

CALIFORNIA, OREGON, VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON TERRITORY, ETC.

THE port of San Francisco, California, the great commercial entrepôt of the United States possessions on the Pacific, is situated in the Bay of San Francisco, in latitude $37^{\circ} 47' 35''$ north, and $122^{\circ} 26' 15''$ west longitude. Its harbor is one of the best of the Pacific Ocean. Through the port of San Francisco nearly all the foreign trade of California, Oregon, Washington Territory, and the British possessions is carried on.

The city of San Francisco, situated on the eastern slope of the ridge which divides the Bay of San Francisco from the Pacific Ocean, is handsomely laid out and well built, containing many fine public edifices and private dwellings of brick and stone, and is the centre of the wealth and commerce of the Northern Pacific coast. Population 80,000.

The great mineral resources of the State of California, the fertility and productiveness of its soil, its varied and delightful climate, are so familiar to the world that it is not thought worth while to give in this place more than such a brief summary of its commercial transactions as will enable the reader to form an estimate of their influence upon the great channels of steam communication between the Pacific coast and the United States, the resources of which it is the particular object of this volume to set forth.

EXPORTS.*

The great staple product of California is gold; but the recent discoveries of vast deposits of silver on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains at Washoe it is thought will, in time, make the exports of this metal rival the gold in commercial importance.

Quicksilver is also largely exported.

Next in importance among the exportable commodities of the state are hides, wool, and grain. The entire product of hides and wool go to the New York market. The grain, consisting of wheat, barley, and oats, have for the last five years found a market in New York, the west coast of South America, the East Indies, China, Australia, and the Pacific Islands.

Wool is a large and growing article of export. The exports of this article in 1856 amounted to 600,000 pounds; in 1860 the amount was 2,981,000 pounds.

The exports of gold from the port of San Francisco since its discovery in 1848, according to Custom-house manifests, were as follows:

| Year. | Shipments to all Quarters. | Shipments to New York. | Rec'ts at U. S. Mint and its Branches. | Estimated Yield of California Mines. |
|-------|----------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1848 | ..... | ..... | ..... | \$ 60,000 |
| 1849 | \$ 4,921,250 | ..... | \$ 5,232,249 | 8,000,000 |
| 1850 | 27,676,346 | ..... | 28,206,226 | 33,000,000 |
| 1851 | 45,582,695 | ..... | 57,138,980 | 55,000,000 |
| 1852 | 46,586,134 | ..... | 51,470,675 | 57,000,000 |
| 1853 | 57,331,024 | \$47,916,448 | 62,838,395 | 69,000,000 |
| 1854 | 51,328,653 | 46,289,649 | 46,719,083 | 64,000,000 |
| 1855 | 43,080,211 | 38,730,564 | 47,419,945 | 65,000,000 |
| 1856 | 48,887,543 | 39,765,294 | 56,379,901 | 70,000,000 |
| 1857 | 48,592,743 | 35,287,778 | 55,217,843 | 70,000,000 |
| 1858 | 47,548,025 | 35,578,236 | 51,494,311 | 70,000,000 |
| 1859 | 47,640,463 | 39,831,937 | 52,000,000 | 70,000,000 |
| 1860 | 42,325,916 | 35,661,500 | 27,037,919 | 70,000,000 |

* The commercial statistics of California are taken, by permission, from advance sheets of the Annual Report of the New York Chamber of Commerce for 1861.

Statement of Amounts and Destination of Treasure exported from San Francisco during the Year 1860.

| <i>To New York.</i> | | <i>Exported to</i> | |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| In January..... | \$3,360,296 25 | New York | \$35,661,500 37 |
| “ February..... | 3,126,183 77 | New Orleans..... | 57,795 93 |
| “ March..... | 2,177,395 67 | England..... | 2,672,936 20 |
| “ April..... | 2,692,728 88 | China..... | 3,374,680 27 |
| “ May..... | 2,905,028 40 | Japan..... | 94,200 00 |
| “ June..... | 3,709,755 01 | Manilla | 75,659 94 |
| “ July..... | 1,969,435 05 | Panama..... | 300,819 00 |
| “ August..... | 2,502,070 47 | Sandwich Islands..... | 40,679 57 |
| “ September..... | 3,157,303 59 | Mexico | 19,400 00 |
| “ October..... | 2,958,784 19 | Costa Rica..... | 3,145 00 |
| “ November..... | 2,982,704 78 | Vancouver Island..... | 25,100 00 |
| “ December..... | 4,119,814 31 | Total..... | \$42,325,916 28 |
| | <u>\$35,661,500 37</u> | | |

