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UNIVERSITY
OF VIRGINIA
CHARLOTTESVILLE
LIBRARY

The Charleston Museum

ITS

Genesis and Development

BY

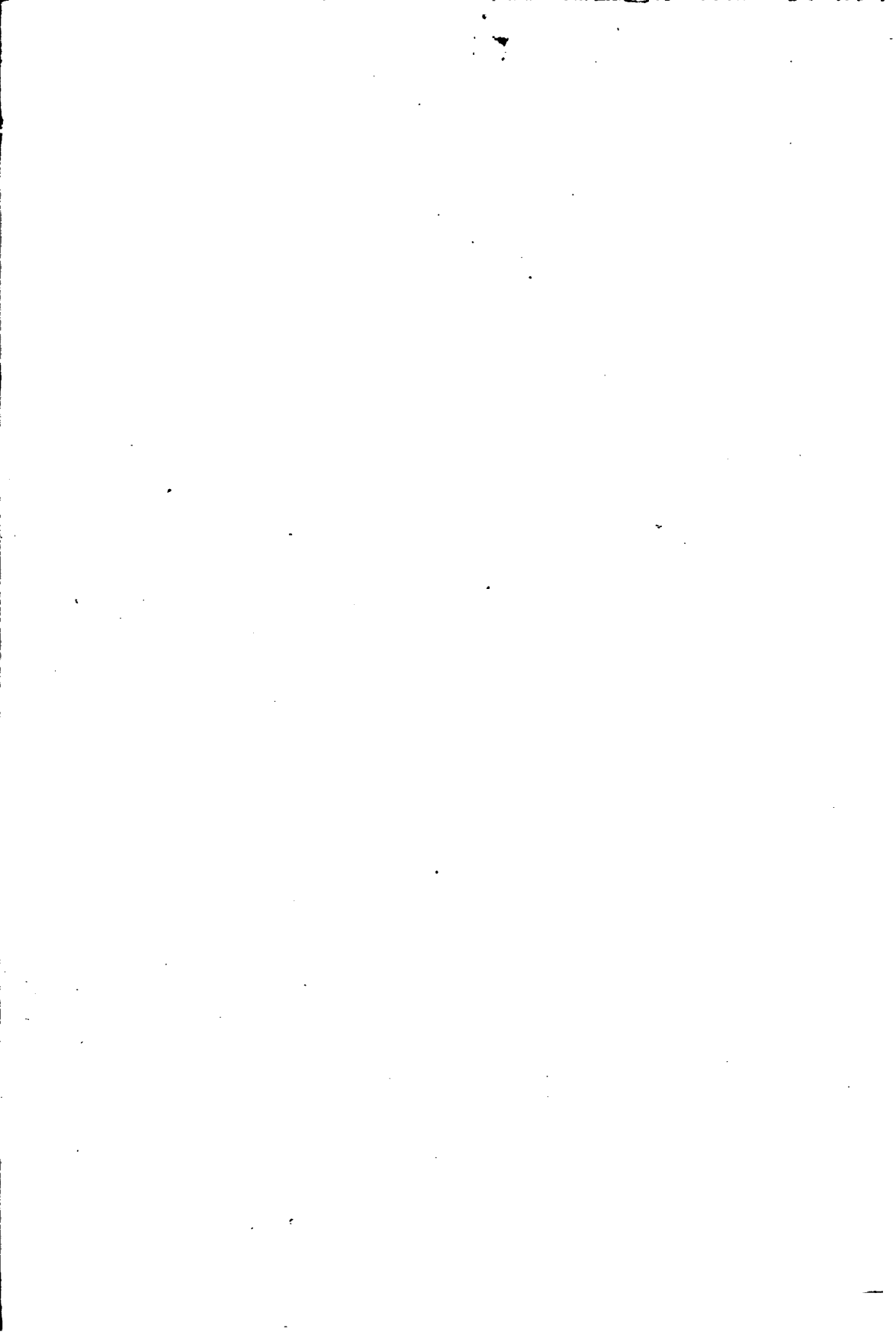
WILLIAM G. MAZYCK

WITH

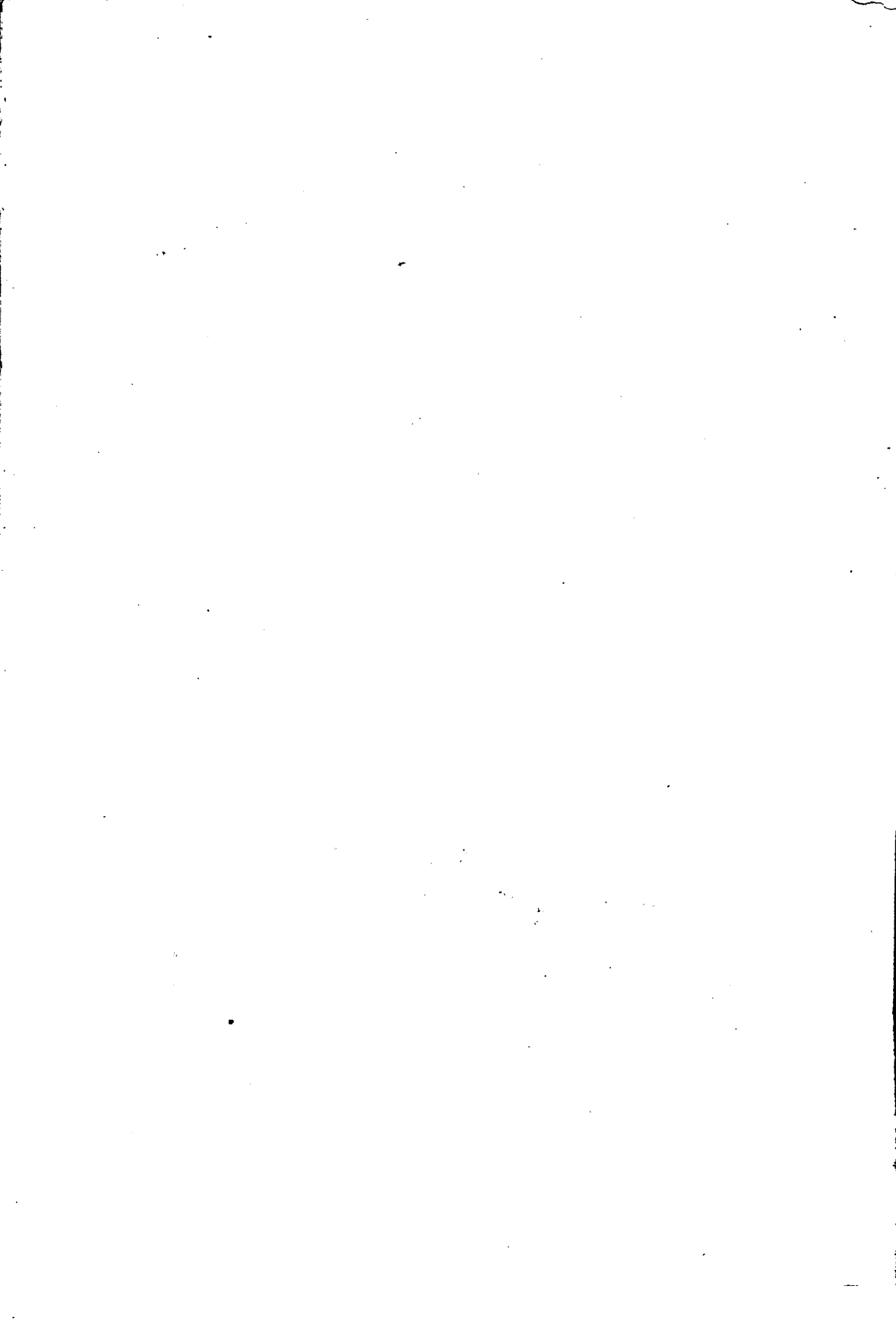
Report of the Director of the Museum

CHARLESTON, S. C.
WALKER, EVANS & COGSWELL CO.
1908











Cannon Park—Showing Entrance to the New Charleston Museum.

THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM

ITS

GENESIS AND DEVELOPMENT

BY

WILLIAM G. MAZYCK

WITH

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR
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THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM,
ITS GENESIS AND DEVELOPMENT.

BY WILLIAM G. MAZYCK.

During the war, while Charleston was under fire from the Federal batteries, Professor F. S. Holmes, the then zealous and enthusiastic curator of the Museum of the College of Charleston, removed many of the more valuable specimens belonging to the Museum, together with its records, to his farm in Edgefield County, where his family were refugees, and where they were stored, with his own books, papers and specimens, in one of his barns, which, most unfortunately was burned by a marauding band of negroes, just after the cessation of hostilities. The burning of the records was, of course, most deplorable, and for many years I have endeavored to repair the loss by searching every available source of information, and have succeeded in gathering the facts detailed below.

AN ANCIENT ACCESSION LIST.

In 1865, and for several years after, I was librarian of the Charleston Library Society, and, while looking over a mass of rubbish in a closet, I discovered a small manuscript memorandum book containing, among other items of more or less interest, this important and most valuable entry: "Articles for the Museum, presented 5th June, 1798, by Capt. William Hall." This little volume I recently brought to the attention of Professor Rea, and after a prolonged search of the records of the Library Society, it was found, and a transcript of this entry, and those of its several succeeding pages, was published, in the October, 1906, number of The Bulletin of the Charleston Museum (Vol. 2, No. 6). This is doubtless one of the oldest, if not indeed

NOTE—This paper was prepared for and published in The Bulletin of the Charleston Museum. Vol. iii, Nos. 6, 7 and 8.

the most ancient, accession list in existence, so far, at least, as our American museums are concerned. With this date as a clue, I have diligently followed the trail backwards until the records have been successfully established as far back *positively*, as 1777, and most probably several years earlier.

THE GREAT FIRE OF JANUARY 17, 1778.

In "The South Carolina and American General Gazette" of January 29, 1778, there is a remarkably full account of the very disastrous fire which had laid waste the greater part of this city a few days before, in which this paragraph appears:

"The Charles Town Library Society's valuable collection of books, instruments and apparatus for astronomical and philosophical observations and experiments, etc., etc., is almost entirely lost."

Dr. David Ramsay, a member of the Society, whose name appears among the members of its executive committee, a circumstance which insures his complete familiarity with its affairs and property, amplifies this statement in this extremely interesting and most important note on page 379, Vol. 2, of his "History of South Carolina," (Charleston, 1809).

"On the 17th January, 1778, a very extensive fire took place in Charleston, when this Library, containing between six and seven thousand volumes comprising a valuable collection of ancient authors, with paintings, prints, a pair of elegant globes, mathematical and other instruments, *and many specimens of natural history*, was almost totally destroyed."

THE FIRST AMERICAN MUSEUM.

The words which I have emphasized taken alone, might not be entitled to much weight in this discussion, but in connection with the entries in the invaluable little memorandum book, in which gifts to "The Museum" are given

equal prominence with books purchased for or given to the Library, fixes, beyond controversy, the fact that this beginning of the Charleston Museum antedates the next oldest record by *at least eight years*. "The first public museum was that founded in Philadelphia, in 1785, by Charles Willson Peale, the bones of a mammoth and a stuffed paddlefish forming its nucleus." (G. Brown Goode, Report U. S. Nat. Museum, 1897, pt. 2, p. 403).

Unfortunately, the minute book of the Library Society prior to March 15, 1815, cannot be found, but the minutes of its [Executive] Committee are extant, and as early as "Wednesday, December 12, 1764, the Committee proceeded to the room presented to the Society by Mr. Manigault, in order to see in what forwardness the same was for the receipt of the books, &ca." Just what the "&ca" consisted of the reader must determine for himself. When, however, it is recalled that as early as January 17, 1778, the Library owned "many specimens of natural history," it is reasonable to conclude that the collection was the outcome of several years' labor, especially as the public mind was fully occupied with the strenuous work of the Revolution and the years immediately preceding it. Scant time, indeed, must there have been in this city or state for the indulgence of scientific activity in the period between 1774 and 1777; it is, therefore, by no means an unwarranted conclusion that "the Committee" included in its ideas of "forwardness" necessary provision for the accommodation not only of the books but also of "The Museum."

Having, we think, thus clearly proven the existence of the Museum belonging to the Charleston Library Society at least as early as 1777, let us now endeavor to trace the connection of this most ancient of all American museums with the Charleston Museum of to-day.

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

In 1807, a Philosophical Society was established in Charleston of which Rev. Charles Dewar Simons was president. He was soon after elected Professor of Chemistry

in the South Carolina College at Columbia, and was drowned in Congaree River on his return from a visit in Charleston and the Society probably died with him. (Shecut's Essays, p. 48.)

