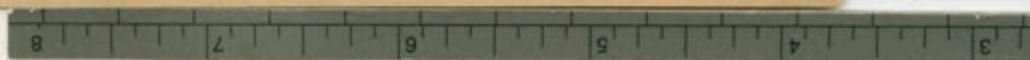
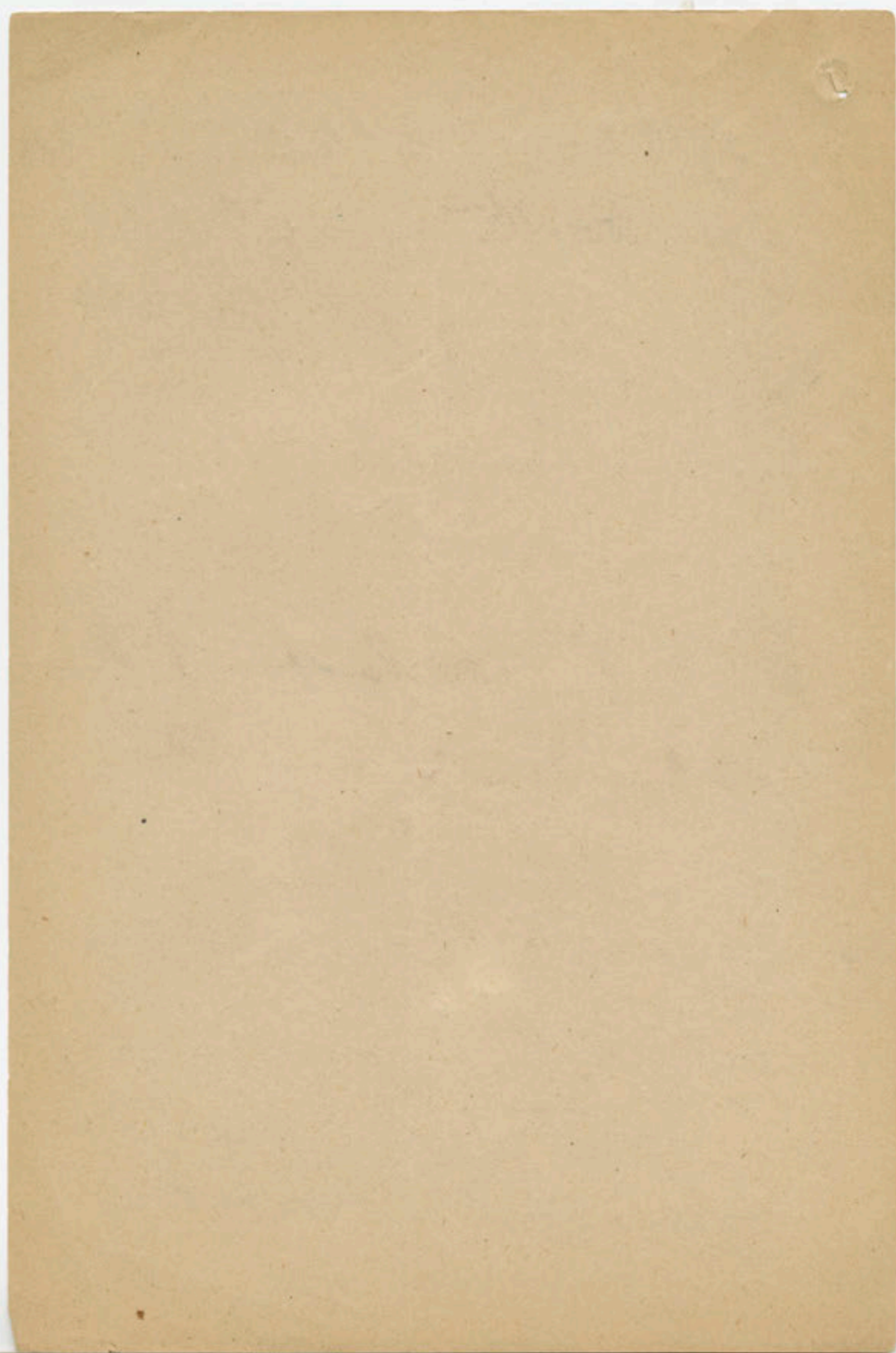


14

A Veteran's View of Civic Duty.
By General B. H. Howard

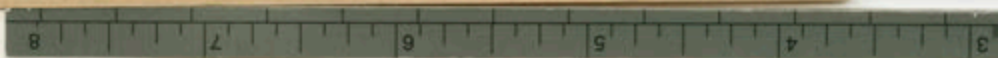
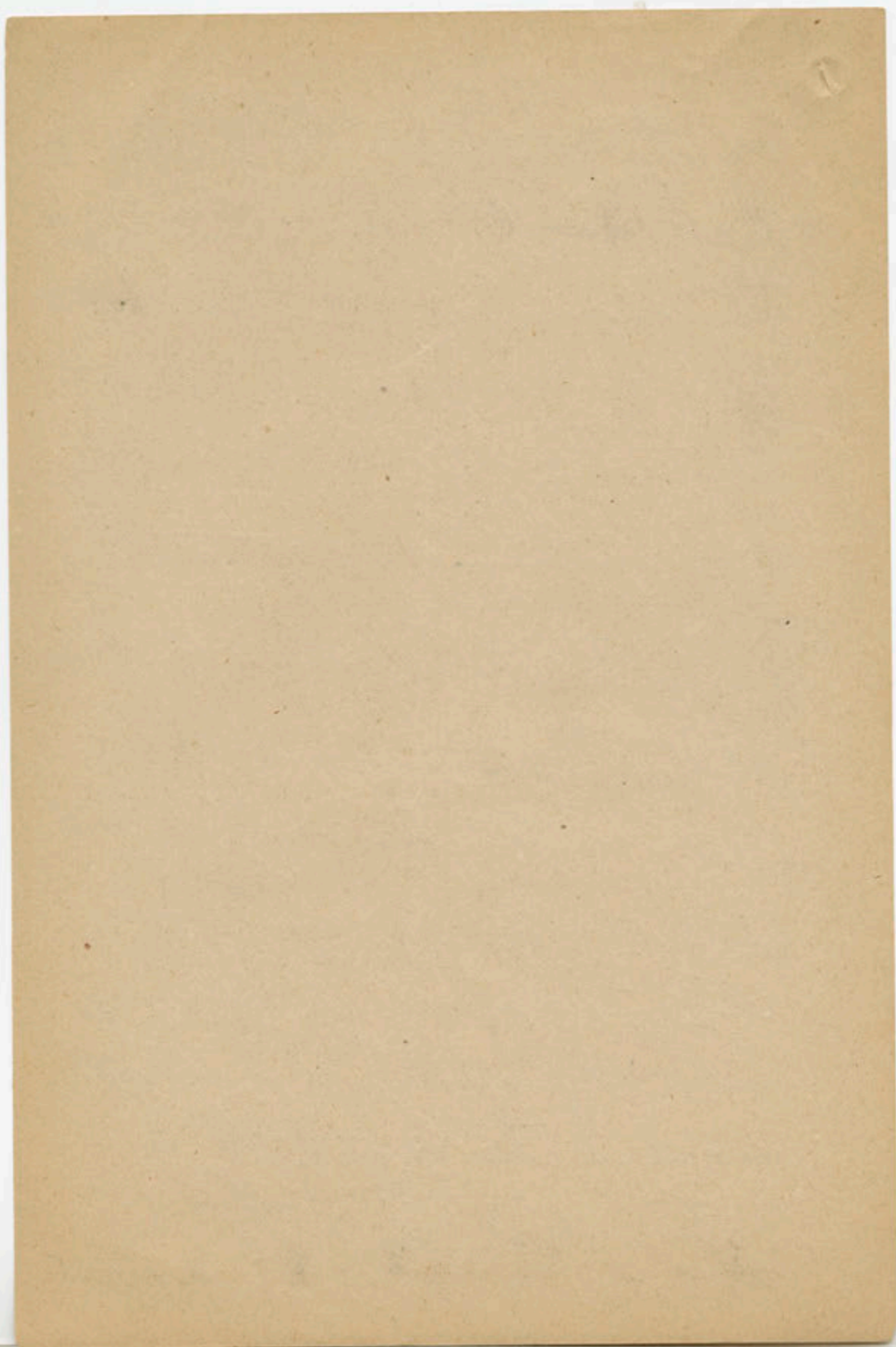
Why does the veteran
volunteer of 1861-5 - the
man who shouldered his
musket at the Nation's call
and fought for the Union -
why does he above all
other citizens take an in-
terest in the celebration of
our national anniversary?

First of all these veterans
know what it cost to main-
tain our place as a nation

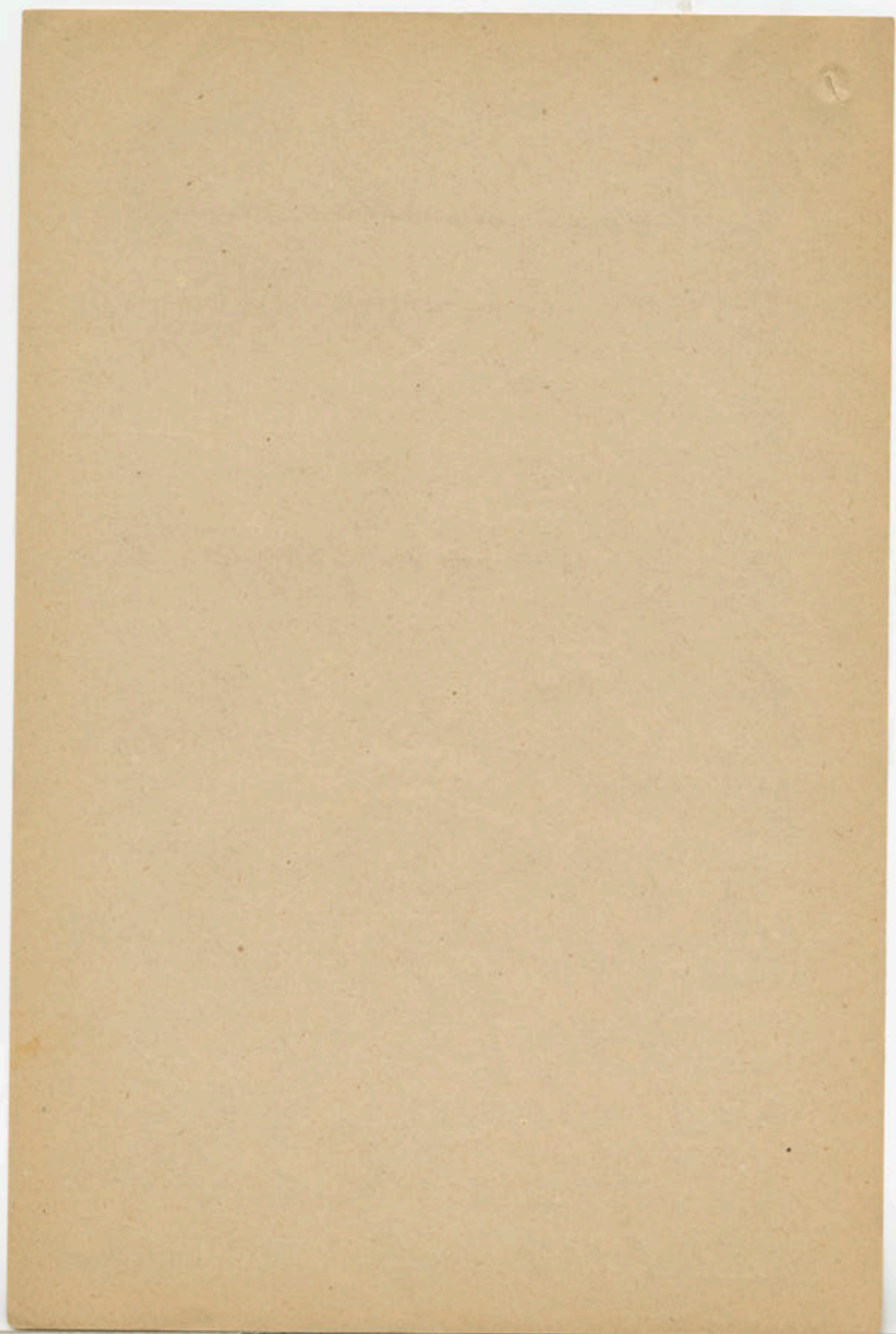


on the map of the world. No
one doubts now what was
the meaning of the so-called
War of Secession. It meant the
destruction of our sovereignty
as a nation - our nationality.