Exports of Silver.—The exports of silver ore during the year 1860, according to the San Francisco Custom-house records, were of the value of \$416,613. This is, however, no guide as to what the ores yielded. In addition to the ores exported, several hundred tons were smelted at two establishments in San Francisco, yielding about \$150,000. When it is considered that the Washoe mining district was a howling wilderness at the commencement of 1860, and that every necessary of life, even the material for habitations, had to be transported across the Sierra Nevada on the backs of mules, it must be conceded that vast progress has been made in opening the mines, and, without doubt, their product this year (1861) will ascend to millions.

Exports of Quicksilver.

| Years. | To New York. | To other Countries. | Years. | To New York. | To other Countries. |
|------------|--------------|---------------------|--------|--------------|---------------------|
| | Flasks. | Flasks. | | Flasks. | Flasks. |
| 1853 | ..... | 18,800 | 1857 | 8,374 | 18,888 |
| 1854 | ..... | 20,963 | 1858 | 3,559 | 20,573 |
| 1855 | ..... | 27,165 | 1859 | 250 | 3,149 |
| 1856 | 1,500 | 22,240 | 1860 | 400 | 8,948 |
| Total..... | | | 14,083 | | 140,726 |

From the above it appears that the total amount of quicksilver exported from the state during the past eight years was 154,809 flasks; there was consumed within the

state, during the same period, 16,000 flasks, making a total production (almost entirely from the New Almaden mine) of 170,809 flasks of 75 pounds each. The price ranged from 1853 to 1860 from 75 to 50 cents per pound.

Table of Exports of leading Articles of California Produce to New York for the last five Years.

| Articles. | 1856. | 1857. | 1858. | 1859. | 1860. |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Barley, 84-lb. sacks..... | ..... | 97,675 | 51,103 | 97,947 | 16,510 |
| Hides, number | 132,032 | 170,447 | 142,399 | 151,364 | 200,116 |
| Quicksilver, flasks | 2,414 | 8,374 | 3,559 | 250 | 400 |
| Skins, bales..... | 1,506 | 798 | 876 | 975 | 939 |
| “ number | 9,313 | 26,363 | 3,812 | ..... | 2,874 |
| Salmon, barrels..... | 256 | 212 | 906 | 250 | 1,112 |
| Tallow, packages | 3 | 826 | 194 | 888 | 518 |
| Wool, lbs..... | 600,000 | 1,100,000 | 1,428,351 | 2,378,250 | 2,981,000 |
| Wheat, 100-lb. sacks .... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 12,054 | 203,528 |

Exhibit of the Exports of a few leading Articles of California Produce to all Countries in 1860.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Barley, 84-lb. sacks | 136,916 | Oats, 55-lb. bags..... | 76,590 |
| Beans, 50-lb. “ | 1,397 | Potatoes, 110-lb. bags..... | 34,161 |
| Flour, barrels..... | 121,688 | Skins, packages..... | 580 |
| Hides, number..... | 200,116 | Tallow, packages | 2,181 |
| Hay, bales..... | 9,637 | Wheat, 100-lb. sacks..... | 1,135,098 |
| Lumber, M. feet..... | 3,976 | Wool, lbs..... | 3,060,000 |

The value of the exports of California, other than treasure, during the last five years, has been as follows :

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1856..... | \$4,270,260 | 1859..... | \$5,533,411 |
| 1857..... | 4,369,758 | 1860..... | 8,532,489 |
| 1858..... | 4,770,163 | | |

IMPORTS.

The following statement of the tonnage arriving at San Francisco from Atlantic ports, from 1856 to 1861, will show the extent of the imports from that quarter for a series of years. The statement exhibits, 1st, the number of vessels; 2d, the aggregate registered tonnage; 3d, estimated tons of cargo at sixty per cent. over register; 4th, total amount of freight moneys paid in each year:

