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[Epistola de insulis nuper inventis]

Colombo, Cristoforo

[Basel], [nach dem 29. April 1493]

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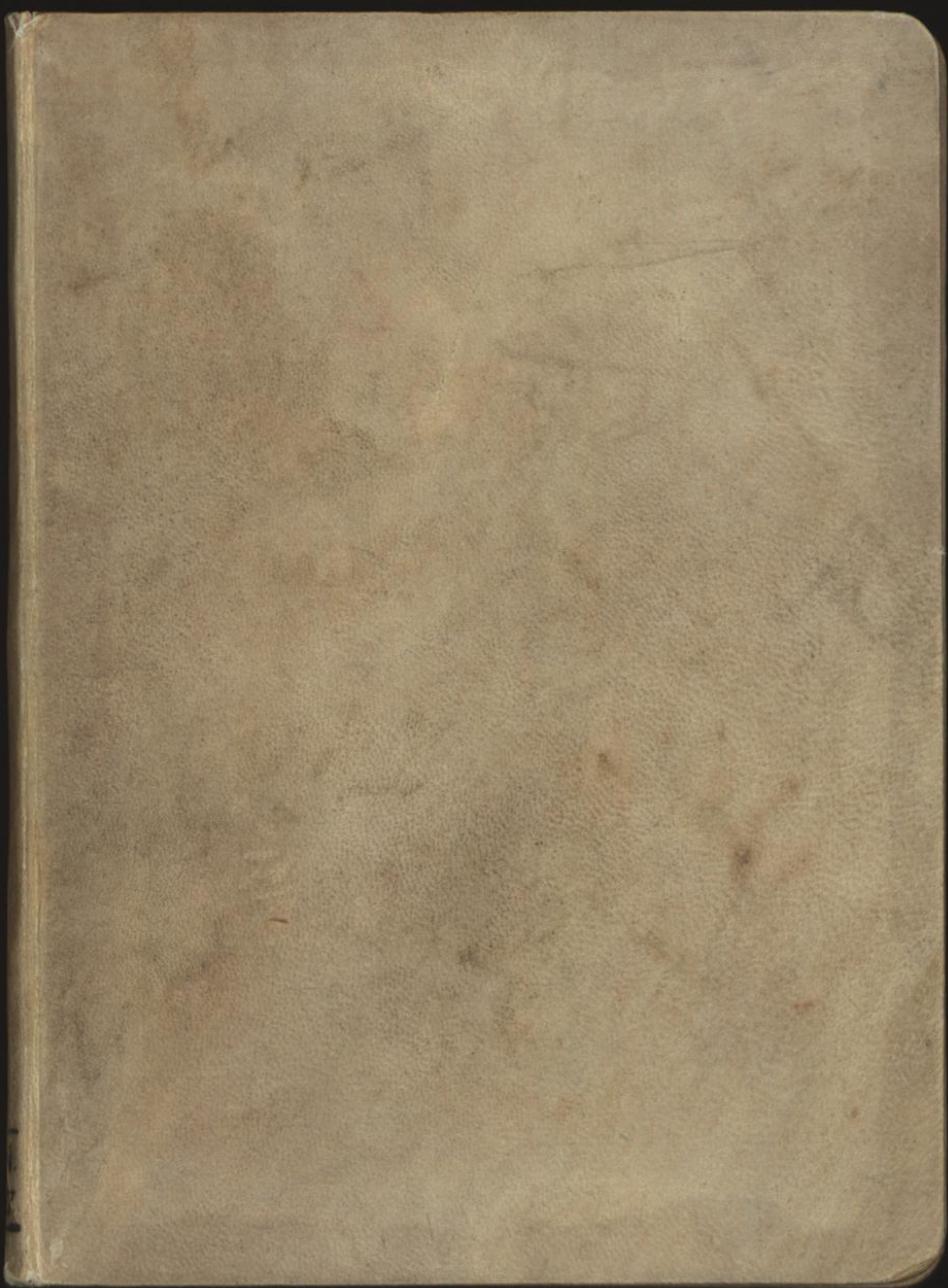
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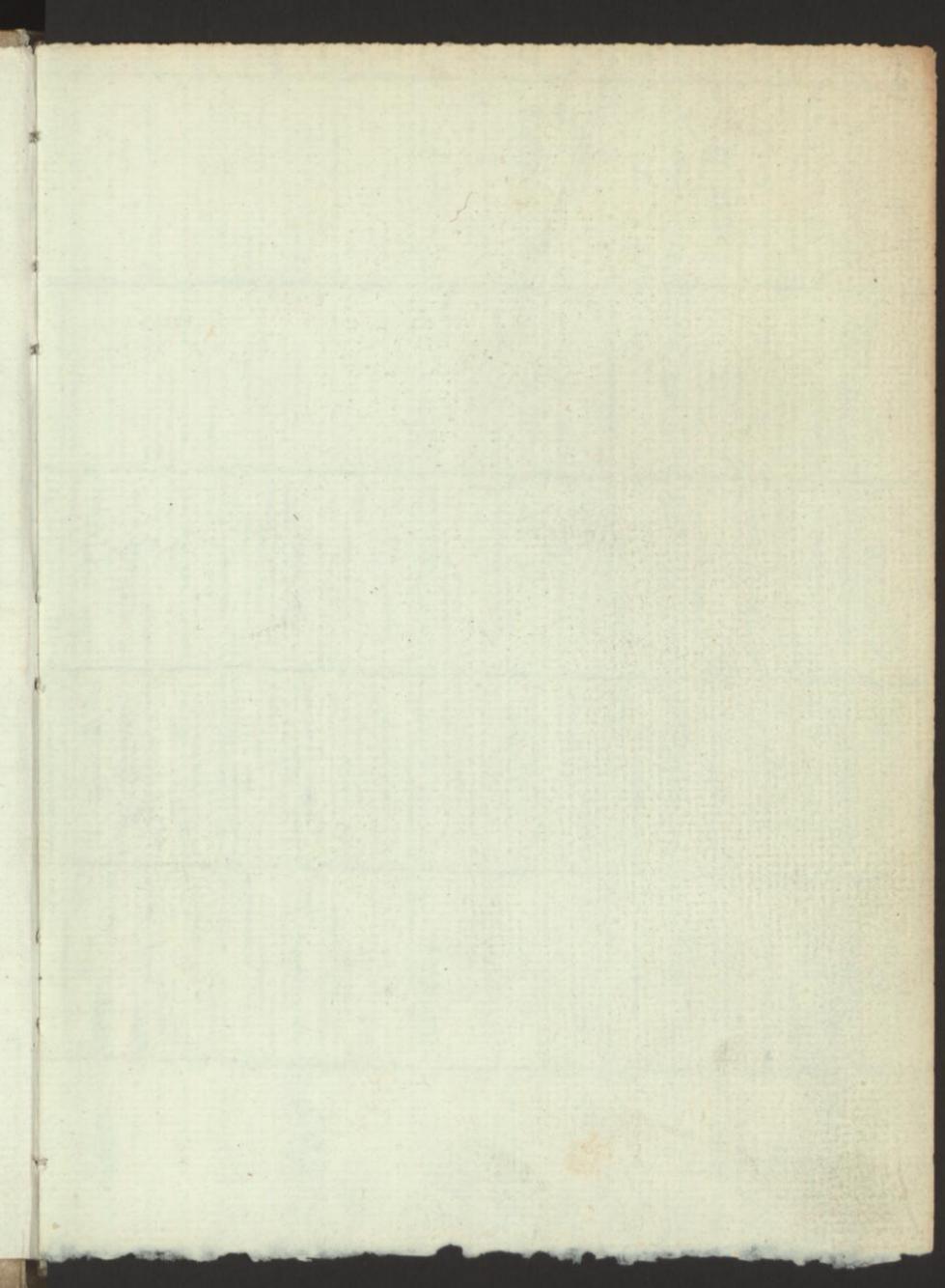
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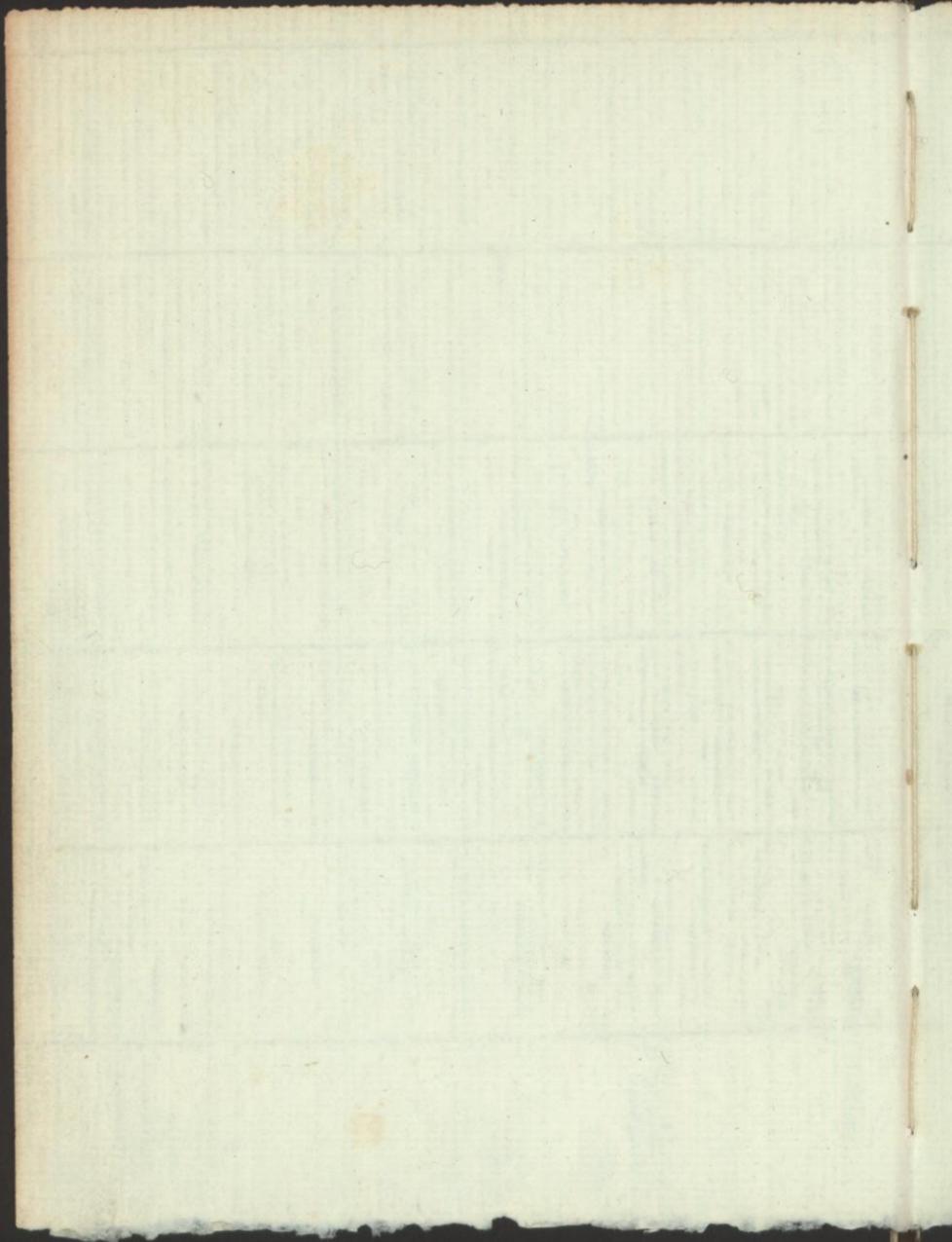
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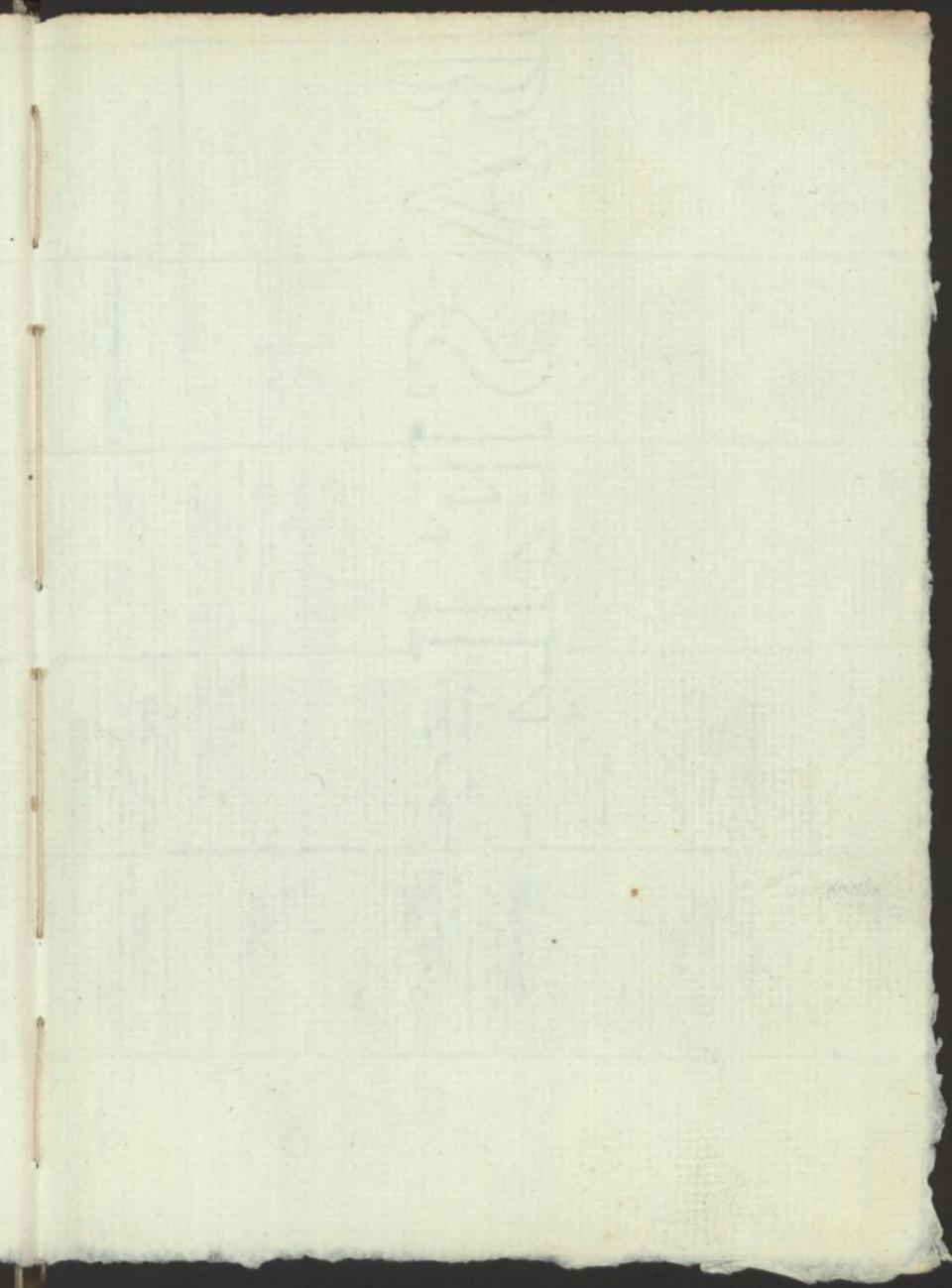
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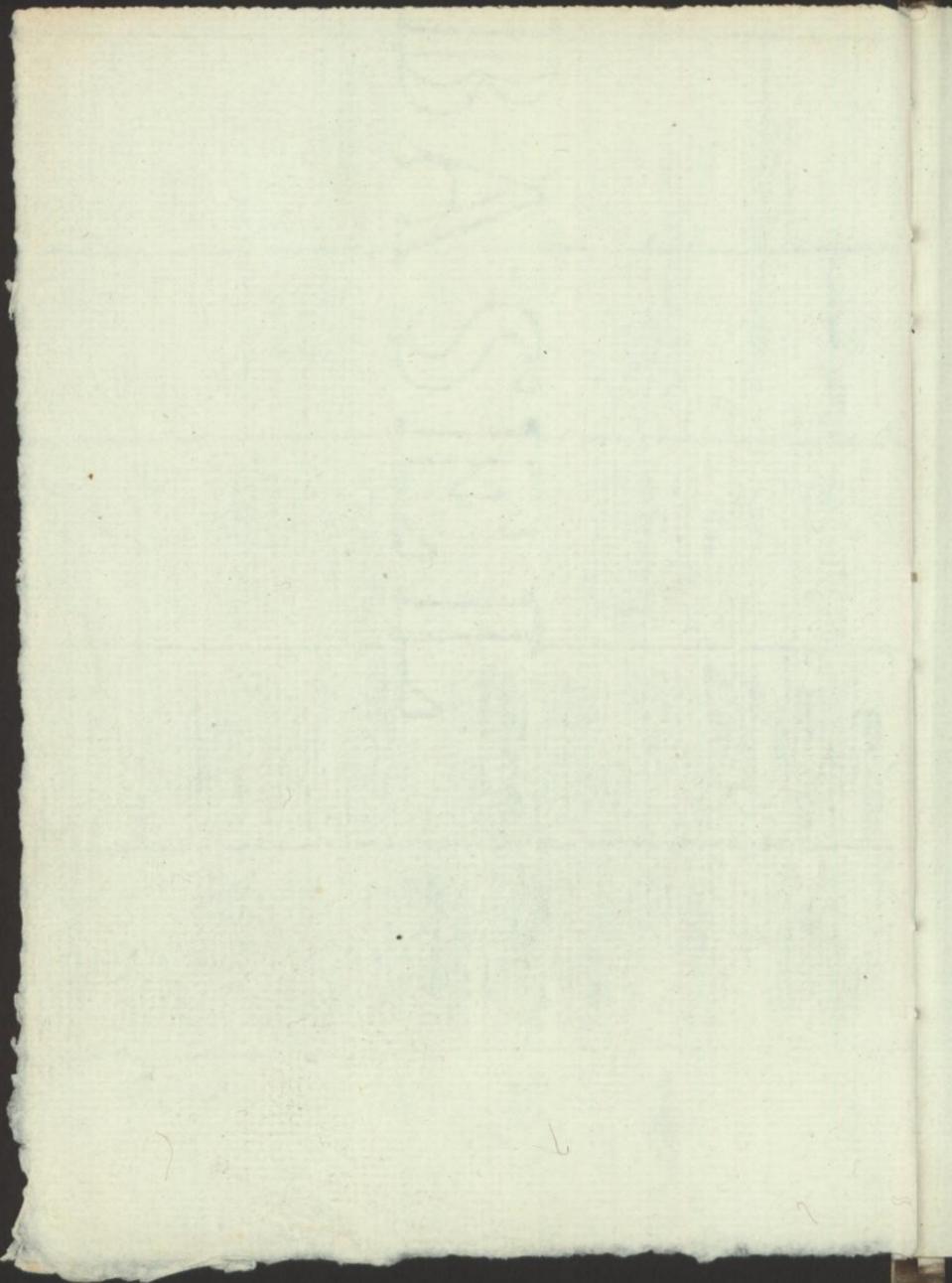


