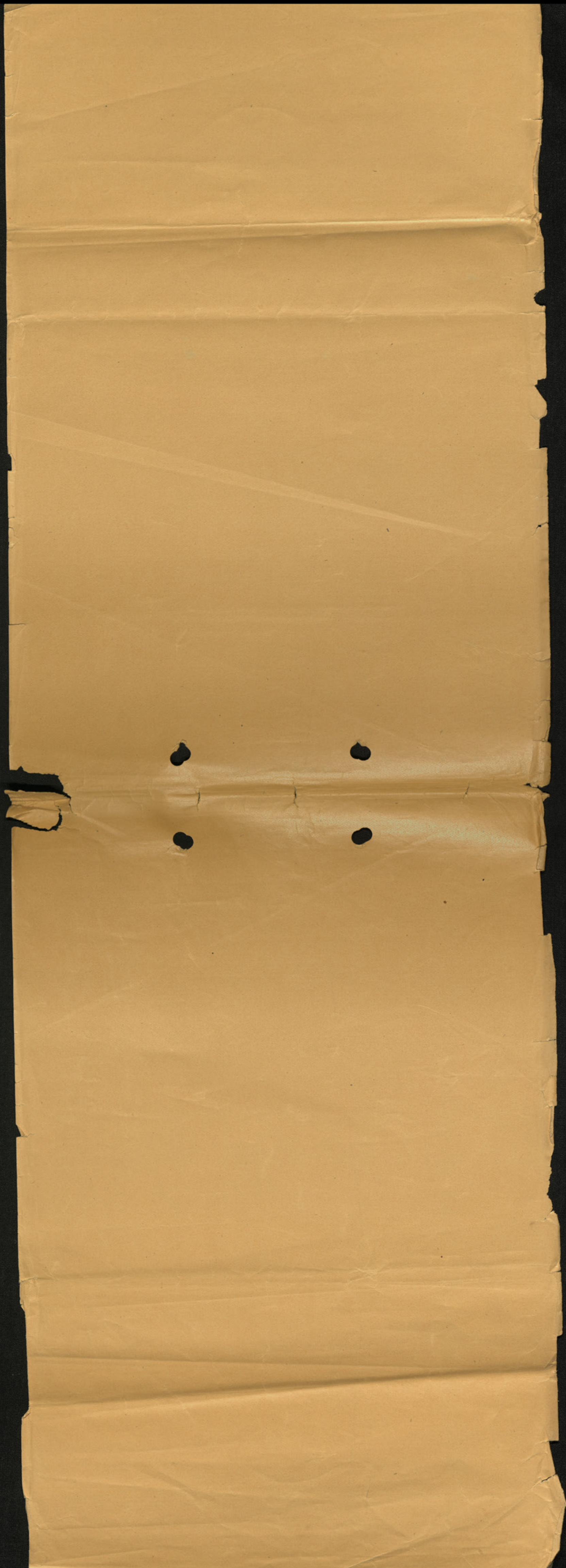


*The danger of depreciating a boy.*

No 26







Northland.  
Believed to Orig. "Plover" Oregon

1896

1. The danger of depreciating a Boy. illustrated

a gentleman was annoyed by a little boy who kept close beside him and asked him questions while he was making a trade. In impatience he says to the boy: "you are al-ways in the way - you hinder more than you help. I can't tell for the life of me what you are good for!"

The child goes away in tears to carry the sentiment the man has uttered in his mind forever. It settles down upon his young heart like this: "I am always in some-body's way. There is no place for me! I hinder more than I help. I seem to be good for nothing."

0 in

1

2

3

4

5

6

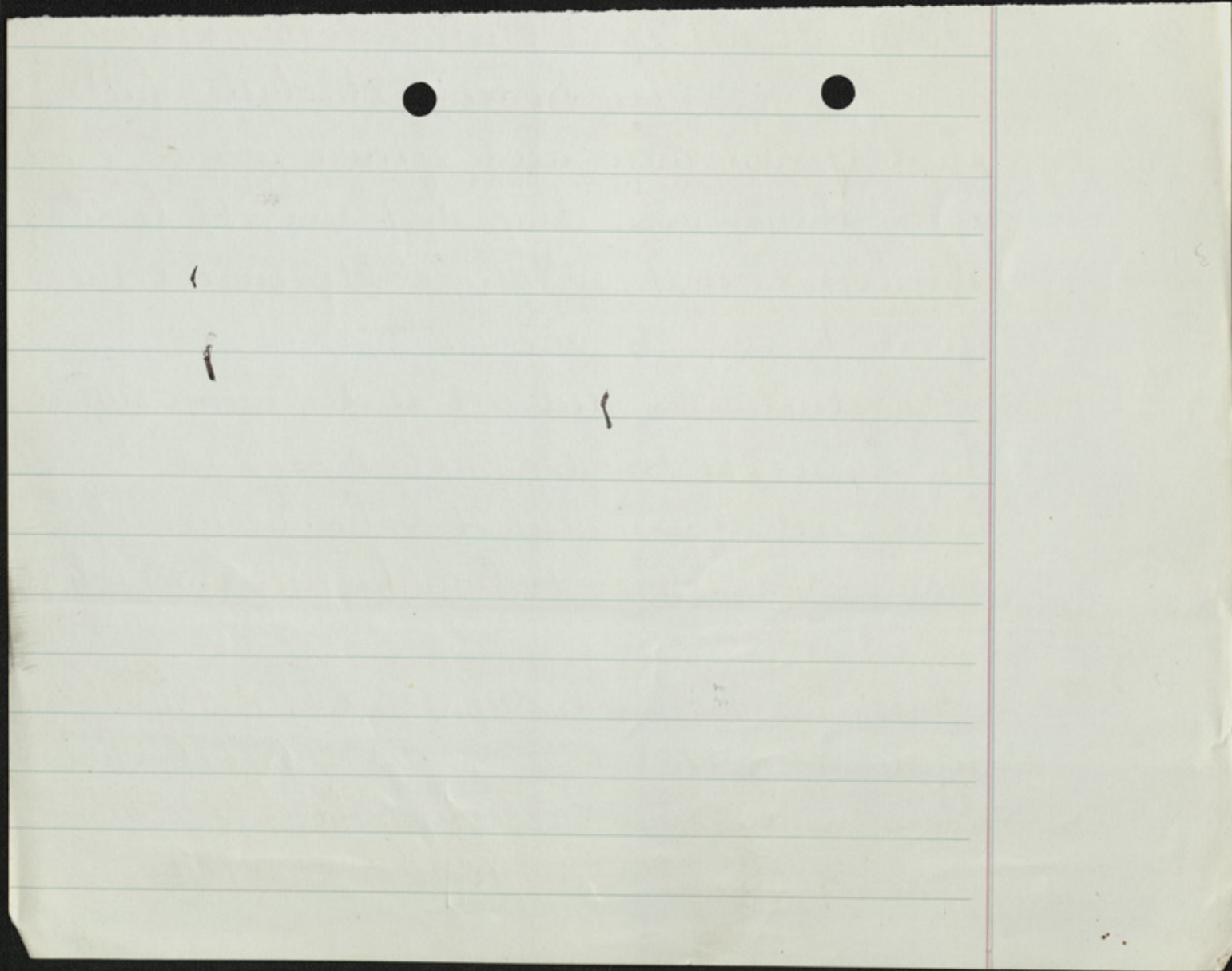
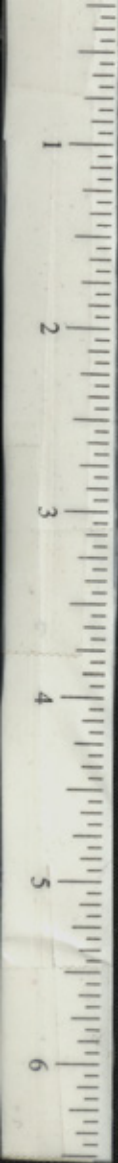


2/ Boys do not often sink into despondency and gloom. They swallow the bitter pills that grown men and grown women force upon them every day and run off to solace themselves with whatever pleasure comes first by way of relief.

The gentleman did not really mean what he said. The boy was not always in the way, he was not really more of a hindrance than a help and sooner or later he will show what he is good for.

Another unintended depreciation of boys came under my observation. An earnest Christian man was referring to his own youth, and said with some bitterness



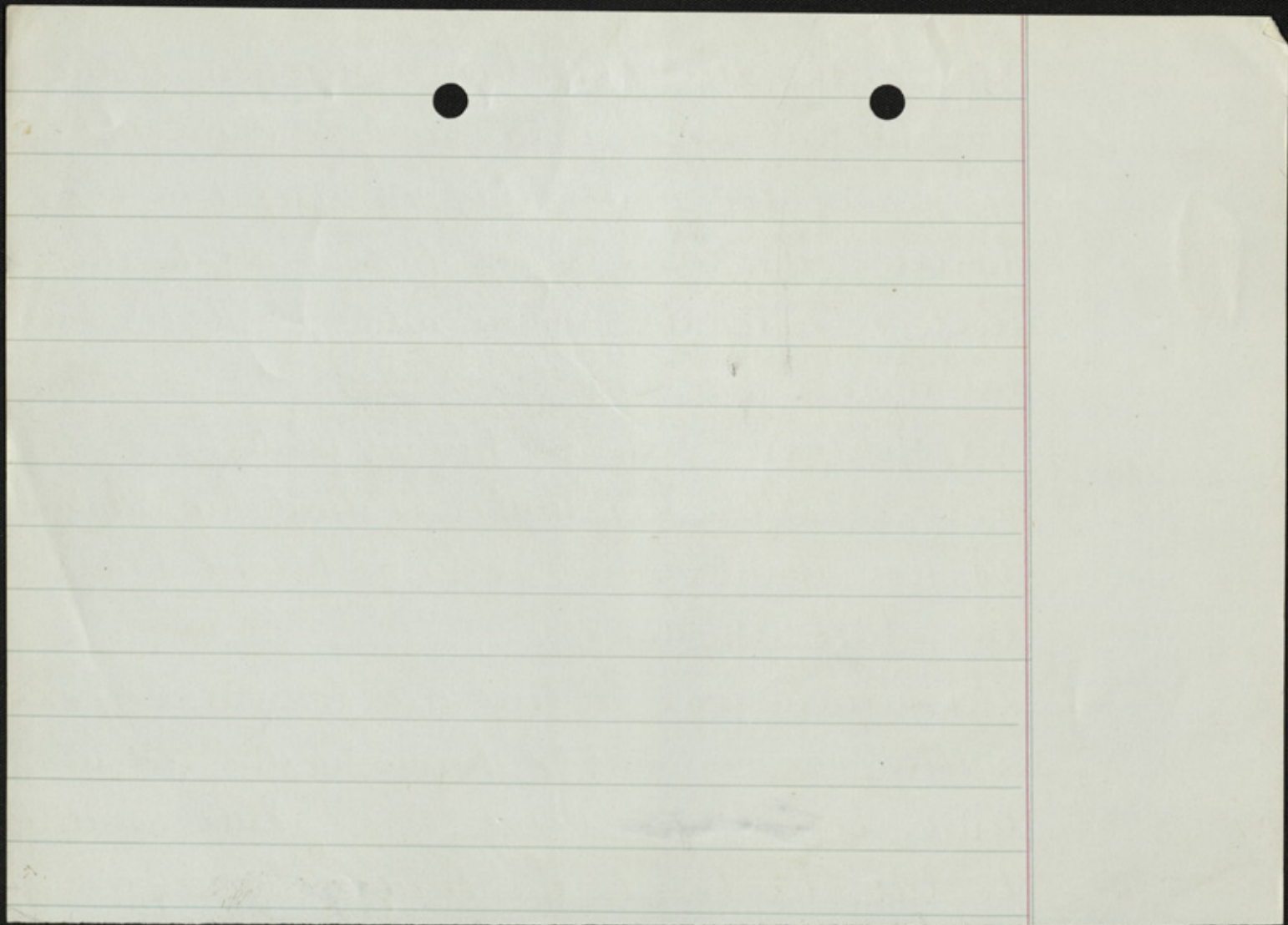
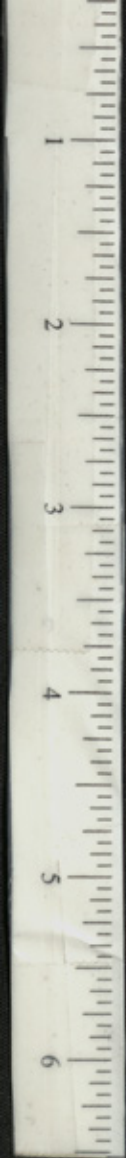




