are supplemented by out-door exercise, croquet, and other games on the play-ground, when possible. Other healthful amusements await the pupils within-doors, where gaiety is excited by the use of a piano, by parlor-games, and many a device for promoting cheerfulness and hilarity during the hours of recreation.

SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION.

The Course of Studies in this Institution, the oldest on the continent of America, has been modified as often as required, to correspond to the progress of the times and the demands of society. At present it embraces six grades or Classes, followed by the Literature Course.

The Scholastic year comprises ten months, and is divided into two terms; the first, beginning with the opening in September, ends on the 31st of December; the 2d ends with the last of

June. At the close of each term, the pupils, in presence of the Mother Superior and some of the Teachers, are examined on the studies they have pursued. The result of the examination is proclaimed in presence of the Community by the reading of the notes each pupil has received: the Chaplain usually presides at this semi-public Session. Once or twice a month, in each class, an hour is devoted to a written competition on the branch studied: the result of these competitions decides the rank of the pupil which, with the note of her conduct, form the monthly bulletin forwarded to parents and guardians.

Young girls from the City, admitted as Half-boarders, follow the same Course of Studies, — in a separate Department — and receive the same attention, while in the Convent, as the Boarders.

PROGRAMME AND METHOD OF TEACHING.

THE LANGUAGES;

FRENCH AND ENGLISH.

The two languages are taught equally, on alternate mornings, each having its Preparatory, its Grammar, and Literary Course.

PREPARATORY OR SEVENTH CLASS. — The *Reading-Chart* furnishes the first exercises, and prepares for the *Primary Reader*. After the elementary sounds and the distinct pronunciation of words, follow spelling, the formation of simple sentences, the rehearsal of the reading lesson, with the cultivation of natural tones of the voice, conversation about the pictures, and other object-lessons.

SIXTH CLASS. — *Second Reader*. — While correct spelling, and reading with fluency, are the chief objects in view, the pupils are exercised in giving the meaning of words, distinguishing the parts of speech, writing simple descriptions of objects and pictures, short stories, &c. Other lessons are from the Spelling Book and a Primary Grammar.

FIFTH CLASS. — *Third Reader*. — Continuing the Spelling-Book and elementary Grammar, the pupils of the 5th Class, write easy compositions, exercises corresponding to the pages of their Gram-

mar, memorize easy stanzas, write under dictation passages studied in the Reader, etc.

FOURTH CLASS.—*Fourth Reader*.—After the elementary part of the Grammar has been reviewed, the study of Syntax is commenced, with exercises to enforce and elucidate each rule; special attention is given here to the meaning and use of words, to articulation, pronunciation, and expression. Written reproductions of the reading lesson (from memory) and other useful exercises, letters to parents, etc., are required.

THIRD AND SECOND CLASS.—*Fifth and Sixth Readers*.—Elocution and expression, the study of Grammar, including logical analysis, the rules of Punctuation, and the structure of sentences, are calculated to render the Grammar course complete and thorough. In these classes especially, gems of poetry are memorized; the pupils are exercised in the epistolary art by writing letters on a variety of subjects, by narrations, descriptions, etc., as well as in the application of the rules of Grammar by numerous exercises. Great attention is paid to the use of correct language, and the proper choice of words.

LITERATURE COURSE.—The first year in the Literature Course is devoted to the study of the Precepts of Literature and the best models of style, to the analysis of extracts from the best authors, with frequent exercises in the various kinds of composition.

During the second year, the studies of the *Graduates* embrace the general history of Literature, beginning with that of the Hebrews, the Greeks, and Romans, to dwell more at length on the History of Literature in modern times, especially that of England and France. The course of the *Graduates* includes also the study of Logic. Composition in prose and verse, exercises the judgment as well as the imagination, and affords the Teacher ample oppor-

tunity of forming the taste and directing the mind of her youthful charge, now on the verge of womanhood.

MATHEMATICS.

Throughout the Course, intellectual and written Arithmetic are alternately practised, with exercises to establish habits of accuracy, skill and rapidity in reckoning.

