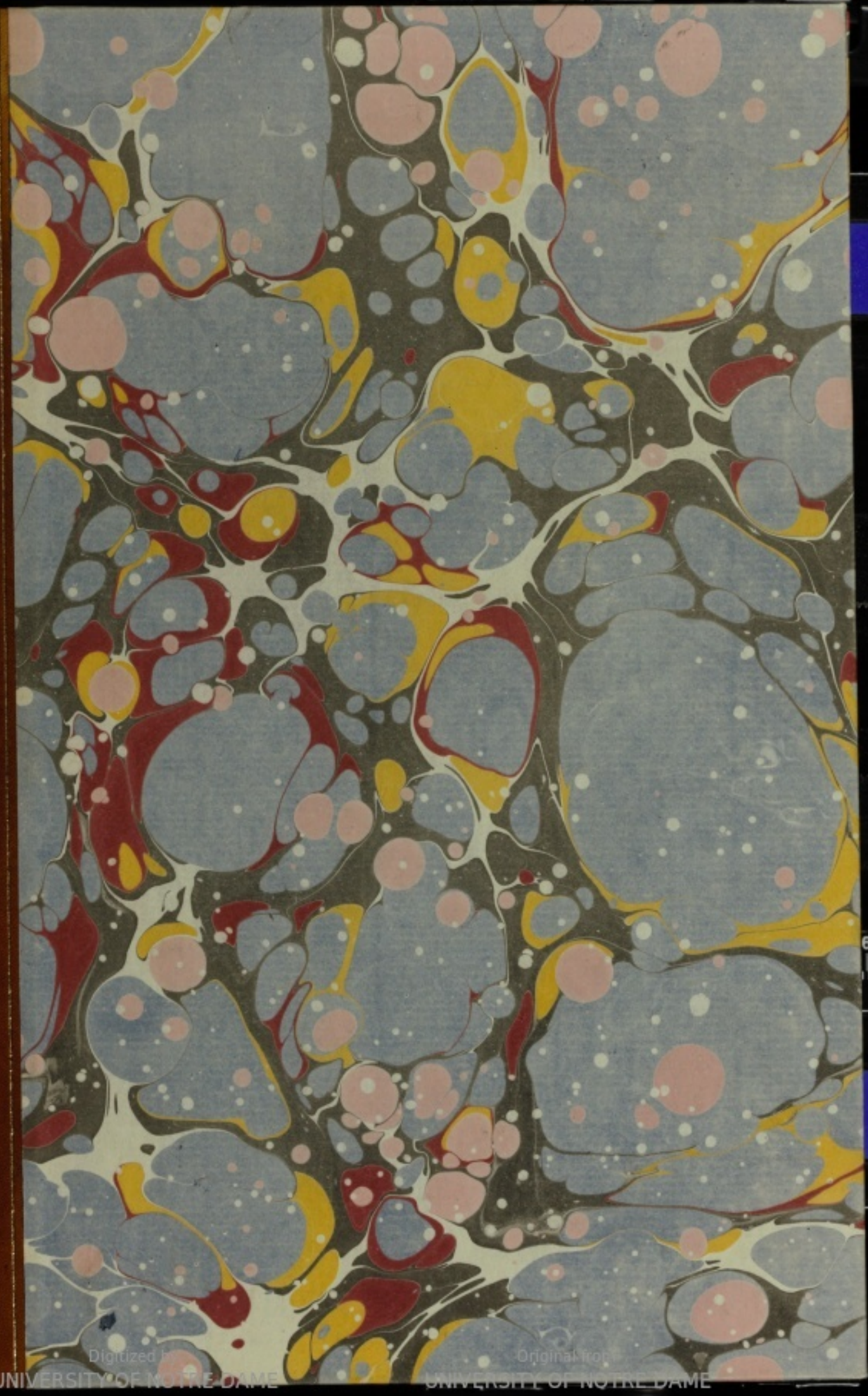
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