James Stanley Emery speeches

Section 11, Pages 301 - 330

Several addresses written and given by James Stanley Emery. He spoke to a number of audiences at Kansas universities and clubs on religion, history, and other similar topics. James Stanley Emery was born in Franklin County, Maine in 1826. Educated at Waterville College, he was admitted to the bar in New York in 1854. Involved with the New England Emigrant Aid Company, Emery came to Kansas with the second party of immigrants to ensure that it became an anti-slavery state when it entered the Union. He worked in numerous states for the cause through the following years. Emery was a member of the Leavenworth constitutional convention and served on the Kansas Legislature in 1862 and 1863. He was a lawyer and also worked as a journalist for the New York Daily Times. President Abraham Lincoln appointed Emery U.S. District Attorney for Kansas in 1864. In 1891 he was president of the Kansas State Historical Society. Emery died in Lawrence in 1899.

Creator: Emery, James S., 1826-1899

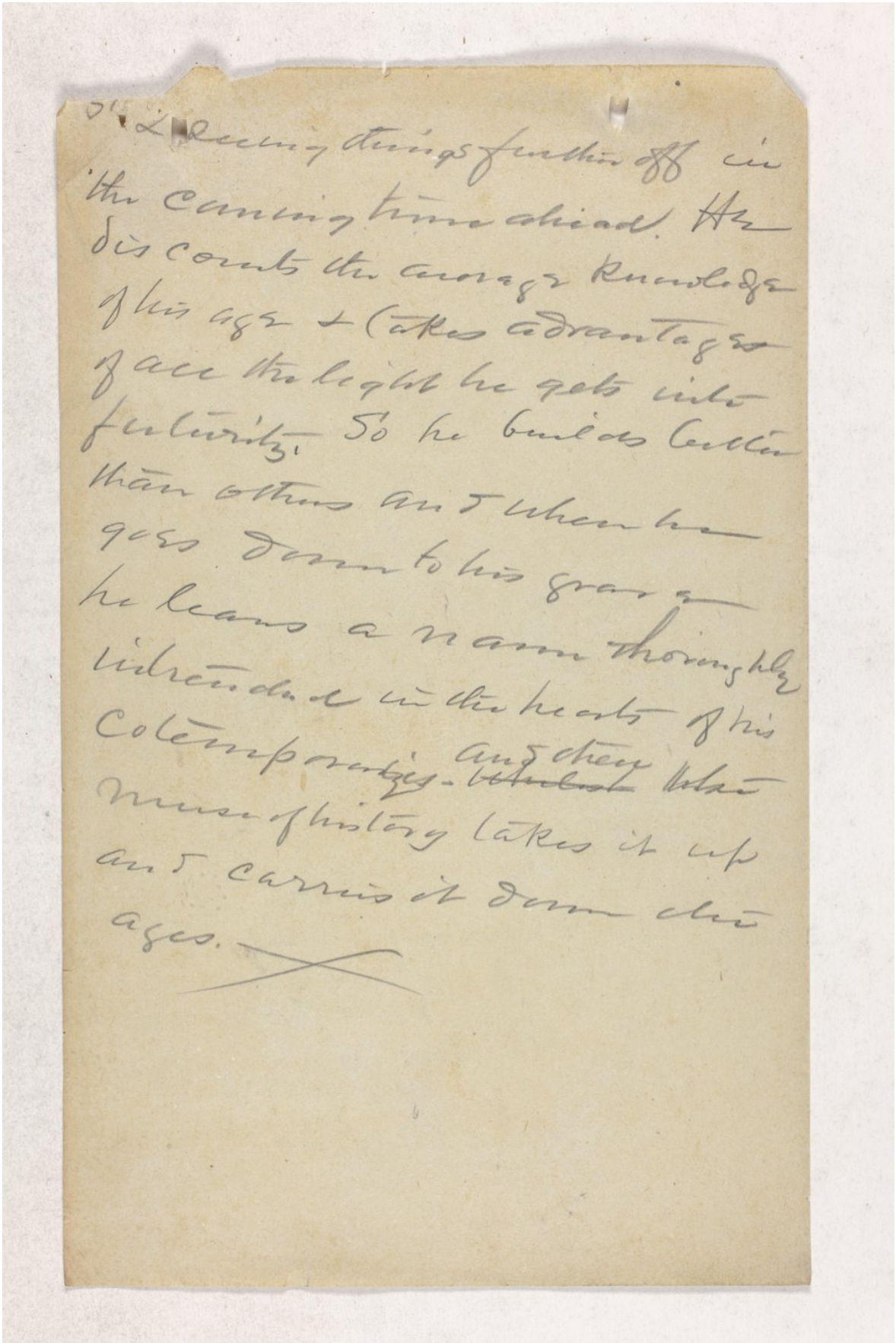
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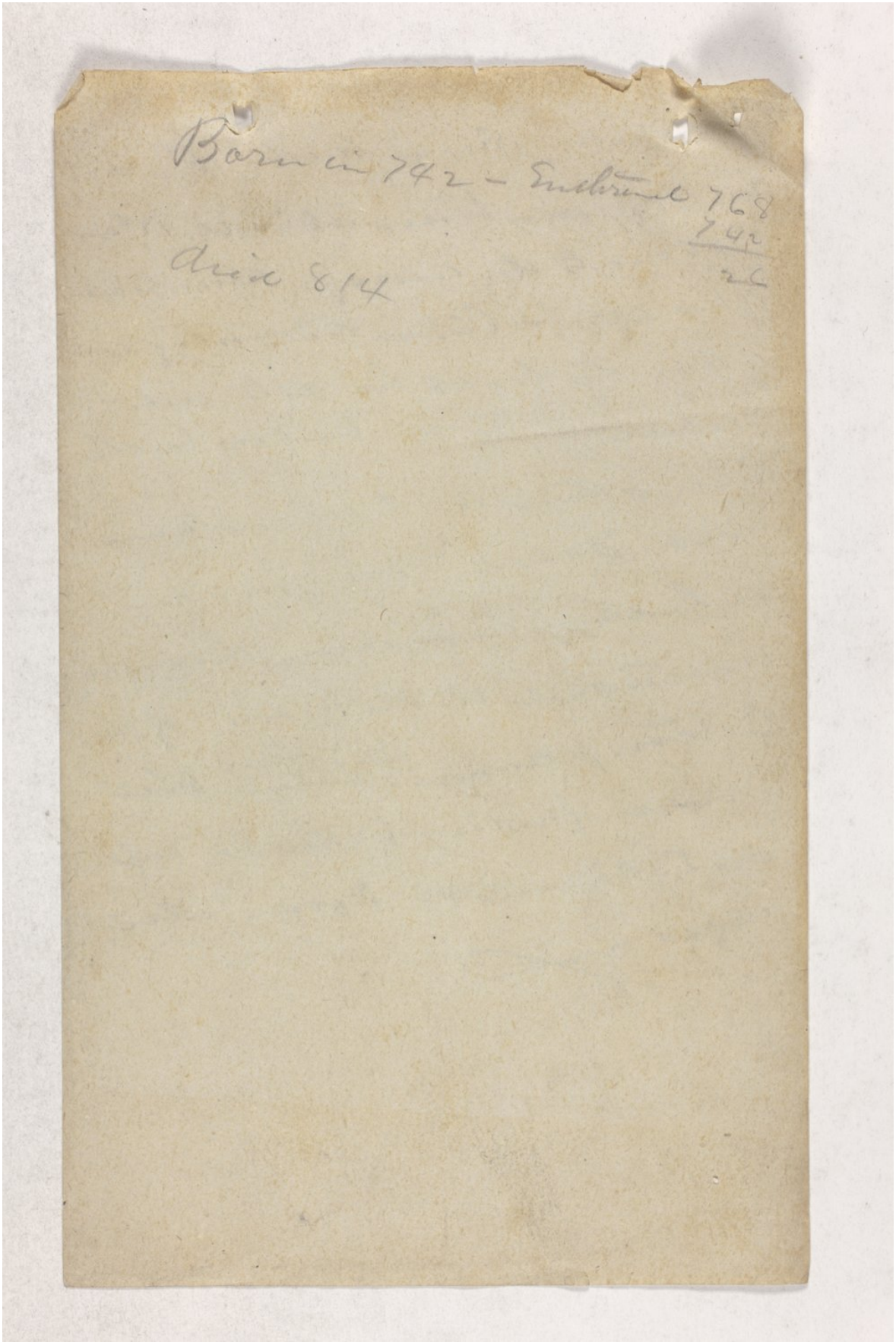
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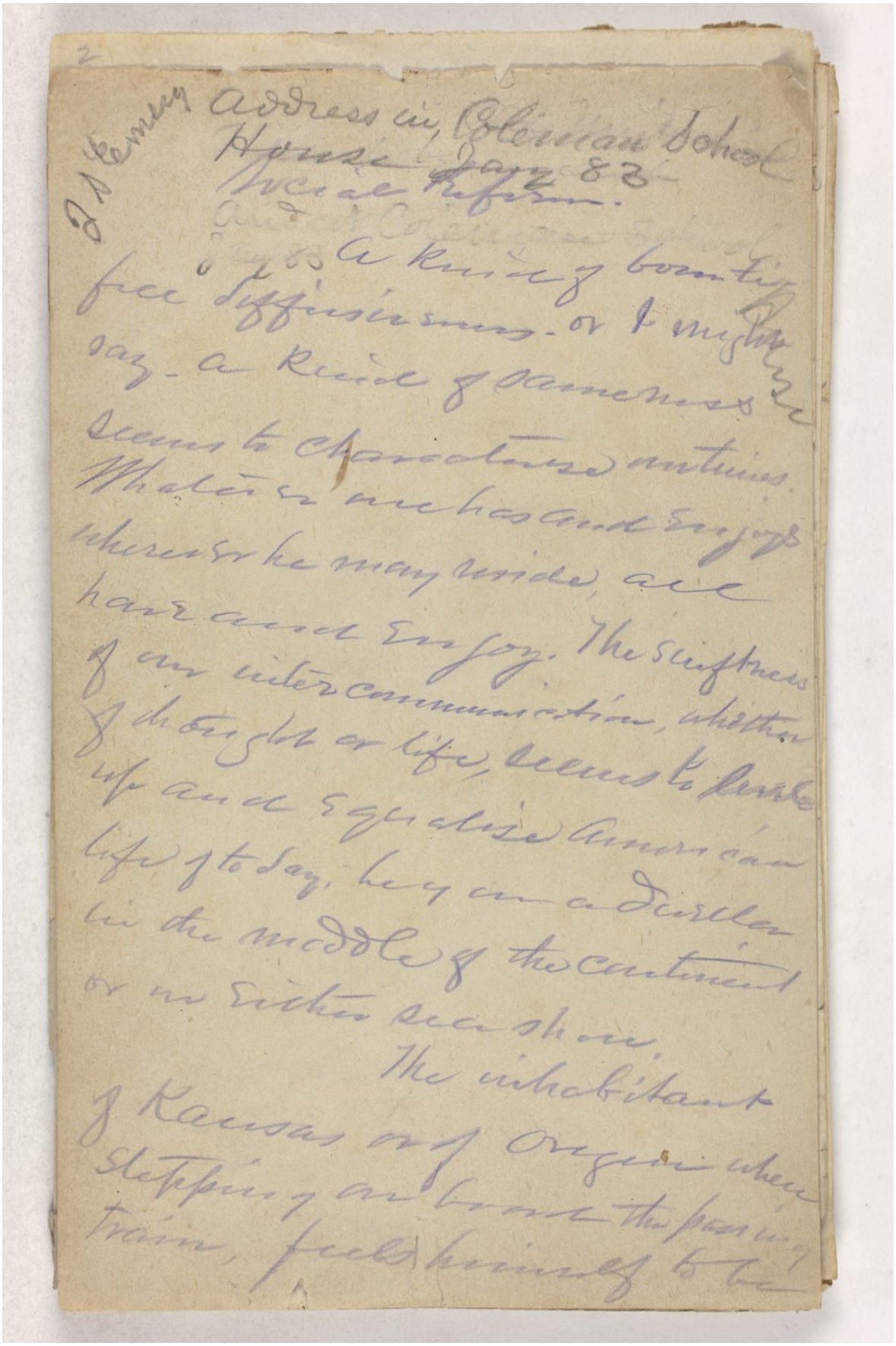
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Reading things for the coming time ahead. He discounts the average knowledge of his age + takes advantage of all the light he gets into futurity. So he builds better than others and when he goes down to his grave he leaves a name thoroughly understood in the hearts of his Contemporaries. And then what Muse of history takes it up and carries it down the ages.