PREPARATORY OR SEVENTH CLASS.—The elements of the Science of Numbers, taught by objects to be counted. The writing and reading of Arabic characters to 100, and later to 1000; Roman characters to fifty. Notation and Numeration on the blackboard, exercises in the addition and subtraction of small numbers.

SIXTH CLASS.—The four simple Rules, with the corresponding Tables.—Easy problems and familiar applications: Numeration completed.

FIFTH CLASS.—The four Simple Rules reviewed, with more difficult exercises for practice; Federal money; some of the Tables of weights and measures: Reduction.

FOURTH CLASS.—Decimal and Vulgar Fractions; the Four Rules, employed on denominate or Compound numbers.

THIRD CLASS.—Percentage, applied to Interest, Commission and Discount; Proportion, Simple and Compound.

SECOND CLASS.—Involution and Evolution, with practical applications on the preceding rules; Profit and Loss; Equation of Payments, etc.

LITERATURE COURSE.—FIRST YEAR.—A general review of the

Arithmetic, with all the Rules, not included in the preceding Course; Book Keeping, in single and double entry.

SECOND YEAR. — Algebra, Mensuration and Geometry.

COURSE OF HISTORY.

PREPARATORY AND SIXTH CLASS.— Bible stories, narrated by the Teacher and illustrated by pictures, are the first steps towards history, while they serve to enforce and render more attractive the pages of the Catechism. Besides relating in their own words these Bible stories, the pupils of the Sixth Class study from an easy treatise the first epochs of Bible History.

FIFTH CLASS.— The History of Canada, its early times especially, is assigned to the pupils of the Fifth class. Oral lessons, as well as the narrative parts of history, are related in the pupil's own words, but she is required to memorize carefully the principal facts and dates.

FOURTH CLASS.— Here the Course of History, properly so called, is commenced. From the only authentic record of the earliest ages, the Bible, through the history of the great nations and Empires of antiquity, the forty centuries before Christ are passed in review;— a colored Historical Chart serving to impress upon the mind the chief events of Ancient History.

THIRD CLASS.— Roman History, forming the link between ancient and modern times, is assigned to the pupils of the Third Class. Here also a Historical Chart and maps of Ancient Geography, lend efficient aid.

SECOND CLASS.— After noting the fall of the Roman Empire by the invasion of the barbarians, and tracing the origin of

modern nations, the pupils of the Second Class study the History of France and England, reviewing at the close of the year the History of Canada to the Conquest.

LITERATURE COURSE. — During the first year, after completing the History of Canada, the pupils study the History of the Middle Ages.

The second year is devoted to Modern History, chiefly by reading and analysis, closing the Course by contemporary History.

Church History, from its importance, is studied during four years, forming a separate Course, commenced in the Third Class.

GEOGRAPHY AND THE USE OF THE TERRESTRIAL GLOBE.

The study of Geography commences in the SIXTH CLASS, with the map of Canada and an elementary text-book. In the three following classes, FIFTH, FOURTH, and THIRD, two hours a week are devoted to the study of an Intermediate Geography, beginning by America, and continuing with the other grand divisions of the earth. The tracing of maps, to be filled out from memory as competitions, marking the political and physical divisions, cities, mountains, rivers, etc., competitions on geographical topics, the use of Mural Maps, outlines of countries traced on the blackboard from memory, frequent reference to a Terrestrial Globe for the situation of places, etc., are the means used to interest the pupils in this study.

In the SECOND CLASS, a general review of the maps by voyages, written, or narrated; Physical Geography, and the use of the Terrestrial globe, complete the Course.

NATURAL HISTORY.**MINERALOGY & GEOLOGY; — BOTANY AND ZOOLOGY.**

In this department, the Ursulines of Quebec are deeply indebted to Rev. Thomas Maguire, G. V., Chaplain of the Community from 1832 to 1854, as well as to Rev. J. Holmes, of the Quebec Seminary, Rev. Edward Horan (since Bishop of Kingston,) and other distinguished friends, whose efficient concurrence enabled them to provide many years ago for teaching the Natural Sciences with success.