3  
and much sorrow in his recollection of the way he was used when a boy: "There seem to be places for girls they are useful in the house; they can make beds, wash the dishes, sweep the rooms and mind the baby but there is no place for a boy - he is always out of place always hungry while he is growing. After his mother is dead his relatives do not want him so he is turned loose to shift for himself".

The picture was a true one for one boy or a few boys - but I know he did not intend it even for most boys. He wanted to tell the people the danger of neglecting





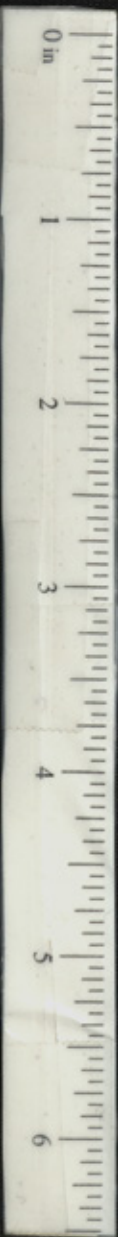


4  
boys and urge upon them the duty of seeing that a boy was of some account and he wished to show what dreadful consequences would follow, if a boy should be treated in a mean and selfish way.

The mothers all around us said: "our boys are not so neglected - not so treated"

III This leads me to inquire, first: "What a boy is good for." I saw in the ~~Bulletin~~ a child's answer to this question, the other day - It is this: "they make men out of such as me!" Yes, the lamb will grow to become a sheep, the colt to become a horse, and a boy <sup>in time</sup> to become a full grown man. It is really the best

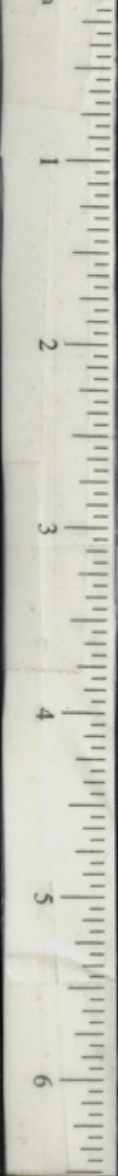






early answer that can be made to the question for in a few short years the present farmers, mechanics merchants Doctors Lawyers and Ministers will be laid away in the graves that ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> waiting for them and their important places will be filled by those who are boys and young men today. Boys seem to realize this fact themselves. They are eager for the knowledge that men have; they love dearly to try their young hands at men's work - they are not satisfied with the spreading-fork; they wish to rake and mow and pitch; they are not contented





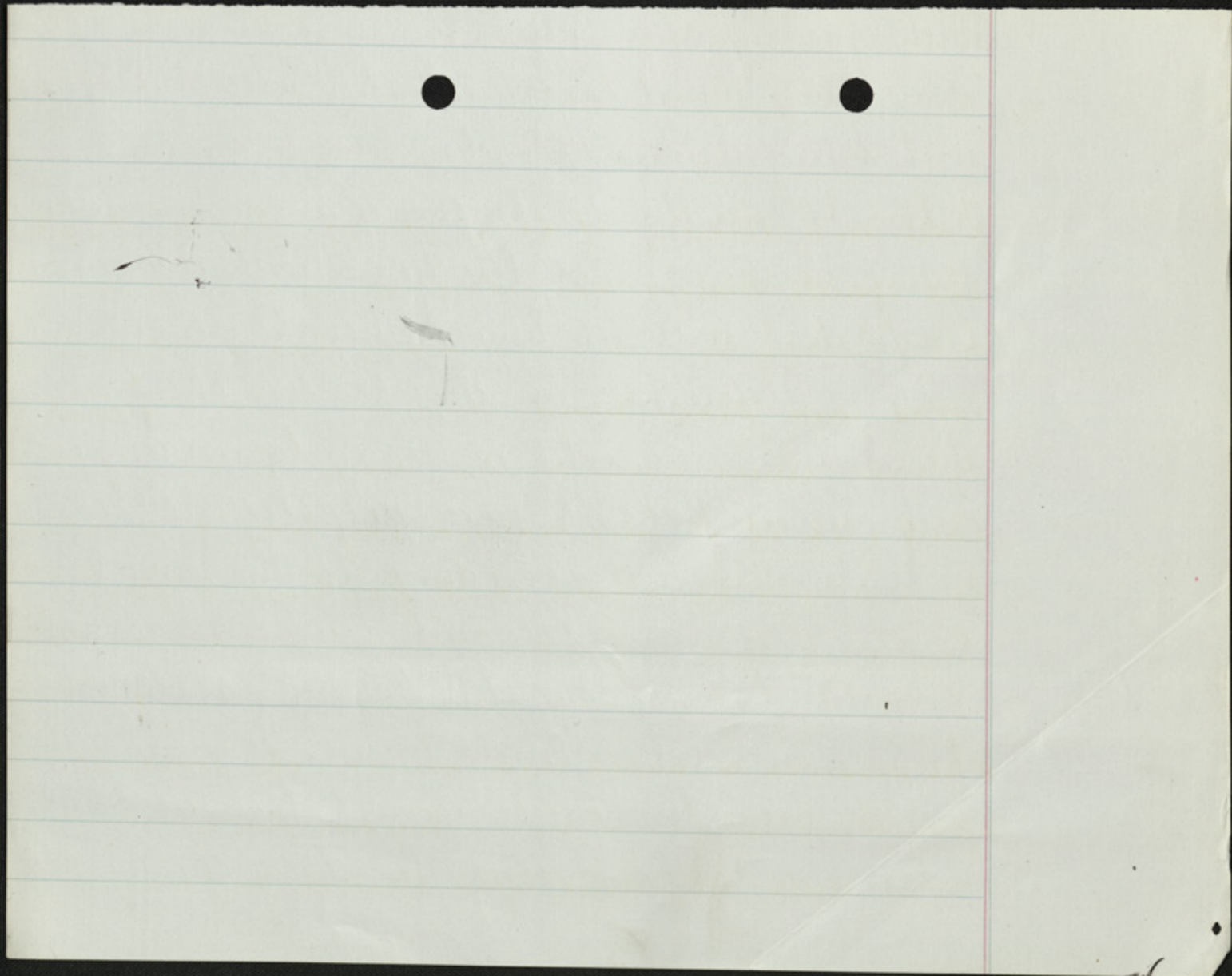
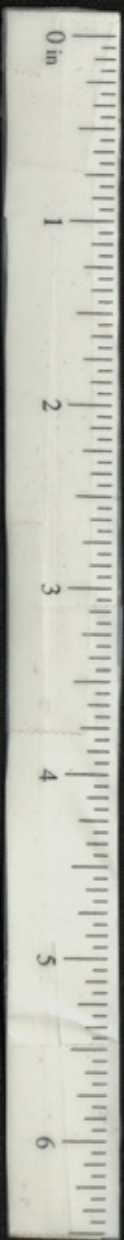


6

with opening and shutting and cleaning the store, they want to trade, they will not stop with being driven for they long to drive.

I love to see the bright face of a courageous boy, filling his mind and his heart with the knowledge that will fit him to fill the place of a man. I delight in the fearless energy of the young man who is ready to undergo any amount of toil and self-denial in order to succeed, according to his own conception of success! And I would not if I could take from the boy or youth a single one of his bright hopes. It is, no doubt, a good help to healthy growth to hold back a little - to keep from the child the weighty





27 4  
care and anxiety of after years; the bright sky,  
the gentle breezes, the glad songs of the birds,  
all, belong to his life. Long faces glooming  
looks and cross words can be omitted much  
oftener than some of us seem to think.  
And yet it is important my boy, it is vital  
to a proper manhood that you have a proper  
boyhood and youth!

*Now can you have a proper boyhood and youth?*

The answer is short and simple the words of  
your Heavenly Father are: "my son give me thine  
heart and let thine eyes observe my ways."

