



No 4332.37



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CHARLES W. FOLSOM,
May 20, 1905.

ANNUAL STATEMENT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY.

FEBRUARY, 1853.

4332.37

It is required by the act of incorporation of Mount Auburn Cemetery, that a statement should be made at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the doings of the Trustees during the year. This requirement may be supposed to include an account of the changes, additions, and improvements which have been made within that period. The present year being marked by a near approach to the completion of all the large operations which were proposed by the founders of this work at its commencement, it may be proper to present a somewhat more general statement of its affairs than has heretofore been customary.

Mount Auburn Cemetery was the first enterprise of the kind undertaken in the United States. Its remarkable success has led to imitations of its plan and details in almost every large city of our country, and is a sufficient evidence of the propriety and necessity of its establishment. The principal features proposed by its first projectors were those of a suburban woodland burial place, of larger size than any at that time existing in this country or in Europe, susceptible of natural and artificial ornament, and capable of comprehending within its enclosure an indefinite number of lesser places of common interment for families.

The small available means of the proprietors enabled them at first only to enclose the land with a temporary fence, and to render its different portions accessible by convenient avenues and paths adapted to the surface of the ground. But the ulterior and more expensive improvements which it was proposed to carry into effect as soon as the funds should justify such measure, were the following:—

- 1.—The construction of a durable gateway of stone.
- 2.—The enclosing of the whole cemetery with a high and substantial fence or wall.
- 3.—The erection of a chapel within the grounds.
- 4.—The erection of a tower or observatory on the summit of the highest hill.

All these improvements are now completed, with the exception of the last, which is under contract and will be finished in the course of the ensuing summer.

The character and condition of these various constructions are as follows :—

The Gateway being composed of massive stones, the contiguous surfaces of which are squared throughout, will probably be standing at the end of a thousand years.

The Fence on the two sides next the public roads is made of cast iron, and is about eight feet in height, with pales nearly two inches in diameter. The two remaining sides are inclosed with a heavy wooden palisade. The iron fence may be made to last for an indefinite time, if care is taken to renew the paint as it decays. The wooden posts composing the remainder of the inclosure are of white cedar, and may be expected to last twenty or thirty years, at the end of which time they can be replaced without very great expense, if it should be thought necessary.

The Chapel was built by contract at a time when the deficient state of the funds induced the Trustees to construct this building in the cheapest manner consistent with the design, and when they were obliged to apply to the public for a subscription to enable them to carry through the undertaking. Various parts of this building were unfaithfully executed by the contractors, so that on final settlement with them, a part of the money which would have been due to them by the contract, had the structure been made conformable to the specification, was deducted from their bills. It is believed that the present satisfactory state of the funds of the Corporation will justify them at some time in replacing such portions of this building as are defective in material or construction.

The Stone Tower which is now in process of erection will stand on the summit of Mount Auburn. It will be sixty feet in height, so as to overlook the highest trees, and afford a panoramic view of the cemetery and surrounding country. It is formed on the general plan of some of the round towers of the feudal ages, and will contain a gallery, battlements, and a spiral staircase. The stones will extend through the wall, and being squared on all sides will render it one of the most durable of structures.

During the past season a well has been dug near the gate, and over it is erected an ornamental well-house made of wood, with a stone foundation, and with seats for visitors. The sub-structure, including the platform, drain, cistern, &c., is executed in a finished and durable manner, and the whole forms a convenient resting-place at the entrance of the grounds.

The continued prosperous condition of the financial affairs of the Corporation may be inferred from the sums which the Trustees have from time to time been enabled to expend in improvements. These may be approximately assumed in round numbers as follows:—

Cost of Gate	-	-	-	-	\$9,500
“ Iron Fence	-	-	-	-	28,000
“ Wooden Fence	-	-	-	-	6,500
“ Chapel	-	-	-	-	26,000
“ Tower, when finished	-	-	-	-	19,000
“ Well-house	-	-	-	-	3,000

If to these be added the expense which at different times has been incurred in making and repairing roads, grading surfaces, constructing drains, enlarging and deepening ponds and water courses, planting trees, and making various embellishments, it will be found that more than \$160,000 have been expended in the general improvements of Mount Auburn, independently of private operations. And this has been done without the incurring of debt, and with a large balance left in the Treasurer's hands at the end of every year.