Early in 1813, Dr. J. L. E. W. Shecut suggested the formation "of a society to be called the Antiquarian Society of Charleston. The objects of this Society were to be *primarily*, the collection, arrangement and preservation of Specimens in Natural History, and of things rare, antique, curious and useful." On the 20th of May, 1813, the Society was formally organized, and on the 30th of June "it's name was changed to The Literary and Philosophical Society of South Carolina; by which name it was incorporated in the year 1814." (Shecut's Essays, p. 49.)

Under the presidency of Mr. Stephen Elliott the Society prospered greatly, and on Wednesday, March 15, 1815, we learn from the Minute Book of the Charleston Library Society it was "Resolved that it be referred to the Book Committee, to report on the expediency of giving to the Philosophical and Literary Society the collection of natural Curiosities belonging to the Society, together with the cases containing them," and at the Quarterly Meeting of the Society held on Wednesday, 21st June, 1815, "The Book Committee Reported in favor of giving to the Philosophical Society the Natural Curiosities belonging to this Society together with the cases containing them," which was "agreed to."

"Numerous donations of specimens, in every department of the arts and sciences, were liberally bestowed, and the collection began to assume a respectable and very flattering appearance."

DR. L'HERMINIER'S COLLECTION.

"The opportune arrival of that distinguished naturalist and practical chemist, Dr. Felix L'Herminier, from Guadaloupe, with an extensive collection of specimens, the fruit of twenty years' application, expense and industry, which he offered to the society, was an advantage not to be lost sight of. Negotiations were immediately entered into with



JOHN LINNÆUS EDWARD WHITRIDGE SHECUT,
Born, Beaufort, S. C., Dec. 4, 1770; Died, Charleston, S. C.,
June 1, 1836.



that gentleman, by a committee of the society. The citizens were also invited to co-operate with them in effecting the purchase of this collection, towards the establishment of a respectable and scientific Museum in Charleston. . . . The State Legislature and the City Council, alive to the importance of this object, with a promptness and liberality, which will forever redound to their credit, contributed largely towards the purchase, and, with the sums subscribed by individuals, enabled the society to make a purchase of that valuable collection, which is now one of the chief, and perhaps, most interesting ornaments of the city."

"The superior personal attention and talents of Dr. L'Herminier were also enlisted in behalf of the society, by being appointed superintendent of the Museum."

"Our distinguished fellow-citizen the Hon. Thomas Sumpter, minister, resident at Brazils, has lately enriched the Museum of the society, by presenting it with an extensive, splendid and very valuable collection of minerals, birds, and insects of Chili, and the Brazils. The society are also in a very special manner indebted to the Hon. Joel R. Poinsett, the Hon. Henry Middleton, Stephen Elliott, Esq., Messrs. Maclure, Caradeaux, and other respectable individuals, for their valuable donations of specimens in natural history." (Shecut's Essays, pp. 49-51.)

"AN HONOR TO THE STATE" IN 1826.

The condition of the Museum in 1826 is described by Mills as follows:

"The Literary and Philosophical Society is an institution that does great honour to the State. It was founded in 1813, and comprises a large mineralogical cabinet, a number of subjects of natural history and botany.

"The Museum is situate on Chalmers street, nearly fronting the city square, and is well stored with curious objects in natural history, Indian antiquities, foreign and native works of art, &c." (Statistics of South Carolina, Charleston, 1826, p. 437.)

I have found no later mention of the Society, except a single line in the "Index to the different societies in Charles-

ton," in the City Directory for 1837-8, where it is listed with the "Rev. John Bachman, President and J. De La Motta, M. D., Secretary."

The collection remained in the care of this Society for nearly thirty years.

TRANSFERRED TO THE MEDICAL COLLEGE.

In a circular printed on the last page of the "Catalogue of the Trustees, Faculty and Students of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina," published in 1843, it is stated that "opportunities for the acquirement of a knowledge of Natural History are furnished, by the transfer to the College of the Museum of the Literary and Philosophical Society, which has been newly arranged and enlarged."

These words were repeated in subsequent circulars until May, 1846, and in that year acknowledgement is made of the receipt of several geological and other specimens from various donors.

AN IMPORTANT RECORD.

In the minutes of the annual meeting of the Trustees of the College of Charleston, held October 18th, 1847, we find that "A letter addressed to the trustees of the College, from T. Leger Hutchinson, Mayor; Lewis R. Gibbes, prof. nat. phil., Elias Horlbeck and Wm. Hume, was read from the Chair, requesting that a basement room in the College edifice, not now occupied, should be appropriated to the accommodation of a Collection of the Fossils of this State, now in possession of F. S. Holmes; whereupon it was resolved that the application in the said letter be granted, provided the consent of the Faculty be obtained." Two and a half years later, in March, 1850, the American Association for the Advancement of Science met in Charleston, and at the session of Saturday, March 16th, Prof. Agassiz "recommended the formation in Charleston of a Museum around the nucleus of the old Museum now in the Medical College of this City, for the illustration of Paelaeontology

and Natural History. He stated that there would be placed in the collection by Prof. Tuomey a full series of the fossils collected during the geological survey of the State.

“Dr. Holbrook will contribute fishes, etc.; Prof. Shepard, minerals; Mr. Holmes, specimens of rocks and fossils; Lieut. Kurtz, shells of the coast, Dr. Burden, tertiary fossils.

“This was warmly seconded by Prof. Bache and Lieut. Maury, each of whom offered contributions.” (Charleston Courier, Monday, March 18th, 1850.)

REVIVAL OF INTEREST.

Interest in the subject of the rehabilitation and enlargement of “the old Museum” thus awakened, increased rapidly, and under the influence of several of the leading spirits in the scientific and educational circles of the city, the matter took definite shape, and at a meeting of the board of Trustees of the College, held on March 28, 1850, “the President stated that he was authorized to offer to the College of Charleston—on behalf of Prof. Tuomey, Mr. Agassiz and other gentlemen devoted to the pursuit of Natural Science—their Collections of Geological and fossil specimens, found in various parts of the State—Whereon it was resolved, that the offer of Prof. Tuomey is favorably received by this Board, and that they will give it all due consideration. Resolved, that it be referred to the Standing Comm. to enquire into the subject, and report to the Board of Trustees.”

At the meeting of the Standing Committee, held May 4, 1850, it was:

“Resolved that the Chairman be and is hereby authorized to communicate with Dr. Bachman, and through him—or directly—as may be expedient, with Prof. Tuomey and Mr. Francis S. Holmes on the terms on which they will lodge their Paleontological collections, or part of them in the College of Charleston.

“Resolved that the Chairman at his earliest convenience prepare and lay before the Committee a report on the establishment of a College Museum.”

June 14 the Committee again met and "the Chairman made an elaborate report on the subject of the proposed Museum of Natural History—which had been referred to the Standing Committee—embracing the correspondence of the gentlemen who had tendered their collections of specimens and much other valuable information on the subject. When it was resolved that the said report be made at an early day to the Board of Trustees."

Accordingly at the meeting of the Board on July 15, 1850, "The President submitted to the board the report of the Standing Committee on the subject of the geological & fossil specimens offered by Mr. Tuomey, Mr. Agassiz, Dr. Bachman and Mr. Holmes—for the purpose of founding a Museum of Natural History in the College of Charleston—whereupon it was resolved, 'That the report of the Standing Committee on the subject of a Museum be, and is hereby, accepted and Confirmed, and that it be submitted to the Mayor & Council for their consideration.'"

MEMORIAL TO CITY COUNCIL.

The minutes of City Council were lost during the war, but fortunately in the Charleston Courier of Friday, July 19, 1850, we find the following lengthy but interesting and important item:

"The following is the communication from the Trustees of the Charleston College, omitted in the published Proceedings of Council yesterday:

"When the American association for the Advancement of Science held their meeting in Charleston, in March last, several of its most distinguished members expressed the opinion that the City possessed peculiar advantages for the establishment in it of a Museum of Natural History. That such a Museum of great value and extent could soon be collected—and would not only highly subserve the promotion of knowledge and general spread of natural science in the South, but would be an honor to our City. The subject was brought before the Board of Trustees of the College of Charleston. They referred it to their Standing Committee, and the committee authorized their Chairman to communicate with some of the scientific gentlemen among us, best able to advise on the subject, and to report the result. In pursuance of this authorization the Chairman respectfully reports:

"That he embraced the opportunity afforded by the recent visit to the South of Prof. Agassiz, to consult him specially on this subject. The professor had the goodness to make a written communication on it, which presents such interesting views of it, that justice could scarcely be so well done to them in any other way, as by submitting them in his own words to the Committee. After expressing his great gratification at the idea of the establishment of a Museum of Natural History in Charleston, the Professor observes:

"I am so deeply interested in every movement likely to contribute to the promotion of physical science that I beg to be allowed to present some remarks to you, which may satisfy you that such an establishment would be both useful to science and honorable to your community, and I may say, also, easily increased without considerable expense. The only thing of first importance is a good room or set of rooms, with a *permanent* curator. Specimens of Natural History require constant attention, otherwise they decay or are destroyed by insects. An intelligent keeper of the Museum himself deeply interested in its increase, is therefore, the soul of such an institution. Young physicians, feeling an interest in the growth of the collection, should also be patronized, so far as to allow them a convenient place where they could work for the museum while they were waiting for patients. With such a combination the museum could advance simultaneously in all departments. The whole expenses of the museum might therefore be reduced to the rent of rooms and the salary of the curator, with a moderate appropriation for freight to pay the expense of exchanges and the collection of specimens for exchanges. For its increase a museum, which is not richly endowed must chiefly depend upon the activity of its curator in procuring new specimens by way of exchanges. Now, I venture to say, that few places in the world, if any, are more favorably situated than Charleston, to offer valuable exchanges, owing to several circumstances which must be familiar to you. It was in Charleston the first specimens of Natural History were collected which have been scientifically described. Dr. Garden, who was a regular correspondent of Linnaeus, provided him with many specimens, which have been described in the *Systema Naturae*. Those objects are highly interesting to naturalists and the solution of several points of scientific critique will depend upon the re-examination of the specimens, as some of them have at a late period been obtained from other States further north, and considered as the things mentioned by Garden, although upon minute examination they may be found to differ. This is a question which might have been solved already with the assistance of a museum in Charleston. The work of Stephen Elliott upon the plants of South Carolina, that of Dr. Holbrook upon the reptiles of the U. S. in his Southern Ichthyology, the publication of Dr. Bachman upon quadrupeds and birds, the lists of shells of Dr. Ravenel, those of crustacea and lower

animals by Dr. L. R. Gibbes, the lists of fossils in Mr. Tuomey's Geo. Report, those mentioned by Mr. F. S. Holmes, and many isolated papers published by naturalists of South Carolina, in scientific periodical works, among which the papers of R. W. Gibbes are prominent, have given to the objects their [sic] mentioned an increased value, which will forever make zoological collections and fossils gathered in South Carolina more valuable for museums in Europe than those of any other part of the Union; and I am sure for such specimens the directors of museums abroad would be happy to send equally valuable returns. There is another point which will make the museum of Charleston very important. I mean the recent discovery of so many fossil remains of the higher class of animals, which by themselves might form in a few years a collection unrivalled anywhere; not to speak of the interest of bringing out fully the natural character of the Fauna of the Southern States. It is to be hoped that with such prospects, the formation of a museum of Natural History in Charleston, will be hailed with satisfaction, and that all who can contribute specimens, or otherwise advance the interest of science, will come forward on this occasion to hasten so desirable a result.¹

"These views of Prof. Agassiz are of the highest authority and importance and present powerful motions for the adoption of the plan which he so strongly recommends.