*III, Hindrances by the way.*



0 in

1

2

3

4

5

6

Among the fascinating stories of the East  
is one which describes an enchanted hill  
whose summit concealed an object of  
incomparable worth. It was offered, as  
a prize, to him who should ascend the  
hill without looking behind him. But  
whoever ventured to secure this treasure  
was told that if he did look backwards,  
he should be instantly changed into a  
stone. Many a princely youth allured  
by the tempting prize had ventured up  
that fatal hill; and as many had been  
changed to stones. For the adjacent  
groves were filled with most melodious  
voices and with birds of sweetest song,



0 in

1

2

3

4

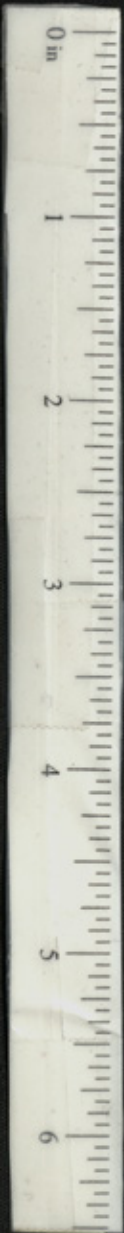
5

6

9  
whose bewitching strains and enticements followed  
each youth as he ascended until he suffered  
his innate curiosity to controvert his hopes and  
fears - turned his head, and instantly  
became a stone - Hence the hill-side was  
covered with stones,"

Get  
This story is exemplified every day - Let  
any really worthy object be before a young  
man; for a time he bends his energies  
to overcome every intervening obstacle but  
some siren allures him to the right or  
left; he leaves the pathway and loses the  
object. It applies to virtue. He pursues  
and fails. - To the attainment of know-



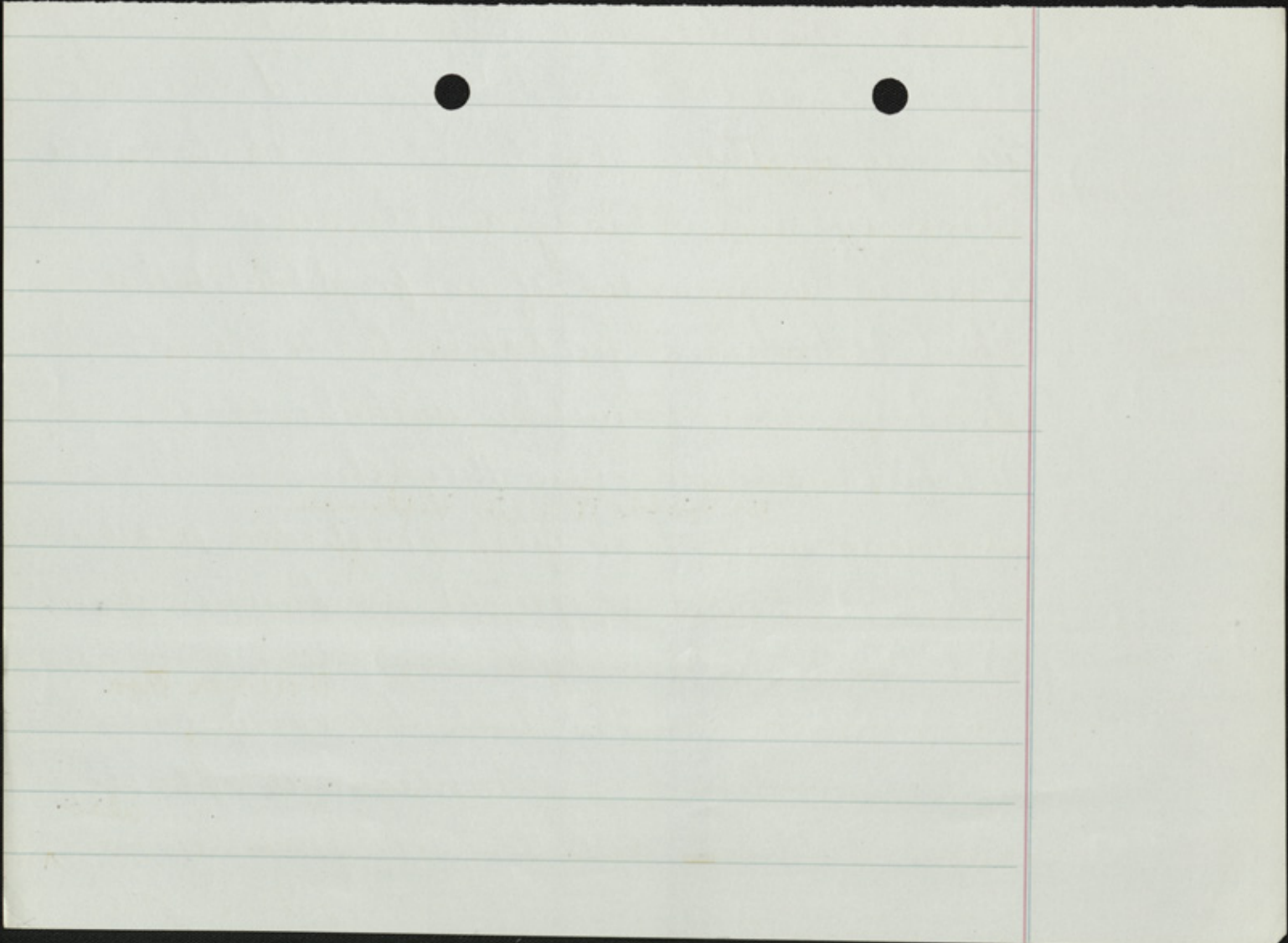


ledge. He begins well but dallies by  
the way and loses his prize. To success  
in any worthy life-pursuit. It takes a  
clear eye and steady aim to reach the mark.

<sup>we read</sup>  
Vico is a monster of so frightful mien,  
That to be hated needs but to be seen;  
"Seen too oft familiar with her face,  
"He first endures, then pity, then embraces."

A young man has just reached a position  
of trust. He is genial in temper, kind  
and courteous in manner, frank and  
open hearted; he is met by every body  
with open arms. A pleasant flatterer  
says: "just aid us in your leisure





interesting

in some amateur performances on the stage.  
Oh yes, there is no harm in that! He does  
so and is highly commended, but un-  
wittingly he is thus bequiled into the so-  
ciety of men who joy in strong drink and  
stake money <sup>He yields to their influence</sup> for amusement. It is not  
very long before he is closetted with vil-  
lians and in a single night all his humble  
savings are swept away. <sup>To recover thro.</sup> He tries the fast  
bank, borrowing largely, but fortune <sup>also</sup> is  
against him — and his borrowed money  
goes into other men's coffers. He flies  
from his creditors, in the fear and folly



0 m

1

2

3

4

5

6

of his passion he commits a breach of law and finds himself in the deepest of human misery. What was the matter? He listened to the bewitching voices and turned aside from the true road to success. How the first Psalm would ring in his ears if his father or mother had taught it to him. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord."

"The ungodly are not so; but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away".

Another has a good place in a store-front



0 in

1

2

3

4

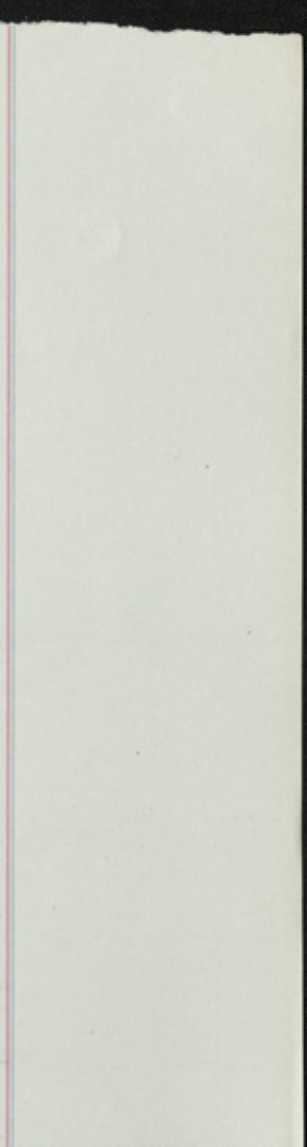
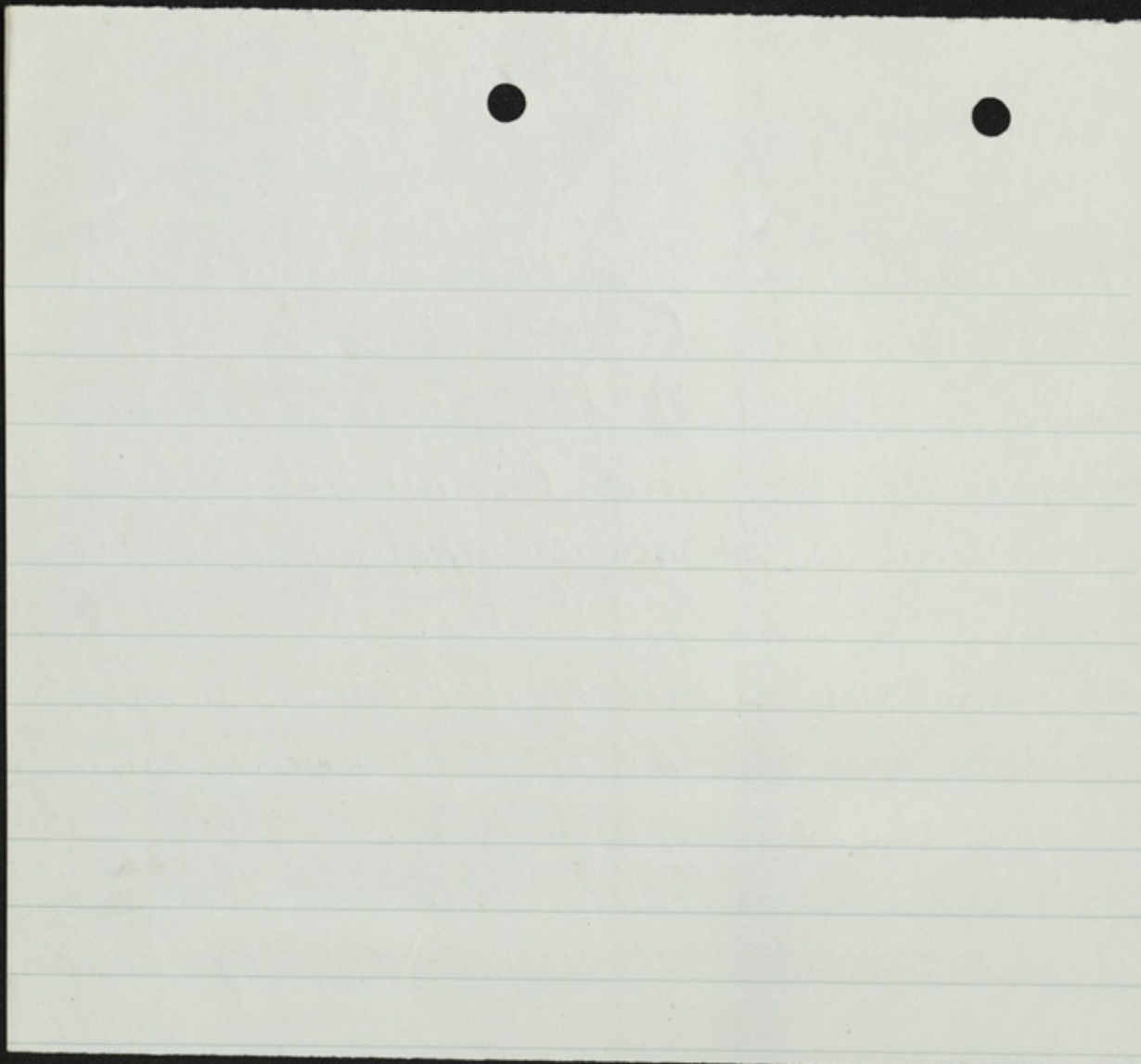
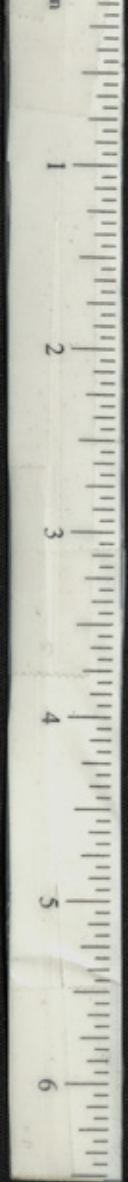
5

