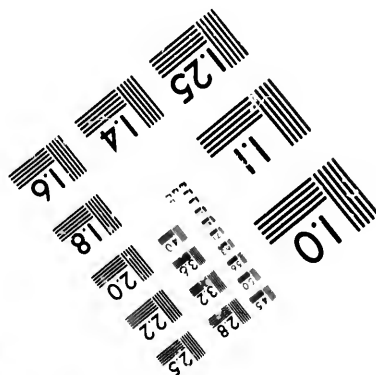
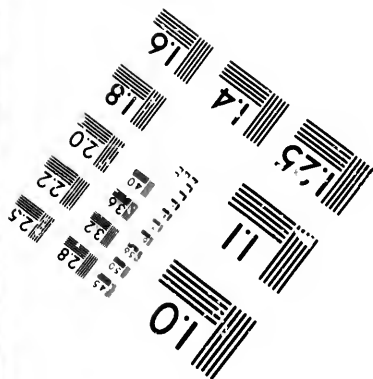
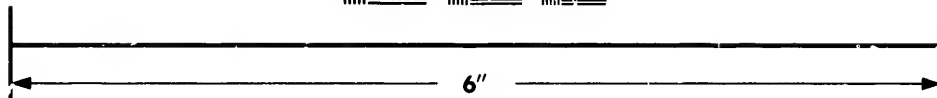
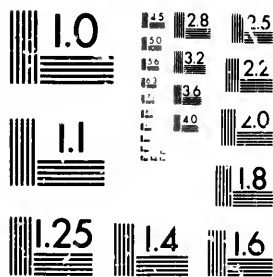