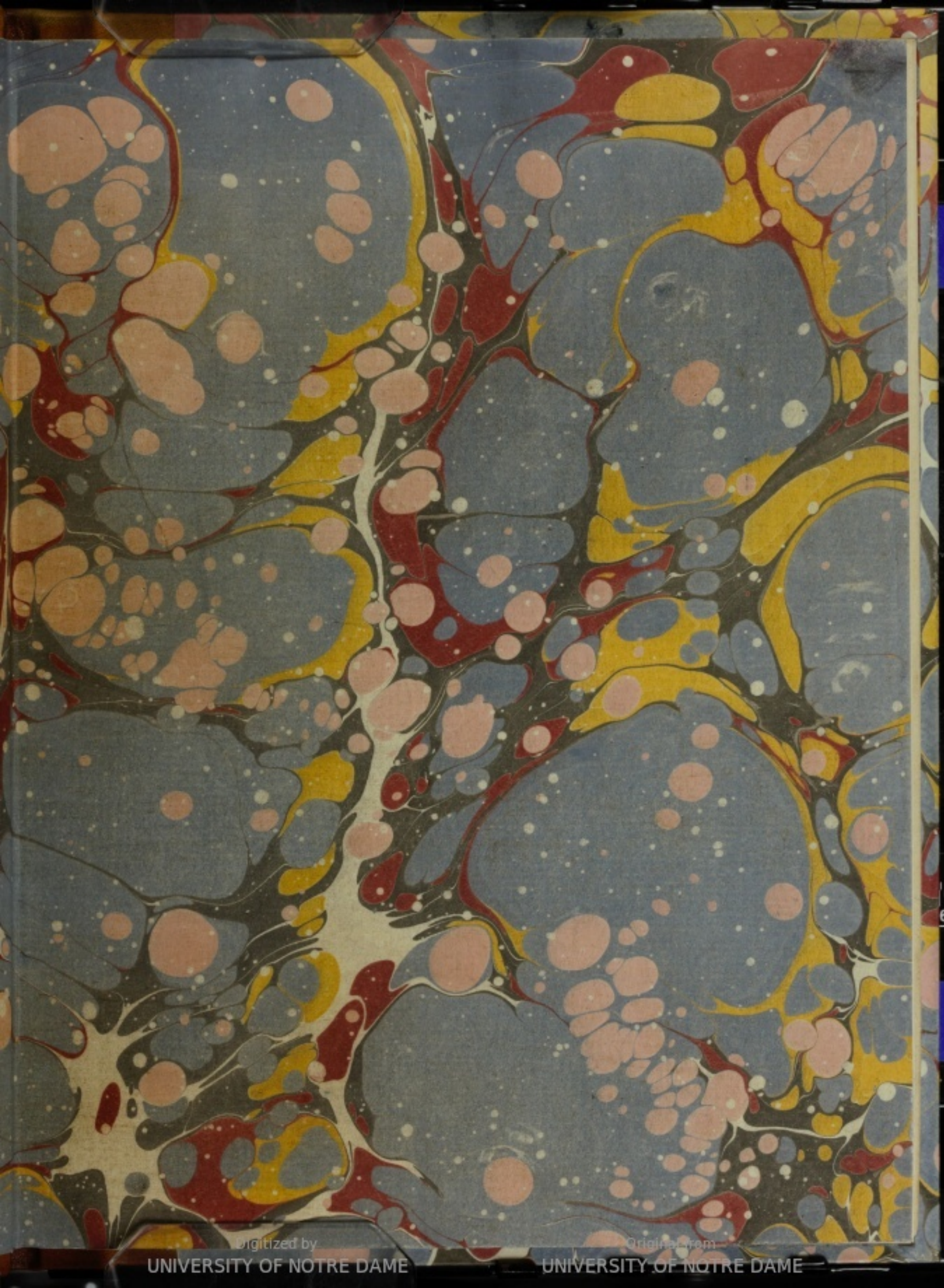