| Where from. | No. of Vessels. | Registered Tonnage. | Tons of Cargo. | Amount of Freight paid. |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1856: New York | 79 | 103,532 | 165,652 | \$2,167,045 |
| Boston | 37 | 42,200 | 64,320 | 924,957 |
| Other ports..... | 7 | 5,602 | 8,963 | 144,867 |
| Total for 1856..... | 123 | 151,334 | 238,935 | \$3,236,869 |
| 1857: New York..... | 61 | 74,402 | 119,043 | \$1,309,244 |
| Boston..... | 28 | 33,802 | 54,083 | 469,798 |
| Philadelphia..... | 1 | 1,219 | 1,950 | 22,390 |
| Total for 1857..... | 90 | 109,423 | 175,076 | \$1,801,432 |
| 1858: New York..... | 66 | 77,882 | 124,611 | \$1,503,955 |
| Boston..... | 34 | 32,166 | 51,370 | 607,329 |
| Other ports..... | 5 | 4,345 | 6,952 | 68,919 |
| Total for 1858..... | 105 | 114,393 | 182,933 | \$2,180,203 |
| 1859: New York | 90 | 107,276 | 171,641 | \$2,107,924 |
| Boston..... | 43 | 44,799 | 71,678 | 892,704 |
| Other ports..... | 8 | 5,001 | 8,002 | 92,582 |
| Total for 1859..... | 141 | 157,076 | 251,321 | \$3,093,210 |
| 1860: New York..... | 76 | 93,240 | 149,184 | \$1,777,802 |
| Boston..... | 30 | 30,661 | 49,057 | 624,396 |
| Other ports..... | 9 | 6,341 | 10,145 | 82,988 |
| Total for 1860..... | 115 | 130,242 | 208,386 | \$2,485,186 |

On the 5th of March, 1860, the rates of fare were reduced, and a tri-monthly communication *via* Panama was established, instead of the previous semi-monthly trips, which accounts for the great increase of the inward passenger traffic for the year 1860.

OREGON, WASHINGTON TERRITORY, VANCOUVER ISLAND, AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE commerce of this region, which is almost entirely carried on through the port of San Francisco, California, is yet in its infancy. Oregon, with an area of about 80,000 square miles, and possessing on its Pacific coast broad and fertile valley-lands, rich in agricultural resources, has as yet but about 50,000 inhabitants; the tide of emigration from the Western United States is, however, going on with vigor, and the time is probably not far distant when its population will be sufficient to develop an important exporting trade. Already large quantities of grain, lumber, etc., are exported to California. Cattle, fresh and dried fruits, salmon, eggs, butter, lard, hams, etc., are also becoming noticeable articles of export. Deposits of coal, iron, copper, and gold have been found in Oregon. Washington Territory, joining Oregon on the north, has an area of 113,821 square miles. Its white population in 1854 was only about 5000. Since that time it has been slowly but steadily increasing. It possesses much land well adapted to agriculture and grazing. It abounds with fine timber, and its rivers with excellent fish, which at present form its chief exports. Joining it on the north, at the parallel of 49°, is British Columbia, covering an area of about 200,000 square miles. This is also a country of great agricultural promise, and possesses a vast wealth in its salmon fisheries, its forests of fine timber, and its rich deposits of coal and gold; the latter, mined from the vicinity of Frazer River,

has been exported to a considerable extent since its discovery in 1856.

SEA-PORTS.

The sea-ports of Oregon, Washington Territory, and the British possessions which have direct communication with San Francisco by the California and Oregon Line of Steamships are as follows, viz. : in Oregon,

Eureka, the most southern port of entry in Oregon, distant 238 miles northeast from San Francisco, is situated in Humboldt Bay, a deep and narrow indentation of the coast, with a dangerous shifting sand-bar at its entrance. The town of Eureka is about four miles to the north side of the entrance of the bay. There is a United States government fortification here, and an Indian reservation in the vicinity. It is a thriving town, and has a large lumber-trade with San Francisco.

Trinidad, 28 miles north from Eureka, is situated in a small bay protected only from the northeast winds. The town contains but few inhabitants. The chief export is lumber. The land in this vicinity is rich, and well adapted to agriculture. There is gold in the neighborhood.

Crescent City, 43 miles northward from Trinidad, on Crescent City Bay, is one of the most dangerous roadsteads on the whole coast. The town of Crescent City is the depôt for the supplies of miners working the gold diggings on the Kalmath, Trinity, and Salmon Rivers, in the interior; it is also the centre of a large and rich agricultural district. It contains about 1500 inhabitants.

Port Orford, 70 miles from Crescent City, is a good roadstead. A large lumber-trade is carried on here. A much-esteemed variety of the white cedar abounds in this vicinity, and is exported in considerable quantities under the name of the Port Orford cedar.

Gardiner City, 75 miles to the northward from Port Orford, is on the Umpqua River, five miles from its mouth.

