

MASONIC RECORD  
OF THE  
REV. T. C. SMYTH, D.D., LL.D.

To W. Dr. Webb  
W. M. Jettand Lodge 1311  
with the author's  
fraternal regards and  
heartly good wishes

MASONIC







Rev. THOMAS CARTWRIGHT SMYTH, D.D., LL.D.

*From a Photograph by HESLOP WOODS, Kelsall Street Studio, Leeds.*

A BRIEF RECORD  
OF  
THE MASONIC CAREER  
OF THE  
REV. THOMAS CARTWRIGHT SMYTH,  
D.D., LL.D.,  
*P.M., P.Z., and Past Deputy District Grand Master  
of the Eastern Archipelago,*  
VERY WORSHIPFUL GRAND CHAPLAIN OF ENGLAND,  
GRAND 1st A. SOJR. SUPREME GRAND  
CHAPTER OF ENGLAND,  
&c., &c., &c.

BY WILLIAM WATSON, P.M., P.Z.,  
LEEDS.

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DEDICATED  
TO  
HENRY SMITH, ESQUIRE,  
OF WAKEFIELD,  
P.M. 387, P.Z. 302, 387, & 495, P.E.C. FAITH PRECEPTORY No. 13,  
P. PROV. GD. DEACON, P. PROV. GD. SECRETARY, &c., &c.,  
PROV. GRAND S.E.,  
WORSHIPFUL DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER  
OF WEST YORKSHIRE,  
AND  
PAST GRAND DEACON OF ENGLAND,  
AS A SMALL BUT SINCERE MARK OF RESPECT  
FOR HIS  
LONG AND INESTIMABLE SERVICES  
IN THE  
CAUSE OF FREEMASONRY,  
MORE ESPECIALLY ON BEHALF OF THE NOBLE CHARITIES  
OF THE ORDER.



## INTRODUCTION.

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IT has been truly said that the system of FREEMASONRY is microcosmic in character, and symbolically depicts the advent and departure of all that is mortal.

A most prominent trait in the Order is its inherent and intuitive disposition to advance with the march of Time, and to the fact that "Masonry is a progressive science" the Society not only owes its present exalted position, but the continuation from age to age of its very existence.

In remote days, when the gloom of ignorance and superstition enshrouded

the earth, Masonry, "Like a Glimmering Light in the East," heralded the dawn of Science, Morality, and Truth. Its teachings, pure and sublime, inculcated by the enlightened few, fell upon the hearts of the many, and gradually awakened into active life the desire to fulfil the great and noble destiny of our Order in THE UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAN, and the acknowledgment of THE UNIVERSAL FATHERHOOD OF GOD.

The primitive rite of initiation as practised by our ancient brethren was doubtless simple in character, but became amplified during successive generations; and as time rolled on, and the instinctive yearning increased for higher expres-

sion of Masonic Truth, the impressive beauties of the Third Degree were developed.

To define the exact moment when night ends and twilight begins is an impracticable task; neither can we fix upon the precise date in our history when the Darkness of Death was first illumined by the glorious light of the Holy Royal Arch.

It has been contended that Arch Masonry is a creation of recent date. True, our present system is somewhat modern, but the ritual and ceremonial are undoubtedly the result of natural progressive construction, and indicate the innate vitality and spirit of advancement in speculative Masonry.

In any other sense there is no more justice in pronouncing Arch Masonry modern than to hold that man in his present high state of civilisation is of yesterday. There may be in some respects an immeasurable gulf between him and his prehistoric ancestor. But as the man of those days was the forefather of the man of to-day, and as much the cradle—ruder, may be—of an immortal soul, so the Masonry of ancient times, enshrining the germ of Universal Brotherhood, was the forerunner and progenitor of this our latest and highest type and noblest exemplification of vital and immortal truth.

Whilst admiring the splendours of the edifice, let us forget not the labourers

passing from our midst, nor fail to remember the deeds and works of those on whom the guidance and material welfare of our illustrious Order rests. Many have drooped and passed away; in name, alas! forgotten and unrecorded by the tongue of Fame, but the spirit and effect of their noble deeds and struggles remain ineffaceable by the hand of death or time.

To a veteran worker and fellow of the Craft, the following is a humble tribute—though far too brief and inadequate to afford more than a scant indication of services to Freemasonry and society in general, rendered during a long and invaluable career.