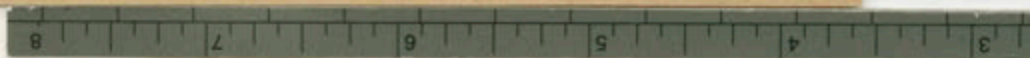
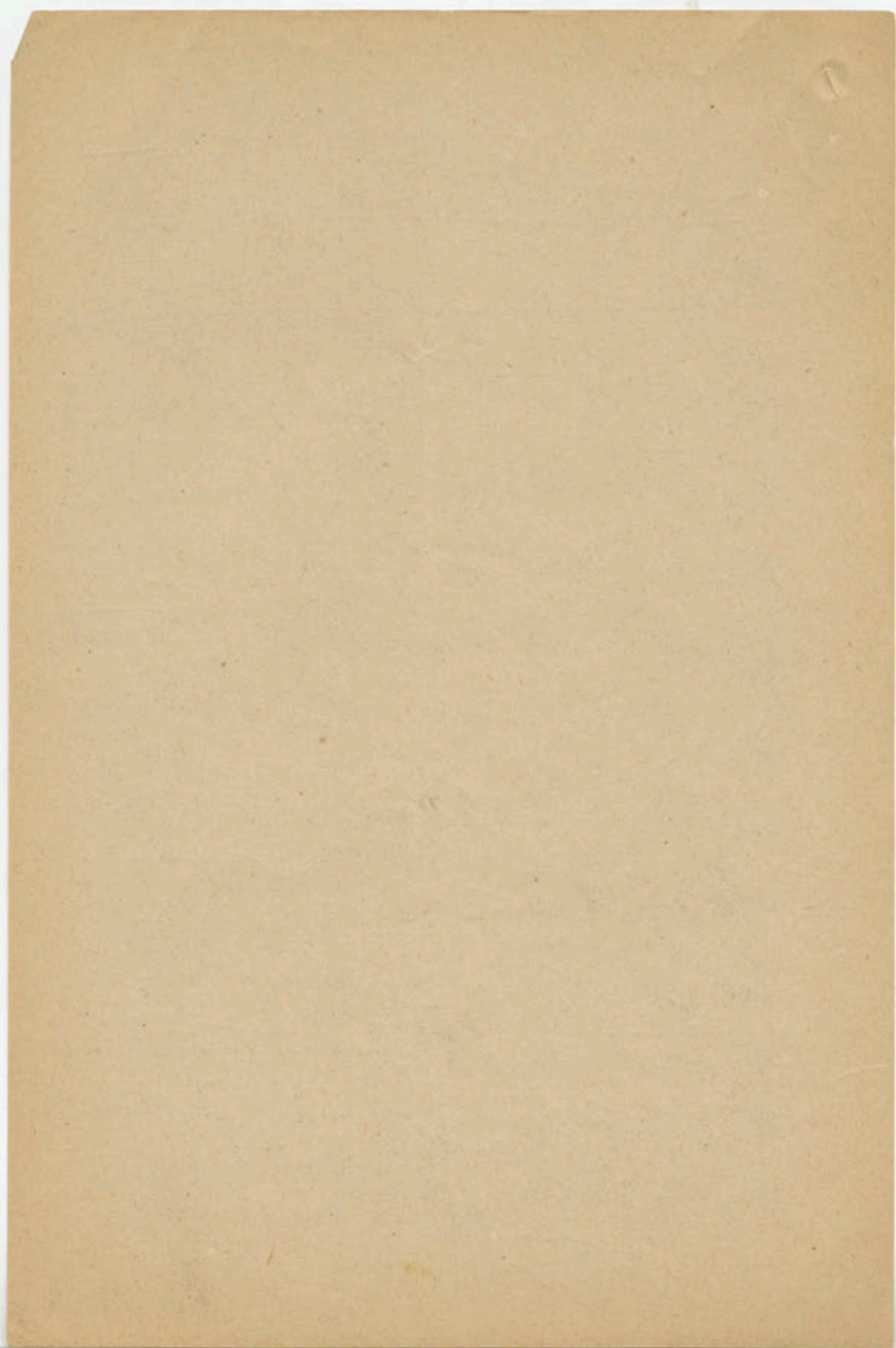
If the Declaration of In-
dependence and the
War of the Revolution, with
all its sacrifice of lives
and its heroic suffering
and glorious achievements,
marked the birth of a
nation and a nation of
freemen and free insti-



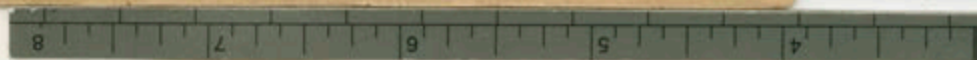
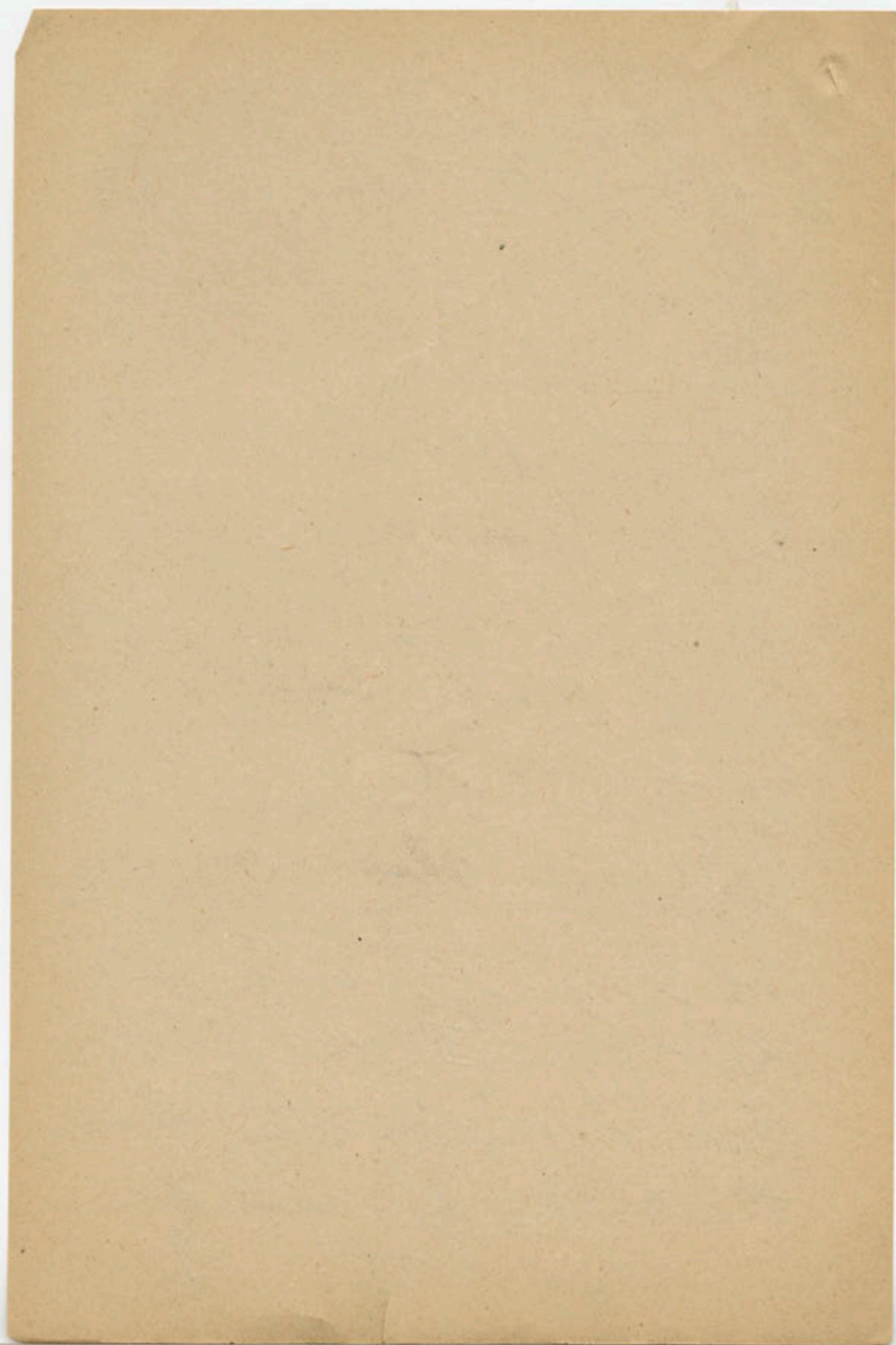
11 here; if it was the harbinger ³
of hope for mankind; if
it opened the way for
the extinction of war
and want; for the
establishment of happy homes;
for education; for self-
government; for the acquir-
ing of a competence by
those who had struggled with
inevitable poverty in the
old world; for religious
liberty - in short if it es-
tablished the right of the individual



