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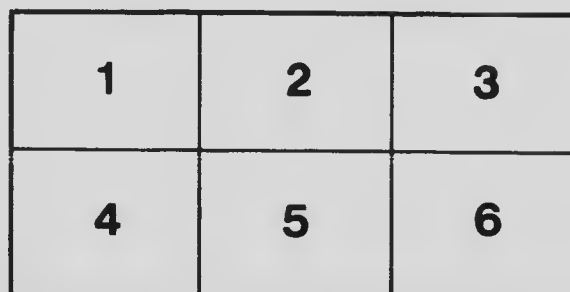
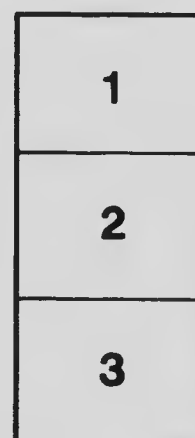
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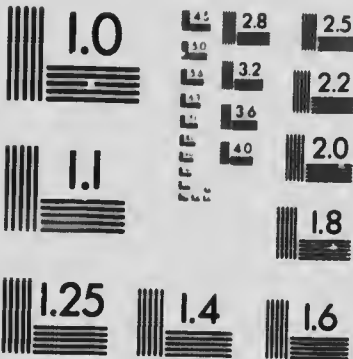
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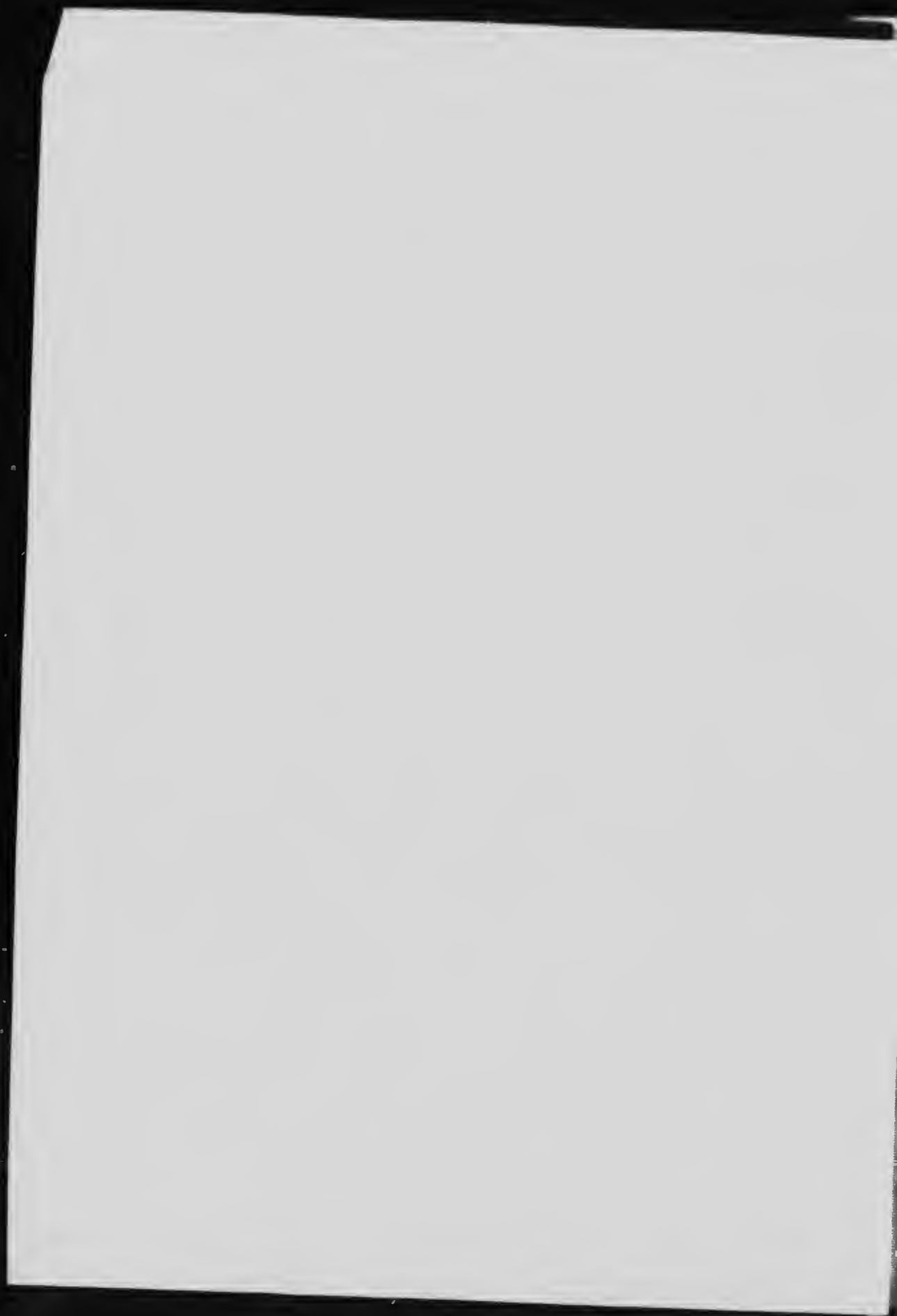
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LETTER FROM —