6



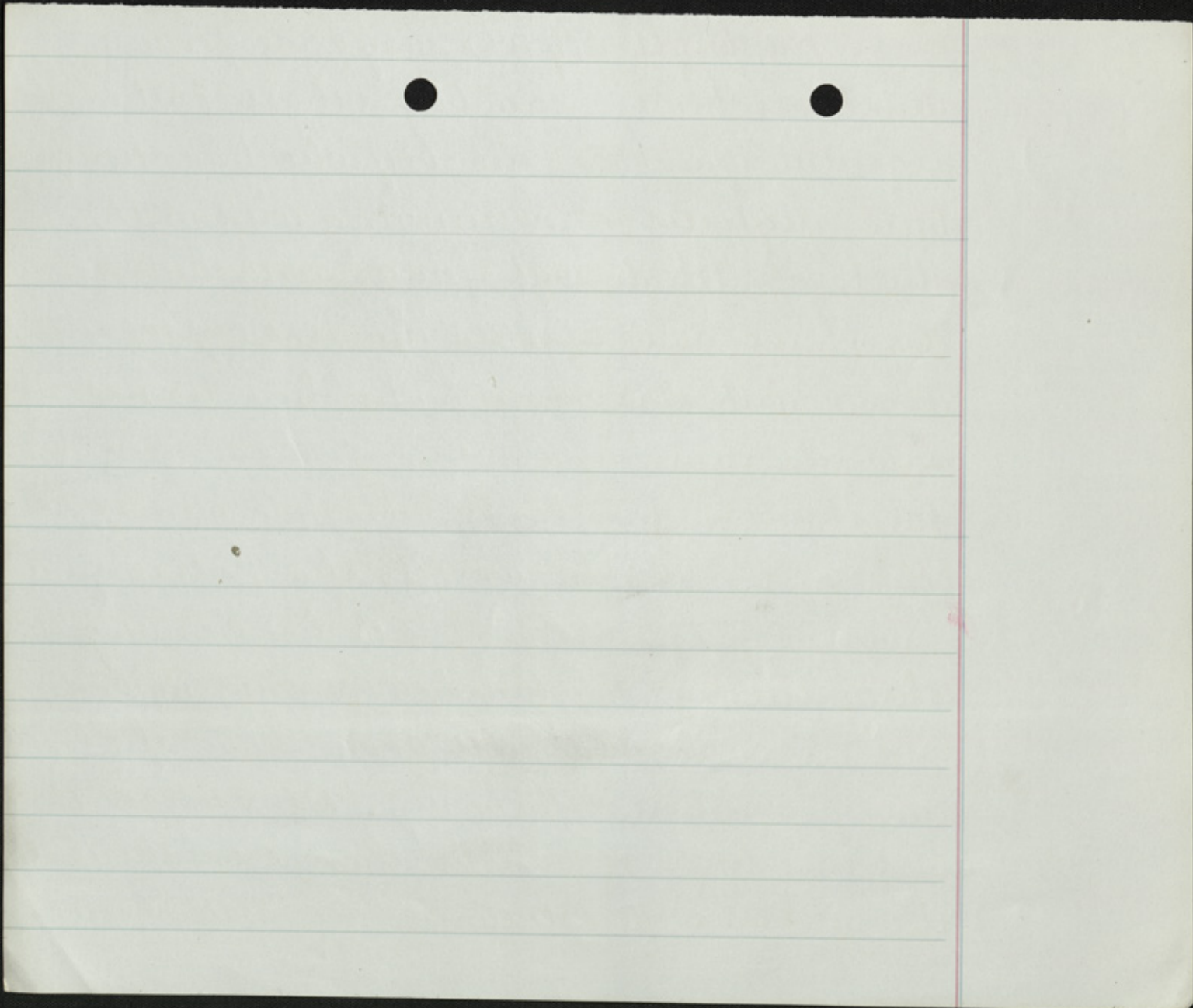
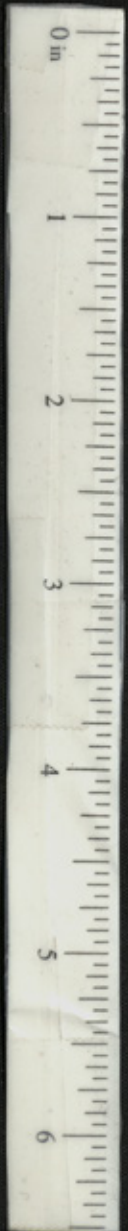
sports a little for recreation - now and then  
treats a few friends at the bar. In a few  
days he has lost his place; lost the  
respect of good men; lost all his earnings  
and bankrupt in everything, flies to  
crime for relief. What is the matter?  
Why the enticements of appetite and passion  
led him into the society of those who tarry  
long at the wine - that wine of which the  
wise man in the Bible wrote - "at the last  
it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like  
an adder".





The bright boy who may come from a  
drummers-home - the boy whose father is  
a gentle gambler, the boy who has always  
been neglected and running wild in the  
streets - What will you do with him?  
He chews and smokes, he uses profane  
words with every breath, he has no more  
sabbath than an unconverted savage;  
falsehood on his lips is blatant and of  
constant use; he worries the police and  
puzzles judge and jury with his cunning and  
shrewdness; he keeps on growing in body  
and in evil and will soon have the look  
and proportions of a man. Of course it  
is from boys of whom this is a type that  
the jails and penitentiaries are mostly filled.





15  
But it is not from these alone - for every day we find boys from respectable homes going into dens of dissipation and vice.

They often confederate together in sin; saying and doing what they know to be wrong - what they know to be forbidden by their parents and by their God.

### Profanity - (a.)

The first sin is often profanity. Wicked men use profane words and they then try to justify it, saying: "I don't think profane swearing hurts anybody" - they say: "It is not wrong because no wrong is intended".



0 in

1

2

3

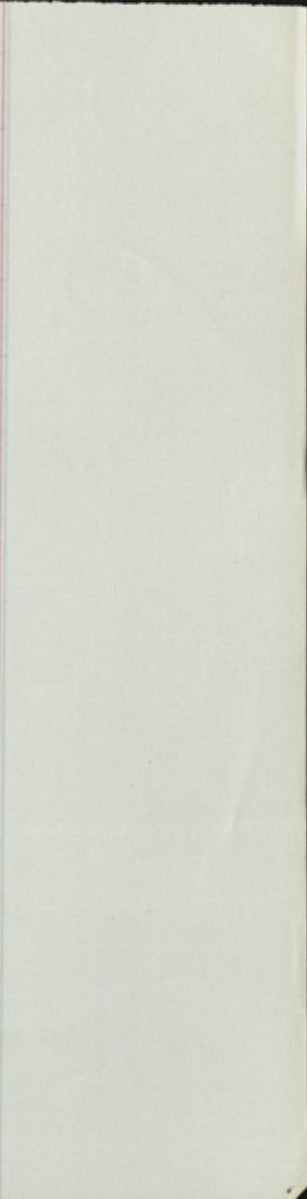
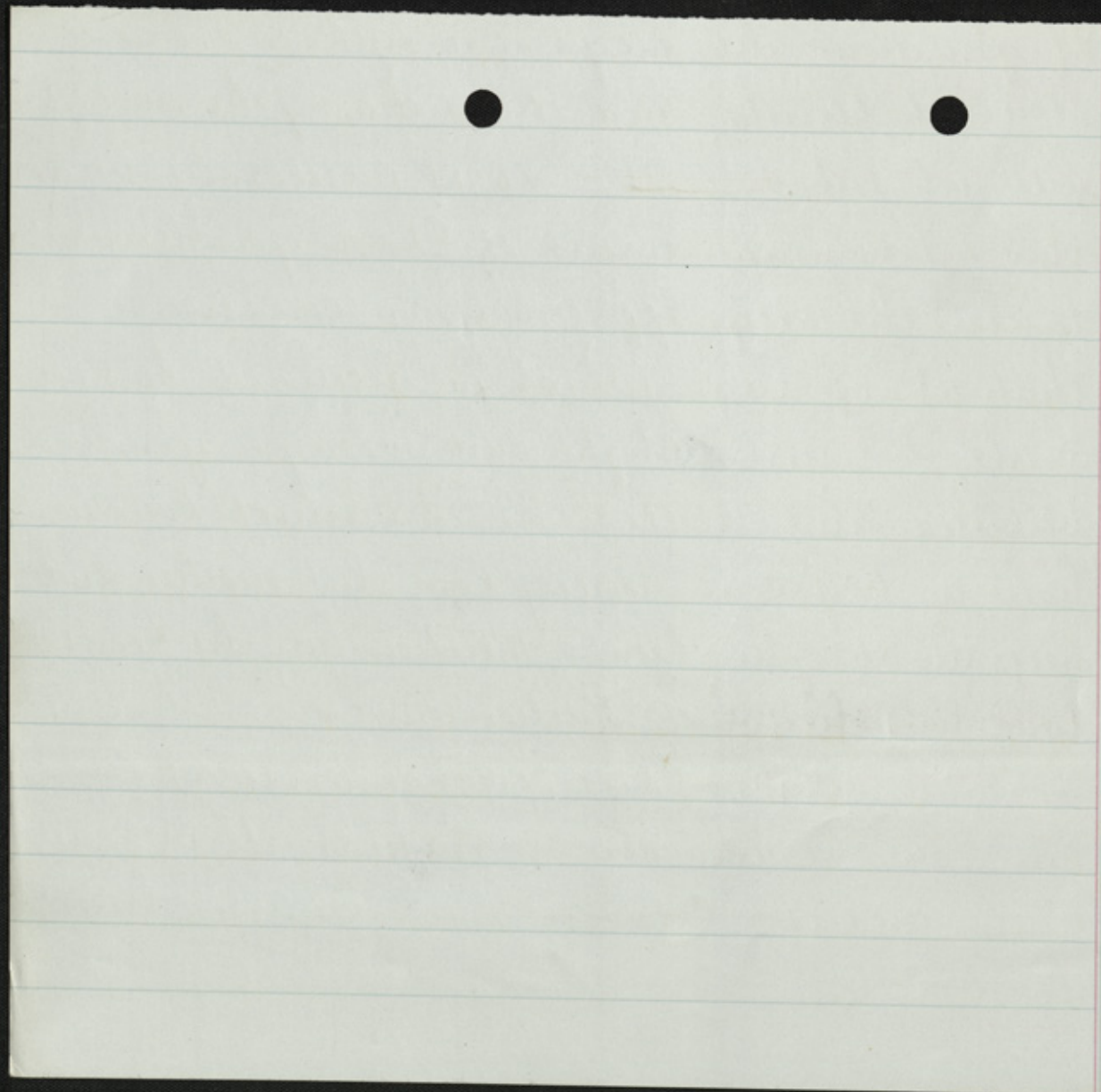
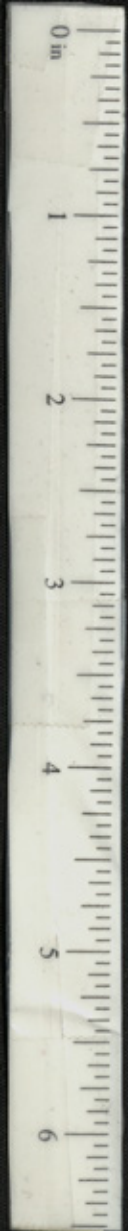
4