A United States custom-house is located here, besides which there is only a small wharf and one house. A steam-boat runs from Gardiner City to Scottsburg, a town of 1000 inhabitants, fifteen miles farther up the river.

Astoria, 83 miles from Gardiner City, is the most northern port of Oregon. It is situated on the Columbia River (which separates Oregon from Washington Territory), nine miles from its mouth. The river at Astoria is between three and four miles in width. Population of Astoria 800. There is a dangerous bar at the mouth of the Columbia River which interferes greatly with its commercial growth.

Portland, the chief sea-port and chief town of Oregon, is situated on the Willamette River, a branch of the Columbia, 100 miles from Astoria. Population 2700. It is the centre of a rich and well-cultivated agricultural region. Large numbers of cattle are exported from Portland to Vancouver's Island. About forty miles south of Portland, on the Willamette, is Salem, the capital of Oregon. Population 1500.

The next port of entry northward is *Esquimault*, on the British island of Vancouver, 270 miles from Portland. Here is said to be one of the finest harbors on the Pacific coast. The neighboring country is very fertile. The fisheries in this section are extensive. Lumber is of excellent quality and abundant. There is a British naval station at Esquimault, and it is the rendezvous for the small steamers running on Frazer River.

Port Townsend, 35 miles from Esquimault, the most southern port of entry in Washington Territory, is favorably situated at the termination of the Straits of Fuca, at the outlet of the waters of Admiralty Inlet, Puget's Sound. The town contains about 500 inhabitants. A military post has been established two and a half miles from this place. In the vicinity of the town are some good farms. The principal export is lumber.

Olympia, 80 miles from Port Townsend, is situated at the head of a deep inlet six miles long by three quarters of a mile wide. It is a thriving town, and the capital of Washington Territory. Its principal business is in agricultural products and lumber. The total distance made by the vessels of the California and Oregon Steam-ship Company on their route from San Francisco to Olympia, the northern terminus of the route, is 1022 miles.

For rates of freight, passage, etc., see Appendix D, page 150.

BUSINESS BY EXPRESS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES, EUROPE, AND THE PACIFIC COASTS.

The "Express System," which had long been an indispensable necessity in the Atlantic United States, became, on the discovery of gold in California, an equally valuable medium of transportation between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Prompt, reliable, and responsible, the Express Company occupies the middle ground between the shipper and the Steam-ship and Railroad Companies. Issuing "through receipts," and giving its careful personal supervision to the business, insure to their customers the most speedy delivery of their consignments, and, in case of loss or damage, prompt and liberal adjustment.

The express of Wells, Fargo, and Company is now, and has for several years been engaged in the Atlantic and Pacific express business, making the transit across the Isthmus of Panama, *via* the Panama Railroad, and giving no inconsiderable contribution to its business. This Company forwards an express by each steamer (on the 1st, 11th, and 21st of the month), and provides on the Isthmus for the prompt transmission of their consignments so as to go forward by connecting steamers. The charges upon small

packages vary according to size and value. Upon bullion and gold dust the freight and insurance from San Francisco to New York is at present three per cent. Upon merchandise they charge a small percentage advance upon steamer rates, for which they give to the shipper the convenience of collecting his property at his place of business, attending to the Custom-house requirements, prepaying freight, and delivering in good order at the door of the consignee at San Francisco.

A prominent feature in their express business is the "Collection and General Agency" department: collecting and paying over money, attending to the execution and delivery of valuable papers and documents, receiving and transmitting property subject to charges to be paid on arrival at destination, called in express vocabulary C. O. D. (collect on delivery), and, in fine, executing almost every conceivable commission.

The house of Wells, Fargo, and Company has been engaged in this business for the past eight years. They are a joint-stock association, organized under the laws of the State of New York, with a capital of \$1,000,000, having their principal office in the city of New York. They have also the only express to ports on the North Pacific Coast, Oregon, Vancouver's Island, and British Columbia, and now contemplate establishing agencies on the South Pacific Coast.

They also have the sole express in the interior of California, transporting from the mines to San Francisco an average of \$60,000,000 in value of gold dust and silver ore per annum. They have over 100 offices in California, and sell exchange upon all the principal cities and towns in the United States and Canada, and on the principal cities of Great Britain and the Continent. They also have an agency at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands.

