
Turenne

Hozier Henry Montague

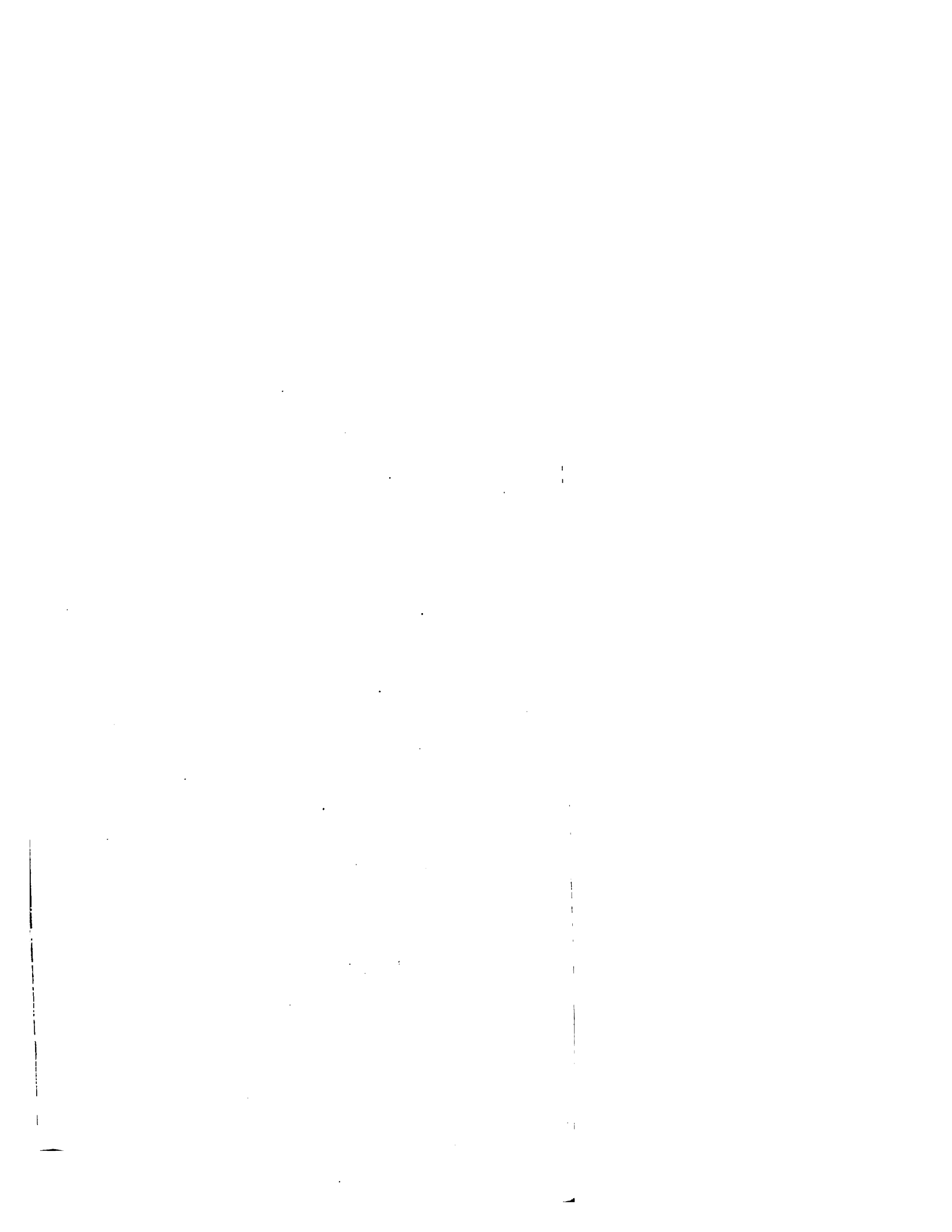
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