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THE MANTLE Thrown off: OR, THE Irish-man Dissected.

SIR,

I Have heard that it hath been the Imployment of some days among the Exiles of *Ireland*, to frame a Proclamation for Pardoning the *Irish* Rebels.

Both the Subject and Authors, I confess, to me seem Novel. I hardly thought those men that are up to the Elbows in *English* Blood, should be treated like Children, who pettishly quarrel at each others Interest in their Father, whose Emulous Contentions deserve a smaller Chastisement. Nor did I expect to see so great Condescention in a *Prince*, as to advise with every individual man of that Kingdom, how he may secure him; both is demonstration of what we all believed.

God hath sent him to do his own work, and given him his own Spirit, wonderful in Power, yet shadowed with Mercy.

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I need not mention their Legends in that War, they are ſo freſh in the memories of all, who are concerned in that Kingdom; but I ſhall come nearer the ſcope of my deſign, which is to ſhew, *That Pardon and Lenity to them, however it carries the face of mercy, is really the contrary.*

And then, that it will not attain the end deſigned, (*viz.*) the more eaſie reduction of that Kingdom.

For the firſt, Mercy in its proper ſignification and intent, is a work of deliverance, and preſervation, and muſt at leaſt bear the majority whereever it extends, in preſerving the Rights of men.

Now the giving pardon to the *Iriſh*, is not ſo, unleſs it be granted, that the *Engliſh* of *Ireland* have been Uſurpers of their Rights.

It is obvious to every Eye, that by the preſent Rebellion of *Ireland*, the whole Kingdom is ruined, Thouſands of *Proteſtants* murdered, ſtarved, and otherwiſe deſtroyed. The Queſtion then is, by whom hath all this been done? Was it by the *Iriſh*? That is Indubitable. But was not there provocation from the *Engliſh*? That may be a queſtion from Strangers to that Kingdom, and therefore I will anſwer it by a ſhort Narrative of the condition that Kingdom ſtood in, when this laſt ravage was committed by the *Iriſh*.

Tyrconnel was in the Government a bitter Enemy to the *Engliſh*, and *Brittiſh Proteſtants*, the *Engliſh* Militia had been two years before diſarmed.

The *Engliſh* Army Disbanded, and an *Iriſh* Army in the room.

The Corporations new modell'd, the *Proteſtants* turned out, and the *Papiſts* put in the Government of them.

Popiſh

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Popiſh Judges, Juſtices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Coroners, and Conſtables, through the Kingdom.

This ſhews they could be under no hardſhips from the *Proteſtants*.

And far from fear of them, that were indeed little better than Priſoners, ever ſince the Acceſſion of King *James* to the Crown.

But it may be ſaid, the *Proteſtants* were for King *William*, then Prince of *Orange*. No doubt all good men were for him that would reſtore the Kingdoms to their Laws, and Religion; but yet the *Engliſh* were under too ſtrict a Guard, and had no power in their hands to ſecure themſelves; ſo that there was not (I may ſay) a Man in the Kingdom, declared for the Prince until *February*, and moſt of their Rapin and Devaſtation was committed before.

This I preſume, is enough to ſatisfie any indifferent man, that without the leaſt provocation or pretence of right, the *Iriſh Papiſts* have committed theſe late Maſſacres, Burnings, and Devaſtations on the *Proteſtants* of *Ireland*.

Now had theſe miſchiefs been reciprocal injuries done on both ſides, though they that were in the right had been ſufferers for the King's Service; yet there might have been room for the *King's Mercy*: But where all the fury of a malicious enemy, fell upon an innocent and quiet people, for no reaſon that they can pretend unto, but that they believed they were for *King William* in their hearts: This ſeems a ſtrange warrant for them, as it is happily without precedent, if in all its Circumſtances it be conſidered, that ſuch monſters of men ſhould have pardon; the impunity of whom as the *Latin* Phraſe hath it, is an injury to all good and honeſt men.

