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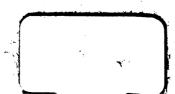
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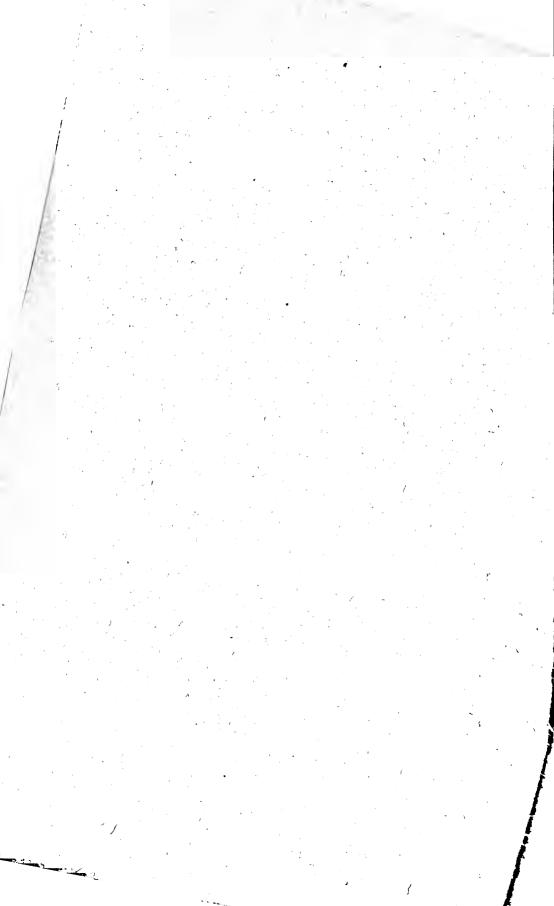
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ALEXANDER COCHRANE. 1813-1865

ALEXANDER COCHRANE.

## THE COCHRANES

OF

RENFREWSHIRE, SCOTLAND

### THE ANCESTRY

OF

# ALEXANDER COCHRANE

OF

BILLERICA AND MALDEN, MASS., U.S.A.

BY

WALTER KENDALL WATKINS

PRIVATELY PRINTED
BOSTON, U. S. A.
1904

The Bartlett Press,
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PAISLEY ABBEY.

### THE COCHRANES OF RENFREWSHIRE.

The family name of Cochrane, in early times, is to be found almost exclusively in Renfrewshire and the bordering counties. This is accounted for in the derivation of the name. Like other Scottish families it is a place name, the family deriving it from the barony of Cochran. Crawford states, in his description of the shire of Renfrew, that the name is of great antiquity in this shire. The most prominent of the name at an early period was Waldevus de Cochran, whose son William was one of the Scotch barons who swore fealty to Edward I. of England in 1296. John de Cochran was of prominence in Robert Bruce's time, and from him were descended the Cochranes of Barbachly, located in the parish of Bathgate, where we still find the farm and mill of Barbauchlaw.

The lands of the ancient barony of Cochrane were across the Black Cart Water, opposite Johnstone, and were held by the Cochranes till sold by Thomas, eighth Earl Dundonald, to James Milliken, Esq., of Milliken, whose daughter Jean married Col. William Napier of Culcreuch, into whose family the lands then came. A century ago part of the old manor house was still standing, and one of the old vaults was used as a cart house. Situated in the parish of Kilbarchan, the name is still perpetuated in Cochranfield and Cochran Cottage.

Of that branch of the family who were the most prominent, and from lesser barons through a daughter became Earls of Dundonald, we have the history as presented in Douglas's "Peerage of Scotland" and later works.

The public records of Scotland furnish little relating to the family outside of this branch previous to 1600. As the seventeenth century advances we find the name confined to the parish of Kilbarchan and Paisley, Lochwinnock and Neilston parishes that adjoin.

We find Tandelmuir, Bowfield, Beltrees, Bridgend, Linthills, Gavin, Ladyland, Shillingsworth, etc., were the locations, still known at the present day, where farms were held for generations by those of the name, younger branches of the main line.

Prominence to the name has not been accorded the main branch alone during the last century.

In 1589, Linwood, a farm in Kilbarchan, had as a tenant under

James Hamilton, first Earl of Abercorn, who possessed it, one William Cochrane. His brother was Stephen Cochrane of Linwood, of whom tradition says he sold himself to the devil for a peck of gold, and while His Satanic Majesty was filling the dish he clipped a piece of his tail, and this gave the name to the estate of Clippens, held by the family.

In support of this oral tradition, we find that in 1650 Stephen Cochrane was apprehended for witchcraft.

William Semple, in his continuation of the History of Renfrewshire, in 1782, says of Clippings that it was the property of John Cochrane, whose ancestors of that name possessed the land for more than three hundred years. He rebuilt the mansion with a slate roof and office houses in the form of a court.