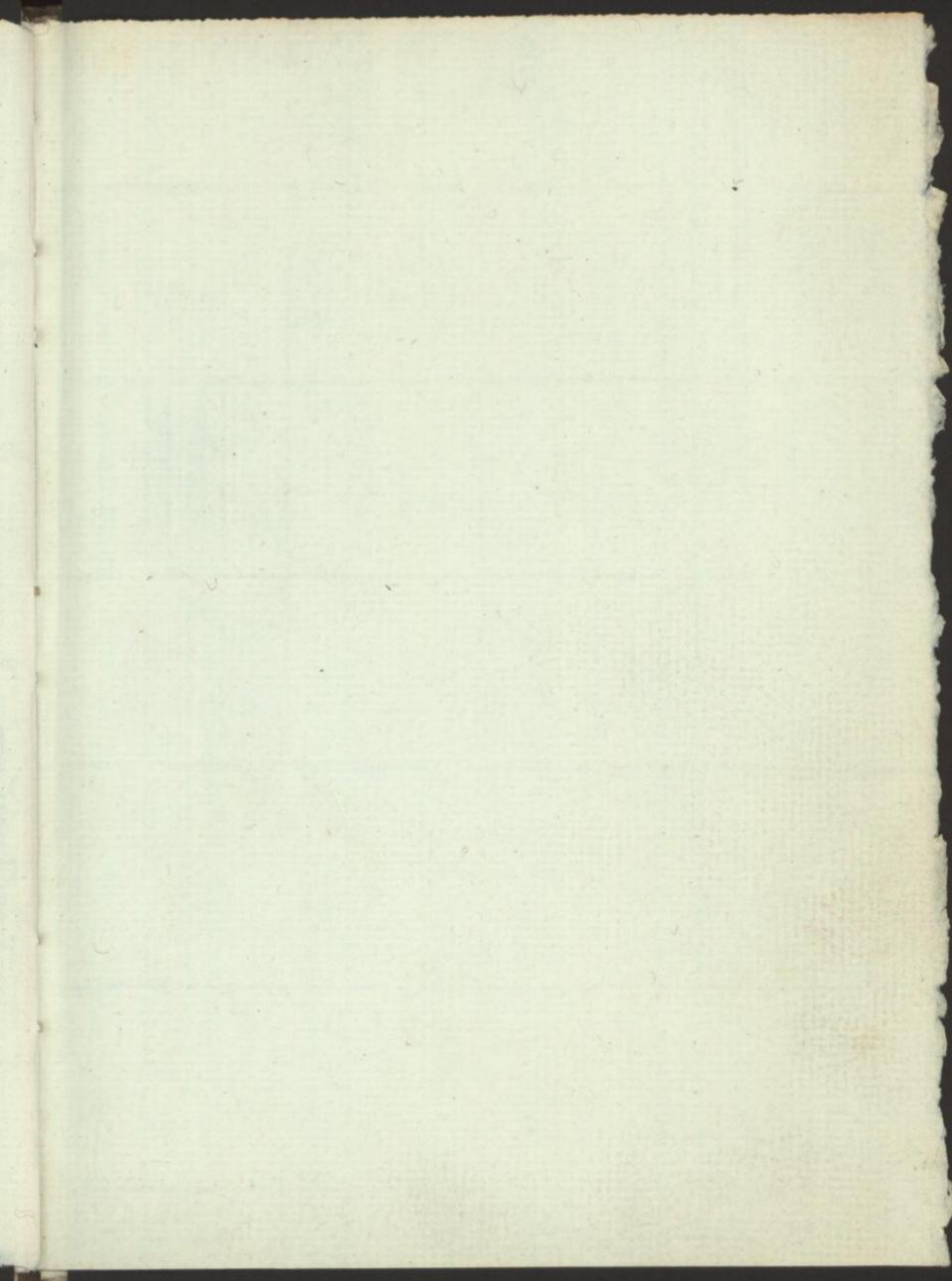
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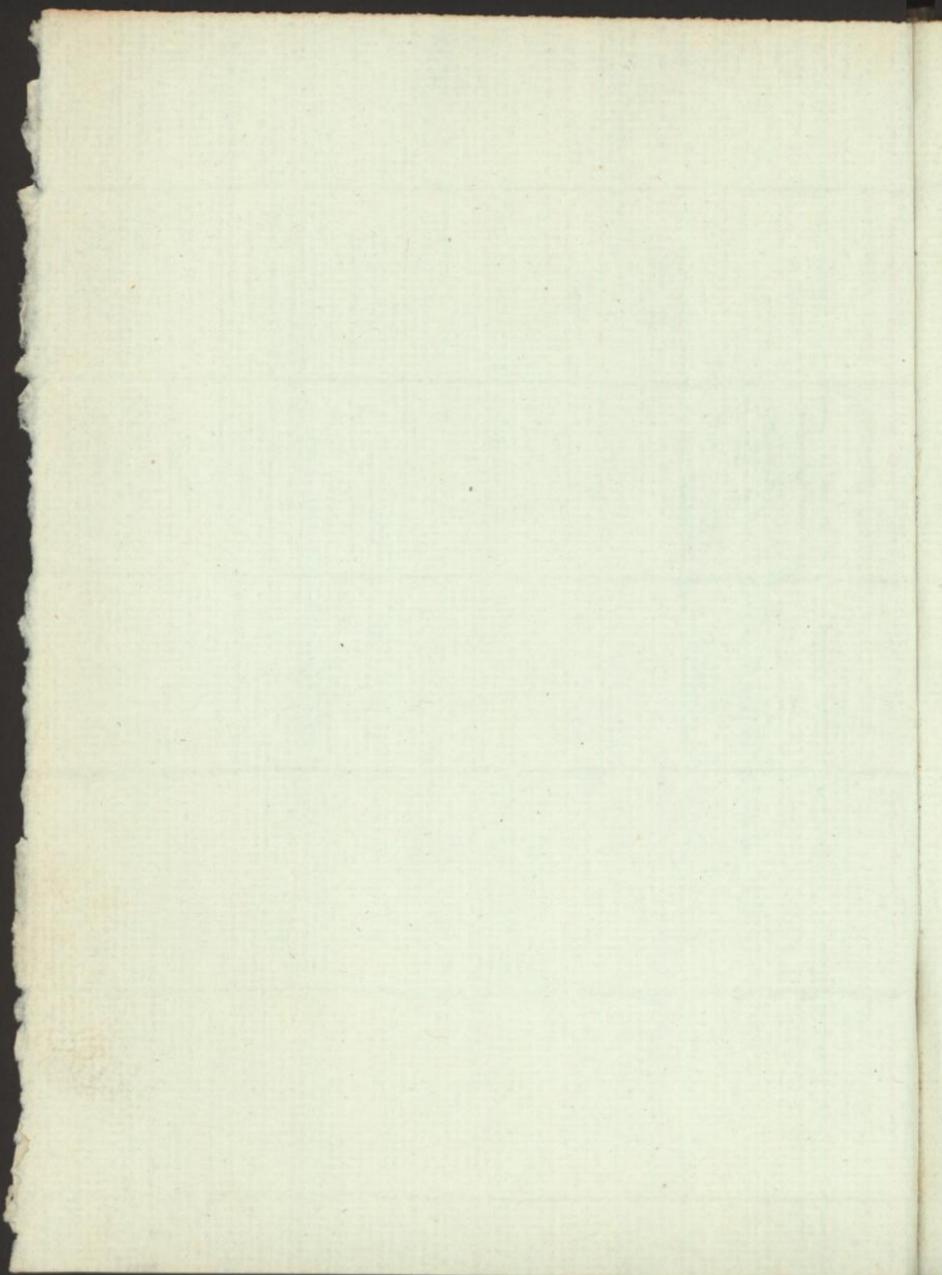


