

The Nations Capital

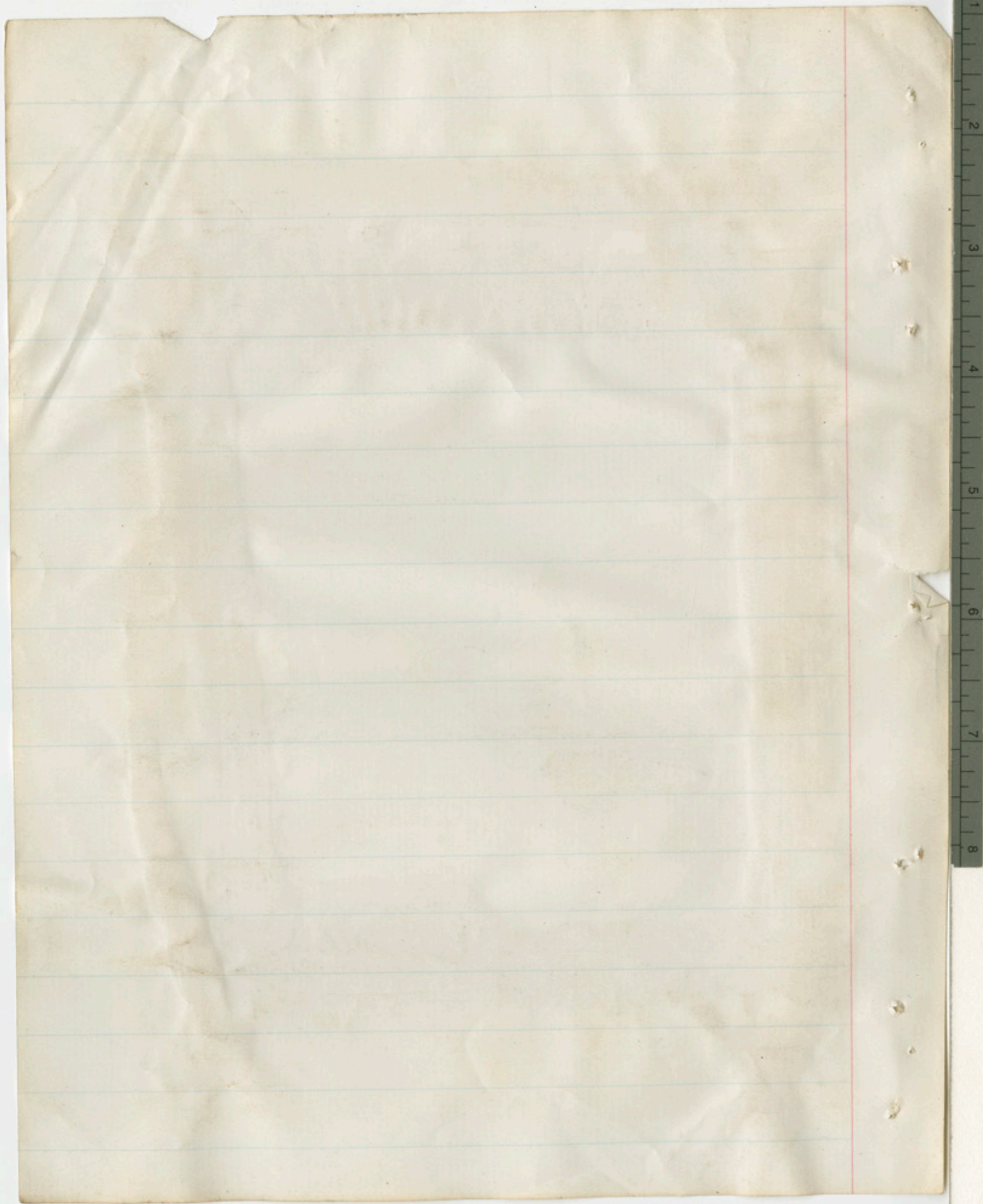


The Nation's Capital.

1. THE SITE.

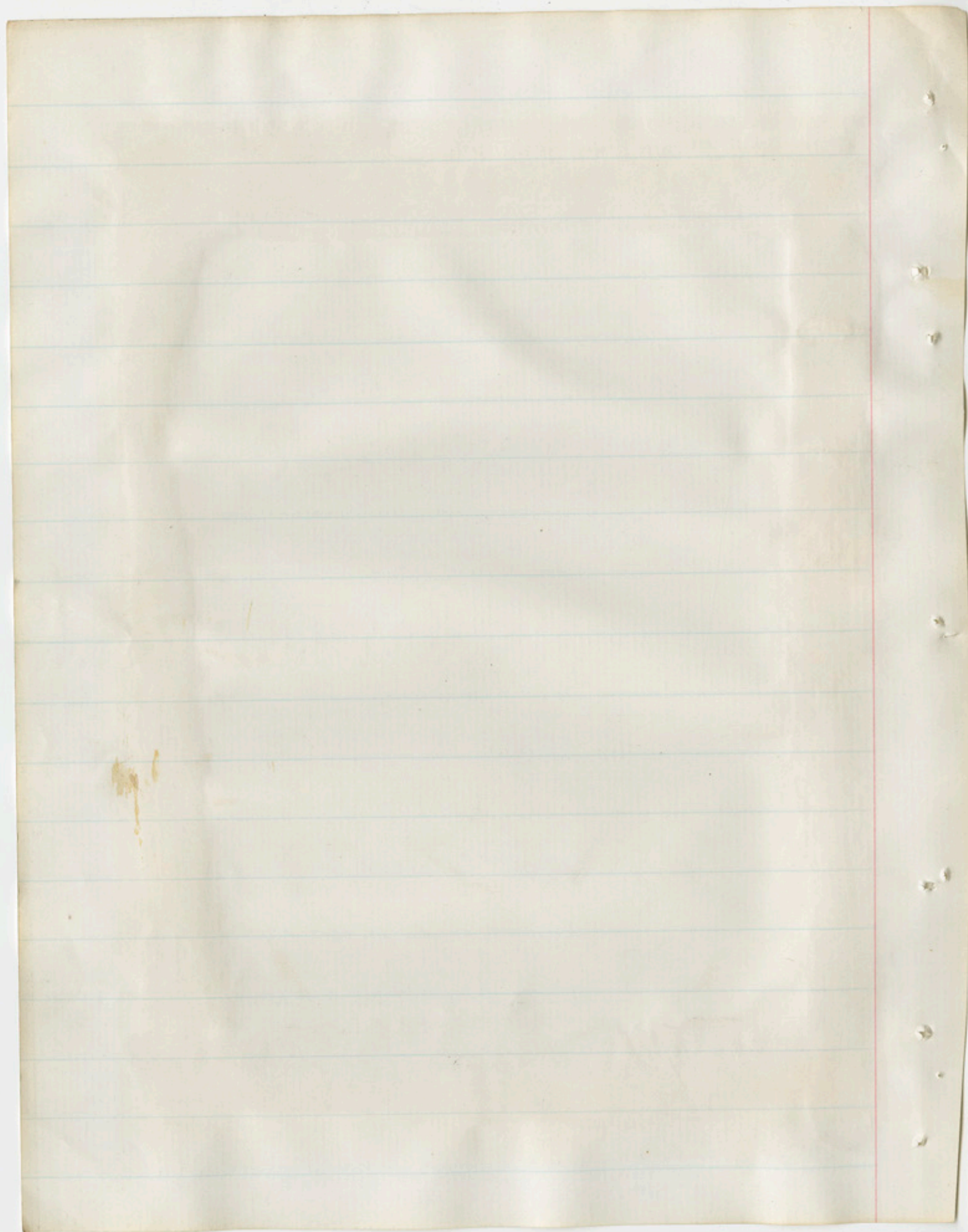
The National Observatory is built upon a small hill or knoll jutting out into the Potomac. Upon this hill, one who was then in early manhood, who knew not as yet what was before himself or the nation for which he was soon to draw his sword to carve a place among other nations, is said to have frequently encamped. He used then to remark upon the wonderful natural advantages of the vicinity for the location of a great city. He was a surveyor; he was a military man. He seized upon the present site of the National Capital as by an intuition. Within that grand amphitheatre, encircled by wooded hills, embraced between the Eastern Branch and the broad Potomac, the eye of his young imagination had already planned and planted a magnificent city to take the place of the unthinned forests that lay beneath him.

The youthful dreams of such a man often become solid realities; they seem to be the foreshadowings of the plan of God. When the Revolutionary struggle was over, and the young land surveyor emerged from the smoke of the British cannon, the most commanding figure in his country's history, Providence, and the gratitude of a redeemed nation, gave to him the actual founding of the *very city*, seen by his youthful eye, to be the Nation's Capital, and to publish to the whole world and to all posterity his own immortal name; to stand as a memorial of himself. It was a fitting termination of his career.



By whom Rome was founded, no one really knows. Its early history is enshrouded in the mists and hazy glory of mythology. Its stories of Faustulus and the she-wolf that suckled Romulus and Remus may do to amuse boyhood; may serve to engage the students attention and draw him into the rich labyrinths of mythology; but for purposes of history they are valueless.

It is now supposed that Romulus stands for the Roman people. American history has been, throughout, in the *sunlight*. There are no dim figures of imaginary heroes. There are no myths of god-descended men. It is barely eighty years since the present site of the National Capital was selected, and one reason why the city of Philadelphia, where the supreme legislative body of the nation had held its sessions was abandoned, should never be forgotten. It was thought eminently desirable that legislative deliberations should be unbiased, uninterrupted by *local influences*, local combinations. The fixing upon Washington as the Capital was the result, in part, of the conduct of a company of Pennsylvania recruits who left Lancaster, marched to Philadelphia, where they were joined by two hundred more from barracks, and proceeded with martial music, to the State House, the 2d of June, 1783, demanding redress of their supposed grievances. They were not veteran soldiers of the Revolution. The men who had fought the nation's battles, having driven the invader back, had gone home quietly to the ranks of peace-loving citizens, as yet unpaid for their heroic services. These raw recruits, who had *done* nothing, and *suffered* nothing, but who fancied they were not to be treated with proper consideration by the State Legislature, then deliberating in the same building with the National Congress, thus appeared before the doors, blockading them for hours. It was an indignity that Congress would not brook. It would not deliberate in the presence of bayonets; and apprehensive that the State authorities might be unable to fur-



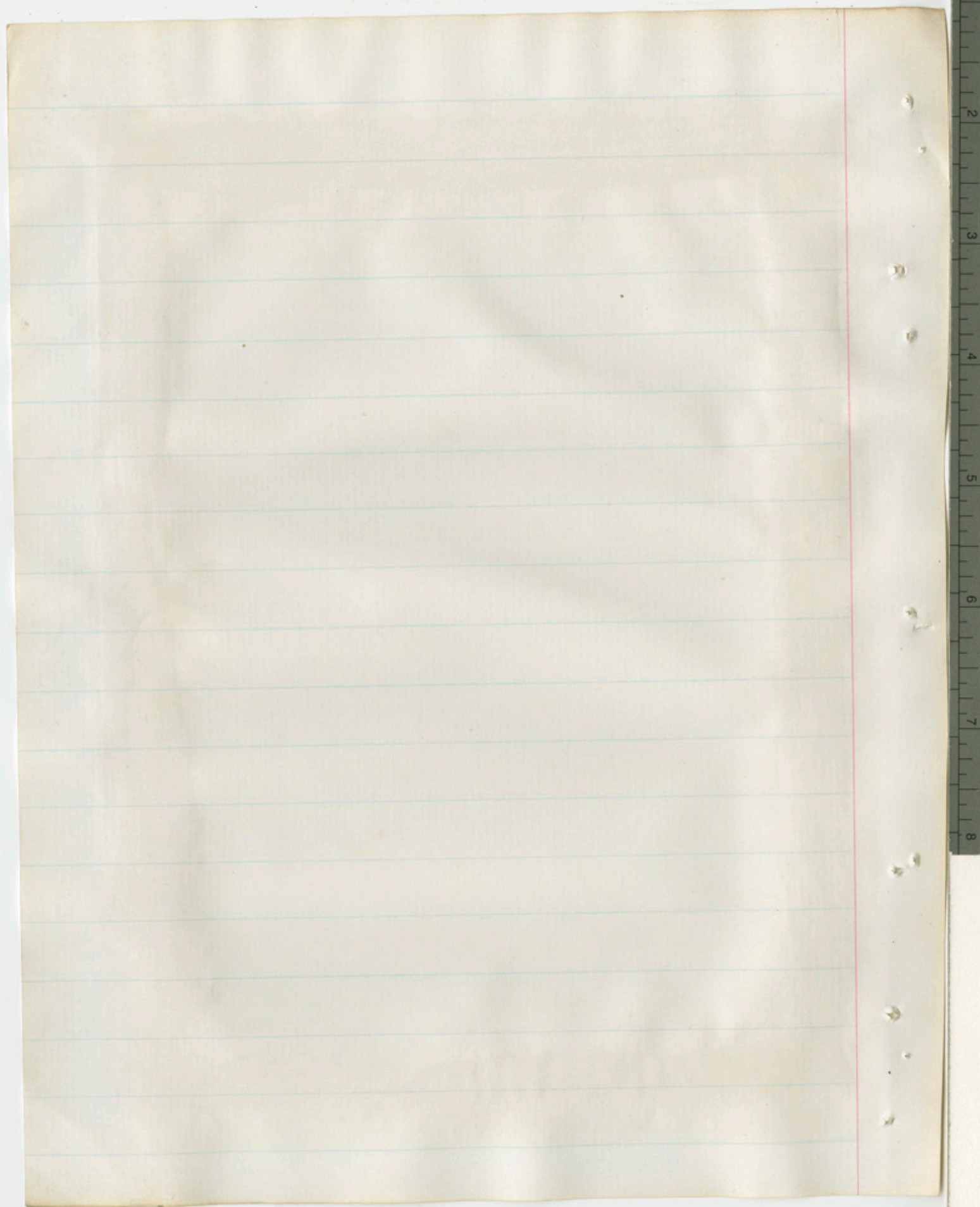
nish proper protection, the body at once adjourned to Princeton, until General Washington could afford them relief.