THOMAS CARTWRIGHT SMYTH, D.D.,  
LL.D., was born at Kingston-  
upon-Hull, on the 9th day of December,  
1820, and is the descendant of an old  
and honourable Staffordshire family.  
His father was the late Captain Thomas  
Smyth, of the 80th Regiment of the  
British Army, who was initiated in  
India, and saw active service in the  
Travancore War during the early part  
of the present century.

He was educated at St Peter's School, in the ancient city of York, one of the oldest educational institutions in this country, and afterwards passed to St. Catherine's, Cambridge, where, in 1843, he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Classical and Mathematical honours. Subsequently he was appointed a Master in King William's College, Isle of Man.

It was whilst residing there that he first saw Masonic Light, having been

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One word of tribute to departed worth.

Captain Charles Masterman Smyth (a brother of Dr. T. C. Smyth), born in 1834, was initiated in the "Palatine" Lodge, Sunderland. During his military career, whilst serving Queen and country, he also rendered eminent and valuable services to Freemasonry; serving, amongst many other offices, as W.M. of the Lodge of Corfu, of the Lodge at Yokohama, Japan, and of the Lodge "Mayo" at Rawl Pindie, in India; also as Prov. Grand S.W. of the Punjaub.

*initiated, passed, and raised* in the "Royal Isle of Man" Lodge, No. 338, holden under the Grand Lodge of Scotland; the date of his raising being December 27th, 1843. This Lodge at that time contained many military brethren, but has long ago faded out of existence.

Having remained in the Isle of Man for one year, he took Holy Orders, and became Curate of Long Benton, near Newcastle-on-Tyne; afterwards remov-

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He also saw service in Ireland, the West Indies, and at home.

He excelled as a worker in various degrees, and the elocutionary power displayed in rendering our beautiful ceremonial, never failed to awaken a higher appreciation of the sublime teachings of the Craft. He passed away March 23rd, 1879.

Death claimed too soon a genial, beloved, and kind-hearted brother.

ing into Newcastle, as Curate of St. Andrew's; ultimately being appointed Curate and Evening Lecturer of St. Nicholas' in the same town. Here, as elsewhere, our reverend brother discharged the duties of his sacred office faithfully and with regard to the injunctions of his Great Master, eliciting from all those within the range of his influence the warmest expressions of respect and affection.

In the year 1844 he became a joining member of the "Northern Counties" Lodge (then No. 586), meeting at Newcastle-on-Tyne, in which he served several offices, and in the following year was exalted in the "Sussex" Chapter attached thereto.

In 1846 the University of Cambridge conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts.

In 1847 he was installed Knight Templar, in the "Kent" Encampment, Newcastle-on-Tyne; and on August 12th, 1848, he entered the "Royal Kent" Rose Croix Chapter there.

In 1848-9 he held the office of Senior Warden in Lodge "De Loraine" (then No. 793) in that town.

It was whilst he remained in Newcastle that his great Masonic abilities were recognised, and he received the appointment of Grand Chaplain of the Province of Northumberland.

In 1849 he married Isabella Phœbe, eldest daughter of the Rev. John

Messenger, incumbent of Shotley, in the county of Durham, and having, in the same year, had conferred upon him the office of Government Chaplain in India, he left this country for his new scene of labour, and almost immediately after his arrival there was appointed Provincial Grand Chaplain of Bengal, so promptly were his worth and abilities discerned by the District Grand Master.

In 1852-3 he served the office of Worshipful Master of Lodge "Star of Hope" (then No. 761), Agra. During this year he was advanced to the Mark and Ark Degrees, then worked under the auspices of that Lodge.

He was one of the founders of Lodge "Dalhousie" (then No. 922), Mussoorie, and presided as its Worshipful Master twice—viz., in 1854-5 and 1855-6; being also a founder and first Principal of the Chapter attached to that Lodge.

He actively co-operated with the brethren of the Lodge in erecting—without extraneous pecuniary assistance—a handsome Masonic Temple. On the 25th of June, 1855, the Hall was solemnly dedicated, in antient form, to *Masonry, Virtue, and Universal Benevolence and Charity*, the ceremony being most impressively performed by him in the presence of an influential and enthusiastic gathering of brethren. The form of dedication and the addresses

used on the occasion were, by desire of the members of the Lodge, published in pamphlet form.