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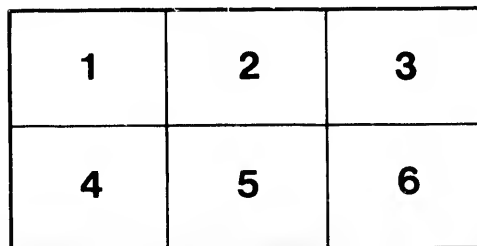
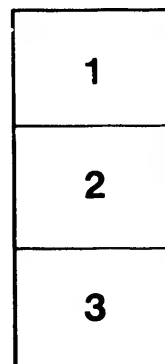
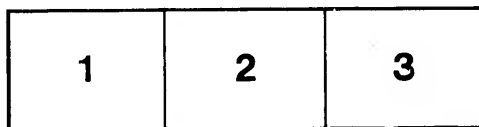
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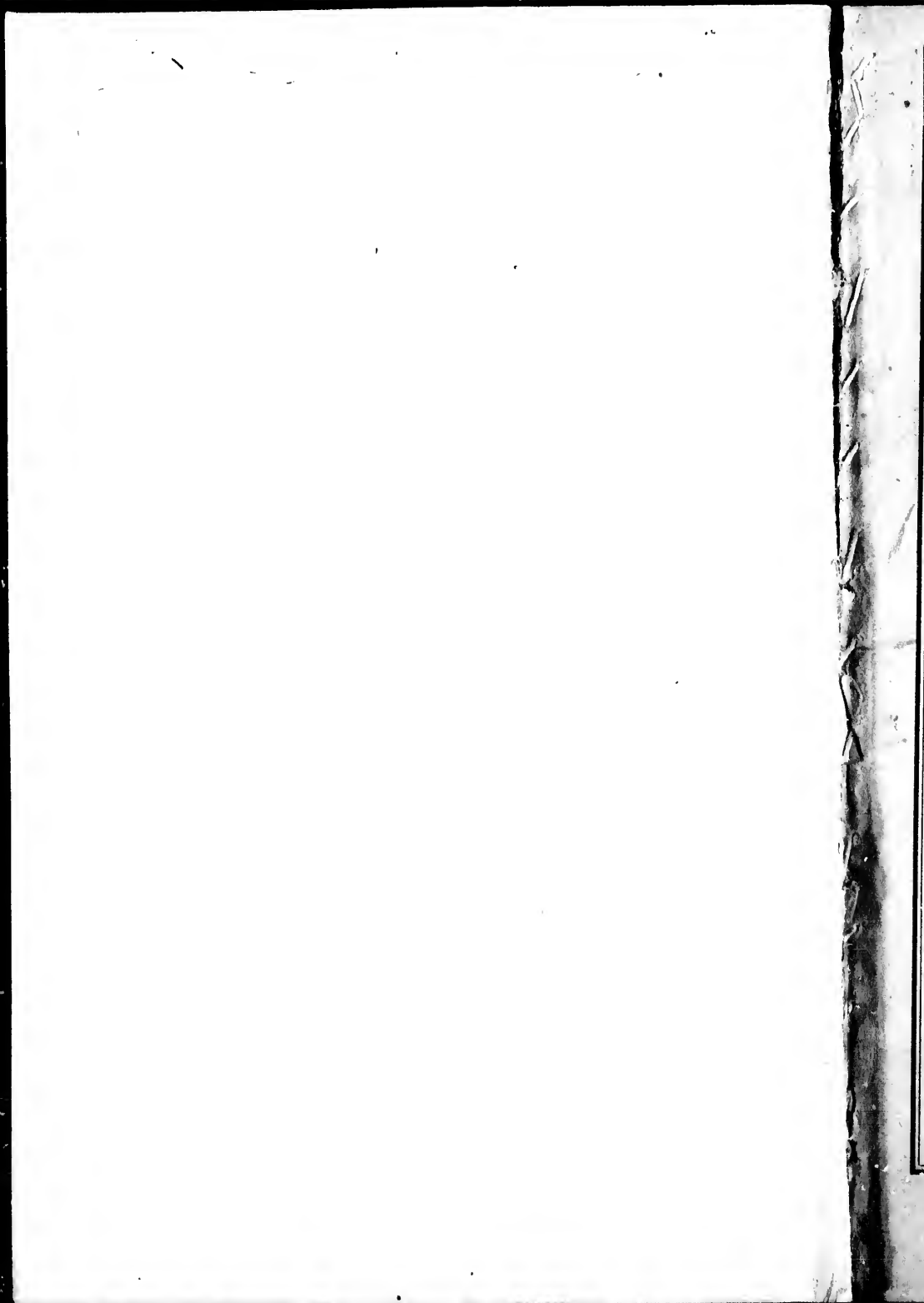