Born in 742 - Endorsed 768
742
Died 814

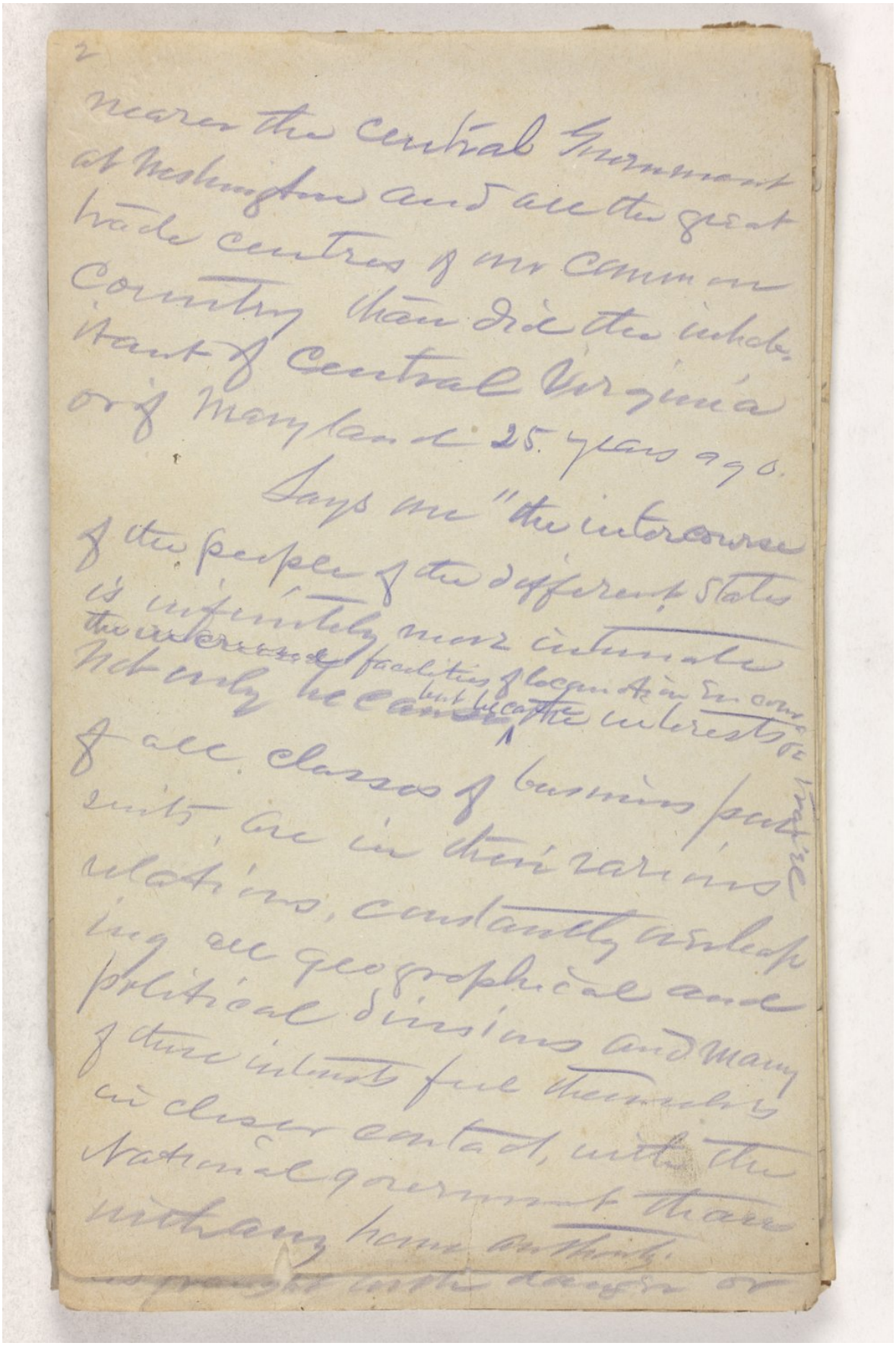


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J. S. Emery Address in Observation School House Jan 83
Moral Reform.

[illegible] a Ruling bonting, free Suffusiasmus. or I might say. a Kind of aimlessness seems to characterize actions. Whatever he has and enjoys wherever he may reside, all have and Enjoy. The slightness of an interconnunication, whether of thought or life, seems to characterize and Egotistic American life, to say, he is a Circle in the middle of the continent or an Island sea shore.

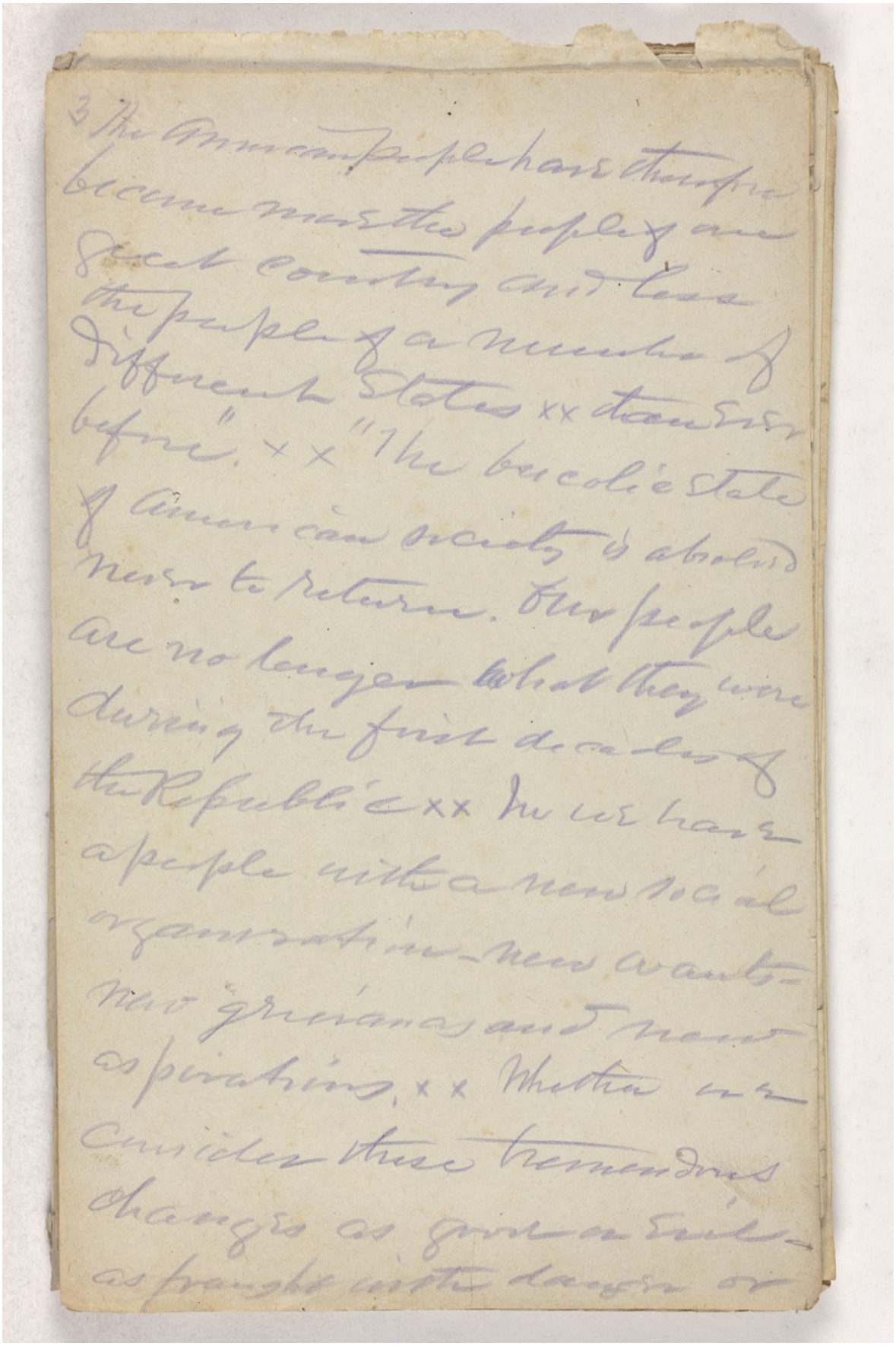
The inhabitants of Kansas or of Oregon when stepping on board the passing train, feel themselves to be



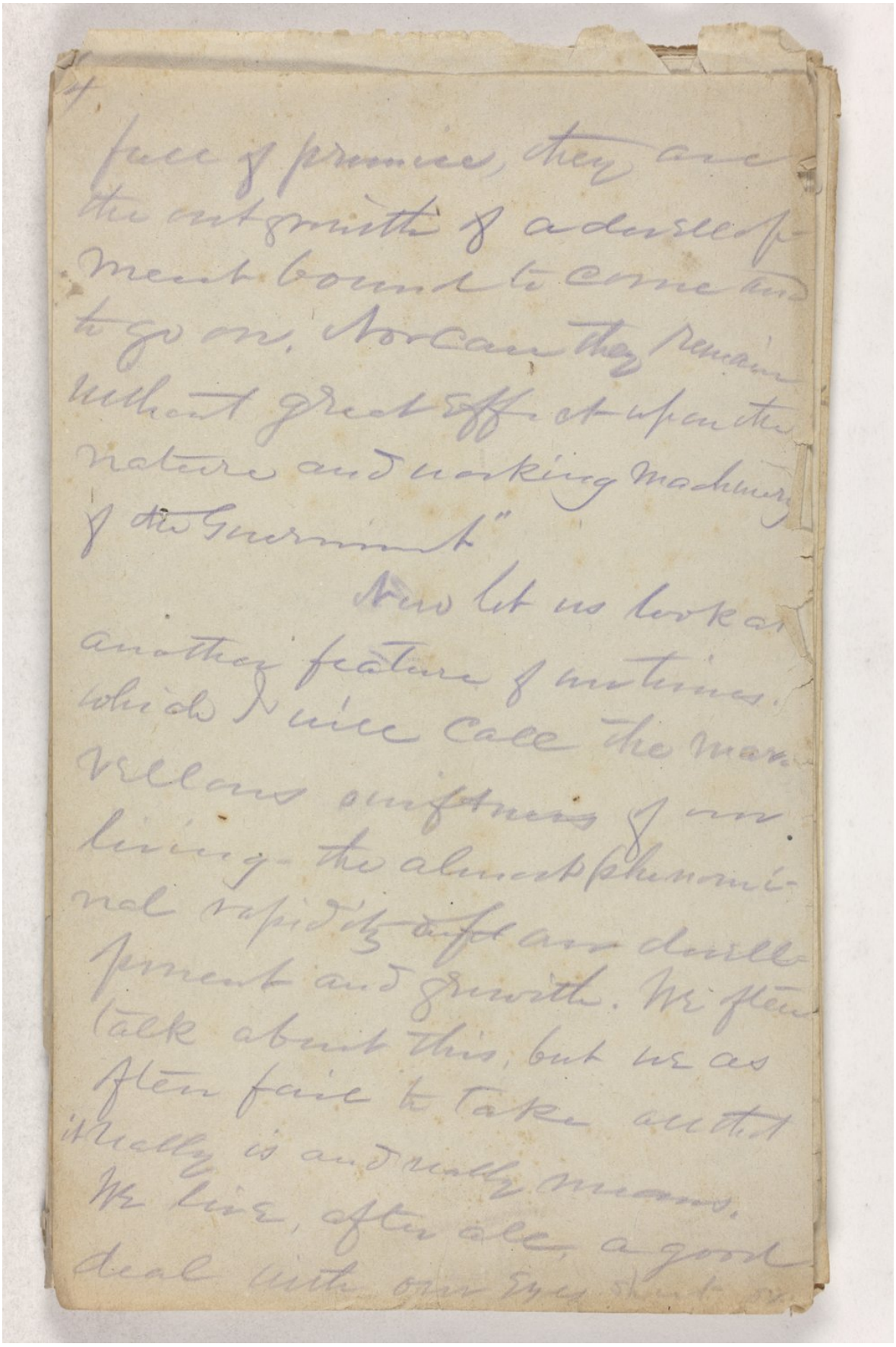
2

nearer the central Government
at Washington and all the great
trade centres of our common
Country than do the inhabi-
tant of Central Virginia
or of Maryland 25 years ago.