The Collection of Minerals contains nearly 2,000 specimens, among which are some remarkable for their beauty or their rarity.

The Botanical Collection consists of several Herbariums of native plants, and a few exotics. — In the Collection of Birds, the principal families are represented, especially the Passerinæ of America. Entomology is also illustrated by some 400 specimens, regularly classified, many of which are the rarer species from tropical climes.

The Collection of Shells is particularly full and attractive as well as the specimens of the Radiata, Corals of rare beauty, the Star Fish, etc., etc.

The elements of Physics, Chemistry, and Astronomy were added to the course of studies some fifty years ago. The Cabinet is fully provided with Apparatus for illustrating the lessons by numerous and interesting experiments.

The use of a Planetarium, the Celestial Globe and Armillary Sphere, facilitates the study of Astronomy, while a Mural Chart of

the Heavens, or *Celestial Planisphere*, renders it an easy task for the Teacher to make the pupils acquainted with the principal Constellations visible in our hemisphere.

PROMOTION TO THE GRADUATING CLASS, DIPLOMAS.

To be promoted to the Graduating Class, the pupils who have attained a good standing in Literature and composition, are required, in September, to pass satisfactory written Examinations on the principal branches of the preceding Course.

At the close of the year, they will be examined on the studies they have pursued. Diplomas are conferred on those only who have passed these final Examinations with distinction.

MUSIC AND DRAWING : FOREIGN LANGUAGES, ETC.

Instrumental music; lessons on the piano in graded classes; private lessons on the organ, harp, guitar, violin, &c., vocal music in class or private lessons, at the demand of the parents. — Music lessons are not suffered to interfere with the regular class-duties

Linear drawing is included in the regular course; Pencil, or Crayon drawings, Monochromatic and Pastel, Oil painting and Water-colors, painting on China, etc, are optional, as are also Foreign Languages, German, Italian or Spanish; Stenography, Type-writing and Telegraphy.

ST. URSULA'S ACADEMY AND OTHER MEANS OF EMULATION.

A Literary Society, established in 1854, has proved a powerful means of exciting a laudable emulation among the pupils. This Society, bearing at present the title of ST. URSULA'S ACADEMY, is under the direction of the General Mistress of the Boarders, seconded by her counsellors, the Directress of the Half-boarders and the Teachers of French and English Literature. The young lady chosen by the Society as President, has also her aid-officers, a Vice President, two Secretaries and four Counsellors,—*Academicians*, chosen among the pupils of the Literature Class.

Pupils in the Grammar Course are also admitted as members of the Academy, whose number must not exceed twenty; that of the *affiliated* and the *aspirants* is not limited.

* At the close of each scholastic term, an *Academic Session* is announced; the whole school, Boarders and Half-boarders, assemble in the Reception Hall. There, in presence of the Chaplain, the Mother Superior, and the Community, the labors of the Literary Society during the preceding months, are rehearsed; a special mention is made of the classes whose efforts have been crowned with success, and some of the best compositions are read. Pupils who have merited the reward, are admitted to the grades of aspirant, or affiliated. The Cross of honor, and other badges, are distributed to the most worthy among the *Academicians*. This Session is, of course, enlivened by vocal and instrumental music.

In the intervals between these semi-public Academic Sessions, the pupils of the Literary Society give an occasional Soiree or Matinee less formal, for which they prepare with equal zest.

These little Entertainments are favorable opportunities for the pupils to acquire ease and naturalness of bearing in company.

Since 1854-55 a Convent Journal, in manuscript form, has annually recorded the most meritorious compositions, letters, essays, &c., of the Literature Class. These pages, neatly bound every year, form as many volumes, of no small historical value to the successive generations who pursue the same course of studies in the "Old Monastery."

Other means of exciting emulation are found in the Good Notes, the weekly Report, the monthly Competitions, the Sodalties in the various Divisions, with their grades and distinctive badges.

At a monthly Session, the Mother Superior, in presence of other members of the Community and the pupils of the Division, reads aloud the note and rank attained by each pupil in the different branches of study. The names of the pupils who have won the requisite number of good notes are then inscribed upon the *Roll of Honor* which is suspended in the parlors where visitors are received.