It was during his Mastership of the Lodge "Dalhousie" he printed, by request, a sermon preached before the brethren of Mussoorie and Dehra. This elicited from a renegade Mason at Agra a pamphlet which contained one of those rabid and bitter attacks which at that time were so frequently and unjustly levelled against the Society. It was on this occasion our learned brother stood forward and proved himself the worthy champion of a righteous cause, and replied by his celebrated work, entitled, "FREEMASONRY REPRESENTED AND MISREPRESENTED."



This contribution to Masonic literature would alone have sufficed to establish a reputation of the highest order; and to-day it justly occupies a position as a standard record of clear, forcible, and unanswerable arguments in refutation of anti-masonic calumny and slander.

For this great and lasting service he received the thanks of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bengal, and the rank of Provincial Grand Warden.

In 1857 a terrible shock vibrated throughout the whole civilised world, and shook our Indian Empire to its base. The memory of that awful Mutiny will never be effaced from the minds of the nation at large, much less from those

who, by accident or the call of duty, were brought face to face with death, almost without a chance of rescue, amidst the most harrowing scenes of bloodshed and destruction. It was then that our reverend brother, by his cool judgment, unflinching courage, and Christian fortitude proved himself worthy to be numbered amongst that band of heroes whose names are recorded on the immortal roll of fame.

Many were the addresses, congratulations, and testimonials which he received; but none to which he attached more value than that received from the residents in Meerut during the Mutiny, of which the following is a copy:—

MEERUT,

*30th January, 1858.*

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,

We, the undersigned, your parishioners, cannot permit you to leave the cure, over which you have presided (and for the last nine months alone), without placing on record, in this prominent manner, our sincere acknowledgments of your estimable qualities both as a pastor and as a friend, and our deep and unfeigned regret at losing the spiritual attention of one who has endeared himself alike to all.

The fearful tragedy of the 10th May, 1857, the occurrences of the following morning, and the scenes through which we subsequently

passed, appalling even the stoutest hearts, can never be effaced from our recollection. But, when remembering those scenes, how can we forget your unwearied and incessant exertions during that harassing period to fulfil worthily the duties of your sacred calling? The constant visitation of the sick; the establishing of the relief fund, which had its origin with you, and its attendant duties; and last, though not least, your voluntary daily ministry in the fortified square, will ever be remembered by us with feelings of deep affection. Firmly assured are we that those fervent aspirations which, in that season of peculiar trial and anxiety, ascended to the throne of the Most High, were not disregarded by Him who can save by many or by few.

Grieved as we are from personal considerations, and from a knowledge of your private and public worth, at losing you, we should be

wanting to ourselves did we not heartily and sincerely congratulate you upon your preferment, so richly deserved. May we hope that, when far away, you will give an occasional passing thought to those who now bid you "Farewell."

Believe us, Dear and Reverend Sir,

Yours most sincerely,

H. RICHMOND JONES, Colonel, Carabineers,  
Commanding Station.

J. CRACROFT WILSON, Commissioner.

G. WHISH, Lieut.-Colonel, Brigade Major.

W. KINLESIDE, Lieut.-Colonel Commanding  
Artillery Division.

H. TOMBS, Major, Horse Artillery.

ALFRED LIGHT, Captain, Artillery.

C. W. MACTIER, M.D., Artillery.

DAVID B. SMITH, M.D., Artillery.

ELLEN WILSON (Lady Archdale Wilson).

ELIZA GREATHEAD.

EMMA HOGGE.

FLEETWOOD WILLIAMS, Civil Judge.  
B. PARROTT, Captain, Stud Department.  
N. PENNY, Major-General.  
W. N. CUSTANCE, Lieut.-Colonel, Carabineers.  
MARY CUSTANCE.  
W. GRAHAM, Adjutant, Carabineers.  
W. F. WALLACE, Captain, 74th N.I.  
C. R. DOUGLAS, Inspecting Postmaster.  
D. D. HUNTER, Captain, 60th Rifles.  
ARTHUR W. OWEN, Captain, 11th Regiment.  
G. SMYTH, Colonel, 3rd Cavalry.  
JANE SMYTH.  
W. GALLOWAY, Captain, 3rd Cavalry.  
AND ALL THE OTHER RESIDENTS IN MEERUT.

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Subsequent to the outbreak of the Mutiny at Meerut, of which place he was then Senior Government Chaplain, Brother Smyth removed to Singapore, where he became the Deputy District Grand Master of the Eastern Archipelago, and Worshipful Master of Lodge "Zetland in the East" (then No. 748), and First Principal of its Chapter.