The Treasurer's report shows a cash balance of	-	\$1,552 48
Invested for general purposes of the Corporation	-	43,680 00
“ “ Fund for repairs	-	2,470 00
“ “ Judge Story's Statue	-	5,068 05
		<hr/>
		\$52,270 53
Deduct Investments for repair and statue funds	-	7,538 05
Also amounts due to these accounts to be invested		1,595 76
		<hr/>
		9,133 81
		<hr/>
Leaving as available property of the Corporation	-	\$43,636 72

To which may be added about fifty acres of unsold land on the premises.

Besides the expenditures, which have been enumerated in the above report, the Corporation pays by contract to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for the relinquishment of their claim on the premises, one quarter of the annual proceeds of sales, after deducting a certain sum for current expenses. It is gratifying to know that the Corporation has been able to carry out the great plans for the improvement of its own property, and at the same time to contribute largely to the income of a highly useful and popular institution of our State.

For the Trustees,

JACOB BIGELOW, PRESIDENT.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

MOUNT AUBURN, DEC. 31, 1852.

To *George Wm. Bond, Esq.*,

Treasurer of the Mount Auburn Cemetery Corporation.

DEAR SIR,

Agreeably to former practice, and in accordance with instructions derived from the Trustees, it becomes my duty to make the following Report:—

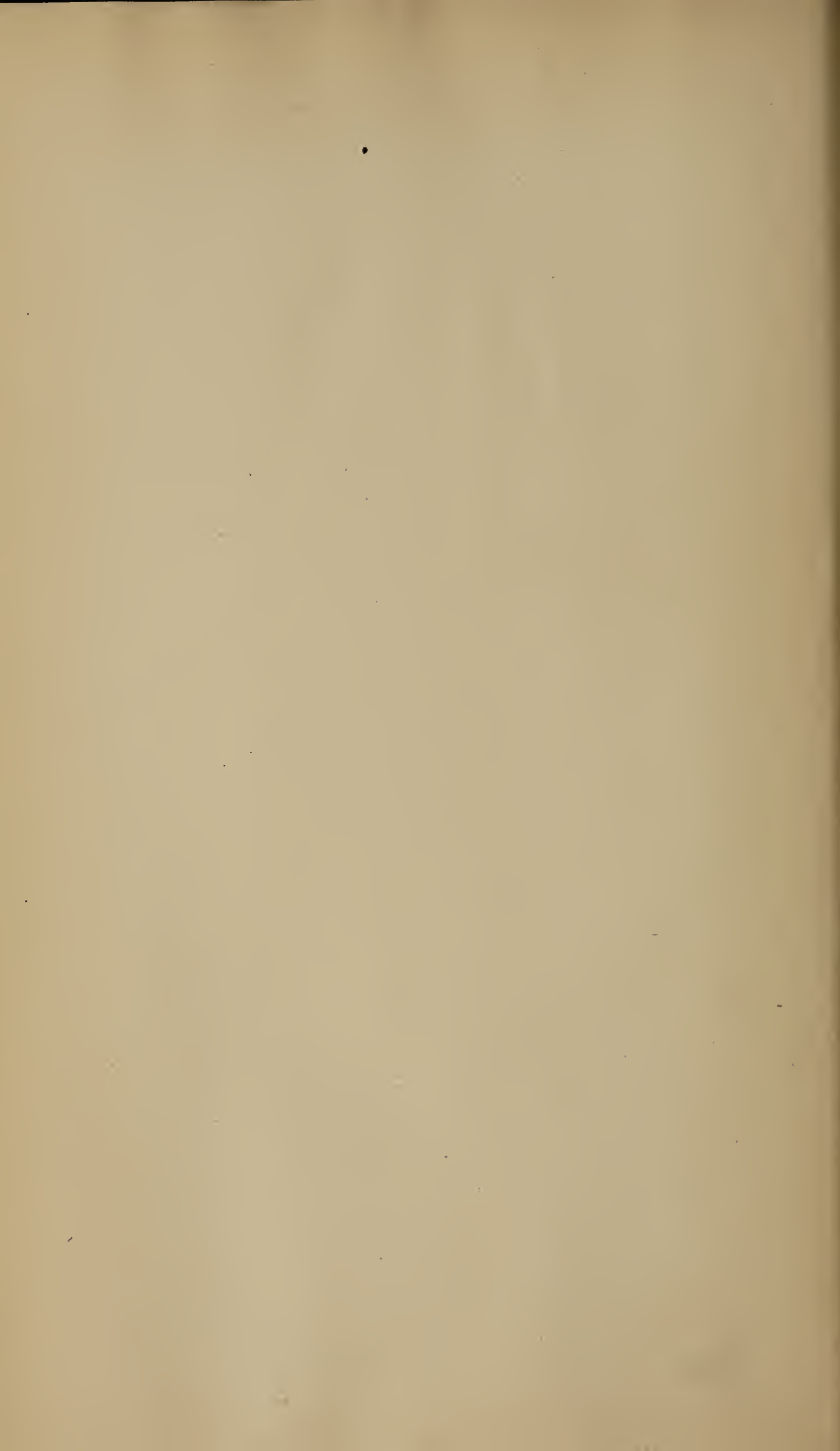
There have been ninety lots improved during the past year, by being graded, sodded, &c.