This John Cochrane married Mary Wilson of Lochwinnock, and they had a son Peter, born in 1755, destined to create renewed interest in this branch of the Cochrane name. Peter in his youth went to India and was in the service of the East India Company and accumulated considerable wealth.

In 1790 it was claimed he married a native Indian lady, called Raheim Beebee, at Furruchabad, a province of Oude, by the ceremony called "nikah," according to the rites of the Mahomedan church, by a mullah or priest. On 17 December, 1807, a daughter was born at Cawnpore of that marriage afterward known as Susan, Mrs. Morehouse. She was baptized there on 7 March, 1808.

In November, 1808, Dr. Peter married at Cawnpore, Margaret Douglas Ferron. On 18 December, 1811, a son, Peter, was born of this last marriage, and in the following year the doctor moved to Calcutta, the Raheim Beebee forming part of his establishment. Meanwhile his father, having become embarrassed financially, was relieved with money advanced on the family estate; and in 1789 Dr. Peter became purchaser of Clippens from the creditors. Dr. Peter returned from India and lived at Clippens till May, 1825, when, becoming displeased at an excessive assessment for the poor rates, he left Clippens and lived on the Continent, mostly in France, till he died, 18 June, 1831.

The conflicting claims of the widow of Peter Cochrane, Jr., and the interest of Mrs. Morehouse (Dr. Peter's daughter) threw the personal estate of Dr. Peter into Chancery, where, we may add, it still remains. These claims were before the courts for twenty-five years (1835–1860) for the possession of 217,000 pounds sterling.

In presenting their evidence, several of the claimants, including our own branch of the family, were unable to furnish certain data from the



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### JOHN COCHRANE,

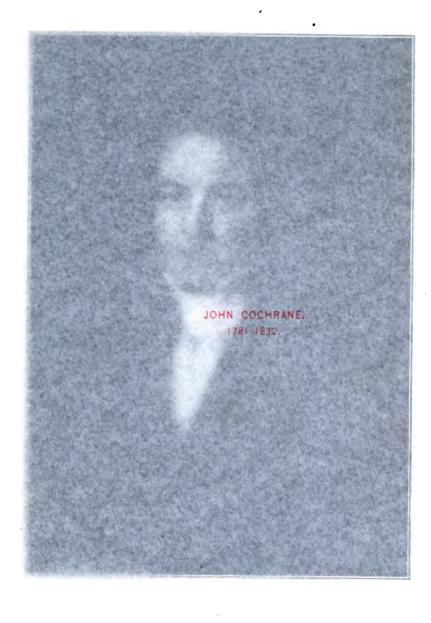
1784-1832.

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Kilbarchan register, there being a gap in the records early in the eighteenth century, which they declared was caused by the abstracting of leaves from the register book. This claim is borne out by the appearance of the register at the present time.

The first name that can be traced in our direct ancestry appears in this neighborhood (Renfrewshire). In the Abbey Church of Paisley there appears in the parish register:

Hugh Cochran and Janet Lochead were booked in order to proclamation for marriage, 23 November, 1721.

John, son to Hugh, was born and baptized on 2 December, 1722.

In the first parish church of the burgh of Paisley in the parish register is recorded:

"John Cochran and Margaret Craig were booked for proclamation in order to marriage 4th of November, 1752."

The baptisms of their children are also here.

"Hugh, son lawful to John Cochran and Margaret Craig, was born 17 and baptized 21 October, 1759."

24 December, 1743, John Cochran was made burgess of the burgh. In the churchyard of the Low Kirk, John Cochrane made provision for the burial of himself and family, as we find in the burgh records.

No regular register of the deaths has been preserved for Paisley previous to the nineteenth century.

It was in 1764 that John Cochran was master of the Weavers' Society and was made free of "quarter compts."

As to the residence of John Cochran in Paisley, we find that New Street was laid out in 1734, and the house of John Cochran was on the right-hand side, coming up from the Low Kirk, just below the Bull Tavern.

In 1748 the burgh purchased at the public roup the lands of Ferguslie, held by a branch of the Cochranes, Earl Dundonald's family.

"29 September, 1775, by feu disposition of the magistrates of Paisley to John Cochrane, weaver and town treasurer of Paisley, of a part of the Moss-land of Fergusley on the north side of the New Inclosures at Craigs of Fergusle" (P. R. 50-102).

He was also bailie of Paisley in 1778, and his name as such appeared on the inscription placed on the Martyrs' Monument erected at that time, and which has been reproduced on the monument erected in 1835, still standing in a secluded nook of the Woodside Cemetery.

In the Low Burgh church register we find this fragmentary record: "Bethia Douglas, Renfrew, 12 January, 1780."