Says me "the intercourse
of the people of the different States
is infinitely more intimate
the interests & facilities of locomotion & so on
Not only has become
but has created the interests of
& all classes of business pursuits
suits, are in their various
relations, constantly assimilat-
ing as geographical and
political divisions and many
of those interests feel themselves
in closer contact with the
National government than
with any home authority.
in connection with danger or



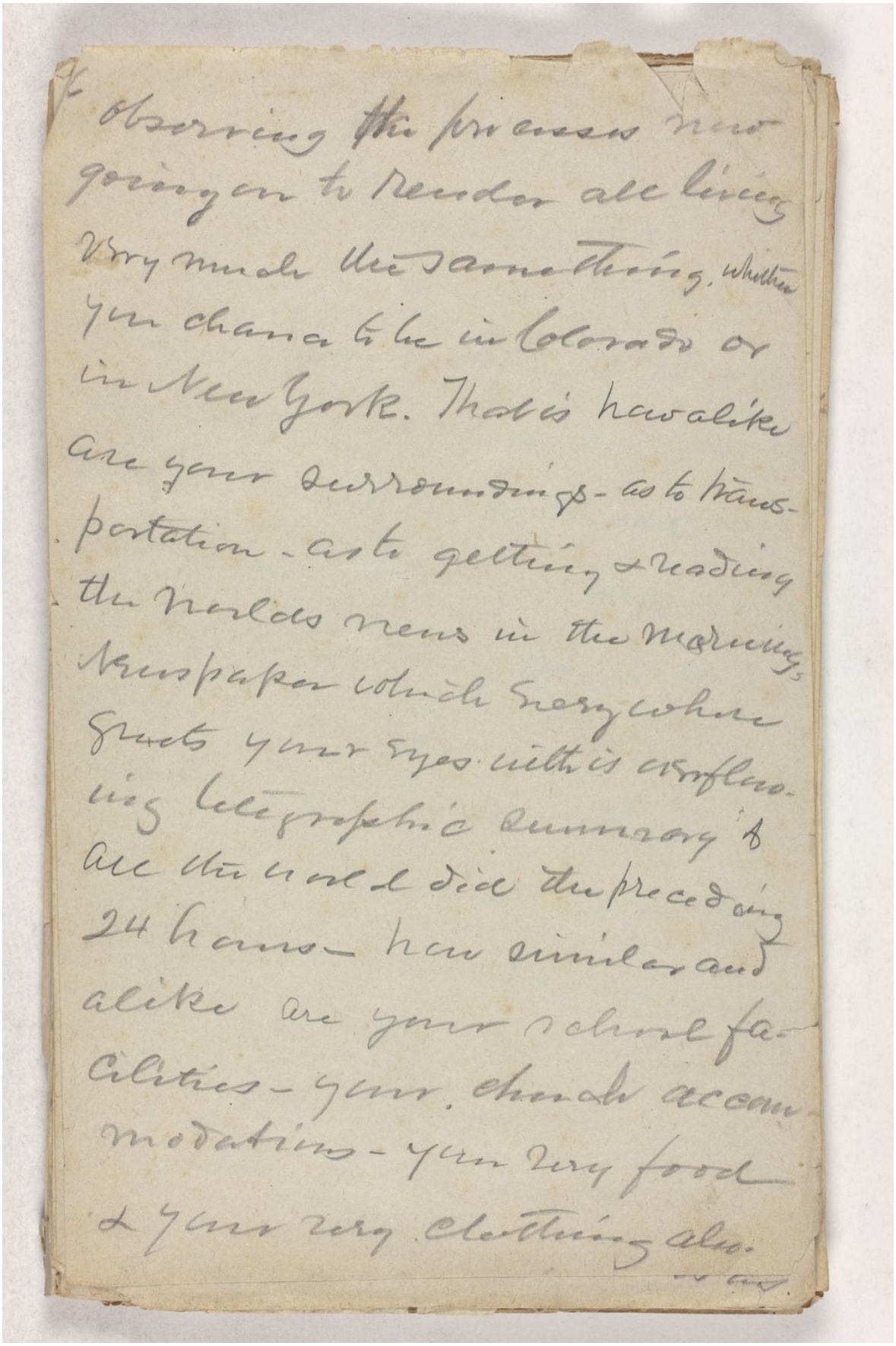
3 The American people have thus become master the people and State country and laws the people of a number of different States xx transformed before. xx "The broad & liberal States of American society & absolutism never to return. Our people are no longer what they were during the first decades of the Republic xx We have a people with a new social organization - new wants - new ambitions and new aspirations. xx Whether we consider these tremendous changes as good or evil - as fraught with danger or



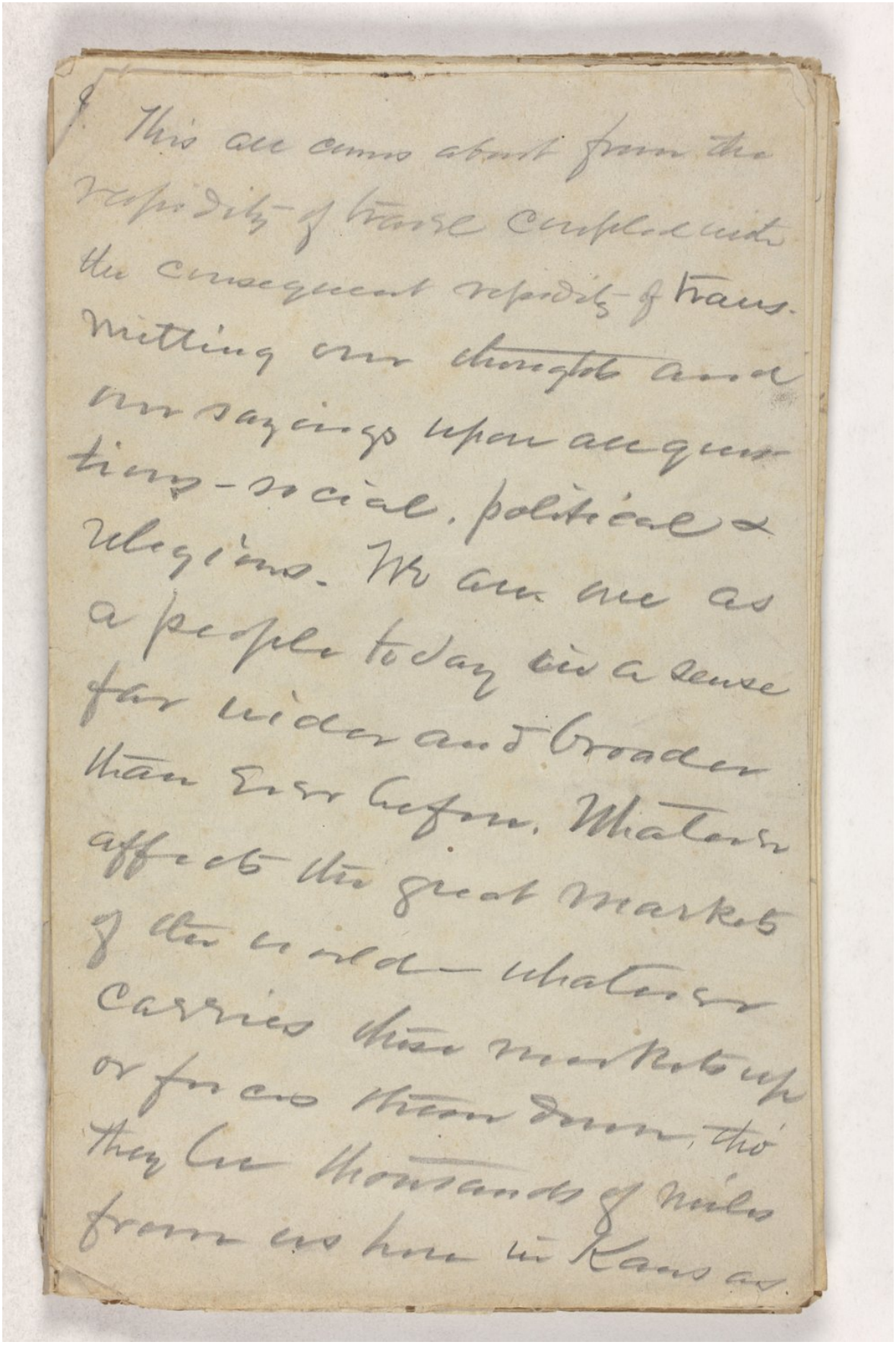
4.

face of promises, they are the outgrowth of a development bound to come and to go on. Nor can they remain without great effect upon the nature and working machinery of the Government."

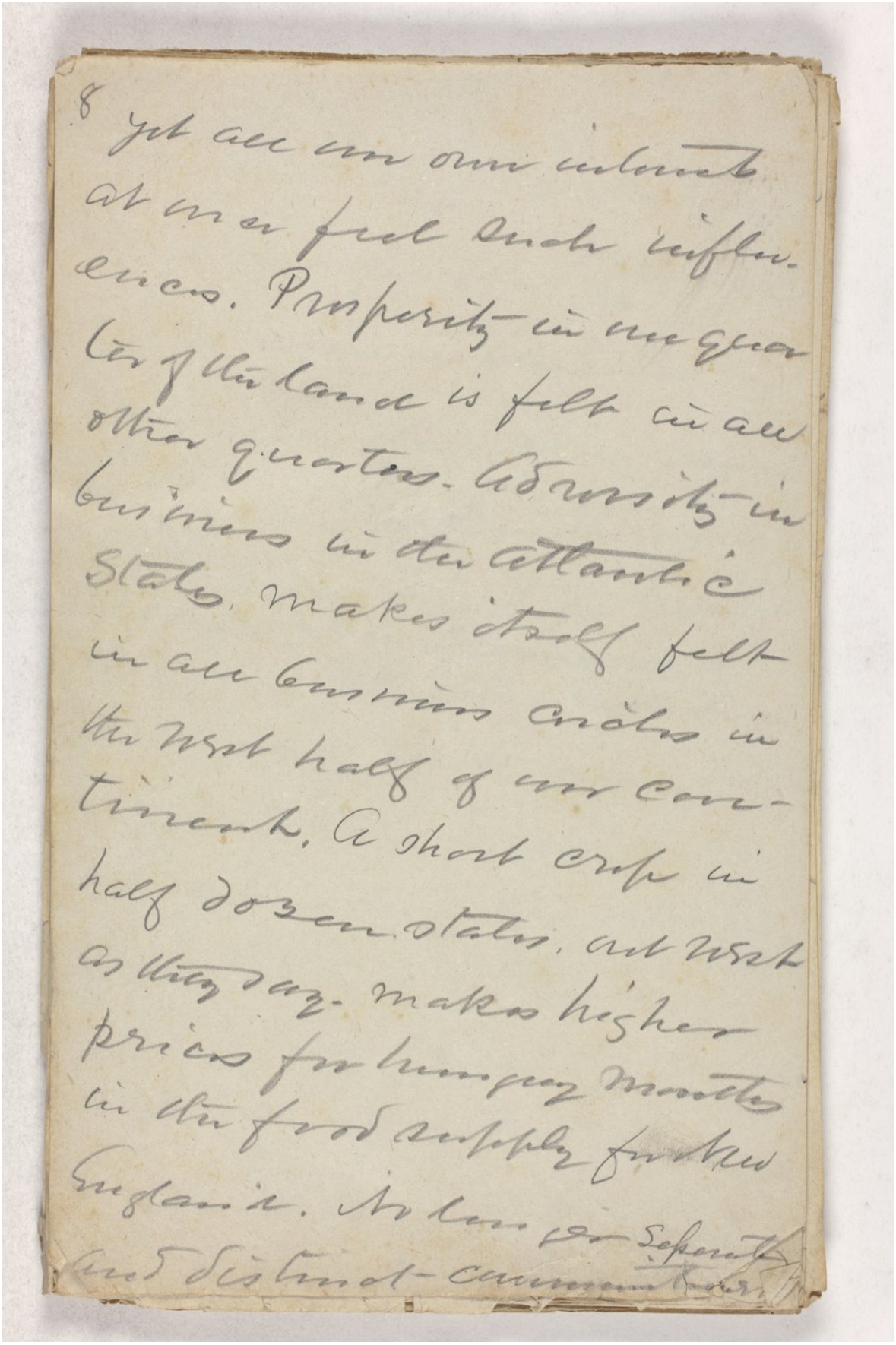
Now let us look at another feature of our times, which I will call the marvellous swiftness of our living - the almost phenomenal rapidity of our development and growth. We often talk about this, but we as often fail to take account of it really in any real sense. We live, after all, a good deal with our eyes shut to