5

6

If you draw the edge of a sythe across a stone it blunts and dulls the sythe and it will not cut ~~so well~~ - so if <sup>you</sup> carelessly break this one commandment of God you have taken the edge off from your conscience - that sharp edge which is intended to separate between right and wrong - you have blunted and dulled it. I cannot conceive how a boy can really love his mother and keep disobeying her - neither can he really love his Heavenly Father and keep disobeying him. A profane word once spoken cannot be recalled - Repeat it a few times and it becomes a habit hard to break.





### Disobedience - (b.)

Disobedience comes next - disobey your parents once and the next time it is not so hard to do. Repeat it a few times and this too has become a habit.

### Falsehood, (- e. )

<sup>The meanest sin.</sup>  
Falsehood comes on in the same train.  
Tell a lie to cover a fault and the worst work has begun. Repeat the operation a few times and the heart is dark with its stains.

### Theft. - (d.)



0 in

1

2

3

4

5

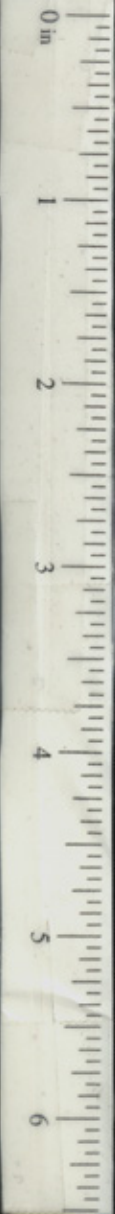
6

Profanity, disobedience of parents, falsehood  
 once ~~well~~ established in a boy's heart and  
 practiced <sup>in his life, there</sup> is but a step to theft; then  
 hatred is sure to follow and often murder.  
 Take one step in wrong doing and you will  
 probably take two. Take two steps in  
 wrong doing and you will probably take  
 three and more till you have broken all  
 God's commandments.

### Secret sins. (c.)

It is not always wise to speak of secret sins;  
 certainly not of some secret sins;  
 a little self-indulgence - just a little!  
 I know one who began with that feeling  
 who cannot now govern his associations.  
 He says, and perhaps truly, "my associ-  
 ates of both sexes are not worse than I am"





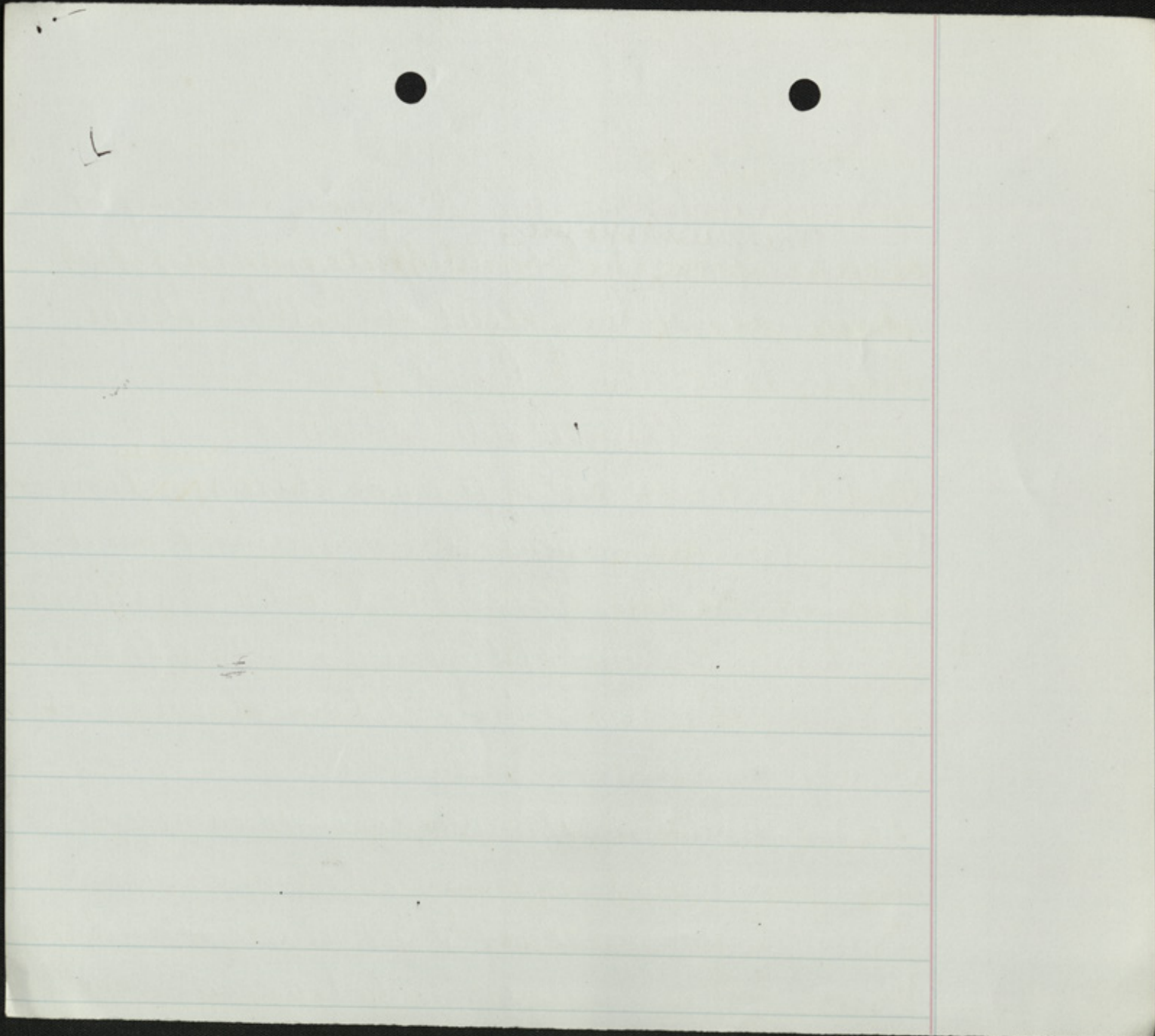
19

He is enchained. He sees no way of escape from <sup>the present shame,</sup> the burning degrading consequences of his secret sin. Who shall arise to deliver him?

*The other side contrasted.*

But I will not enlarge upon these <sup>terrible</sup> ~~good~~ views. God's commandments are very sweet and precious to the young man who has and is keeping them diligently. He can say with David. "Oh how I love thy law, it is my meditation all the day."  
"How sweet are thy words unto my taste, yea sweeter than honey to my mouth."  
"Through thy precepts I get understanding. Therefore I hate every false way."



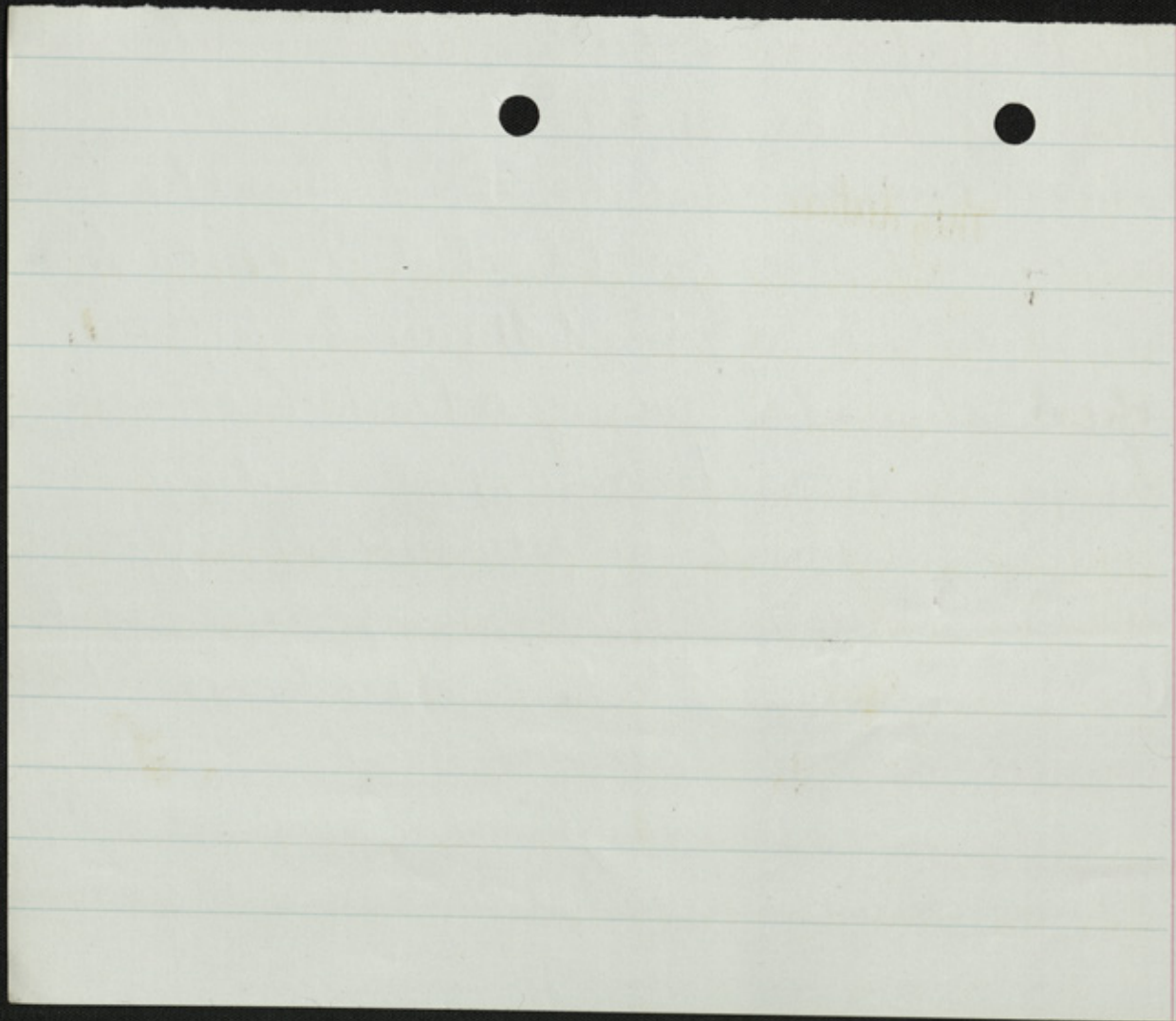
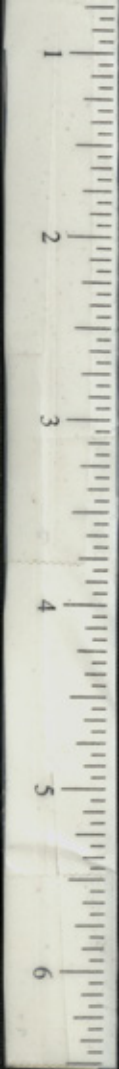


