

of France and its extinction in the smoke-clouds of the stake receded deeper and deeper into the past and grew ever more strange and wonderful and divine and pathetic, I came to comprehend and recognize her at last for what she was—the most noble life that was ever born into this world save only One.

*[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible, appearing to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It contains several paragraphs of text, including what appears to be a religious or historical narrative.]*