



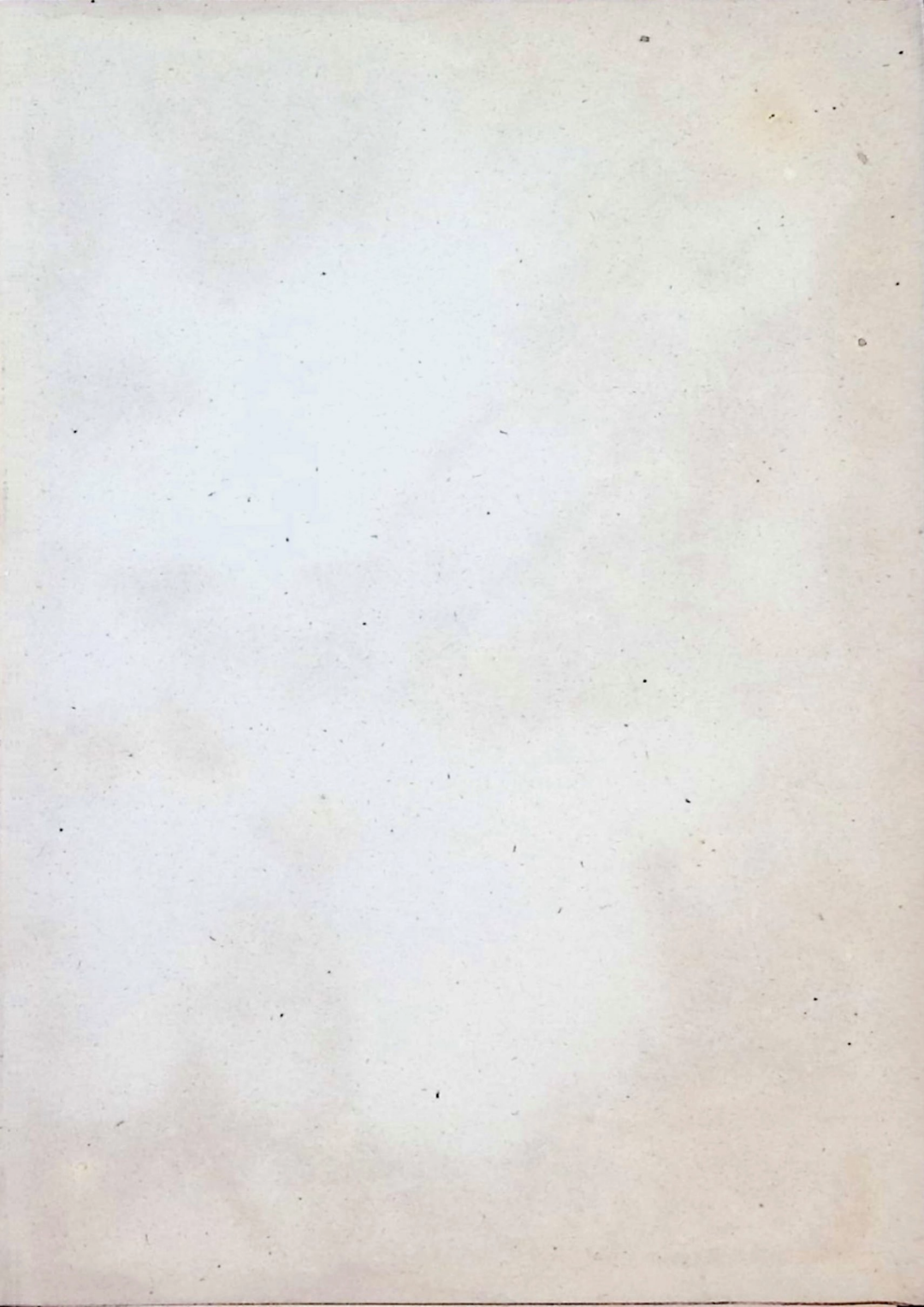
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Julia D. Hawk.