This was the marriage record of Hugh Cochrane with the daughter of Francis Douglas, the farmer of Abbot's Inch, on the border of Paisley and Renfrew.

The newly married pair resided on Storie Street, the next street to New Street.

In the Abbey register is the record:

William, son lawful to Hugh Cochrane and Bethia Douglas, born the 21st and baptized 3 November, 1782.

Hugh, son lawful to Hugh Cochrane and Bethia Douglas, born 20 April, 1786.

Francis Douglas, lawful son to Hugh Cochrane and Bethia Douglas, born the 10th and baptized 15 May, 1788.

At about this date Hugh Cochrane moved to Glanderston, in the parish of Neilston, six miles south of Paisley.

In the Neilston register is recorded:

- "1790. Hugh Cochrane and Bethia Douglas, spouses, at Glanderston, had a daughter born 6 April and baptized the 11th, named Bethiah.
- "1792. Hugh Cochrane and Bethia Douglas, spouses, Glanderston, had a son born 14 June and baptized the 15th, named Robert.
- "1795. Hugh Cochrane and Bethia Douglas, spouses, in Glanderston, had a son born 12 February and baptized 8 March named James."

The record of the birth of their oldest child, John, in Paisley, is not to be found. He was born in 1781, according to his death record at Neilston.

"Hugh Cochrane, bleacher, Glanderston, seized 29 October, 1802, in one-third share and two-third shares of part of the Moss land of Fergusley, on the north side of the New Inclosures at Craigs of Fergusley, on Feu Disposition by the magistrates of Paisley to John Cochran, weaver and Town Treasurer, Paisley, 29 September, 1775, disponed and assigned by him to Hugh, William and Robert Cochran, his sons, 25 April, 1796, on Disposition by the said William Cochran, then merchant, Glasgow, and one of the partners of Chapman, Cochran & Co., there, 27 October, 1802" (P. R. 50–102).

John, the eldest son of Hugh Cochran, of Glanderston, had the following children at Neilston by his wife, Isabella Ramsay, as shown by the church register:

1804. John Cochran and Isabel Ramsay, spouses, Neilston, had a son born 16 September and baptized 16 December, named Robert.





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"Died at Barhead on 12 Augus, 18%, vity betwish Cochran, relict of the late Mr. Horb Cochrane, bleache, Conderston," - (Neilston Register.)

Her son, John Cochiane, Glandersten, was interred to the church-yard of Neilston, 31 January, 1812, aged fifty-one. This govestione is still to be found there.

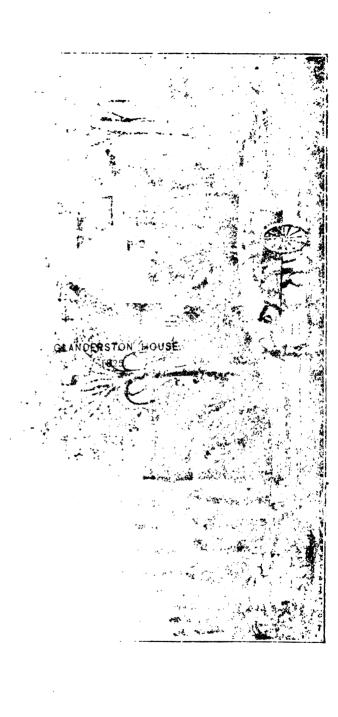
The following is from the Paisley Advertiser, 28 January, 1802:

""At Glammerstone, on the 25th current, Mr. John Cochrone, bleacher, is the stand year of his age.

"He was a track and affectionate husband, a kind and tender parent, a true and steady friend, and a man of the most unimpeachable integery. He was highly esteemed by all who knew him. His death is much and justly regretted, and his memory will be long cherished by those who had the pleasure of being intimately acquainted with him."

As appears from the foregoing, Alexander was born 27 April, and baptized 9 May, 1813.

He was grandson of Hugh Cochrane and Bethiah Douglas, daughter of Francis Douglas and Elizabeth Ochterlony, and his descent from



- "1806. John Cochran and Isabel Ramsay, spouses, at Arthurlie, had their second child and second son born 29 July and baptized 26 August, called Hugh.
- "1808. John Cochran and Isabel Ramsay, spouses, at Arthurlie, had their third son born and baptized 23 October, named William.
- "1811. John Cochran and Isabel Ramsay, Barrhead, had Francis born 3 and baptized 14 April, 1811.
- "1813. John Cochran and Isabel Ramsay, spouses, Gateside, had a son born 27 April and baptized 9 May, named Alexander.