observing the process now
going on to render all living
very much the same thing. Whether
you chance to be in Colorado or
in New York. That is how alike
are your surroundings - as to trans-
portation - as to getting & reading
the worlds news in the morning
Newspaper which everywhere
greets your eyes with its overflow-
ing telegraphic summary of
all the world did the preceding
24 hours - how similar and
alike are your school fa-
cilities - your church accom-
modations - your very food
& your very clothing also.

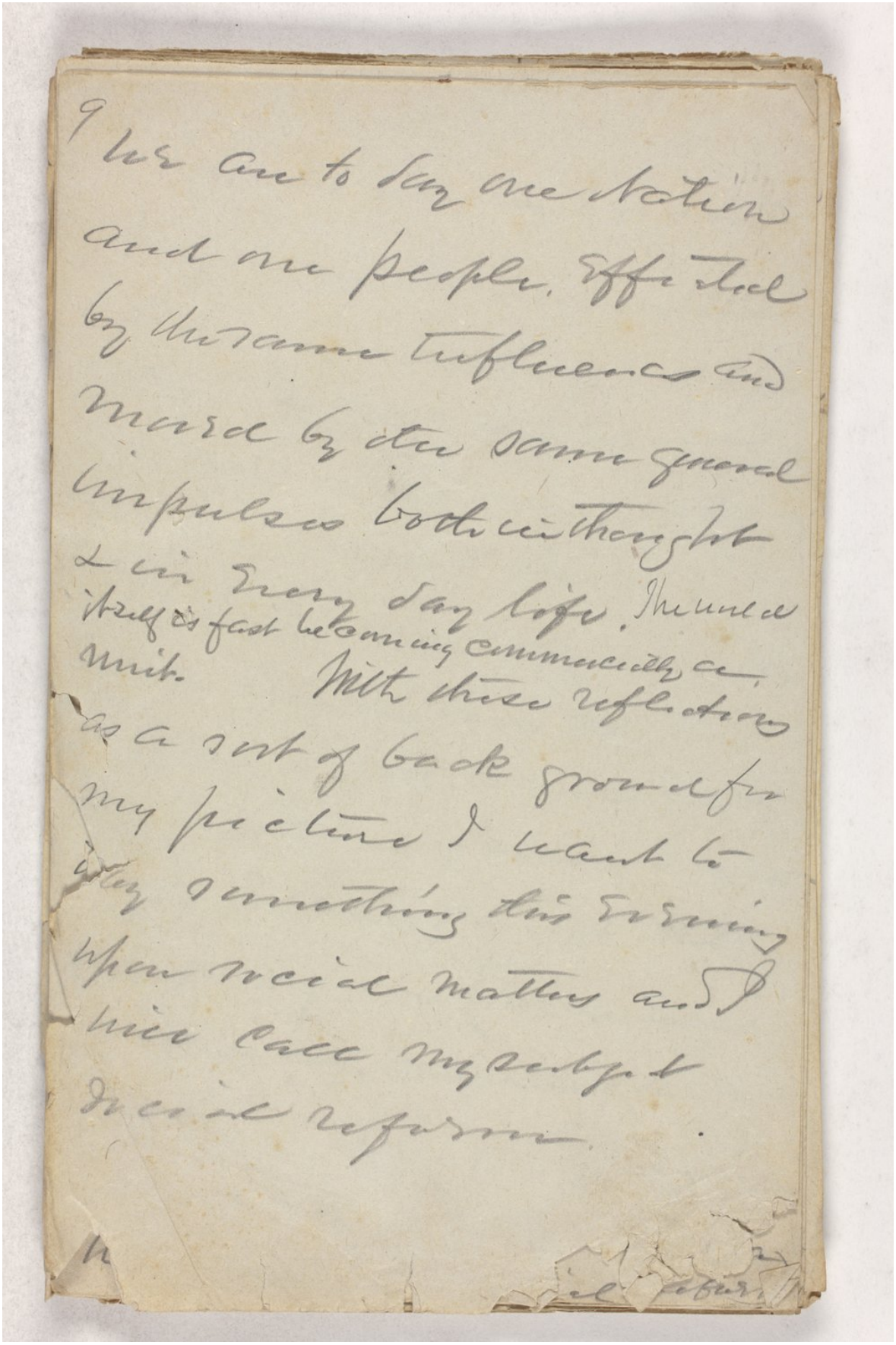


This all comes about from the rapidity of transit & the consequent rapidity of transmitting our thoughts and our sayings upon all questions - social, political & religious. We are as a people today in a sense far wider and broader than ever before. Whatever affects the great markets of the world - whatever carries them rapidly up or down the river, tho' they be thousands of miles from us here in Kansas

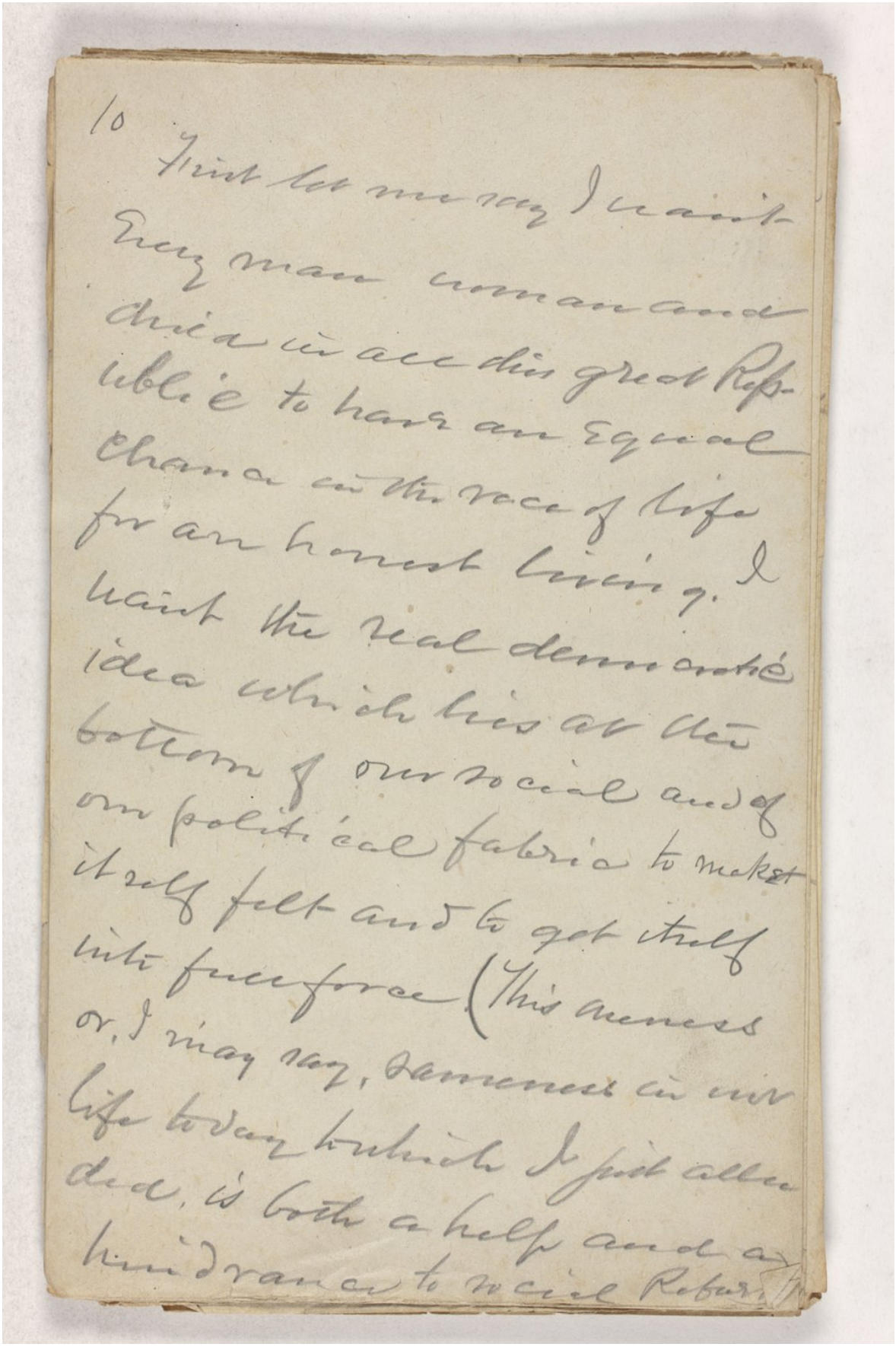


8

Yet all our own interest
at once feel such influ-
ences. Prosperity in one quar-
ter of the land is felt in all
other quarters. Adversity in
business in the Atlantic
States, makes itself felt
in all business marts in
the West half of our Con-
tinent. A short crop in
half dozen states, at West
as they can make higher
prices for hungry mouths
in the food supply for New
England. No law of Separate
and distinct commercial