The great men of that period were very jealous of any infringement upon their public rights and prerogatives. They reasoned like this: A National Capital is the seat of National legislation. Whatever may, upon occasion, interfere with the purity of this legislation, local interests, local powers, local authorities, must be kept aloof. Circumstances involving no special foresight or provision, had determined other Capitals; *they* would select, *they* would name, *they* would lay out their own. It was, measurably, an original plan, like that of the very government itself. It was a part of the forethought peculiar to the character of those men. Who that has read French history, and seen how the populace of Paris, rising up in a moment, have obstructed and defied and demolished the government, making and unmaking republics and empires, until the French nation has become the synonym for instability, can doubt the wisdom of their decision? Nor is it at all certain what had been the fate of our government if, during the Rebellion, it had held its sittings in New York city, the business metropolis of the country. Who that recalls the bloody riots by which the disloyal attempted to resist the draft, can doubt that similar attempts would have been made to over-awe the legislative bodies of the nation? It was a happy thing that the seat of the National Government was so far from other centres of interest and power; that it was within the limits of the border States, thus making its defence. ^KKeep the war mainly in the enemy's country; in short, that it was planted where a military eye had selected its position—at the junction of two rivers, with an environment of hills, which were, in themselves ~~national~~ fortifications.

natural

2. ITS NAME.

It is, indeed, a *high* honor, if not *the highest* that these United States can have, that this is the country of Washington. If



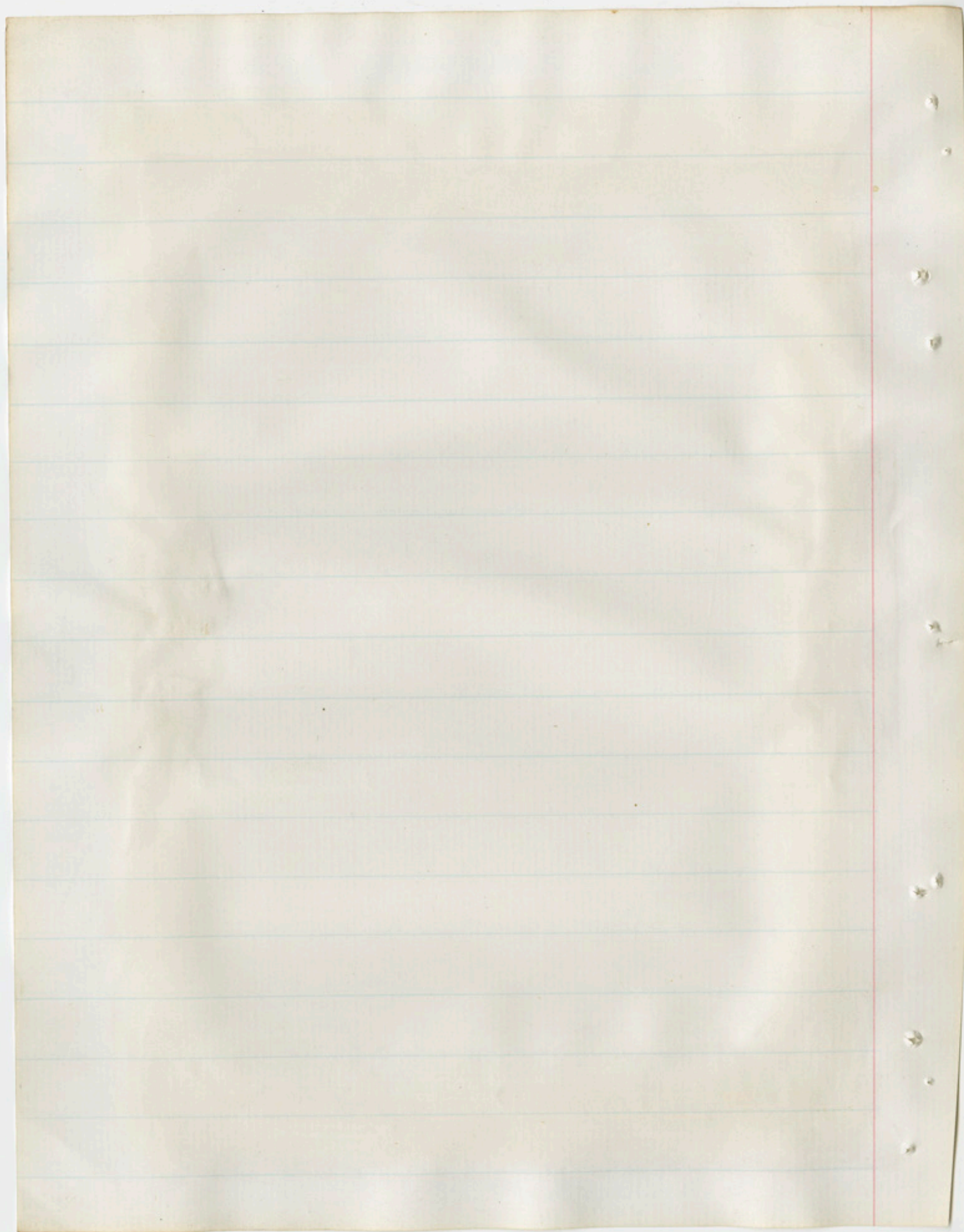
the whole country could have borne his name, as America, though wrongly, bears the name of Americus Vespucius, as Bolivia rightly bears that of Bolivar, it would have been a fitting tribute to the man of the purest patriotism and the noblest civic virtues. It would have been only a feeble recognition of the debt the country owed him. Next to the high honor of giving the country its name was that of giving a name to its Capital. The name of the "Father of his Country" is thenceforth attached to all public documents, to all State papers, to all official acts of the Executive, to the end of the government's life. The government at Washington is now synonymous all over the world with that of the United States. There is a historic fitness in this fact which the whole world recognizes.

3. ITS STABILITY.

Had the late rebellion been successful in seizing the Capital, (the danger of it appeared imminent at least three times during the struggle,) and had it succeeded in issuing its legislation from the halls of Congress, in the eyes of other nations it had been a staggering blow to the unity of the Republic. And it gave to a government, even as ephemeral as the confederate, an unstable and peripathetic character, that during its short and uncertain life it was transferred from Montgomery to Richmond. This removal was a demonstration of the time when its chief executive should flit southward, bearing its archives in his pocket, and covering his sacred person with a lady's water-proof.

4. HOW PATRIOTISM SPRINGS FROM IT.

Patriotism is a sensitive plant; and no nation, least of all a nation that has few life-long public men; that has no titled dignitaries, can afford to trifle with it. The fact that Washington, the Capital City, founded by the man whose name it bears, and whose sacred dust is deposited so near it, was in

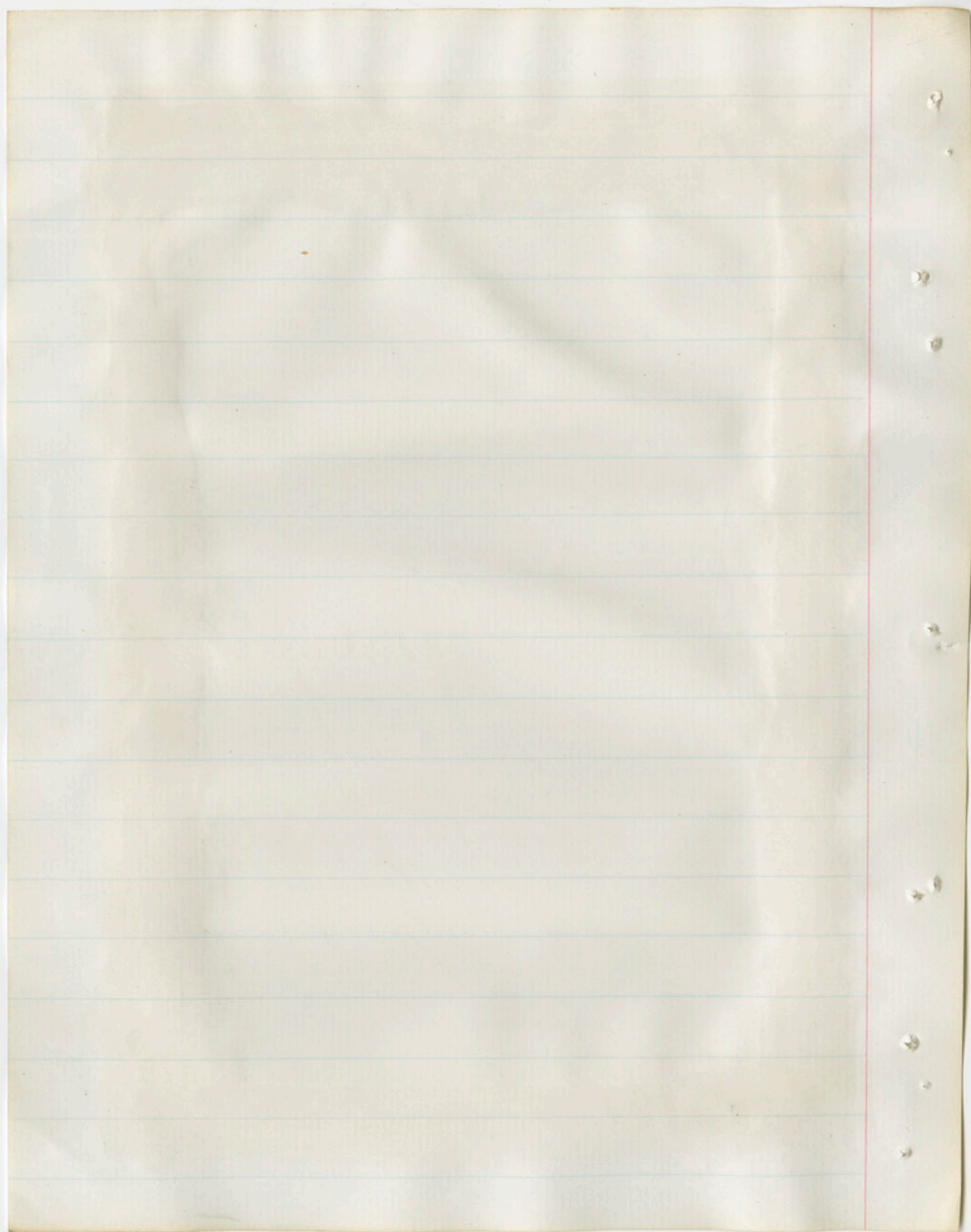


danger of seizure, and, perhaps, of devastation, was the frequent rallying cry of the late war; certainly some of us loved it then better than ever before. When the soldier marched over the Long Bridge to the uncertainties of the battlefield, and turned to catch a last parting look at the magnificent dome, that still went up under the hand of the workman, (notwithstanding the dimensions of the civil struggle,) it stood to him for the nation itself.

Washington was then the *heart* of the nation. At the other end of the Avenue, in the Presidential mansion, was the Executive head, the peoples friend, the peoples hope, the pensive, patient Lincoln. Now, go with me to Arlington Heights; stand among the fifteen thousand men, privates and officers, from every loyal State in the Union; stand where you can take in the columns of headboards that mark the resting places of these soldiers, who are the eternal witnesses against the crime of rebellion, and, by God's principle of compensation, sleeping in the soil of the man who abandoned it that he might lead a host against his nation's life. Interrogate them where they lie beneath those old oaks, or in yonder tomb of indistinguishable dust, *why* they flocked from the East and West and from the North, around the nation's standard? They silently press home the answer, it was to protect the heart and head of the nation; the government of the nation; the nation expressly *imaged* forth in its Capital, *Washington*. And it is, indeed, fitting that they should lie here, within sight of the proud structures that are the symbols of national *life*. In their silent bivouac which knows no earthly waking, they still guard that for which they surrendered life, even as they once guarded it with their bristling bayonets.