  [This was the 'emigrant.']
- "1815. John Cochrane and Isabella Ramsay, Gateside, had a daughter born 13 and baptized 24, named Isabella.
- "1818. John Cochran and Isabel Ramsay, spouses, Springbank, had a son born 7 and baptized 21 June, named James Douglas.
- "1820. John Cochrane and Isabel Ramsay, Springfield, and members of the Established Church, had their eighth child and second daughter, Agnes, born 30 July, and baptized 13 August.
- "1822. John Cochran, bleacher, Springfield, and his spouse, Isabella Ramsay, had their ninth child and third daughter born 19 May, baptized 2 June, named Agnes."
- "Died at Barhead on 12 August, 1830, Mrs. Bethiah Cochran, relict of the late Mr. Hugh Cochrane, bleacher, Glanderston."

  —(Neilston Register.)

Her son, John Cochrane, Glanderston, was interred in the churchyard of Neilston, 31 January, 1832, aged fifty-one. His gravestone is still to be found there.

The following is from the Paisley Advertiser, 28 January, 1832:

- "At Glanderstone, on the 25th current, Mr. John Cochrane, bleacher, in the 52nd year of his age.
- "He was a loving and affectionate husband, a kind and tender parent, a true and steady friend, and a man of the most unimpeachable integrity. He was highly esteemed by all who knew him. His death is much and justly regretted, and his memory will be long cherished by those who had the pleasure of being intimately acquainted with him."

As appears from the foregoing, Alexander was born 27 April, and baptized 9 May, 1813.

He was grandson of Hugh Cochrane and Bethiah Douglas, daughter of Francis Douglas and Elizabeth Ochterlony, and his descent from

the Ochterlony and Douglas families has been printed in separate pamphlets.

As appears from extracts in the registers and records of Paisley and vicinity, this branch of the Cochranes were among the earliest to engage in manufacturing in this part of Scotland. In the Renfrewshire Seisines John Cochran, bailie, is styled John Cochrane, manufacturer, New Street, Paisley.

In 1798 Hugh Cochrane, son of the bailie, built Glanderston Bleachery, and planted additional trees about the mansion house; and his son John, the father of Alexander, continued the business and died there in 1832.

Alexander lived with his mother and the family in Glanderston house until the failure of his elder brother Robert necessitated their giving up the place. There is a print of this ancient mansion in the "Levern Delineated"; and it illustrates the tenacity of custom even in modern Scotland that, although long in ruins, this house still carries with it the right to occupy one of the two cushioned pews which are permitted in Neilston church.

Thrown upon his own resources, Alexander, with one of his brothers, essayed the new process of making starch from potatoes. This created alarm and disturbance among the peasantry and poor people, who feared an advance in the price of one of their chief articles of food; and this feeling resulted in an attack on and partial destruction of the works by a mob. An occurrence of this kind seems to belong to the Middle Ages; but it only serves to show the rapid strides we have made since these beginnings of modern manufacture. The old has passed and the new has come in hardly more than a short hundred years.

He early took an interest in such chemical changes as took place in his father's works. It is related that the ancestor of the since famous Tennant family here made some of his early experiments in bleaching chemicals.

He enlarged his knowledge of chemistry, then just coming forward as one of the useful sciences, and he investigated its application in the manufacture and decoration of textile fabrics.

He mastered processes for making muriatic, nitric and sulphuric acids, aqua ammonia, sulphate of copper and extract of indigo, and learned the secret of making and using various mordants. Information collected at that time and still extant among his papers now is more curious than useful. Empirical and rule-of-thumb methods still had a firm hold, and the elements of secrecy lingered in chemical processes, allying them to alchemy, their predecessor.





New York, 27 September, 1847

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He was in the neighborhood of Manchester, England, in 1846 and 1847 (where his son Hugh was born), in charge of a branch of textile fabrics, but while there still kept up his interest in chemistry and added to his knowledge of it. He was engaged to come from there to the United States to take charge of a similar industry, and arrived in New York, 27 September, 1847.

He remained in charge of this work for rather more than a year, when he finally got an opportunity to put into practice the knowledge which he had been so long acquiring. 1 April, 1849, he entered into business with C. P. Talbot & Co., of which firm the late Governor Thomas Talbot was the junior partner. He planned and built a chemical works, and took the conduct and management of manufacturing the chemical products; and for this he received one-third of the net profits.

He was in Billerica more than half the portion of his life spent in this country, and entered fully into the life of the New England village in which his lot was cast. He assisted in the schools and in the church. Being Scotch he naturally took an interest in the religious life of the community, and although, like all his family, he belonged to the Established Church of Scotland, he here acted with the sect that would best harmonize the somewhat scattered elements, the minister filling at the same time the double rôle of schoolmaster during the week and preacher on Sunday.

His relations with his workmen were of the most friendly character, even for those days of close contact between employer and employed; and as a manifestation of interest which they valued more than money, he gave an entertainment for them once a year in his own house.