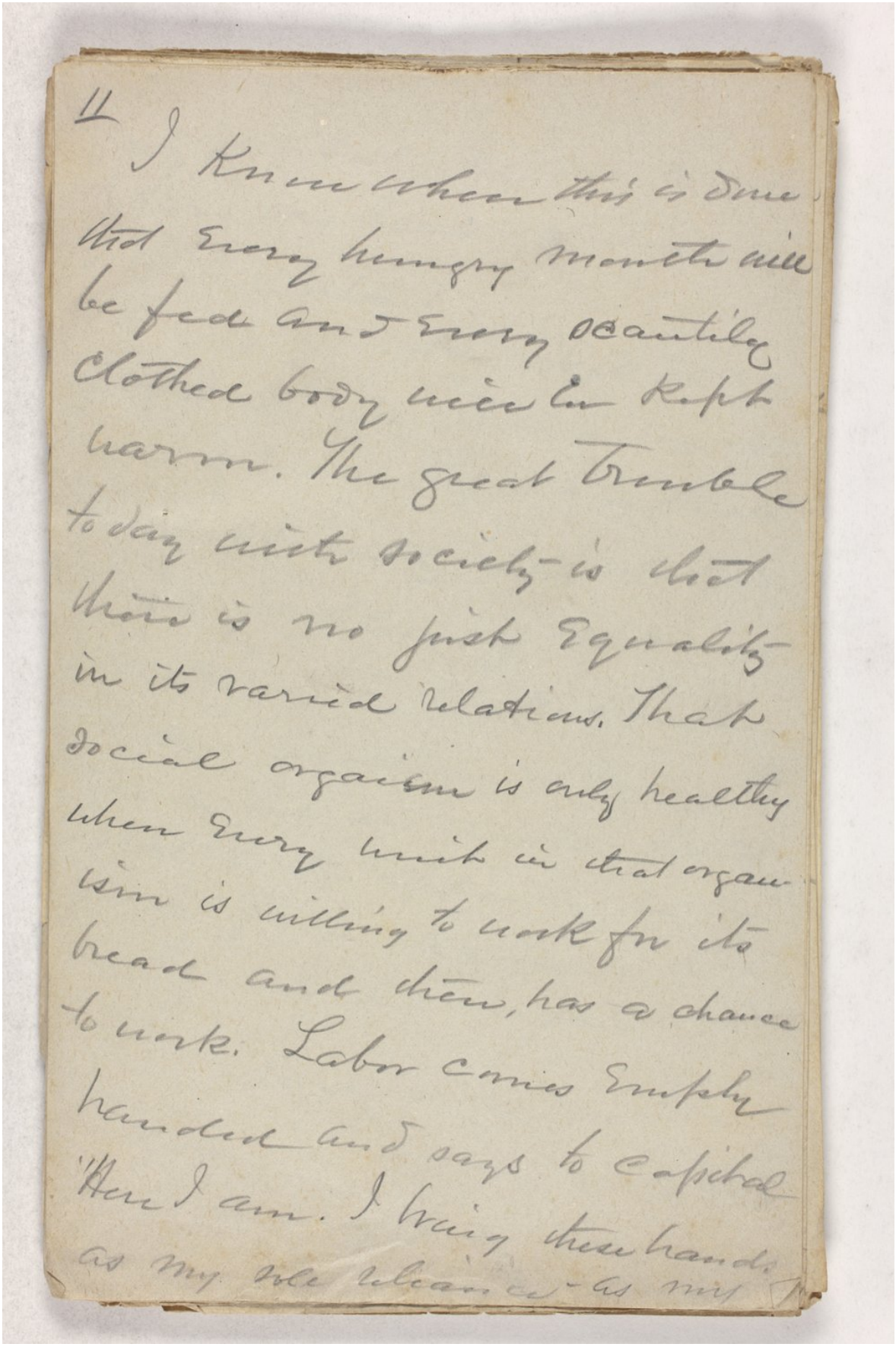


We are to save one Nation
and one people. Effected
by the same influences and
moved by the same general
impulses both in thought
& in every day life. The united
Italy is fast becoming commercially a
unit. With these reflections
as a sort of back ground for
my picture I want to
say something this evening
upon social matters and I
will place myself
in social reform.



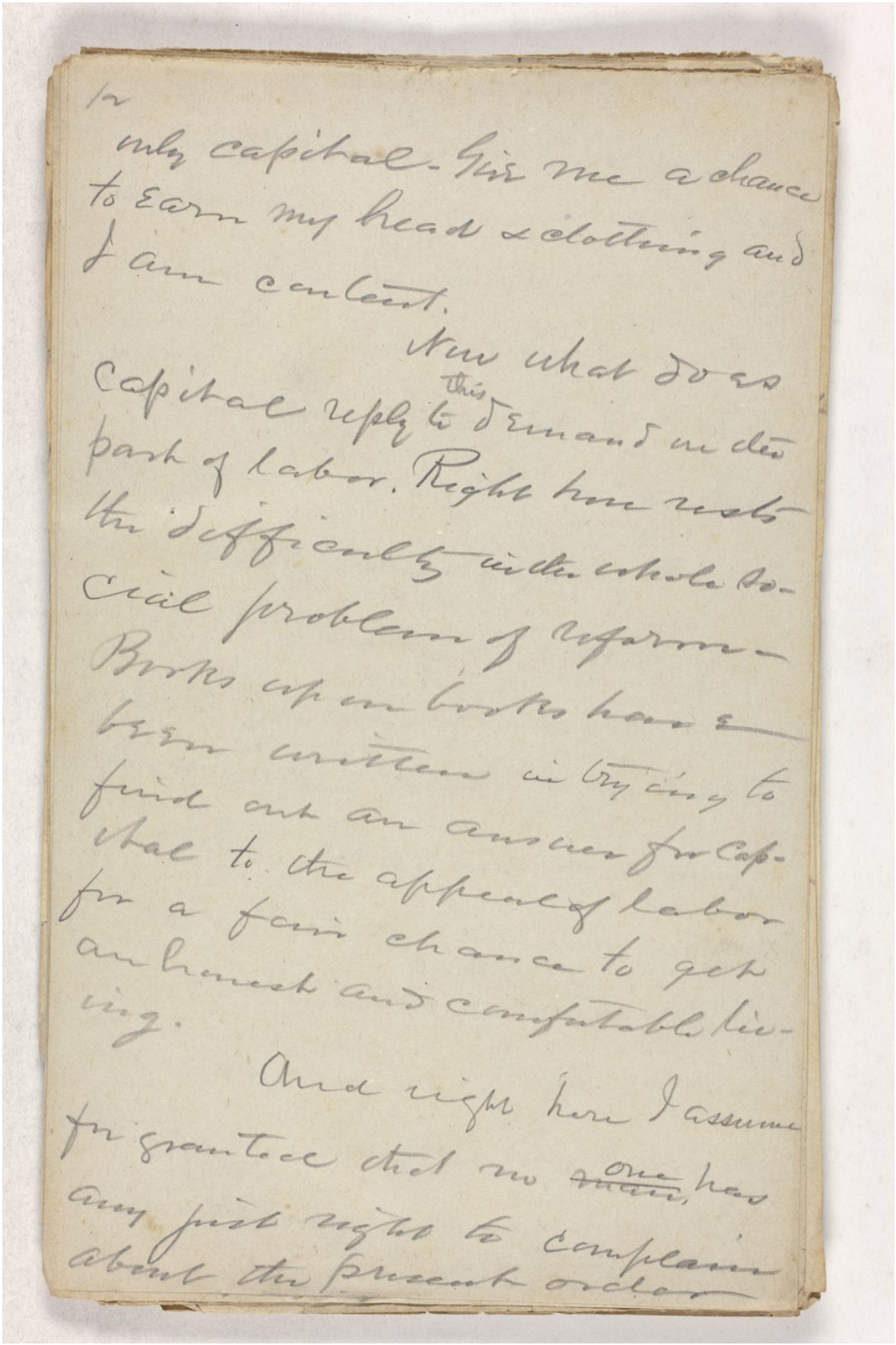
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First let me say I want
Every man woman and
child in all this great Repub-
lic to have an Equal
Chance in the race of life
for an honest living. I
want the real democratic
idea which lies at the
bottom of our social and
our political fabric to make
itself felt and to get itself
into full force. (This means
or, I may say, Democracy in our
life today towards which I just allu-
ded, is both a help and a
hindrance to social Reform.)



11

I know when this is done
that every hungry mouth will
be fed and every decently
clothed body will be kept
warm. The great trouble
to day with society - is that
there is no just Equality
in its varied relations. That
social organism is only healthy
when every unit in that organ-
ism is willing to work for its
bread and then, has a chance
to work. Labor comes Empty
handed and says to Capital
"Here I am. I bring these hands
as my sole alliance - as my

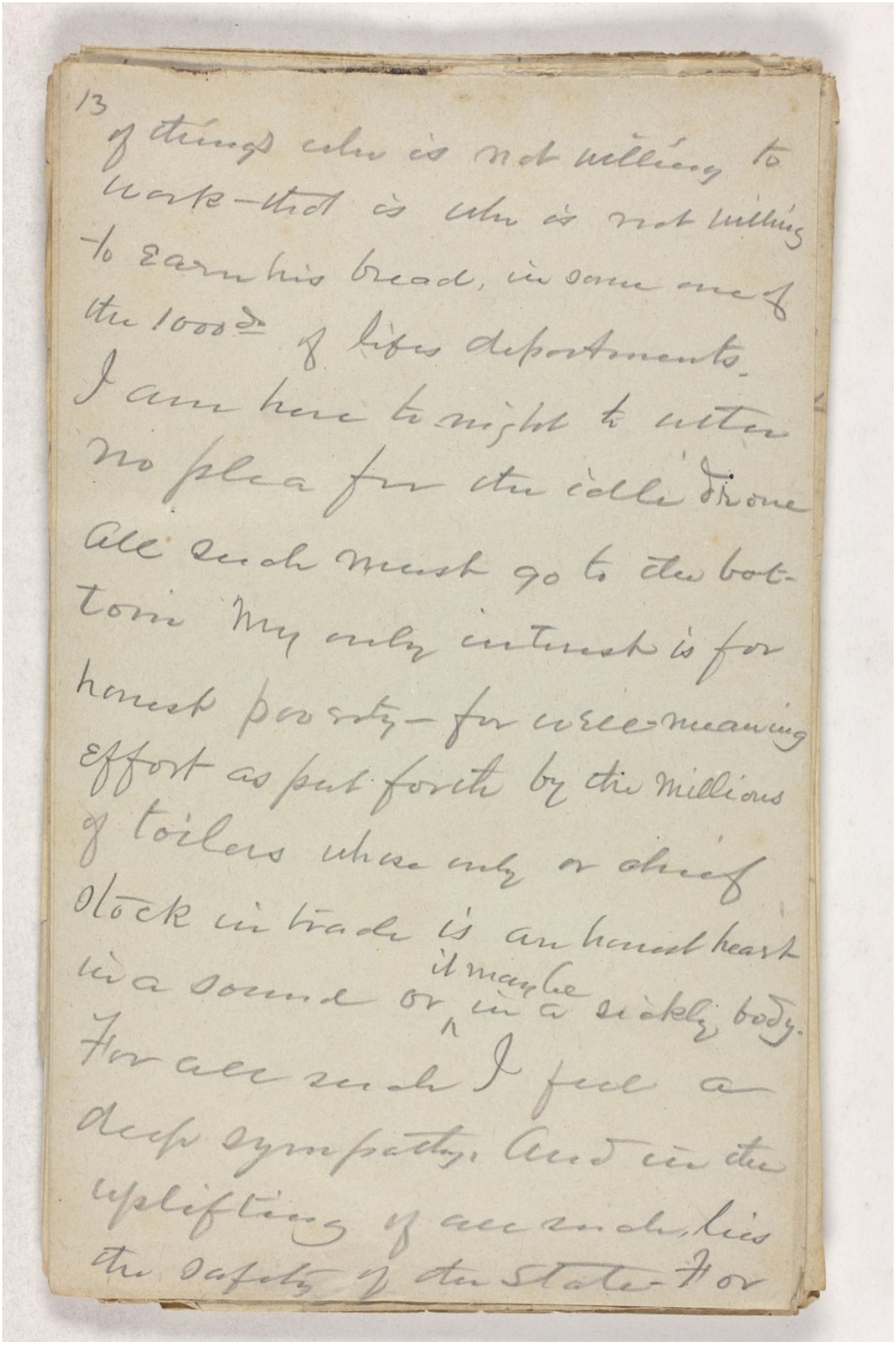


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only capital. Give me a chance to earn my bread & clothing and I am content.