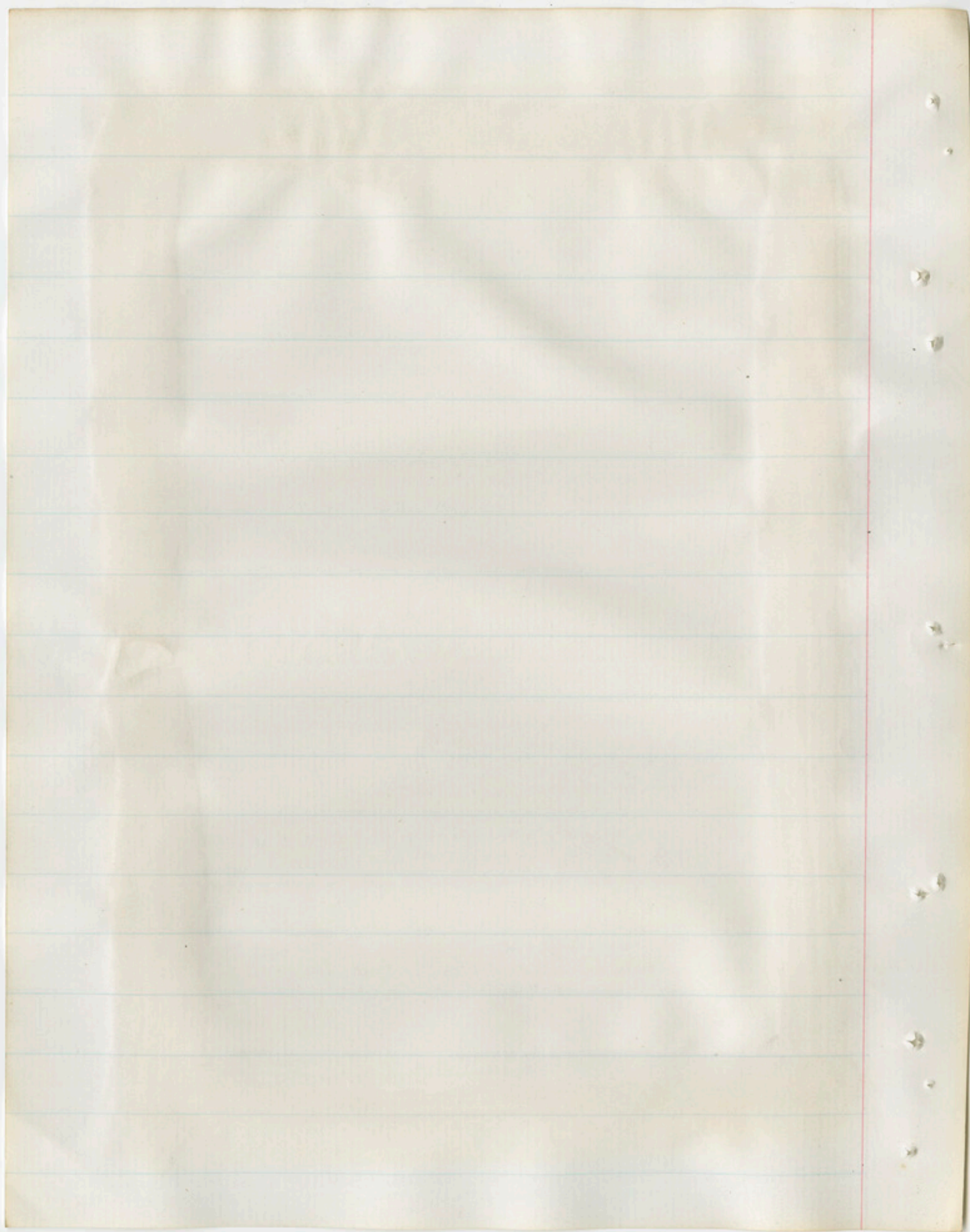
5. OUR SACRED MEMORIES.

So long as the memories of the recent struggle remain fresh in men's minds, there can be no other Capital to this



nation than Washington. Sherman said: "While our heroes live the Capital will not be removed." May we not extend the sentiment? While our *patriotism* lives, out of which heroism springs, Washington's gift and Lincoln's treasure shall remain here.

But the National Capital has civic memories, as well as military, and are they not interlocked, the one with the other? Here met the great Titans in debate: Benton, Calhoun, Clay; and Webster easily, prince among his peers, easily towering above them all. Here the hydra secession was scotched—not killed. Here were fought in words the battles for and against human freedom, afterwards fought with cannon. Here legislation, pacific, compromising, put off from time to time the evil day it could not avert. Here rang the battle axe of the anti-slavery heroes, who dared speak an unpopular truth, from John Quincy Adams to the present fearless and persistent defender of human rights, Charles Sumner. Here our Presidents and Senators and Judges pronounced the oath recorded, in heaven, that they would be faithful to the Constitution and laws of the land; and over that threshold they stepped forth who had treason in their hearts and on their tongues, doubtless leaving with the expectation of soon returning in triumph. "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for, if they had been of us, they would, no doubt, have continued with us." They went out self-exiled from their country's future. They went out to the *infamy* of stinging the bosom that nourished them. Some men say: "It would be a good thing if all these events could be forgotten; if the sacred acres at Arlington and the other National Cemeteries could be converted into wheatfields; if the heirs of the confederates could have the old estates again; if Washington itself, and all the associations that cluster around it; memories of the *inflexible* Stanton and the great hearted Lincoln; of victory and defeat; if Washington and all these recollections could be obliterated."



Never! It would be the greatest calamity that could happen. The famous Richard Weaver, in a drunken spree, raised his hand against his mother, dragged her by the hair to the earth, and beat her head. Oh, how he longed to forget it, but he could not, even after he had found a forgiving Saviour. But it ever after served to deepen his tenderness and love to that mother. So let the forgiven enemy remember and feel for the country he once prostrated and injured. But let the patriots heart thrill with joy and devotion in these memories. Just as a tree feeds upon soil upon which it has showered its many harvests of leaves and fruit, so every nation lives upon its memories. A nation without patriotic memories is not half a nation; it is like a child without human parentage, an orphan among the nations of the earth.

6. WEBSTER'S APPRECIATION OF WASHINGTON.

Never, perhaps, had any man a keener eye to *detect*, a more poetic mind to *enjoy*, or greater command of language to *describe* landscape beauties, advantages of situation, than Daniel Webster. Standing at the East front of the Capital, near the very place where the great Washington had stood a half century before, about to witness the laying of the corner stone of the extension of that edifice of which Washington had laid the original corner-stone; on the 4th day of July, 1851, he spoke as follows:

"Who does not feel that when President Washington laid his hand upon the foundation of the first Capital he performed a great work of perpetuation for the Union and the Constitution? Who does not feel that this seat of the general government, healthful in its situation, central in its position, near the mountains whence gush springs of wonderful virtue, teeming with nature's richest products, and yet not far from the bays and great estuaries of the sea; easily accessible, and generally agreeable in climate and associa-



tion, does give *strength* to the *union* of these States! That this city, bearing an immortal name, with its broad streets and avenues, its public squares and magnificent edifices (of the general government,) erected for the purpose of carrying on within them the important business of the several departments; for the reception of wonderful and curious inventions; for the preservation of the records of American learning and genius; of extensive collections of the products of nature and art, brought hither, for study and comparison, from all the parts of the world; adorned with numerous churches, and sprinkled over, I am happy to say, with public schools, where all the children of the city, without distinction, have the means of obtaining an education, and with academies and colleges, professional schools and public libraries, should continue to receive, as it has heretofore received, the fostering care of Congress, and should be regarded as the permanent seat of the National Government!

"Here, too, a citizen of the great republic of letters, a republic which knows not the metes and bounds of political geography, has prophetically indicated his conviction that America is to exercise a wide and powerful influence in the intellectual world, by founding in this city, as a commanding position in the field of science and literature, and placing under the guardianship of the government *an institution* for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men. With each succeeding year new *interest* is added to the spot; it becomes connected with all the historical associations of our country, with her statesmen and her orators; and, alas! its cemetery is annually enriched by the ashes of her chosen sons. Before us is the broad and beautiful river, separating two of the original thirteen States, which a late President, a man of determined purpose and inflexible will, but patriotic heart, designed to span with arches of ever-enduring granite, symbolical of the firmly cemented union of the North and South. That President was General Jackson.

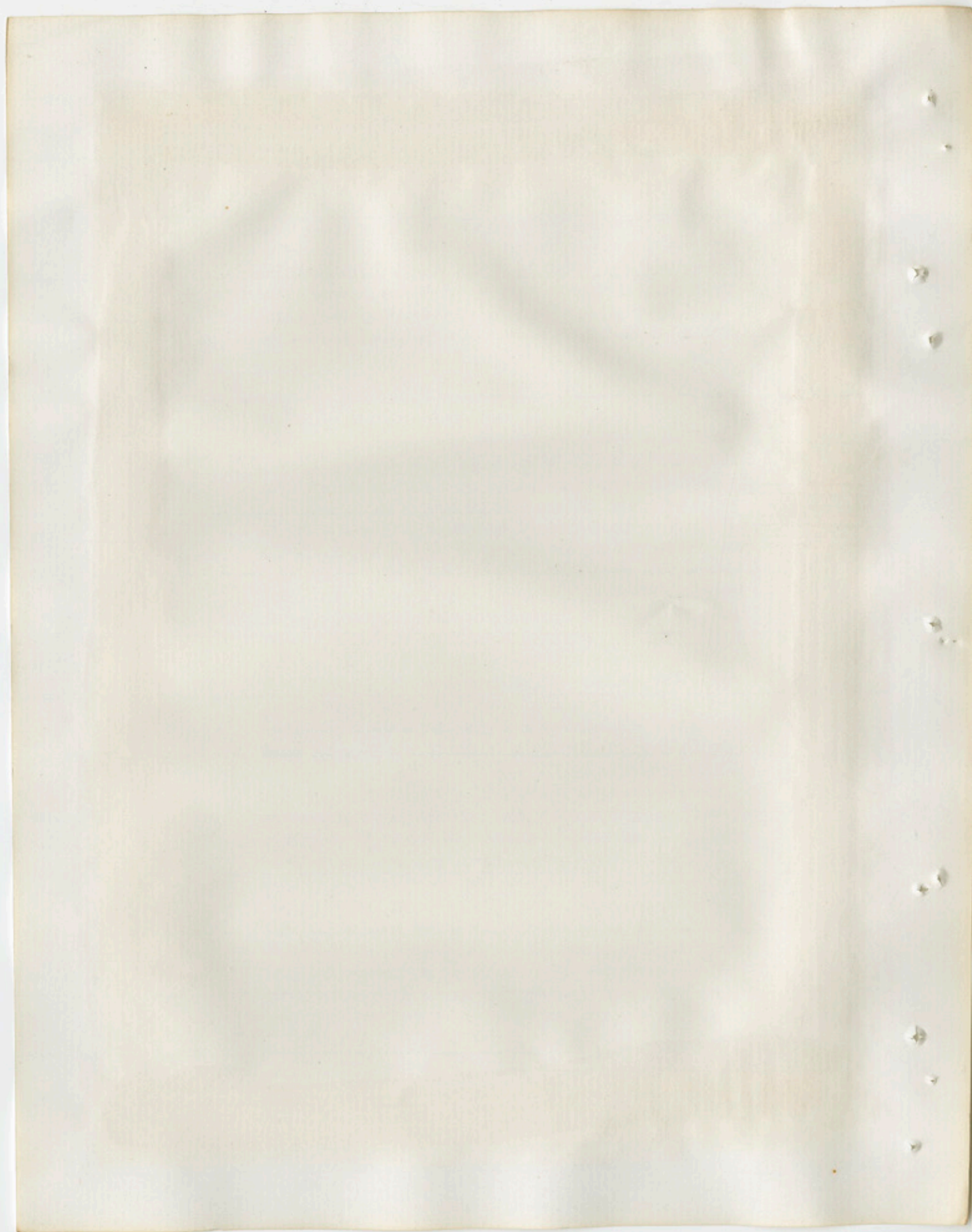


"On its banks repose the ashes of the 'Father of his Country,' and at our side, by a singular felicity of position overlooking the city which he designed, and which bears his name, rises to his memory the *marble column*, sublime in its simple grandeur, and fitly intended to reach a loftier height than any similar structure on the face of the whole earth."

7. THE NATION'S LIFE PRESERVED.

So spoke the great Webster twenty years ago, and three years before he was carried to his long repose at Marshfield. But while the sea has been chanting there its eternal monotone, what changes have passed upon the nation; upon the nation's Capital! That parricidal *blow* at the Government which he so much dreaded, and which he prayed might be averted in his time, has been struck, and has failed. By his side sleeps a son of his, who laid down his life for the country, almost in sight of that spot where the great orator then stood. Even as that patriot father had expressed it, which expression, substantially as follows, has become that son's worthiest epitaph: "In the changes and convulsions that come to all nations, and that may come to our own, if ever a sacriligious hand shall be raised against this Government, God grant that some one in whose veins is flowing my blood may be ready to parry the blow, and if need be, to lay down his life in its defence."