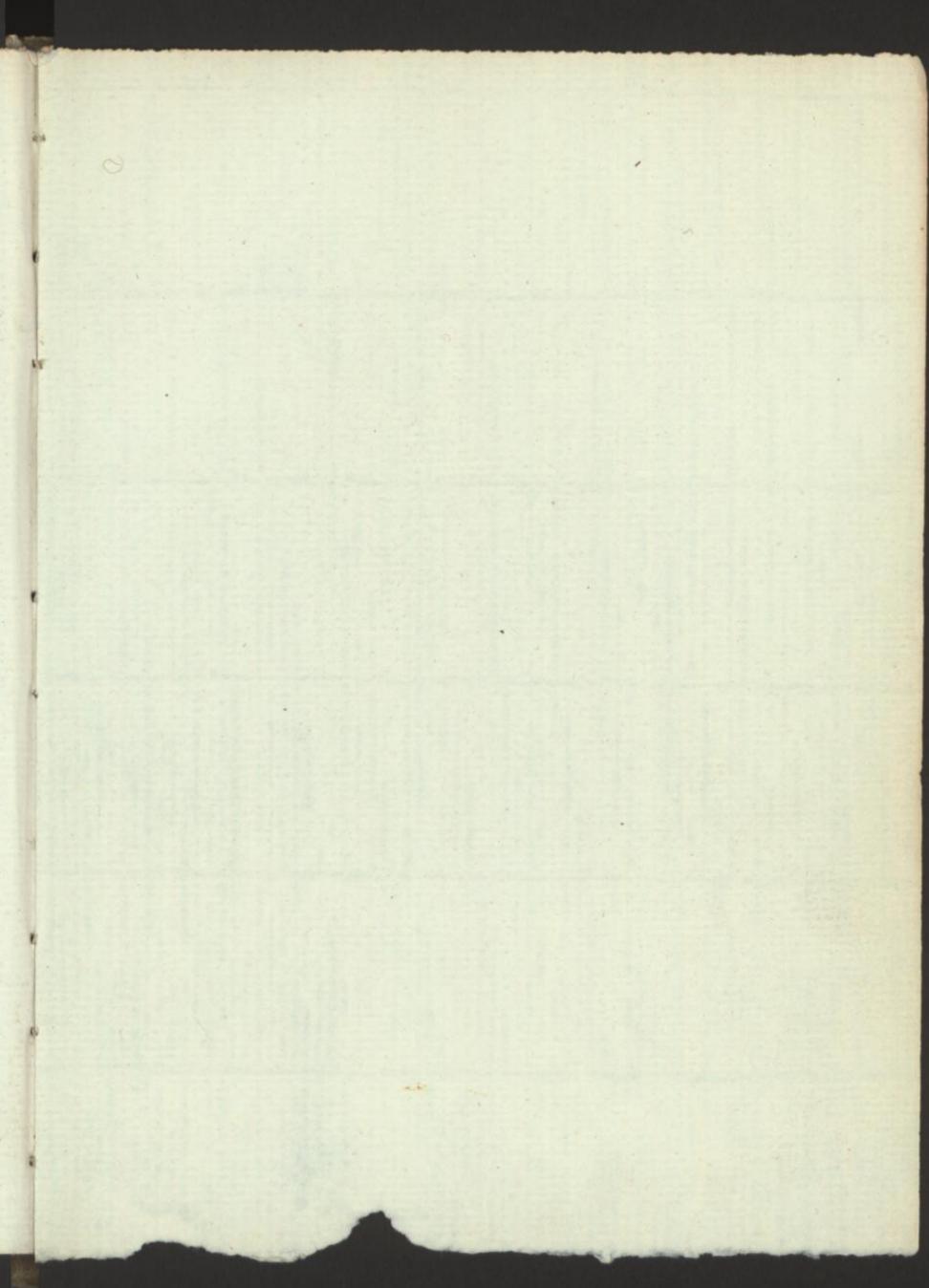


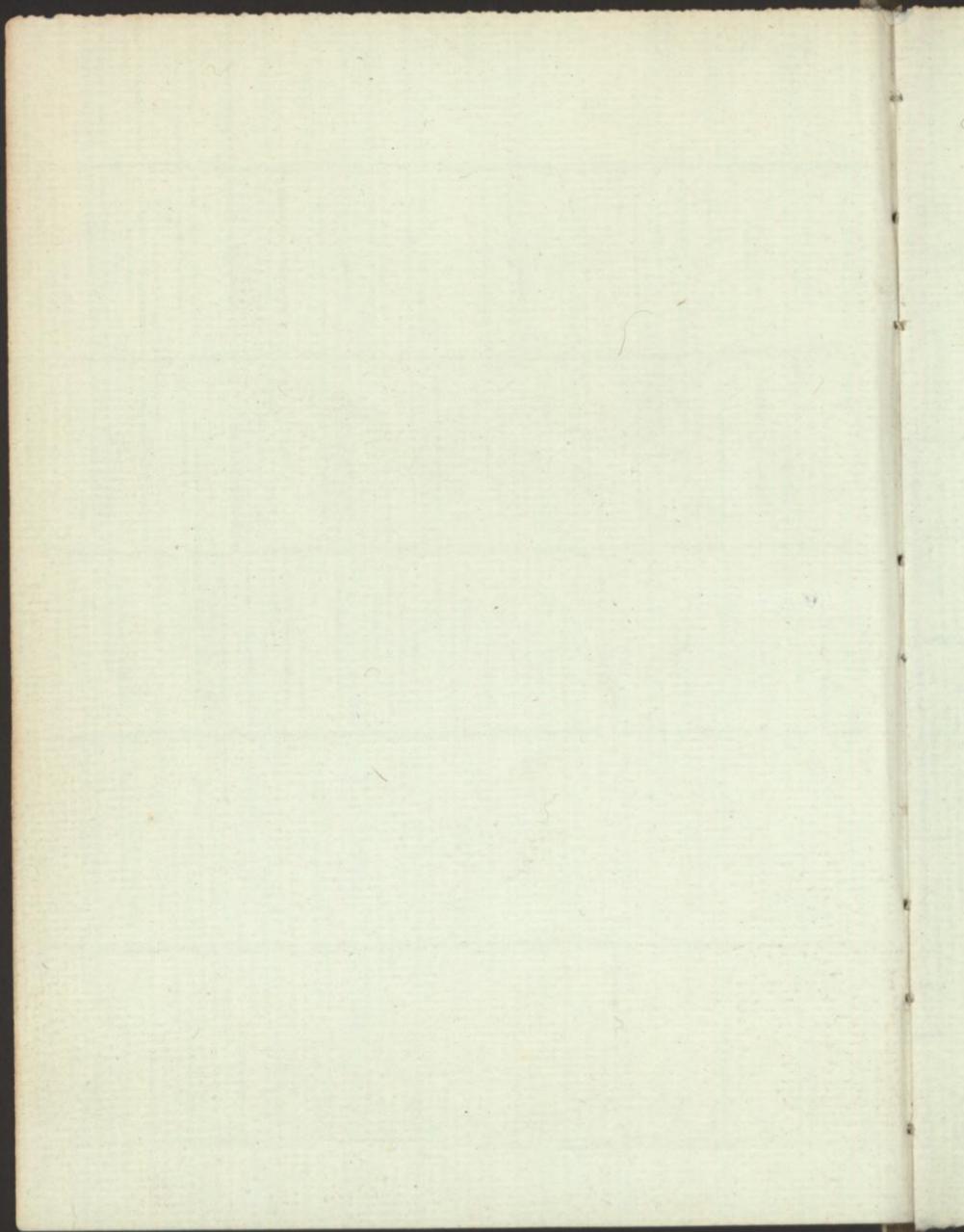


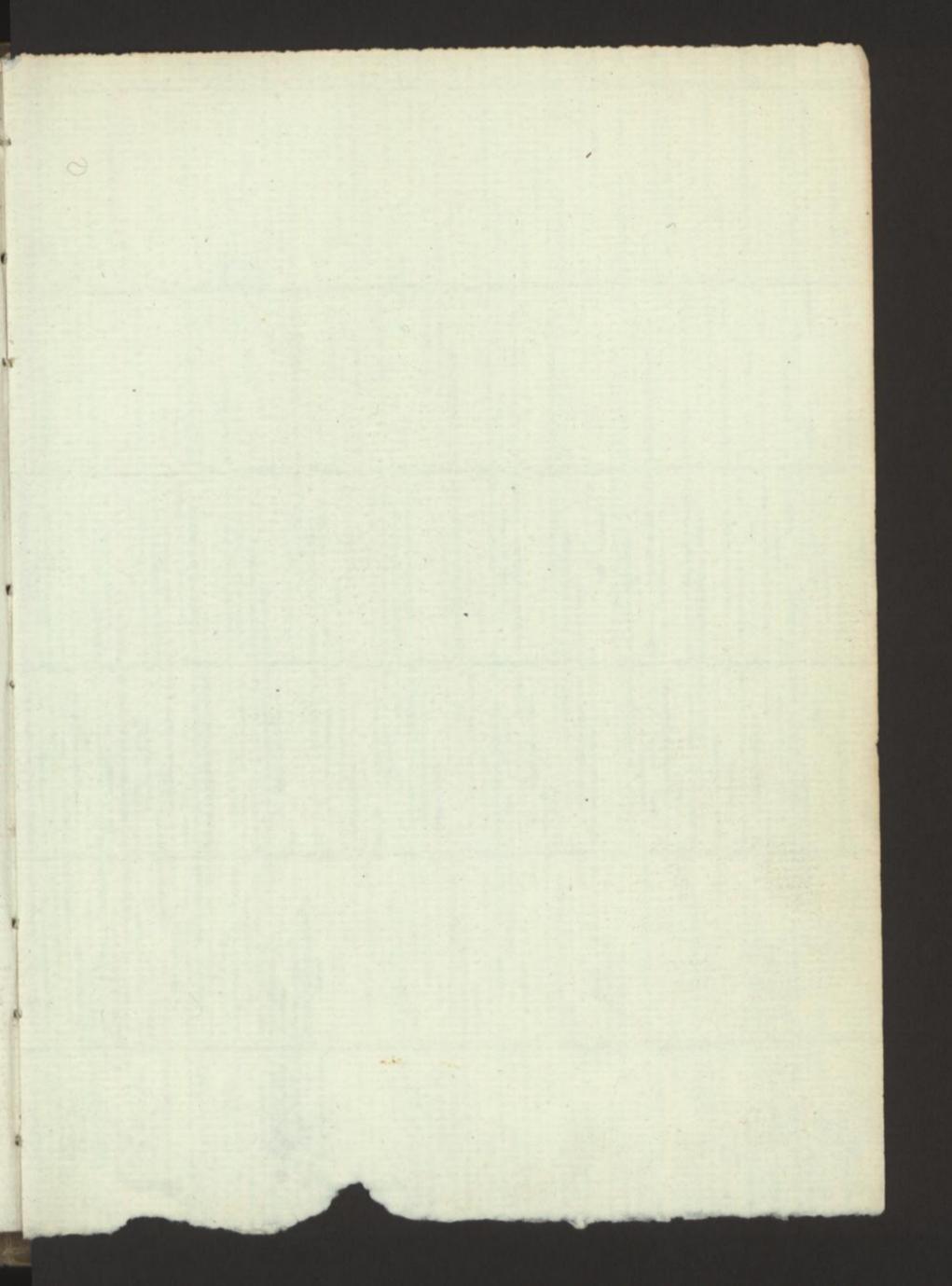


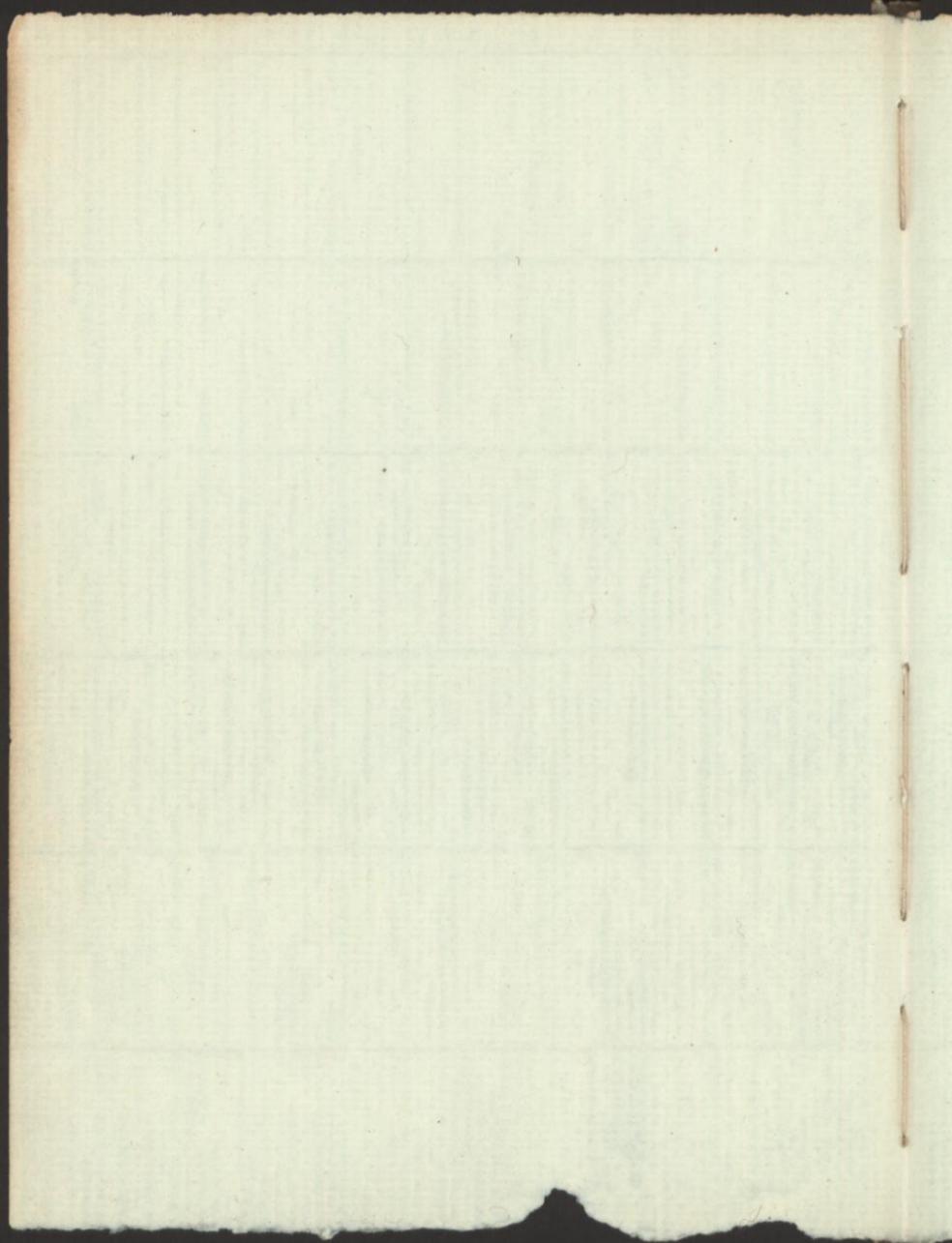


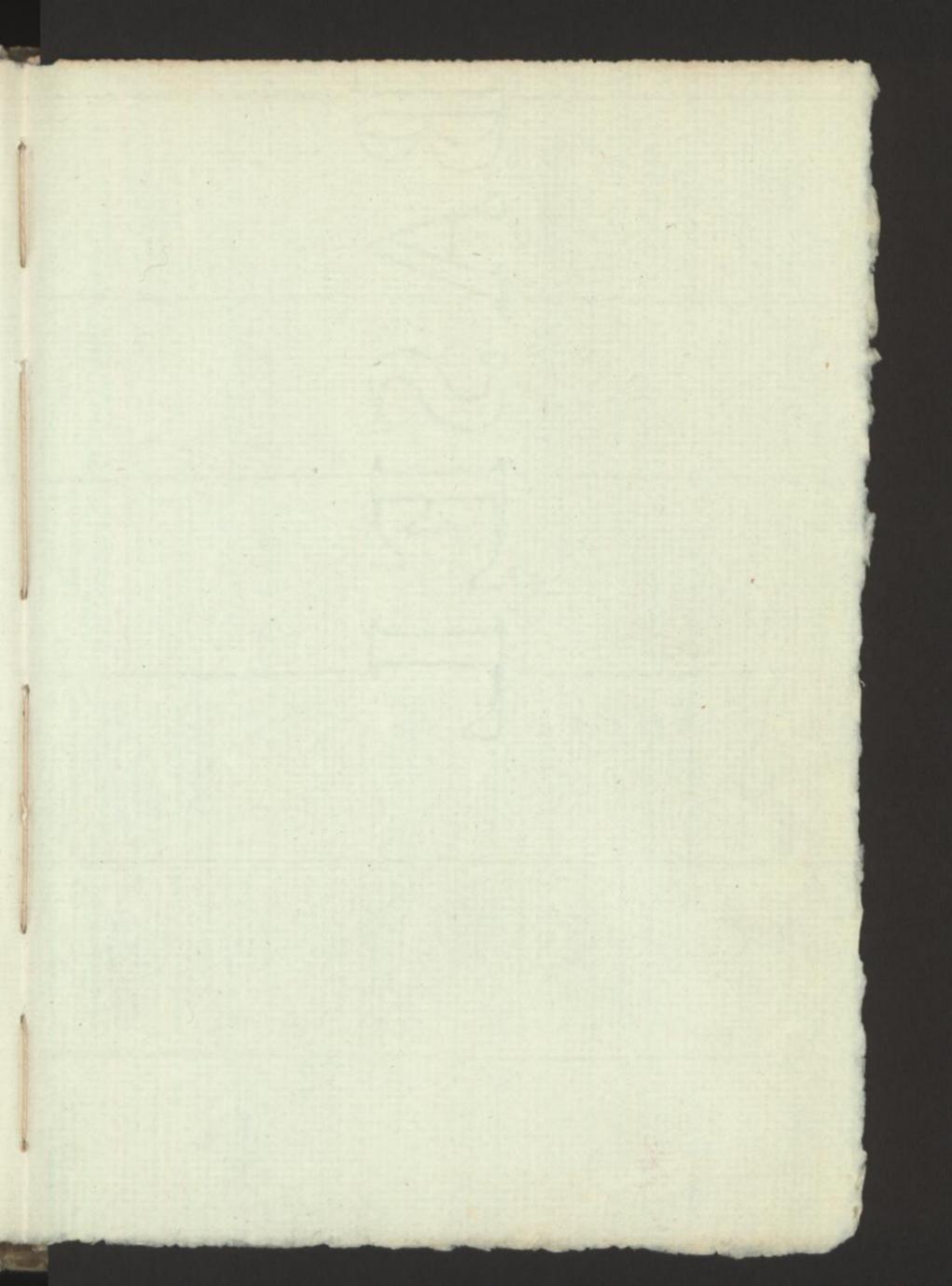




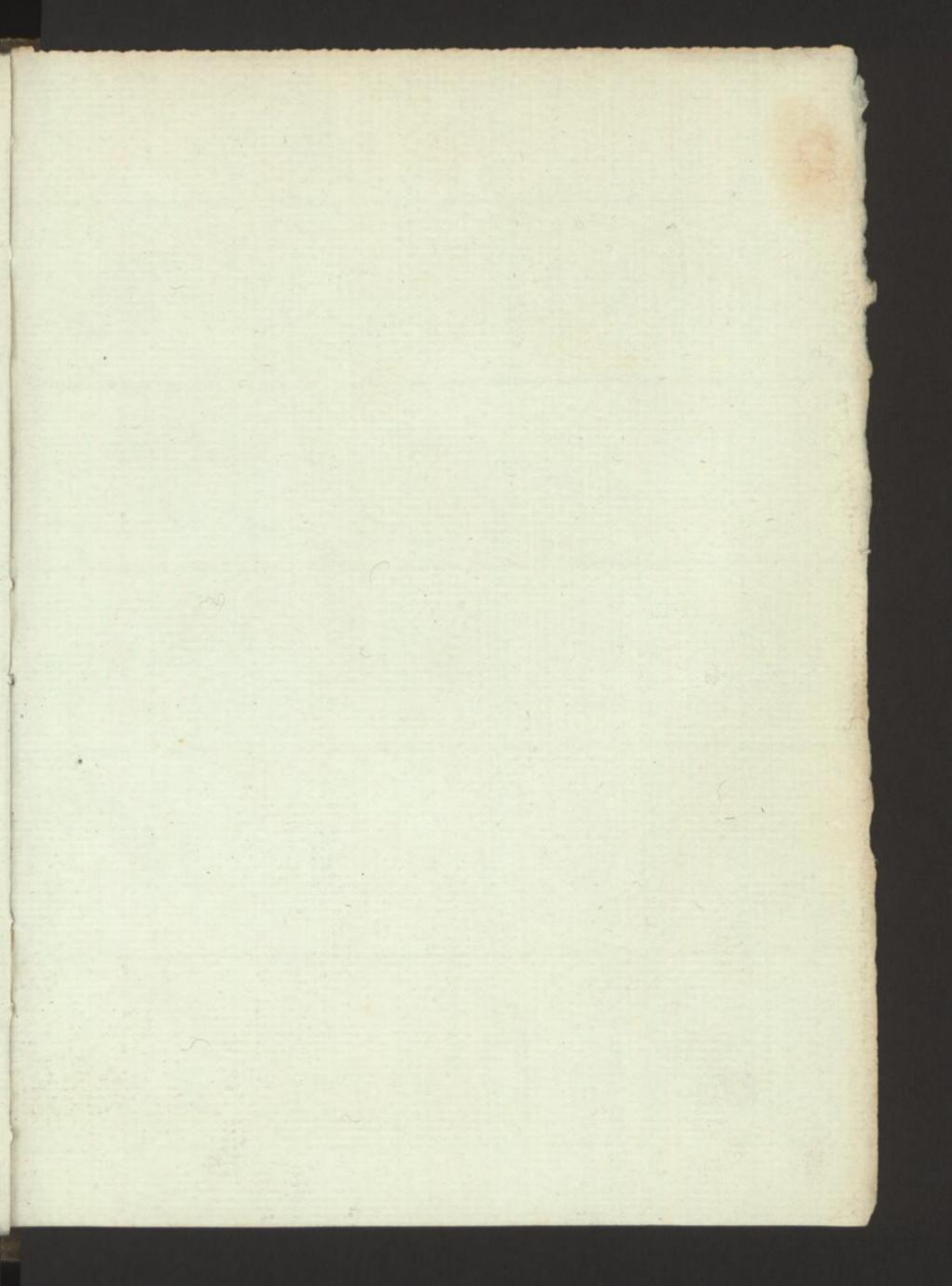


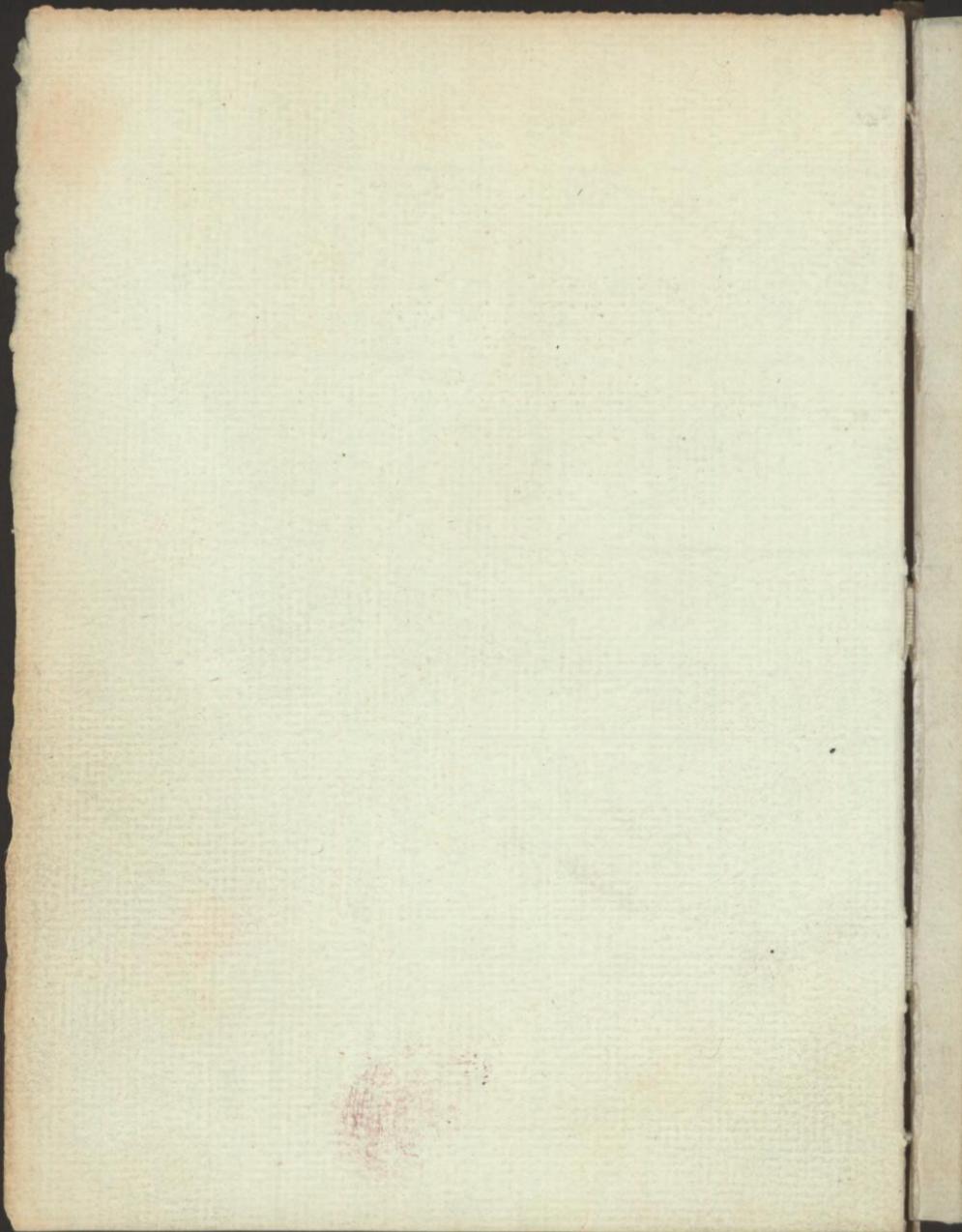












De Insulis inuentis

Epistola Cristoferi Colom (cui etas nostra
multū debet : de Insulis in mari Indico nup
inuētis. Ad quas perquirendas octauo anteā
mense: auspicij et ere Inuictissimi Fernandi
Hispaniarum Regis missus fuerat) ad Ag-
niscum dñm Raphaelez Sanxis: eiusdē sere-
nissimi Regis Thesaurariū missa. quam nobi-
lis ac litterat⁹ vir Aliander d Losco: ab His-
pano ydeomate in latinū conuertit:tercio kls
Ag. M.cccc.xciij. Pontificatus Alexandri
Sexti Anno Primo.

Cloniam suscep̄te prouincie rem p-
fectam me psecutum fuisse: gratū ti-
bi fore scio: has p̄st̄lui exarare: que-
te vnius cuiusq; rei in hoc nostro iti-
nere geste inuenteq; admoneāt. Tricesimoter
tio die postq; Hadibus discessi: in mare Indi-
cū perueni: vbi plurimas Insulas innumeris
habitatas hominib⁹ reperi: quaz oīm p felic-
issimo Rege nostro: preconio celebrato ⁊ ve-
xillis extensis: cōtradicente nemine possessio-
nē accepi. primeq; earum: diui Saluatoris no-
men imposui (cuius frē auxilio) tam ad hāc
q; ad ceteras alias quenam⁹. Eam vero Indi-

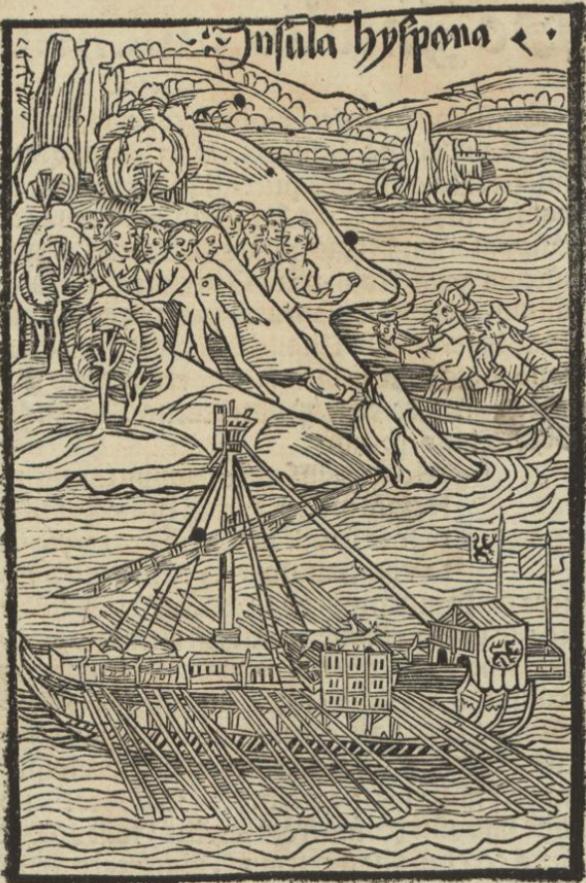
Hain 5491.

Primit 2.
p 163.

Op. E.C. IV² fol 6 (sub fin)

Olie?





2

Guanahany vocant. Aliaz etiā vnā quanq;
nouo nomine nuncupauit. Quippe aliam Insu-
lam Sancte Marie Lōceptiōis. aliam Fernā-
dinam. aliaz Hysabellam. alia Johanam. et sic
de reliquis appellari iussi. Quā primū i ea In-
sulam quā dudū Johanam vocari dixi appuli-
mus: iurta ei⁹ littus occidente versus aliquā-
tulum processi: tamq; eam magnā nullo reper-
to fine inueni: ut non insulam: sed cōtinentem
Chatay prouinciā esse crediderim: nulla tame⁹
vidēs oīpida municipiaue in maritimis sita cō-
finibus: preter aliquos vicost predia rustica:
cum quorū incolis loqui nequibam: quare si-
mul ac nos videbant surripiebat fugam. Pro-
grediebar ultra: existimans aliquam me vrbē
villasue inuenturum. Deniq; videns q; longe
admodum pgressis: nihil noui emergebat: et
huiusmodi via nos ad Septentrionem defere-
bat: q; ipse fugere exoptabam: terris etenim re-
gnabat bruma: ad austrumq; erat in voto cō-
tendere: nec minus venti flagitantibus succe-
debāt. cōstitui alios nō operiri successus: et sic
retrocedens ad portum quendaz quem signa-
ueram sum reuersus: vnde duos hoies ex no-
stris in terram misi. qui inuestigarent: esset ne
Rex in ea prouincia/vrbesue aliue. h̄j per

Lū



tres dies ambularūt: inuenērūtq; innumerōs
populos t habitatōes: paruas tñ et absq; vlo
regimine: quapropt̄ rediesūt. Interea ego iā
intelleixerā a qbusdam Indis: quos ibidē su-
sceperā: quō hmōi prouincia: insula quidem
erat. t sic perrexī orientē versus: ei⁹ semp strin-
gens littora vscq ad miliaria .cccxiiij. vbi ipsi⁹
insule sunt extrema. hinc aliā insulā ad orien-
tem prospexi: distantem ab hac Johana milia-
ribus. liij. quā protinus Hispanam dixi: in eāc-
q; cōcessi: t dirēxi iter quasi p Septentrionez
quēadmodū in Johana ad orientem: miliaria
dlxiiij. que dicta Johana t alie ibidem iusule