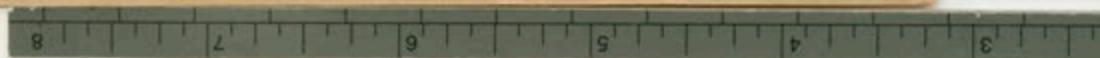
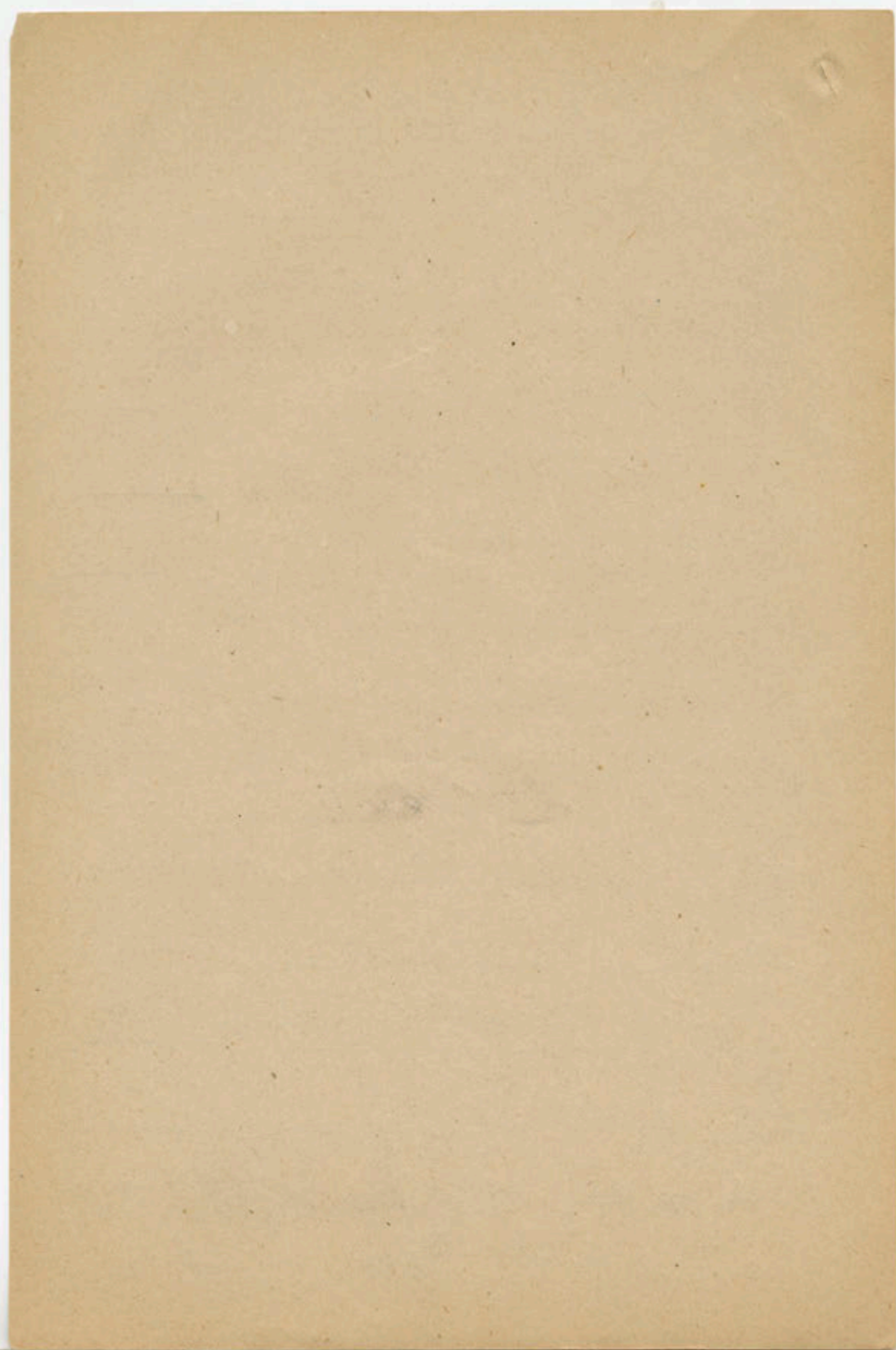
to life, liberty and the 4
pursuit of happiness —
~~and as the world~~
~~had never known before~~ —
if all this came with
the success which crowned
the ten-years war
of the Revolution, then,
surely, we had a Route
worth pursuing. No one
now in question that
it was the prompting of
patriotism to maintain
the nation and to transmit
its privileges and blessings
to posterity.



1
5
¶ But the War for the
Union meant more, even,
than what has been
hinted; it included a
new birth of freedom.
A race was emancipated
and in the striking off
of their shackles by
Abraham Lincoln, the
White race was like
set free. Slavery was
like a mill-stone about
the neck of a man drowning
in deep water. In making

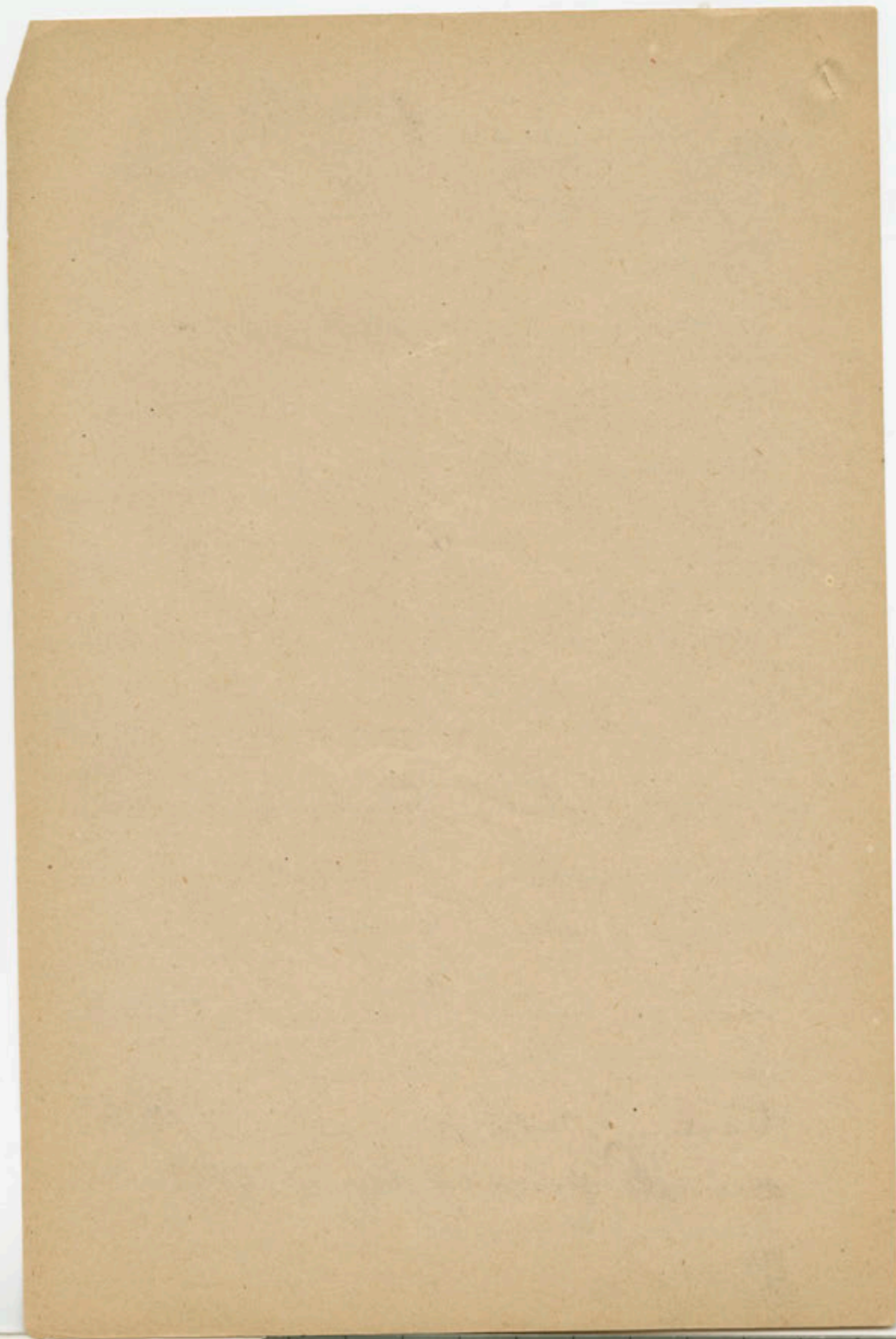


it impossible for the
 African race to have
 pure, holy, uninvaded
 homes, it would the
 seeds of fornication, adultery
 and lust among the
 slave-holders and the
 white race kept contact-
 ly in contact with it. While
 the black slave must
 cringe and obey and
 for servitude of the genera-
 tion submit uncomplaining
 to mist, abuse or any co-
 ntrivance of the dominant race,



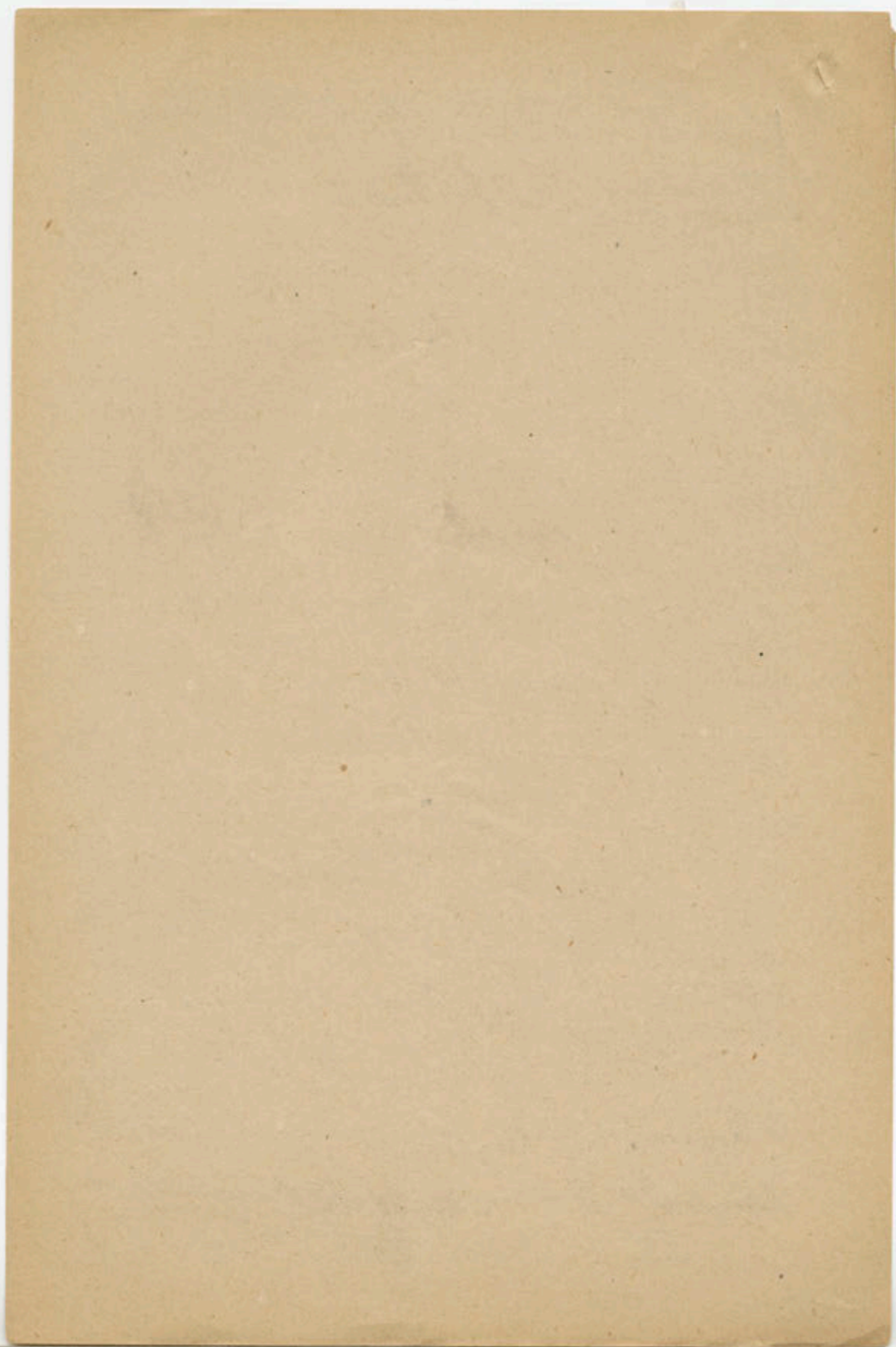
7
So the white youth grew
^{more or less}
up in the atmosphere of
overbearing influence, arro-
gance and dedication as
far as the blacks were
concerned and such
conditions of life could
not fail to have their effects
upon the character in
general.

All the industries and econ-
omic conditions of the ~~the~~
Southern States were modified by
Slavery. Manufacturing could
not flourish; Agriculture was
almost the every occupation and
that was largely restricted to the



great staples of cotton and
tobacco. Diversity of crops
as known in the north and in
other civilized countries was
not known. In a word the
South with the finest climate
and richest soil was hard-
pressed in its productions and
in its development. Even
its mines of coal and iron
were scarcely known and
were never made a source
of wealth till since the
loss of the Rebellion.