He kept up his connection with Europe by correspondence and by an occasional visit, which in those days was still an event, and when he landed from those early side-wheel Cunarders—the Canada, Asia or Africa—it was subject for congratulation, no longer thought of in these days, when the Atlantic has become a ferry. The main object of these visits was to keep up with the advancing knowledge in manufacturing chemicals.

The relations with the Messrs. Talbot stood the strain unusually well when he afterward built his own works, and became their active competitor. As an evidence of this, Governor Talbot offered one of his family a position of high trust on one of the state boards, which for personal reasons was declined.

During his residence in Billerica the chemical business gradually increased, and the products early obtained the highest rank for standard quality.

In 1859 Mr. Cochrane took up his residence in Malden, and erected works there for himself, and laid the foundation for the business subsequently carried on by the corporation which bears his name. Without going into the details of the hard work involved in building up a business, which is so much alike in all fields of enterprise, suffice it to say that these difficulties had been surmounted, and the business, which has since become the largest of its kind in New England, was successfully established before his death. He died 11 August, 1865, at the age of fifty-two, at Swampscott, where he had taken a house for the summer with his family.

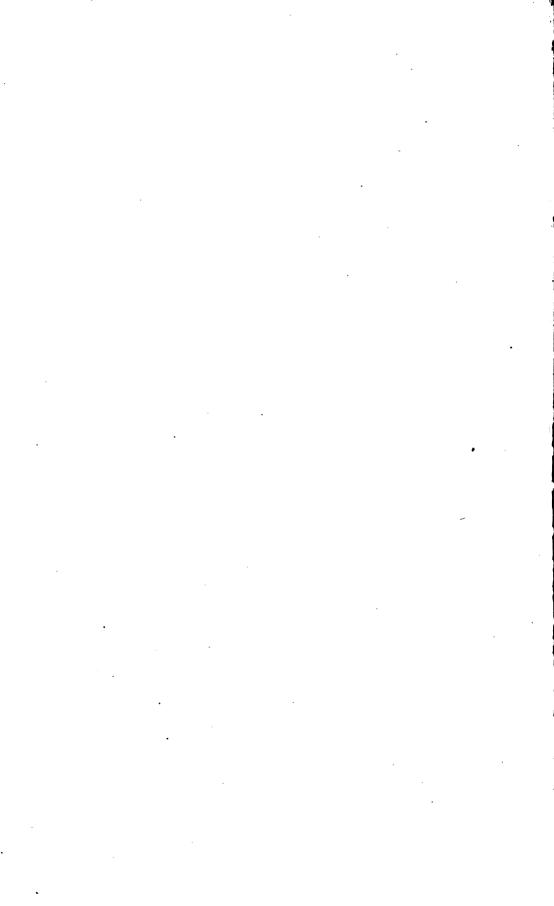
The account of a man's life is incomplete without some hint of the personality that marked him. Mr. Cochrane was tall, of fine presence, unassuming in manner, and in character was simple, sincere and kindly, winning and retaining affection to a marked degree. generosity was proverbial, and laid him open to imposition on this side of his character, and some of his family still remember the numerous applications of his impecunious countrymen who called upon him for assistance. It may well be doubted whether in many of these cases it was either deserved or put to a useful purpose. Although genial, he always preserved a touch of austerity that did not invite undue familiarity, and was perhaps an inheritance of his early training in the atmosphere of the Kirk, as an instance of which he used to recall the line of his brothers and sisters who on Sunday walked from the house to Neilston church under his father's eye. His father brought up the rear in order that no youthful escapades should mar the sacredness of the day. No reading was allowed on that day but the Bible and a few other religious books. The early manners in New England had many points of resemblance to life at the same period in Scotland.

His life, like so many other lives, was spent in the day of small things—in sowing seed for others to reap. And the parable of the sower was selected as best illustrating his life, when his family placed a window to his memory in Trinity Church, Boston.

In a somewhat trying battle with Fortune, both in the Old World and in the New, he did what his hands found to do, with true Scotch courage and perseverance.

We have thus traced the ancestry of the "emigrant" of our family from the time when the first parish registers are obtainable to the time of his arriving in the United States, and also a short account of his life.