q; fertilissime existunt. Hec multis atq; tutissi-
mis t latis: nec alijs quos vniq; viderim cōpa-
randis portib⁹: est circū data multi maximi t
salubres hanc interfluit fluuij. multi quoq; et
eminētissimi in ea sunt montes. Omnes he insu-
le sunt pulcrrime t varijs distincte figuris: p-
uie: t maxima arborz varietate sidera lamben-
tiū plene: q; s nū q; folijs priuari credo: quip-
pe vidi eas ita virētes atq; decoras: ceu mēse
Ahaio i hispania solēt eē: q; p alie florētes: alie
fructuose: alie i alio statu: fm vniuersitatis q; li-
tate vigebat: garriebat philomena: t alij pas-
res varij ac inumeri: mēse nouēbris q; ipē per
cas deambulabā. Sunt pterea in dicta insula

Johana septē vel octo palmarū genera: q̄ pce
ritate t pulchritudine (quēadmodū cetere oēs
arbores/herbe/fructusq; nfas facile exuperat
Sūt t mirabiles pīn agri t prata vastissima/
varie aues/varie mella/variaq; metalla:ferro
excepto. In ea autē quā Hispanā supra dixim⁹
nūcupari: maximi sunt mótes ac pulcri: vasta
rura/nemora/ campi feracissimi/seri/ pacisq; t
cōdendis edificijs aptissimi. Portuū in hac in
sula cōmoditas: t pīstantia fluminū copia salu
britate admixta hoīm: q̄ nisi quis viderit: cre
dulitatē supat. Huius arbores pascua t fruct⁹
multum ab illis Johane differūt. Hec pīterea
Hispana diuerso aromatis genere/auro/me
tallisq; abundat. cui⁹ quidē t oīm aliax quas
ego vidi: t quā cognitionē habeo: i cole vtri
usq; sexus nudi temp incedūt: quēadmodum
edunt in lucem. preter aliquas feminas. q̄ fo
lio frondeue aliq: aut bombicino velo: pudē
da operiūt: qđ ipē sibi ad id negociū parat. La
rent hi om̄es (vt supra dixi) quocunq; genere
ferri. carent t armis: vtpote sibi ignotis nec ad
ea sūt apti. nō pp̄t corporis deformitatē (cū sint
bñ formati) s̄z qr sūt timidi ac pleni formidine.
gestat tñ p armis arūdines sole pustas: i quāz
radicib⁹ bastile q̄ ddā ligneū siccū t in mucro
nē attenuatū figūt: neq; his audēt iugis vti: inā

Oceanica

Classis



iii

sepe euenit cū miserim duos vel tris homines
ex meis ad aliquas villas: vt cū eaz loquerē-
tur incolis: exiisse agmē glomeratū ex Indis:
et ybi nostros appropinquare videbāt: fugam
celeriter arripuisse: despretis a patre liberis &
ecōtra. & hoc nō q̄ cuiquam eorū damnū aliqd
vel iniuria illata fuerit: immo ad quoscūq; ap-
puli & q̄bus cū verbū facere potui: quicqd ha-
bebā sum elargit: pannū aliaq; pmulta: nulla
mihi facta versura: sed sunt natura pauidi ac
timidi. Ceterz ybi se cernūt tutos: omni metu re-
pulso: sunt ad modū simplices ac bone fidei: &
in omnibus que habent liberalissimi: rogant q̄
possidet inficiāt nemo: quin ipsi nos ad id po-
scendum inuitāt. Maximi erga oēs amore p-
seferūt: dāt que magna p paruis. minima l-
re nihiloue p̄tent: ego attī phibui ne tam mi-
nima & nulli? p̄cij hisce darent: vt sunt lancis/
parapsidū / vitriq; fragmēta / jtez clavi / ligule/
quanq; si hoc poterāt adipisci: videbāt eis pul-
cerrima mudi possidere iocalia. Accidit enim
quēdam nauitā: tantū auri pondus habuisse
p yna ligula: quāti sūt tres aurei solidi: & sic
alios p alijs m̄loris p̄cij: p̄ftim p blanquis no-
uis: & qbūdā nūmis aurcis: p qb̄ habēdis da-
bāt qcqd petebat vēditor: putavnciā cū dimi-
dia & duas auri: yl̄ trigita & q̄dragita bombid