And

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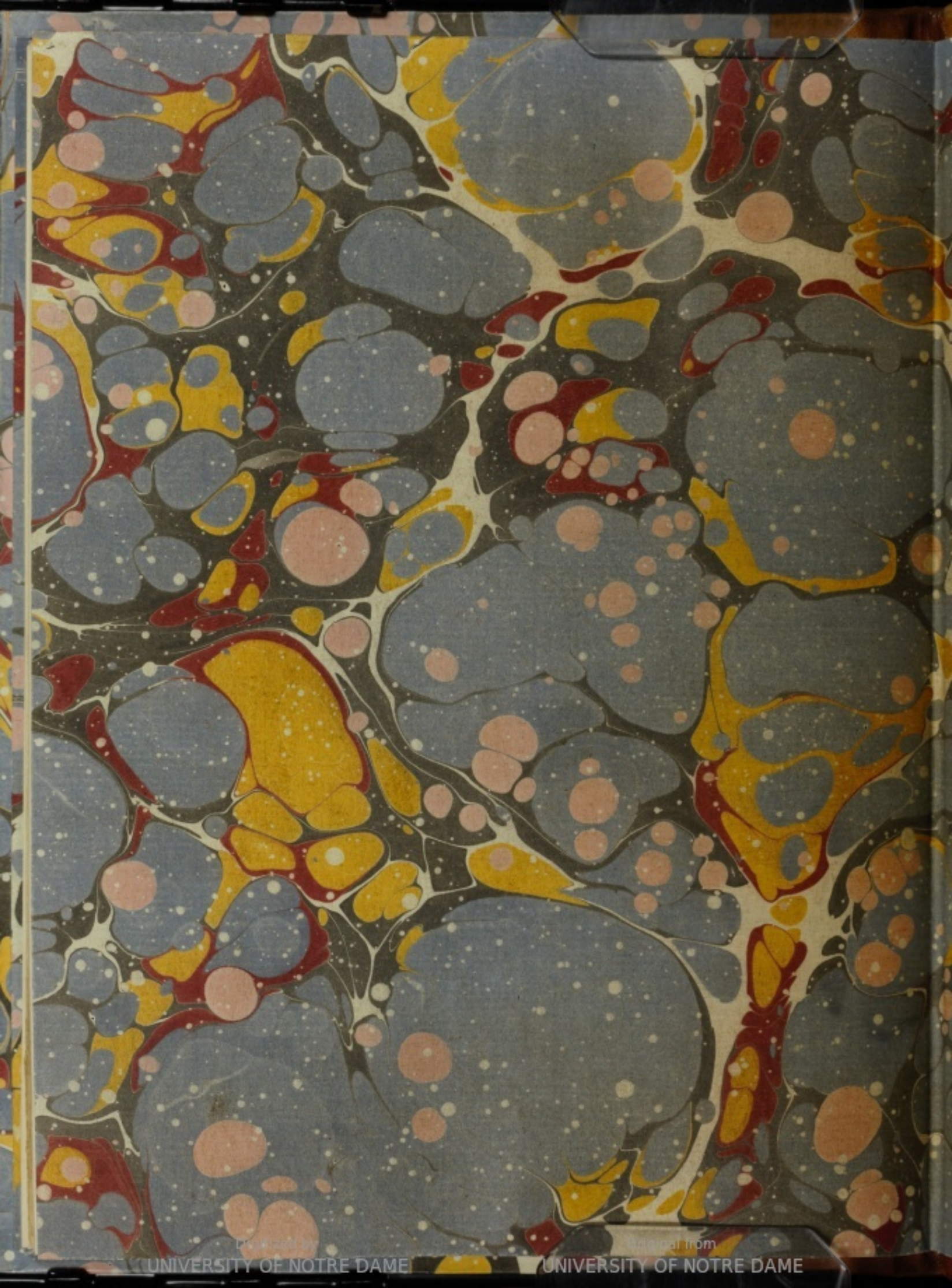