He was also Worshipful Master of Lodge "Fidelity," Singapore (which was afterwards incorporated with Lodge "Zetland in the East"), holding the Mastership of both Lodges at the same time, by dispensation.

Singapore, it may be mentioned, is a great highway between India, China, and England. Large numbers of naval and

military men and civilians are constantly passing and repassing. It is a gathering place of people of many nations; and it was here that Brother Smyth performed a very large amount of Masonic working.

In 1860 the University of Dublin conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Whilst in Simla in 1865-6 he also laboured hard, and rendered essential service to the craft in that neighbourhood.

Leaving India in 1867, followed by the sincere regrets and good wishes of a vast number who had become endeared to him, both natives and Europeans, and many tributes to his worth by the Press,



he revisited his native country, and was six months later appointed by Sir Edmund Beckett (now Lord Grimthorpe) and his father to the then new living of St. Chad's, Far Headingley, Leeds, which he now holds.

In 1872 the University of Cambridge conferred upon him the degree of LL.D., after becoming a member of Jesus College.

Since his residence in Leeds, amongst other valuable services to Craft, Mark, and Arch Masonry in that town and elsewhere, Brother Smyth in 1874 passed the chair of Eminent Preceptor in the "Fidelity" Preceptory 114, which had been founded some years previously by the learned Brother J. D. Kay, P.M.,

P.P.G.D. (now Sub-prior of West Yorkshire), Brother W. J. Beck, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., and other prominent Masons in the district.

His pre-eminent abilities as a Consecrating and Installing Officer were called into requisition on the 28th of February, 1874, when, by command of the Grand Superintendent of the Province, he consecrated the "Marquess of Ripon" Royal Arch Chapter, No. 837, at Ripon, on which occasion he was complimented warmly by the Most Honourable the Marquess of Ripon, K.G., and other brethren of high position in the craft who were present.

He also, on the 11th of January, 1875, by a like command, consecrated

the "Scarbro'" Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1214, at Batley, and installed the officers. Our lamented Brother Bentley Shaw, W.D.P.G.M. and M.E. Grand Superintendent, was present, and moved a vote of thanks to him.

In each of these instances a fine exemplification of the beautiful Ceremony observed in the consecration of a Royal Arch Chapter was witnessed.

He filled the office of Provincial Grand Mark Chaplain, and on October 25th, 1875, was appointed Provincial Grand Prelate (Knight Templar) of West Yorkshire.

On November 8th, 1884, he became one of the Founders and the Senior Warden of the "Lodge of Prudence,"

No. 2069. On November 14th, 1885, he was installed Master of that Lodge in a most impressive manner by his predecessor, W. Bro. Edwin Woodhouse, J.P., P.M., P.P.G.J.W., West Yorkshire, and in the presence of a large and brilliant assemblage of brethren. Under their experienced guidance the Lodge has prospered, and the lustre of our eminent brother's name has added brightness to the prospects of the Lodge, which we trust will never be o'ershadowed.

On the 21st September, 1885, a heavy calamity befel our brother. The beloved companion of his married life during a long period of unbroken harmony, the sharer of his perils in other climes, the

solace of his later years—was taken hence. The loss of his wife, the sorest trial during an eventful career, was a source of profound grief to a large circle of relatives and friends also. If in such a moment of bereavement consolation could be awakened, it must have been called forth by the widely-expressed sympathy for him, and of affection and esteem for the one departed. In the church of St. Chad, Far Headingley, a beautiful stained-glass window, three exquisite mosaics, and a monumental plate of brass, all stand in record of respect to her memory by the parishioners.

On the 14th April, 1886, Right Worshipful Brother Tew, Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire,

recognizing and appreciating the high worth and abilities of our reverend brother, appointed him Senior Provincial Grand Chaplain, and on the 10th of May same year, Provincial Grand Third Principal, in which latter capacity he took active part in the consecration of several new Chapters, amongst others that of "Zetland," Chapter 603, Cleckheaton, June 19th, 1886, on which occasion he delivered an impromptu oration which will long be remembered by those who had the privilege of hearing it.

The years 1885-6 were busy periods of our Brother's Masonic career, for, in addition to fulfilling the duties of those offices already mentioned, he became

Junior Warden, "Copley" Mark Lodge, 111, October 5th, 1885; Provincial Grand Mark Mason Overseer, West Yorkshire, October 14th, 1885; First Principal of Excelsior Chapter, 1042, on the occasion of its consecration, January 28th, 1886 (re-elected Z. 1887); and Junior Warden of "Prince Leopold" Mark Lodge, 352, Ripon, April 7th, 1886.