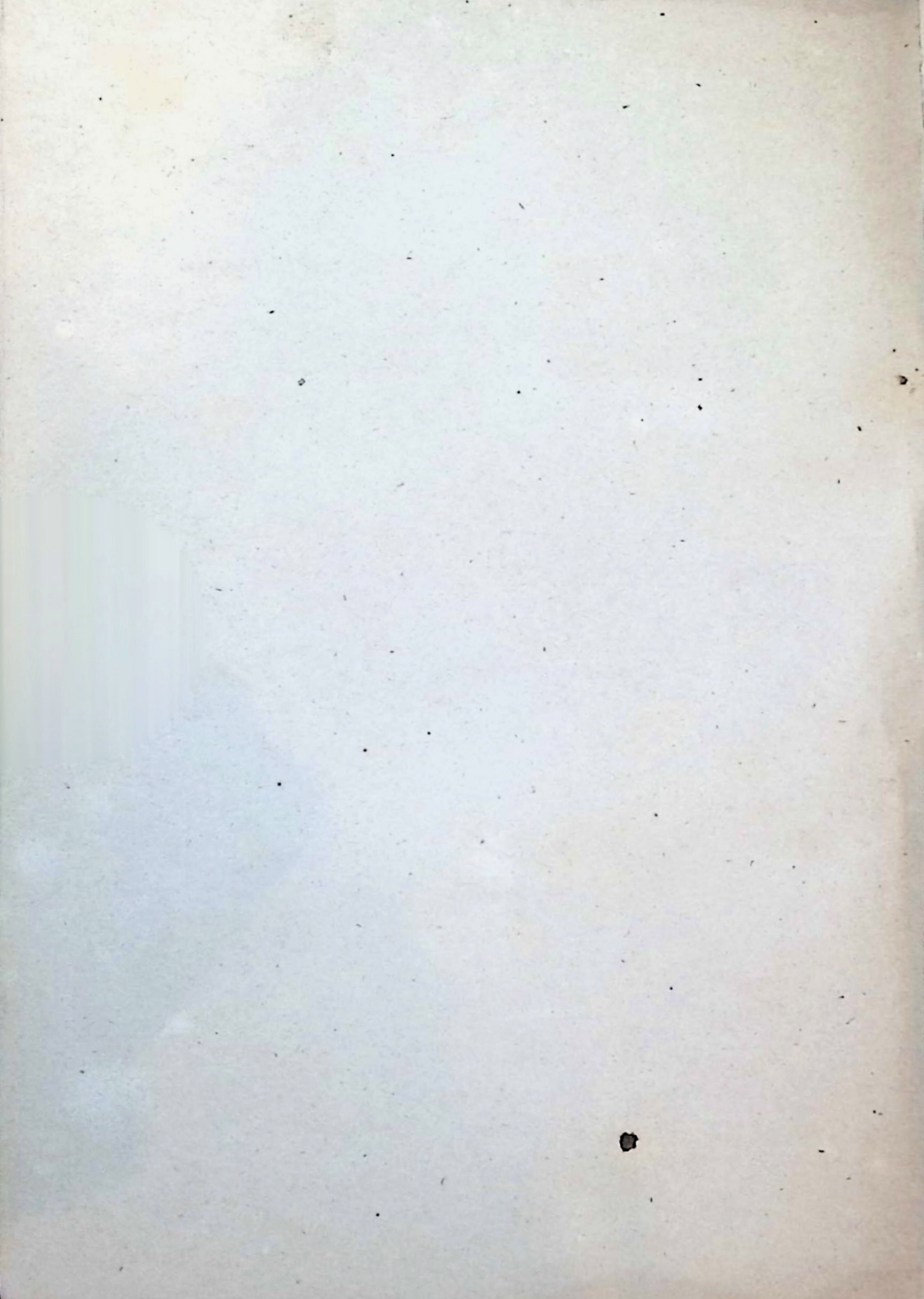
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