*** The Subscribers to this Institution are earnestly requested to recommend it to the beneficence of their friends who may not as yet have become contributors, by representing the importance of the Charity, the conveniences which it affords to Subscribers themselves, and the difficulty at the same time of meeting the expences which it unavoidably involves.

The following brief outline of the objects and the rules of the Institution may be given, for this purpose :—

1st. The Parent Society at home, which has existed for about a century and a quarter, supports Missions, or distributes, in a vast variety of languages, Bibles as well as Prayer-books and Tracts, or assists in the promotion of Education and Religious Instruction, in every part of the immense British Empire, and in many other countries besides.

2d. The funds raised in this Province, however, through the generosity of the Parent Society, are confined to our own local purposes.

3d. No regulation is imposed respecting the amount of contributions, except that to constitute any person a Member of the Parent Society, with the privilege of receiving the annual Report of their proceedings, it is necessary to pay a benefaciion on admission of 23s. 4d., (which in this country it has been thought advisable to change to 25s.) and an annual subscription to the same amount.—All the subscriptions are payable in advance to the Treasurer of the Diocesan Committee at the Quebec Bank, or to the Secretary, or Assistant Secretary, and become due on the 3d of March in each year.

4th. Subscribers have the choice of *restricting* their contributions to the support of the *National* School, or leaving them to be applied to the general purposes of the Committee.

5th. Subscribers to a certain amount have the privilege of purchasing the books and tracts at the Repository at a reduced rate.

6th. Every Subscriber has the privilege of sending a poor child to the school, to which pay-scholars are also admissible.

7th. Connected with the Department of this Institution, which relates to Education, is the SCHOOL-CLOTHING FUND, an object peculiarly entitled in this climate, to the public benevolence. For the Treasurers for the boys' and girls' schools respectively, see the list of Subscribers, &c. annexed to this Report.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

QUEBEC DIOCESAN COMMITTEE

OF THE SOCIETY

FOR PROMOTING

CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,

FOR THE YEAR 1825-6.

QUEBEC:

Printed by T. CARY & Co. Free-Masons' Hall.

1826.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

THE QUEBEC DIOCESAN COMMITTEE of the SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOW-LEDGE beg to offer the following as the *Eighth* Annual Report of their proceedings, with every feeling of devout thankfulness for the success partial indeed, but not doubtful—of their past "work and labour of love," and of humble reliance upon the Divine blessing on their future exertions in the same glorious field.

The past, however, has not been without a cloud, and the Committee have deeply felt the loss they have sustained, in the death of their venerable and lamented President, the late Lord Bishop of Quebec, which occurred shortly after their last Anniversary. It may be thought unseasonable, after the lapse of so many months, or it may be deemed superfluous, after the many merited tributes of respect and esteem, which have been paid to the memory of the departed Prelate, by persons better qualified to do justice to his exalted virtues and rare endowments, to throw their feeble testimony into the scale;

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but the intimate connexion, which subsisted between his Lordship and the Committee, for the last seven years of his valuable life, renders it impossible for them to refrain from all notice of an event, by which they have been so nearly affected. It is not, perhaps, generally known, that the original formation of the Committee, in the year 1818, was in obedience to instructions received from his Lordship, who was then in England; and they feel that it is totally unnecessary for them to expatiate upon the warm interest which he took in all their proceedings, carried on, as they were, under his own immediate auspices. Guided at all times by his judicious counsel, and animated by his affectionate encouragement, they were either enabled to overcome opposing obstacles and embarrassments, or taught to bear up under their severest pressure. Well, therefore, may they, who have so often benefited by his advice, lament the loss of this eminent Divine, whose strength of intellect, depth of learning, and genuine piety of heart, may justly entitle him to a place amongst the brightest ornaments of the Church of England.