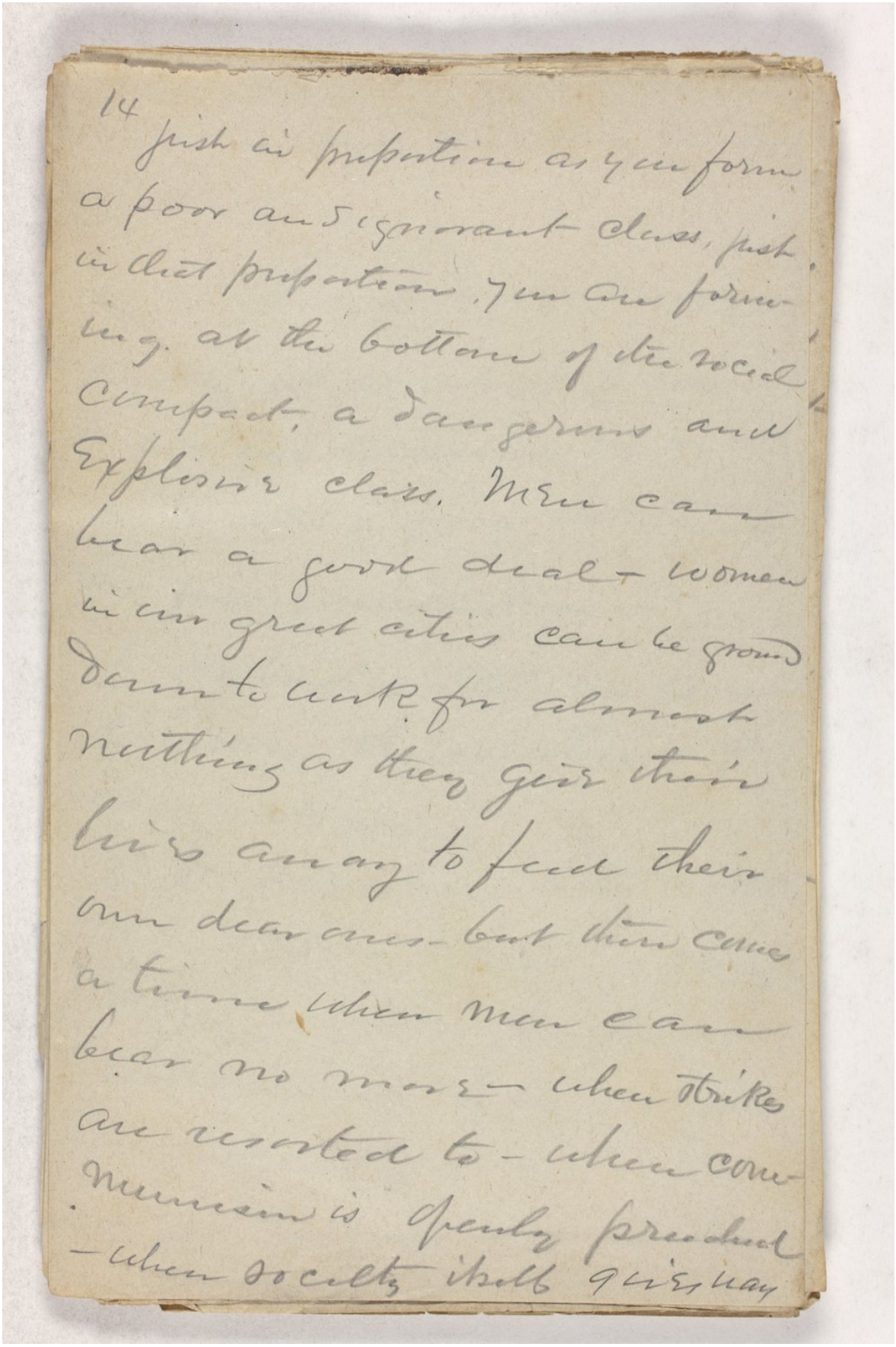
Now what does Capital reply to this demand in the park of labor. Right here rests the difficulty in the whole social problem of reform. Books upon books have been written in trying to find out an answer for Capital to the appeal of labor for a fair chance to get an honest and comfortable living.

And right here I assume for granted that no one has any just right to complain about the present order



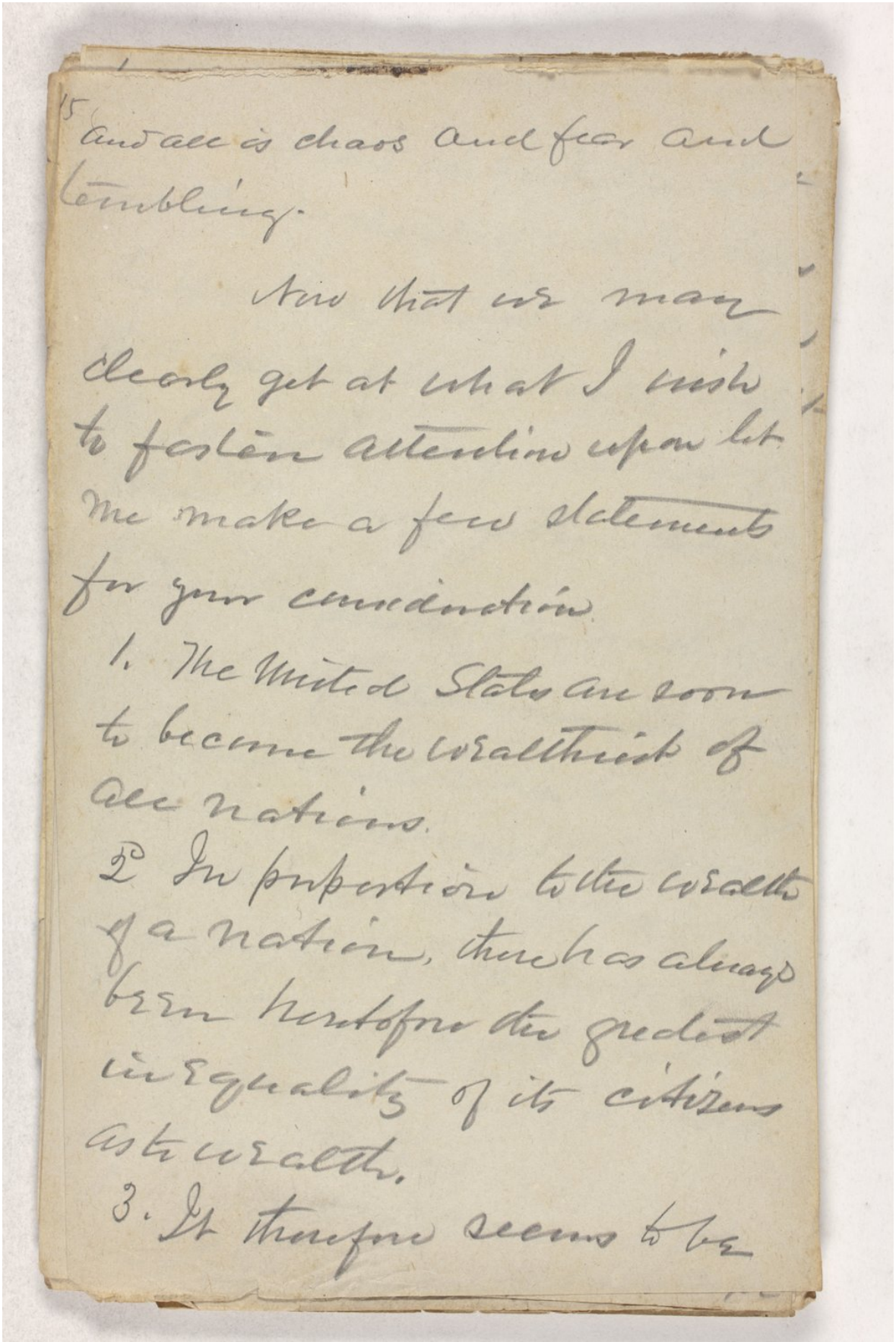
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of things who is not willing to work—that is who is not willing to earn his bread, in some one of the 1000 & of lifes departments. I am here to night to utter no plea for the idle drone All such must go to the bottom My only interest is for honest poverty—for well-meaning effort as put forth by the millions of toilers whose only or chief stock in trade is an honest heart in a sound or it maybe in a sickly body. For all such I feel a deep sympathy. And in the uplifting of all such, lies the safety of the State—For



14

just as important as you form a poor and ignorant class, just as dirt poisonous, you are forming at the bottom of the social compact, a dangerous and Explosive class. Men can bear a great deal + women in our great cities can be ground down to work for almost nothing as they give their lives away to feed their own dear ones but there comes a time when men can bear no more — when strikes are resorted to — when communism is openly preached — when socialty itself gives way



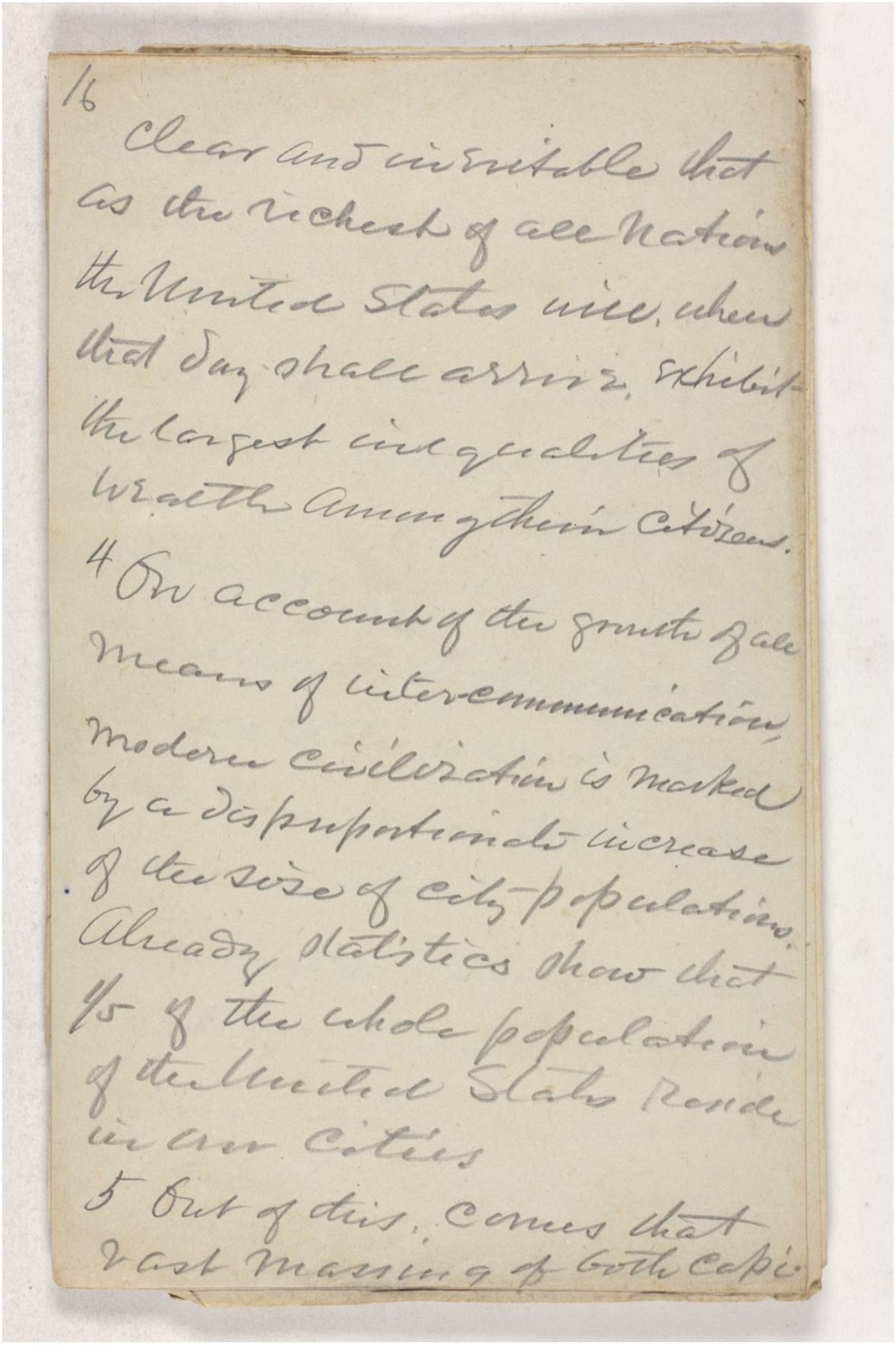
15 and all is chaos and fear and trembling.

Now that we may clearly get at what I wish to fasten attention upon let me make a few statements for your consideration.

1. The United States are soon to become the wealthiest of all nations.

2. In proportion to the wealth of a nation, there has always been hereto fore the greatest inequality of its citizens as to wealth.