This Company is the agent and general consignee at As-

pinwall, New Granada, for all shipments for San Francisco, Vancouver, etc., by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, running steamers semi-monthly between Havre, and Southampton, and Aspinwall, *via* St. Thomas. They receive at that point all the goods and merchandise brought by that line from Europe and the West Indies destined for all points north of Panama on the Pacific Coast, and also for the Sandwich Islands. The present rates from Havre and Southampton to Aspinwall are £6 per ton, and 5 per cent. primage, and from Aspinwall to San Francisco \$80 per ton and 5 per cent. primage. To Victoria and northern ports on the Pacific, \$20 per ton extra.

The present rates by express from New York to Aspinwall are \$1 per cubic foot; from New York to Panama, \$1 50 per cubic foot; from New York to San Francisco, \$5 per cubic foot, or 25 cents per pound; from San Francisco to Victoria and other northern ports, \$20 to \$30 per ton.

The above rates to San Francisco are for "fast freight," or that which goes through by connecting steamer. For "slow freight" from New York to San Francisco, and going forward from Panama by next succeeding steamer, \$2 per cubic foot, or 12½ cents per pound only is charged.

The principal offices and agencies of Wells, Fargo, and Company are, at New York, 84 Broadway; at Boston, 39 and 40 Court Square; at Philadelphia, corner of Fourth and Chestnut Streets; at Havre, France, Davidson and Co., Agents; at London, England, Eives and Macey, Agents; at Havana, Cuba, E. Ramirez and Co., Agents; at Aspinwall, New Granada, Panama Railroad Company, Agents; at Panama, N. G., Panama Railroad Company, Agents; at San Francisco, Cal., corner of California and Montgomery Streets, Louis M'Lane, Agent; and at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, at which offices all information in detail will be cheerfully given.



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Paris: LHERBETTE, KANE & CO. (Agents), Place de la Bourse.