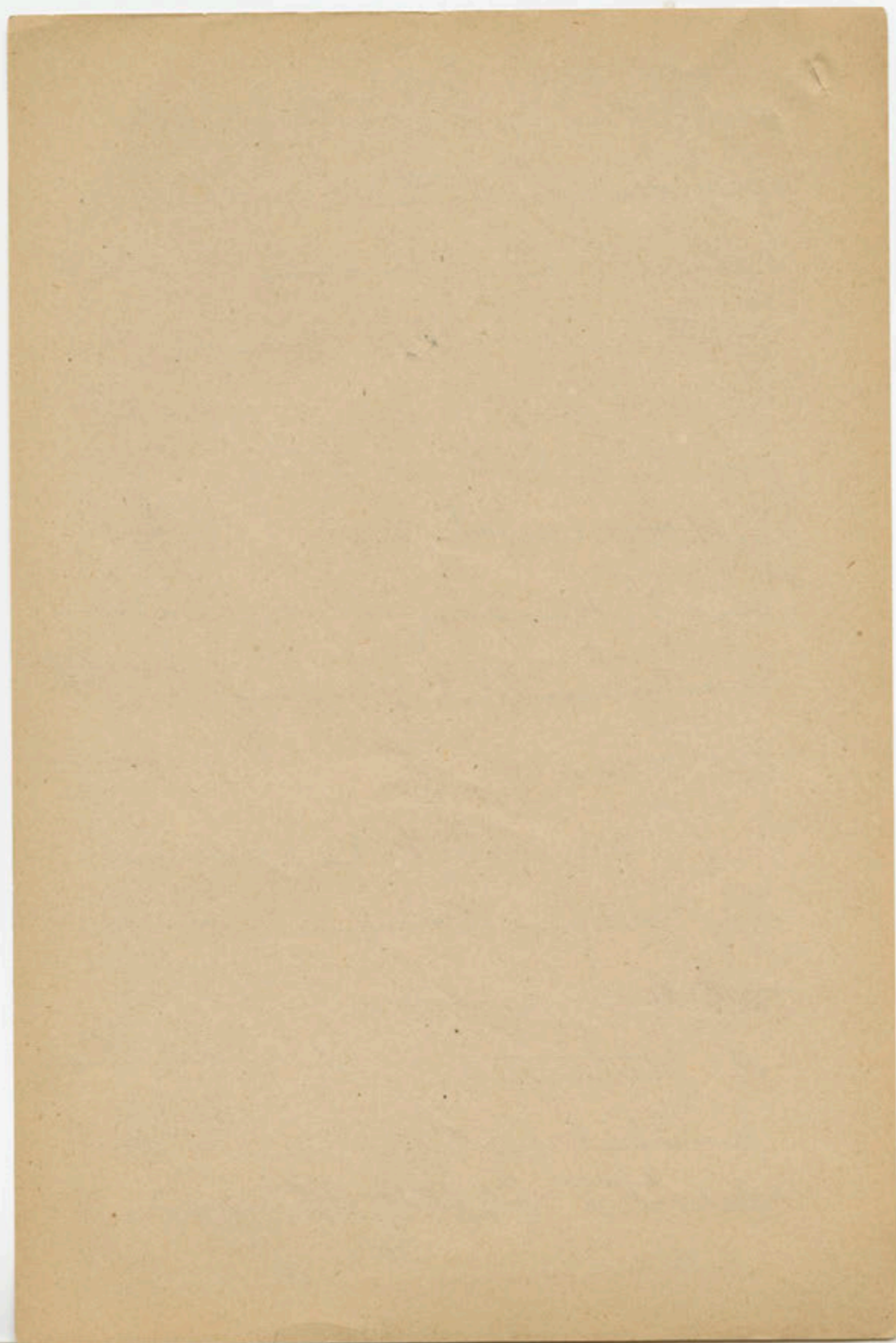
The new birth of freedom,
the long wait for beyond the
direct social and economic moral
consequences; it should add into life
manufactures and the great wealth.



(8)
producing industries and
uncovered the riches
which had been buried
in the mountain-ranges.

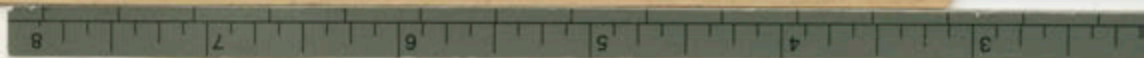
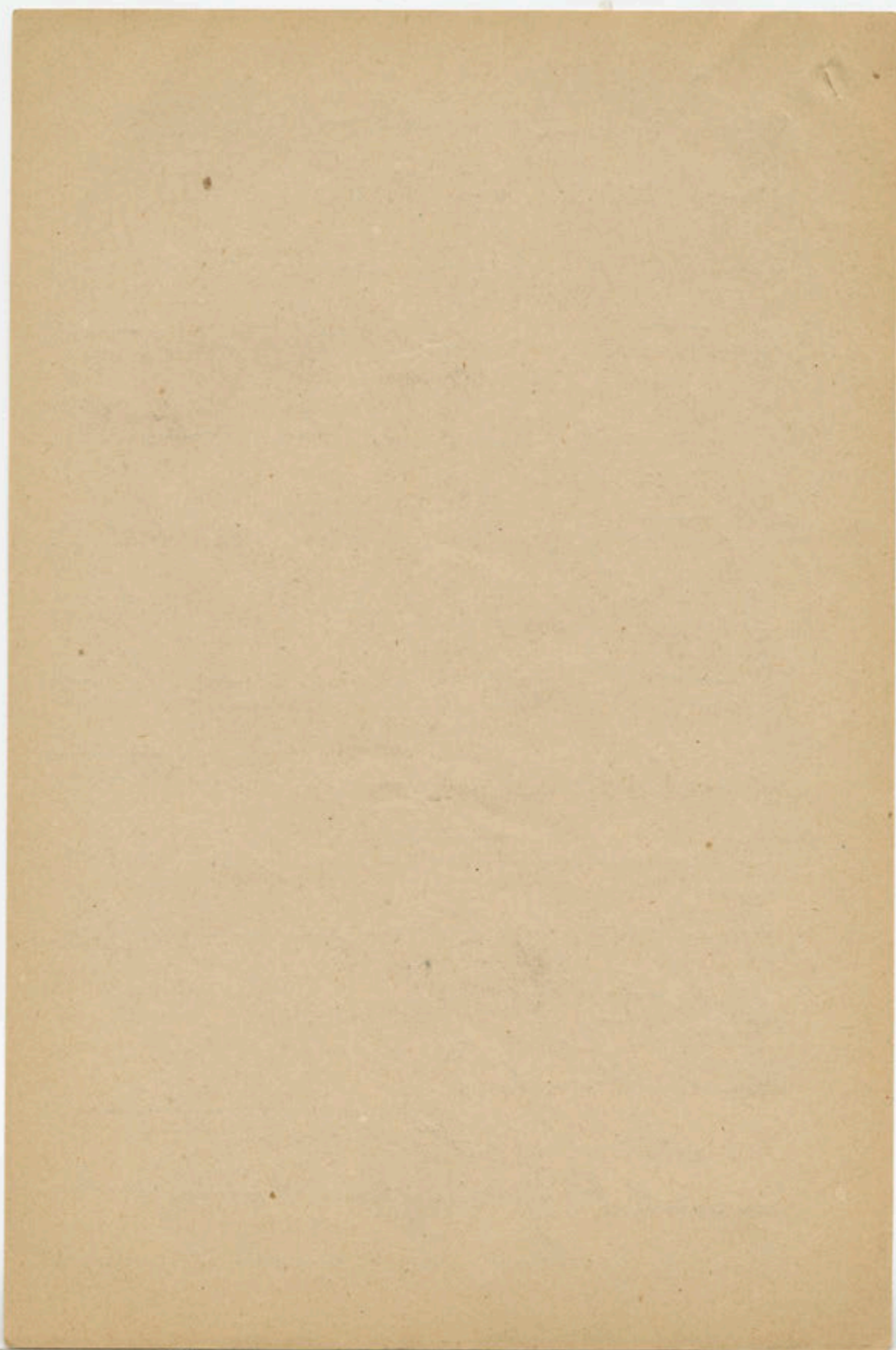
This means wealth
for the whole nation and
rightly viewed and rightly
used means, also, an im-
measurable blessing to other
nations.

Our nation redeemed
by self-sacrifice and
the offering upon the altar
of patriotism of noble lives;
purified by suffering and
drawn out of the range of
selfishness and self-seeking



and the business of barters
and sale and into the
range of high and holy
motives, when the mother
gone up her son for his
Country, the sister proudly
said good by to her volun-
teer brother or sweet-heart
and all shrouded in the
common enthusiasm for
a great cause - was
not this an example to
mankind?

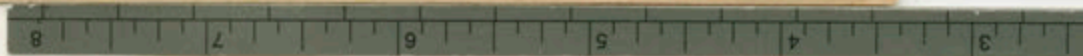
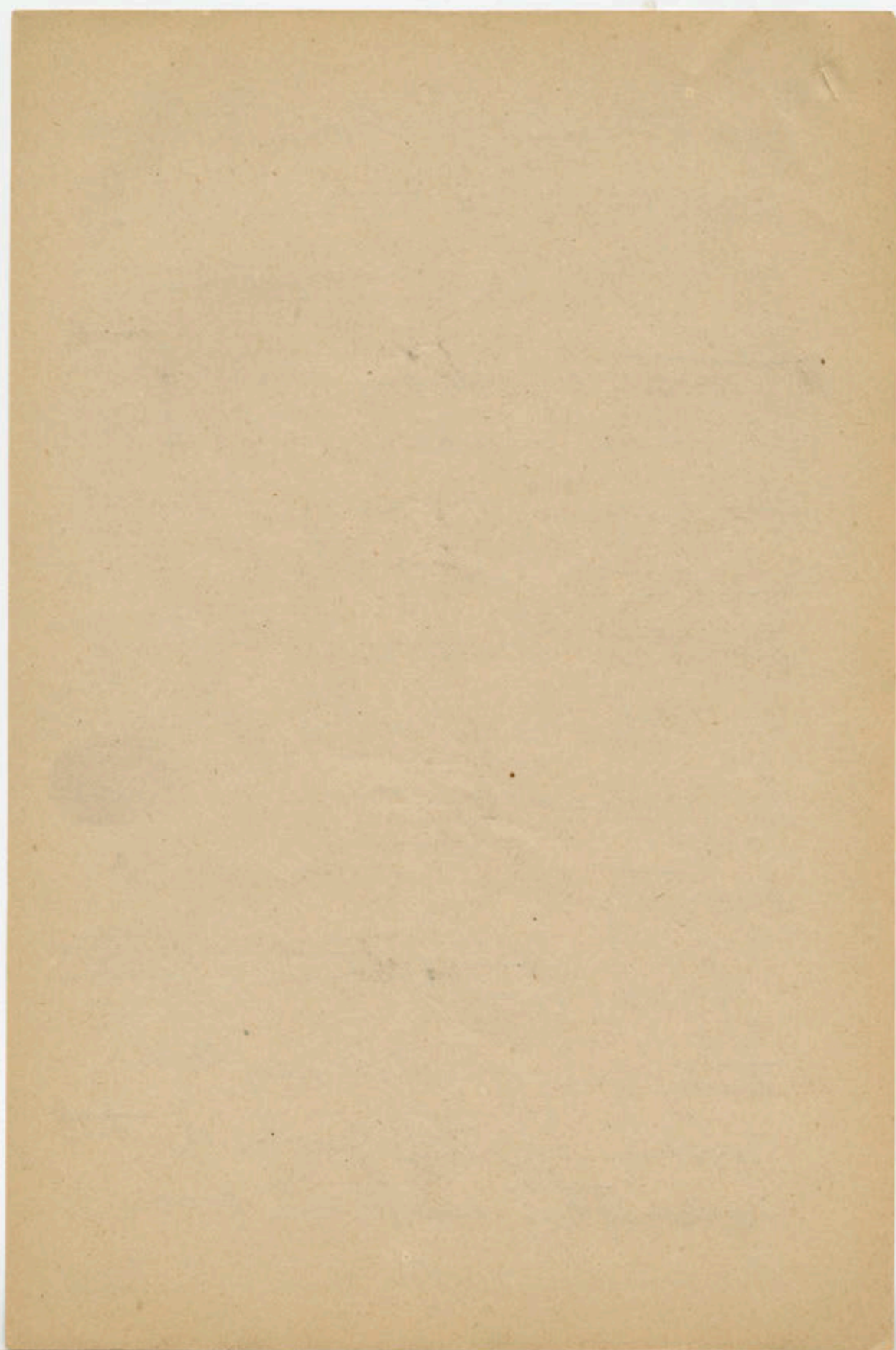
And now that the
result of a free nation, under
God's favor, is reached, is it



for ourselves alone? Is it
not for all the world?