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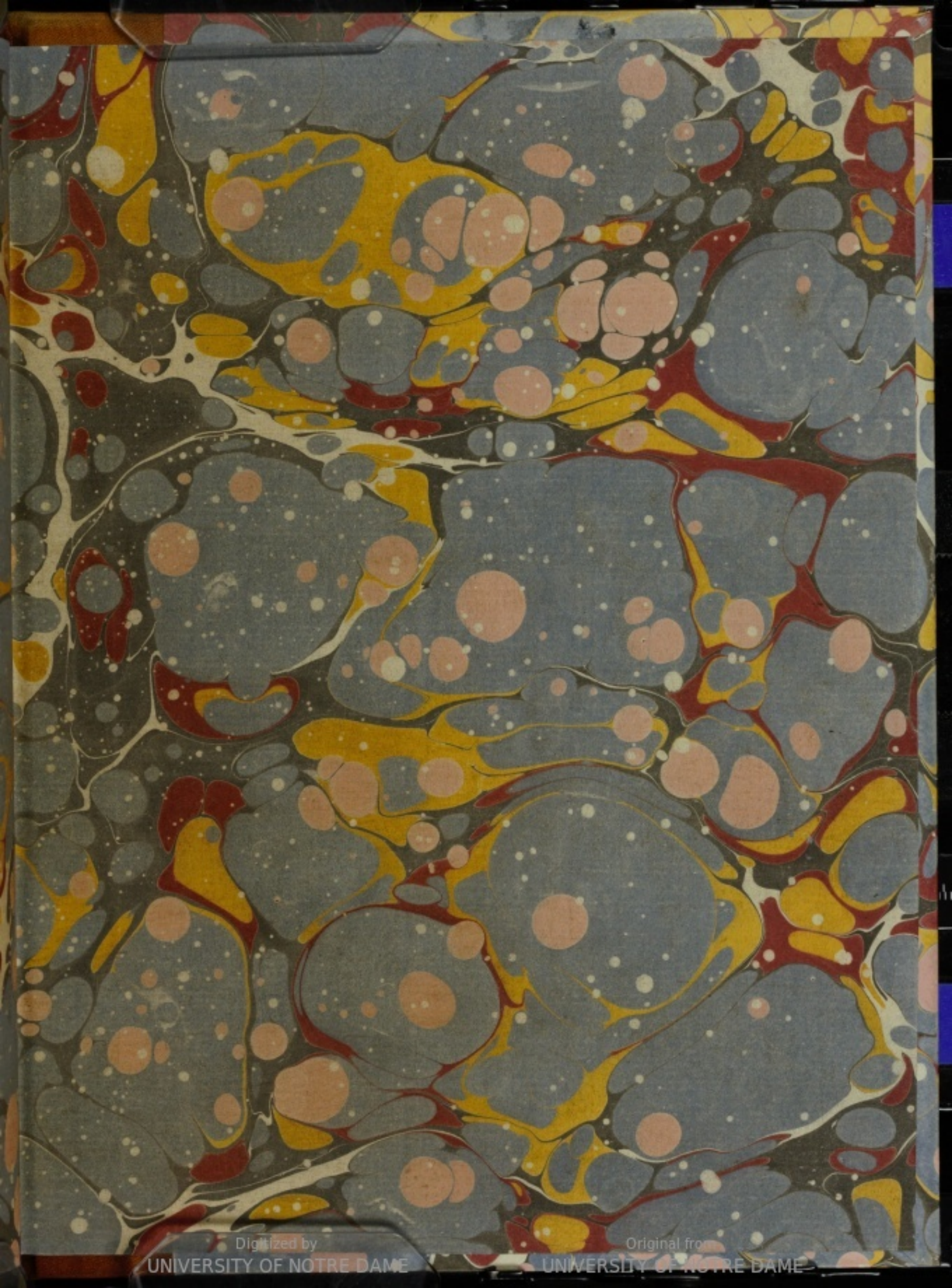