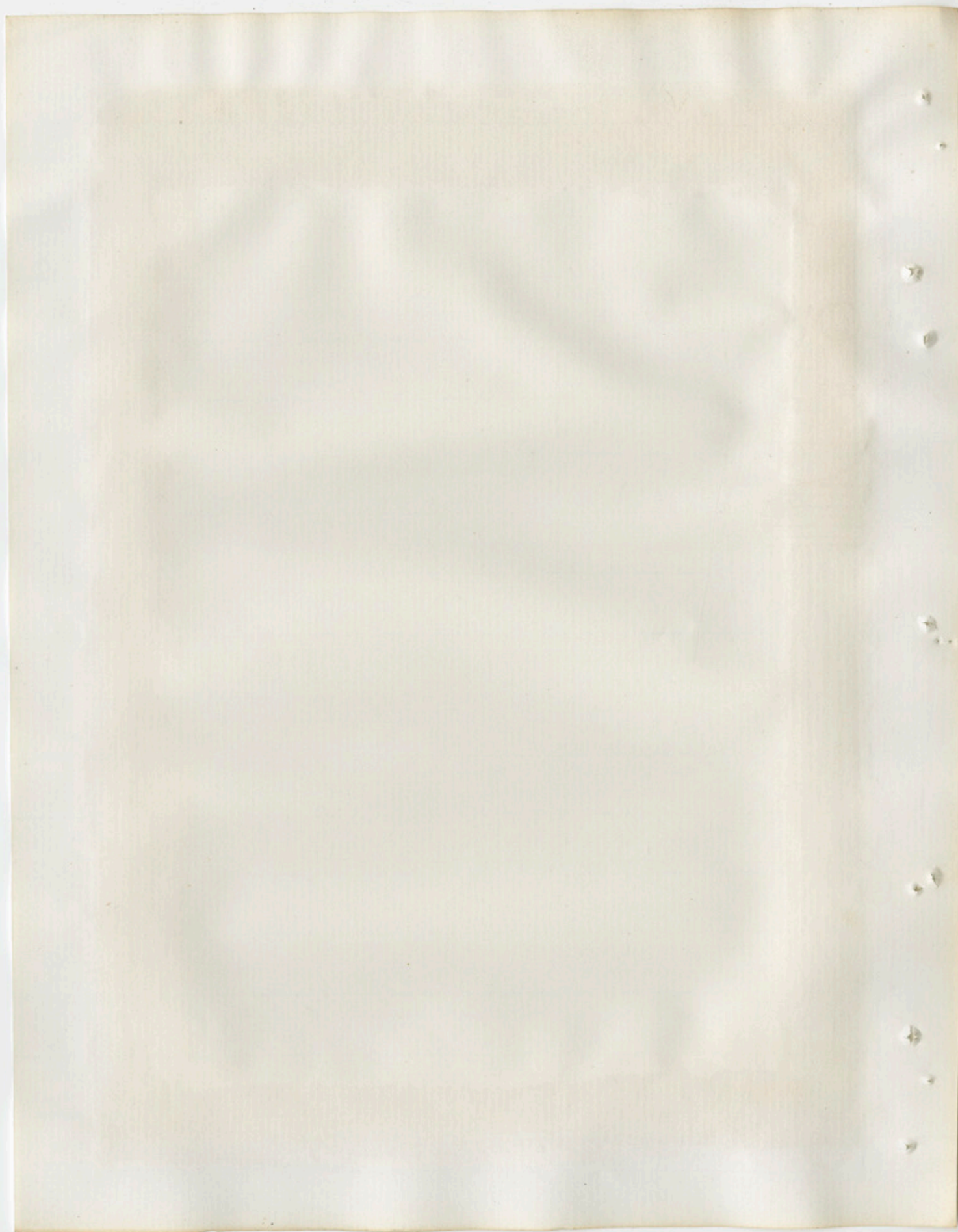
The sky above our heads is the same as before, our territorial limits are not diminished; not one star, however temporarily dimmed, has been blotted from the nation's galaxy. The nation has been redeemed from a great curse, the curse that made even the tongue of Webster, at times, to falter and speak but partial truth. The curse and the burden are gone, and the nation has received a new lease of life; and the National Capital, held back so long by old traditions which were averse to human rights and modern improvements, has been especially benefitted. The incubus of the



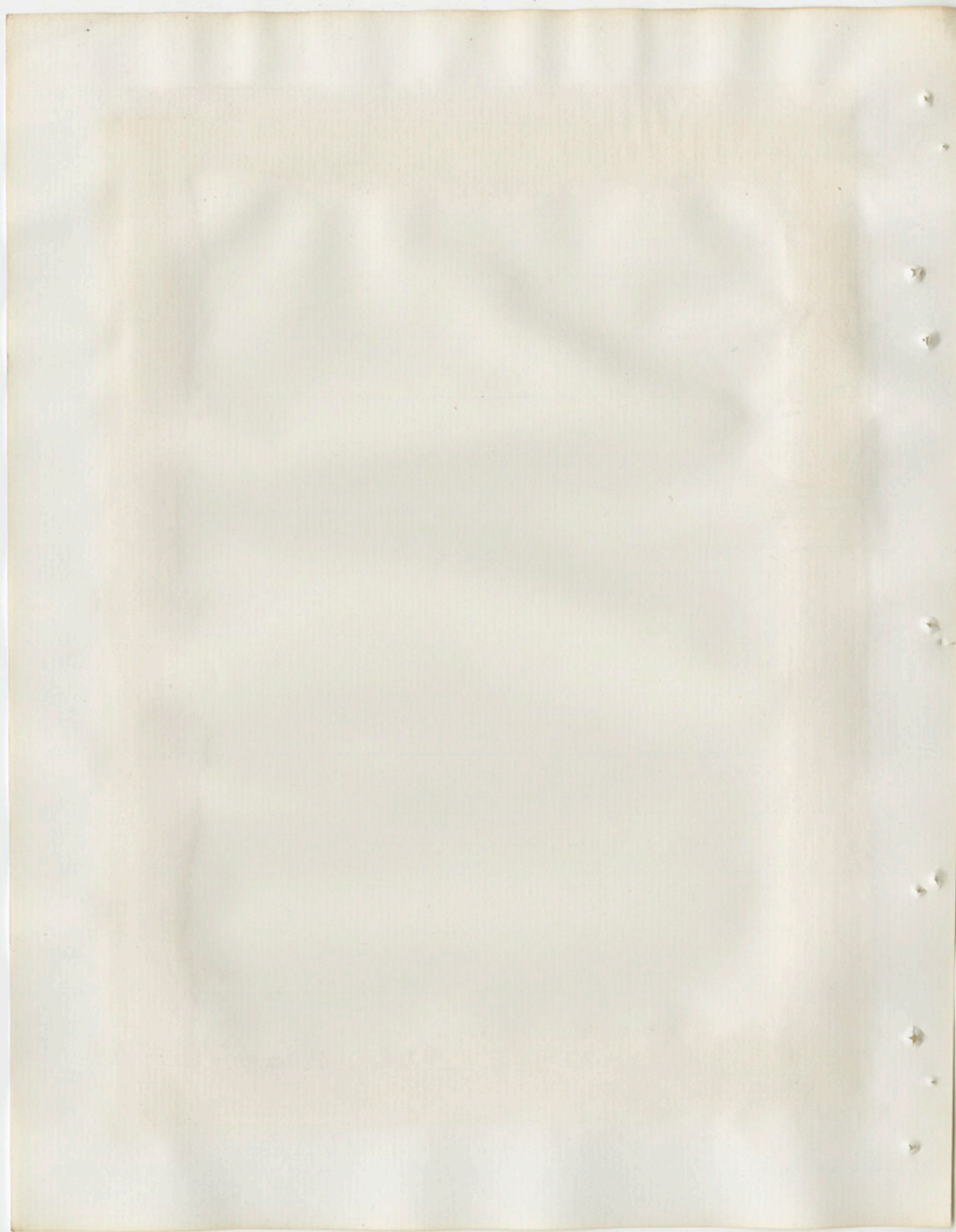
old civilization has been lifted from it. From having a population of 51,687, (including District) in 1851, when Mr. Webster spoke, it has gone forward until it has a population of 131,700. From having a property valuation of \$14,000,000, (\$14,018,874 accurate) not including United States buildings and grounds, it has gone forward until it reaches personal property, \$11,256,177 30; real estate, about \$95,000,000; total, \$106,256,177 30.

8. THE CAPITOL EXTENSION—VIEWS FROM THE DOME.

The *extension* of the Capitol, interrupted by the existence of an armed rebellion of greater magnitude than was ever before suppressed, has been completed. It stands there in its white splendor, the cynosure of all eyes; the centre from which depart the great avenues, like so many radii, to the surrounding hills that are its circumference. Climbing nearly four hundred feet till you stand upon the summit of the dome, and, looking West and South, the Potomac lies at your feet. Just beyond it, upon a high bank, and with prominent pillars and projecting from the green foliage, stands Arlington, the spot from which General Robert E. Lee may be supposed to have bidden farewell to his country, and from which he looked down the broad interval, then cultivated by his bondmen. A half mile below stretches the Long Bridge, across which so many "unreturning braves" marched into Virginia. The *broad thoroughfare* which runs West, bearing northward to the Treasury building and the President's house is the principal avenue of the city, and bears the name of Pennsylvania—from that sturdy old State that has now given to history its Gettysburg to complete the record of its honorable fame. You have now an uninterrupted view of it to the Treasury. Here and there, on either hand, are introduced the magnificent architectural structures for the use of the various departments, any one of which would be deemed remarkable in a single city. The *Patent*



Office, a perfect type in architecture, with its vast storehouse of models of the products of American genius. The *Post Office*, the centre of that system of transmitting social and newspaper intelligence to all parts of the world; bringing letters from the most distant lands and lodging them in the township or the dwelling of the citizen everywhere. The *Treasury*, whence the sinews of *peace*, as well as war, are issued, and where Mr. Boutwell, that wonderful American economist, sits controlling the money markets of the world, and relentlessly reduces the national debt. To your left—that structure of red sand-stone, with towers and turrets—the *Smithsonian*, a kind of super-university. It is in the midst of a generous park, with walks and drives, as quiet and free from dust in summer as if in the midst of the country, while the crowded avenue is scarcely an eighth of a mile away. Within are galleries of natural curiosities—beasts, birds, and fishes—gathered from every clime; models of the dress and the dwellings of the Esquimaux and Hottentot, samples of their implements of peace and of war; busts of eminent men; and other things of interest innumerable. Just beyond the Smithsonian, toward the West, is the Agricultural Department, the centre of surpassing interest to the farmer and the fruit-grower. The grounds are laid out with great beauty and skill. In front bloom and blend the choicest, sweetest flowers of the passing season. Within are collections of seeds and fruit, samples of the grain and grass which will grow best in the various sections of the country; specimens of birds, noxious and innoxious, of barn fowls, from the cackling goose to the trumpet-voiced chanticleer. If you look northward there is the old *Soldiers Home*, two miles distant, on an eminence, where, in spring, summer, and fall, the veterans while away the hours beneath pleasant shades, fighting their battles over again, and in the grounds of which of a spring or summer evening you may meet the carriages of public dignitaries and private citizens



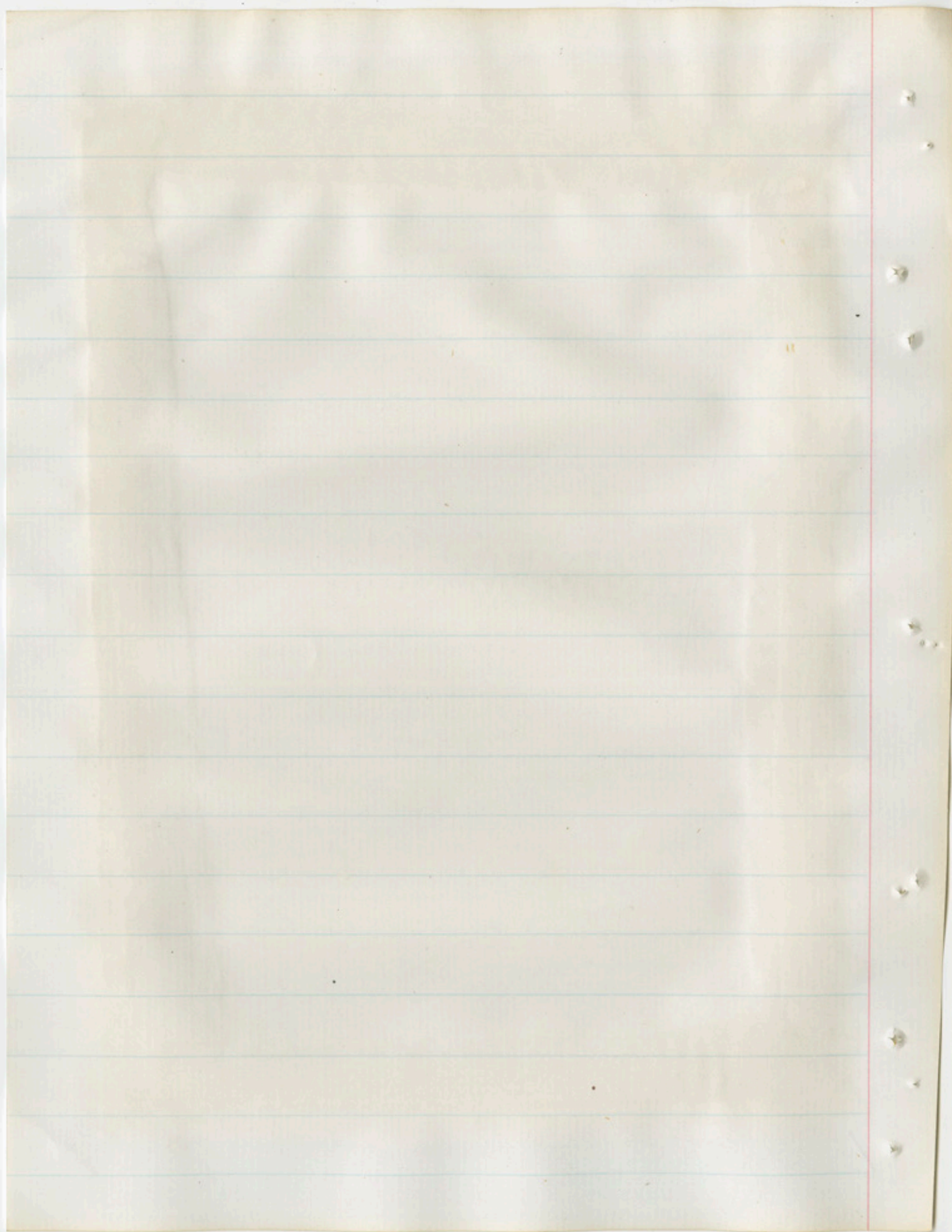
taking the fresh air and securing one of the most commanding landscape views that mortal eye ever saw. On a ridge a half mile below it rise, sharply, *new structures*, which; more than anything else, indicate the presence and power of the new regime that has succeeded the war. There colored students, not excluding others, receive every educational advantage that can be furnished. It is the proud distinction of this University—for it it is now fairly organized in all its departments—that it has had within it already, at one and the same time, pupils of five different nationalities, and that its trustees and faculties are constituted without reference to nationality or religious denomination. Twenty years ago, though Mr. Webster speaks of schools where all people, without distinction, have the means of obtaining an education, such an institution would have been impossible; five years ago a prominent educator of youth declared the then rising walls “an outrage that the people of the Capital would never tolerate.” And even now, since the war, since the emancipation and elevation of the slaves, since their assured citizenship, this institution and the Bureau that aided it into existence, have been hounded as were the slaves when making observations of the North star, strangely attempting to violate the fugitive slave law. Calumnies have been heaped upon it and its friends; wicked prosecutions have been entered upon and conducted after the fashion of the old slave spirit, out of hostility to the race which it especially benefits. It stands there, however, visible far down the Potomac, and overlooking the very *grove* where Washington sleeps, the first attempt to realize his fond dream of a National University at the Capitol, for the founding of which he left provision in his will, but which provision was wholly unfulfilled by his executors: it stands there a necessary fruit of the war, and of the citizenship of the bondmen; an indication that what the colored man *has*, he will be taught to understand and protect; that he will show to be false all