The Roll of Honor, completed from month to month, is read out by the Chaplain at the Semi-public Session with which the Term closes. Finally, the Scholastic Year ends by the Distribution of Prizes, crowns, medals, &c., the proclamation of the Graduates, and the bestowing of their Diplomas. Medals donated by the Governor-General of the Dominion, and the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, are awarded as special prizes.

ADMISSION TO THE BOARDING SCHOOL.

REGULATIONS, TERMS, &C.

COURSE OF STUDIES, (FRENCH AND ENGLISH.)

Christian Doctrine under the direction of the Chaplain; Reading and Writing; Grammar, Literature, and Composition; Arithmetic, Book-Keeping, Geometry and Algebra; Logic; History, Sacred and Profane; Geography and Cosmography; Physics and Chemistry; Botany, and other branches of Natural History; also, Linear Drawing and Calisthenics. Foreign languages; various useful and ornamental accomplishments: Stenography, Telegraphy, and Type-writing.

	Terms,	per annum.	per month.
Board.....		\$70.00	\$7.00
Spring-bed and Dressing-table.....		1.50	0.15
Mattress and Counterpane.....		4.00	0.40
Washing		8.00	0.80
Lessons on the Harp.....		28.00	2.80
" " Piano		24.00	2.40
" " Harmonium.....		24.00	2.40
" " Guitar		20.00	2.00
" " Solfeggio.....		5.00	0.50
" " Singing, (separate Lessons).....		20.00	2.00
Painting and Drawing (materials included)		7.00	0.70
German, Italian, or Spanish.....		14.00	1.40
Medical aid, medicine.....		3.50	
Total, not including extras nor washing,		\$75.00.	
Including Washing, Drawing, and Piano,		\$114.50.	

Oil Painting, Pastel Drawing &c. Hair-Work, Wax-work, Artificial Flowers, Embroidery on Silk or Velvet, &c., are subject to extra charges.

Payment in advance, per term of three months.

No deduction for less than a fortnight's absence, and that in case of sickness only.

Parents or guardians are requested to leave a small sum in the hands of the Bursar, for books, music, and other incidental purchases.

WARDROBE.

The uniform, to be worn on Sundays and Parlor days, is, in summer, white, requiring two plain suits; winter uniform, a plain black dress, made with a yoke, a black net veil, (two yards) Other requirements are,—a white net veil (3 yards;) six changes of under-linen; six pair of stockings, cotton or worsted according to the season; four night-wraps; two flannel undershirts; two dozen pocket handkerchiefs; a bathing-gown and towel; two pair of sheets, four pillow-cases; three bags for soiled linen and shoes.—Table service—knife and fork, spoons, and goblet; a plain toilet-case, and a work-box, furnished; writing-paper and pens. Warm apparel for out-door exercise in winter, including shawl, warm gloves, rubbers and overshoes. All these articles, as well as others not here specified, should be marked with the pupil's name, in full, before she enters the Convent.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Scholastic year, comprising ten months, commences on the 1st September, and ends with the close of June.

The pupils are required to pass two Examinations, one in December, the other in June. The second Examination is followed by the distribution of Premiums.

Each month a Report is transmitted to the parents, giving an account of the pupil's deportment and her standing in her classes.

All the pupils are required to attend the public worship of the Institution, but no undue influence is exercised over those who do not profess the same form of belief.

Visits are allowed at special times from parents, guardians, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts.

A few days' vacation are granted at New Year.—At other times the pupils are not allowed to visit in town unless for urgent reasons.

Absence from class, even for a day, is not often without harmful results to the pupil. Besides the loss of time, her mind is diverted from that application to study so necessary for improvement. Parents really desirous of their children's advancement, have always approved of these regulations and have aided us in keeping them in vigor.

The pupils are at all times the objects of assiduous and tender care; in case of illness, they are attended by a qualified physician.

Letters written or received, are subject to inspection. The only books allowed are those furnished by the Convent Libraries.