"In a personal interview with the Rev. Dr. Bachman and a full interchange of opinion with him on this matter, he had the kindness to undertake to communicate with Professor Tuomey and Mr. Francis Holmes, and on the 14th of March last the Chairman addressed a letter to Dr. Bachman, submitting the leading points on which the Committee desired to ascertain the sentiments of Professor Tuomey and Mr. Holmes¹ about the 5th ultimo. Dr. Bachman wrote a note to the Chairman covering valuable communications from Mr. Holmes to him, of the 18th of May, and 3d ultimo, and informing the Chairman that he had written to Professor Tuomey and had not heard from him. Professor Tuomey was supposed to be absent from Tuscaloosa, but he had before authorized Dr. Bachman to say that he would be glad to have his collection permanently established in our College. The Doctor says the same of his own collection. Both are understood to be highly valuable. The communications of Mr. Holmes are herewith submitted—they are too valuable to be abbreviated—they contain much information and evidence of devotion to a favorite science worthy of all praise. He too, unites with Dr. Bachman and Professor Tuomey, in tendering his important collection as a gift to the College. It is distinctly understood that if a museum be established in the College of Charleston, these collections are to be given as free gifts in perpetuity to the College. To use

¹ Evidently the period should follow Mr. Holmes' name, but I have given the punctuation as it occurs in the original.—W. G. M.

the emphatic language of Mr. Holmes 'The materials for which others would have to spend many thousand dollars, are tendered gratis—and the splendid field, so very rich and unexplored, will yield specimens of great value at a cost of little labor and money.' In addition to the collections of Dr. Bachman, Professor Tuomey and Mr. Francis S. Holmes, Dr. Bachman believes that the collection of the Philosophical Society now in the keeping of the Medical College, will be given at once to the College of Charleston. His [this] opinion of Dr. Bachman has been confirmed by every member of the Philosophical Society who has been consulted on this subject, and the Dean of the Trustees of the Medical College has given assurance, that if the College establishes a museum, he will, with pleasure, superintend the removal of the collection of the Philosophical Society, and all the cases containing it to the College buildings, and give directions to prevent confusion among the specimens or injury to them. With these assurances, and the prospect of speedily making ample additions to these collections from the abundant, rare, and very valuable specimens known to exist in our State, a museum might be established, which to use the language of Prof. Agassiz, would be an honor to our community, and we may add an honor to our State. We cannot permit ourselves to doubt that were it fairly established, it could not *fail to receive the patronage of the State*. The collections then that would form an extensive and valuable museum, would, in themselves, cost us nothing. All that the College would be required to provide, would be rooms to receive and display them, a competent keeper to preserve and add to them—and a small amount to meet contingent, and yet necessary expenses. It is believed that the additions now making to the College Buildings, while they will be an ornament to the city, will, with the original building, afford ample accommodations for all the Professors, for the College Societies and the Library; and, under judicious arrangements, space sufficient for a large museum with the necessary work rooms that ought to be connected with it. The additions in progress will give us eight large rooms, besides four rooms on the ground floor. Three Professors and one College Society require accommodation—one of the new rooms ought [sic] to become the Library—and the Library that is now on the same floor, with some of the new rooms that may be assigned for work rooms for the museum, would furnish accommodations for the largest museum that we can for a long time well hope to collect. The expense of these rooms may be said to be already incurred. The contract for them is made—an intelligent keeper, it is strongly and truly said is the soul of a museum. He is the living principle that adds to it and preserves it from decay. He must be devoted to science and possess the intelligence and ability to make his devotion available; such a person as would be fit for the office would not probably be obtained

at a smaller salary than twelve hundred dollars—and the incidental expenses of the museum cannot be put at less than three hundred dollars annually.

“The yearly regular expenses therefore may be estimated at about fifteen hundred dollars and it is believed that at present that amount cannot be raised by private subscription, and under existing circumstances, could only be permanently provided by an annual appropriation by the city. It is confidently believed that such an appropriation would be amply compensated by the advantages which a well-regulated and well-sustained museum would bring to the city. It would aid greatly in exciting and rewarding a spirit of research and accurate enquiry among all our students of Natural History. It would furnish us with new and accurate information of the changes which have taken place in the different accessible strata of our State, and of the inhabitants in all the departments of nature, by which these strata have been successfully occupied. It would assist the agriculturist in studying the nature of his soil, and suggest the means of stimulating its fertility.

“It would bring us into direct relations with the distinguished naturalists of this country, and of Europe, and be a point of attraction to them under favorable auspices, and maintained with that zeal and ability, which it would surely deserve. It would be an ornament and an honor to the city and to the State.

“There are many important views connected with this subject, suggested by Mr. Holmes, in his valuable communications which, if the main subject, the Museum, can be obtained, may well be associated with it, and would certainly greatly extend its influence and usefulness. They would add nothing to its expense, and might, it is believed, be so arranged as at some time hereafter, in a great measure to supply the means of its support.

“On the whole the plan of establishing a Museum of Natural History in our city, in connection with the College, is very earnestly commended to the Board of Trustees, and through them, if they encourage the undertaking, to the favor and support of the guardians of the prosperity and honor of the City of Charleston.

“Respectfully reported,

“M. KING.

“This report has been laid before the Board of Trustees of the College of Charleston, and approved by them, and is by their instruction very respectfully submitted to the Mayor and Council for their consideration.

“M. KING, President.

“To the Honorable the Mayor and City Council of Charleston. Charleston, July 15, 1850.”

"Whereupon Alderman [S. Y.] Tupper offered the following resolution:

"Whereas, by a Report from the Trustees of the College of Charleston, Submitted to this Body, it appears that sundry Scientific individuals have gratuitously tendered, as a free gift for the use and advantage of the public, their collections in the various departments of natural science, to form the nucleus of a museum in the Charleston College, connected with Geology, Natural History, Mineralogy, Paleontology, etc.; and as the prosperity of this institution is associated with the highest interests of our City and State, and is directly under the control and care of this corporation: Be it therefore

Resolved, That so soon as the specimens which have been offered, according to the report of the Trustees of the College of Charleston, shall have been received, and the apartments now in course of construction in the College (destined for their accommodation) are prepared for their reception, the Trustees of that institution are duly authorized to elect a suitable person as Curator of the Museum.

"Alderman Tupper asked further leave to introduce at the next meeting a bill to provide for the appointment of a Curator for the Museum of the Charleston College and for other purposes. Leave granted."

This was accordingly done, and on Thursday, August 29, 1850, "An Ordinance to provide for the appointment of a Curator for the Museum of the College of Charleston" was duly ratified, and it was published in *The Courier* on August 21 and for several weeks thereafter, and on Monday, November 25, at the meeting of the Trustees of the College, Mr. F. S. Holmes was elected Curator of the Museum. On December 28 he was "appointed Professor of Geology and Paleontology in the College of Charleston," and on May 6, 1853, he was also "appointed and elected Professor of Natural History."

REMOVAL OF THE MUSEUM TO THE COLLEGE.

A few weeks before the election of the Curator, on Tuesday, July 30, 1850, at a meeting of the Standing Committee, "The Chairman stated that Dr. Frost, Dean of the Faculty of the Medical College had informed him, that the building now containing the Museum of the Philosophical

Society, would be shortly taken down for the Roper Hospital about to be erected—and that it would be necessary to remove the same to the College of Charleston—whereupon it was resolved that the specimens contained in said Museum be accordingly removed to the library of the College of Charleston, Dr. Frost having kindly offered to attend to the removal of the specimens and cases in which they are contained.”

In the selection of a Curator for the Museum the Board made a most admirable choice, for Mr. Holmes, besides being an ardent lover of nature and an enthusiastic student of Natural History and Geology, was a man of tireless energy, and possessing a certain indescribable charm of manner, he soon enlisted the interest of a large number of friends in the new enterprise, whose numerous contributions, added to the treasures of “the Old Museum,” enabled him “in the short space of fourteen months” to transform a cabinet of curiosities, “things rare, curious, or beautiful,” into a scientific Museum of the highest rank, an achievement which was fully recognized by the most acute judgment of the leading scientist of his age, as we learn from the following article from *The Courier* of January 26, 1852:

EXCELLENT WORK OF THE NEW CURATOR.

“Museum of the College of Charleston.—On Saturday last, at 12 M., the opening of this excellent and valuable Museum of Natural History and Geology was celebrated at the College Building, by an interesting ceremonial. By the invitation of the Board of Trustees, the Mayor and Aldermen of the city, the Faculty and Alumni of the College, and a large number of literary and distinguished guests were present. Professor F. S. Holmes, the able, scientific and devoted Curator of the Museum, showing how in the short space of fourteen months (the period since he commenced operation) it had reached its present high and palmy state, and that, wholly from the voluntary contribution of specimens—the contributors having been about sixty-seven in number, and chiefly from the districts of Charleston, Beaufort and Georgetown, and there being a certain prospect of early and valuable additions to the collection. The Hon. Mitchell King, President of the Board of Trustees, and the liberal patron of the College, then addressed the Mayor and Aldermen on the advantages of the Museum, giving a highly interesting sketch of its origin and progress,



FRANCIS SIMMONS HOLMES.
Born, Charleston, S. C., Dec. 9, 1815; Died Oct. 19, 1882.



justly eulogizing the indefatigable labors and enthusiastic zeal of the Curator, and suitably acknowledging the past favors and invoking the continuance of the liberal aid extended by the City authorities to the infant enterprise. In the course of his remarks, he alluded in just terms to the presentation to the Museum of the valuable collection of the old Literary and Philosophical Society and to the large and valuable contributions of Professors Buchanan [Bachman], Agassiz, Gibbs, [Gibbes,] and Shepperd, [Shepard,] and Henry W. Ravenel, Esqr., in the Botanical, and of Professor Holmes himself, in the Geological department, and of many other liberal friends of science. The Hon. John Schnierle made an eloquent response to the address of the President, congratulating the Trustees and the community on the increasing prosperity and usefulness of the College, and * * * recognizing in the Museum an institution eminently worthy of the fostering care which had been extended to it by the present Council and their predecessors in office. Professor Agassiz closed with a few remarks, in which he expressed unbounded admiration of the skilful and successful labors and arrangements of the Curator, stated the peculiar advantages enjoyed by Charleston for the establishment of a Museum, especially from the invaluable fossil remains in her immediate vicinity, and announced the gratifying fact from his own personal observation, that our infant Museum, although but fourteen months old, has nothing to compare with it in the whole Union, save the superior institution in Philadelphia, which has existed for 30 years.

"The Museum occupies the entire extent of the upper story of the main college edifice and the specimens are most tastefully and skilfully arranged and classified. Its value is said by scientific men to be beyond computation in money, and its creation and possession are an honor to our City."

PUBLIC OPENING JANUARY 31, 1852.

The formal "public opening" of the Museum was set for the following Saturday, January 31, 1852, not "in November, 1851," as Prof. Ashley states in his "very hastily prepared" General Guide to the Museum (p. 4), but though advertised in *The Courier* of that date and the day previous, there is no account of the proceedings to be found in the files of that paper. In the *Charleston Evening News* of February 2, 1852, there is, however, a column article describing in some detail the ceremonies of the occasion, but adding nothing to the historical facts noted above.

THE ELLIOTT SOCIETY.

In the fall of 1853 the Elliott Society of Natural History was organized with Prof. Holmes as its Secretary and one of its most active members. The Society met at the College and its Books were deposited in the College Library and all contributions to its Collection in the Museum. Through this agency many valuable specimens were added to the rapidly increasing number, and to-day, with the exception of the old manuscript in the Charleston Library, perhaps the most important accession lists of any portion of the collection are to be found in the published "Proceedings" of the Society, or appended to its printed Constitution and By-Laws.

THE HAMILTON COUPER COLLECTION.

On October 28, 1861, Prof. Holmes reported to the Board of Trustees the receipt of a magnificent donation from Mr. James Hamilton Couper, of St. Simon's Island, Georgia, consisting of Fossils, Minerals and Recent Shells, "The Cases contain several thousand specimens," and also a very beautiful and valuable collection of shells from Miss A. M. Annelly, of this City. Of these splendid gifts the Trustees enthusiastically say "These additions to our treasures, we believe, make our conchological collection the amplest and richest in the Western World."

Prof. Holmes continued his work with unabated zeal until his appointment as Chief of the Nitre Bureau of the Confederate States, the duties of which position compelled his removal from the City.

THE REMOVAL TO EDGEFIELD.

On September 8, 1863, a meeting of the Board of Trustees was held, at which it was determined that the College Library should be removed to Camden and the Museum to Abbeville, S. C., and Mr. Holmes was requested to come to Charleston to confer with the Standing Committee and to superintend the removal of "such parts of it as it may

be practical or expedient to remove." Mr. Holmes responded promptly and after consultation with him it was deemed best that :

"The village of Edgefield or some safe building near it should be the place of deposit. * * * The cases were to be sent by rail to Aiken and wagoned thence about 20 miles. The larger articles were to be left in the Museum in Charleston, and a few were to be buried. The arrangement was carried out by Professor Holmes in Sept. and Oct., 1863.

"A fire occurred in Edgefield in the fall of 1865, in a building in which a part of our Boxes were stored, and the contents of two boxes were destroyed. In this fire Professor Holmes lost a valuable library of scientific works.

"As soon as circumstances permitted Prof. Holmes was authorized to remove back to Charleston the articles sent away. These contained in 198 boxes have been received, opened and replaced in their cases. The more careful distribution and labelling of the specimens has been commenced, but will require considerable time. The boxes were wagoned from Edgefield to Orangeburg, and then brought by the Railroad to Charleston, by the latter without charge.