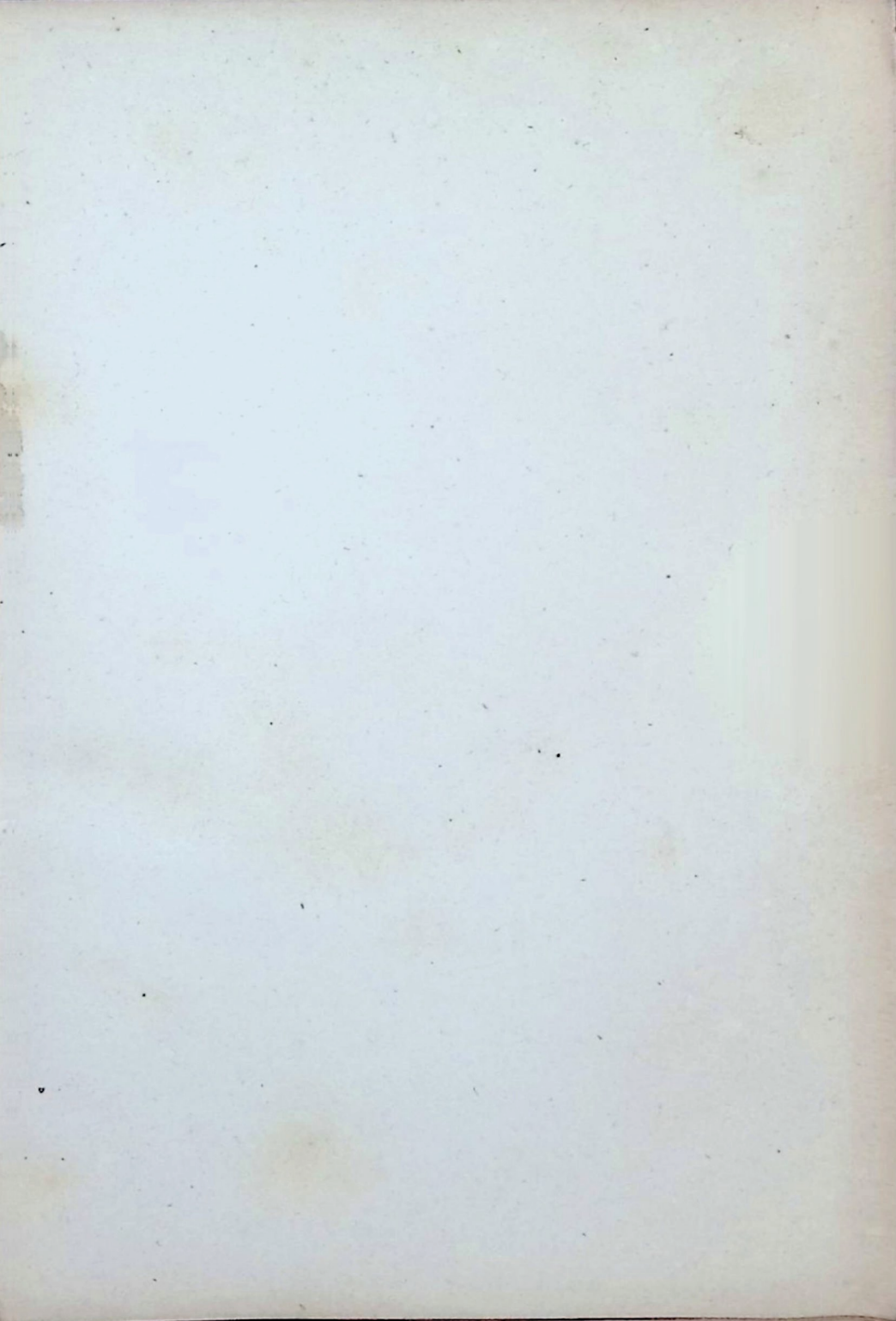
A. F. M. Rolfe.