But what a sad feeling comes into his heart if he has and is breaking them — these commandments — I hear the lamentation every day: Oh that I could live my life over again! Under the pressure of such thoughts many a heart becomes heavy and seeks relief; in reading, in writing, in travel, in pleasures of all kinds now in solitude — now in society — restless, unstable, unhappy — poor heart it cannot so rid itself of its load.

*Restlessness from sin and want of system.*

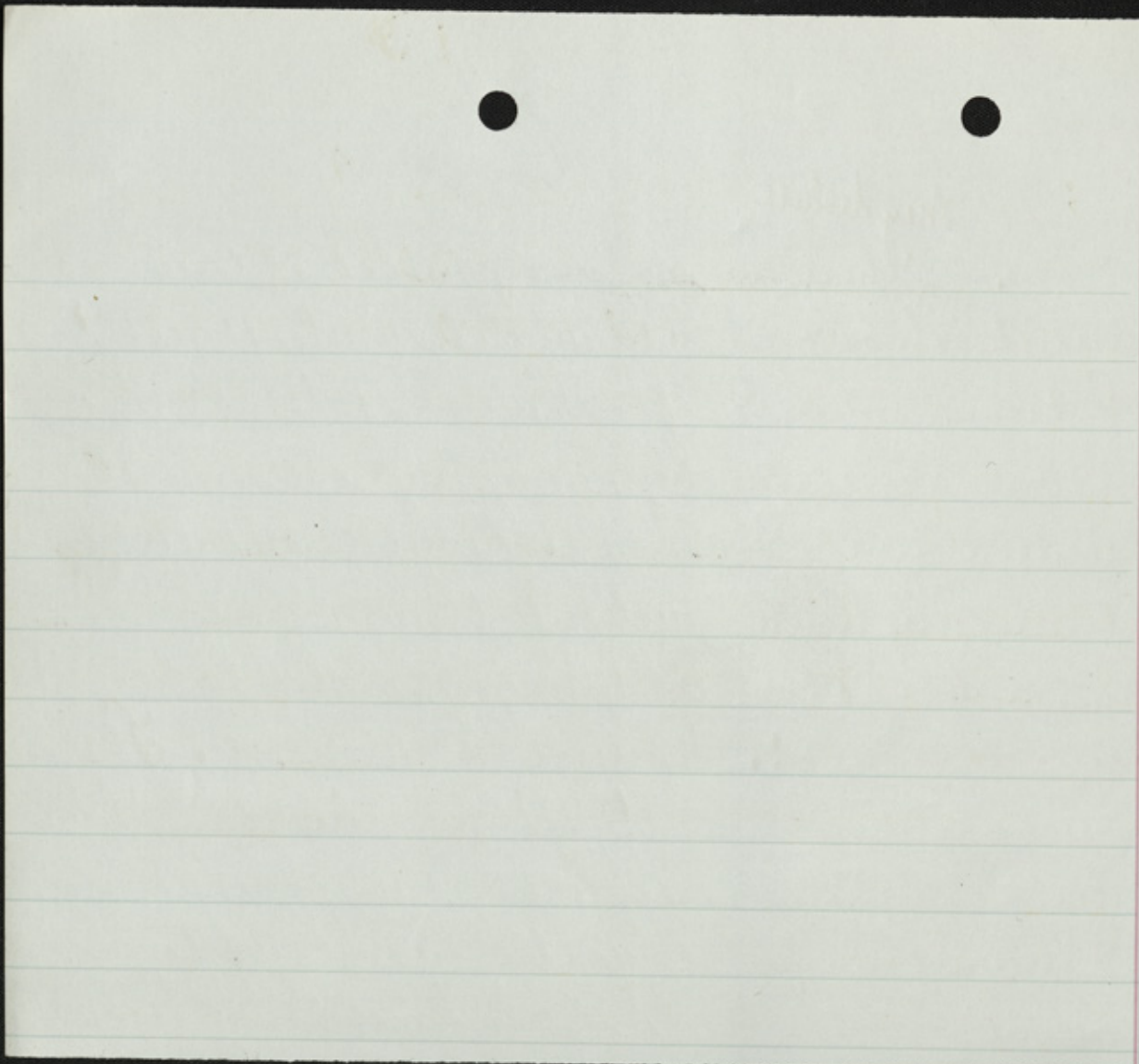
I have noticed similar restlessness in younger





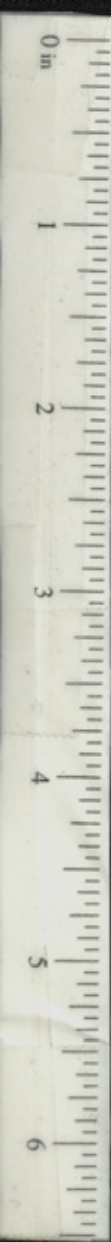
They declare  
lives. - there is so very much of law. so  
much "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not"!.  
I know when I first went to West Point  
I was irritated by many regulations - It  
seemed as if I could not walk or talk or  
turn my head without being reported. I  
am a boy & come hungry to the table - I  
must wait!. I must be patient. There  
are so many rules! I am thirsty there  
are so many rules about my drinking;  
I am always eager to hear and to see  
what is to be seen and heard - yet I





am always repressed! It is, Charlie  
 you must not look at that, you will drop  
 it; or it will hurt your eyes. - You must  
 not listen to such stories, they will spoil  
 your mind. Rules, rules, rules for every  
 thing from the time I open my eyes in  
 the morning till I shut them at night.  
 I am to be sure, honest, truthful, careful,  
economical; - I am to have faith - virtue  
Knowledge, a good name and a good char-  
 acter. - I must have politeness, kind-  
ness, courage, industry, respectability  
 etc. - etc. Oh it is too much!  
 I have tried to be good and keep all  
 my father's and mother's rules; but I  
 do get fretful impatient and angry



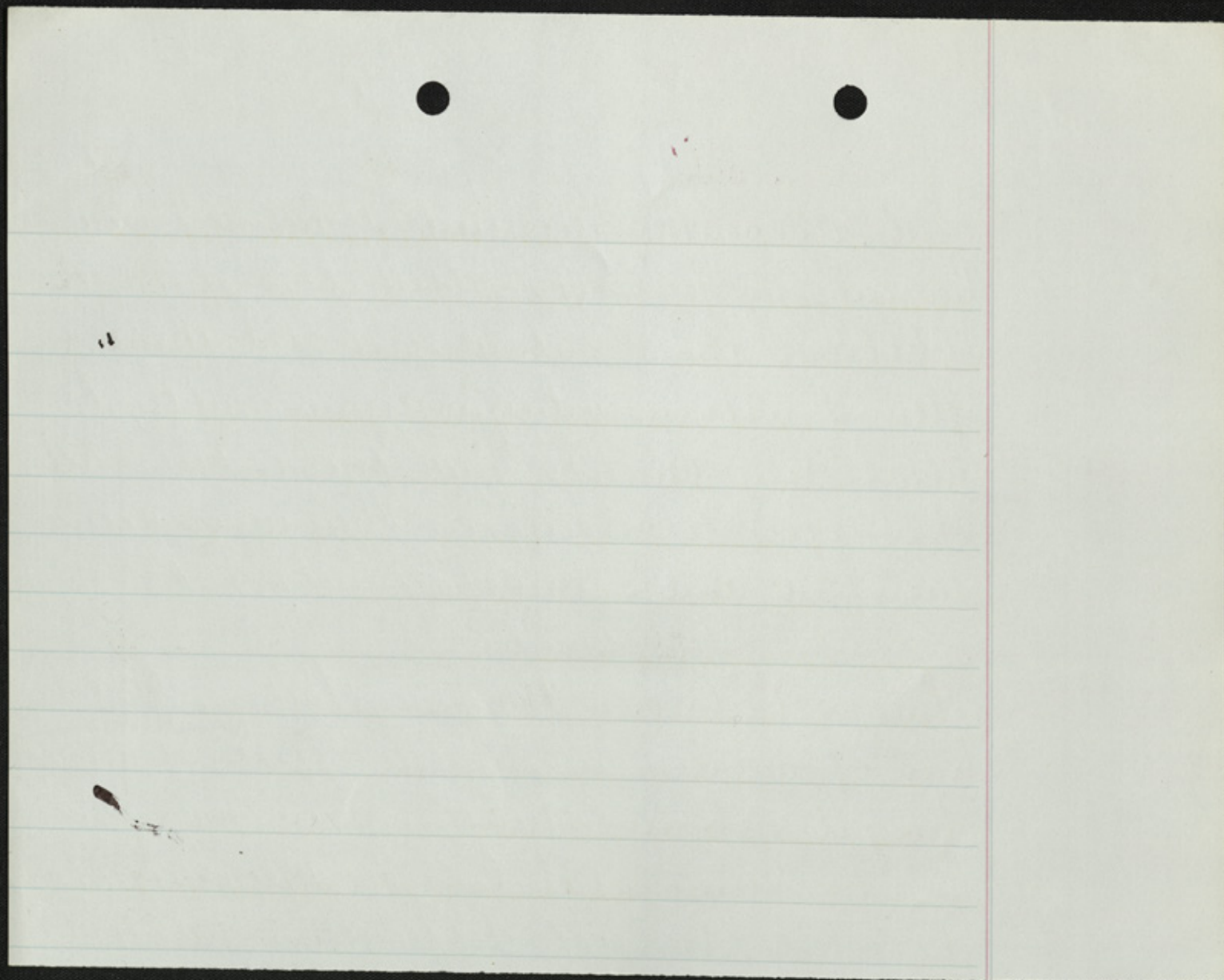
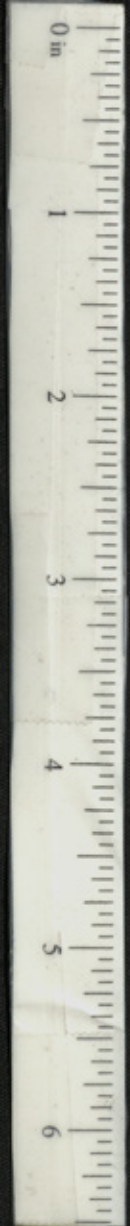


and discouraged; and I know I dis-  
hearten my parents - but it is of no use  
I believe the bad is in me! I think  
often I will now begin again and try to  
please my parents and friends but still  
it is up hill business. They never seem  
satisfied and I am very unhappy!