"A considerable part of the Museum thus cared for consists of the valuable donation of J. H. Couper, Esq., who in the dispensations of Providence, has within a few weeks, closed at an advanced age, a life of liberal culture, refined taste, and high character. He died on the 3rd of July last, and was interred on St. Simon's Island, Georgia. A private letter remarks that 'all his old servants who could get conveyance' attended his funeral.

"It is gratifying to know, that our College selected by himself as the depository of his collections, has preserved, during the dangers of the war, this worthy memorial of his science and industry."

(See an exceedingly interesting and elaborate Report made by Mr. Daniel Ravenel, President, to the Board of Trustees of the College, at a meeting held August 27, 1866.)

RESIGNATION OF PROF. HOLMES.

On January 21, 1869, Prof. Holmes, after a service of nearly nineteen years, resigned the Curatorship, and March 19 following Prof. John McCrady was elected his successor. Prof. McCrady called to his assistance Dr. William Hume, under whose skilful hands much valuable work was done, especially in the Mineralogical Department of the collection.

DR. G. E. MANIGAULT ELECTED CURATOR.

Prof. McCrady resigned June 24, 1873, and was succeeded by Dr. Gabriel E. Manigault, who was elected on August 6, and who, notwithstanding a tendency to rather subordinate the purely scientific to the more particularly æsthetic features of the Museum, did some most admirable work, adding many exceedingly valuable and interesting specimens to the store of its treasures, notably among the larger North American Mammals. Dr. Manigault was an Osteologist of exceptional ability, and his beautiful preparations of skeletons, illustrating almost every family of the vertebrates, can hardly be equalled anywhere. Many of these, however, were mounted and deposited in the Museum during Prof. Holmes' administration. He was, too, fond of cabinet work and possessed of considerable mechanical skill, of which, as well as of his taste and care, many of the cases and much of the shelving and other appointments of the Museum bear witness. This skill was productive of most excellent results in the repair and rehabilitation of the College Buildings after the disastrous earthquake of August 31, 1886, and the Minutes of the Meetings of the Trustees bear ample evidence of his constant watchfulness of the interests, not only of the Museum, but of the whole institution during the several years through which, for lack of funds, the work of rebuilding was prolonged, for not until 1895 was he able to report its completion under his very competent supervision. In token of its appreciation of his invaluable services in this direction, "the condition of our finances forbidding us to indulge the natural desire to meet his deserts" otherwise, he was elected by the Trustees on June 28, 1889, Professor of Natural History and Geology, which chair he continued to fill, in conjunction with his duties as Curator of the Museum, until his death in 1899. During the latter part of his administration Dr. Manigault established a Department of Archaeology in the Museum, for which he purchased a number of interesting plaster copies of notable examples illustrative of ancient Assyrian and Egyptian art and history, and a very beautiful series of reproductions of ancient Greek

vases from the celebrated terra cotta works at Copenhagen. Most unfortunately, however, owing possibly to a lack of room for their accommodation, and probably also to a failure to adequately appreciate their scientific value, the smaller, and, from the "popular" viewpoint, less attractive specimens, especially in the Department of the Invertebrata and of Mineralogy, were suffered to fall into a state of great neglect and consequent confusion. "It would appear from the labels that much valuable material, especially in the line of insects, had been lost through the ravages of Museum pests" (Prof. Ashley's Guide, p. 40.) A volume of the priceless Elliott Herbarium was discovered only a few months ago in a lot of rubbish in the cellar of the Library building. The greater portion of the magnificent conchological collection, which, as quoted above, the Trustees forty years ago felt justified in declaring was the "amplest and richest in the Western World," was thrown aside in the utmost disorder. The almost entire absence of any Museum records, too, is under any circumstances, except, of course their accidental destruction, utterly inexcusable.

A REMARKABLE PROPOSITION.

The grave question of the provision of larger space for the accommodation of the Museum had for many years occupied the attention of both the Trustees and the Faculty of the College, and in November, 1881, the Trustees concurred in a memorial to the Legislature, looking to the purchase of the building on Wentworth street, near King, then known as the Military Hall, now the Armory of the German Artillery. This memorial was "presented and referred" at the opening session of each House on November 22, 1881 (The News and Courier, November 23), but I find no further mention of it, though its presentation probably resulted in the passage "without debate" on the last day of the session of

"AN ACT TO CREATE A MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN THE CITY OF CHARLESTON.

"SECTION 1. *Be it enacted* by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That a Museum of Natural History in the City of Charleston be, and the same is hereby created, to be under the control and management of a Board of Commissioners, as hereinafter provided.

"SEC. 2. That the said Board of Commissioners shall consist of the Mayor of the City of Charleston, the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the College of Charleston, the Dean of the Faculty of the Medical College of South Carolina, and four other persons to be appointed by the Mayor of Charleston for the term of four years and until their successors are appointed.

"SEC. 3. That five members of the said Board shall constitute a quorum, and the Mayor of Charleston shall be the Chairman thereof. They shall hold their meetings at such times as the Board shall, by resolution, or as the chairman or vice-chairman, shall appoint. And they may adopt, alter, or amend such regulations as they may think proper for the establishment and development of the said museum.

"SEC. 4. That in order to procure a suitable location for the exhibition of the contents of the said museum, the said Board may purchase and hold in fee simple to them and their successors, any real estate not exceeding in cost twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), and fit the same up with proper apartments for containing and exhibiting the specimens of said museum.

"SEC. 5. That the said Board are hereby authorized to receive and procure, by donation or otherwise, specimens of natural history connected with this State and elsewhere, and classify and arrange them in proper divisions, and to take all such steps as may be necessary or proper for preserving or adding to the same.

"SEC. 6. That the said Board are authorized to make any arrangements necessary for the procuring, as an addition to their collections, the museum now attached or belonging to the College of Charleston; not, however, purchasing the same.

"SEC. 7. That the location of the said museum shall be in the city of Charleston, in some suitable place to be procured by the said Board; and it shall be open each day, at such hours and under such restrictions as may be prescribed by said Board for the inspection, examination, and instruction, without charge, of all visitors thereto.

"In the Senate House, the third day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two.

J. D. KENNEDY, President of the Senate.

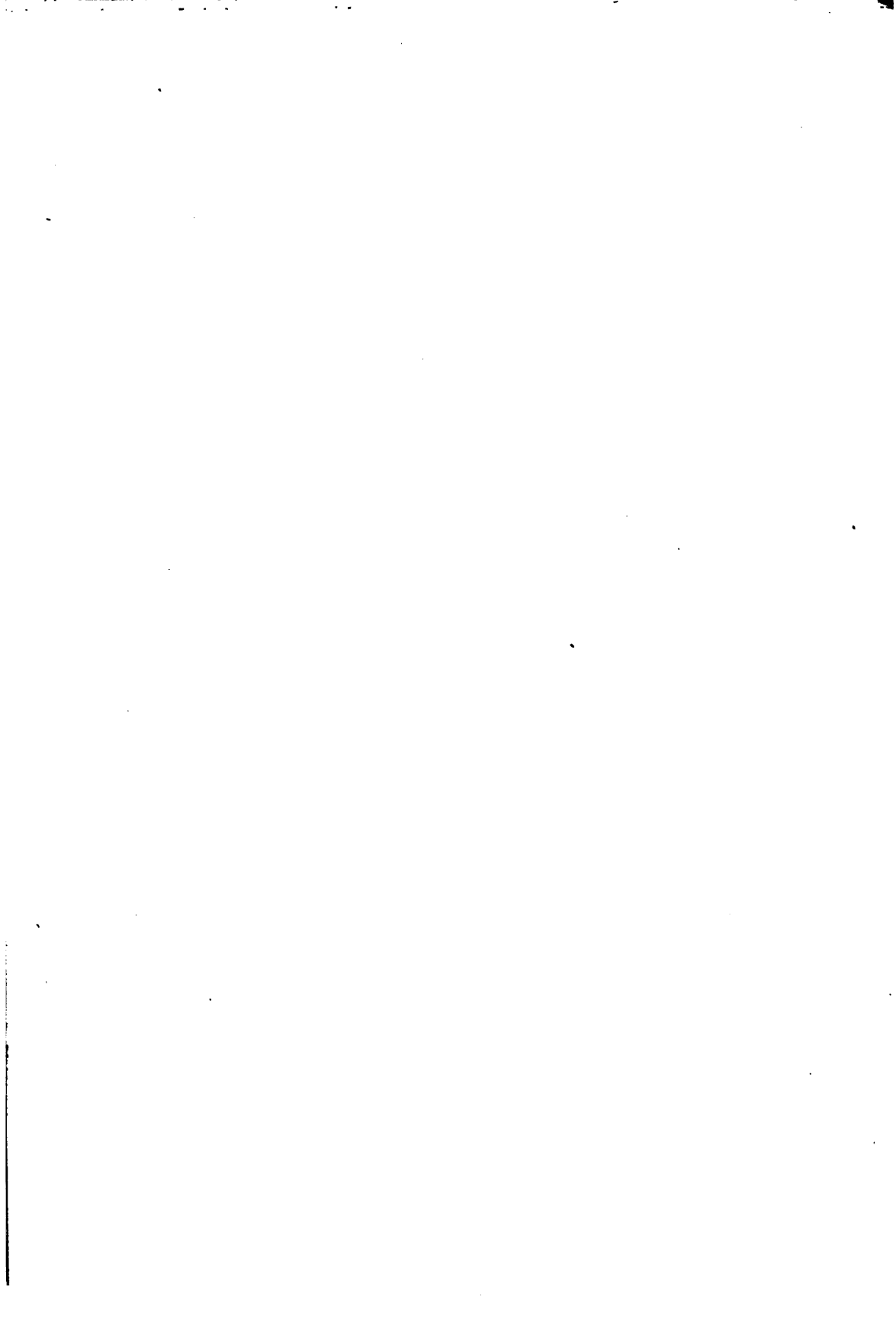
J. C. SHEPPARD, Speaker House of Representatives.

"Approved February 4th, A. D., 1882.

"JOHNSON HAGOOD, Governor."



Home of the Charleston Museum for Sixty Years.



Nothing appears to have been done towards perfecting the organization contemplated, and when it is noted that the College was to have but one representative on the Board, and that it would be impossible to hold a meeting at which the Mayor and his appointees would not form a majority, it is not to be wondered at that the Trustees were not over hasty in promoting a scheme which (so far at least as the governing Board was concerned) had certainly drifted far from the mark aimed at in the memorial which they had signed, or aiding those "interested in procuring [without cost] as an addition to their collections, the Museum now attached or belonging to the College of Charleston"! especially when in the language of President Randolph "the scientific collections constitute the finest possession of the College." (Report, June 13, 1904.)

DR. GEORGE HALL ASHLEY.

On September 1, 1900, Dr. George Hall Ashley was elected to succeed Dr. Manigault as Professor of Natural Sciences and Curator of the Museum. While no extensive additions were made to the collection during his administration, to such an extent did he arouse a wider and more intelligent interest in the Museum, through a series of illustrated lectures and the publication of a "Guide to the Museum," as to have merited the following commendation of his work in the Annual Report of the President of the College, submitted to the Board of Trustees, June 25, 1902: "It would thus seem that these collections, which represent half a century and more of thought and labor on the part of the distinguished scientists who have contributed to the upbuilding of the Museum, are to-day to a greater extent available to the public for study and investigation, and that the Museum, therefore, is likely more than ever to enter actively and usefully into the educational work of the City."

PROF. PAUL M. REA ELECTED CURATOR.

Prof. Ashley having accepted a position as geologist with the United States Geological Survey, resigned May 28,

1903, and Professor Paul M. Rea was elected his successor on June 15 following.

Prof. Rea soon recognized the absolute necessity for procuring, not only additional room for the accommodation of the Museum, but the assistance of students in special lines for the care of the several Departments of the great collection which long ago had outgrown the reasonable capacity of any one individual, especially if he was to be burdened besides with the exacting duties of the class room or laboratory. This latter point he earnestly brought to the attention of the Trustees, and, as strongly recommended by him, "as a means of associating scientific men of Charleston with the Museum and of securing expert advice on technical questions," at their "Meeting held March 31, 1906, the following gentlemen were elected Honorary Curators in the Museum:

HONORARY CURATORS.

Prof. Daniel S. Martin, of Brooklyn, N. Y., Honorary Curator of Minerals Rocks and Invertebrate Fossils.

Mr. Wm. G. Mazýck, of Charleston, S. C., Honorary Curator of Recent Shells.

Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, of Mt. Pleasant, S. C., Honorary Curator of Birds."