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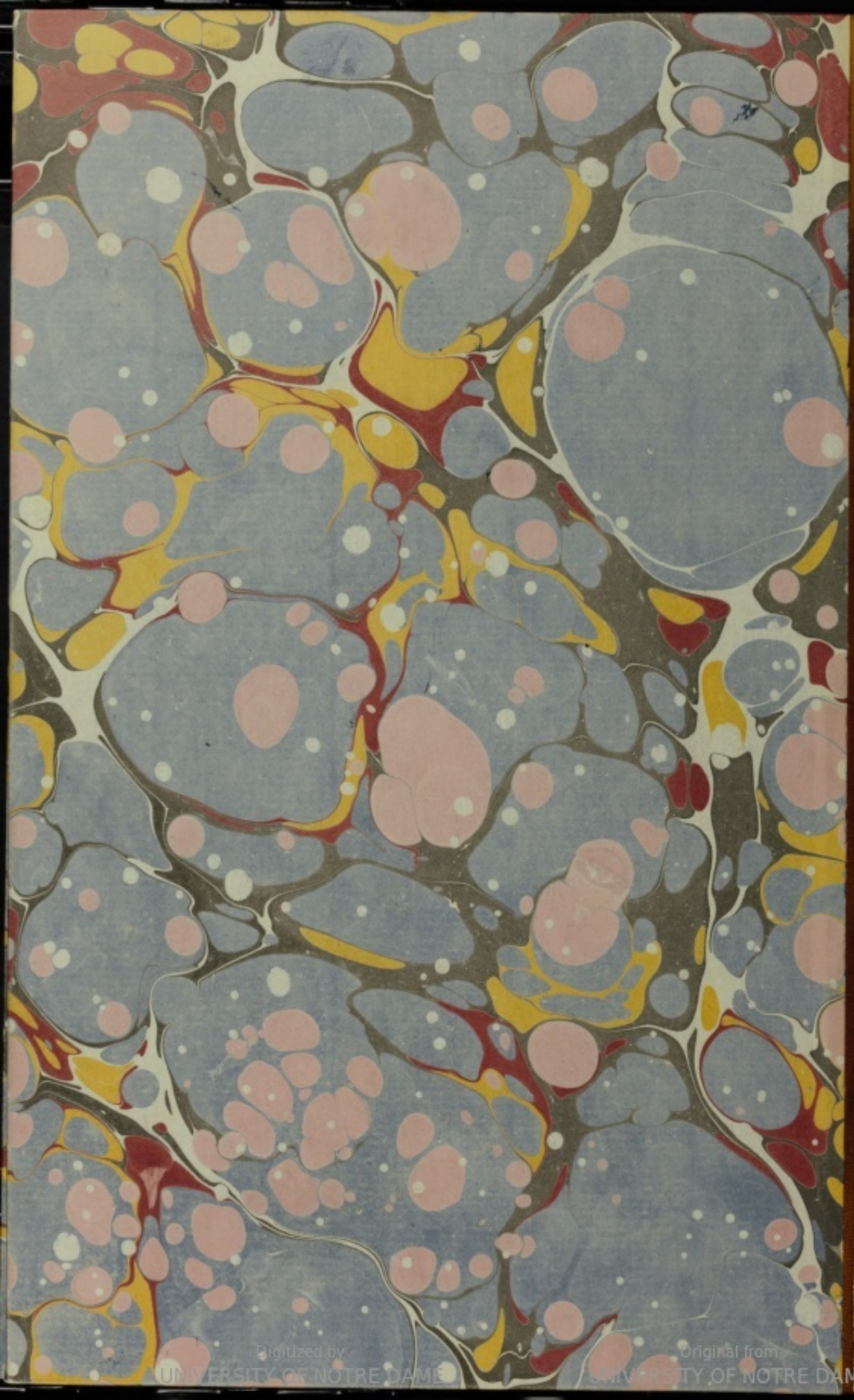
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