### *The Remedy*

Thanks be to our Heavenly Father, He  
has provided a complete effectual remedy <sup>for all this</sup>  
Ring it out in speaking, in praying  
and in singing! It lies in creeping above  
the whole heap of difficulties, perplexities





and trials into the arms of the Blessed saviour. If he is allowed to fold you in his arms he will breath contentment into your heart. A contented heart will show itself in a contented face and a contented life.

"I've cast my deadly doing down

"Down at Jesus feet;

"I stand in him - in him alone,

"Glorious and complete.

"Now to Jesus work I'll cling

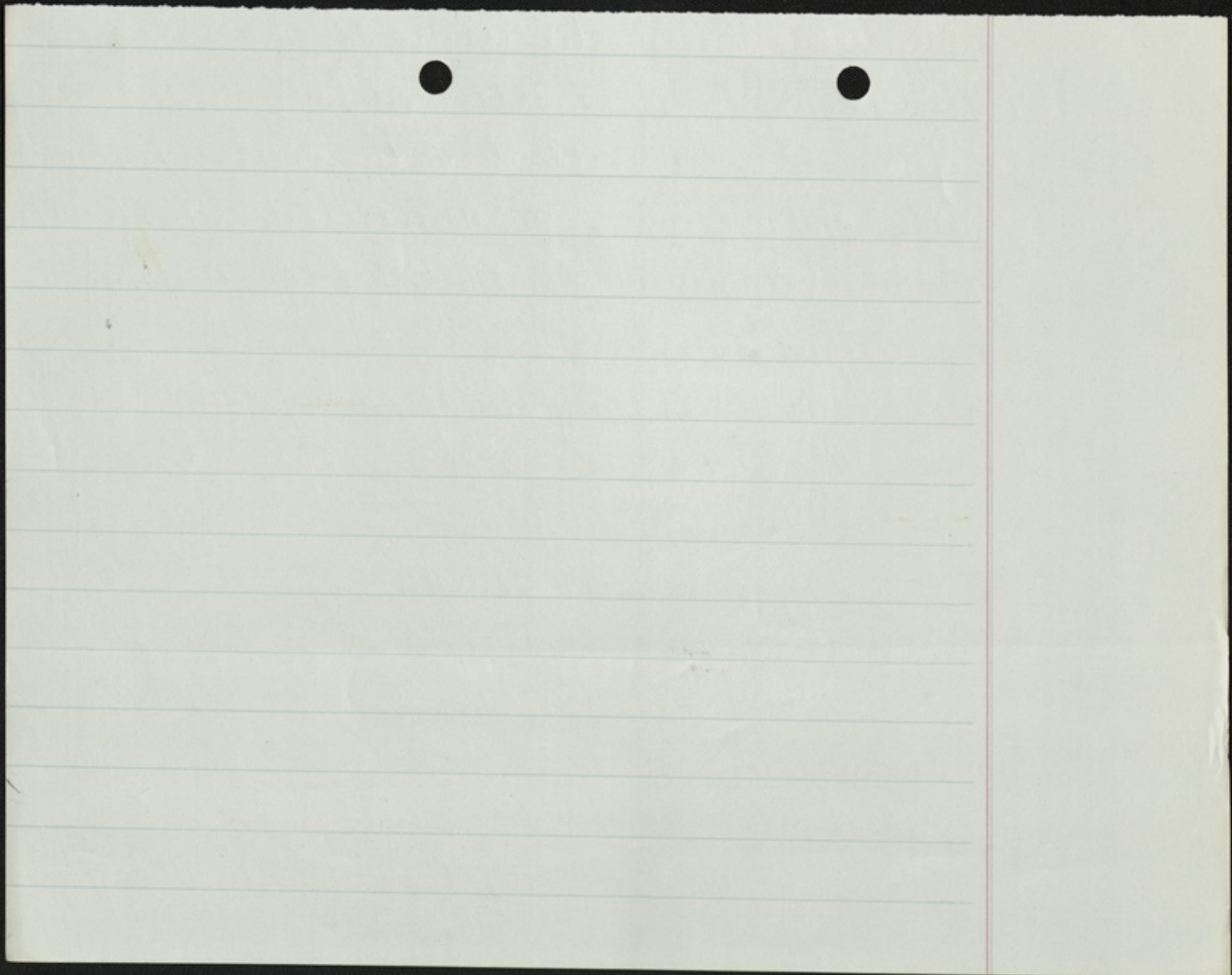
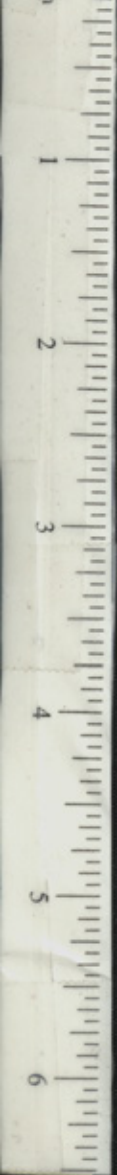
"By a simple faith,

"Doing was a deadly thing

"It would have been my death.

"Now my life shall all be given



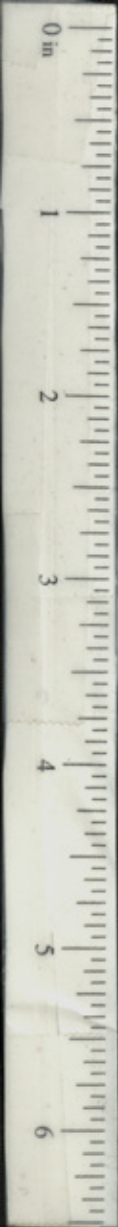


"To my risen Lord,  
"Doing all the way to Heaven  
"Something in his word.

The Bible says with the heart man believ-  
eth unto righteousness. It means that when  
--- your heart has been cleaned and  
filled with God's Holy Spirit every thing  
that I have named, Love, faith, virtue,  
knowledge, goodness and such like will spring  
out like water from the fountain, will seem  
to grow in it like the fruit on the tree.

Dispair and discouragement are all gone. And  
further, your new loving heart will lead you





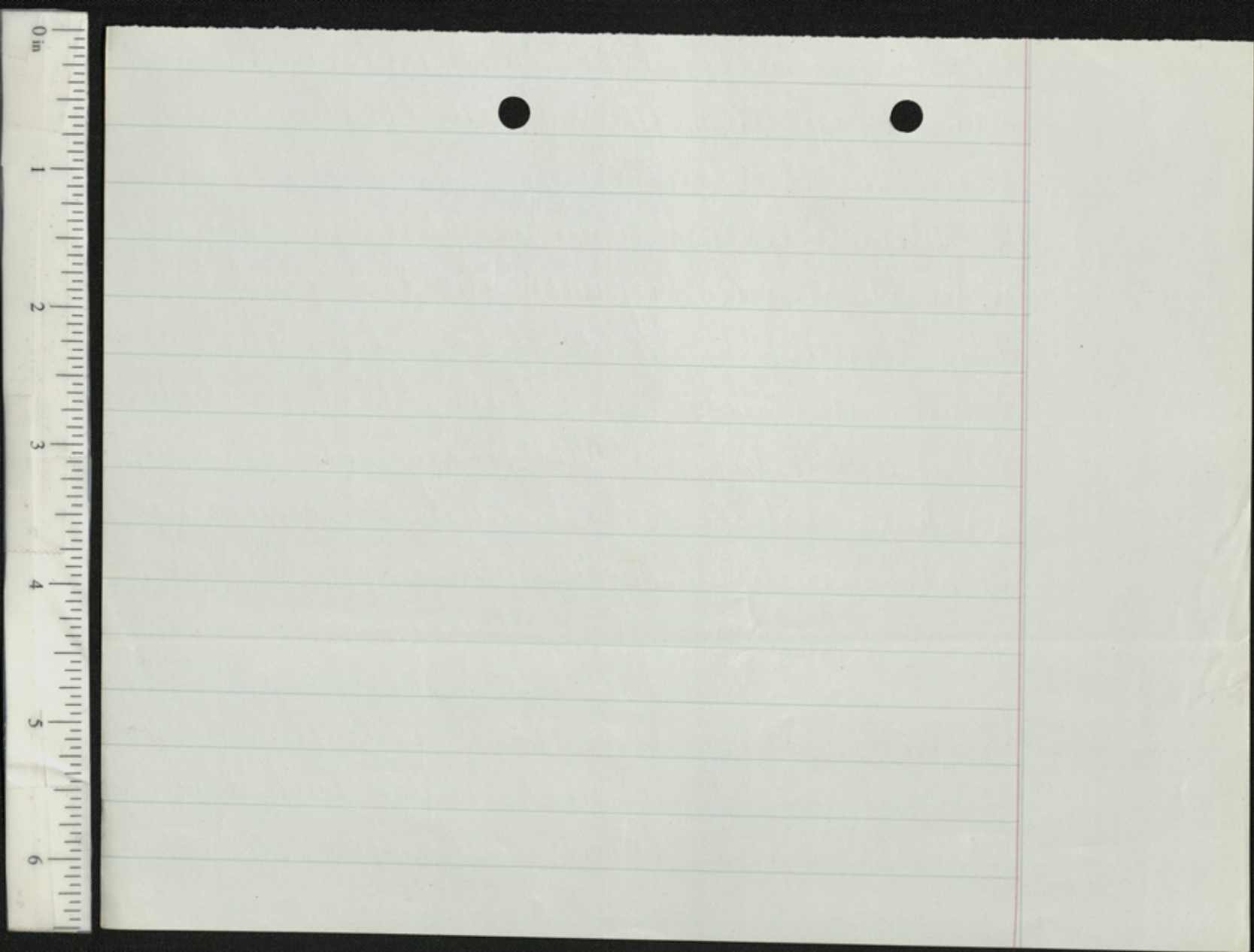
to so think, talk and act as to lead other boys and young men to the same fountain of cleansing.