5

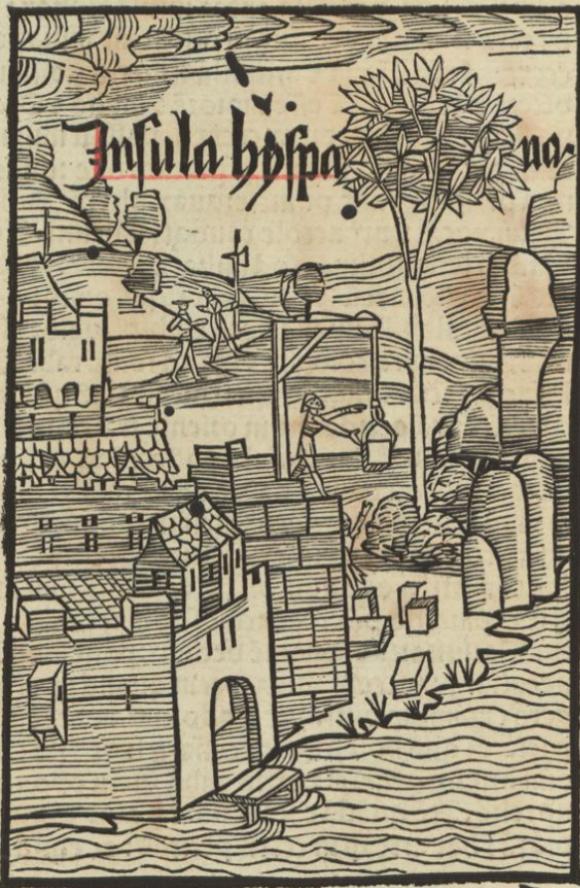
pondō: quā ip̄i iā nouerāt. stē arcuum/ampho
re/hydrie/dolijq̄ fragmēta/bombicez auro tā
q̄ bestie cōparabāt. qd̄ quia iniquū sane erat:
vetui: dediq̄ eis multā pulcra t grata q̄ mecū
tulerā nullo iterueniēte p̄mio: vt eos mihi fa-
cili⁹ p̄ciliare:fierētq̄ xp̄icole: t vt sint proni in
amorē erga Reginā principesq̄ nostros
et yniuersas gētes Hispanie: ac studeāt p̄qre-
re t coaceruare: eaq̄ nobis tradere qb̄ ip̄i af-
fluūt t nos magnope idigem⁹. Nullā h̄j norūt
ydolatriā: imo firmissime credūt oēz vim: oēz
potētiā: oīa deniq̄ bona esse ī celo: meq̄ inde
cū his nauib⁹ t nautis descēdissēatz b̄ aīo vbi
fui susceptus postq̄ metū repulerāt. Hec sunt
segnes aut rudes: quin summi ac sp̄icacis in-
genij: t hoīes qui transfretāt mare illō: nō sine
admiratiōe/yniuscuiusq̄ rei rationē reddunt:
sed nūq̄ viderunt gentes yestitas: neq̄ naues
hmōi Ego statim atq̄ ad mare illō pueni: e pri-
ma insula quosdā Indos violenter arripui: q̄
ediscerēt a nobis: t nos piter docerent ea: q̄ y
ip̄i in hisce partibus cognitionē habebant. et
exvoto succēsir: nā breui nos ip̄os: t h̄j nos:
tum gestu ac signis: tum verbis intellecerunt.
magnoḡ nobis fuere emolumēto. yniunt mō
mecū tñ qui semp̄ putant me desiluisse e celo
q̄uis diu nobiscū versati fuerint hodieq̄ vers-

senf. et hi erant primi: quod id quocumque appellabamus nunciabat: alius deinceps aliis elata voce dicentes. Elenite venite et videbitis gentes ethreas. Quoniam obrem tam semie quam viri: tam impuberes quam adulti: tam iuuenes quam senes: deposita formidine paulo ante accepta: nos certatum viseremus magna iter stipitate caterua aliis cibis/ aliis potum affarentibus: maxio cum amore ac benivolentia incredibili. Habet unaqueque insula multas scaphas solidi ligni: et si angustas: longitudine tria ac forma nostris biremis similes: cursu autem velociores. Regunt remis tantummodo. Harum quedam sunt magne: quedam parue: quedam in medio persistunt. Plures tam biremi que remigent duodecimgenti transstris maiores: cum quatuor in oculis illas insulas: que innumere sunt: trahuntur. cum quaque his suam mercaturam exercet: et inter eos commercia fiunt. Aliquas ego harum biremium seu scapharum: vidi que habebat septuaginta et octuaginta remiges. In omnibus his insulis nulla est diversitas inter gentis effigies. nulla in moribus atque loqua: quin oculi se intelligunt adunucem: que res utilis est ad id quod serenissimum Regem nostrum exoptare precipue reor: scilicet eorum ad sanctam Christi fidem conversionem. cui quidem quantum intelligere potui facilimi sunt et proprie. Dixi quae-

admodū sum pgressus antea insulā Johanaꝝ
per rectū tramiteꝝ occasus in orientem miliaria
cccxvij. fm quā viā et infuſiū itineris possum
dicere hāc Johanaꝝ esse maiore Anglia et Sco-
tia sīl: manqꝫ vltra dicta cccxxv. passuū milia:
in ea pte q ad occidente pspectat: due: quas
non petiꝫ: sup sunꝫ puinie: quax alterā Indi-
Anan vocat: cuiꝫ accole caudati nascunt. Te-
dunt in longitudinem ad miliaria. clxxx. vt ab
his q̄s vebo mecum Indis pcepi: qui omnis has
callēt insulas. Hispanie vero ambit⁹ maior⁹ est
tota Hispania a cologna vsqꝫ ad fontē rabidū
Hincqꝫ facile arguiꝫ q̄ quartū ei⁹ lat⁹ qd ip̄e
per rectā lineā occidentis in orientē traieci: mili-
aria p̄tinet. dxl. Hec insula ē affectāda et affe-
ctata nō spernēda in qua et si aliaꝫ oīm ut dixi
per inuitissimo Rege nō solemiter possessio-
nem accepi: earūqꝫ imperiū dicto Regi peni-
tus cōmittif: i oportuni orī tñ loco: atqꝫ om̄i lu-
cro et cōmertio p̄decenti: cuiusdā magneville:
cui Natiuitatis dñi nomē dedum⁹: possessionē
peculiariter accepi. ibiqꝫ arcem quandaz eri-
gere extemplo iussi: que modo iam debet esse
pacta: in qua hoīes qui necessarī sunt vissi: cū
om̄i armox genere: et vltra annū victu oportu-
no reliq. Itē quādā carauellā: et p alijs p̄strue-
vis tā i hac arte q̄ in ceteri peritos: ac eiusdē

Insula hyspa

no.



7

insule Regis erga nos beniuolentiā t familiā
ritatē incredibilē. ~~Sunt cūm gētes ille amabiles~~
admodū t benignē: eo q̄ ~~X~~ Rex p̄dictus me fra
trem suum dici gloriabat. Et si animū reuoca
rent: t his q̄ i arce manserūt nocere velint: ne
queūt: quia armis carēt: nudi icēdūt: t nimū
timidi. ideo dictā orcem tenētes: dūtaxat p̄n
tora eā insulā nullo sibi imminentē disgramine
(dūmodo leges quas dēdim⁹ ac regimē nō ex
cedat) facile detuicere. In omnib⁹ his insulis vt
intellēxi: quīs q̄vni tm̄ piugī acquiescit: p̄ter
principes aut reges: q̄bus viginti habere licz.
Femine magis q̄b viri laborare vident: nec be
ne potui intelligere an habeat bona p̄pria: vi
di em⁹ q̄b vn⁹ habebat alijs ipartiri: p̄fīm da
pes/ obsonia/ t hmōi. Nullū ap̄d eos monst̄z
reperi: vt pleriq̄ existimabant: sed hoīes ma
gne reuerētie atq̄ benignos. Nec sunt nigri ve
luti ethiopes. habēt crines planos ac demissos
nō degunt ybi radiorū solaris emicat calor. p̄
magna nāq̄ hic est solis vehementia: ppter ea
q̄ abeq̄ noctiali linea distat. ybi videtur/gra
dus sex t viginti. Ex montū cacuminib⁹ ma
ximū q̄b viget frig⁹: s̄ id qđem moderant. In
di: tū loci p̄suetudie: tū rex calidissimaz qb⁹
frequēter t luxuriose vescunt presidio. Itaq̄
mōstra aliq̄ nō vidi: neq̄ eoz alicubi habui co

gnitionem: excepta quadam insula Charis nū-
cupata: que secunda ex Hispana in Indianam
transfretatibus existit. quam gens quedam a
sinitimis habita ferdor incolit. hi carne hu-
mana vescunt. Habent predicti biremū gene-
ra plurima: quibus in omnes Indicas insulas
trauiunt/depredāt/surripūtq; quecūq; pñt.
Nihil ab alijs differunt nisi q; gerunt more fe-
mineo longos crines. vtunq; arcub⁹ et spiculis
arundineis: siris (vt dixim⁹) in grossiori pte at
tenuatis hastilib⁹. ideoq; habet feroces: qua-
re céteri Indi inexhausto metu plectuntur: s^z
hos ego nibil facio plus q; alios. Hi sunt qui
coeunt cum quibusdam feminis: que sole insu-
lam Dateunin primā ex Hispana in Indianam
trajcentib⁹ habitant. He autē feminē nulluz
sui sexus opus exercent: vtunq; em arcub⁹ et spi-
culi sicuti ð eaꝝ iugib⁹ dixi muniūt: sese lami-
nis eneis q; maxia apd eas copia existit. Ali-
am mihi insulā affirmant supradicta Hispana
maiorē: ei⁹ incole carēt pilis. auroq; inf⁹ alias
potissimum exuberat. Hui⁹ insule et aliaꝝ q; vi-
di hoies mecum porto: q; hoꝝ q; dixi testimoniuū
phibet. Deniq; vt nr̄i discessus et celeris reuer-
sidiōis cōpēdiū: ac emolumētū breuib⁹ astringā
h polliceor: me nr̄is Regib⁹ inuictissimis quo
eoꝝ fultū auxilio: tantū auri datuꝝ quantum

8

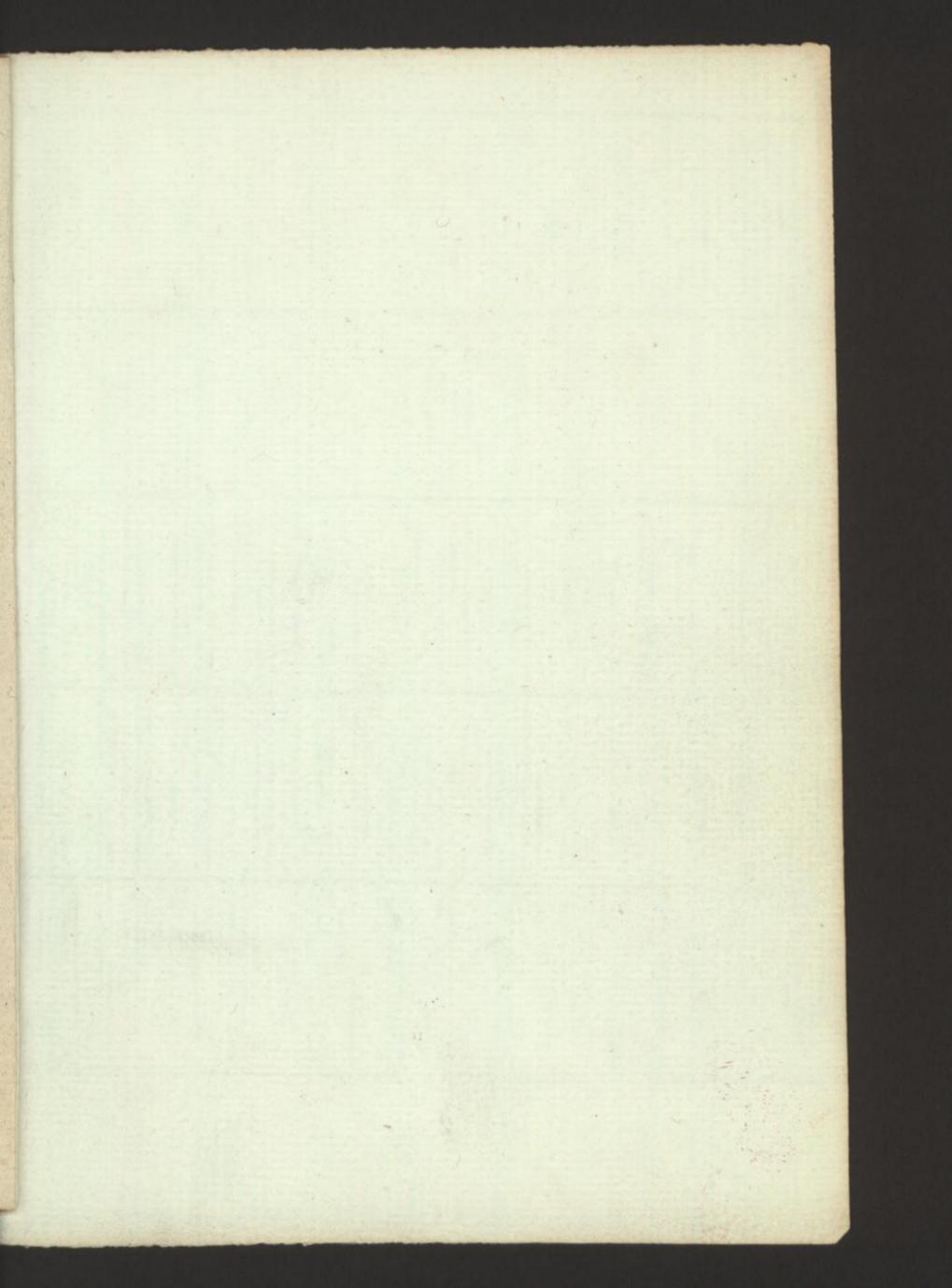
eis fuerit opus. tñ vero aromatuz. bombicis.
masticis (q apud Chium dñ taxat inuenit) tan
tūqz ligni aloes. tantum fuoz hydrophilato-
rum: quantū eorū maiestas voluerit exigere.
Item reubarbarū t alia aromatuz genera: q h̄e
quos in dicta arce reliqui iā inuenisse: atqz in-
uenturos existimo. q si quidem ego nullib⁹ ma-
gis sum moratus. si quantū me coegerūt vē-
ti: preterqz in villa flatiustratis: dñ arcem con-
dere t tutu omnia esse prouidi. Que t si maxia
et inaudita sunt: multo tamē maiora forent si
naues mihi vt ratio exigit subuenissent. Vlez
multū ac mirabile hoc: nec nostris meritis cor-
respondēs: sed sancte Christiane fidei: nostro-
rumqz Regū pietati ac religioni: quia qd hu-
manus cōsequi nō poterat intellectus: id hūa-
nis concessit diuinus. Solet om̄ deus fuos su-
os: quiqz sua p̄cepta diligūt: etiā i impossibili-
bus exaudire: vt nobis i p̄fici p̄figit: q ea p̄se
cuti sum: q hacten⁹ mortaliū vires mūne atti-
gerāt. nā si h̄az insulaz qpiā aliqd sc̄pseft aut
locuti sūt: oēs p̄ ambages t pieciuras nemo se
eas vidisse asserit: vñ ppe videbat fabula. Igi-
tur Rex t Regia p̄ncipes ac eoꝝ regna felicis
sima: cūcteqz alie Christianoz p̄uincie Salua-
tori dño nro Iesu xp̄o agam⁹ gr̄as: q tāta nos
victoria munereqz donauit: celebrēt pcessiōes

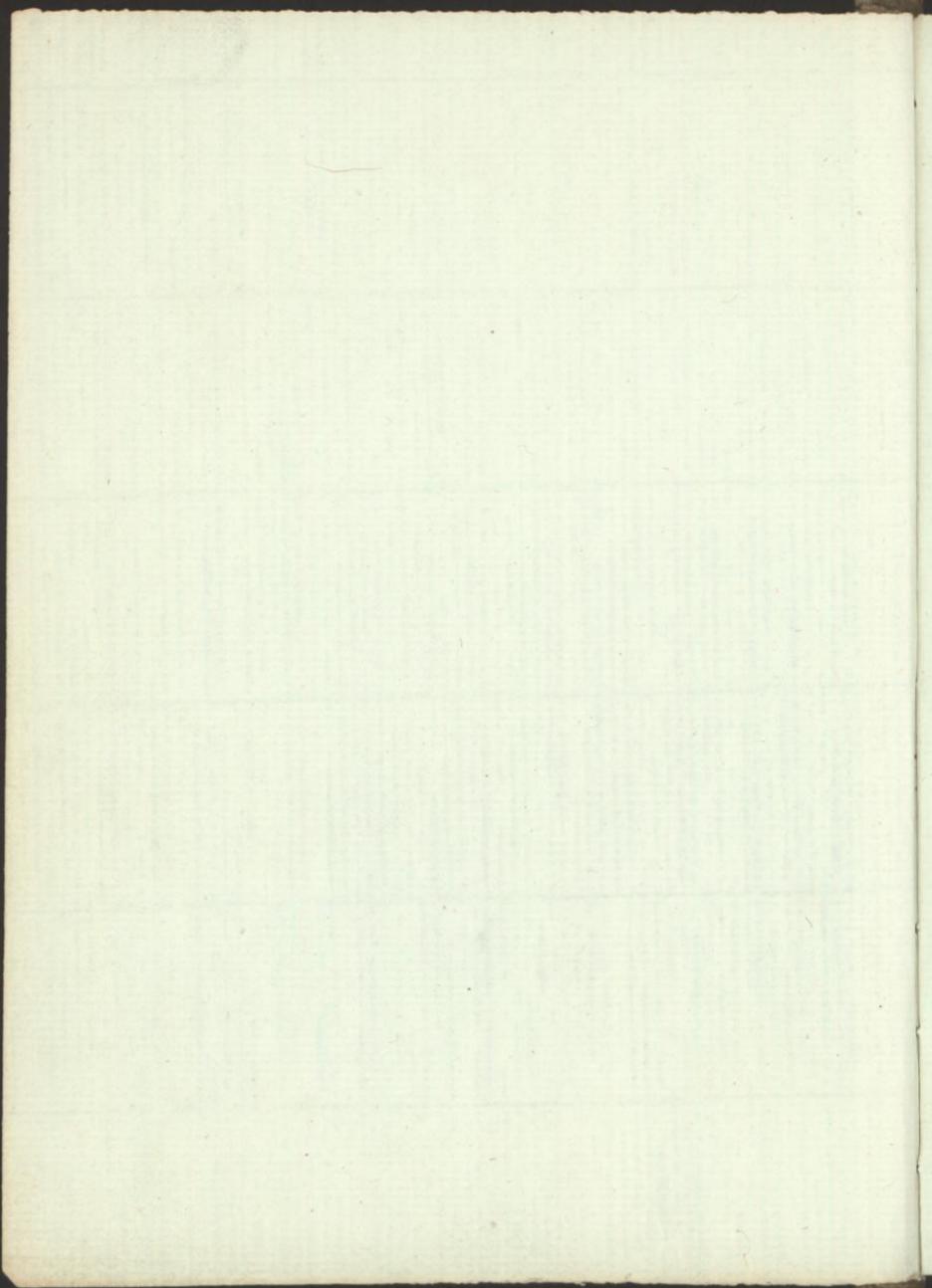
peragant solennia sacra. festaq; fronde yelent
delubra. Exultet Christus in terris: quemadmodum
in celis exultat: cum tot populorum peditas ait
hac animas saluat in iri preuidet. Letemur et
nos: tu propter exaltationem nostre fidei. tum p-
ropter rerum temporalium incremeta: quoque non solum
Hispania sed vniuersa Christianitas est futu-
ra princeps. Hec ut gesta sunt sic breuiter enar-
rata. Vale. Lisbone pridie ydus Marcij.