To this list there were subsequently added the names of Prof. N. W. Stephenson, Honorary Curator of Art, and Messrs. F. W. Wamsley and Herbert R. Sass, Assistants to the Director. Prof. Rea says:

"This increase in the Museum staff is one of the gratifying results of the renewed activity of the Museum. Under former conditions work at the Museum was altogether curatorial in its nature, and the one or two departments in which the curator was most interested and learned prospered at the expense of the others. Since the inauguration of the new policy * * * it has become increasingly evident that the time and energy of the curator could not possibly be extended to cover the necessary accessioning and revision of each department, and provide for its care and growth and also attend to the increasing opportunities for forwarding the educational side of modern museum management. * * * These and other manifold duties,

both administrative and curatorial, have made necessary the help and advice of associates. The title of the curator was accordingly changed to Director, and the advice and help of experts enlisted by the appointment of honorary curators, specialists in the departments which they serve.

"Another reason for gratification in securing the interest and aid of these scientists, lies in the hope, thus strengthened, that the College of Charleston Museum may once more become the rallying point for scientific men of the generation, and thus renew the brightness of its name, which Shecut, Elliott, Holbrook, Audubon, Bachman and Agassiz [Ravenel, Dickson, Holmes, Gibbes and McCrady] made famous."

THE THOMSON AUDITORIUM.

The crowning evidence, however, of Prof. Rea's energetic work in behalf of his important charge is the successful result of his persistent effort to secure the spacious Thomson Auditorium as its permanent home.

The initial suggestion of this use of this building came from Mr. George S. Holmes to President Randolph of the College faculty, but it is due to Prof. Rea's activity and insistence that it was finally secured at a nominal rental by lease from the City.

"The result is tremendous in its import for the Museum and for the city. Thousands of specimens, valuable for exhibition or for study, are packed away and entirely inaccessible for either purpose because of absolute lack of space to properly arrange them. * * * The collections have been found to be such, both in quantity and quality, as to hold an important position among the museums of the country. Without doubt the largest and most valuable museum in the South, it is surpassed only by the great museums of some Northern Cities."

The building is splendidly located in Cannon Park, at the southeast corner of Rutledge Avenue and Calhoun Street, in an attractive portion of the City, readily accessible from all points by two trolley lines passing it. It contains about 35,000 square feet of floor space available for exhibition, and as much more for offices, library, reading room, storage and preparation rooms, laboratories and lec-

ture rooms. It was erected in 1899 with funds bequeathed to the City by the late John Thomson, Esq., an adopted citizen and merchant of Charleston, whose memory will be perpetuated by a tablet to be placed in the hall of the new Museum. Under the contract with the City it is provided that this institution, for nearly a century and a half identified with the learned societies and scientific activity of the City, will continue to be administered by the Trustees of the College of Charleston and will hereafter be known as

THE CHARLESTON MUSEUM.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON:

The Director of the Charleston Museum has the honor to submit the following report for the year 1907.

The distinction of being the oldest museum in America which has come to the Charleston Museum through the historical investigations of Mr. Wm. G. Mazyck; important improvements in organization, especially the compiling of records, and extension of educational work made possible by an increased staff; the assurance of a new building and the steadily growing interest and support of the public have been the achievements of the past year.

Of the needs of the Museum the Director desires to emphasize two. The first is the imperative necessity of immediate provision for the employment of a trained librarian for the proper care of the library. The second is the need of a permanent endowment adequate to give reasonable assurance of the ability of the Museum to care permanently for material entrusted to it.

HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM

The investigations of Mr. Wm. G. Mazyck constitute the important contribution of the year to the history of the Museum. These, with articles published in 1906, establish the fact that the Museum was in existence under the auspices of the Charleston Library Society as early as 1777. It is, therefore, beyond question the oldest museum in America. The earliest record of specimens is in the form of an accession list covering the years 1798-1808, and many of the specimens there described are still in the possession of the Museum.

In 1815, the Library Society voted to give its collections and cases to the newly organized Literary and Philosophical Society of South Carolina. The enthusiasm with which this society undertook the development of the Museum is well shown by the following quotation from Shecut's Essays:*

*Shecut, *Medical and Philosophical Essays*. Charleston, 1819. Pp. 49-50.

"The opportune arrival of that distinguished naturalist and practical chemist, Dr. FELIX L'HERMINIER, from Guadeloupe, with an extensive collection of specimens, the fruit of twenty years application, expense and industry, which he offered to the society, was an advantage, not to be lost sight of. Negotiations were immediately entered into with that gentleman, by a committee of the society. The citizens were also invited to co-operate with them in effecting the purchase of this collection, towards the establishment of a respectable and scientific Museum in Charleston.

"Those persons who subscribed fifty dollars, on payment of that sum, became members for life. The State Legislature and the City Council, alive to the importance of this object, with a promptness and liberality, which will forever redound to their credit, contributed largely towards their purchase, and, with the sums subscribed by individuals, enabled the society to make a purchase of that valuable collection, which is now one of the chief, and perhaps, most interesting ornaments of the city.

"The superior personal attention and talents of Dr. L'HERMINIER, were also enlisted in behalf of the society, by being appointed superintendent of the Museum."

In 1843, the Museum had been transferred to the Medical College of South Carolina, by which it was rearranged and enlarged.

In 1850, interest in the Museum was stimulated by the meeting in Charleston of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and by the work in the city of the elder Agassiz and the Museum was transferred to rooms set apart for its use by the College of Charleston, under whose auspices it has grown steadily to the present time.

THE NEW BUILDING

The present quarters of the Museum are difficult of access, badly lighted, over crowded, and entirely without work rooms and storage rooms. The last annual report of the Director reviewed the movement for a better building which was the most prominent feature of our work in 1906. On the 8th of January, 1907, City Council gave its final approval to a lease of the Thomson Auditorium to the Trustees of the Museum and provided a special appro-

priation of \$7,500 for remodelling and repairing the building.

In preparing plans for the new Museum, the Director visited most of the large museums in the East and received valuable suggestions from many sources, especially from Dr. F. W. True, of the National Museum, and from Messrs. Hornblower and Marshall, architects of the new National Museum, who went over all the plans in detail and gave many valuable suggestions, without expense to the Museum.

The entire preparation of detailed plans and drawings was in the hands of Mr. F. W. Wamsley, of the staff, who made the drawings. Mr. Wamsley also had charge of the dismantling of much of the interior of the building before the contracts were let. Through his energy and careful supervision, this work was completed at the small cost of \$165, and all the material cleaned, sorted and stacked so that it has been possible to use nearly all of it in rebuilding—a second important saving.

During the summer, many unfortunate delays prevented progress, but during the fall the work has been going forward steadily. The main changes are nearly completed and the building can be finished in a short time when a further appropriation is available.

MEMBERS

As a means of supplementing the city appropriation for maintenance and of providing for the growth and development of the Museum a system of membership was organized in December, 1906.

The particulars of membership are printed on the second page of the cover and a list of the members for the year 1907 on the third page of the cover. The money received from membership fees constitutes the General Fund and is

used to supplement the city appropriation for maintenance and to provide for all permanent improvements, increase of collections, and for the scientific and educational work of the Museum. The value of the Museum and the scope of its work are proportionate to the size of the General Fund and a large increase in the membership is essential to the success of the work. The fixed expenses of the coming year will exceed the present General Fund combined with the city maintenance appropriation.

FINANCES

Four years ago, at the beginning of the present administration, the Museum was rapidly deteriorating on a total annual income of \$250. In the three following years, City Council has increased the appropriation successively to \$1,000, \$1,500, and \$2,500. During the past year, a supplementary fund has been created through the system of membership already mentioned.

The financial operations of the Museum are now included in three accounts.

City Maintenance Account.—This account at present receives an annual appropriation of \$2,500 from City Council. Against this account are charged all ordinary expenses of maintenance, including salaries of Director and two assistants and wages of janitor. This has been possible only through the devotion of the staff in serving at nominal salaries awaiting the time when the Museum can be established on a better footing. Nevertheless, these fixed expenses will in the coming year exceed the appropriation by not less than \$750.

General Account.—This account receives the contributions of all classes of members, those of annual and sustaining members being used to meet deficiencies in the city maintenance account and to provide for the growth and development of the Museum.

The contributions of patrons and benefactors, unless given for specific purposes, are required to be invested as a permanent endowment, the income of which shall be used in the same manner as the annual contributions.

In the past year, the sum of \$525 has been derived from the fees of annual and sustaining members. A portion of this fund has been used to meet a deficiency in the city maintenance account and the remainder has been expended on permanent improvements, including books and lantern slides, typewriter, storage cases, services of a specialist in the geological department, and a traveling exhibit for circulation among the schools.

The probable deficit of over \$750 in the city maintenance account during the coming year emphasizes the need of a large increase of the membership.

Special Accounts.—Contributions to the funds of the Museum, the principal or income of which is to be used for specific purposes, constitute special accounts.

The appropriation of \$7,500 made by City Council for remodeling the Thomson Auditorium has been carried as a special account.

A gift of \$100 from a friend of the Museum, for the purchase of collecting apparatus, has constituted a second special account.

The Director believes that the time has come for serious consideration of the menace which lies in the precarious financial support for the Museum.

The Director believes that the time has come for serious holds in trust many collections of high scientific value, requiring continual expert care to prevent deterioration. Any reduction in the annual contributions of members or in the city appropriation, even for a single year, would not only curtail the development and activity of the Museum but, by necessitating reduction of staff, leave valuable material without proper care.

The past one hundred and thirty years of the Museum's history have included not only periods of enthusiastic and generous support but also periods of misfortune and neglect. Four years after the wave of popular enthusiasm which elected Dr. L'Herminier Superintendent of the Museum in 1815, he found himself unable to make a living and was compelled against his will to resign, leaving the Museum apparently without a regular curator. Again in 1850-1854, over three hundred persons contributed specimens and in

the following forty-five years devoted curators built up the largest museum in the South. Yet a few years later this splendid collection was decaying rapidly, with no regular curator to care for it and with only the ridiculously inadequate sum of \$250 a year to save it from utter and immediate ruin.

When one of the birds figured by Audubon is rescued from the rubbish or such invaluable specimens as the Carolina Paroquet or the Apteryx or the Elliott Herbarium are nearly destroyed as the price of neglect it is obvious that friends of the Charleston Museum should not rest until an adequate endowment gives reasonable assurance of the ability of the Museum to care permanently for material entrusted to it.

ADMINISTRATION

Undoubtedly one of the most important achievements of the past year has been the establishment of closer relations between the Museum and the public, including the schools and business organizations of the city and scientific institutions throughout the country. The work with the schools will be discussed in connection with the department of Public Instruction.

The Director was invited to address the Manufacturers, Bankers, and Jobbers Association at its annual banquet, with the result that a committee was appointed to co-operate with him in introducing economic exhibits in the Museum.

At the invitation of the Rural School Improvement Association, the Director also attended the educational convention at Columbia, S. C., in December. At this meeting, one of the travelling exhibits was demonstrated and it is hoped that the interest aroused by this exhibit will lead to co-operation which will enable the Museum to extend a helpful influence to the people throughout the State.

The Museum still retains the distinction of being the only Southern member of the American Association of Museums

and at the second annual meeting at Pittsburg, in May, the Museum was honored by the election of its Director as Secretary of the Association. At this meeting the Director also read a paper on "Museum Records."

The supreme importance of creating a permanent endowment in the near future has been discussed (*supra*). The imperative necessity of providing for the employment of a trained librarian has also been mentioned and will be discussed in detail under Library.

The preparation of labels for the exhibition collections in the new building will be an enormous undertaking and can be economically accomplished only by means of a printing outfit in the Museum. For this purpose \$350 will be required and, since a considerable amount of copy is already prepared, arrangements for printing should be made at once.

STAFF

The Museum staff has been greatly strengthened this year by the addition of two salaried assistants. Previous to 1906, the entire care of the Museum was appended to the chair of Biology in the College of Charleston. In that year the appointment of Honorary Curators was authorized by the Trustees and the Director has been fortunate in securing for these positions men whose special knowledge has safeguarded the interests of the departments which they serve. Thus, the ornithological work of the past two years must have been all but impossible without the technical knowledge of Mr. Arthur T. Wayne, while the entire activity of the geological department is the work of its enthusiastic and devoted honorary curator, Professor Daniel Strobel Martin. To Mr. Wm. G. Mazyck the Museum is indebted for the thankless task of revising the sadly neglected conchological collections and also for the historical investigations already mentioned.

In January, Mr. Francis W. Wamsley joined the staff as the first salaried assistant. Mr. Wamsley is a graduate of Brown University and an experienced marine collector.

He came to Charleston from the Supply Department of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Mass. Mr. Wamsley has had charge of the work in the new building and has shown a versatility and a devotion to the Museum to which is due much of the progress made.