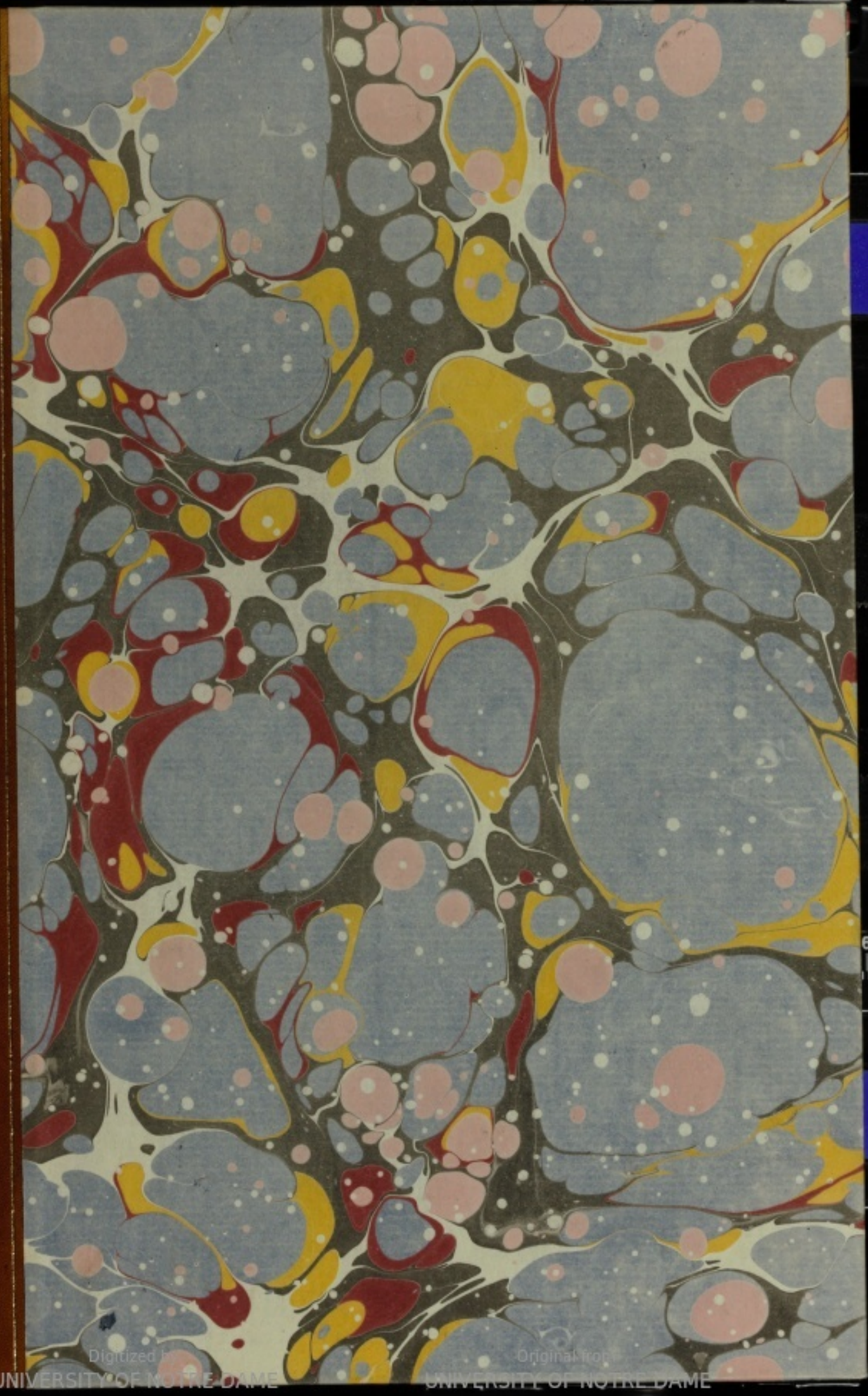
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