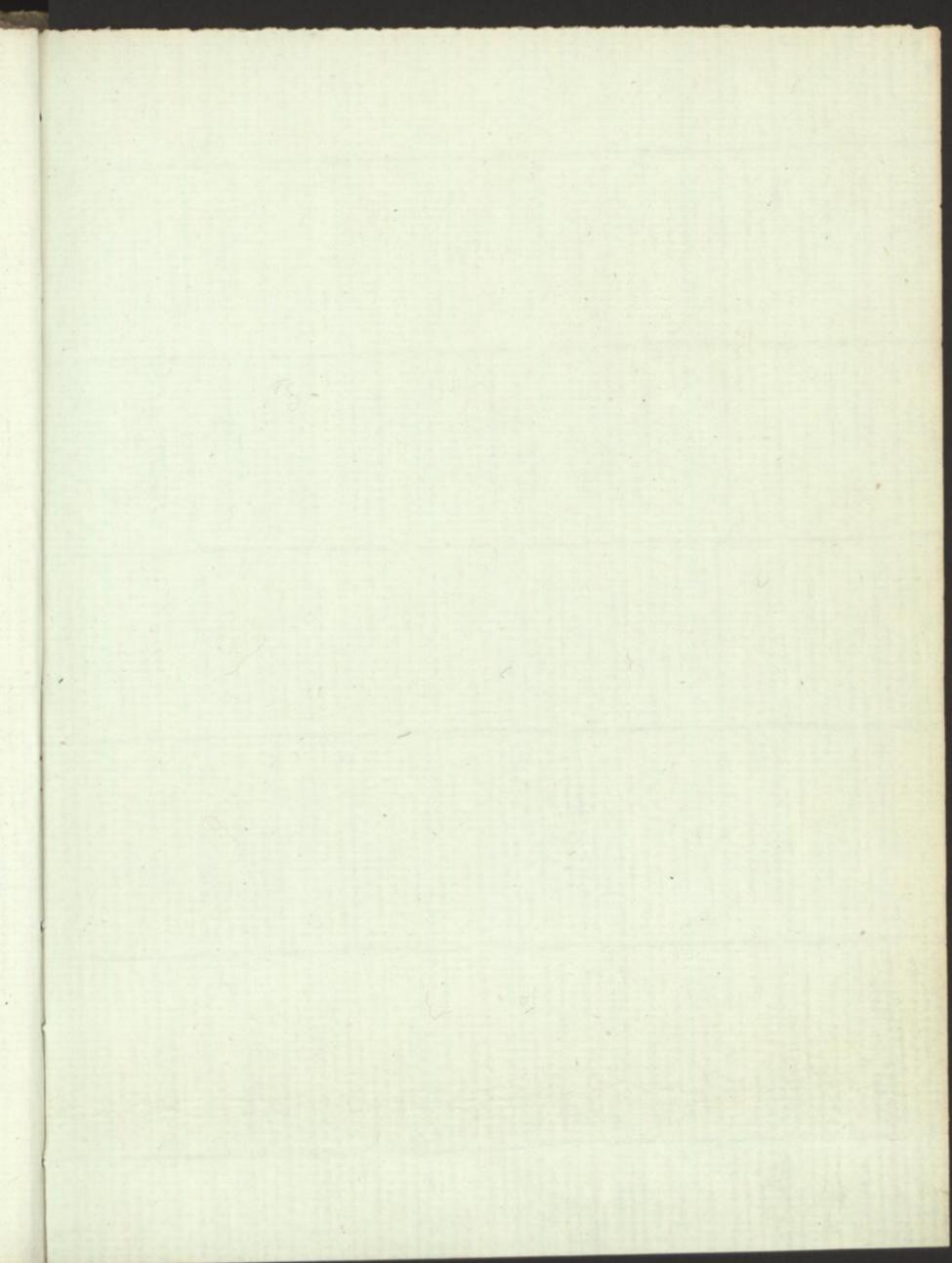
Cristofor^o Colom Oceane classis Prefect^o.

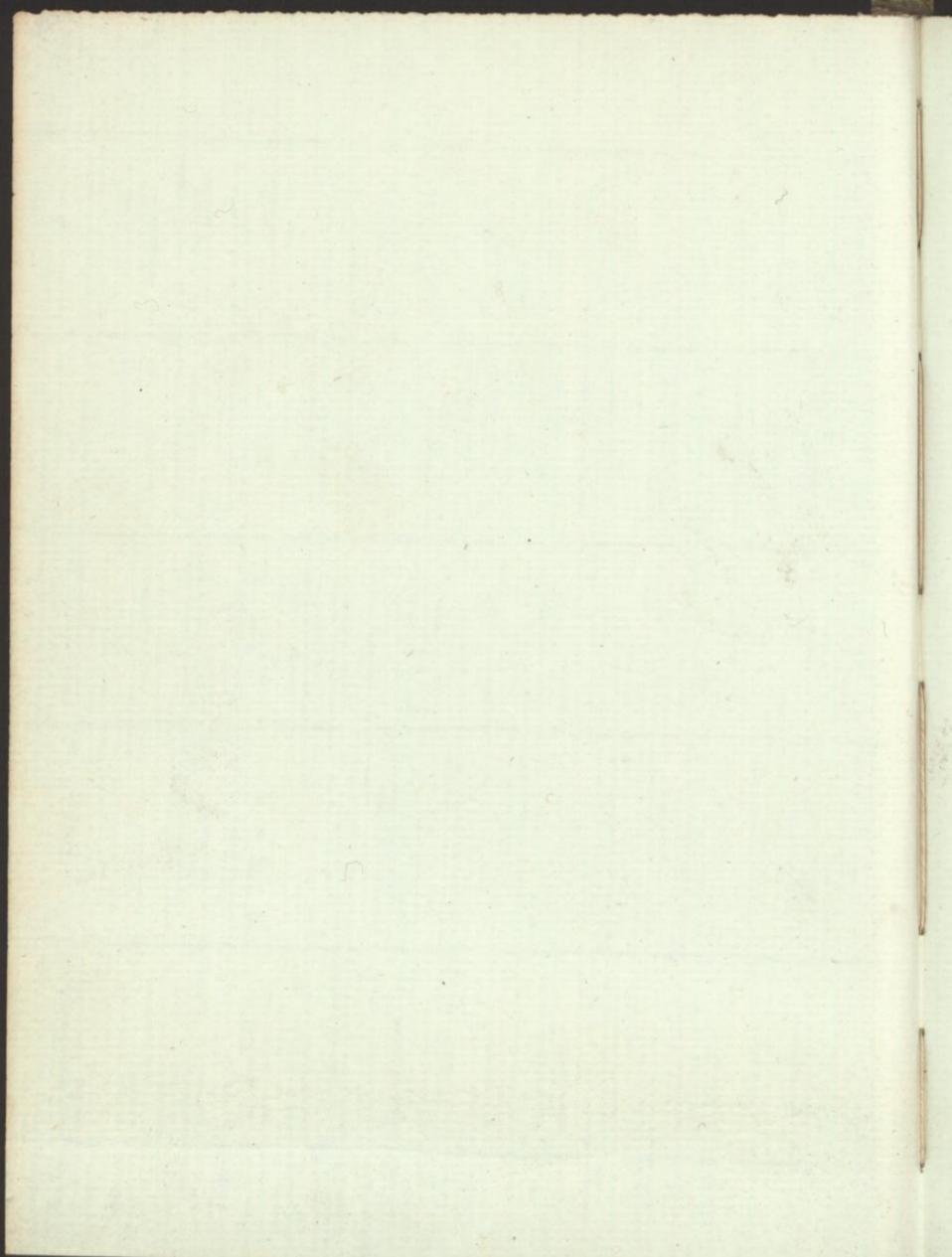
**Epigrama. R. L. de Lorbaria Episcopi
Adontispaluj**
Ad Inuictissimum Regem Hispaniarum

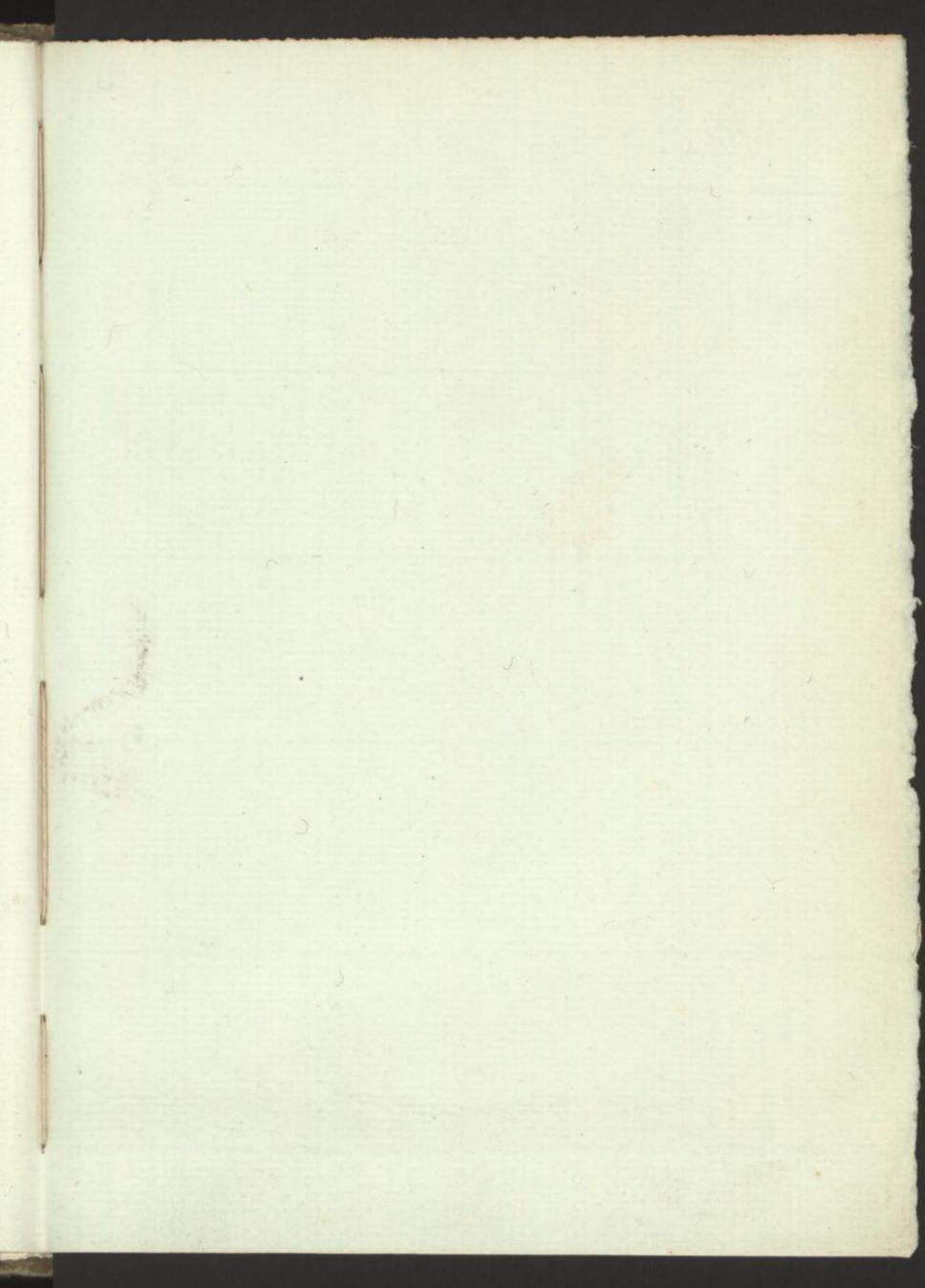
Jam nulla Hispanis tellus addeda triuphis:
Atque parum tantis viribus/ orbis erat.
Hunc longe Eois regio depresa sub vindis.
Auctura est titulos Betice magne tuos.
Unde repatori merito referenda Colubo
Gratia: sed summo est maior habeda deo:
Qui vincenda parat noua regna tibi que sibi
Teque simul fortem prestat et esse pium,