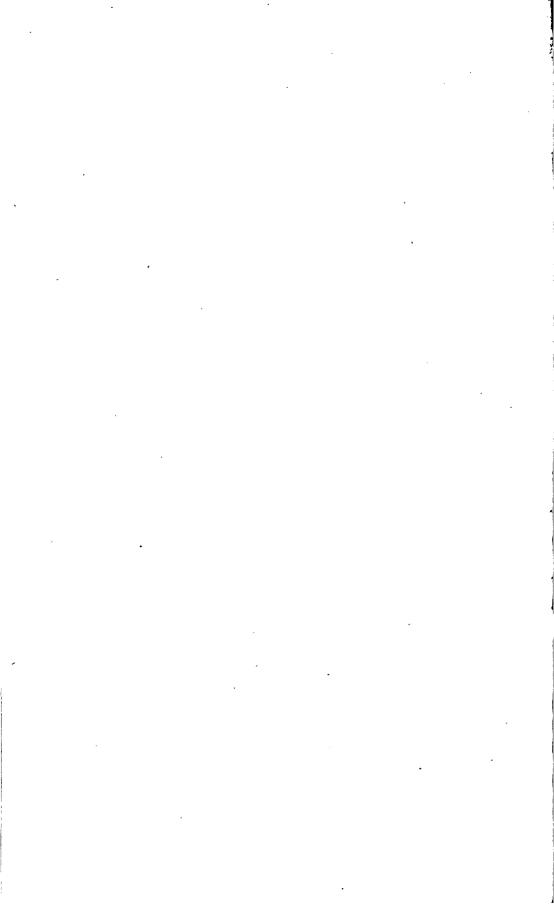




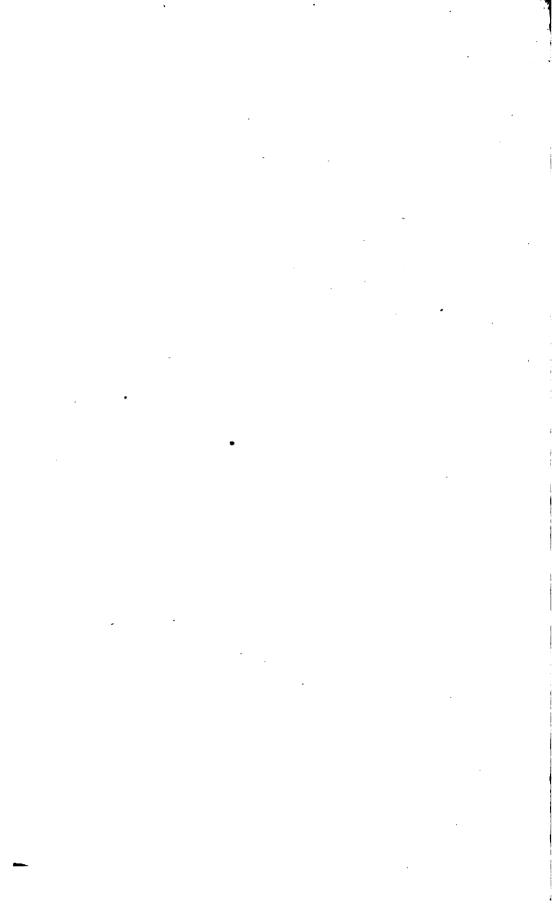








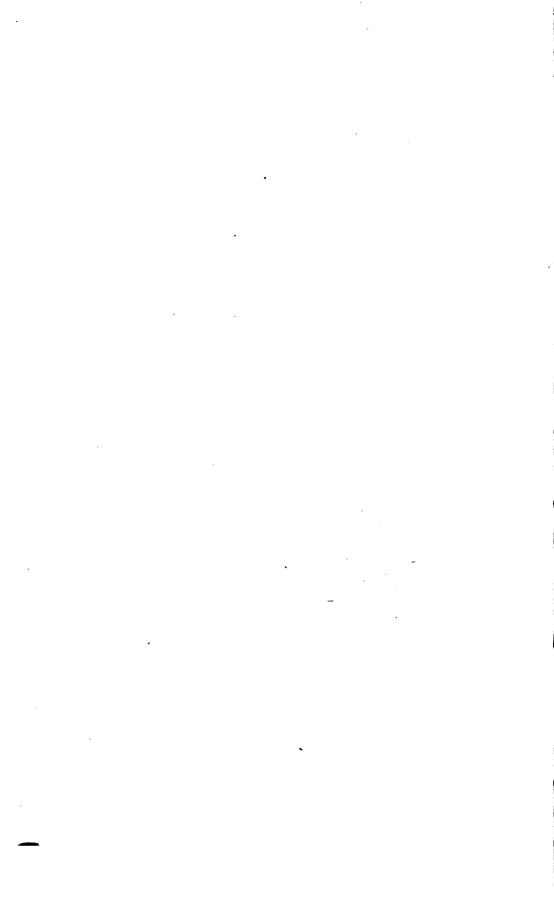