June 1st, 1886, witnessed a foreshadowing of still greater honours to follow. On that day His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was installed Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales, and invested Brother Smyth as Senior Grand Chaplain.

The year of office as Worshipful Master of "Prudence," 2069, drew to a close on the 13th November, 1886. In the presence of one of the largest gatherings of brethren ever meeting in a private Lodge in the province, Dr. Smyth installed his successor in a ceremony most beautifully and touchingly worked. The Provincial Grand Master (Right Worshipful Brother Tew), who had honoured the occasion by his presence, was called upon to present to Dr. Smyth a Past Master's jewel on behalf of the Lodge. After speaking in warm and eloquent terms of Brother Smyth, he proceeded:—

It affords me the greatest possible satisfaction to have been invited here to-day by the



Lodge to pin this jewel upon your breast, as a sincere mark and token of the appreciation of every brother in this Lodge, and I may add of every brother in the Province of West Yorkshire. We feel it to be a fortunate circumstance for Freemasonry in this province that it has the honour of looking up to you as the Grand Chaplain of the Province. A very gallant friend of mine has told me how when returning to his troops from India, you were on board the same vessel, and how you won the hearts of the men by the manner in which you nursed and tended them when they were sick. I have, therefore, peculiar pleasure in pinning this jewel upon your breast.

The reply of our reverend brother cannot be allowed to pass unrecorded.

It would be to me anything but a source of satisfaction to receive this jewel had I

thought it was a stereotyped thing in Lodge "Prudence," as in some Lodges, to present a jewel to the outgoing Master whether he had discharged his duties in their opinion conscientiously or not. It would be no pleasure to have this jewel upon my breast if I could not put my hand upon my heart and say that, however imperfectly I had performed the high office of Master, I had performed it in accordance with the dictates of my conscience and with the sincere wish to benefit Freemasonry in general and this Lodge in particular. Any imperfections of mine have, I feel, been covered by the affectionate kindness which you now are showing me, and which has ever existed between us. While I remember the words of the wise man, that the threefold cord is not easily broken, yet I feel that one of the strands of that threefold cord which binds you and me

together has been broken to-day, for I am no longer Worshipful Master of this Lodge, and as constitutional ruler you are no longer called upon to obey me in that capacity. But there are other two strands still remaining unbroken, and I trust will so continue until T.G.A.O.T.U. shall summon me from this sublunary abode; the two strands are the friendship and affection which exist between us, and an earnest, deep, and reverent attachment to the sublime principles of the ancient Order which we love so much. I have often, in the capacity of Master, had to call your attention to the three lights of Masonry. I now discard two of the lights for a moment from my thoughts, and ask you to concentrate your thoughts upon one Master who rules over all. Into His realms we, as faithful Masons, shall be found if we do our duty. "And there shall be no night there,

and they shall need no candle nor light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign for ever and ever." I thank you, W.M. and brethren, from the bottom of my heart, for this and every other proof of your affection and esteem.

On the 16th February, 1887, he was installed Worshipful Master of the new "St. Chad's" Mark Lodge, No. 374, consecrated on that day.

With that generous desire ever to recognise talent, zeal, and ability, Right Worshipful Brother Tew, Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire and Past Grand Deacon of England, had brought into notice the services to Freemasonry rendered by our illustrious brother. That these services

were not thought unworthy of signal recognition in very high quarters was indicated by Brother Smyth receiving a communication, through the Very Worshipful Grand Secretary, that His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master had been graciously pleased to offer for his acceptance a most exalted position in the Craft. The 27th April, 1887, witnessed the crowning period of his career. On that day he may be said to have arrived at the pinnacle of his many Masonic honours, for at the Grand Lodge Meeting, in the presence of a large gathering of great and distinguished brethren, he was invested SENIOR GRAND CHAPLAIN OF ENGLAND; His

Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor being at the same time appointed Senior Grand Warden, and General Viscount Wolseley Junior Grand Warden.

This was indeed a proud day for the Province of West Yorkshire, for at the Banquet following, Right Worshipful Brother Tew, Provincial Grand Master, presided, and it need scarcely be added that when our newly-invested Very Worshipful Brother was called upon to respond for the Grand Officers, how deeply sensible he expressed himself, not only of the honour just conferred by the Grand Master, but also of the kindness on many occasions extended

towards him by Right Worshipful Brother Tew.