In April, Mr. Herbert R. Sass, who had been temporarily employed by the Museum for several months, became a regular assistant. Mr. Sass is a graduate of the College of Charleston. He has had charge of the records of the Museum, and in the absence of a regular librarian, has prepared the shelf list and carried the routine work of the Library. The latter work has entirely prevented Mr. Sass from carrying on the scientific work for which he is trained.

The proper maintenance of the Museum Library and the curatorial work of the Museum urgently require the immediate addition to the staff of a trained librarian. Under present conditions, the salary of the librarian must be raised from private sources.

When the time comes for removal of the birds and mammals to the new building, the services of an expert taxidermist will be required to repair the damage wrought by neglect in previous years. Sufficient new work is also needed to keep a taxidermist regularly employed and for this work ability to make accessories is essential.

BOTANY

The Elliott Herbarium has been studied by a number of visiting botanists during the year. Dr. Ezra Brainerd examined the violets in March and was able to secure important data for his forth-coming revision of that group.

Mrs. Agnes Chase of the Division of Agrostology, at Washington, visited the Museum in October for the purpose of studying some of the grasses in the Elliott Herbarium. Mrs. Chase's visit led to a general examination of the herbaria in the Museum, which disclosed the surprising extent of the Ravenel Herbarium and revealed other herbaria of considerable interest. All of these have suffered seriously from the neglect of many years. As soon as possible, suit-

able herbarium cases will be provided and it is very desirable that all of this material be worked over by competent botanists.

In 1905 Prof. John M. Macfarlane, of the University of Pennsylvania, examined the type specimen of *Sarracenia Catesbaei* which is in the Elliott Herbarium and during the past year the Museum has received from him two papers containing the results of his study.

ZOOLOGY

The department of ornithology has had the benefit of the work of a number of student assistants, and has maintained the seasonal exhibit of local birds for the benefit of the Natural History Society. A beginning has also been made of a study collection of bird skins. Field work in ornithology has been carried on with gratifying results, and is discussed under the head of Biological Survey.

Mr. Sass, of the staff, has shown that a specimen of the Black-headed Grosbeak *Zamelodia melanocephala* (Swains), in the Museum, is almost certainly the original specimen figured and described by Audubon in his great work on American birds. The specimen was found among rubbish and is another illustration of the necessity of the new system of records and of an adequate and efficient staff.

Considerable progress has been made in the revision of the extensive conchological collections.

A few mammals have been put up as skins and several skeletons are in preparation.

GEOLOGY

This department again owes much to its devoted honorary curator, Professor D. S. Martin, who has made further donations of books and specimens. Professor Martin spent three months revising the geological collections, and through his efforts more than 800 specimens of rocks and fossils have been identified and catalogued. The value of Profes-

sor Martin's labors can hardly be over-estimated and his devotion to the interests of the Museum is shown not only by his painstaking work but also by his many generous donations.

From the phosphate beds in the vicinity of Charleston a wonderful variety of valuable fossil material might be obtained, if the time and the means were available. The Museum already contains a valuable series of phosphate fossils and a number of new accessions have been made during the past year. The Museum is still unable, however, to undertake systematic collecting in the phosphate beds—a fact greatly to be deplored as it is certain that much valuable material could be obtained at very small expense.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Professor F. W. Putnam, head of the Peabody Museum at Harvard and of the department of Anthropology at the University of California, visited the Museum in May and spent several days examining and revising the anthropological collection. Among other rare and valuable material, this collection includes the oldest specimens known to be in the Museum, especially a native helmet from the Sandwich Islands and other articles presented in 1798. Another valuable specimen is a mummied human head obtained from the Mundrucus Indians of the River Tapajos by Lieut. Herdon, Commander of the United States Expedition to explore the River Amazon, and presented to the Museum in 1854.

Since Dr. Putnam's visit, these collections have been catalogued, but further work has been prevented by lack of time.

ART

The frequent necessity of using Manigault Hall as a work-room and the lack of funds for improvements have hindered active work in the art department. Nevertheless the honorary curator, Mr. N. W. Stephenson, arranged in April a very charming loan exhibit of Japanese prints, accompanied by a lecture on "The Oriental Point of View in Art."

A very interesting description of this loan exhibit was printed in the BULLETIN for April.

LIBRARY

The Library constitutes one of the most important departments of the Museum, absolutely necessary for the use of the staff in preparation of exhibits. It should also be accessible to the public as a reading room.

The organization of a Museum library was begun by the Director four years ago. The government publications were transferred from the College Library, which was unable to care properly for them, and many valuable old books were obtained in this way. The more modern text-books were added by purchase for the Department of Biology of the College and the Director loaned much of his private library. In the last two years the Museum has been able to add considerably to the library by purchase, while the publication of the BULLETIN has secured many important exchanges. The library of the defunct Elliott Society has also been deposited in the Museum. In these ways a very creditable library of about 1,000 bound volumes and more than 1,000 pamphlets has been accumulated.

The care of the library has been an increasingly difficult problem. At first the Director personally cared for and catalogued the books; then, for nearly a year, Mrs. Rea carried this work, without compensation. For the last two years, the college librarian, Miss Frances Jervej, was employed for six hours per week. In these ways a classed catalog of the library has been maintained, including a small amount of analyzing. It was also found expedient to include in the catalog cards for the books of the Charleston Library Society bearing on the work of the Museum.

Since May, 1907, Mr. Sass of the staff, has served as acting librarian and has devoted a large proportion of his time to this work. Since Mr. Sass has been in charge of the library, a standard accession book has been kept for the first time and during the summer a shelf list was prepared. The pamphlets have also been rearranged during the fall and the condition of the library is much better than it has ever been before.

This library of nearly 1,000 bound volumes and more than 1,000 pamphlets has been established in four years at a total expenditure for books, labor, bookcases, furniture and supplies, of \$501.69.

The library now needs an author catalog, extensive analyzing, and money for binding; but more than all it needs the entire time of a trained librarian. The present arrangement seriously encroaches upon the time of a member of the staff who is needed for other work. Moreover, merely the routine work of the library is accomplished and its efficiency is very low in proportion to its possibilities. The library is already too large to be safely entrusted to an untrained recruit and finally, in the new building the growing work and the opening of a public reading room make it imperative that immediate provision be made to secure a competent person as librarian.

PUBLICATION

The BULLETIN has been published regularly during the year and has been the means not only of bringing important exchanges to the library, but of making friends for the Museum in Charleston and throughout the country. The addition of a cover has greatly improved its appearance.

Among the important articles which have been published during the year may be mentioned: "The Owls of Charleston and Vicinity," by Mrs. P. M. Rea, the first of a "Local Fauna" series; "The Relation of the Museum to the Schools," by Mrs. P. M. Rea; "A Visit to the Grave of Thomas Walter," by Dr. Ezra Brainerd; "Synopsis of the Bird Records of the Natural History Society for the Year 1906;" three papers on the "History of the Museum," by Mr. W. G. Mazyck; "Ornithological Notes," including a record of Bewick's Wren at Charleston, and an account of one of Audubon's birds found in the Museum, by Mr H. R. Sass.

The BULLETIN has been very favorably reviewed in Science during the year. Thanks are also due the local press for many favorable notices and for reprinting articles from the BULLETIN.

A series of scientific papers as "Contributions" from the Museum should be undertaken as soon as possible and it is hoped that the publication of such a series may be begun during the coming year.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The Director lectured on "Organic Evolution" on Monday evenings during the first four months of the year. This course was open to subscribers and to members of the Museum. When the number of members warrants it, is intended that a series of lectures shall be given exclusively for members.

Free public lectures were also given as follows: "The Scientific Basis of Fairy Lore," by Professor Daniel Strobel Martin; and "The Oriental Point of View in Art," by Mr. N. W. Stephenson.

The Natural History Society has held two regular meetings each month except during the summer. One of these meetings has usually been devoted to a popular discussion of some topic of general interest in relation to birds. Thus Mrs. P. M. Rea described "The Owls of Charleston and Vicinity" with the aid of both living and mounted specimens; Mr. Sass has lectured on the "Habits of the Brown Pelican," and "Feathered Fishermen." The mid-monthly meeting of the Society has been devoted to reports of field work and demonstration of museum specimens of birds in season. The society has also provided a guide to accompany the members on field trips and assist in the identification of specimens seen. These facilities in connection with the seasonal exhibit of local birds are ample to enable any member to become personally familiar with all our common local birds. Members of the society have also carried on the Biological Survey.

In March the Director received a request from the Charleston County Teachers Association for an address on "The Relation of the Museum to the Schools." In response to this invitation, Mrs. Rea addressed the Association March 9, outlining the plans of the Museum for effective co-operation with the schools. At the request of the Association,

this address was published in the March issue of the BULLETIN and copies were distributed to the teachers of the county and to the School Commissioners of Charleston. In response to one of Mrs. Rea's suggestions, several teachers have since brought classes to the Museum for talks illustrated with specimens from the Museum on subjects related to their geography courses. This work has met with signal success and would have been developed more rapidly but for the frequent necessity of using Manigault Hall as a work-room, and because of the limited time at the disposal of an overworked staff.

A small amount of loan material has been sent out to the Memminger Normal school at the request of the teachers,

One of the most promising activities of this department has been the completion, during the closing weeks of the year, of the first of a series of travelling exhibits, designed for circulation among the schools of the city. The subject of this exhibit is the "Iron and Steel Industry." It includes specimens of common iron ores maps and diagrams of their distribution, and stereographs, photographs, and specimens to illustrate the mining, transportation and smelting of the ore and the manufacture of iron and steel. The exhibit includes a circular of information for teachers and directions for use of the exhibit. As a further aid to teachers and to insure the best use of the exhibit, question blanks have been prepared to accompany the specimens. When the answers have been filled in, the blanks constitute an epitome of the subject and can then be made the basis of a composition or essay in which the student shall describe in his own words what he has seen.

This exhibit is now ready for circulation among the schools of Charleston and similar exhibits will be prepared as rapidly as possible to illustrate the industries and natural resources of Charleston and other subjects related to the courses of study in the schools.

At the invitation of the Rural School Improvement Association, the Iron and Steel Exhibit demonstrated at the educational convention at Columbia, December 30 and 31. The Director offered to extend the circulation of the travel-

ing exhibits to the schools of the State if special funds for this purpose can be provided.

This department is in sad need of new specimens of common local birds to fill gaps in the collection and to replace worn-out specimens. Most of the specimens now in use have been in the Museum from twenty to forty years. The department also needs a few series of well-colored lantern slides suitable for popular lectures. A beginning in this direction has been made through the receipt of a series of slides presented to the Museum by Doubleday, Page & Co., through Mr. H. B. Sewell.

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

The importance of a thorough biological survey of the vicinity of Charleston has been emphasized from time to time by the Director. To this end systematic bird records have been made by members of the Natural History Society for about two years, and, considering that these were untrained observers, the records obtained during the first year, 1906, as published in the BULLETIN¹, are very encouraging. Much better results may be expected for 1907 since the field work has been more regular and thorough. A synopsis of the 1907 records will be published in February.