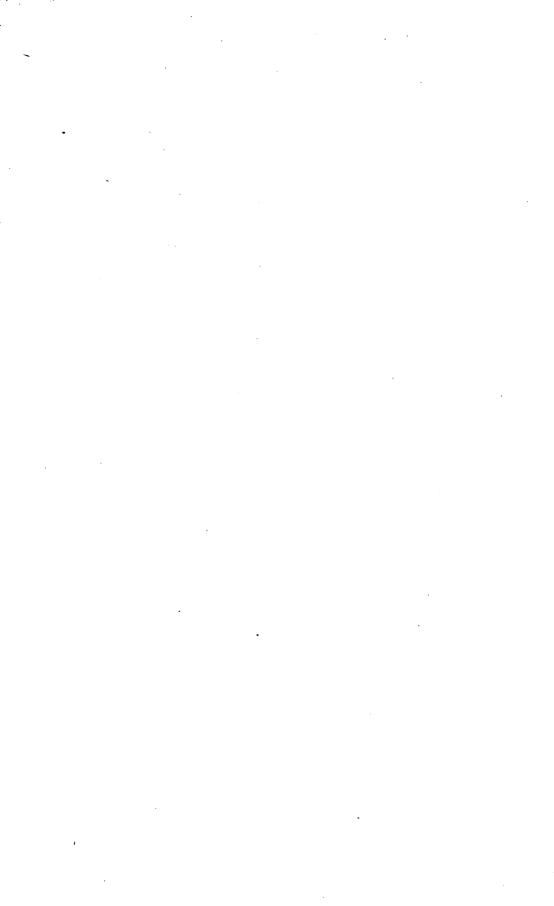




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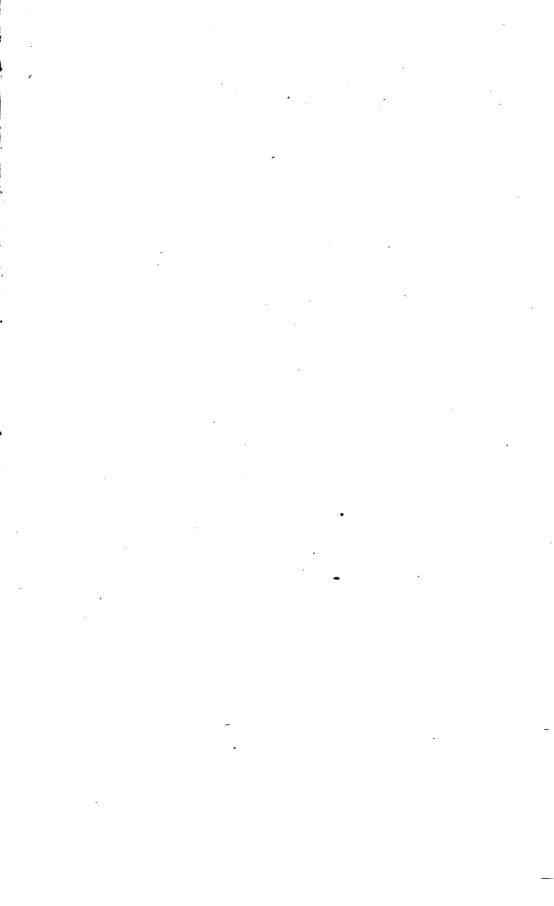