Feb. 1853.

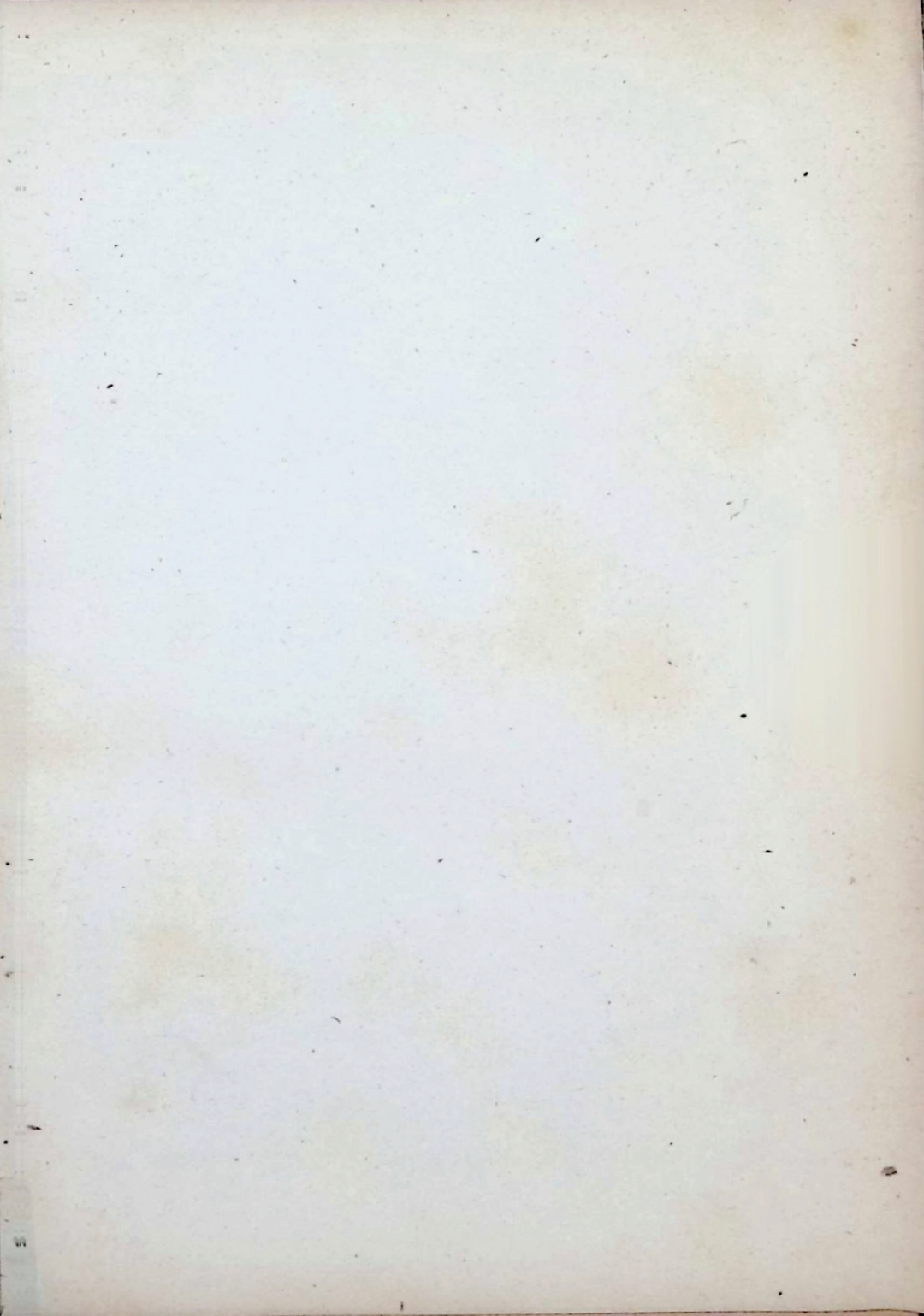