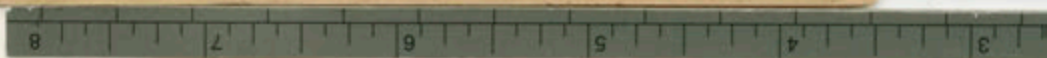
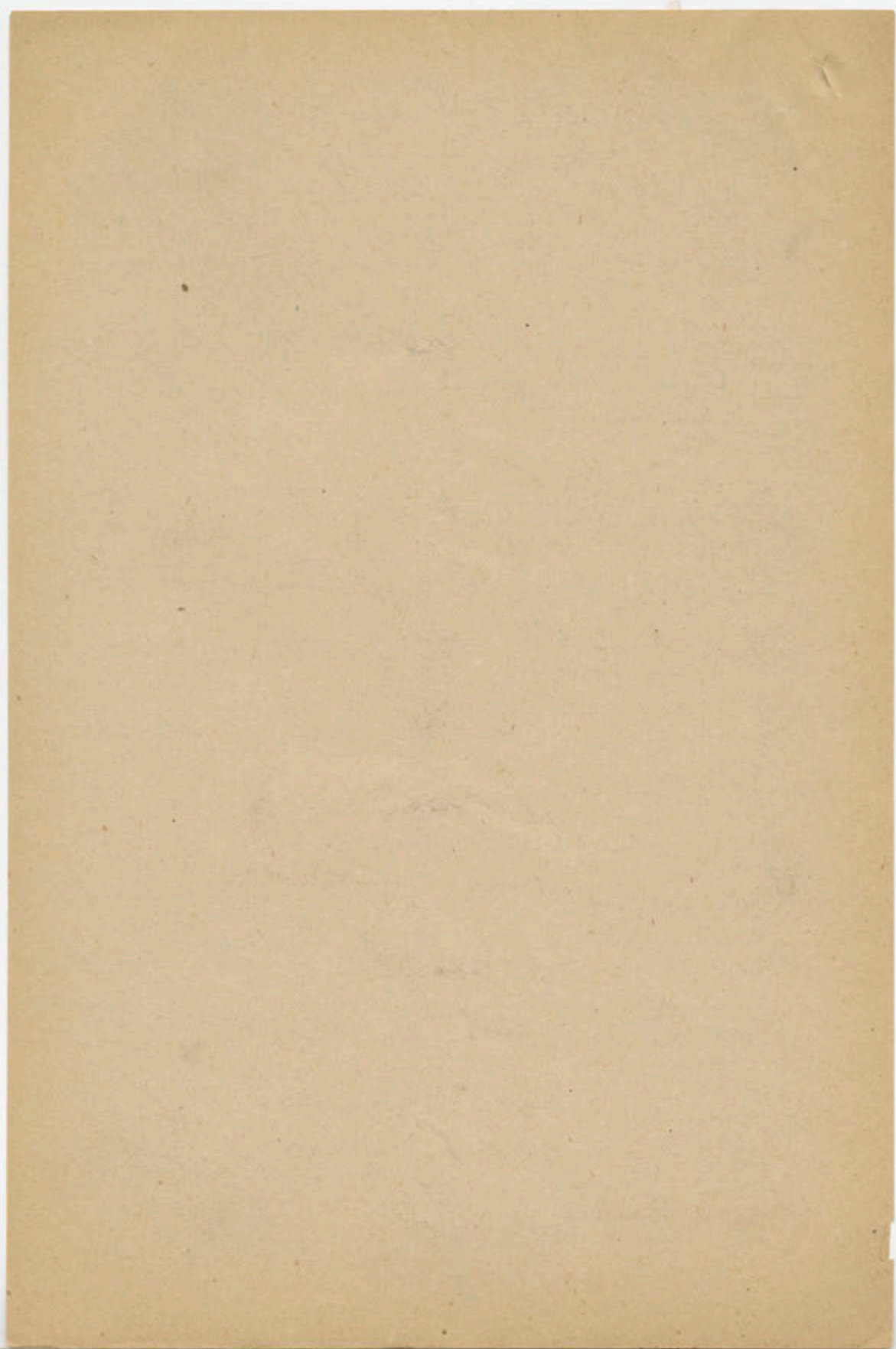
The Veteran soldier,
therefore, may well glory
in his work of 1861 to 1865.
He begins already to see it
in the light of history and
in the dimming light of
a whole world redeemed
to freedom and to hu-
manity.

Yes, this Veteran, better
than any one else, can
reckon up the cost of the
redemptive work and manifest.
He saw his brother fall, he held



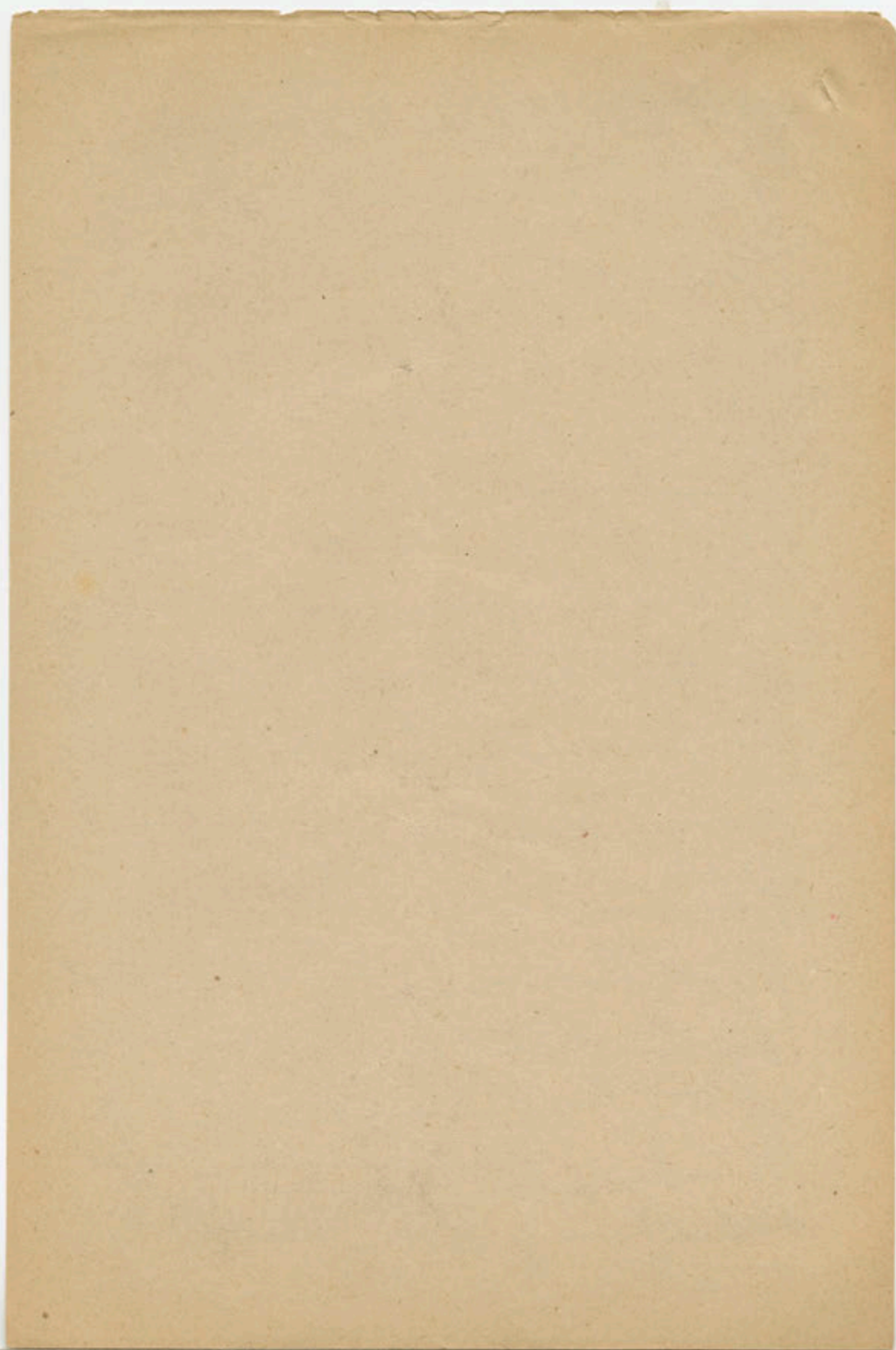
the mangled limb and
 saw the life blood oozing
 away; he layed back on
 the field of Bull Run to close
 the round eyes - lids in death and
 with the humane Surgeons
 was Captured on the battle-
 field and tosted the loneliness,
 the starvation, the waiting away,
 the agony of a Rebel prison.

The Veteran at Gettys-
 burg saw his comrades dead
 in rows as if death had
 borrowed the sickle of Father
 Time and mowed down
 the ranks of those clad
 in the blue. At Freder-
 icksburg he saw Brigade



the Brigade and Division
the Division and Army
Corps of the Army Corps
rushed fruitlessly against
Mary's Heights. II At