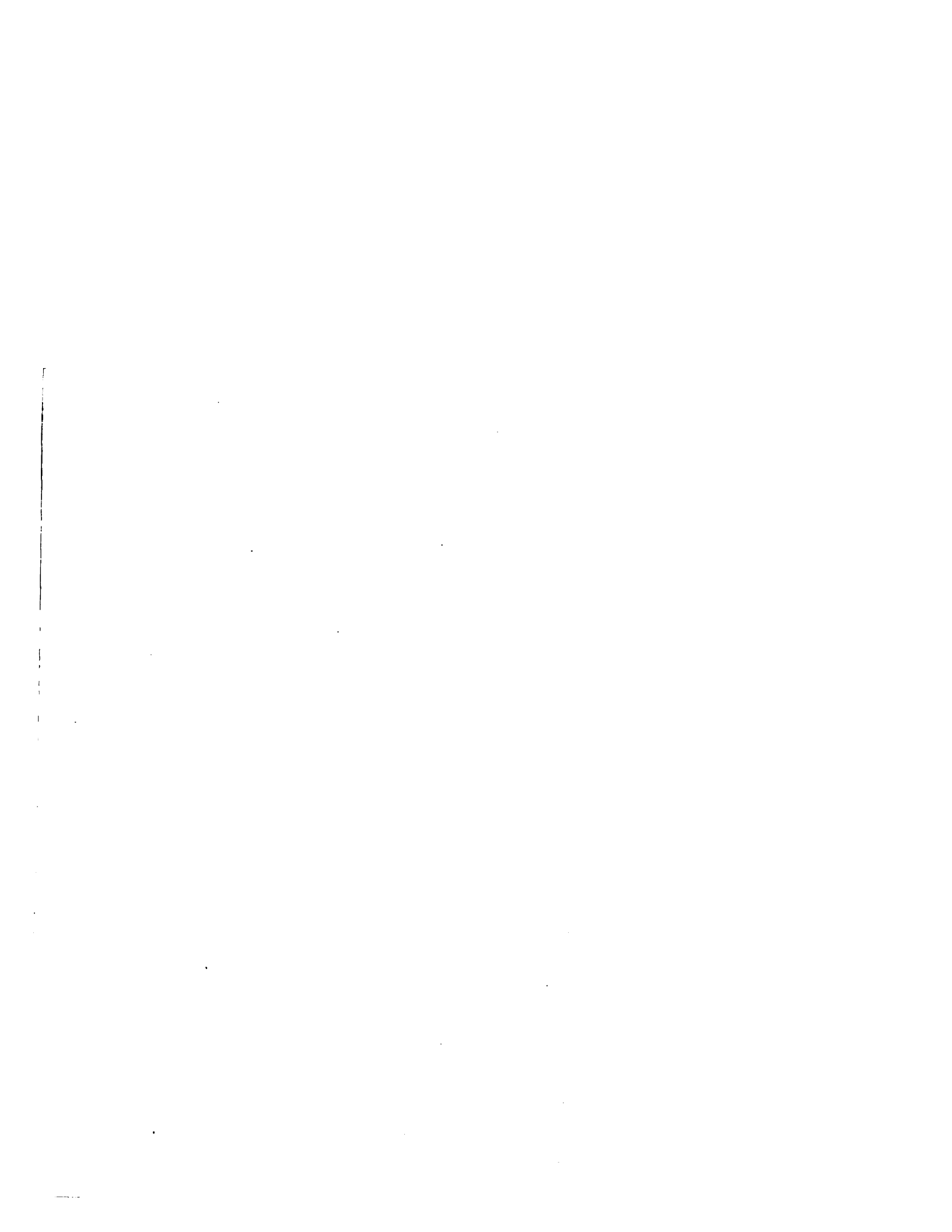
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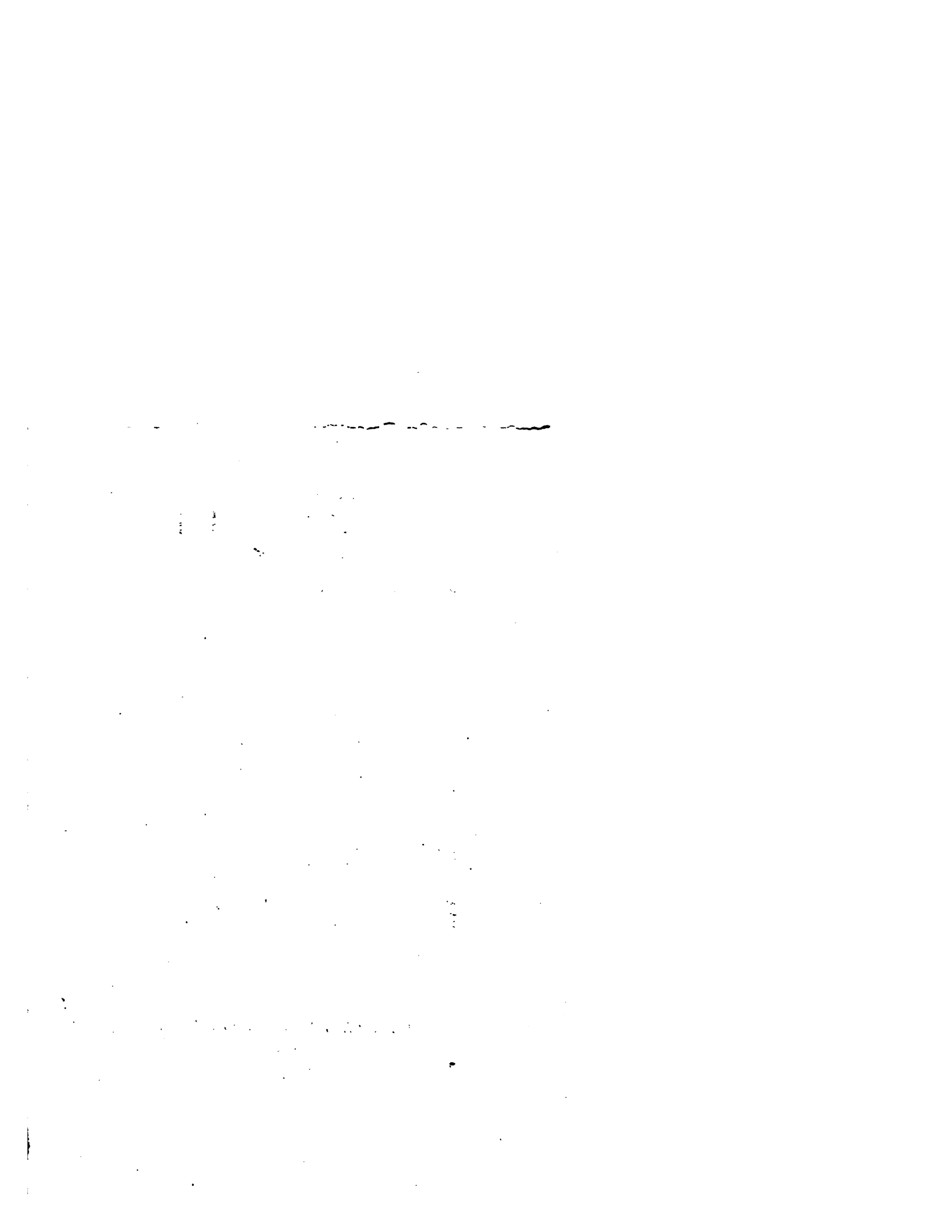