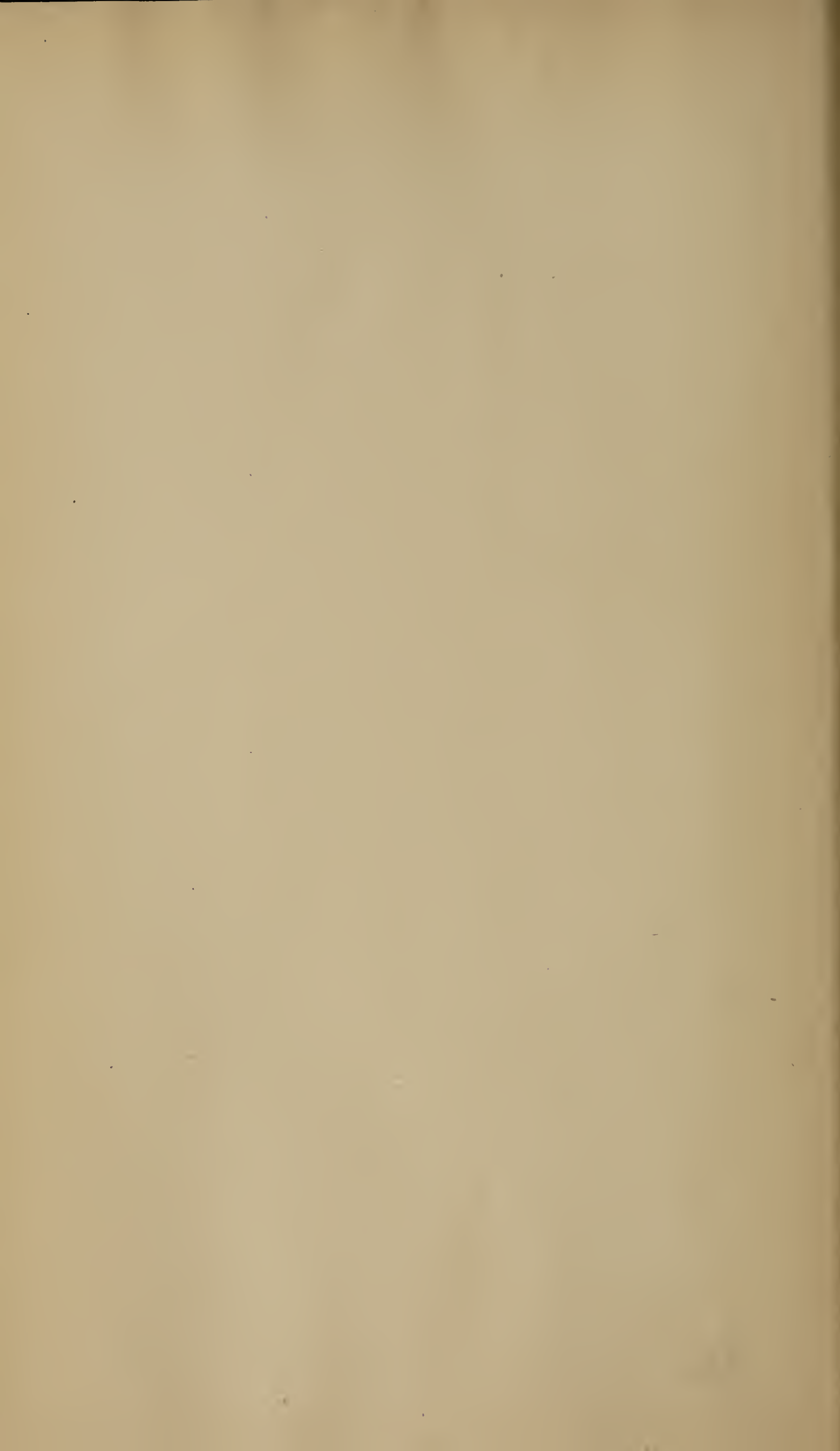
Lots enclosed with iron fence and hedges	- - 104
Tombs built, none.	
Monuments erected - - - - -	- - 45
Interments during the year - - - - -	- - 439
Whole number of interments in Mount Auburn since its commencement - - - - -	- - 5,580
Whole number of lots surveyed - - - - -	- - 2,069