3. It therefore seems to be

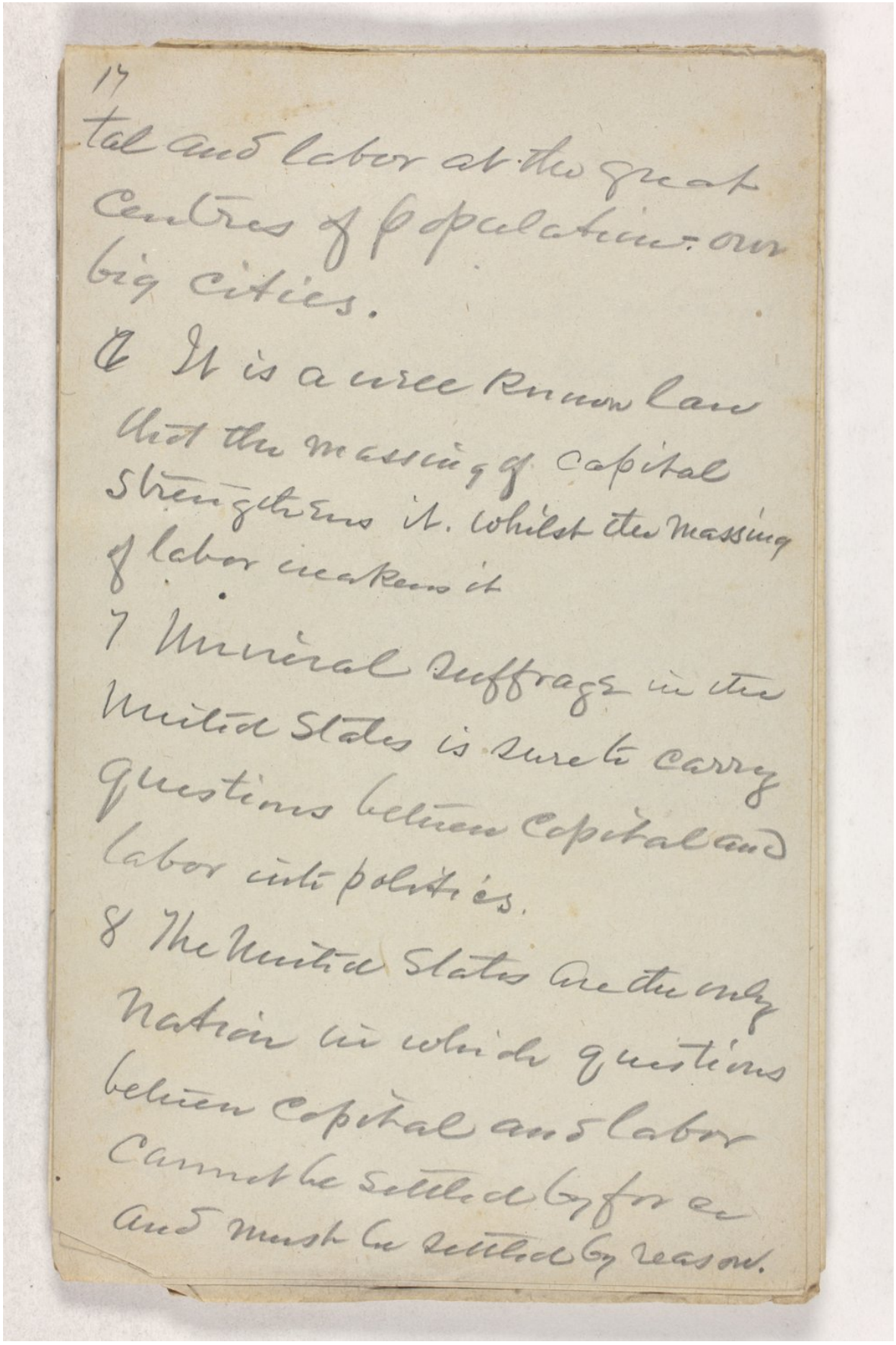


16

Clear and irrefutable that as the richest of all nations the United States will, when that day shall arrive, exhibit the largest inequalities of wealth among its citizens.

4 On account of the great facilities of means of intercommunication, modern civilization is marked by a disproportionate increase of the size of city populations. Already statistics show that 1/5 of the whole population of the United States reside in our cities

5 Out of this comes that vast massing of both capi-



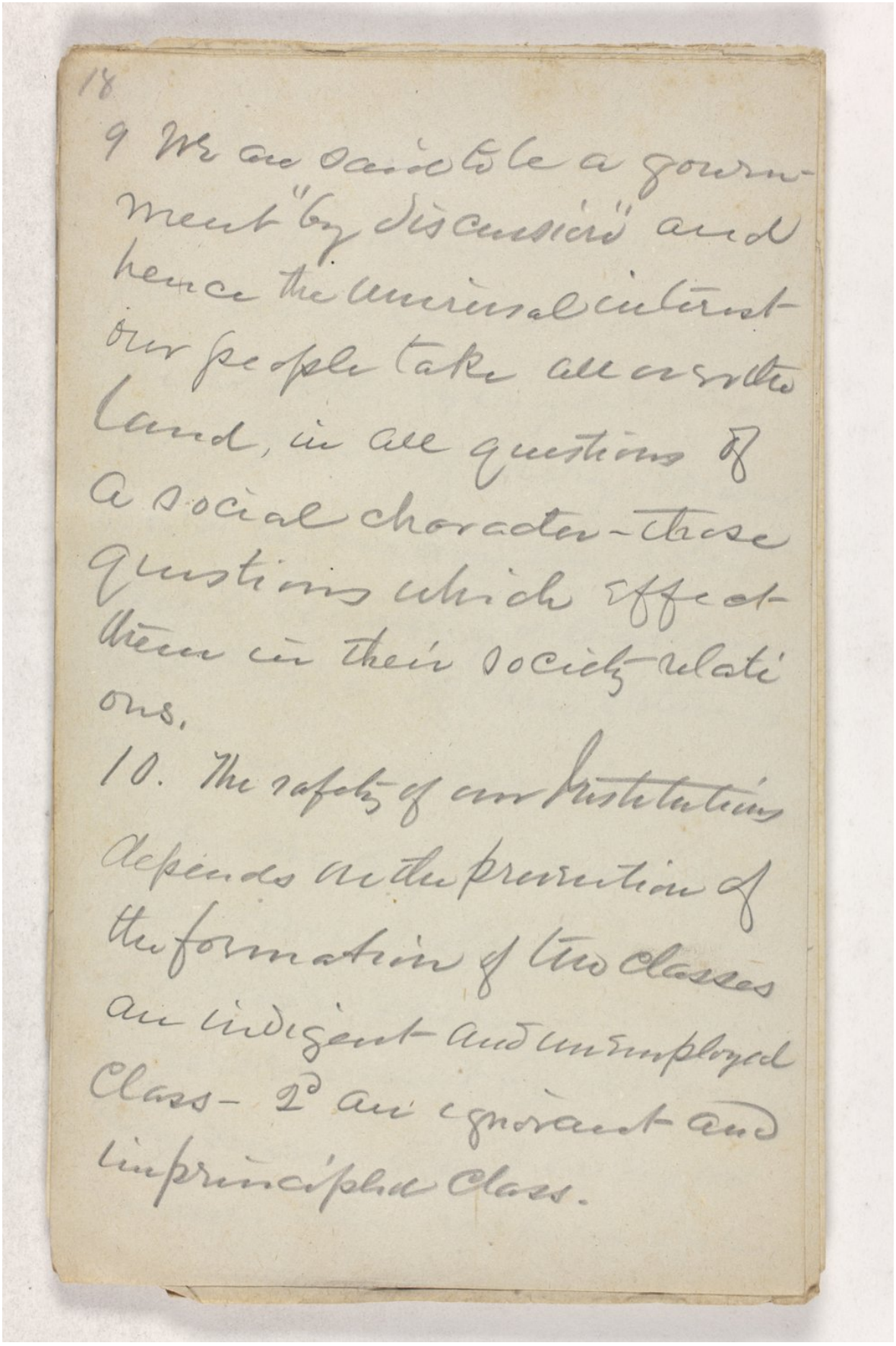
17

tal and labor at the great centres of population: our big cities.

6 It is a true known law that the massing of capital strengthens it. whilst the massing of labor weakens it.

7 Universal suffrage in the United States is sure to carry questions between capital and labor into politics.

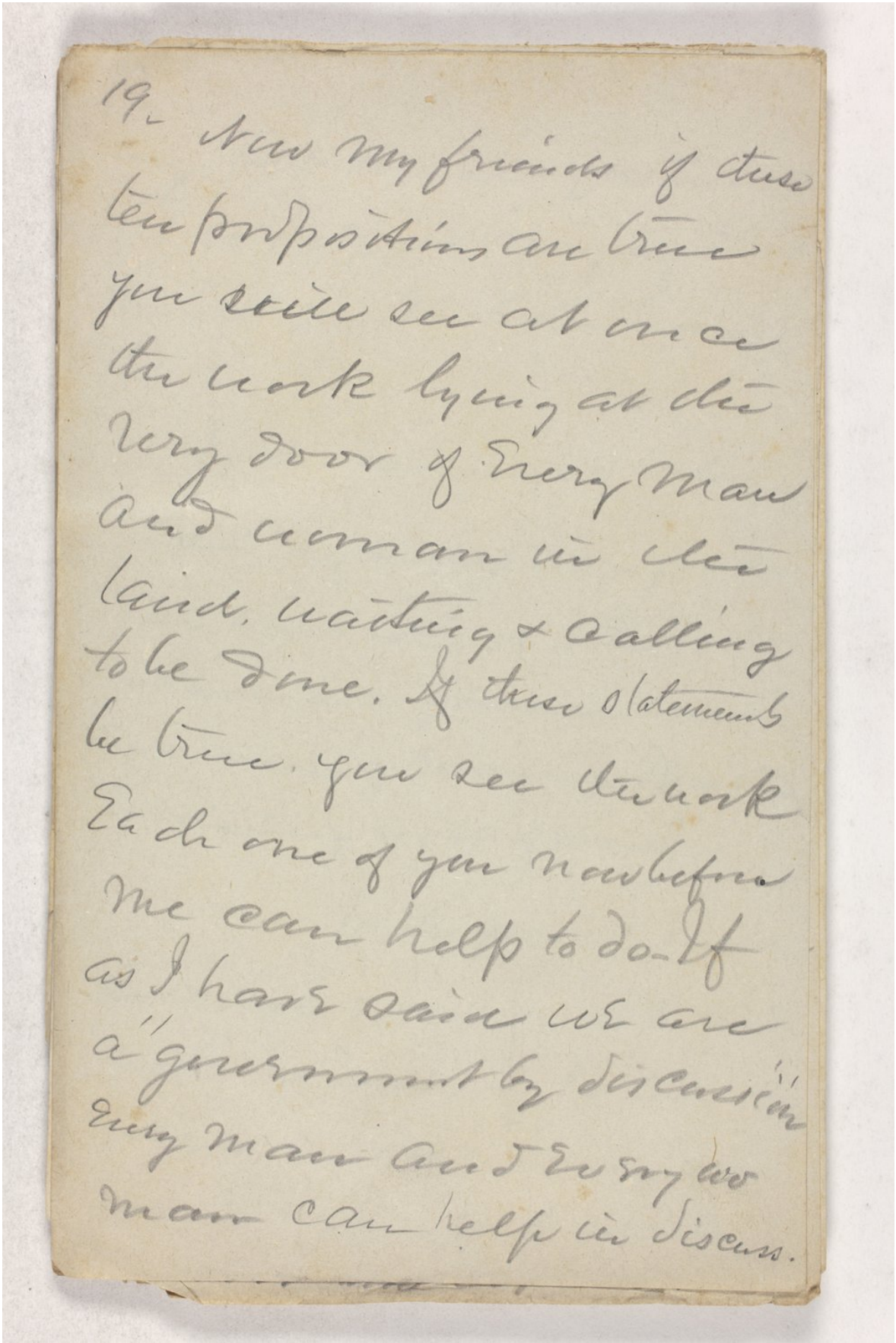
8 The United States are the only Nation in which questions between capital and labor cannot be settled by force and must be settled by reason.