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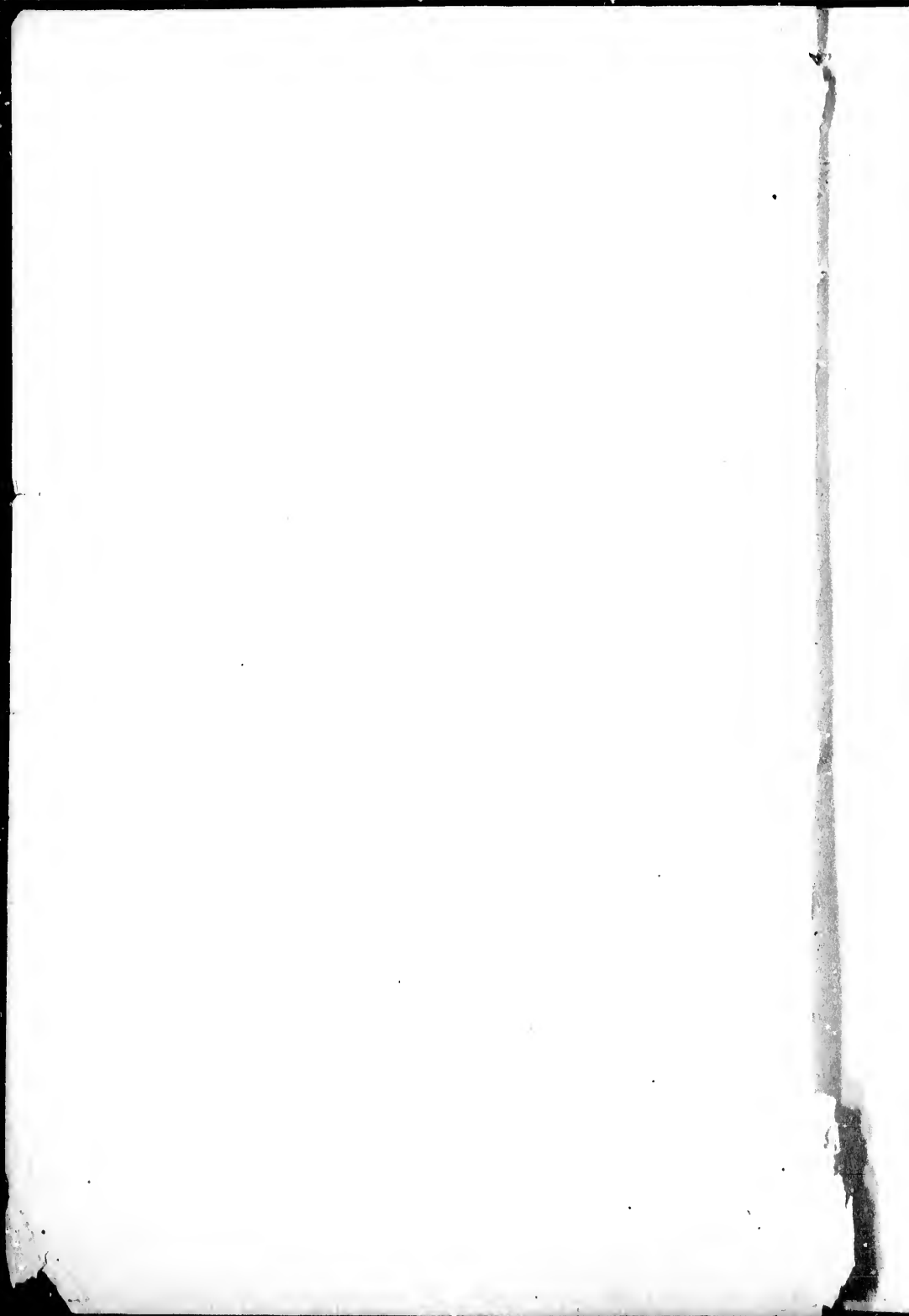
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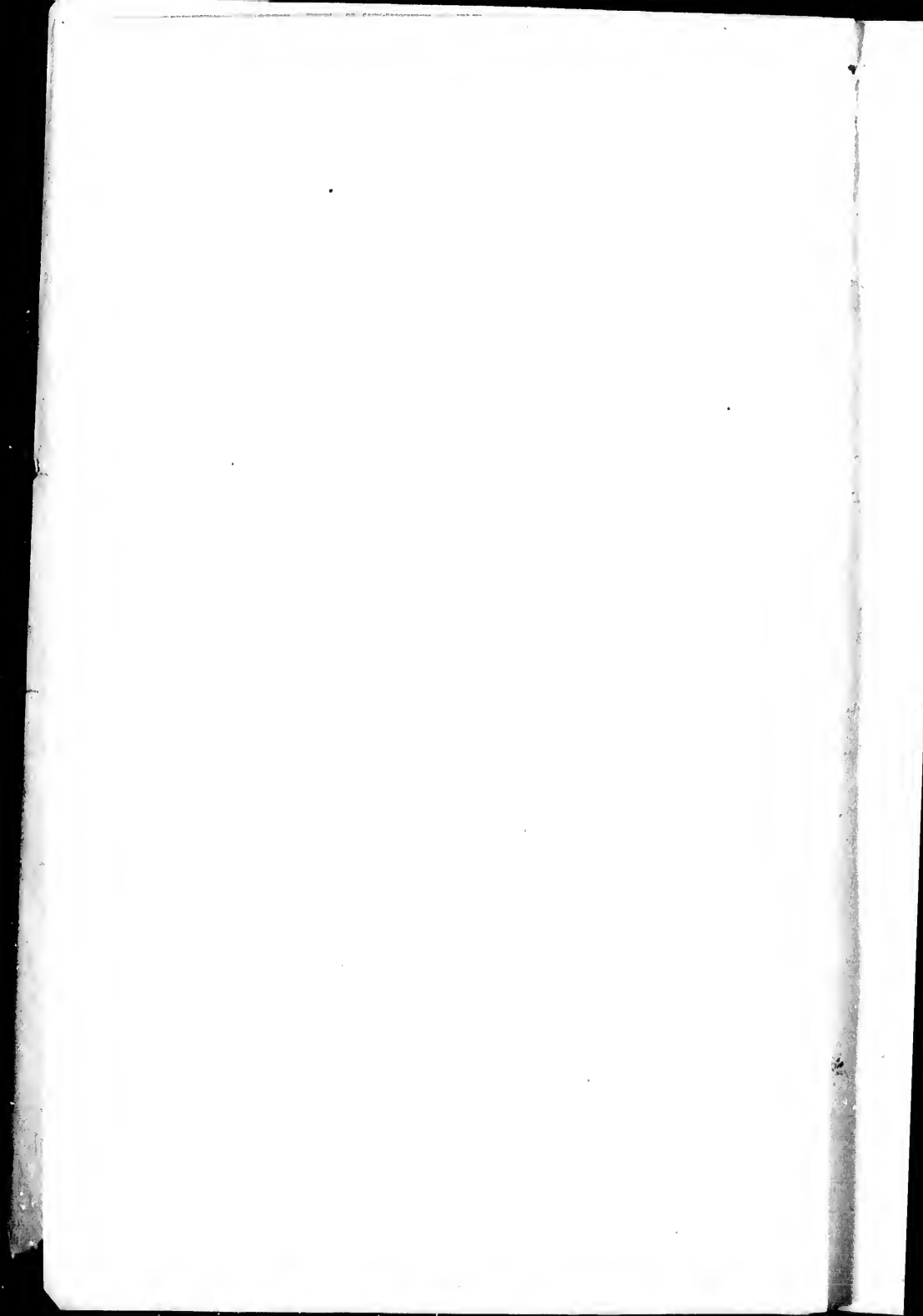
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THE TRUE STORY