A week later, at the Supreme Grand Chapter, he was invested Grand First Assistant Sojourner of England.

Brother Dr. Smyth has liberally supported the Royal Masonic Schools and Benevolent Institution, having qualified as Steward and Life Governor each for the Boys' School and the Girls' School, and twice for the Royal Benevolent Institution. He has also served as Steward twice for the Mark Benevolent Institution.

As a *worker* in many Masonic Degrees, Brother Smyth has proved himself a Master in every sense of the word, and had an experience seldom

surpassed or even equalled in extent. Probably few Masons living have taken an active leading part in so many ceremonies, or initiated so large a number of brethren into the Order.

As an author on the subject of Freemasonry, more especially with regard to its tenets and principles, Brother Dr. Smyth has laboured extensively, and, at the same time, has displayed a high degree of historical and philosophical knowledge and research.

The Magazines of a generation back, and many subsequent effusions, both in pamphlet and other forms, bear testimony to his skill and ability as a writer.



Let us hope that for many years he will live to enjoy the blessings of health and strength, and to receive the respect and veneration he has so well earned from the whole Craft.

*June, 1887.*

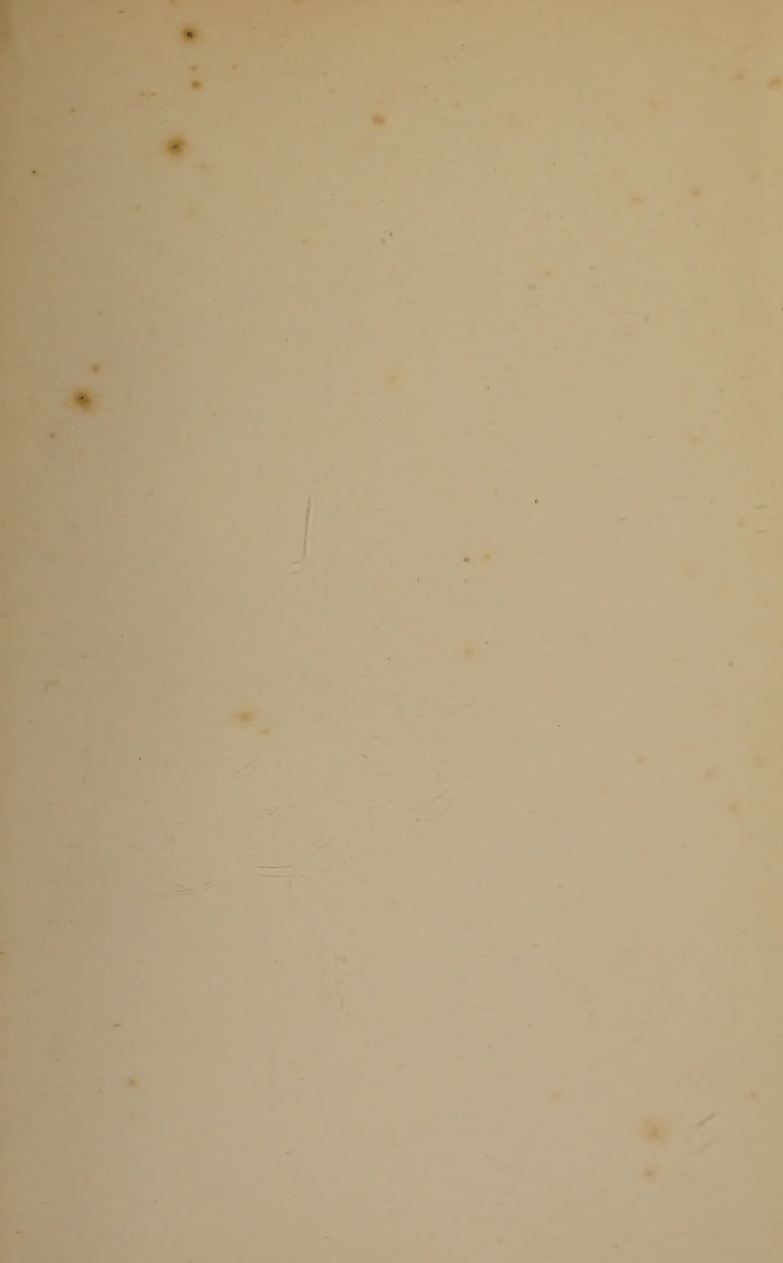




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