The public voice, in this country, has long since been expressed upon the occasion; but the sentiments of cordial and affectionate regret, which pervaded all classes of the community, from the highest to the lowest, are so well described in the following extract from the Resolutions of the venerable "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel," on the afflicting event, that the Committee trust its introduction here will not be considered out of place, as they feel assured that it cannot fail to be generally accep-

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After expressing their own "feelings of deep regret," on receiving the intelligence of the Bishop's death, and " their sorrow for the serious loss, which the Colonial Church has sustained by this event," the Board proceed to state, that, " while they cannot but deplore the dissolution of that connexion, which had subsisted with his Lordship for the long period of two and thirty years," they yet "feel it to be a most consoling reflection, that the value of his Lordship's character and services was duly appreciated in the Colonies, as well by the Government, as by all ranks of his Majesty's subjects, who have vied with each other in paying every possible tribute of veneration and affection to the memory of their late excellent Prelate, whom they justly regard as the Founder of their Church, and as the Apostolical pattern of its doctrine, discipline, and duties : and to whose pious zeal, unbounded charity, highly-cultivated talents, commanding eloquence, and dutiful loyalty, they feel indebted for the diffusion of sound Religion, and of attachment to the Institutions of the Mother-Country."

Dark indeed would be the prospects of the Church, in this country, were there not a rich and precious well-spring of hope and consolation in the accomplishment of the views long entertained by the late Bishop, with regard to his successor in the See.

Like his illustrious Prototype, the great Apostle of the Gentiles, "counting all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord"—relinquishing all those advantages of noble birth, high connexion, and powerful interest, which are in general so greatly estimated, and which opened to him a sure avenue to preferment in his native land—this extraordinary individual came out to this country as a simple Missionary, with no other prospect than that of unaccustomed privation in the desert places of the wilderness, and no other object than that of extending the Redeemer's kingdom upon earth. And on earth he has had his reward, and the promise of the Saviour has been fully verified in his behalf, that he who " hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of

thren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake," shall not only receive "life everlasting in the world to come," but "manifold more" also "in this present time." In his late situation of Visiting-Missionary, his Lordship has had ample opportunities of making himself intimately acquainted with his

his Lordship has had ample opportunities of making himself intimately acquainted with his extensive Diocese; and the Committee anticipate no small advantage, when he shall be called upon to preside over them, † from that local experience and information, which will enable him to select those situations where their limited resources may be most beneficially employed, and their operations carried on with the surest prospect of success.

But it is high time to enter upon the detail of these operations, during the past year. These, as usual, have been directed to two objects: the circulation of Books and Tracts on the Catalogue of the Parent Society—and the diffusion of Education on the Madras System.

+ The readers of this Report will bear in mind, that it was drawn up and submitted to the Annual Meeting in the month of May last. (Decr. 1826).

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1. With regard to the former of these, boxes have been forwarded to the Missionarics at York, Adolphus-Town, the Carrying-place (Township of Murray), Brockville and Perth, in the Upper Province; to those at Nicolet, St. Andrew's, St. Armand, and Hull, in the Lower Province; and to the Rev. W. Hough, at New Carlisle, in the District of Gaspé. These were sent partly on account of the individuals themselves, and partly to the order of the Society for propogating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, in conformity with the arrangement referred to in the last Report. Books and Tracts have likewise been sent in small quantities, or supplied to individuals at the Rivière du Loup below Quebec, Mitis, and the Bay of Chaleur. They have, also, been circulated in this city and its neighbourhood, and distributed amongst Protestant settlers in the Township of Stoneham, the Parish of St. Henry, and the Seigniories of Port Neuf, and St. Charles on the River Chaudière; and they have been dispersed, as heretofore, by the Rev. G. Archibold, on his ministerial circuit in the Townships of Frampton, Ireland, and Inverness.

The amount of sales at the Repository, during the past year, is £143 18 0; and they would have amounted to a much larger sum, had not the District Committee at Montreal procured its supply directly from the Parent Society. It is truly gratifying to learn, from the Report which has just been printed, that the concerns of this Committee are in so flourishing a state, and that they have consequently been enabled to effect so much greater good, than in former years. This prosperous state of things, it is to be hoped, is not likely to diminish; in which case it will doubtless be in their power, at no very distant period, notwithstanding a paragraph in their Report, somewhat discouraging in its tendency, to liquidate, either in whole or in part, the claims of the Diocesan Committee, which have been accumulating since the year 1820, and now amount to a sum little short of £200 currency, for Books issued to them from the Repository at Quebec.