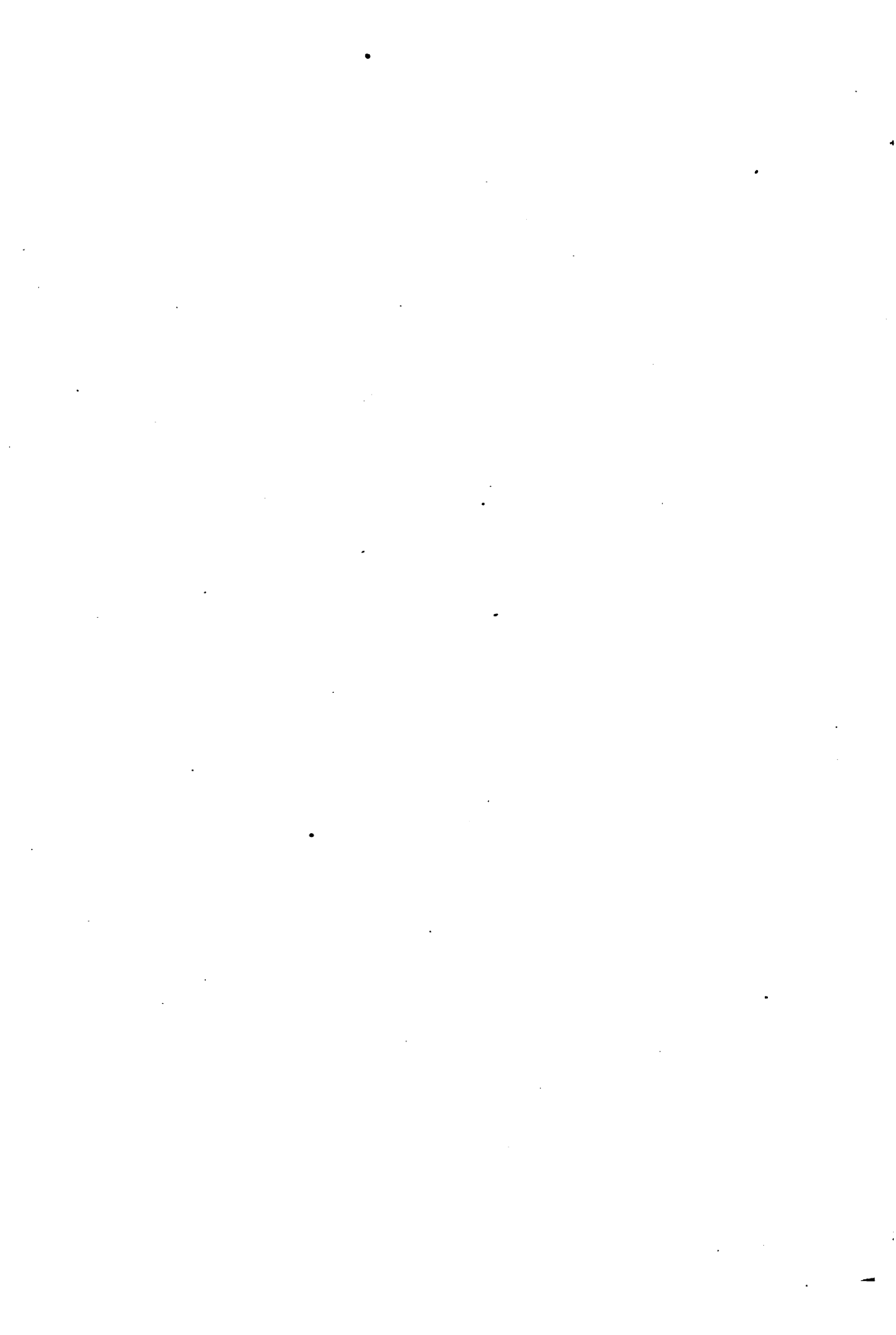
The Director has long desired to extend the biological survey to the marine fauna of Charleston harbor and adjacent waters, the field of McCrady's classic work, and is desirous of seeing marine aquaria installed in the Museum to exhibit the marine fauna, especially the food fishes of the coast. A friend of the Museum has provided a number of dredges with which collecting can now be carried on as rapidly as the time of the staff permits.

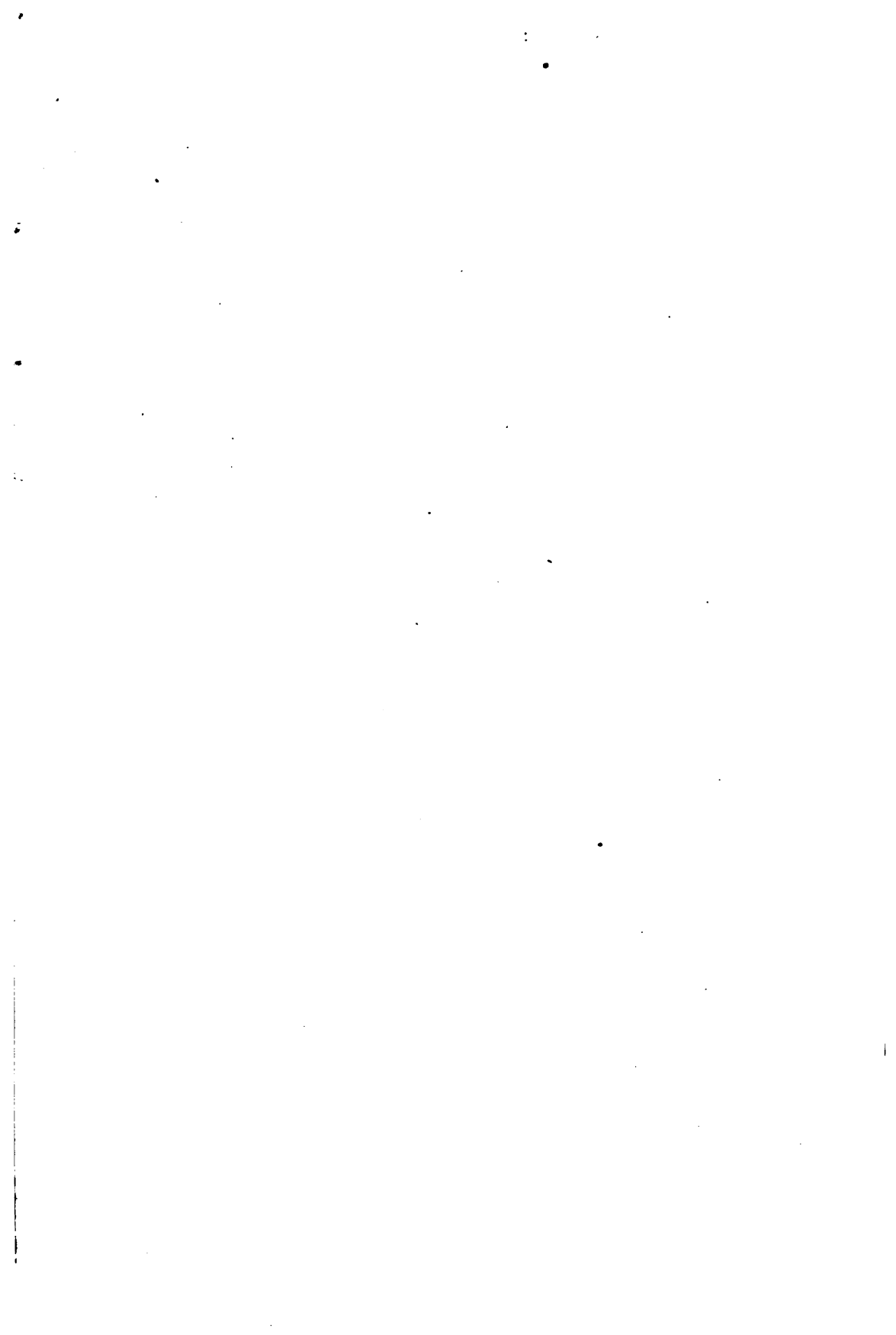
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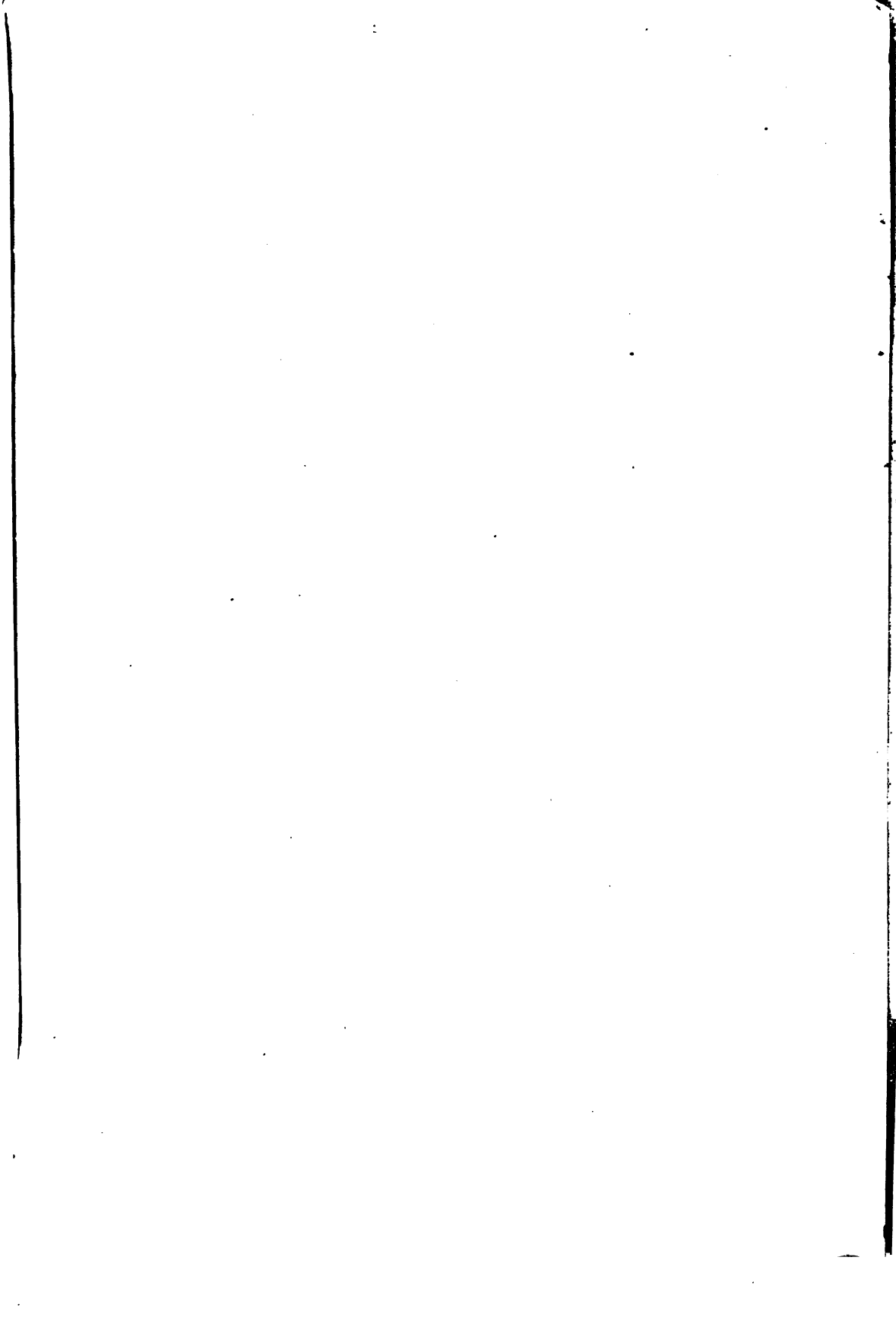
PAUL M. REA,
Director.

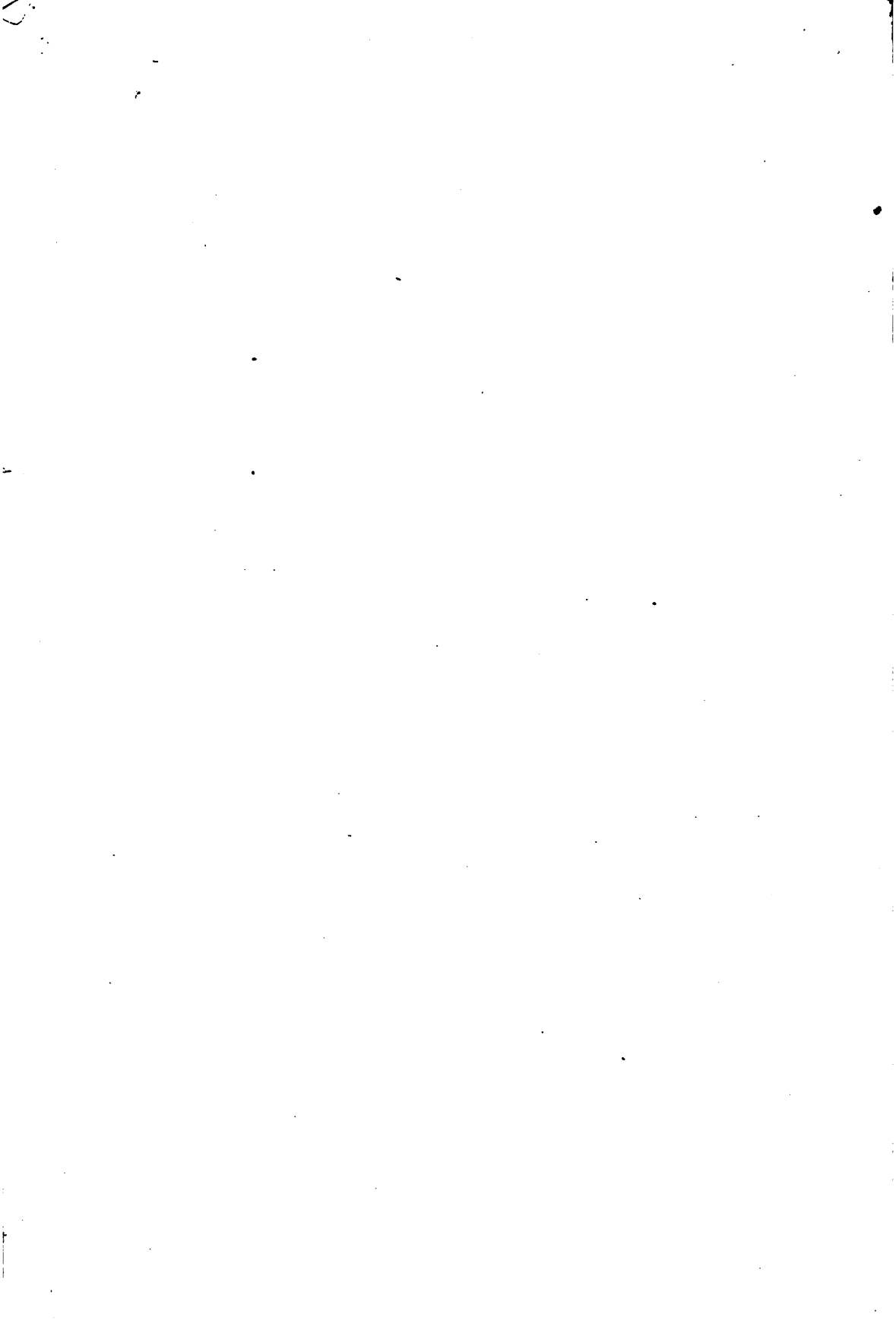
¹Vol. 3, No. 5, May, 1907.