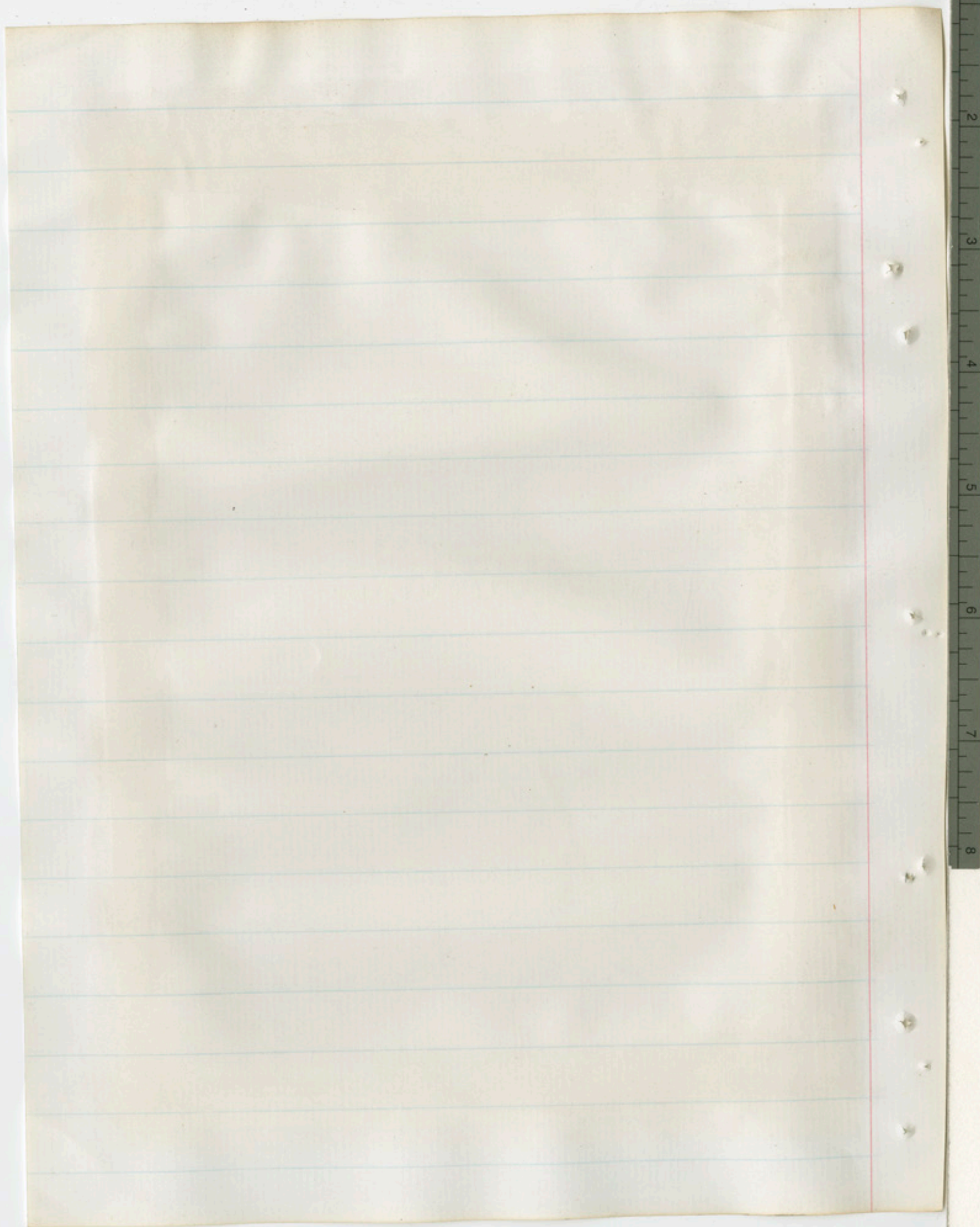
prognostications respecting his failure to become a man among men, and to meet his responsibilities as an integral part of the republic. If the eye sweep around still further to the right, it falls upon a group of substantial brick structures, erected by the Government for the education of the deaf mutes of the nation. Here young men and women, denied the power of articulate utterance, with the sense of hearing sealed up, may receive collegiate training, even as though they were favored like the rest of us. Upon the high ground South of the Eastern Branch is the Government Hospital for the Insane, now largely peopled by officers, soldiers, and those who have been employed by the Government. And here, lying between the Navy Yard and the Washington Arsenal, are the Providence and Marine Hospitals, where our Government has yearly made provision for the sick and maimed. One day would not suffice to visit and inspect the public buildings and their contents, in plain view, which I have not named, buildings where the growing needs of a great civilized people are being met; as the old Ford's Theatre, where Lincoln fell, converted into one of the most extensive and curious medical museums in the world. Corcoran's Art Building, the Georgetown College, the Columbian College, crowning different heights, ambitious of university privileges. Asylums for aged women; others for orphan children. The extensive wards where the aged and invalid negroes are cared for. The War and Navy Departments, and the grand bank building erected by the Freedmen's savings since the war; the upper part rented to the Signal Corps, the central floor to the Department of Justice, and lower occupied by the central office of the Savings Company, whose many branches extend from New York to New Orleans.

9. DISLOYALTY TO THE UNITED STATES CAPITAL.

As an argument in favor of disloyalty to the Capital, it is often said that Washington is a very immoral and corrupt



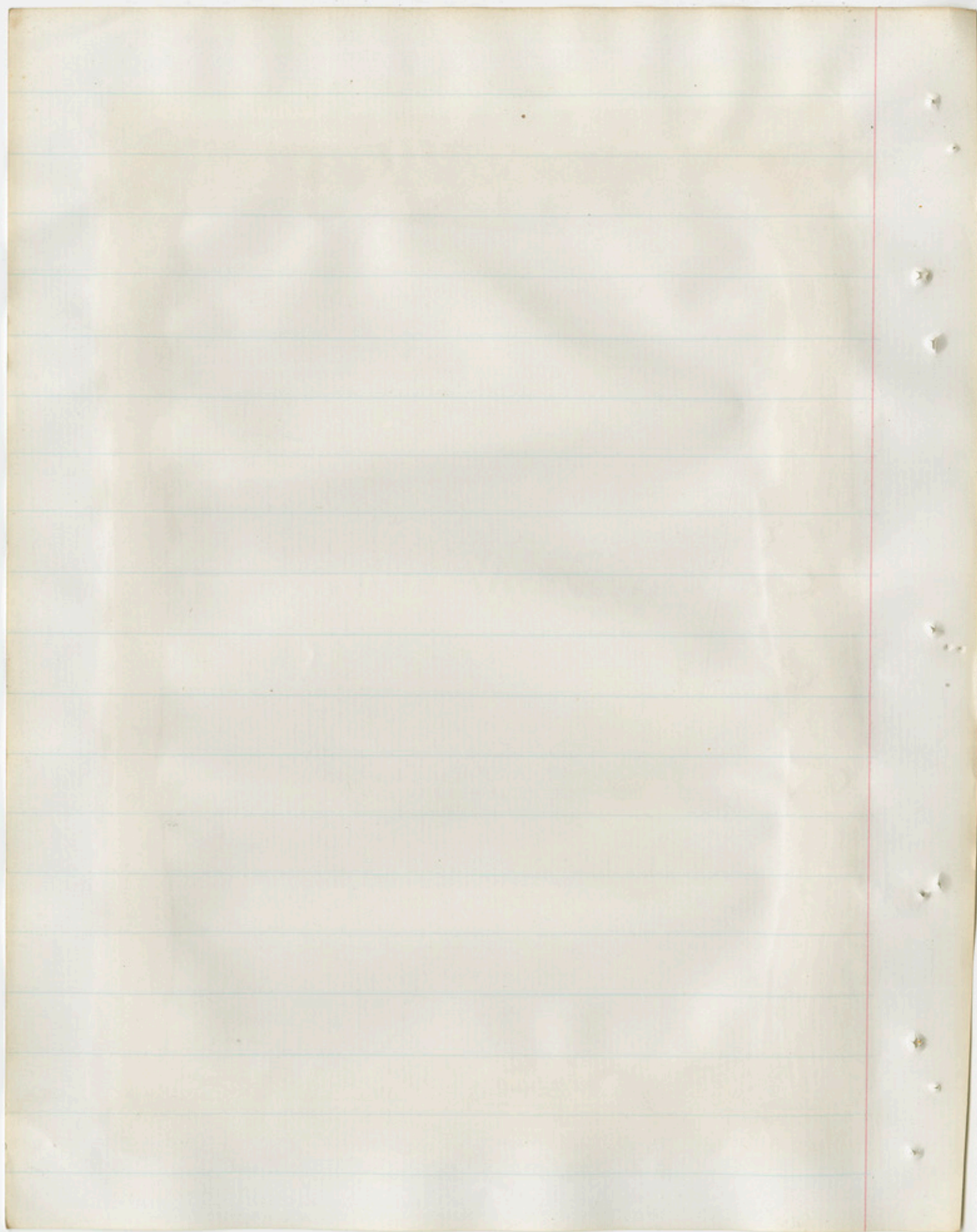
city. Having resided here since the war, I have been associated with a large number of public men—with many of them *intimately*; and not a few of them I know to be men of great simplicity of character and purity of life; and it is a fact beyond question, that a large proportion, certainly a decided majority, of your Senators and Representative are upright men. Dissoluteness has largely diminished in twenty-five years. Many become *better* at Washington than they were in the antecedent canvass at home. I will give you two examples to show you how little we may rely upon current gossip. A certain Senator is represented, [in some parts of the country it is believed,] to be corrupt in all his dealings—glutting himself with public plunder, licentious and drunken in his private life, altogether worldly and wicked. These charges are not confined to a partisan opposition press. A so-called political friend follows him for hundreds of miles for a false story, and deliberately adds to it and gives it abundant circulation. Now this Senator lives quietly with a charming family to which he is true. He never tasted strong drink in his life. He is not only *not* corrupt, but among the foremost to expose villiany and robbery—even that vilest and meanest of all theft; the filching of ones good name. He is large hearted and benevolent, active in all Christian work. His summation is, a Christian gentleman, and, of course, in spite of the scum and froth of falsehood, history will so record him. The other is the case of a Senator, whom, in 1861, I heard cursing with a roughness that started me when I was told his name. He is now transformed under God's hand, and has been for years a model of Christian living and Christian statesmanship. But, it is said, the corruption belongs to the more permanent denizens of Washington. Yes, there is wickedness enough. There are *our* "Five Points," not confined to one locality where several ways meet. There are grog-shops on many corners, and some houses devoted to gambling, counterfeiting, and other vileness; but let the city



that is without these sins, from the careful purity of New England to the careless roughness of the Western border, cast the first stone at Washington. Notwithstanding our last years' carnival, perhaps the mere outburst of joy over a redeemed avenue, or the plucky resentment over the loss of the World's Fair, the permanent citizens have little to do with the follies, frivolities, and vices which always, more or less, follow the seat of Government. A majority of them are unambitious, retired, industrious citizens; to be found at their places of business during the week, and at their various churches on the Lord's day.