ABOUT

THE FIGHT.

THE HEAD BOYS ALL SOMEWHAT TO BLAME.

A GOOD deal has been said lately about this sad fight in Mrs. Europa's School, which is not altogether true. Perhaps all five principal monitors, Louis, William, Alec, Joseph, and John, whose business it was to meet and settle disputes, see fair play, and prevent bullying, were to blame for the frequent trouble about the gardens which Dame Europa gave her boys, to encourage industry, taste, and commerce. The monitors had larger gardens than any of the

others ; but they were all too eager to increase the size of their gardens by adding portions to them from those of the smaller boys, for which they sometimes paid a little money, and which they sometimes obtained by bullying. Johnny had got many bits added to his garden, which was a good deal scattered about beyond the island. William had only lately increased his garden.

LOUIS' DANGEROUS CHARACTER.

But of all the monitors Louis was the most ambitious and vain ; he was always boasting and threatening. This feature of his character belonged to his family, for Nap, a relation of his, had given much trouble when he was in the school ; he actually wanted all the gardens himself, took several, and held them for a while. He treated William, who was then but a small boy, very unkindly : took away a considerable part of his

garden, and made him pay him some money. At last the whole school rose against him, and Johnny, in particular, put Nap down, and, with Mrs. Europa's consent, turned him out of school. Now it was a bad feature of Louis' character that he was always setting up this bad boy, Nap, as his pattern, praising him, and professing great admiration of him. This style of proceeding caused Johnny apprehension, who did not want to have all the trouble of Nap repeated again; and none of the monitors really trusted Louis; they each had a hole in their arbours, through which to watch him, and whenever they went about they kept one eye on him to see what he was up to. This was the case with one small boy especially, who was always in a fright lest Louis should come and seize his pretty garden, which was famous for Brussels sprouts.

Johnny, in particular, did not like

Louis' preparations on the water, for they could have no other object he thought than to attack his garden, or at least hinder his trade. He did not, however, show his anxiety, and was always very civil to Louis, which some boys thought was a sign he was afraid; but Johnny was not afraid of anybody, because he did really try to do what was right, and all thought well of his honesty, but he was peaceably inclined, did not like to have a row, and would do anything almost rather than have a fight. All trusted and respected him, and whenever a boy was in trouble, or got persecuted, he came to the island and found refuge and kindness from Johnny in his tool-shop. Even Louis had come over once for safety.