I knew a young man <sup>some years ago</sup> in Chicago, who with a heart made big with the love of Christ drew together hundreds of boys like the word I have described and taught them the way. I knew another in New Jersey, who made up a whole school of such and succeeded in snatching them from Satan's power and making of them real Christians.

*The continuance in this life.*

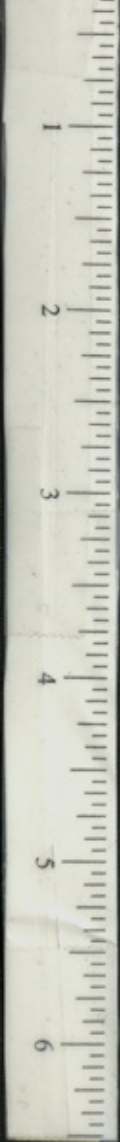
A lady speaking of a boy twelve years of age who had just united with the Church said to me: "do you not think





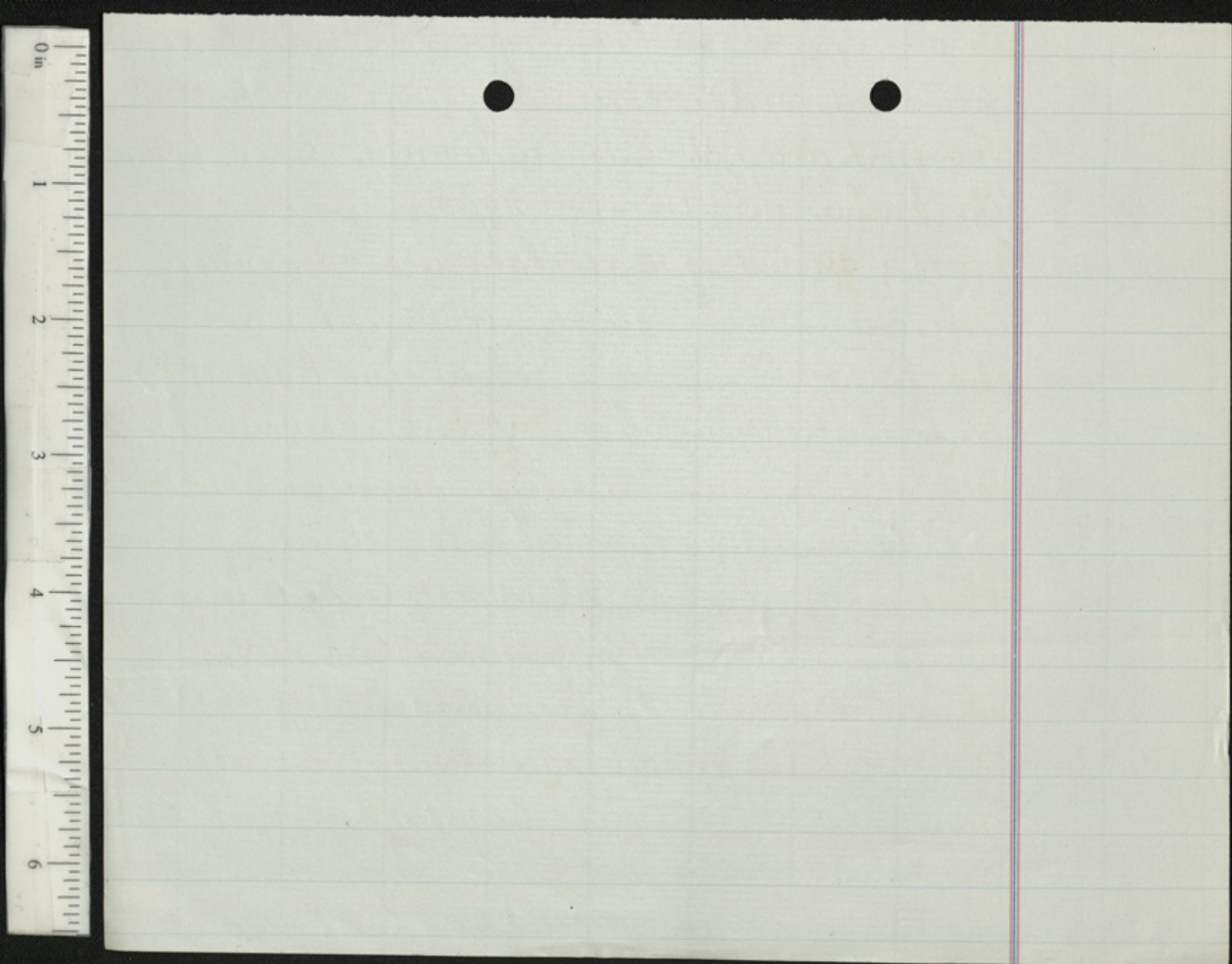
he is too young to join the church? I made answer that I thought a boy who could love his mother intelligently could love his Heavenly Father? But I understood her fear - it is this: "that he will run wild for a season but by and by when <sup>he</sup> gets absorbed in the world's <sup>pleasures or</sup> business he will begin to lag by the way and perhaps like many others fall out of the ranks of active Christians. Then he and his friends will be sorry that he ever took upon himself the name of a Christian. Boys this fear is all





wrong. It is keeping back young peo-  
 ple and old from beginning plain duty.  
 The first duty, I have indicated it, is from  
 The Father in Christ: "My son give me thy  
 heart: mind you it does not say when  
 you are old enough, when you have read  
 the Bible through - when you have mem-  
 orized the Catechism; but the Command  
 is positive and always. The remainder  
 of the command is "and let thine eyes  
 observe my ways". It is not look at my  
 ways and then look away, but observe  
 them, continue to look at them.  
 The fact is when the heart is really  
 given to Christ it becomes a real ple-  
 asure to observe his ways.  
 The General who is conducting a march

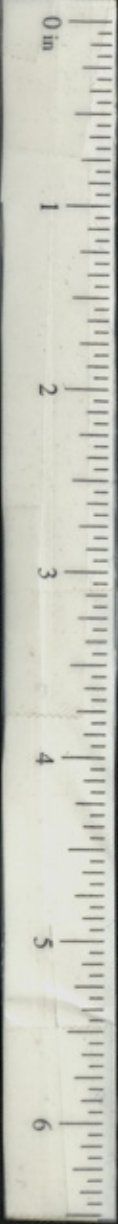






through a new country is eager for a good map. He studies every river and branch, every road and pathway, every mountain and hill, every City and village laid down upon it. He studies <sup>this map</sup> ~~it~~ until he is perfectly familiar with it. He shows it to other officers and gives them copies to study. The success of his Campaign hinges in great measure upon that map.

Now, if the boy starts in earnest into this new way he will be eager to study his map. I mean the Bible. He will ask for the lamp of God's Holy Spirit to





guide him every day through its pages of solid truth.

If you observe the children at the table you <sup>do</sup> ~~would~~ not dream of their eating enough at one meal for a whole week. They would not become very strong! Is the boy who only looked at his Bible and prayed once a week would not be likely to be spiritually very strong. It is not in eating an enormous amount at a time that a boy is made to grow and <sup>is</sup> kept in strength - so it is not to cram the mind with whole Chapters at a time - but feed carefully and regularly upon God's words.

*Begin every day with prayer and reading  
The sweet words of your Blessed Saviour*



0 in

1

2

3

4

5

6

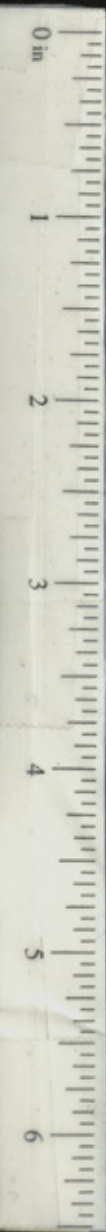
are better than mine: He says: "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you."

Then boys and young men, be sure to gather up and store away in your memory, every day, some of those wonderful words.

*The continuance after this life.*

I hardly need to speak to you of the life beyond the grave. For I assure every boy that hears me and every young man that he has the promise of the life to come, as sure as the Rocks, as true as the sunlight, if he will begin and continue to be a loving child of God: "Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid + + +. He that believeth (beginneth and continueth to believe) on the son of God hath everlasting life".



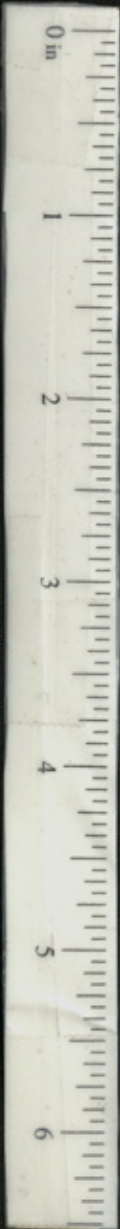


## Conclusion

As we have been running over the boy-life and its exposures - as we have considered the dangerous sloughs and pit-falls in its way, the trials and discouragements to which grown up people often subject it - have we not resolved, and re-resolved to help these children more than we have been accustomed to do?

If a jewel is very costly - is of great intrinsic value, how careful we are to keep it safe -





If a dress is very delicate of texture and of great fineness and beauty how painstaking we are to keep it spotless. Oh, how much more costly, of how much more intrinsic value and fineness of texture, the bodies and souls of our sons committed to our keeping.

Let us tread carefully here so as not to injure or kill the rootlets of life, life pure, happy and eternal.

The Lord enable us by example and by precept to preserve



0 in

1

2

3

4

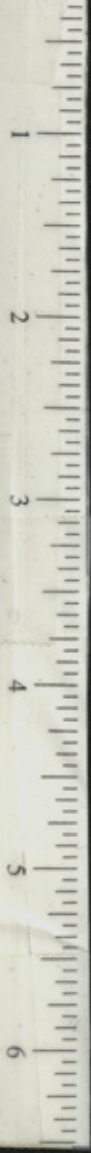
5

6

these germs of hope, joy and heaven -

But to care properly for our own, we cannot leave savagery to the streets. Wildness, roughness, filthiness, blasphemy from young street life will contaminate and in time destroy the home-life. There is no time or place for lazy or indifferent christianity. The weeds grow rapidly if they are not kept down. The garden becomes wild and useless if good





35  
seed be not sown and watched  
and protected -

Then my christian friends  
we must look after these out-  
side boys as well as our own  
and see to it that no stone  
is unturned to engraft them  
early with those principles  
which will never cease to  
bear good fruit.

To this end may the Holy  
Spirit give us the supreme  
aid -



0 in

1

2

3

4

5

6