10. POSITIVE CHARACTERISTICS.—THE CHURCHES, &c.

And as for Christian activity, in not a few of them, judging from the last four years of observation, I have never seen it excelled, for example, the church to which I belong. [I speak of this simply because I am more familiar with the facts, and not because it is in *advance* of other in the things stated:] this church, whose edifice was elected in part, by Christians all over the country; a church only about five years old, and where we aspire to be neither white nor black, but of one complexion in the Lord our Saviour, made the following report for last year: Enrolled in Sabbath school, pupils, 1,116, including missions, instructed by 87 teachers, mostly of its members. It has three preaching stations; at these, prayer meetings held weekly. Three new churches being formed. Raised for itself, for current expenses, \$4,000; for benevolent purposes, \$1,244 83; Foreign Missionary Society, \$324 51; American Missionary Association, \$288 24; Washington Bible Society, \$81 88; Home Missionary Society, \$80; Miscellaneous Contribution, \$470 20. Paid upwards of \$20,000 on church debt, and assumed pledges for upwards \$15,000 more. Not a single rich man on the church roll. Membership, about 330.

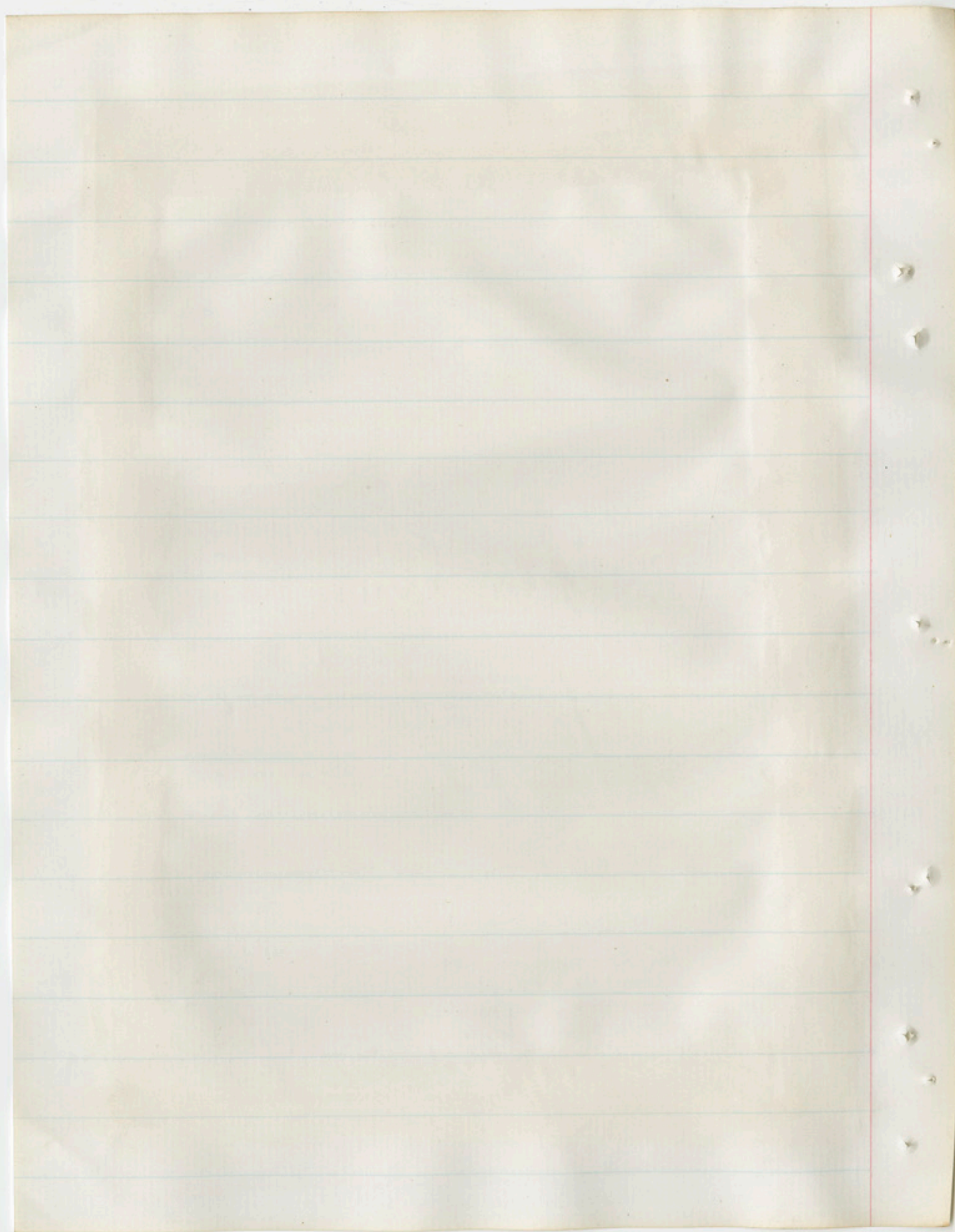


11. YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Besides this, together with other equally active Christian churches, it affords most efficient help to the Young Men's Christian Association, an association in which our able Governor has been most deeply interested, and which he has again and again materially aided, an association our city especially needed, and remarkably zealous and efficient, lifting up the Christian standard against every wrong; sending its members wherever are the fallen or neglected; to reform-schools, jails, workhouses, barracks, and street corners. Indeed, out of this organization has sprung a kindred one. Going to the very gateway of perdition to hold prayer meetings, and plucking up penitent souls as brands from the burning in answer to their cry for help, we followed the necessities by founding a Woman's Christian Association; a home, a refuge, a place where employment can be furnished to those that need it. In one word, I hesitate not to say that the residents of Washington are, as a class, distinguished above any single community, where my lot has ever been cast for intelligence, for culture, for benevolence, for Christian zeal and activity; for freedom from sectarian jealousies and littleness; and, on the part of Christians, for a prayerful determination to meet and resist, by separate and combined effort, the tides of corruption that come and go at any seat of Government, which must always leave more or less of its miasma.

12. EVIDENCES OF POVERTY.—OF NEWNESS.

It is true that buildings of the poor are still very near the beautiful Capitol; it is true, as is often charged, that every thing in Washington looks crude and new and unfinished. The Capital might say: "The crime of being young I will not deny." It is the Capital of a *young* nation. Our fathers planned largely; they planned against a compact business centre, in favor of numerous broader avenues and broader



streets than other cities, and of great extent; so that the filling up, the grading, the paving, parking, and beautifying are slow.

13. THE NEW BIRTH.

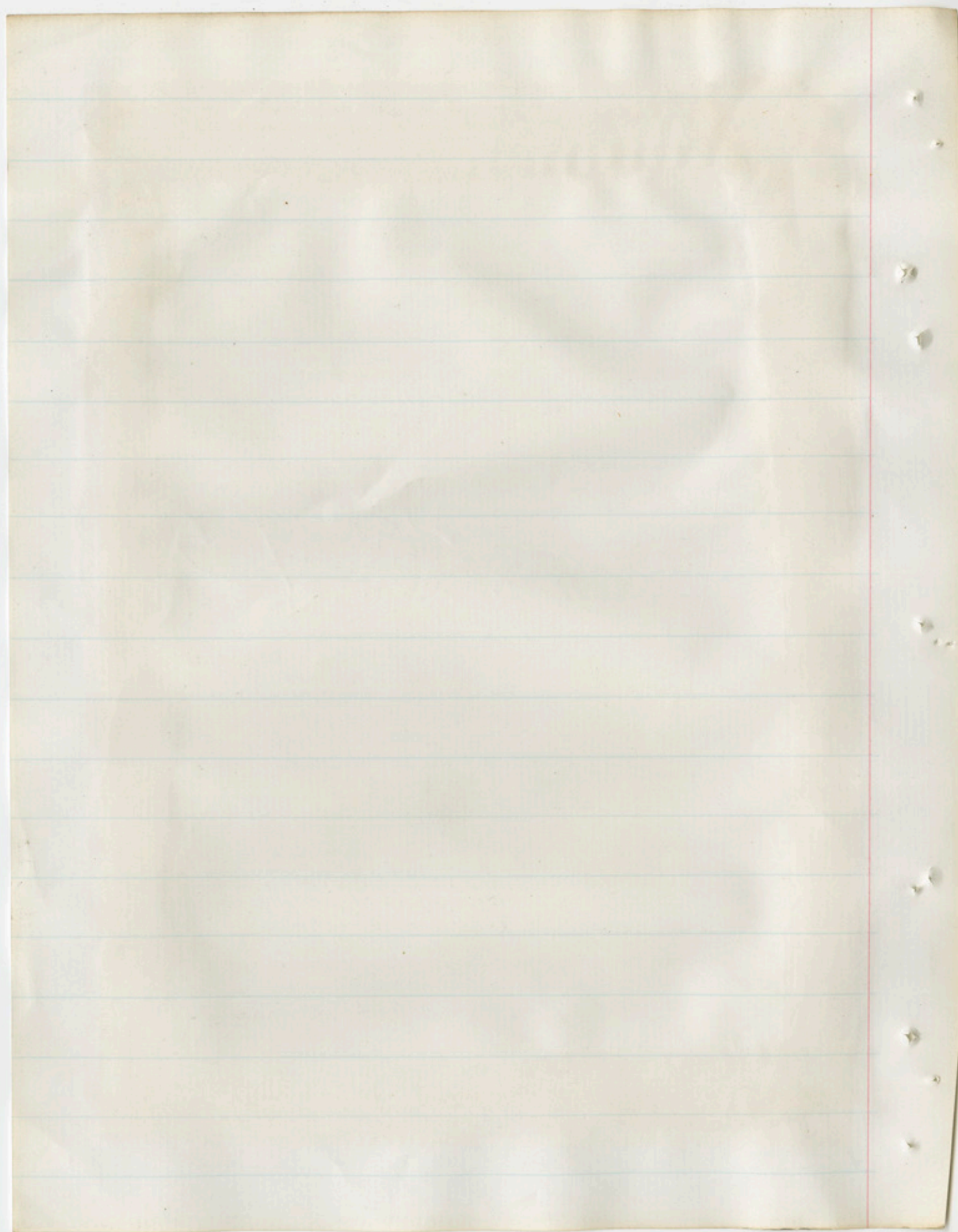
Then let us remember that the pulsations of its *true* life, since its new birth, it has only just begun to *feel*. It has but just awakened from the distempered dreams of its past. Coming to it from the century-lived capitals of the old world, from London or Paris, or even from Boston or New York in our own country, every one notices and remarks the contrast. Here are vast spaces of projected streets; here the marbled pillars mingle with the wood-hut or the plastered shanty, and, until lately, few streets were paved at all, and those that were, seemed to be villanous contrivances for breaking the legs of horses and the axle-trees of carriages; indeed, the trades of the carriage-maker and blacksmith were among the most profitable of the handicrafts practised here.

14. EFFECTS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Washington, in the past, had little fostering, and is only just coming to self-government. It has necessarily been essentially a southern city, without the advantage of southern capital in all that related to public institutions and enterprise. Every visitor remarks its wonderful natural advantages, but they never had been developed. It was like a splendid structure half erected, with staging still around its walls, brick, timber, piles of sand, and all the evidences of incompleteness thrust upon the attention. This was especially apparent and painful to a man educated in the North. But now this is all changed.