Louis was really the bully of the school, but very hypocritically used to boast about his peacefulness, said peace was his motto, and stuck it up over his gar-

den; but very shortly after was in two fights, which he got up by himself, and into one of which he dragged Johnny; in the other he fought Joseph, pretending to take the part of a boy named Victor, for whom he stole a bit of Joseph's garden, with an arbour which had Venetian blinds; but he took very good care to make Victor give him a piece of his own garden, in which grew some excellent Savoy cabbages and other Nicè vegetables.

THE PROVOCATION.

It was known to the two boys that Louis was very covetous of a piece of William's garden, along a stream of water which ran through the grounds belonging to the school, and many a time was it in his mind to seize this and fight William for it, but he was afraid of the other monitors, and remembered what had happened to Nap after he had done the same thing.

At length a small boy in the school, who had no garden, a relation of William's, was proposed for one that was vacant near to Louis', who at once objected, not because it mattered much which boy had that garden, but because he wanted to pick a quarrel with William, who, he felt quite sure would defend his cousin. William behaved very well in the matter, acted according to the advice of peaceable Johnny, and agreed to advise Leop to give up the garden rather than have any trouble in the school about it. This was certainly yielding a good deal for the sake of peace. It was a proof William did not want to fight, because, if he wanted to fight Louis, he need only hold to his cousin, who had a perfect right to accept the garden, and all the school would have supported him. Louis, however, was evidently bent on fighting, because, not content with Leop's withdrawal, he haughtily demanded from Wil-

William the promise that his cousin should never at any future time have that garden. William now saw plainly that Louis wanted to pick a quarrel, and naturally would not consent to anything so unreasonable, for how could he promise all that for another ?

THE FIGHT.

Louis then said he would fight, and William did not shrink from defending himself bravely, for he knew he was in the right, and to be in the right is ever to be strong. Louis, as usual, was confident and boastful, made a great parade about his fight, as if sure to win, and called the other boys to come and see him punish William.

William, however, stood up manfully, and to the astonishment of the whole school, knocked Louis down several times, and beat him on every occasion when he

came against him. At last Louis was completely done, was carried away, and perhaps, as was the case with Nap, may never come back to the school.

William, having fairly won it, now took back the part of Louis' garden which formerly belonged to his own, and also some strong walls for his protection in future.

THE RETRIBUTION.

In this we see a just retribution. Louis threatened to take away a part of William's garden, instead of which he lost a portion of his own. Again, Louis' intention had been to fight on William's garden and trample it down, but here again, being in the wrong, he suffered himself, for William forced the fight to be on Louis' garden, which was sadly broken down, many pretty and useful things spoiled, and the arbour and fountain much defaced.

Now Johnny and the other monitors did not interfere after the fight had begun, and some have thought they were to blame for not doing so; but the fact is; they knew how headstrong, boastful, and ambitious Louis was, and that there would be no use; and then, as the fight went on, there was a secret feeling of satisfaction that Louis had got his deserts, and that the bully of the school was at last checked and subdued, which they thought a good thing for the school in future. Alec could not contain his satisfaction, for several times during the fight he patted William on the back.

Painful though the fight was to witness, it seemed as if justice was being done, and a good lesson given from which all boys might profit. Even Joseph, whom William had lately beaten, could not help feeling this.

MRS. EUROPA'S VIEW, AND LESSONS
TAUGHT.

And this is the view that Mrs. Europa took when she came in and had the whole thing explained to her. She was very sorry indeed at the blood which had been shed, and the sufferings which had been caused by the fight: but under the circumstances she did not blame Johnny nor the other monitors for not interfering. Louis was always a difficult boy for her to manage, and she had to give him his own way very often. She knew how dangerous an example he put before himself in Nap, who had given her no end of trouble before. So though she did not approve of fighting, she could not help being satisfied at the result, which carried a great lesson to all arrogant boys, and would relieve her from some anxiety in the future.