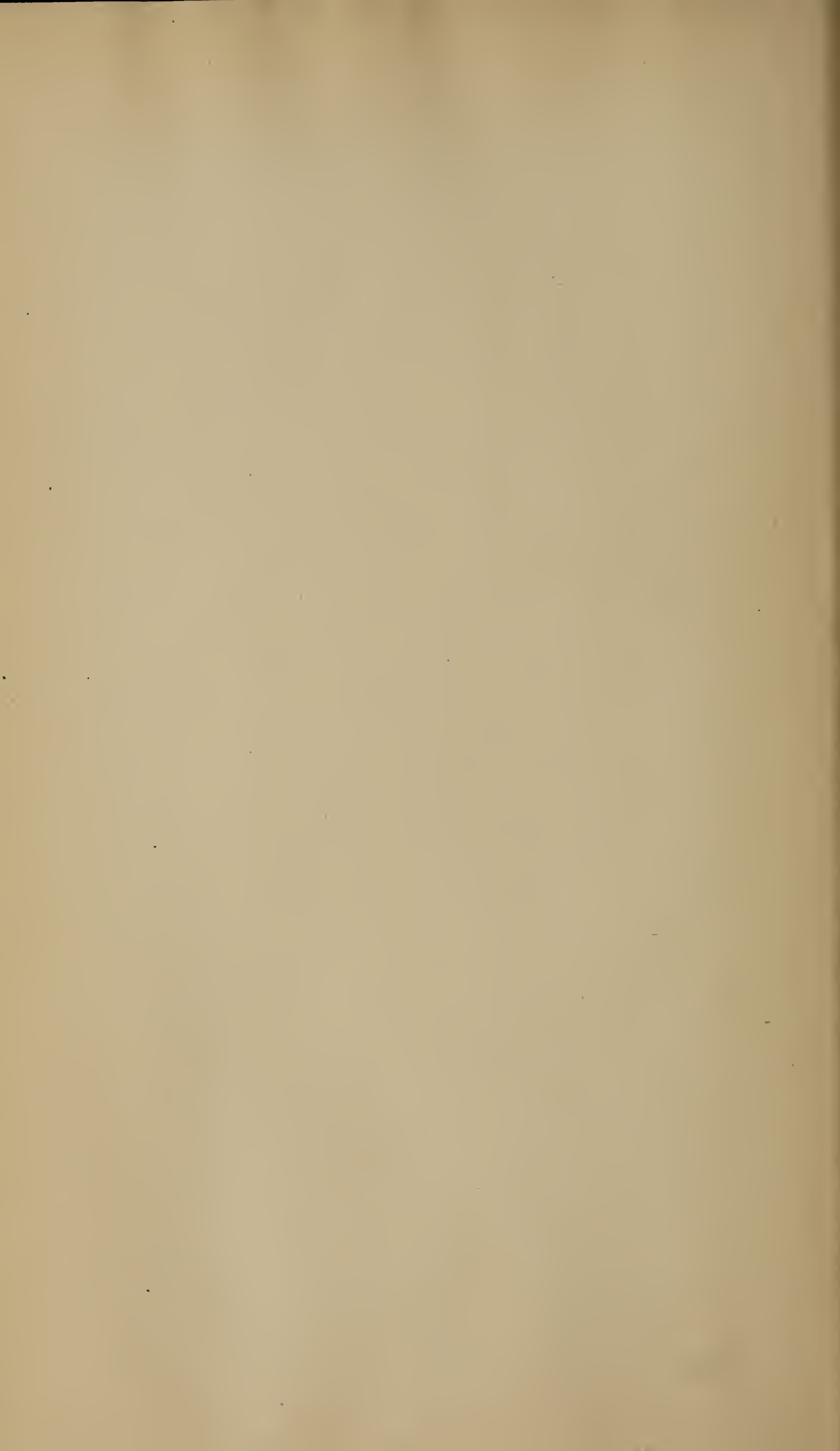
Very respectfully submitted,