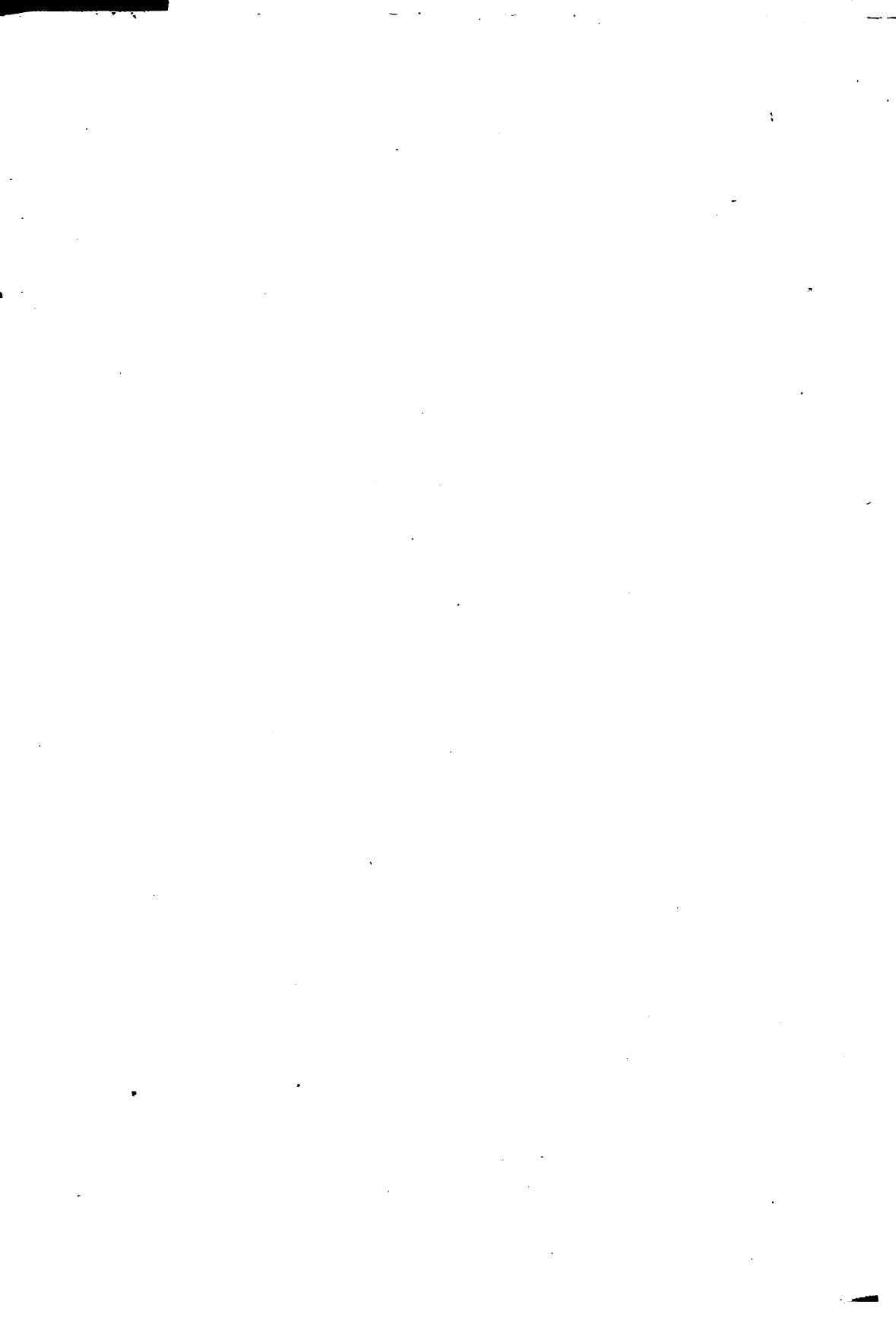


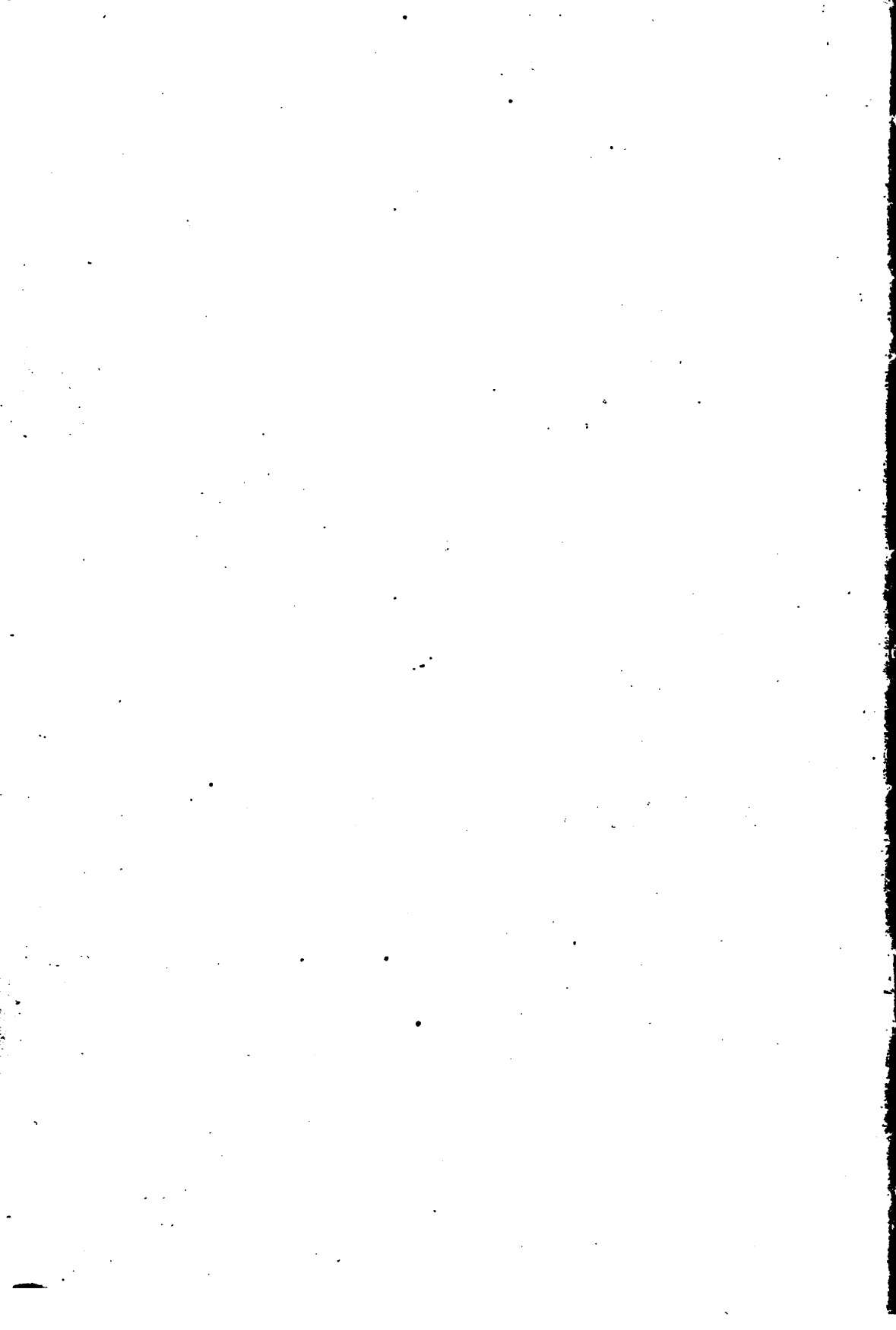








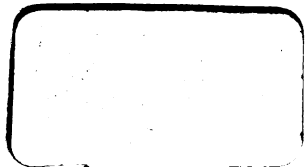


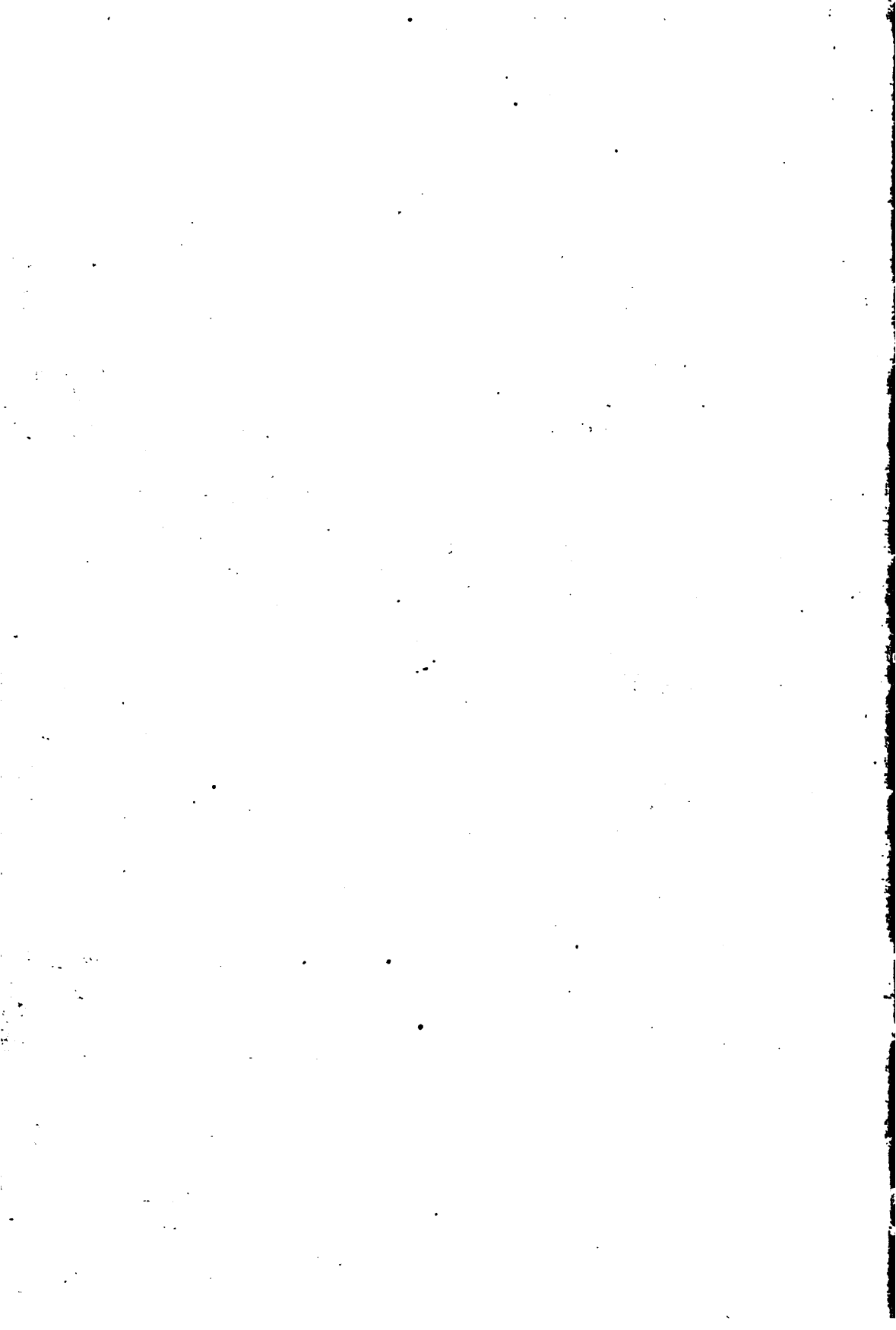


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