

THE OLIGARCHY OF VENICE: AN ESSAY

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The oligarchy of Venice: an essay by George B. McClellan

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GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN

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VENICE: AN ESSAY**

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An Essay

BY

GEORGE B. McCLELLAN



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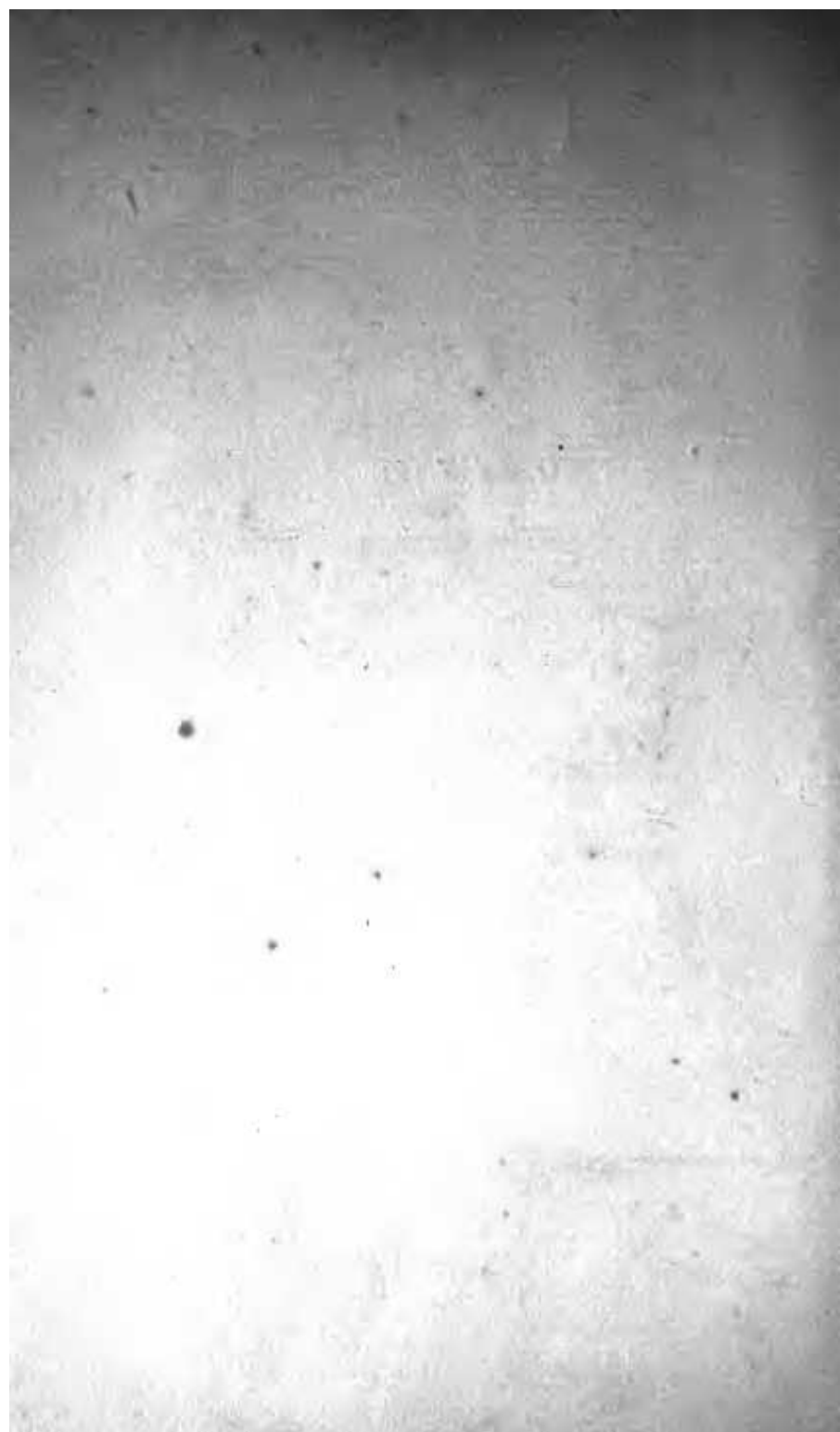
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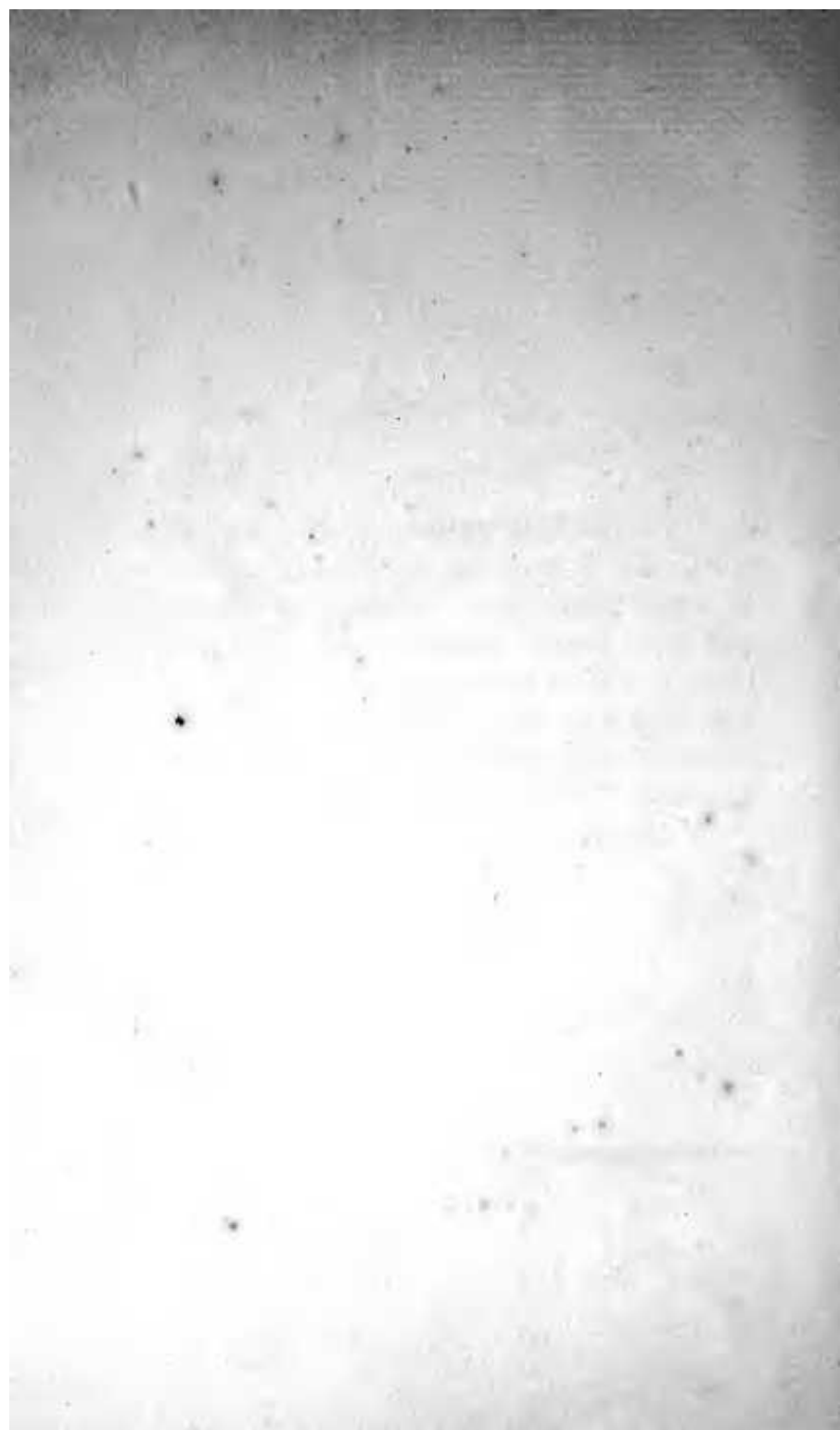
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TO MY WIFE



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THE OLIGARCHY OF VENICE

CHAPTER I

VENICE

So much has been written about Venice, so much that is true, so much that is false, so much fiction under the guise of history and history under the guise of fiction, so much poetry in prose and prose in poetry, that in sorting the vast amount of available material, it is a matter of no little difficulty to separate the grain from the chaff.

For the story of the beginning of Venice, we must depend upon the early chroniclers, foremost among whom stands John the Deacon.¹ As they were contemporaneous, or nearly so, with the events which they describe, we must accept their word as law, only rejecting it when some outside authority confutes them. The chronicles of Andrea Dan-

¹ He was formerly known as John Sagornino, but quite recently he has been deprived of his surname.