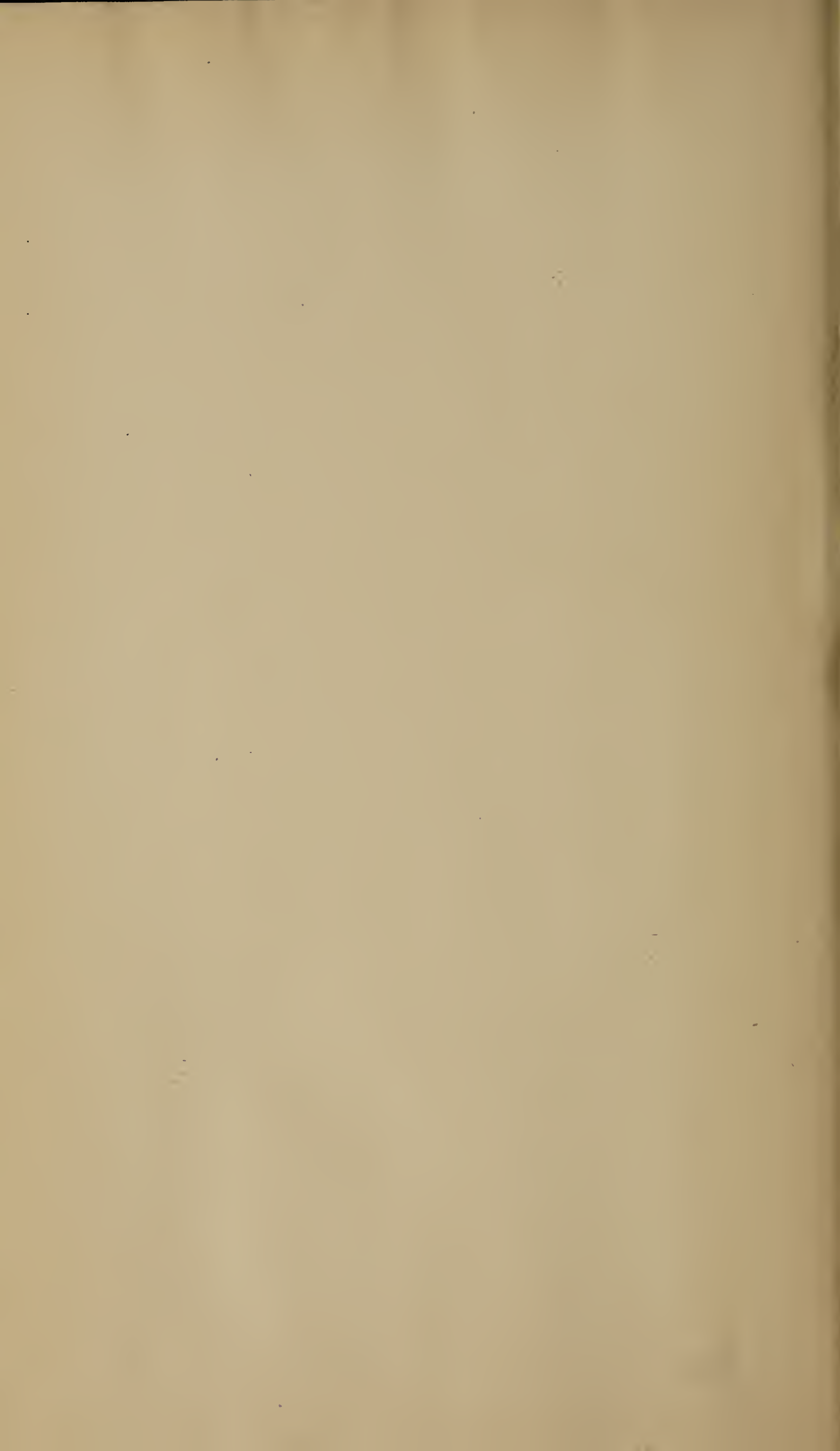
RUFUS HOWE, SUP'T.