The finances of the Committee are indeed at so low an ebb, and the Parent Society has claims upon them to so large an amount, that it will be impossible for them to send home any fresh order for Books, till the arrears due to them shall have been paid in, or their funds augmented from other sources. The stock of Books at the Depôt is now extremely low; a small supply, amounting only to £137 12 0 sterling, being all that was received last year. This sum, with the balance of £391 1 7 sterling, previously due to the Parent Society, upon the Book-Account only, makes a total of £528 13 7; which ought in justice to be liquidated by the Committee, before they transmit any application for an additional supply. On the payment of this sum, the Society has liberally consented to relinquish its claim for subscriptions; and the claim for thirds, amounting to £563 5 6, will then also be taken into favourable consideration.

The Archdeacon of Quebec, when in London, was kind enough to attend at the Society's Office, for the purpose of explaining the embarrassing situation of the Committee, and being

put into Society's Th ject. communic from the l taries of tl the same ciety has a in its trans for the th ficient to of Books when the to a greate considerat Society no mittee for the refusal fair."-

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put into possession of the sentiments of the Society's standing Committee upon the subject. The result has been stated above ; and a communication has been subsequently received from the Rev. A. M. Campbell, one of the Secretaries of the Society, in which, with reference to the same subject, it is remarked, that " the Society has already been a loser to a great amount in its transactions with the Quebec Committee; for the thirds, when strictly paid up, are not sufficient to cover the loss upon the Society's sale of Books to Committees-and consequently, when the thirds are not paid, the Society suffers to a greater extent than their amount. It is this consideration," he adds, " which induces the Society not to relinquish its claim upon the Committee for Books, and the Society trusts that the refusal will not be considered illiberal or unfair."-

On the contrary, the Committee feel that the Parent Society is entitled to their warmest gratitude, for its uniform and continued liberality, its kind attention to their wishes, and the benevolent interest which it has at all times taken in their concerns. It would be most unreasonable to expect that the Parent Society should supply them with books gratuitously. lt is high time that the people of this country should learn to do something for themselves ; and the Quebec Committee, instead of hanging as a dead weight upon the Parent Society, i:npeding its efforts and consuming its resources, ought rather, if possible, to endeavour to relieve it from some portion of its heavy and increasing burthens.

The supply of Bibles, and of Prayer Books and Testaments bound up together, alluded to in a former Report, was sent out by His Majesty's Government last summer. It consisted of 500 of the former, and 1000 of the latter. They were procured from the Society for promoting Christain Knowledge, and the whole cost to the Government was rather more than £300 sterling. The supply fell short by about one-fourth of what had been promised, and it is intended to make application

for the remainder.

The distribution of these has been as follows : -York, Bibles 81, Testaments and Prayer Books 166; Carrying Place (Township of Murray), Prayer Books and Testaments 20; Brockville and Prescott, Prayer Books and Testaments 150 ; Kingston, Bibles 168, Prayer Books and Testaments 257, sent to the Venerable Archdeacon Stewart, for the Upper Province generally, except the above-mentioned places, which were previously supplied ; New Carlisle and Paspebiac (District of Gaspé), Bibles 20, Prayer Books and Testaments 25. The remainder, with the exception of such as may be required in Quebec, have been reserved by the Archdeacon for the Parochial Clergy in the Lower Province, and will be forwarded to them, in suitable proportions, as opportunities offer. + A box has already been sent to the Rev. J. C. Driscoll at Nicolet, who states the demand for them

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A supp received la to this ef lain to the and other Tracts, fo " mand. the munifi for supply stations w gious Trac io £5743 and he b moting Ch sterling, t similar sto The Socie attention t ply from th be in a ver be of the m benefit it v been receiv ready prov the Garrise the St. Lay adapted to be forward in the Can sent to th the Forces rison there

⁺ The opportunity was taken, when the Clergy were as-sembled at the Visitation at Montreal in August last, to receive their orders, which have since been executed.

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in his Mission to be of the most encouraging description.