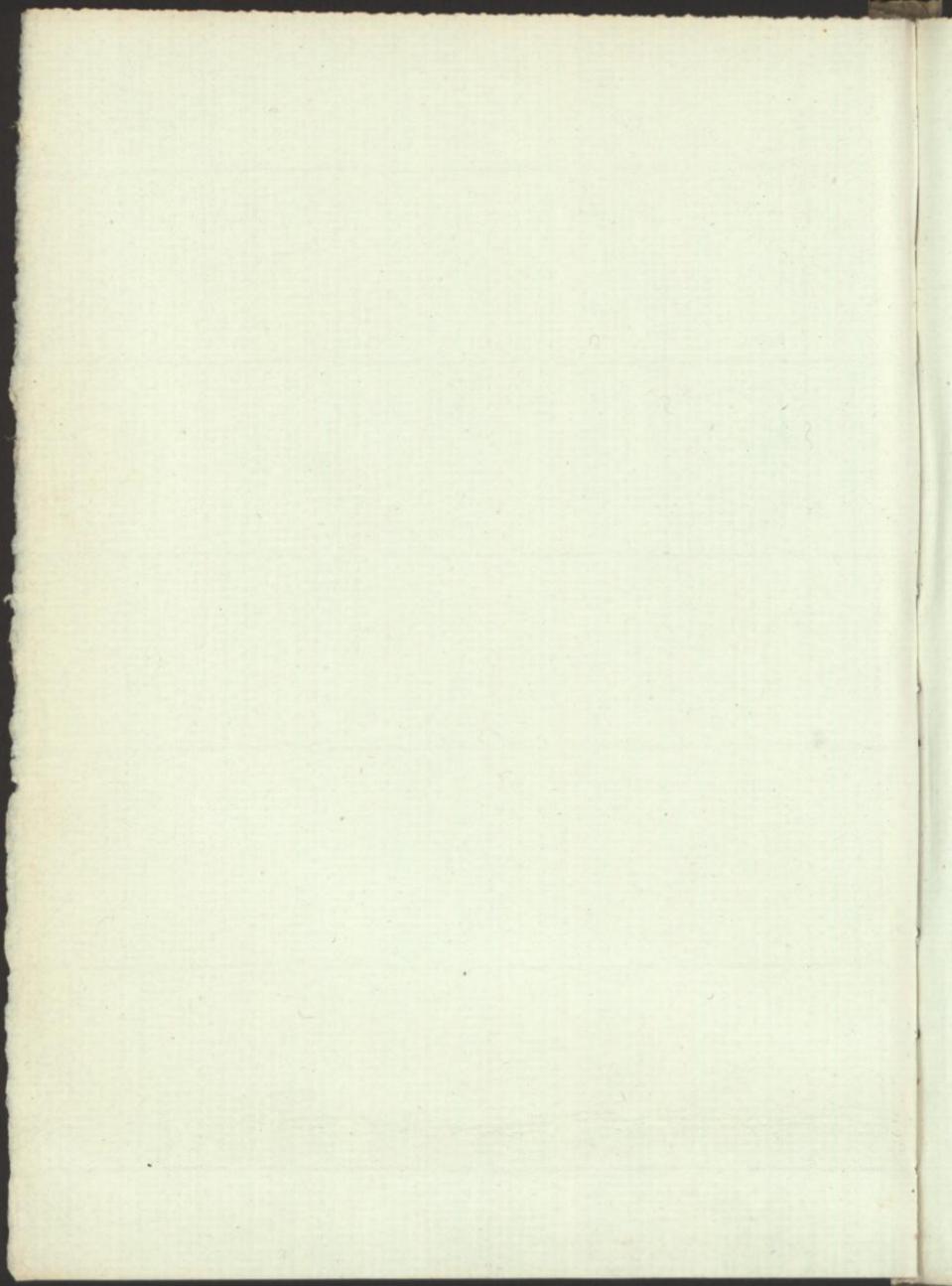


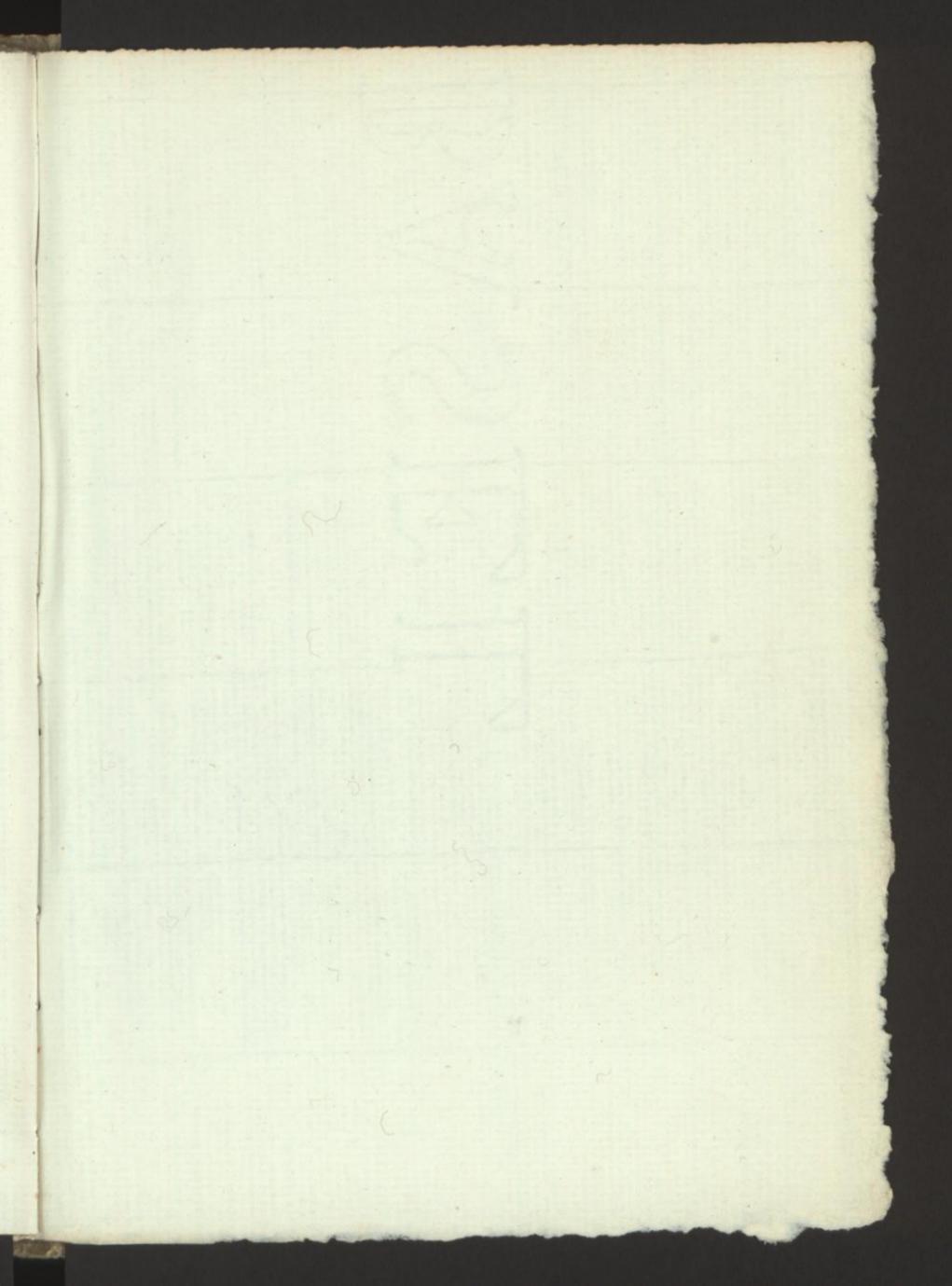


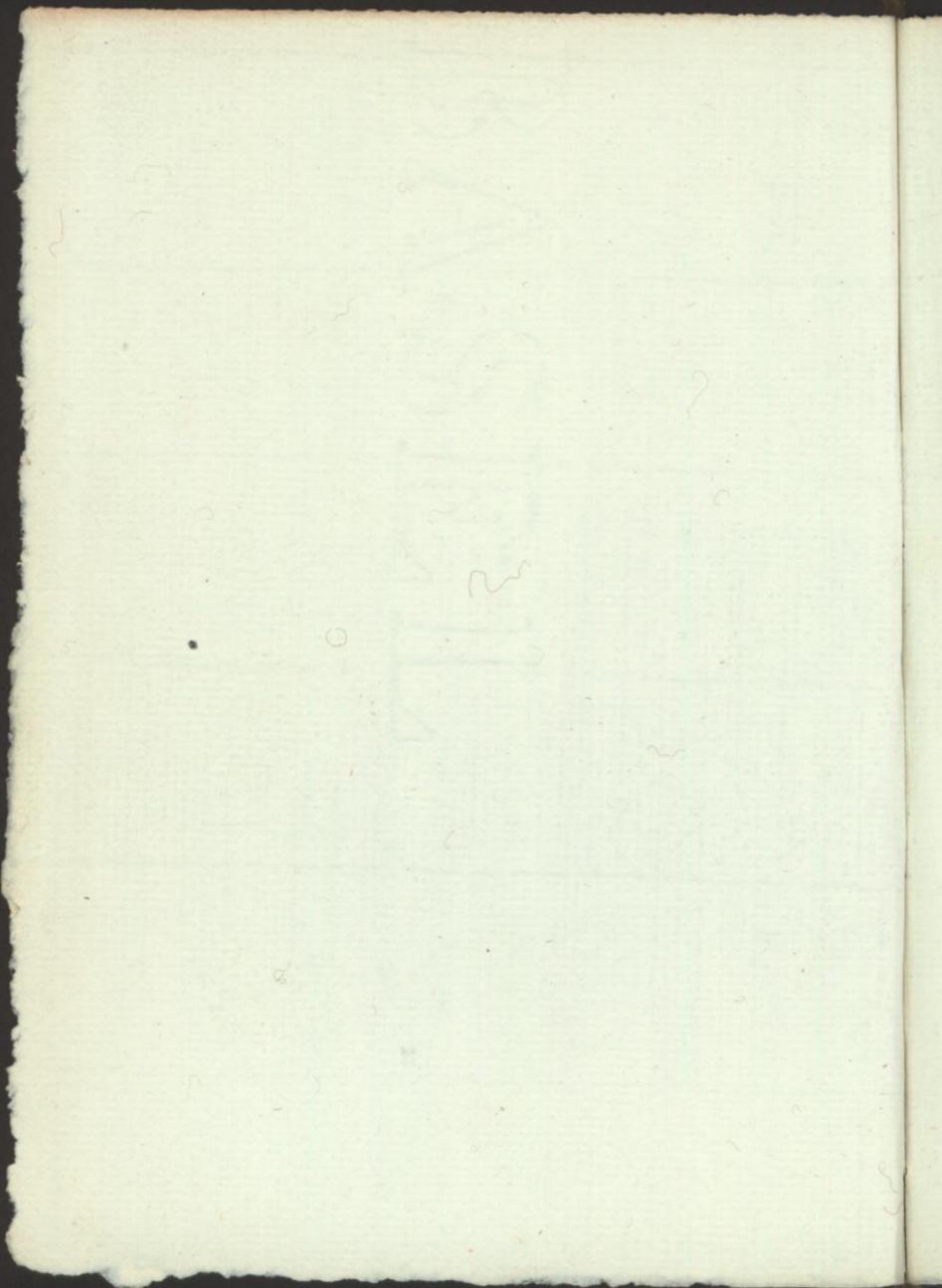


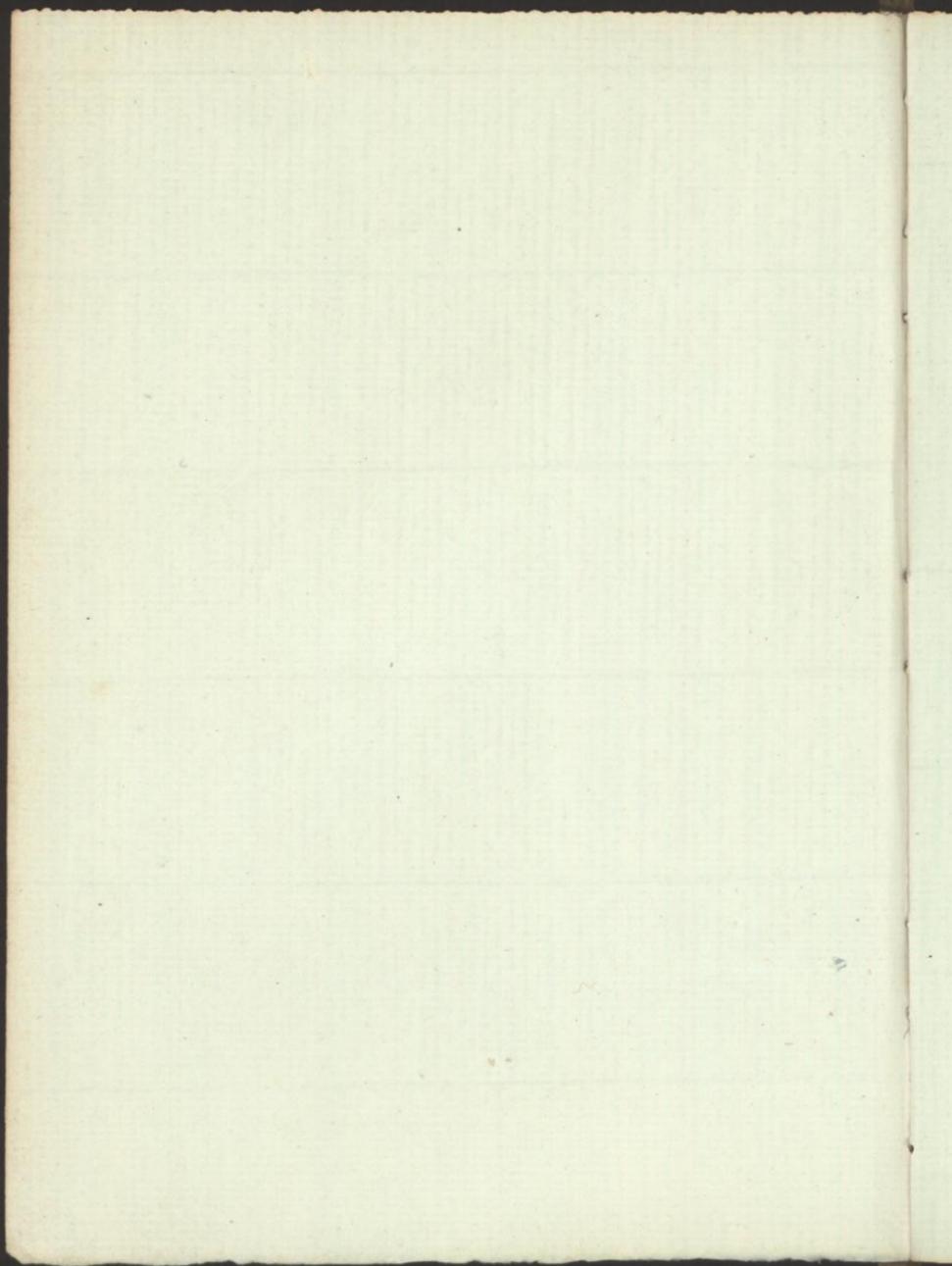


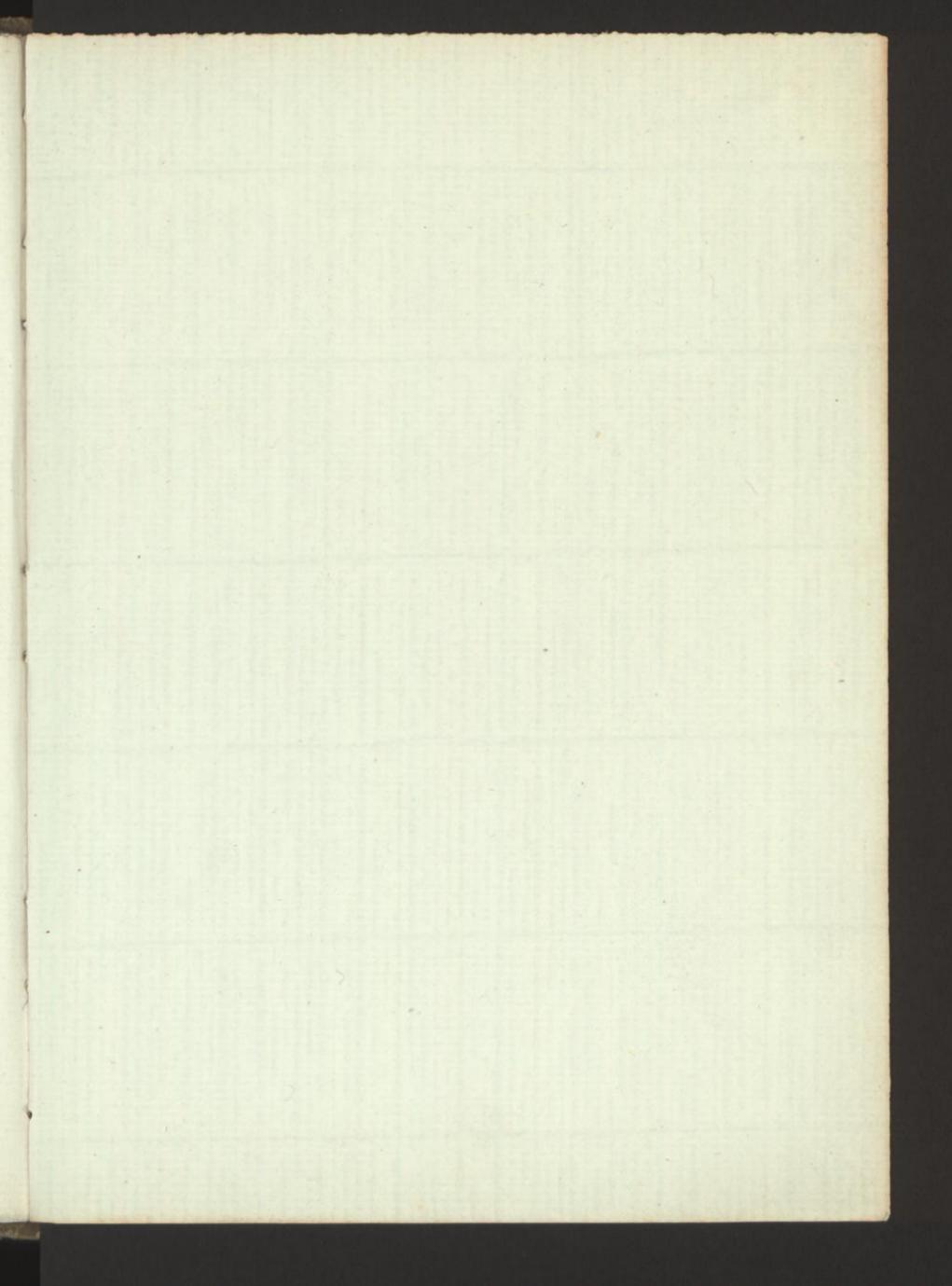