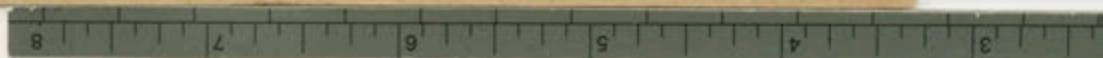
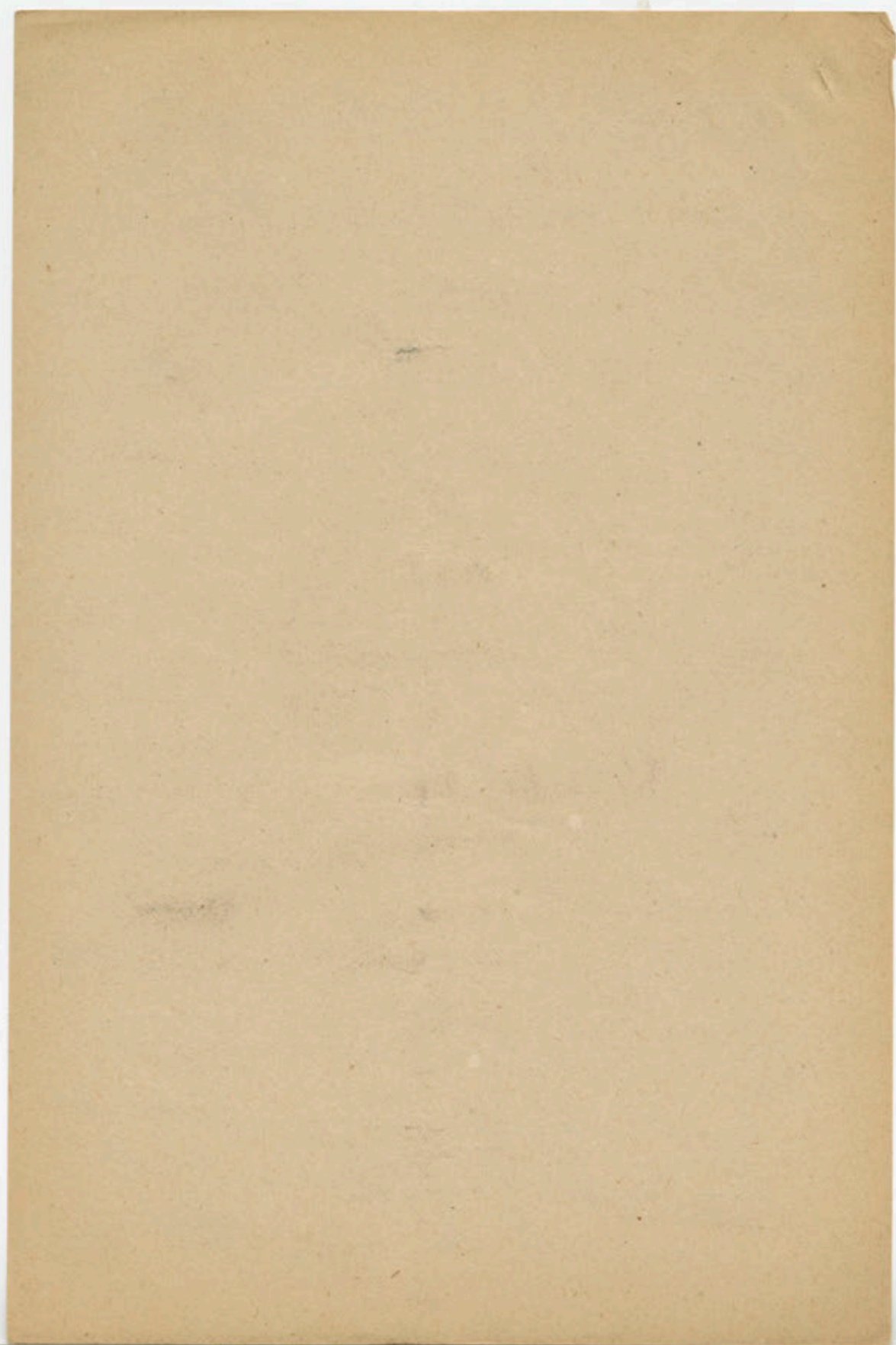
Gettysburg he left 23,000
or more, gone from the ranks,
in the three days conflict, as
he pursued the retreating and
vanquished enemy to the
Potomac River. It was a
great holocaust, doubled
by the killed and wounded
of the Confederates but it
marked the high tide of the
Rebellion. From that date -
the 24th of July 1863 - and from



that field in the East and
 from Vicksburg in the
 West on the same memorable
 day the decodman of the
 course of reason and history
 began.

Did not the veterans of these
 battles and their campaigns, both
 East and West know the
 cost of the new birth of the
 nation?

But again we ask, was all
 this wrought, were all these
 heroic deeds done, was all
 this cost of blood and of
 treasure merely that we

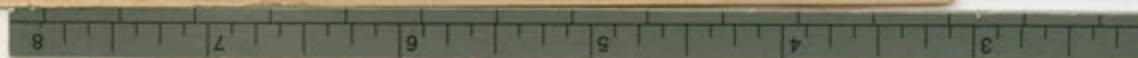
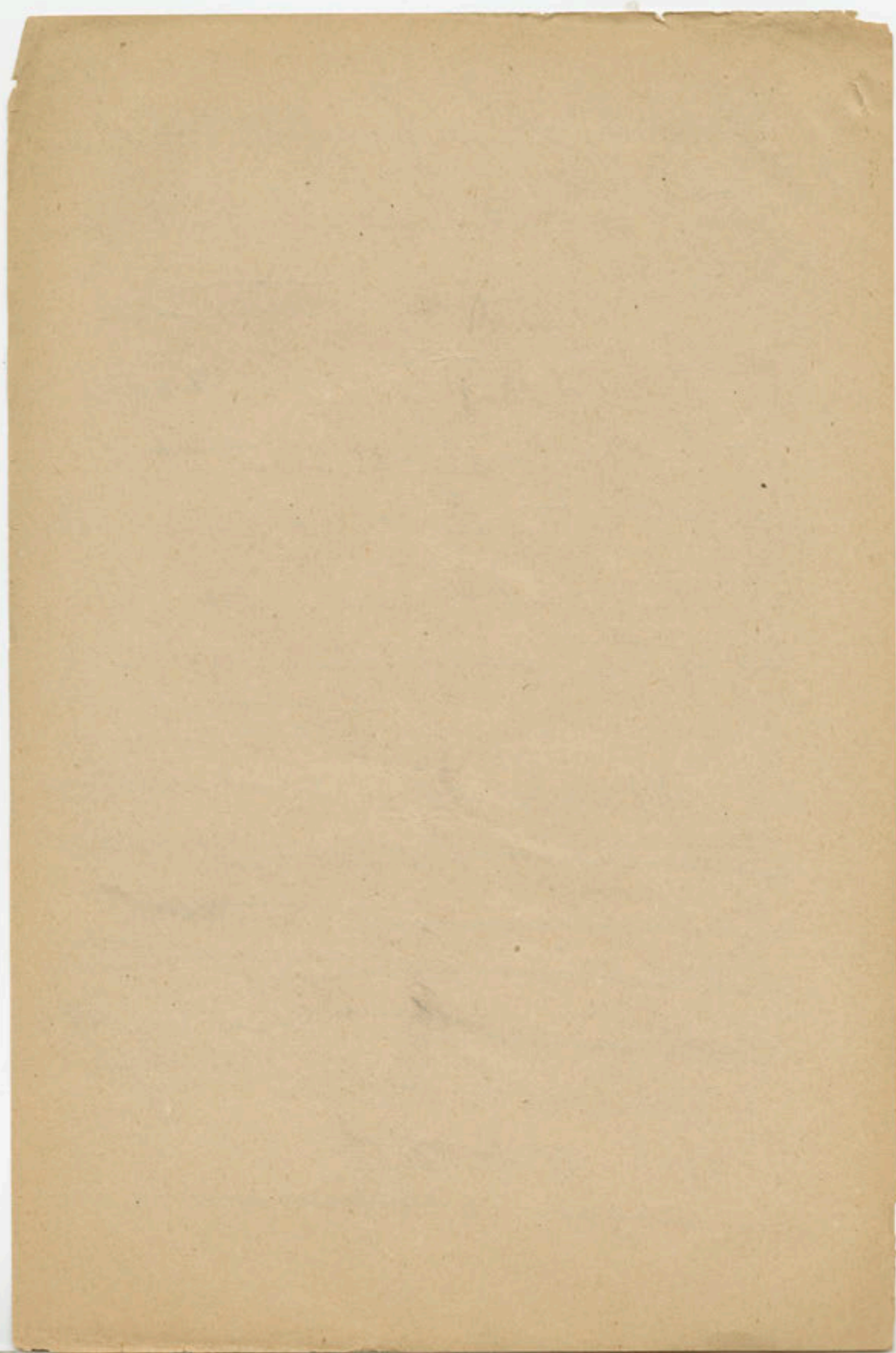


shared as a people Redeem
 into a nation of Shop-keepers,
 or more money-getters - a
 nation of brutes and fools
 and Corporations without
 souls? Our nation will
 answer: "Not So". He remem-
 bers the immortal words of
 Lincoln - at Gettysburg.

"It is for us ~~to say that~~
~~that those who gave their~~
~~last moments - their~~
~~devotion to liberty, died~~
~~not in vain.~~ (See pag. 464)

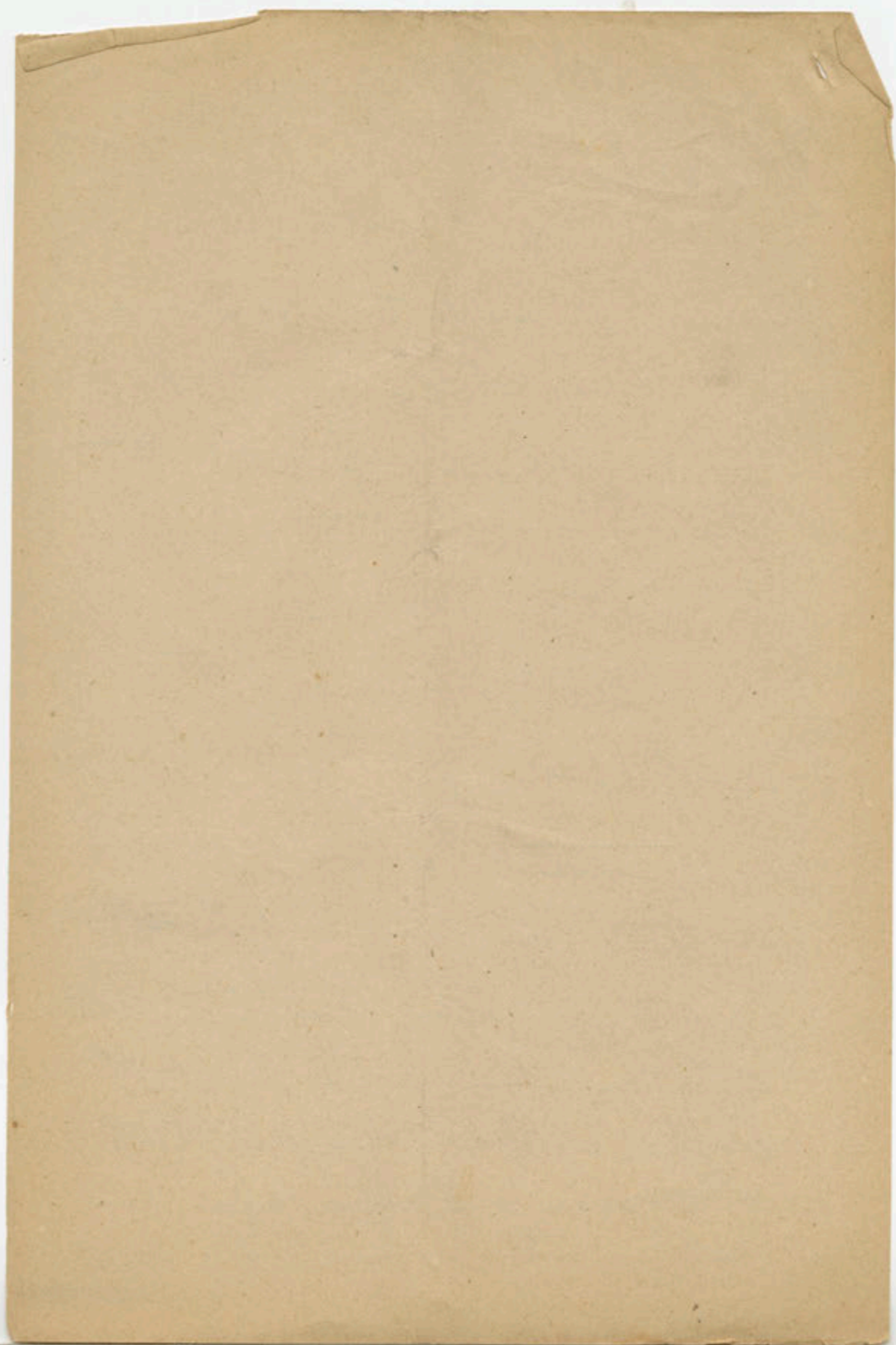
Library of American Literature
 Vol. VI

(See page 15)