TURENNE.









T U R E N N E .

BY
H. M. HOZIER.

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P R E F A C E.

VARIOUS works have appeared on the life of Turenne from the seventeenth century down to the present time—such as those by Buison, Ragunet, Grimoard, and Armagnac. More valuable than these are the *History of Turenne*, by Ramsay; Turenne's own *Memoirs*, and the *Memoirs* of the Duke of York, afterwards King James II. of England, who served for four years on the staff of the marshal, and for two years with Condé in the wars of the Fronde in the Spanish army.

The best criticism on the military operations of Turenne is, no doubt, that dictated by Napoleon at St. Helena, although this is inexact in minor points, such as dates and proper names, probably because the exiled Emperor at St. Helena had no good library to consult.

Within the last few weeks an excellent work on Turenne has been issued in Paris under the direction of Monsieur Georges Hartrel, written by Professor Rey.

It gives important extracts from the correspondence in the public archives of France that has not before been published, but is marred by being evidently written with the object of flattering French national vanity, and of stirring up a desire for a war of revenge against Germany.

Yet these works, however valuable as historical biographies and as admirable accounts of campaigns and battles, do not throw up a vivid picture of the aspect of war in the time of the great captain, or give us those details of military administration and organization which enable the student to trace the development of military science during the seventeenth century.

It requires a long and tedious research for isolated facts through many books before we can learn how the younger son of the Calvinist Duke of Bouillon rose to the highest position in the armies of France in the time of the greatest grandeur of the greatest of French monarchs. It needs much labour and much reading to enable us to trace how a stammering youth of so sickly a disposition that he was considered in his boyhood unfit for military service, and who would in our days almost certainly be rejected by the medical examiners for Sandhurst, rose to be the greatest of the captains who commanded the armies even of Lewis XIV.