15. PARTICULARS OF CHANGE.

The hogs that used to roam at large, with the freedom of the city, as a sort of walking scavenger, have been sent to their appropriate tenements. The universal practice of superficial

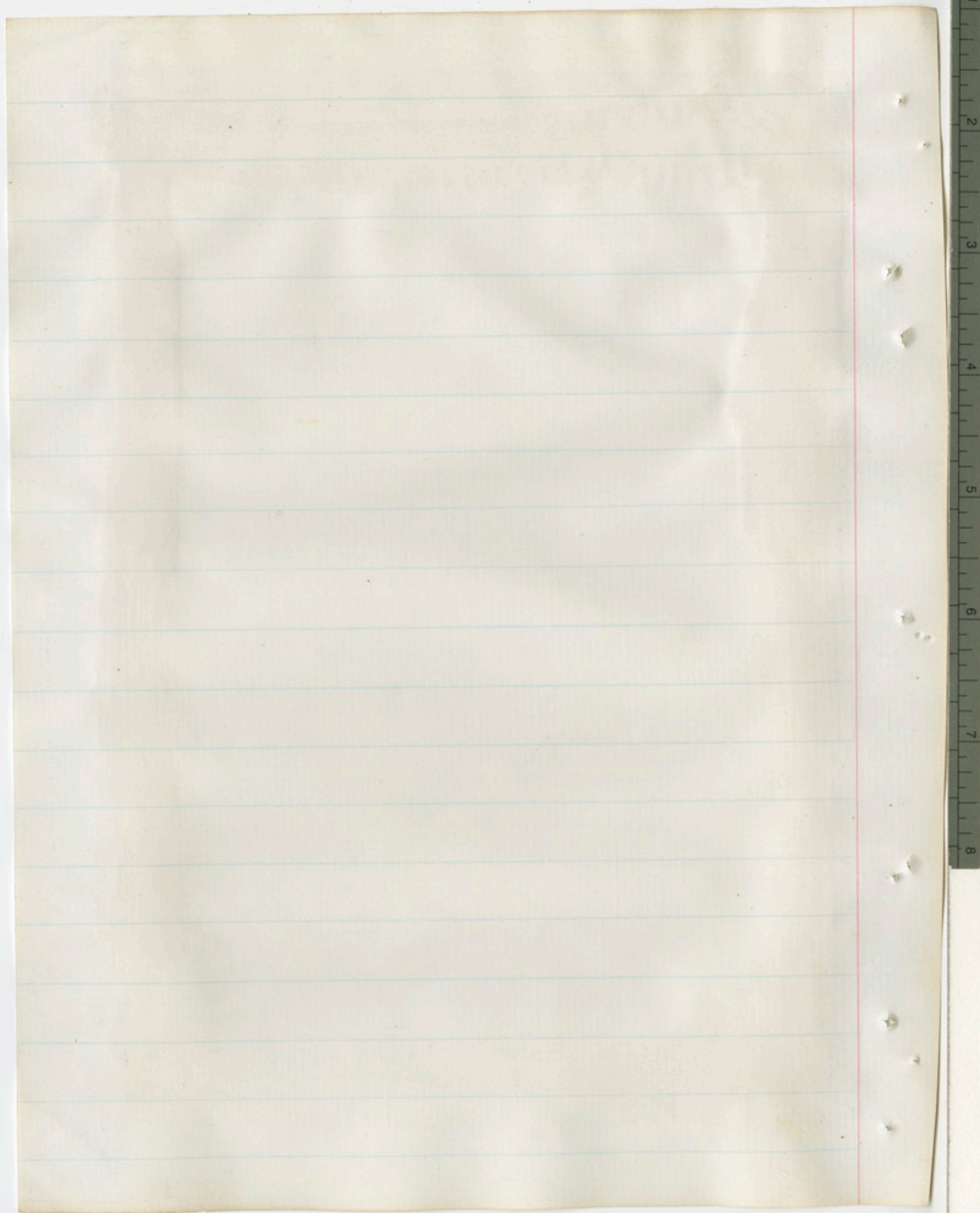


drainage is giving way to a complete underground system. The old canal, with its ancient renown, a standing reproach to the city, is fast filling up, and no longer breeds miasma along its irregular course. The whole area of the city and the outleading highways were, in the fall, and will be again in the spring, full of workmen with pick-axes, spades, and carts. The granite piers that Andrew Jackson meant to have laid across the Potomac, are now nearly completed, and a handsome railroad structure rises upon them, to replace the old rickety Long Bridge. The Eastern Branch has just been bridged for a new railroad to Baltimore. Long rows of beautiful houses of magnificent proportions are going up all through the city. From present prospects, before the first century shall have elapsed from the Declaration of Independence, so vast are the present projects for her improvement, so large the outlay contemplated by our able Board of Public Works under our new Territorial Government, and voted by the people, Washington will have made a rapid stride towards being what her great founder anticipated.

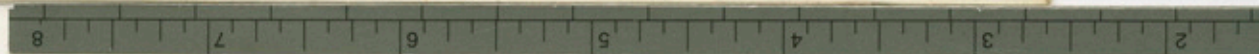
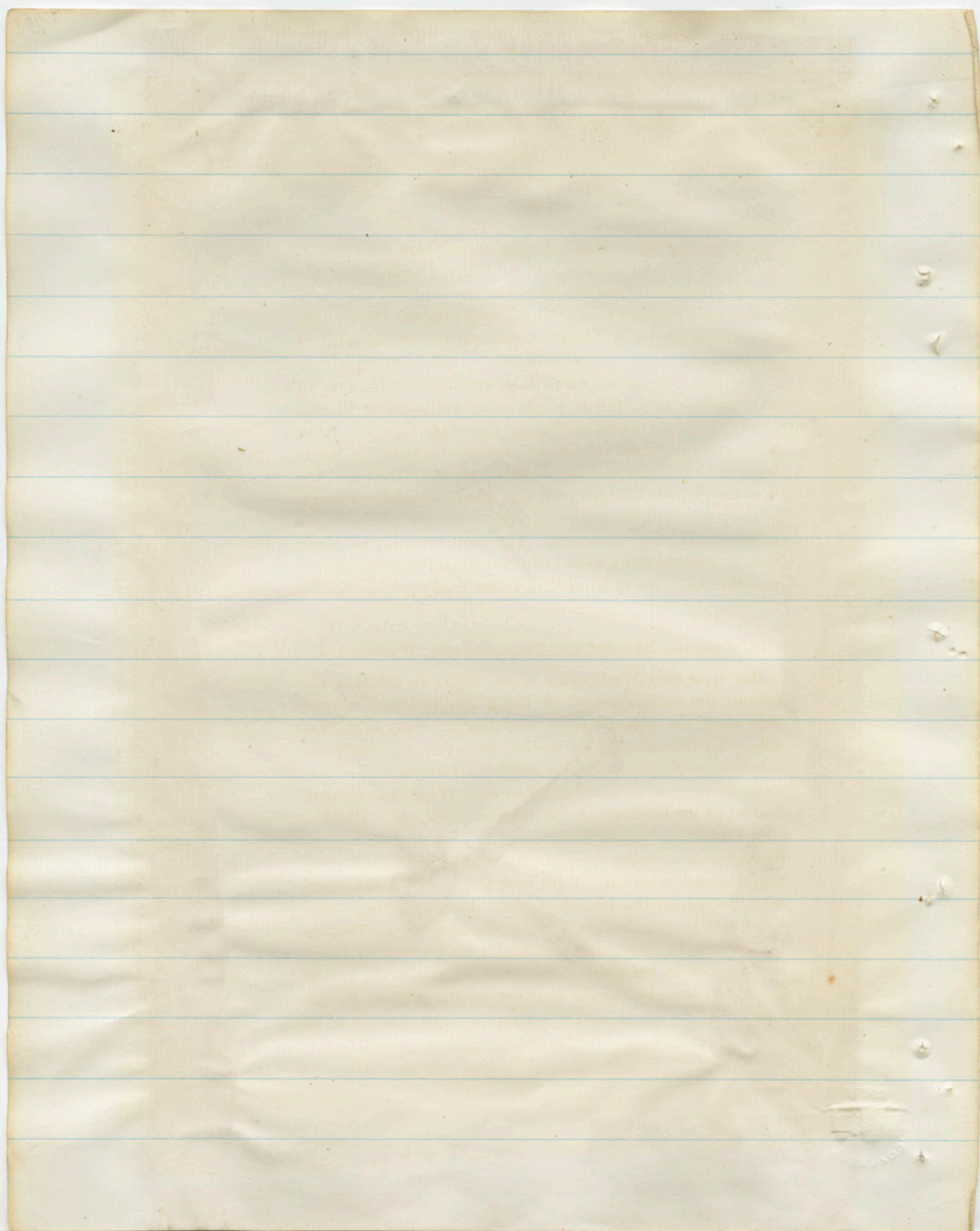
A correspondent writes to a far off city-paper a few items that show how the people feel, he says:

"It seems only yesterday that we had such great spaces of unoccupied land in vacant lots, and wide dirty, and desert-like streets, and these spaces the favorite haunts of cows, hogs, geese, and all manner of domestic animals; likewise, they were the ready receptacles of all ashes, garbage, and household refuse. The sewerage, too, was all on the surface. The police were a myth, almost.

"Now, all this is changed already, and the betterments are only begun. In place of a reign of no management and mismanagement of drift and make-shift, we have a large and orderly plan for improvement. Not only are fine houses filling the once vacant lots, but the streets, with new pavements and green swards and excellent sewerage are more cleanly and better kept than in most of our cities. And so the work is going on. All these changes are expensive, thus



Were I a connoisseur in art, I would trace its slow developments in the past years, and contrast the *then* and the *now*, but I can only venture to say that Vinnie Ream's statue of Lincoln warms the heart of those who love his memory, and that that *speaking* horse of Fisk Mills, bearing up General Grant's Chief-of-Staff excites the old martial spirit again, which the afflictions of peace, and the *high joint commissioner's* work have been near crushing out. Is it not good for our press that hates to commend but loves to criticise, to say of the work of a rising young man, that "while exhibiting strength and originality of genius, it is not only a great artistic achievement, but is the most purely American piece of statuary yet executed in this country."



the taxes increase. But I do not think there is any more readiness here than elsewhere to make money out of the great business all these works create, the credit of the Territory stands yet very high in the money market. Our bonds were negotiated very lately at nearly par for several millions of dollars.

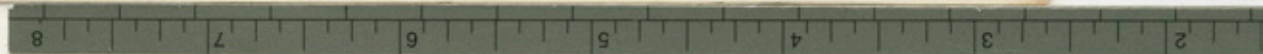
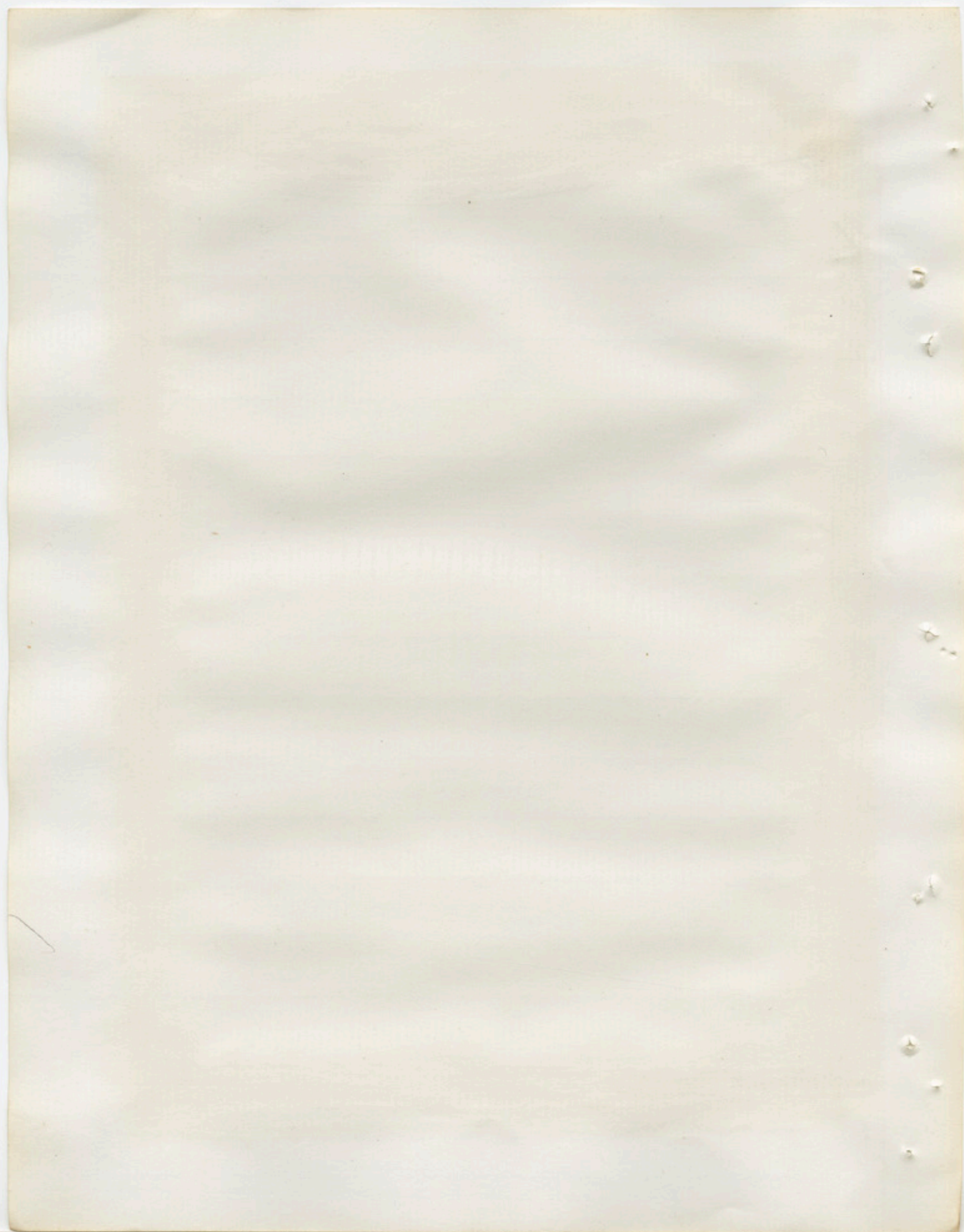
"If, therefore, we now and then growl at the blossoming of some swindle or the development of petty cheats in contracts, or if our backs get up at the rings, , or whatever you please to call the parties who have the inside track on the money making, or if we do wonder at the fine new club house the "Ins" are just about opening, or laugh at the pompous title of *Hon.* all the members of our legislature prefix to their name. Yet there remains so much that is tangible and excellent in many and substantial improvements on every hand that we are ready to "hurrah for the King."