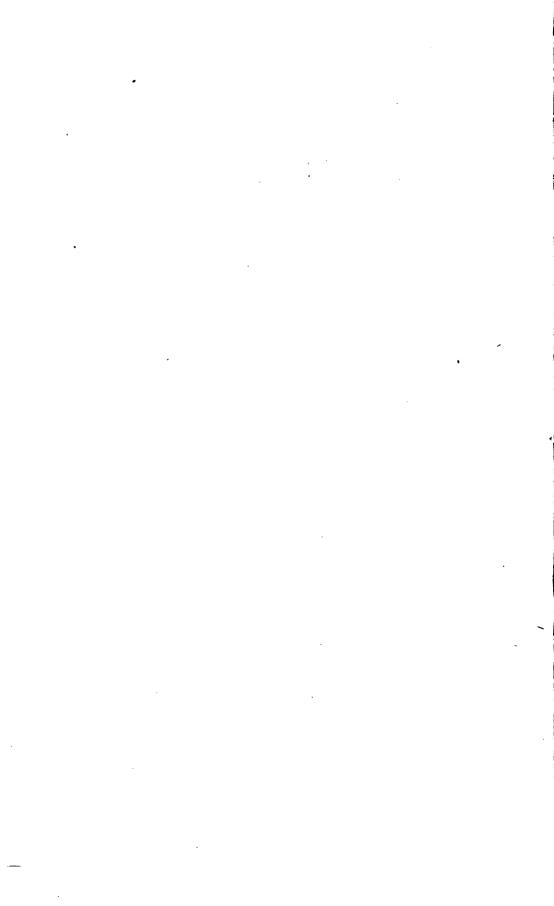




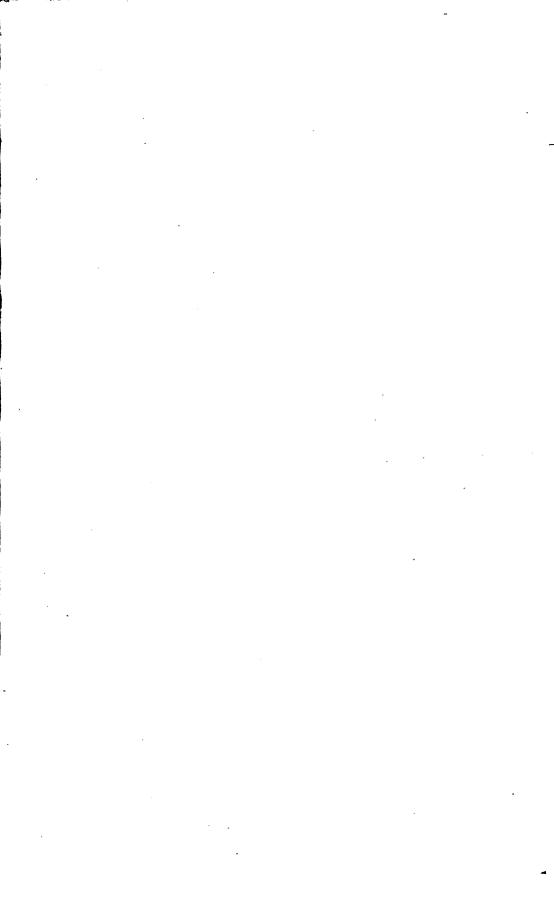
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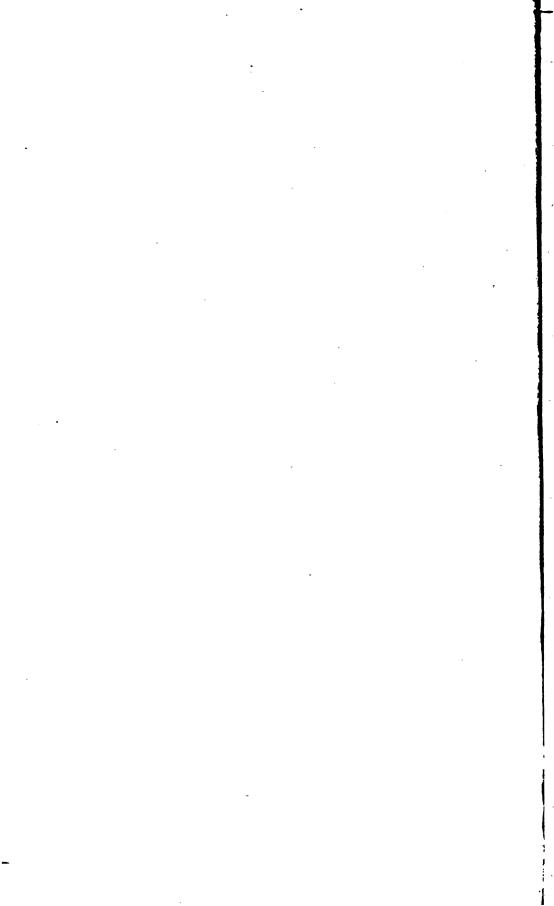


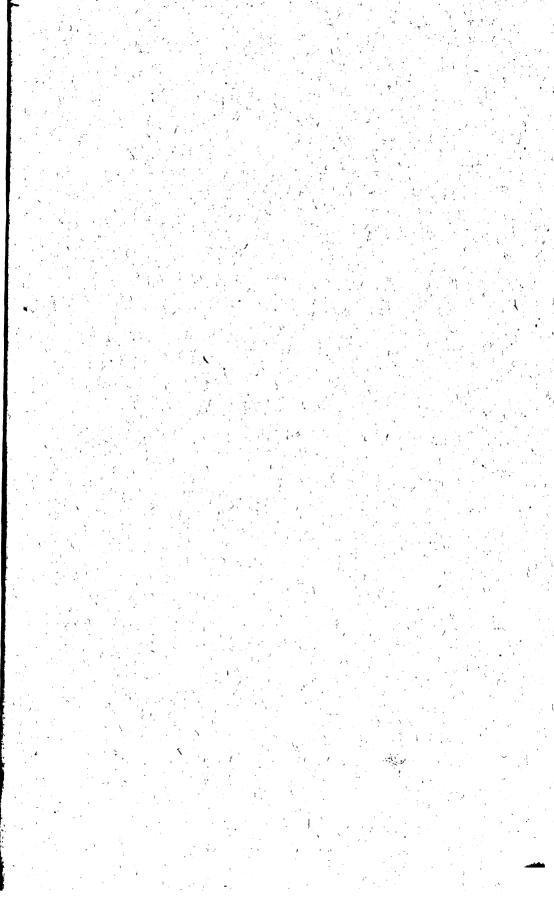
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