A supply from the fund of Clericus was also received late in the autumn, on an application to this effect from the Rev. Dr. Mills, Chaplain to the Forces, consisting of Prayer Books, and other appropriate religious Books and Tracts, for the use of the Military in this com-This fund, which was established by mand. the munificence of the late Chaplain-General, for supplying His Majesty's Forces on foreign stations with Common Prayer Books and Religious Tracts, amounted previously to his death to £5743 9 3 three per cent. reduced annuities; and he bequeathed to the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge the sum of £3000 sterling, to be laid out in the purchase of similar stock, for the augmentation of the fund. The Society has kindly promised its immediate attention to any applications for a further supply from this excellent charity, which appears to be in a very flourishing state, and cannot fail to be of the most essential service to those for whose benefit it was intended .- The supply which has been received, was much required, and has already proved highly beneficial to the Troops in the Garrison of Quebec; and the navigation of the St. Lawrence having now opened, a portion, adapted to the wants of each, will immediately be forwarded to the different military stations in the Canadas. A small box has already been sent to the Rev. B. B. Stevens, Chaplain to the Forces at Montreal, for the use of the Garrison there and at the Isle aux Noix.

Together with these Books was received a Lending-Library, which had been applied for at the same time, for the use of the Troops in This also has fully answered this Garrison. every expectation, which had been previously formed of its utility. Applications for the Books have been regular and constant ; and the soldiers to whom they have been issued, have cheerfully contributed the small sum of 1s. per annum, which it has been thought proper to exact from them, for the purpose of forming a fund to replace or repair such Books, as may in the course of time be lost or injured, and to add to the Library from time to time, by the purchase of other eligible and useful publications. The " Cottager's Monthly Visitor," an excellent periodical miscellany, has already been added to the Library, in pursuance of this arrangement. The whole number of contributors is 72; and the Books are as clean and in as good order as can be expected, considering the many hands through which they pass.

It only remains to add to this part of the Report, which has already been extended to too great a length, that the Reports of the Parent Society for the year 1824, were duly received last summer, and that their contents afford matter of sincere congratulation to all, who feel an interest in the success of the Society's endeavours to promote the glory of God, and the eternal welfare of mankind.

2. The Committee proceed now to the subject of Education, and the National School at Quebec. The in the last serve, still doubt ma the unaba two Schoo offer the *Ladies' C* their merit thing whi of the Gir cessful, a testifying to ble service tinuance.

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The improved state of things adverted to in the last Report, the Committee rejoice to observe, still continues undiminished, and it is no doubt mainly attributable to the same causethe unabated attention of the Visitors of the two Schools. To these the Committee beg to offer their best acknowledgments. To the Ladies' Committee they are particularly due: their meritorious and unceasing exertions in every thing which relates to the internal regulation of the Girls' School, have been eminently successful, and the Committee, in thus publicly testifying the sense they entertain of their valuable services, most earnestly entreat their continuance.

Nor is less praise due to the young persons, who act as Voluntary Teachers at the Sunday School. Regular and punctual in their attendance, with scarcely a single defaulter, it is a pleasing spectacle to behold them at this early age, while so many of their contemporaries are immersed in frivolous pursuits, or treading the broad way that leadeth to destruction, imparting to others, less fortunately circumstanced, some portion of their own most valuable advantages, and instructing the children of poverty in that knowledge which maketh wise unto salvation. Nor can it be doubted that, while thus engaged in the task of improving others, they will-imperceptibly, perhaps, but not less surely-derive improvement themselves at the same time. The moral virtue or the religious duty which they are inculcating will, it may reasonably be expected, sink deeper into their own hearts, become the subject of more serious and more frequent reflection, and

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bring forth, under the genial influence of feelings thus happily awakened, a richer and a brighter harvest of immortal fruit. Thus, like the *Mercy* so beautifully delineated by the Poet, religious instruction may be said to be "twice blessed : it blesseth him that gives, and him that takes."

The Committee must not omit to mention, that the attendance at the Sunday School is rapidly increasing; the total number now on the list, including the children of the Military Schools, who regularly attend there on the Sabbath, amounting to between 130 and 140 Boys, and 90 and 100 Girls. The Weekly School is nearly stationary in point of numbers, and contains at present—Boys 132, Girls 96. No alteration has been made in the regulations, except that, with a view to excite additional emulation, prizes are now distributed four times in the year, instead of once, as before. Such Books as may be required for this purpose, as well as all the Books used in the School, are supplied gratuitously from the Repository.