**The President of the His-
torical Society,**

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — ONTARIO.

**Referring to the Military
Grounds.**

MILITARY RESERVE AT NIAGARA.

A startling report has lately been circulated, a statement so unexpected and so surprising that it seems impossible to be believed—that the Military Reserve is to be sold in ten-acre lots. For two reasons this seems incredible; first, that a rich government like the Dominion of Canada should thus dispose of what has always been used and may yet be used for military purposes, and for what must certainly be a comparatively small sum. Last year and the year before large sums were expended both on the Fort George and the Mississauga common for military purposes. Why this waste if it were so soon to be given up? Secondly, is there no recollection in Ottawa of all that makes these Niagara Plains so dear to Canadians? It is well now and then that we should drive from our minds the utilitarian view taken by some unfortunate beings so constituted as to be unable to look at such a matter from the sentimental and historical point of view. The Pass of Thermopylae, the Plains of Marathon, the field of Bannockburn and that of Waterloo, the Plains of Abraham all rouse patriotic feelings, and the Plains of Niagara should do no less. During the past one hundred and twenty years there has been a military reserve, as we read in a statement of Augustus Jones, surveyor, of a previous survey by Mr. Frey. And not far off the remnant of Navy Hall, one of the four buildings used by Britain's commanders at the King's Wharf, one of these being cleared out, repaired and improved for the first Governor-General, Simcoe. And here the beginning of Government was made and laws passed of which no law-

makers need be ashamed, and here the Governor dispensed hospitality to prince and peasant, to American commissioners, French court, Indian chiefs. Here at the King's Wharf vessels were built in early days. Here the immortal Brock erected fortifications, and from this spot rushed to meet a soldier's death, and here his body lay for twelve years, and here still the bodies of British officers lie buried. Here Gen. Vincent with a small force defended Fort George, and around the military grounds and the town a cordon of British soldiers successfully shut in and blockaded the enemy's force for months. Around Point Mississagua, where the tower now stands, a small force of regulars and militiamen resisted thousands, and those who were slain were buried where they fell. So that to dispose of these plains, made sacred by the blood of those who fought so nobly for King and country, would seem to us almost desecration. And in later times, for over thirty years, these plains have been the camping ground for the youths of our country, where they have learned what has enabled not a few of them to fight even unto the death on African veldts for the honor of their country. And to how many generations have these plains been endeared by early associations when earthen ramparts, rifle pits, and powder magazines have been explored and patriotic feelings roused? And for what would all this be sacrificed? A few paltry dollars, which the country does not need. But it does need that these historic sites should be preserved, so that the youths of our country may proudly point to the spots where daring deeds were done in days of yore, and thus encourage to all that constitutes true patriotism. As has been urged some years ago, let Fort George and Fort Mississagua be placed in the hands of the Niagara Falls Park Commissioners for preservation and beautifying, as has been done with Brock's monument and Fort Erie, and let the remaining ground be retained, as now, a heritage for coming generations.

JANET CARNOCHAN.

Niagara, June 28, 1905.