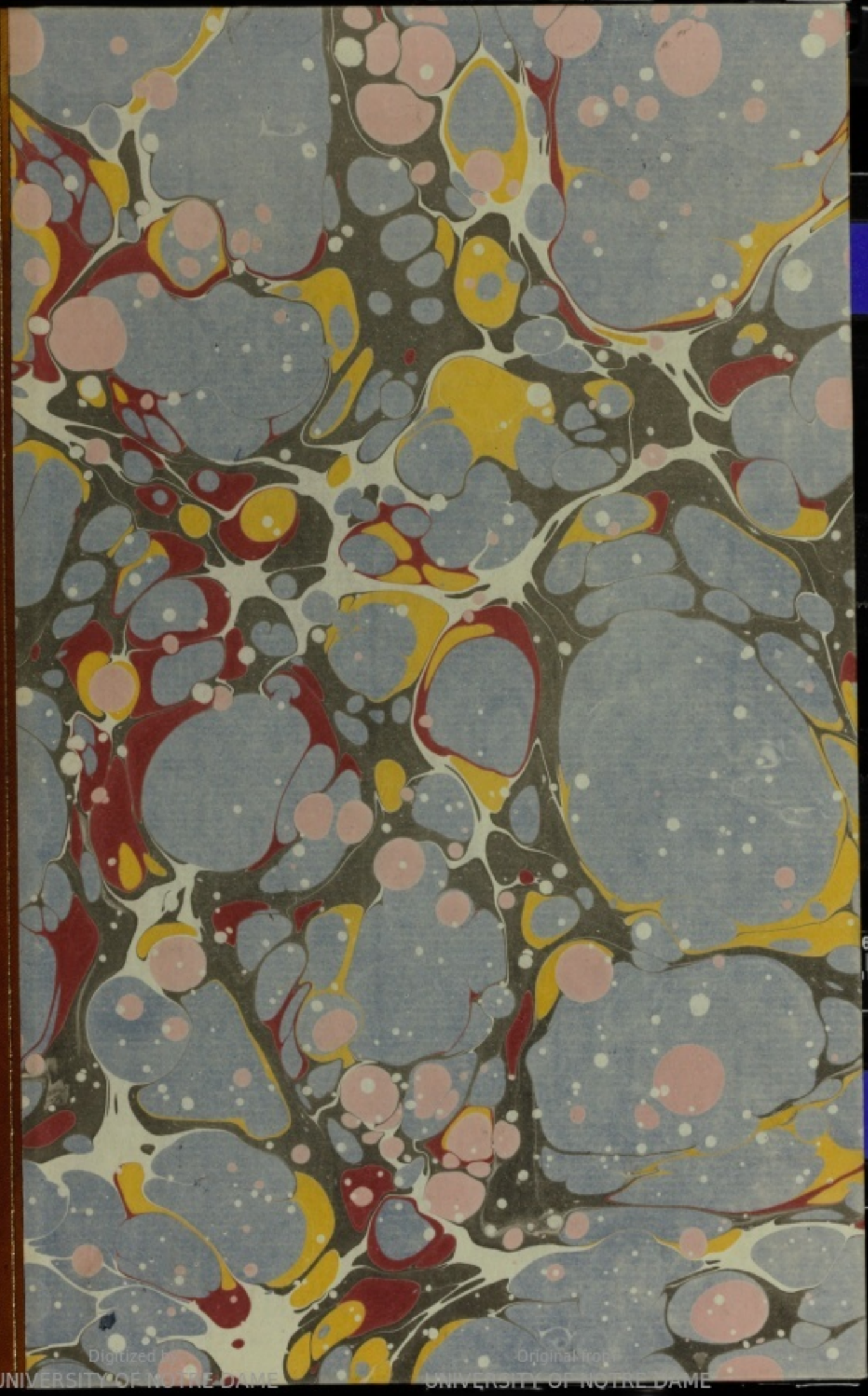
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