The expenditure from the Clothing Fund, during the past year, amounts to £4 19 9, for the Boys' School, and £23 4 6, for the Girls'. The respective Treasurers take a great deal of trouble, and merit the thanks of the Committee for their active and watchful zeal in every thing connected with the Institution.

An application was made to the Provincial Legislature during the last Session, by the Committee of Management of the National School, under the sanction of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, for aid from the public funds, to extricate them from the embarrassments in

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which the building of the School-House had involved them, (though the balance of $\pounds 84$ 7 101 stated to be due in the last Report, has been paid off), and to enable them to prosecute their undertaking more effectually and with greater prospects of success. A grant of £100, although with some degree of difficulty, was obtained; a difficulty which the Committee will confess that they were so far from anticipating, as to have indulged an expectation of a more considerable vote. And this expectation can hardly be pronounced unreasonable when the grants are considered, which were made to similar Institutions, whose claims, as they humbly conceive, are in no respect superior to their own. They trust, however, that the longer and the more intimately the principles and conduct of their own Institution are known, the more effectually will it establish its pretensions to public favour and support. In the mean time they are ready to render their acknowledgments for that assistance which they have received, and have the satisfaction of stating that the amount thus granted will still be of essential service in aiding the resources of the Committee.

The Annual Examination of the Children at the School took place, as usual, in the month of December last, an account of which, as well as of the Christmas Dinner that followed, has already been laid before the public, and may very properly find a place here.

"On Friday the 23d ult. the Annual Public Examination of the Children of the National School in this city, was held at the School-House. The Members present were, in the

Boys' room 110, in the Girls' 82. Their whole appearance was orderly and decent, considering the circumstances of many of the parents, and that of the Girls was conspicuously neat. The business of the day was opened by a prayer, read in each room by one of the children, and closed with a hymn sung jointly by both Schools. The Examination consisted chiefly of reading, spelling, answering questions from Scripture, prompted at the moment by the lesson read, the exhibition of copy and cyphering-books, and writing on slates by the junior classes, which was performed before the company. The children were all put through the usual evolutions, in order to afford a general view of the system of mutual instruction throughout the classes, and they displayed a precision and regularity which reflect credit on the Master and Mistress. Such of the children as learn the English Catechism, and other books of catechetical instruction, were examined in these branches of their education. Samples of needlework were shewn by the Girls. The concluding performances in both Schools were recitations, which consisted entirely of appropriate hymns, with the exception of a Dialogue upon the merits of National Schools, from the National School Magazine, which was sustained by two brothers with much correctness and natural effect, and was the subject of particular commendation among the audience. His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief and the Countess of Dalhousie were pleased to honour the occasion by their presence, and her Ladyship condescended to distribute the prizes to the Girls with her own hands.

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" In their solicitude for the instruction of the mind, the Patrons and Directors of this Establishment have not overlooked the comforts of the body. Many of the children," (as has been already mentioned in this Report), " receive articles of clothing from a separate fund belonging to each School, and raised for this specific purpose by voluntary contributions; and the gratifying spectacle, exhibited for the first time last year, of a Christmas Dinner, given both to the Sunday and Week-day Scholars, was repeated this year, and may, it is hoped, be now considered as having obtained the footing of an established custom. + The dinner, of which the staple articles were roast-beef and plum-pudding, was provided at home by a number of families, (at the head of whom were the noble residents at the Castle), who each sent their portion at the appointed hour down to the School House. The Voluntary Teachers who attend in each School, officiated as carvers, with occasional assistance from others of the company present, and the servants of several families were very useful and attentive. Grace was said in each room before and after dinner, by one of the children, and before their dismissal they sung a hymn. The interesting nature of the spectacle attracted a great number of respectable persons to witness it, and the Earl and Countess of Dalhousie thought it not unworthy of their presence. Although there were at dinner 125 Boys and 115 Girls, the relics of the feast were very considerable, and were accordingly

⁺ This hope has just received a farther confirmation by the repetition of the Christmas Dinner this year. (1826).

in part distributed upon the spot, by some of the ladies who take an active interest in the School, to about a dozen of poor families, most of whom brought tickets for that purpose from the Clergy ; the remainder being sent to the paupers who are permitted to inhabit the old Barrack-room at the Hope-Gate Guard."— Quebec Mercury, Dec. 27, 1825.