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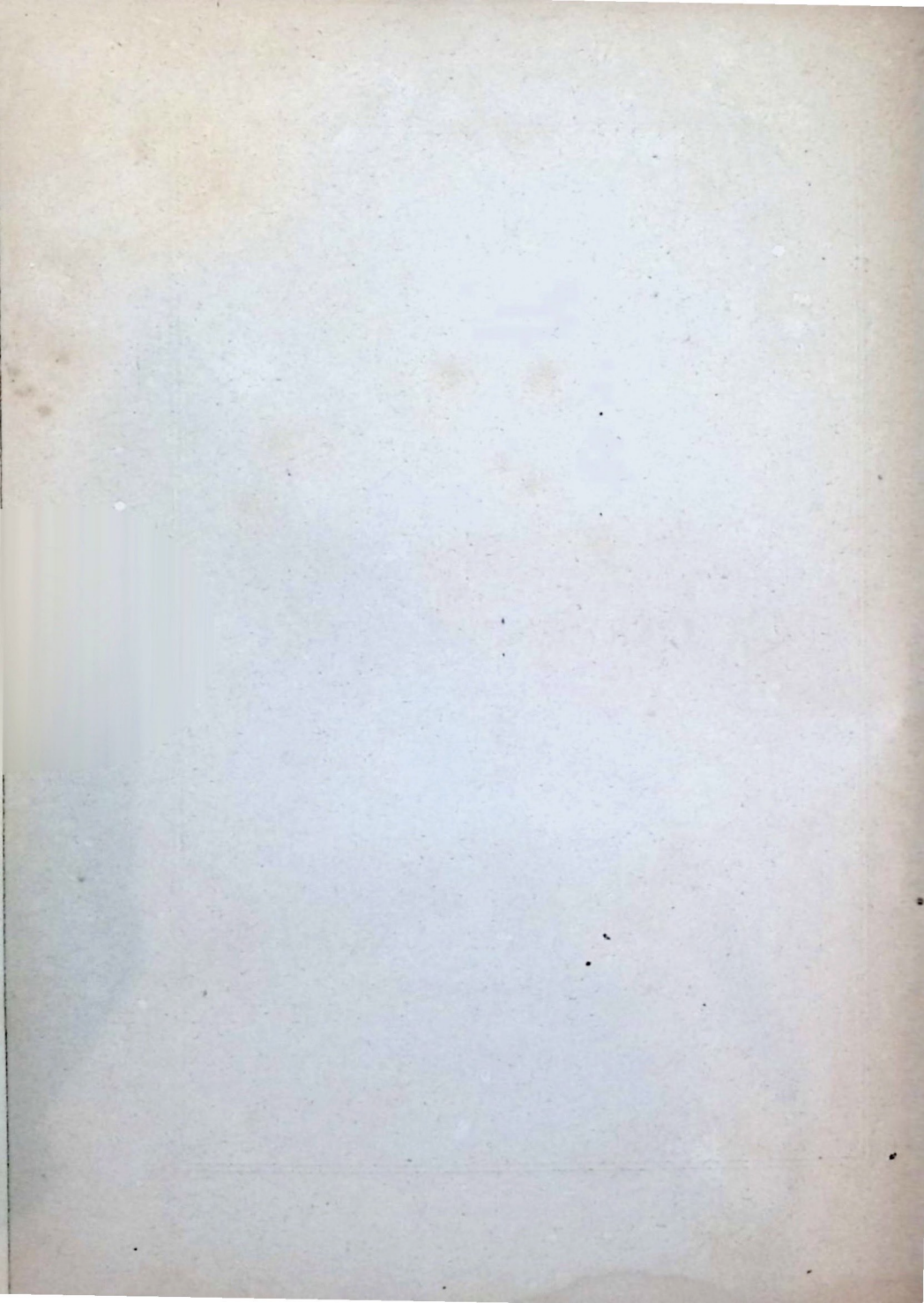