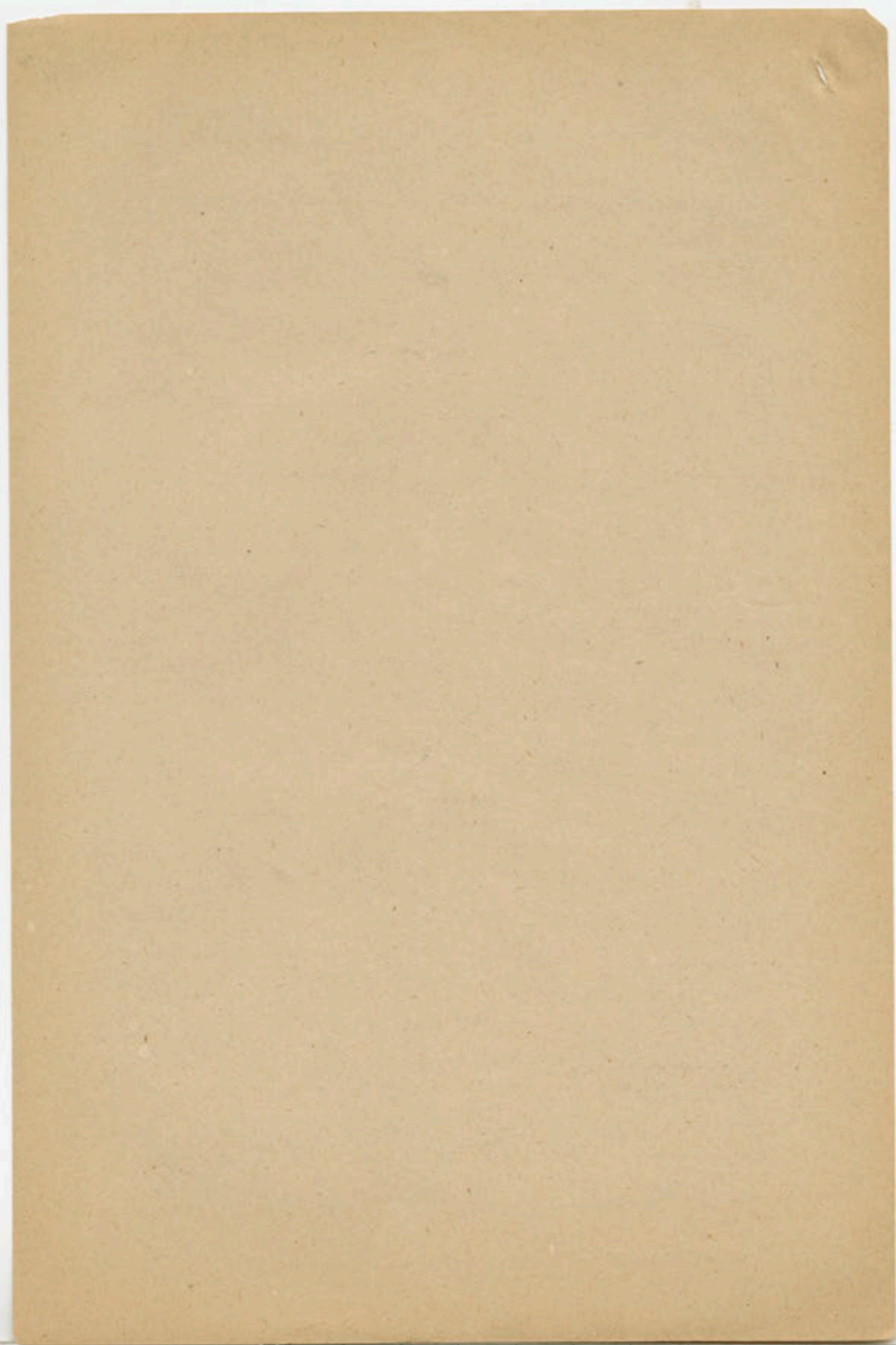
But today we are only
called upon to shoulder the
musket; and to endure
the hardships of camp and
the march, nor to meet the
dangers and horrors of
the battle-field.

The Government of the
people and for the people
is threatened; it will soon be
without its friends but they are
not those who thunder with
artillery and who load the
rifle as soon as the
assassin's dagger upon our
noble martyr-President; our



Sneaky is more subtle; his
purposes and plans are
not so evident but are
they less real or less to
be guarded against because
they are insidious?

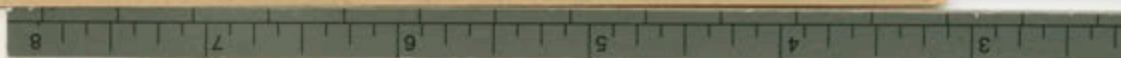
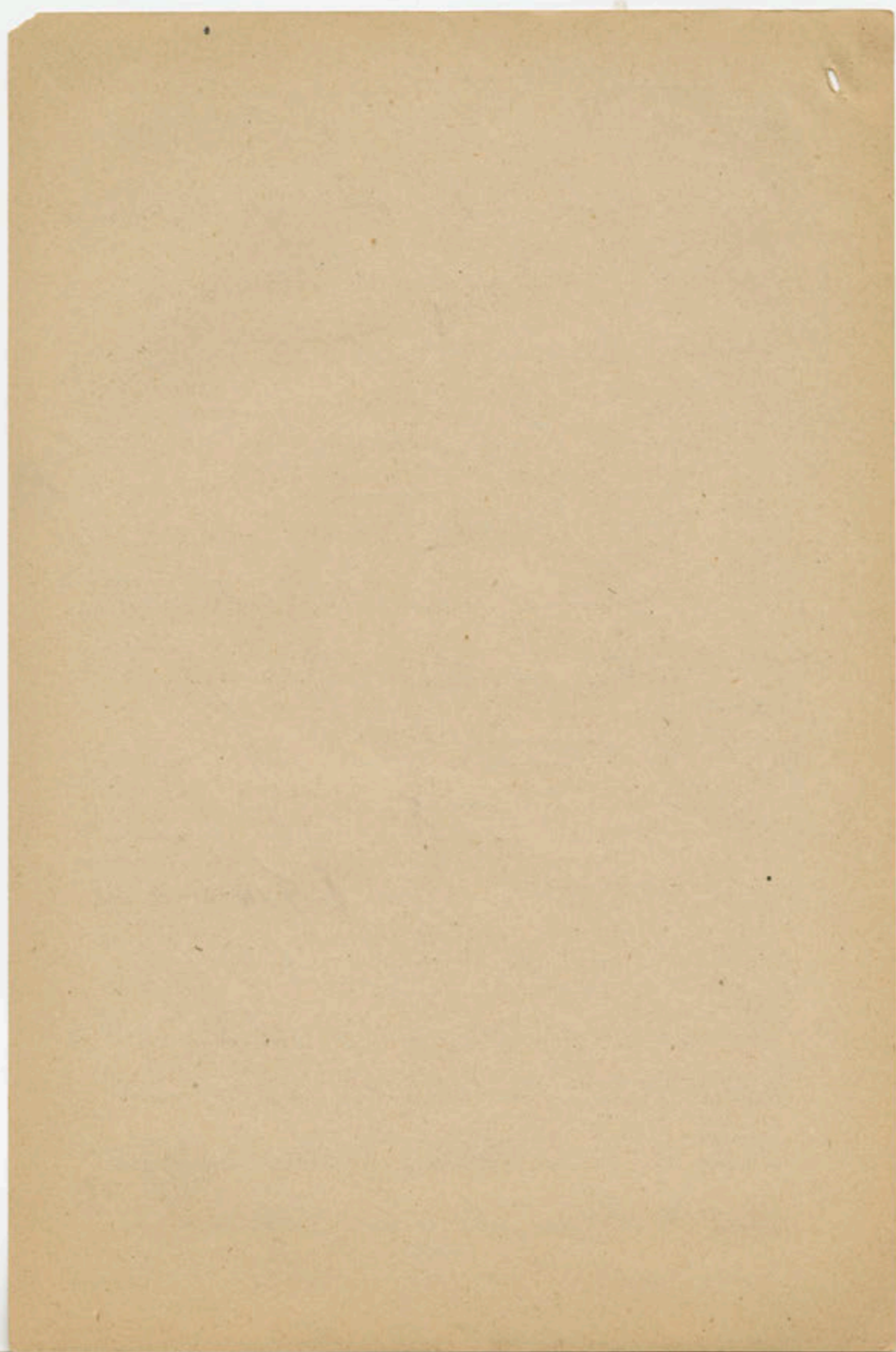
The man who buys votes by
filthy lucre or by office, is
a sneaky to his Country. The
man who uses his position
as a Senator, a Congressman,
a member of the State Legis-
lature or even of the Com-
mon Council of a City
for selfish ends, for gain
in money or in political
power, is a sneaky to his



Country.

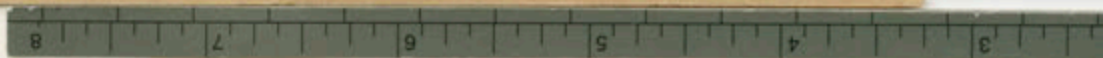
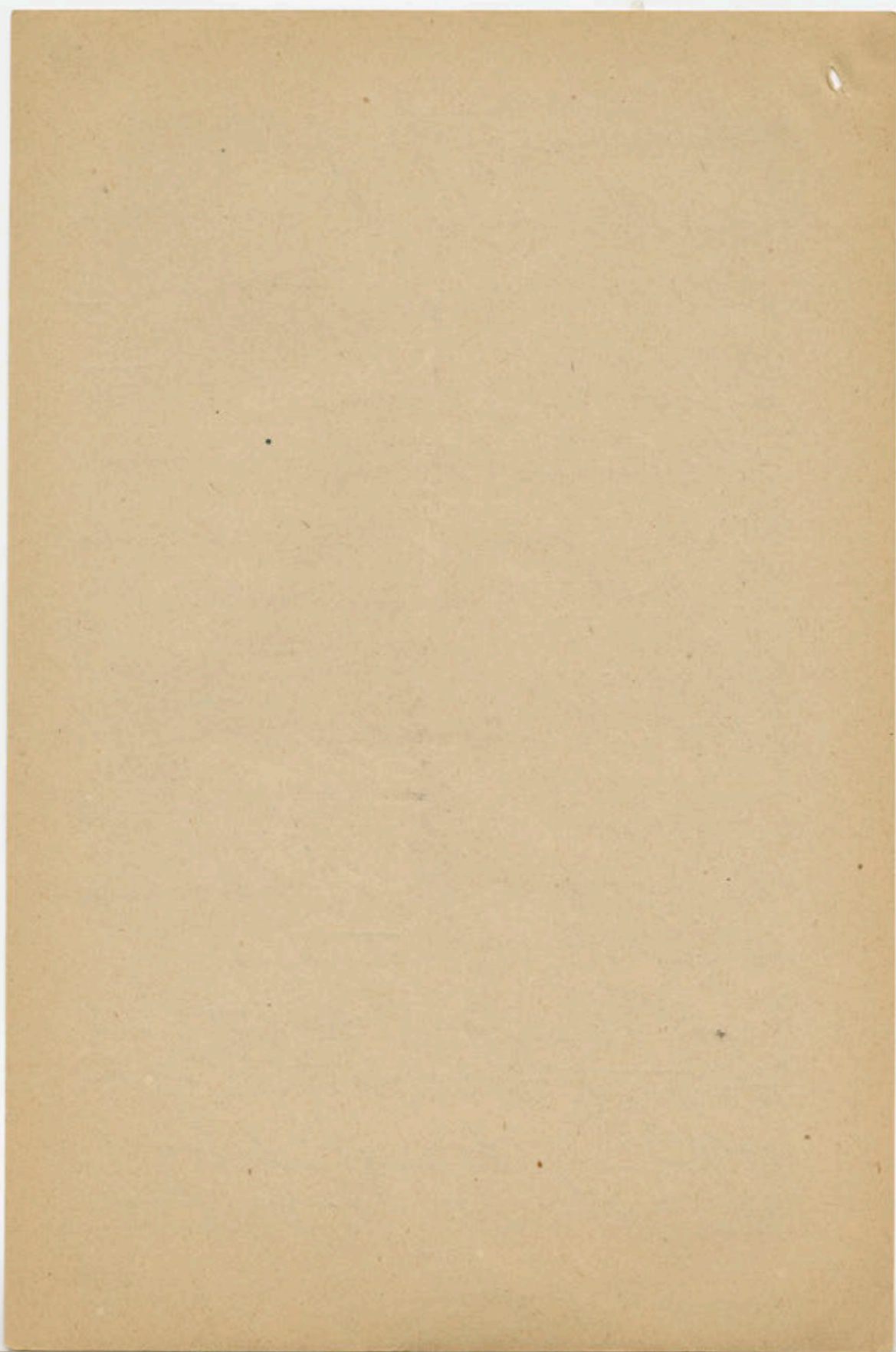
The man who degrades our youth or holds the cup of maddening drink to his brother's lips is the enemy of his Country.