The Committee conclude what they have to state on the subject of Education, with remarking, that the organization of the Regimental-Schools in the Garrison is entirely satisfactory. An examination of the children of the three Schools (Royal Artillery, 71st and 79th Regiments) was held before the Christmas Holidays, when Prizes were distributed to the most deserving, as at the National School. The Madras System appears to be well understood by the Masters, who pay the most praiseworthy attention to the morals and improvement of their Scholars; and these in return evince, in many instances, a progress, a talent, and a demeanour, which would reflect credit upon establishments of a higher order.

The Committee are sensible that their Report has been extended beyond its usual limits; and they, therefore, hasten to conclude with once more earnestly recommending the designs in which they are engaged, to the strenuous support—the zealous, heart-felt, cordial co-operation of those who are, and those who ought to be, their Members—all the sincere and attached friends of the Church of England. Great as are the difficulties by which they are surrounded in this Colony, they feel assured, that, by a steady and resolute per course up be finally o of others dent and y fellow-cre of the law the Savior that " in not."

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solute perseverance, in humble dependence of course upon the blessing of Heaven, they may all be finally overcome; and in doing good to the souls of others—in enlightening by pious, and prudent and well-directed endeavours, those of their fellow-creatures, who have little or no knowledge of the laws of Christ, they have the assurance of the Saviour himself to animate and console them, that "in due season they shall reap, if they faint not."

By desire of the Committee, J. L. MILLS, D. D. Secretary.

Quebec, 10th May, 1826.

List of 2 DIOCE TY FO. LEDGE year. THE EARL THE HONOT THE LORD Abbott, R Adams, D Anderson.

The Honor The Lord Abbott, R Adams, D Andersou, Archbold, Aylwin, C Bell, Hono Bowen, H Burns, Ho Burrage, I Caldwell, Campbell, Campbell, Campbell, Cary, Mr. Chandler, Chapman, Cochran, A Codman, M Cowan, Mr Cunninghar Dalkin, M Darling, M Davidson,

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List of Annual Subscribers to the QUEBEC DIOCESAN COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIE-TY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOW-LEDGE—due on the 3d March in each year. At £1 5 0 each.

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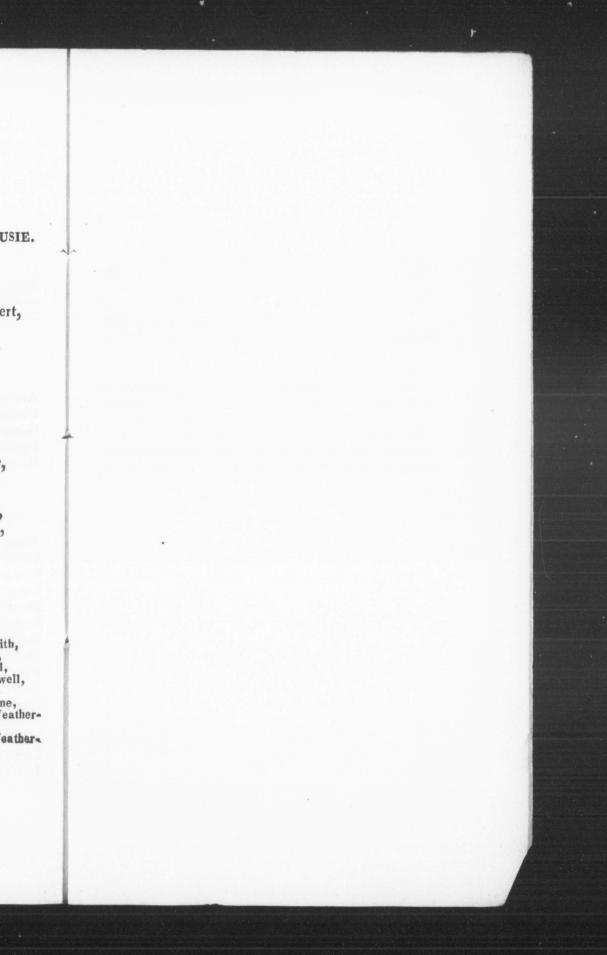
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