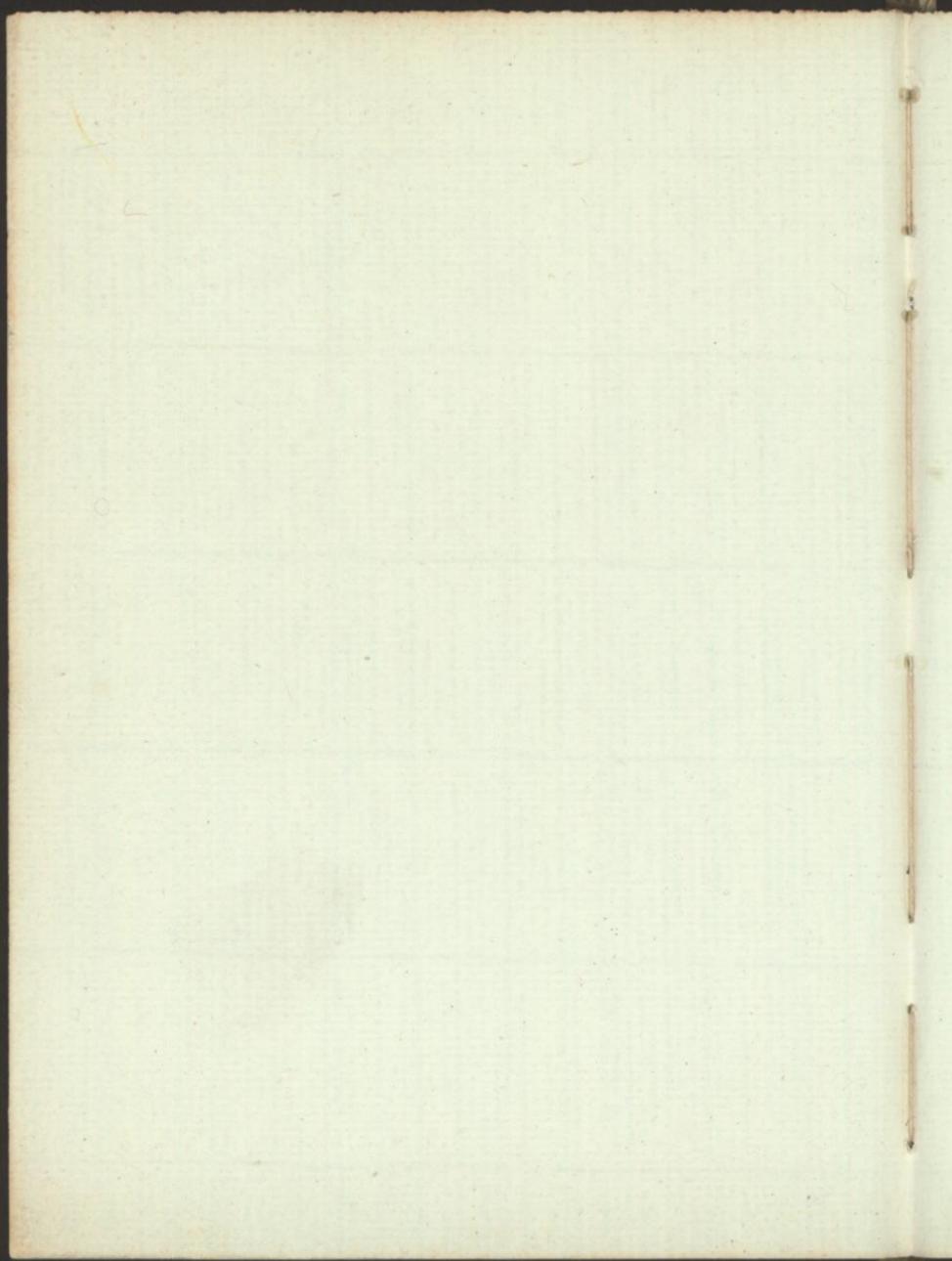


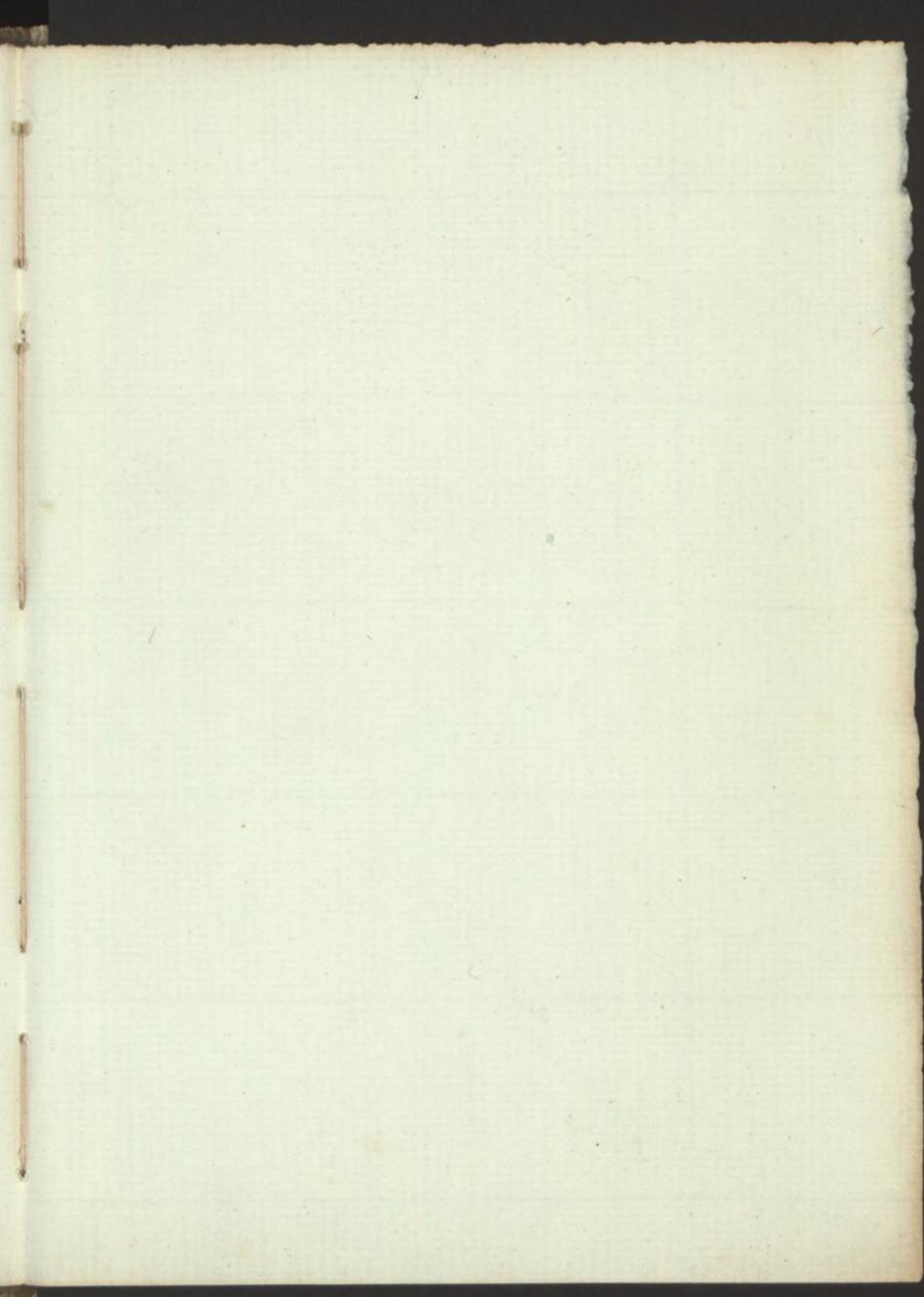


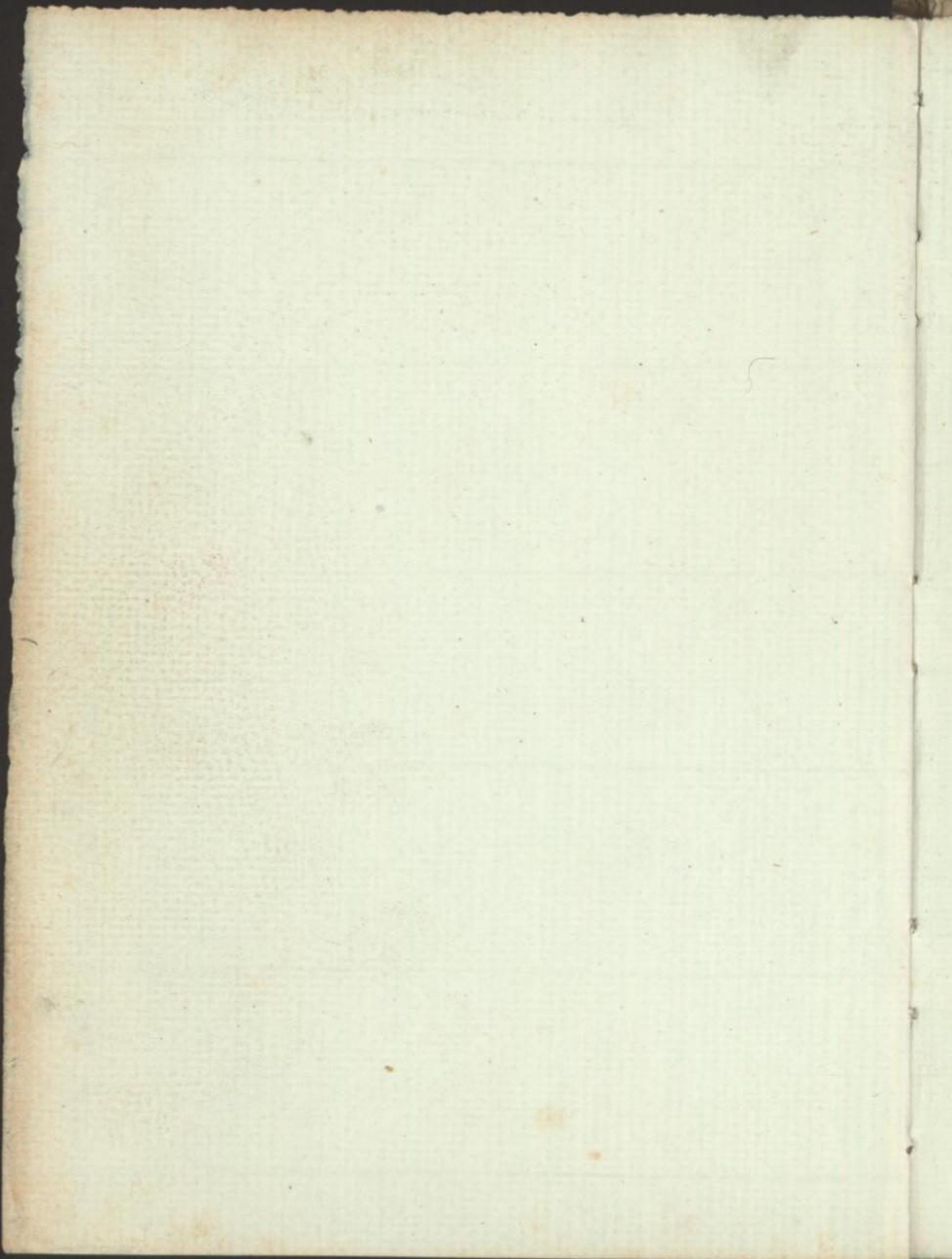


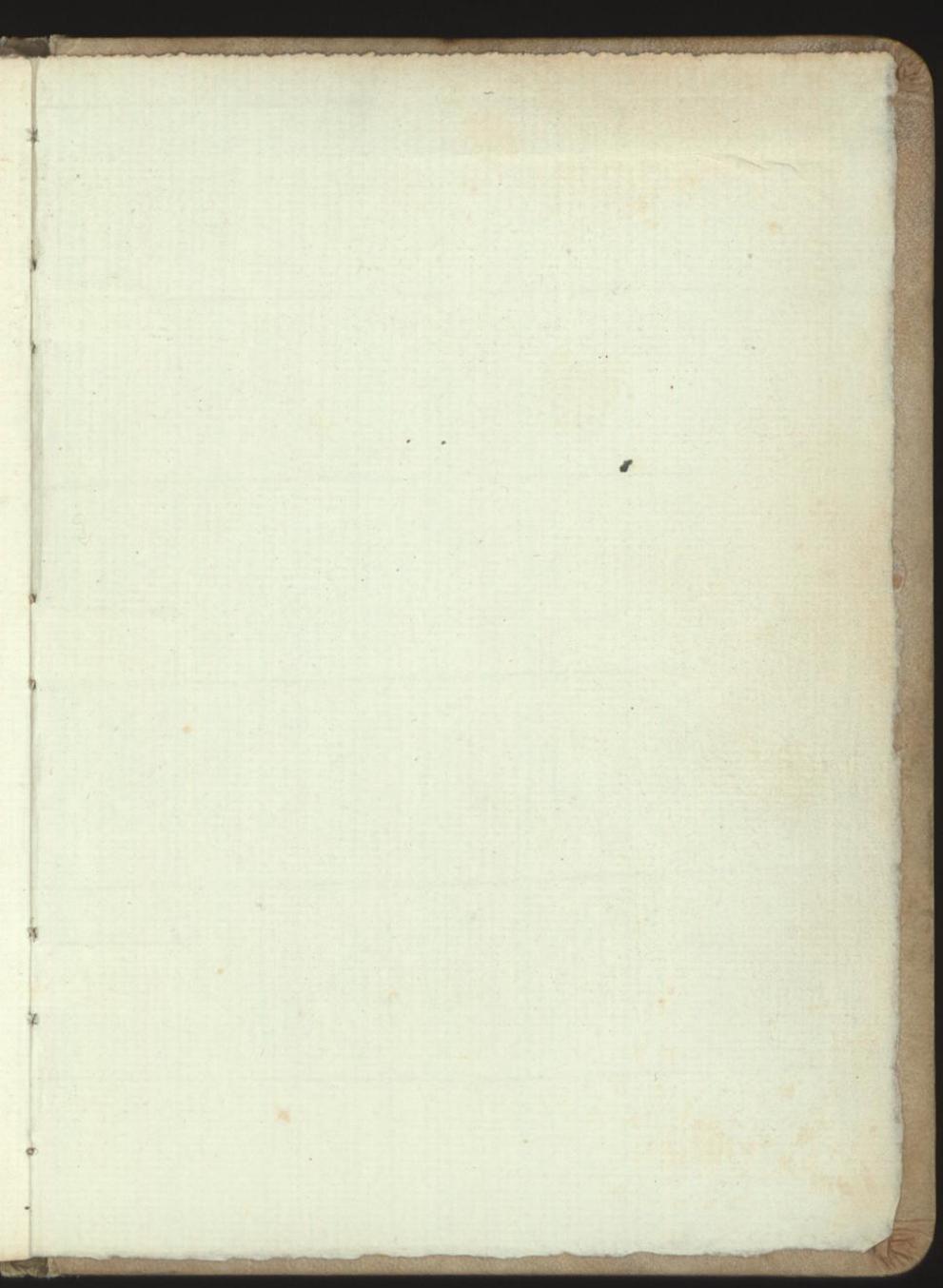












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