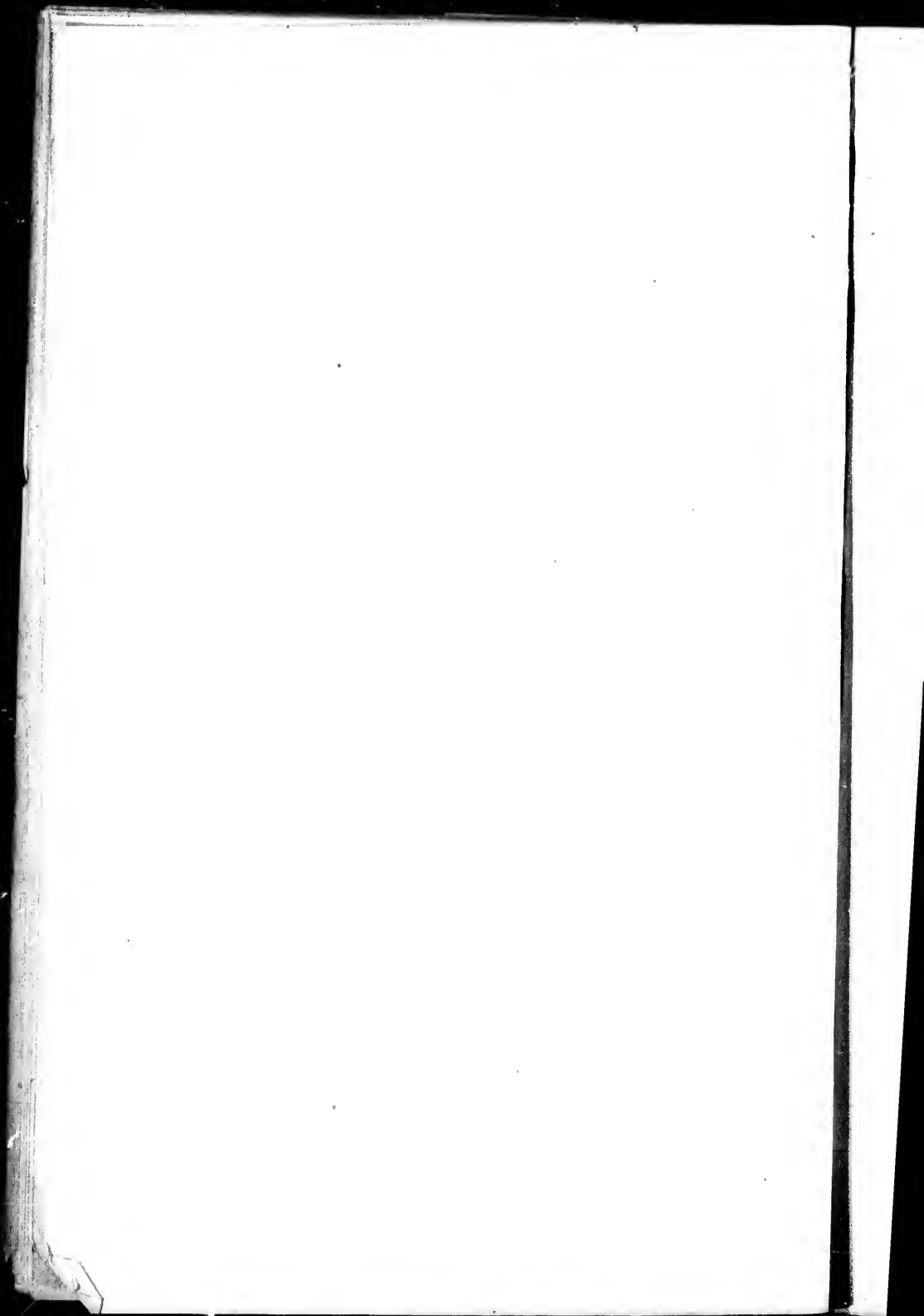
From that time she gave William

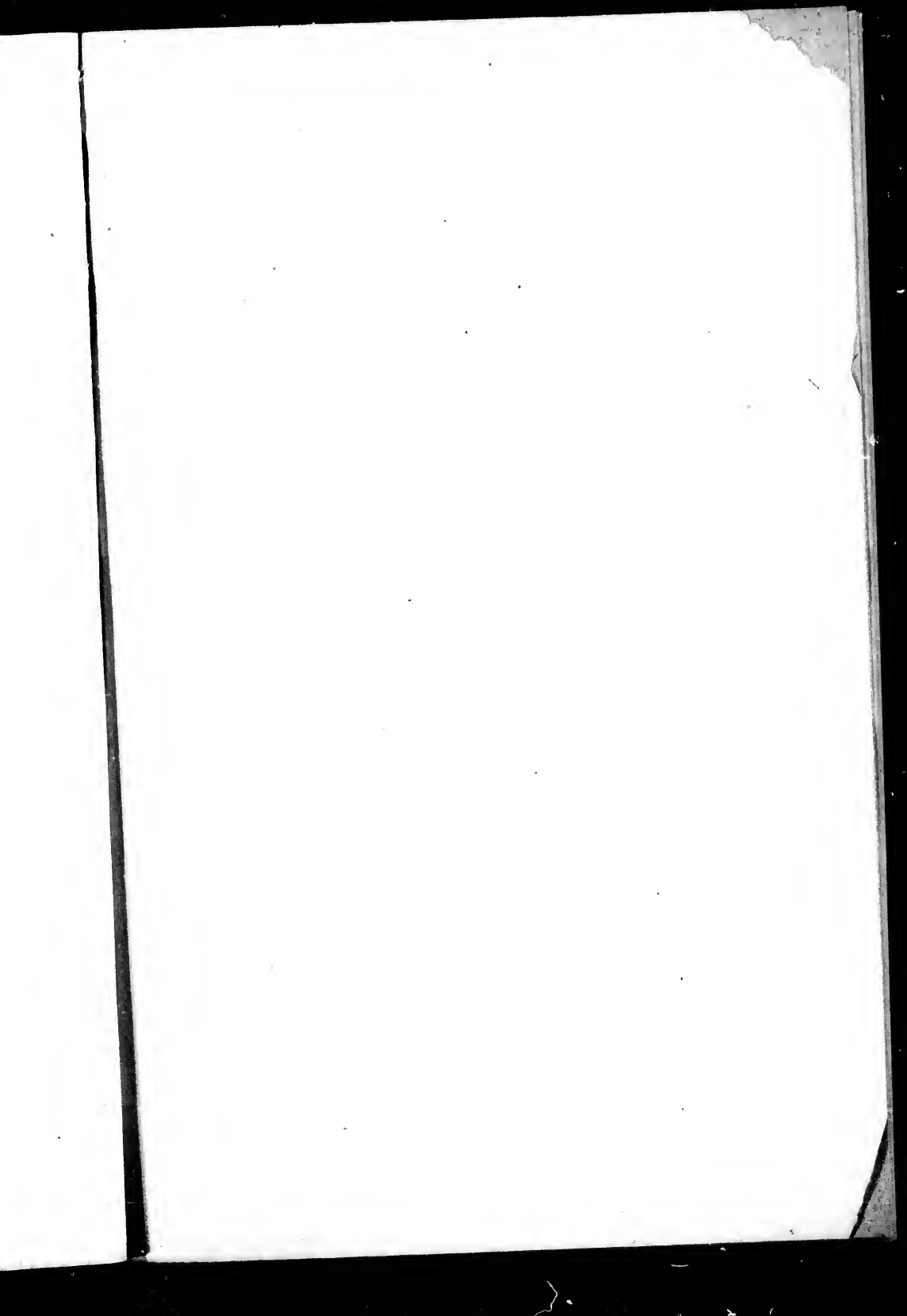
more honor and a higher place in her confidence, because he had been both peaceful and brave, and put him next to Johnny, with whom he was connected by a marriage in the family, and looked to those two to preserve peace and order in the school. Johnny, too, who was very kind to Louis in his sufferings and trouble, felt relieved that his garden would be safe in future, and the whole school learnt to have more regard and consideration for one another's feelings, not to covet nor desire what did not belong to them, but to be content each to work in his own appointed limits, and to unite together all unselfishly for the common good.

One happy effect of this dreadful fight was, that all the school, even William, who was successful, looked ever after with horror upon fighting; and a strong hope is entertained by all the best boys in Mrs. Europa's school that some plan will

be adopted for the settlement of quarrels in a way honorable to all parties, which shall prevent the shedding of blood, and the waste and destruction of property and life.

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