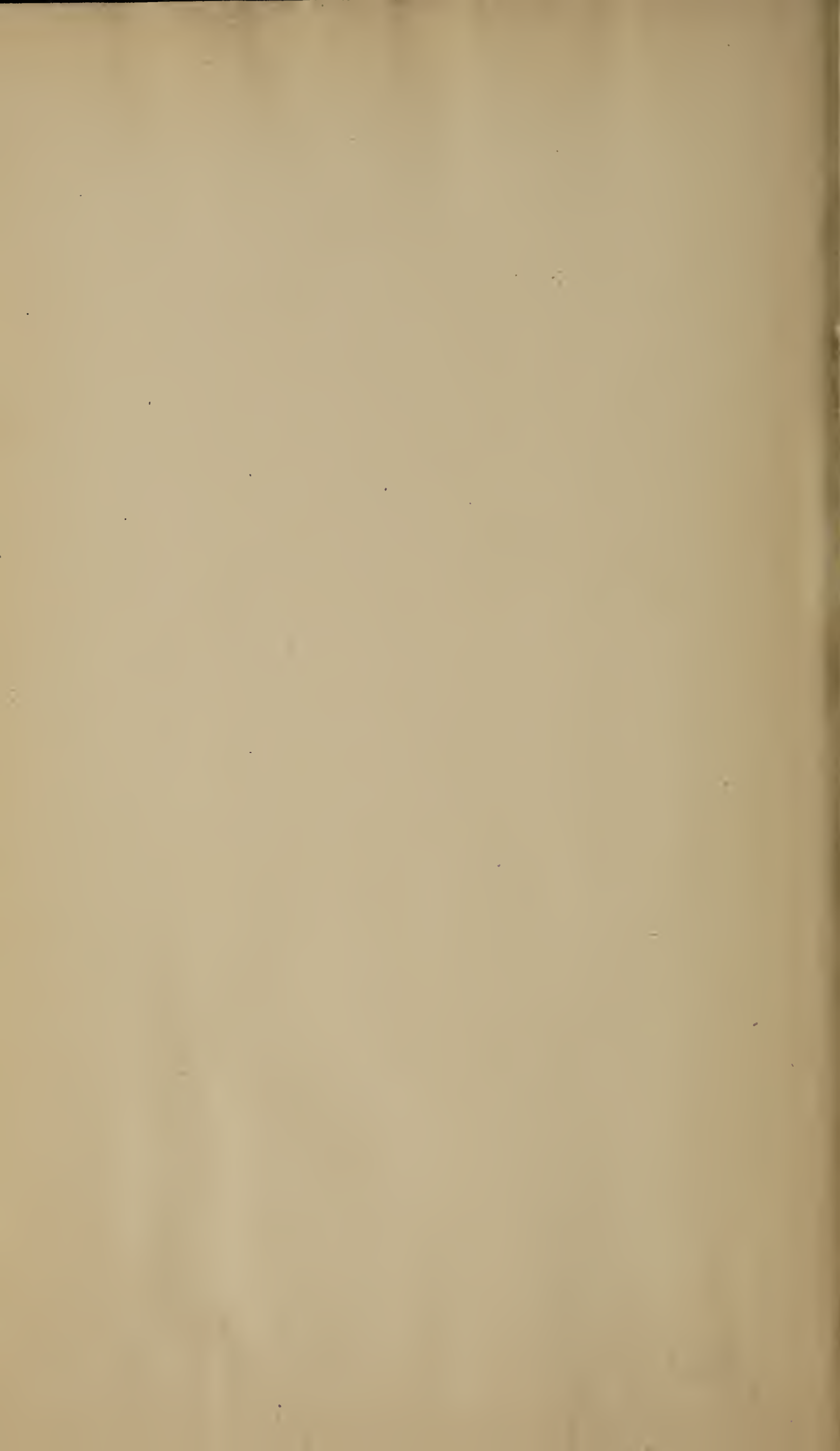


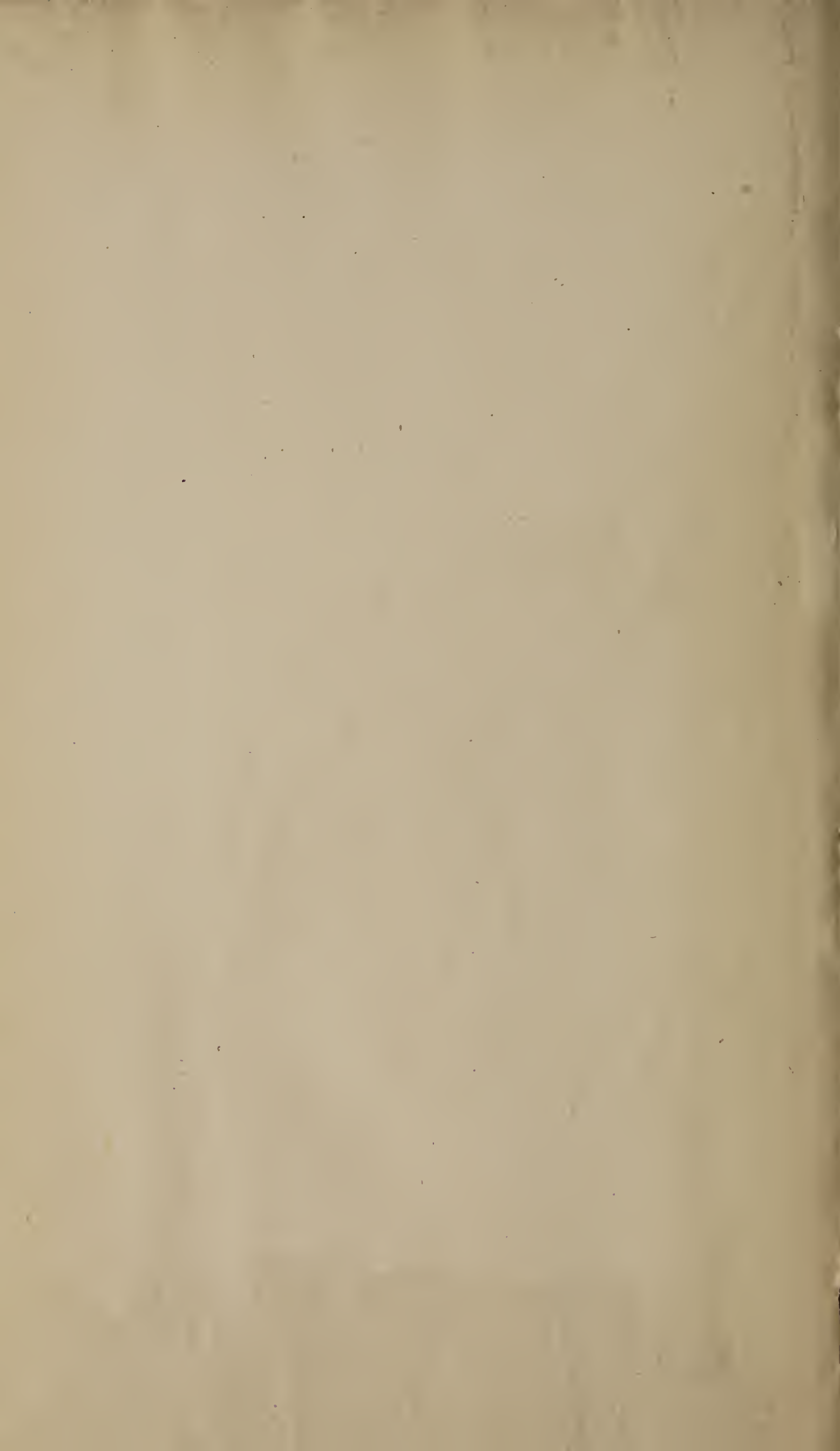












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