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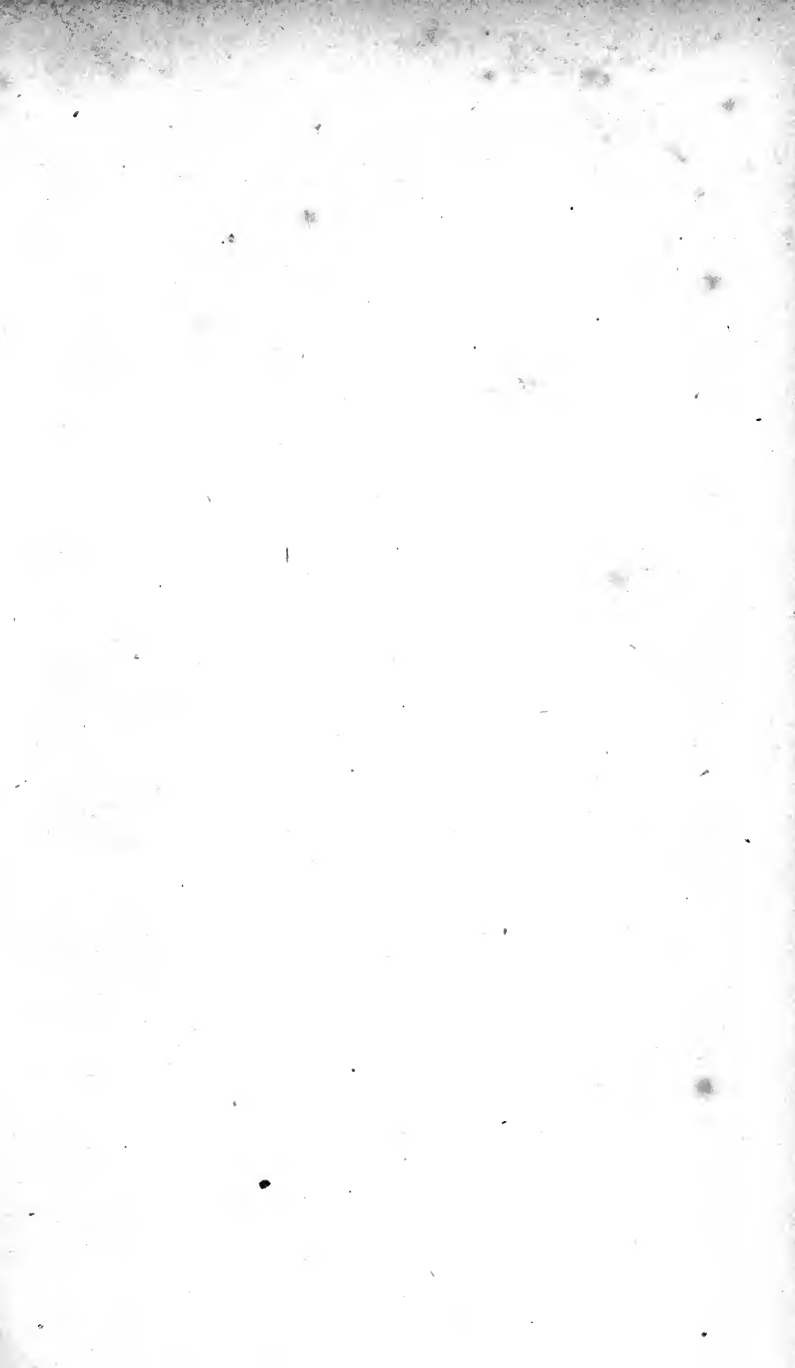
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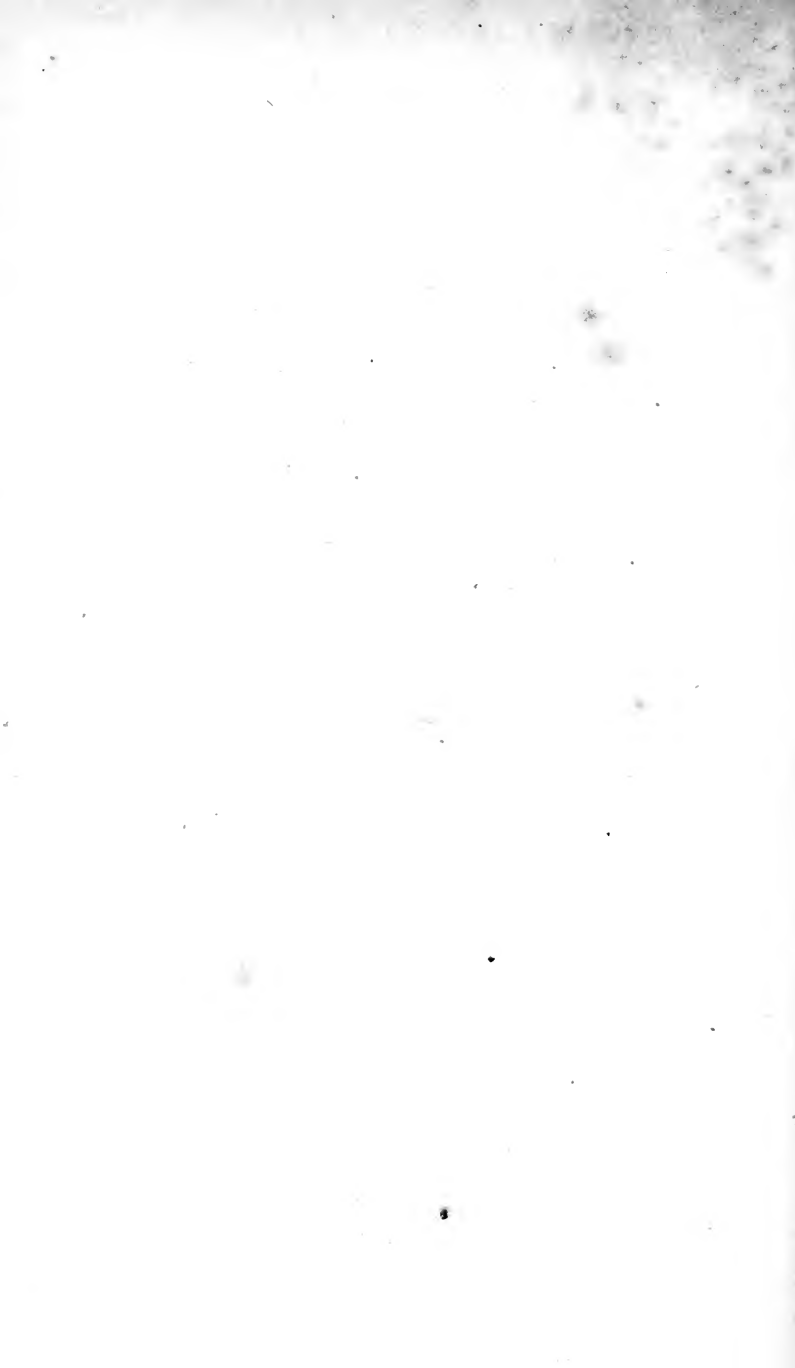
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