These are the Rattlebrakes and the beasts of prey; there are some others who sap away the foundations and will finally bring down fall and destruction upon the fair fabric of our nation who do their work in the dark; there are those who secretly work against our common school system or who



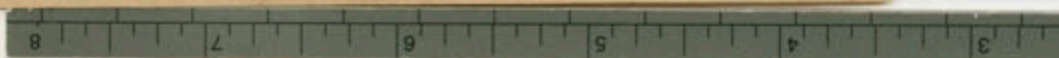
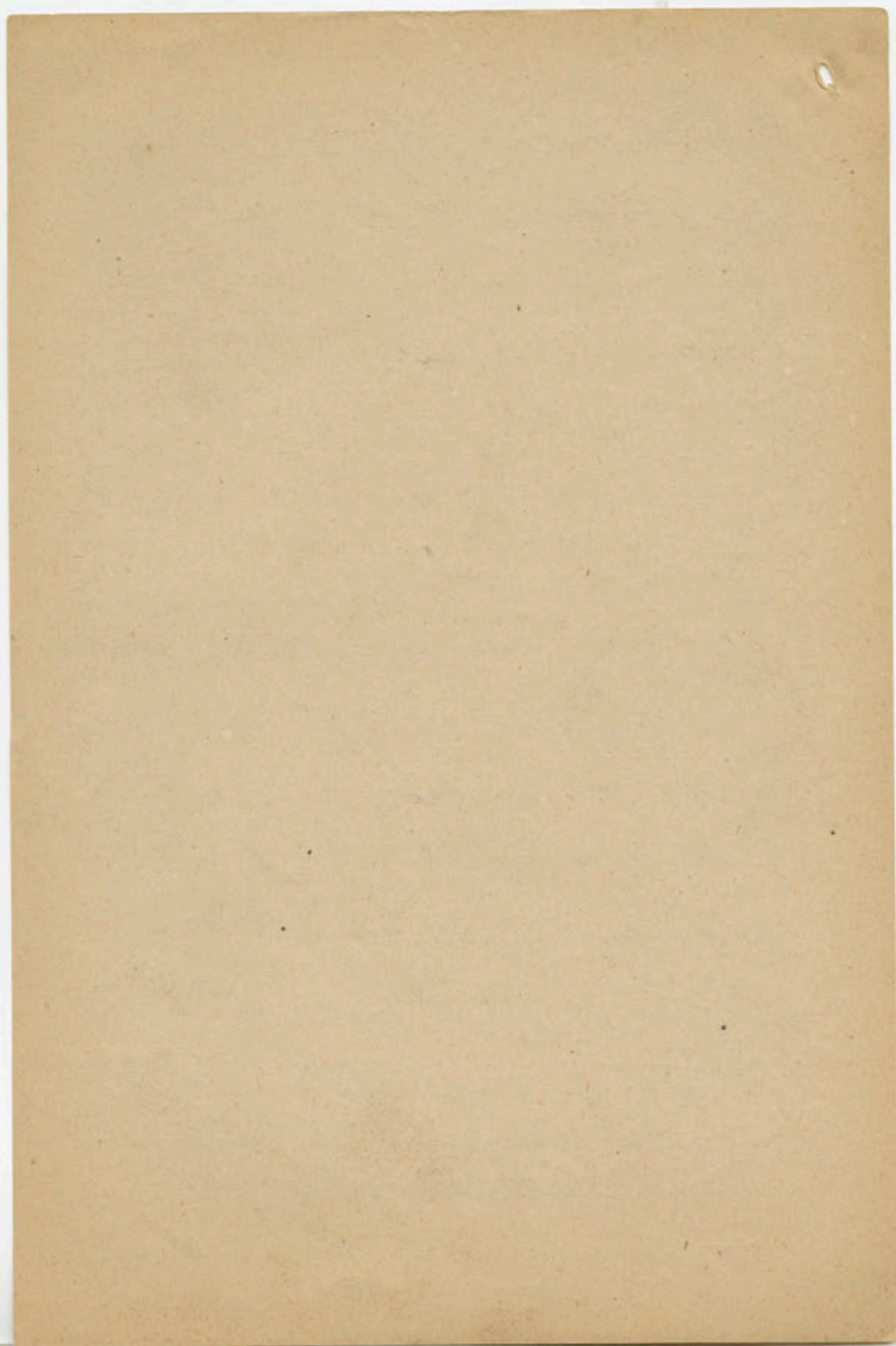
offer the teaching of good
mores and the fundamen-
tals of Religion in our
schools; who advocate
doctrines and policies
which make the rich richer
and the poor poorer; who
simply neglect their civic
duties and allow the
ignorant and the vicious
to control the primaries
and the elections.

To neglect to vote and
to attend to the duties of a
citizen; to neglect to give
thought and study to the
great questions of economics,



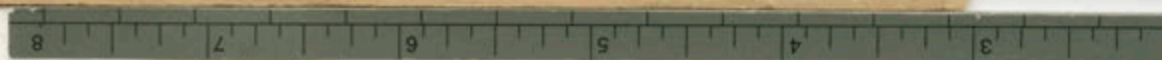
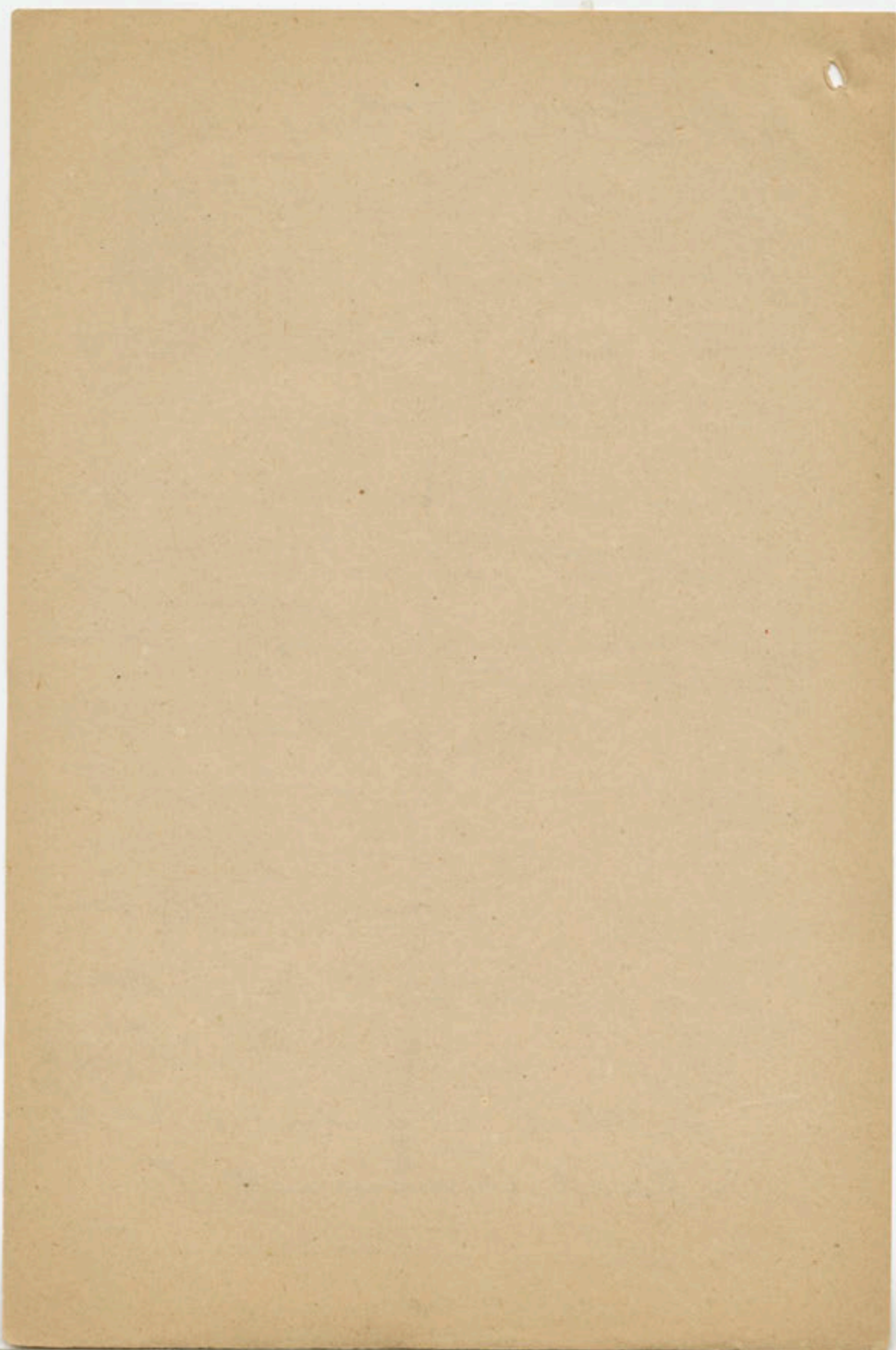
Currency, finance, and
all that enter into the
politics of the day, and
hence is to stop the
motion in the dark.

Christian principles
applied to the citizen's
duties under our govern-
ment of the people, by the
people and for the people
will permit no drones,
no sluggards. It calls for
study of our system and of
our individual obligations and
a sympathetic interest in our
neighbors of all classes and
occupations. If the former



is compelled to live on
 ten cents a day, it is our
 business to know it. If his
 entire profit, for a while, is 25.8
 cents a day, we ought to
 know it. If it can be demon-
 strated that each member of a
 former's family has, ^{as a member} in our
 entire country
 only about one-third of what
 is allowed in Illinois to
 keep a pauper at public
 expense viz: 28.5 cents per
 day, it behooves us to know
 it.

In short we have no right
 to plead ignorance of the
 conditions and circumstances
 in which our neighbors



21

and fellow citizens, live.

It is, moreover, our plain
Duty to use our citizens'
Rights and our civil power
to keep them.

In one word, in one
speech and plain, coun-
try: "no man liveth unto
himself" and the citizen
who knows what it costs
to save his Country is
the one above all others,
who may wisely and ^{kindly}
without fear of upbraiding ask
his fellow citizens to apply
this principle to their civil duties.