16. FURTHER REASONS FOR DISLOYALTY TO WASHINGTON.

But it is said Washington is no longer *the centre* of the nation; the nation, instead of being confined to a narrow strip along the Atlantic slope, stretches far away to the Pacific. To this it may be replied, that you can reach the extremities of this nation, far from the Capital as they are, more rapidly and more readily than when it was here located, limited as the territory of the republic then was. Besides, communication by telegraph makes it possible for a man to be thousand of miles from his home, and yet hold hourly communication with it. I did hear that a prominent representative joined the church at home by a telegram. San Francisco is, practically, as near Washington in 1871 as Boston was in 1790; and a legislator may spend six hours in Congress at his public duties, and yet devote the rest of the day to attention to his business on the extreme Pacific coasts. The conception that a nation's Capital needs to be



in its territorial centre seems, to my mind, almost puerile. Perhaps it had some force when the Capital was first located. Then locomotion was slow and tedious, and the transmission of papers and letters equally so; but now it is miraculously true that time may be made by crossing a continent, and a man's message may reach its destination even before the hour when it was started. "But the Capital ought to be where the seat of empire is, and that must be in the great Mississippi valley." Admit, so far as material interests are concerned, that this valley may claim the centre. What, then? Are these the only, or even the most important, interests of a people? New York might claim the Capital as belonging to the great *commercial* centre. As I have travelled through the West, I find hundreds of cities and villages with their banks connected with the banks of New York by lines of deposit and constant communication and exchange, hence, New York is, also, the great *financial* centre. New England, while unproductive in soil, boasts of schools, colleges, and churches. She will claim a centre of moral and intellectual power, and, perhaps, with eyes upon the *hub* of the universe, vote the Capital upon Boston Common. Surely, to speak soberly, the moral and intellectual interests of a people do outweigh all others a hundredfold. The *ideas* of the East have been largely instrumental in making the nation what it is. Its young men have emigrated to the West to make such States as Illinois, Iowa, and Kansas like extensive gardens, as they are. It is true they do now grow men of whom we are proud, but they still turn back to the mechanical skill of the older States for much that is indispensable to their prosperity; for their agricultural implements; for their mammoth plows and grain-cradles and mowers. How unwise, how unmindful of origin and past aid, and possibly like Chicago and Northern Michigan in distress, of present and future help, would be these material interests, created and developed by the central thinking power of the nation, to claim to be



the nation, and to demand the Capital. But, grant the West its ambition; let it select the place, in its own vast limits, where the capital shall be located. Where shall it be? Chicago, rising from her ashes, in which live her wonted fires, answers: "Not in Cincinnati or St. Louis." Open the question, and it shall take fifty years of controversy and log-rolling to determine the place. What shall it be named? Which one of the agitators shall christen it with his own immortal name? Having robbed the "Father of his Country" of the honor so worthily bestowed upon his name, who shall be the worthy competitor, and go down to posterity bearing the weight of it?

17. THE PEOPLE LOYAL TO WASHINGTON'S MEMORY AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Place it where you will, the people will name it Washington. They will not suffer the change of name or place. It would be an indignity to his memory whose birthday we now commemorate. It would be an indignity to the estimate which the whole world has justly formed of his surpassing purity and nobleness. In "Lectures on Modern History," delivered by Prof. William Smith, University of Cambridge, England, occurs this tribute to Washington's memory:

"To the historian there are few characters that appear so little to have shared the common frailties and imperfections of human nature. It is understood, for instance, that he was going to commit an important mistake, as a general in the field; but he had at least the great merit of listening to Lee, and of *not* committing the mistake. Instances may be found, where, perhaps, it may be thought he was decisive to a degree that partook of severity; but how innumerable were the decisions he had to make; how difficult and how important through the eventful scenes of twenty-years of command in the Cabinet and in the field. Let it be considered what it is to have the management of a revolution,



and afterwards the maintenance of order. Where is the man that in the history of our race has ever succeeded in attempting successively the one and the other. Not on a small scale, a petty State in Italy, or among a horde of barbarians, but in an enlightened age when it is not easy for one man to rise superior to another, and in the eyes of man kind—

'A kingdom for a stage
'And monarchs to behold the swelling scene.'

"The plaudits of his country were continually sounding in his ears, and neither the *judgment* nor the *virtues* of the man were ever disturbed. Armies were led to the field with all the enterprise of the hero, and then dismissed with all the equanimity of a philosopher. Power was accepted, was exercised, was resigned precisely at the moment, and in the way that duty and patriotism directed. Whatever was the difficulty, the trial, the temptation, or the danger, there stood the soldier and citizen, eternally the same, without fear and without reproach, and there was the man, who was not only at all times virtuous, but at all times wise. His merit by no means closes with his campaigns; it becomes, after the peace of 1783, more striking than before, for the same man who, for the sake of liberty, was ardent enough to resist the power of Great Britain and hazard every thing on this side the grave, at a later period had to be temperate enough to resist the same spirit of liberty when it was mistaking its proper objects, and transgressing its appointed limits. He might have been pardoned though he had *failed* amid the enthusiasm of those around him; but the foundations of the moral world were shaken, and not the understanding of Washington."

Such is the testimony from abroad.

18. CONSEQUENCES OF DISLOYALTY TO OUR CAPITAL.

If now, merely to gratify the representatives of material growth of this great republic, the nation should become disloyal to the Capital, designed and founded by this great



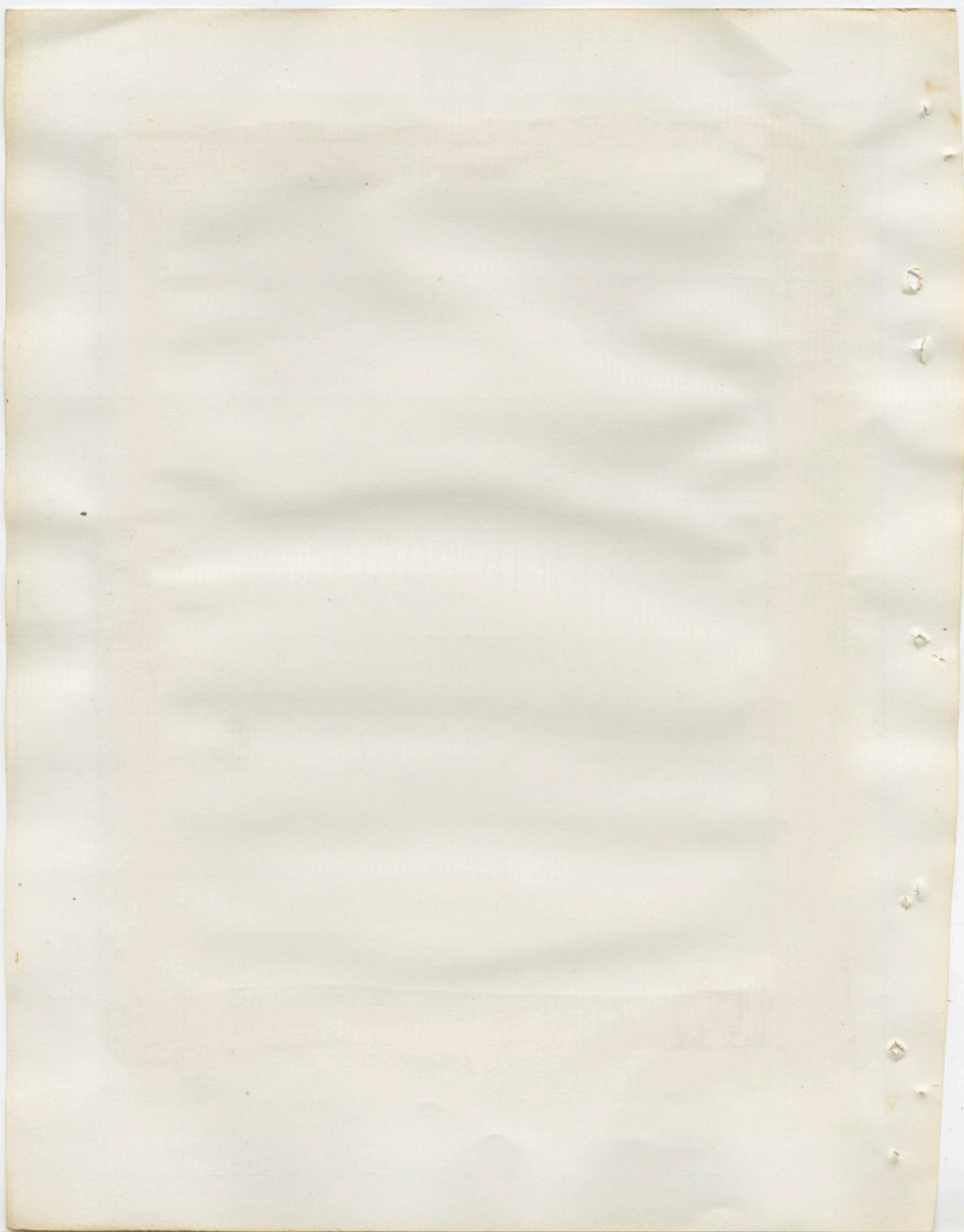
man, become willing to sacrifice so much that is sacred to his memory; the voice of the *whole civilized world* would be uplifted against it, and his degenerate countrymen would be pronounced unworthy of such a heroic and noble character.

19. SHOULD KEEP GOOD FAITH WITH ALL.

There are minor considerations which are, nevertheless, part of the stability and credit of a nation. What population the District of Columbia has gathered; what property has been invested here by its citizens, has been with the understanding that it was to be the permanent seat of the government. The large expenditures, amounting to more than \$25,000,000, which the government itself has made, have implied this. The gift on the part of Maryland and Virginia of the territory of the District was made with this understanding. Take away the seat of government from Washington, and there is not one of the one hundred thousand citizens of the Territory who would not be defrauded of what he has been encouraged to invest there by the government itself; by the act of the several States in fixing Government here. For a nation to create such a city for its own convenience is to make a moral contract that it shall be permanent. During the first uncertainties of the war, property in Washington sank to its lowest ebb. It was because it was feared that the city would be destroyed or be no longer the nation's Capital. Every foundation stone that has been laid since the Capital was established; every brick that has been put into walls, every stick of timber that has been morticed, has been with the implied obligation that the Capital should be as permanent as the existence of the nation itself.

20. THE CITIZENS CRY.

Of course the citizens of Washington do not expect the nation will ever be untrue to this obligation. They believe that should the time ever come (and I believe it never will)



for the people to express themselves on this subject, they will say, with emphasis: "Let the Capital remain where the young Washington first saw its site; let the Capitol structure stand upon the foundations he laid with his own skilful hands; let his far-reaching plans be fully and triumphantly carried out. Let his own Potomac, whose seaward flow sweeps past his resting place at Mount Vernon, still pass its streets and bear the tale of its growth and its glory to his ears. Let the dome of the Capitol, crowned since freedom with the symbol of that American liberty which, with the valor of his own right arm, and the purity and integrity of his own true heart, God raised him up to win for the nation and the world, still mirror itself in its waves. Let the representatives of other nations, who come here from the old monarchies, reverent from their age, and to whom our civilization is, as yet, like an unsolved problem, see that without a throne or titled families the filial instinct in the heart of this great people is true to the 'Father of his Country;' true to the institutions of his procurement, will ever keep the Capitol near the sacred spot where he lived, died, and lies buried; that the people whose armies he led to victory in the midst of great privation and suffering, the people who afterward rose in their might to preserve the inheritance he left us, in all its symmetry and integrity, have determined that the material foundations which he, and our fathers with him laid, shall be permanent, permanent indeed, if God is willing.

21. THE DEMANDS AND FRUITS OF A TRUE DEVOTION TO OUR COUNTRY.

True loyalty loves the Capital of our nation—works and prays for it. Jesus mourned over Jerusalem. Let us mourn over any vices that come into our Capital, and by our active Christianity purify it, till it shall be, indeed, a Christian Capital city, fit representative of a great people, who are loyal to



truth and righteousness. Let us not turn away from it as from a place God-forsaken and hopeless; but let clouds of blessing, in answer to the petition of this great Christian people always hang over it, until growing with the growth of the nation the improvements projected by its great founder, year by year carried out; his far-reaching plans perfected; *there* ~~then~~ shall be analogous, intellectual, moral, and religious growth and improvement until it shall stand, at last, among the other Capitals of the world, like the character of him whose name it bears, among earth's greatest heroes and statesmen; until it shall be worthy of him who founded it; and also of him who, as the people's greatest representative, gave it the baptism of his own life's blood; a holy and glorious fulfillment of the motto of Webster—

“Stet Capitolum,

Fulgens late nomen in ultimas extendat oras;”

a Capital effulgent not merely with the ~~bounty~~ *beauty* and glory of splendid architecture, or flashing with patriotic armies, made for its defence, but shining with the light of Christian virtue, shining with the light of God, and making its name a synonym for *Christian patriotism*, for *republican purity*, for *fidelity to the truths* of the gospel the world over! Thus interpreted, let us repeat it as our prayer:

“Stet Capitulum,

Fulgens late nomen in ultimas extendat oras.”