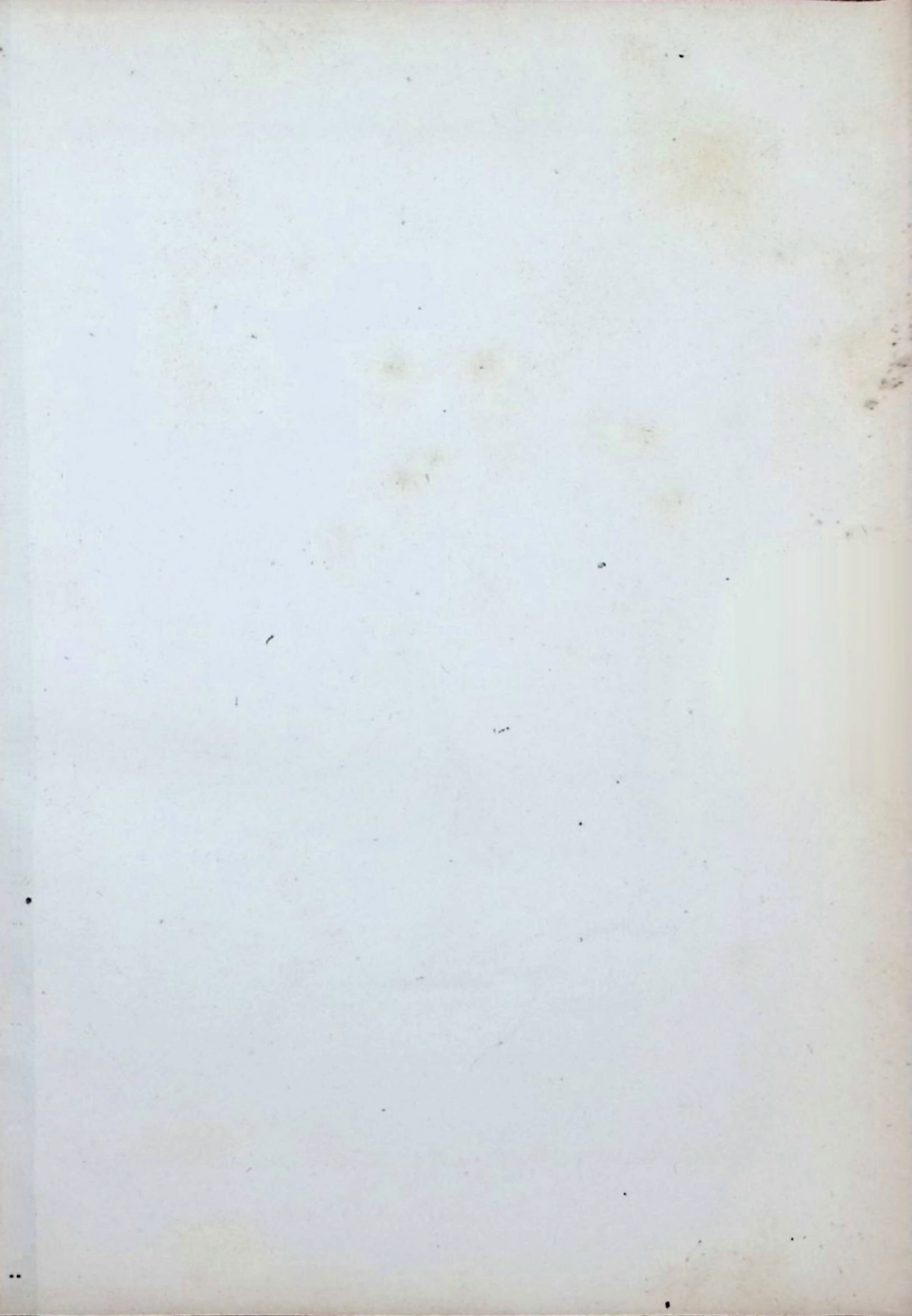






The Noble Army of Martyrs.







JOCelyn & PURCELL

THE STONING OF STEPHEN.

The
Noble Army of Martyrs.

BY THE

REV. SAMUEL FOX, M.A., F.S.A.,
RECTOR OF MORLEY, DERBYSHIRE.



RIGHT DEAR IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS
SAINTS.

NEW YORK:
GEN. PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION,
DEPOSITORY 20 JOHN STREET.
1850.

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TO

THE YOUTHFUL MEMBERS

OF

Christ's Holy Catholic Church,

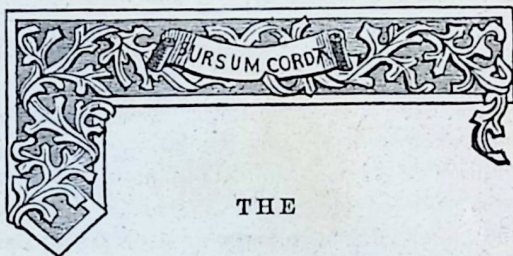
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THE
NOBLE ARMY OF MARTYRS.

INTRODUCTION.

ONE evening as Mr. Herbert was conversing with his children on the services of the Church, and requesting them to mention any expressions which they did not thoroughly understand, his son William, a fair-haired youth of about nine years of age, said there was a verse in the TE DEUM which had often puzzled him, and he should like to know what it meant. This led to the following conversation.

MR. HERBERT. What is the verse which puzzles you, my dear?

WILLIAM. It is "THE NOBLE ARMY OF MARTYRS PRAISE THEE." I always thought

an army was made up of soldiers. Were martyrs soldiers, papa?

MR. H. Yes, my dear, in a certain sense they were soldiers. All Christians are called soldiers of JESUS CHRIST, because they have been enlisted under His banner in baptism, and have engaged to carry on a continual war against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

WILLIAM. But why is there said to be a noble army of martyrs: were there many martyrs?

MR. H. Yes, a great many.

WILLIAM. I do not quite understand yet what a martyr means.

MR. H. It means one who has borne witness to the truth of our holy religion, by dying for it sooner than giving it up.

WILLIAM. When did the martyrs live, and who put them to death?

MR. H. There have been martyrs or witnesses to the truth of religion under the Jewish, as well as under the Christian dispensation; but those are more particularly alluded to in the verse about which we are talking, who lived at the time our Blessed LORD was upon earth, or soon after, and who were put to death by Jews or heathens. For

three hundred years after JESUS CHRIST was crucified, the kings of the earth were heathens, and some of them were very cruel towards the Christians who were subject to their power. They used to order the Christians to offer sacrifices to Jupiter, and Mars, and Venus, and other heathen deities; and when they refused, as it was right they should, they were put to death.

WILLIAM. What good men they must have been, to have been so determined to serve God!

MR. H. Yes, they were indeed good men, and their memories are still cherished in the Church.

WILLIAM. I wish, papa, you would tell us something about these good men. I should so much like to know their names, that I may think of them whenever I hear of "THE NOBLE ARMY OF MARTYRS." I suppose some of their names are known?

MR. H. Yes; and although so many hundred years have passed since the deaths of these holy men, the particulars of their martyrdom are not forgotten.

WILLIAM. O, papa, will you please to tell us something about them?

Mr. Herbert promised to comply with this request; and on the following evening, when they were assembled round a cheerful fire, he said, "Now, my dear children, I am going to tell you about some of 'THE NOBLE ARMY OF MARTYRS:' and as the Church honours St. Stephen with a chief place in her calendar of saints, I shall first give you an account of his martyrdom, and then I will tell you about some of those holy men who soon afterwards suffered a cruel death, and who, with St. Stephen, are had in everlasting remembrance."