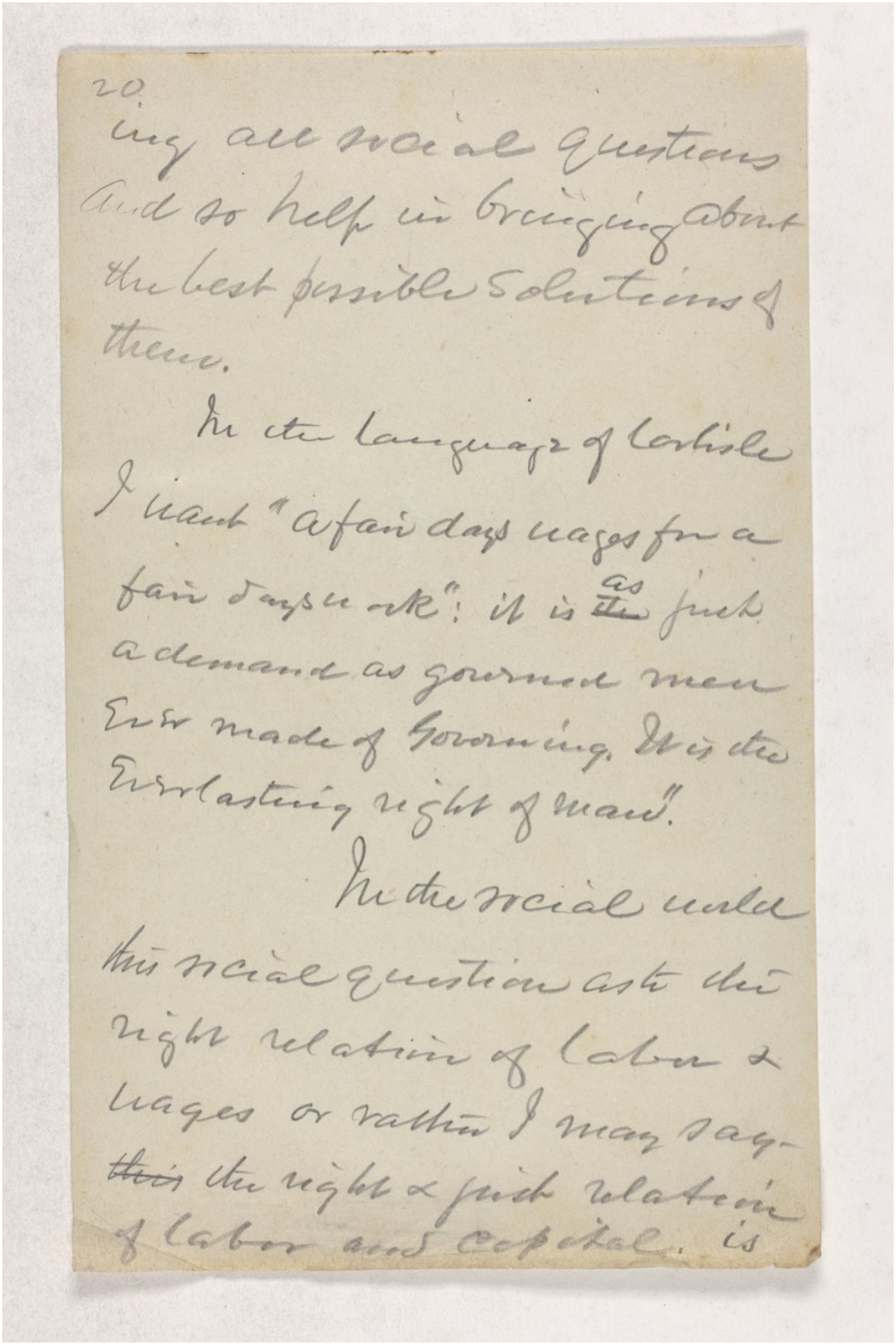
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9 We are liable to be a govern-
ment "by discussion" and
hence the universal interest
our people take all over the
land, in all questions of
a social character - those
questions which affect
them in their society relati
ons.

10. The safety of our institutions
depends on the prevention of
the formation of two classes
an indigent and unemployed
class - 2d an ignorant and
unprincipled class.



19. Now my friends if these
ten propositions are true
you will see at once
the work lying at the
very door of Every Man
and woman in the
land, waiting & calling
to be done. If these statements
be true. you see the work
Each one of you now before
me can help to do. If
as I have said we are
a "government by discussion"
Every Man and Every Wo
man can help in discuss.

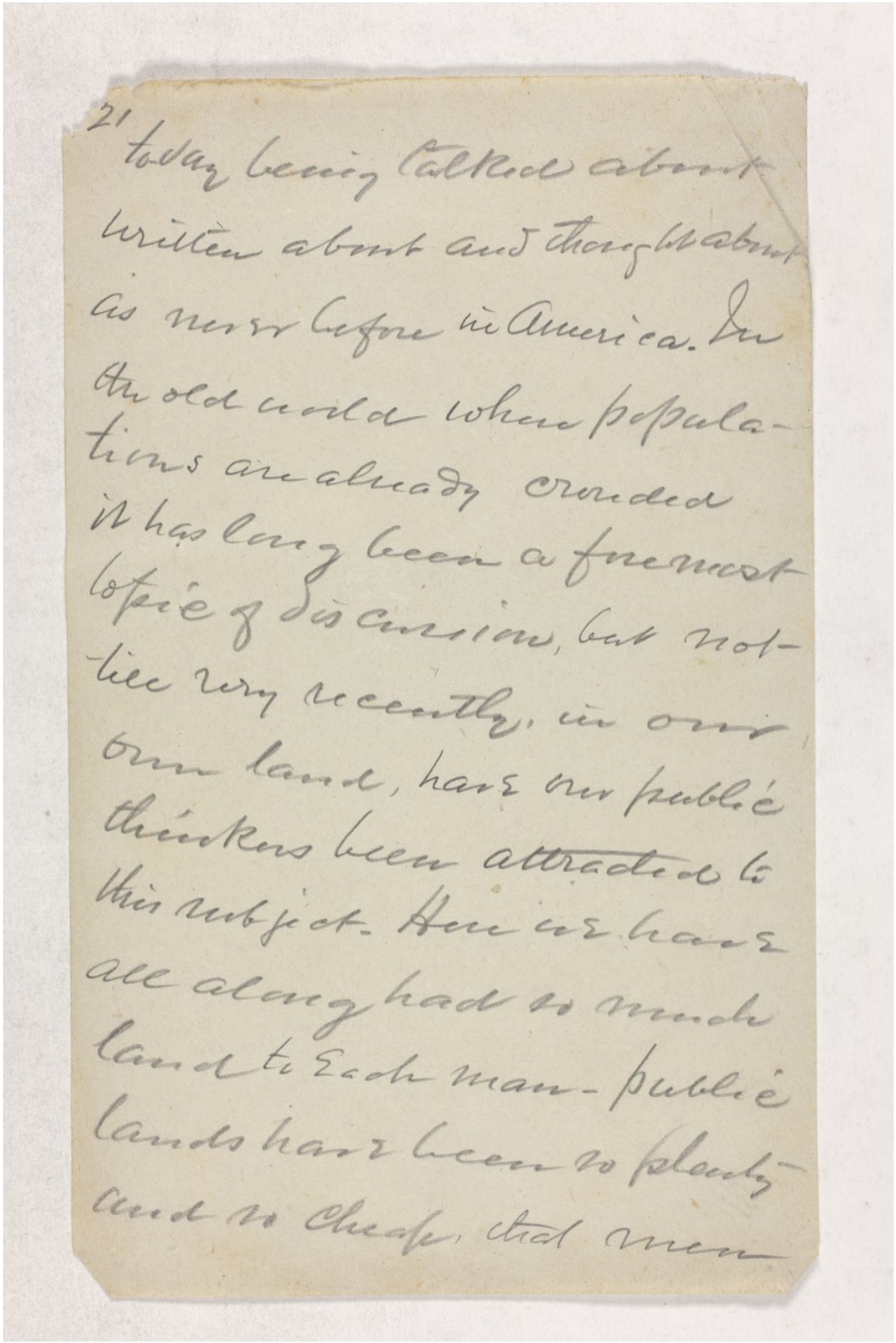


20.

ing all social questions and so help in bringing about the best possible solutions of them.

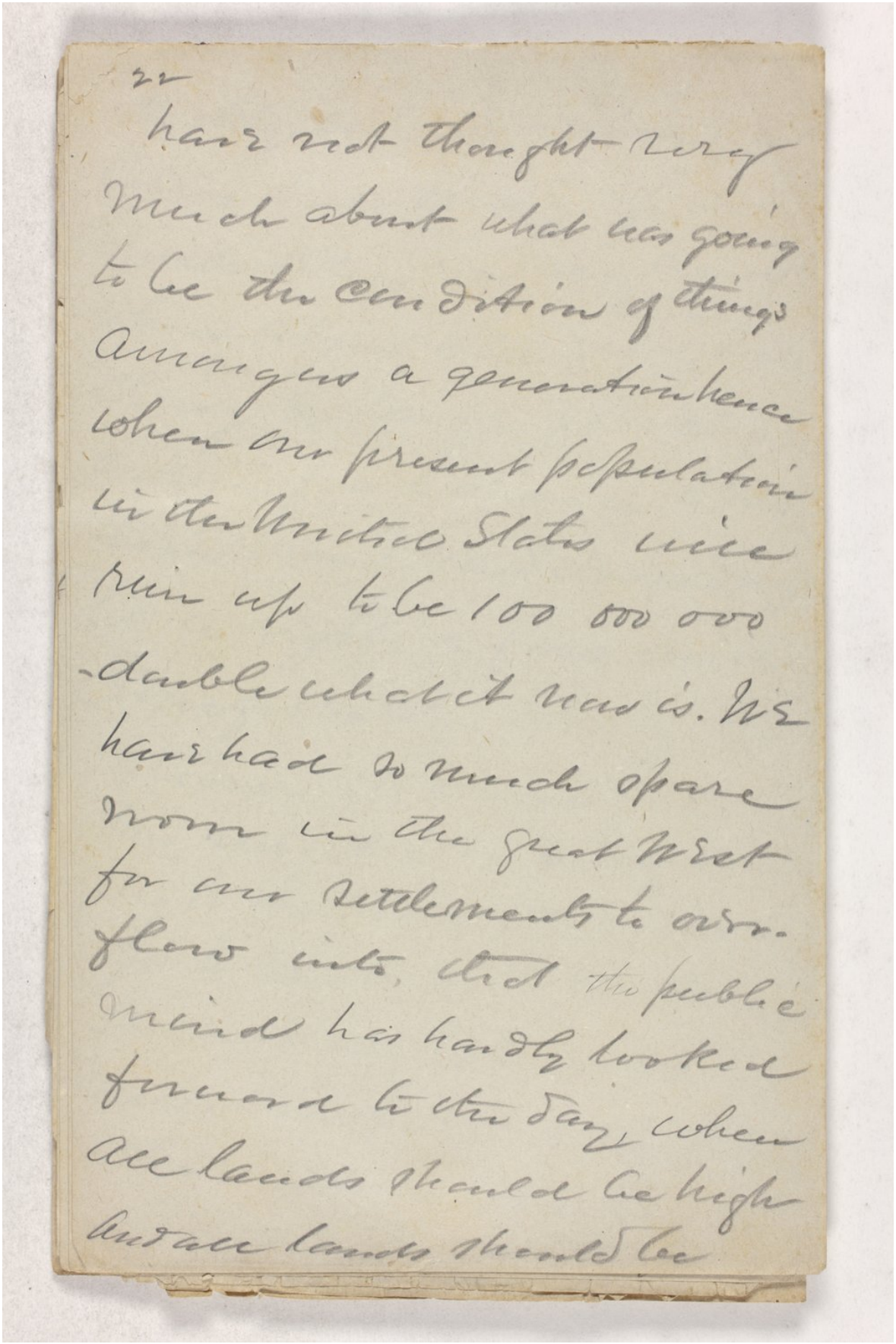
In the language of Carlisle I want "a fair days wages for a fair days work"; it is as the just a demand as governed men ever made of Governing. It is the Everlasting right of man".

In the social world this social question ask the right relation of labor & wages or rather I may say ~~this~~ the right & just relation of labor and Capital. is



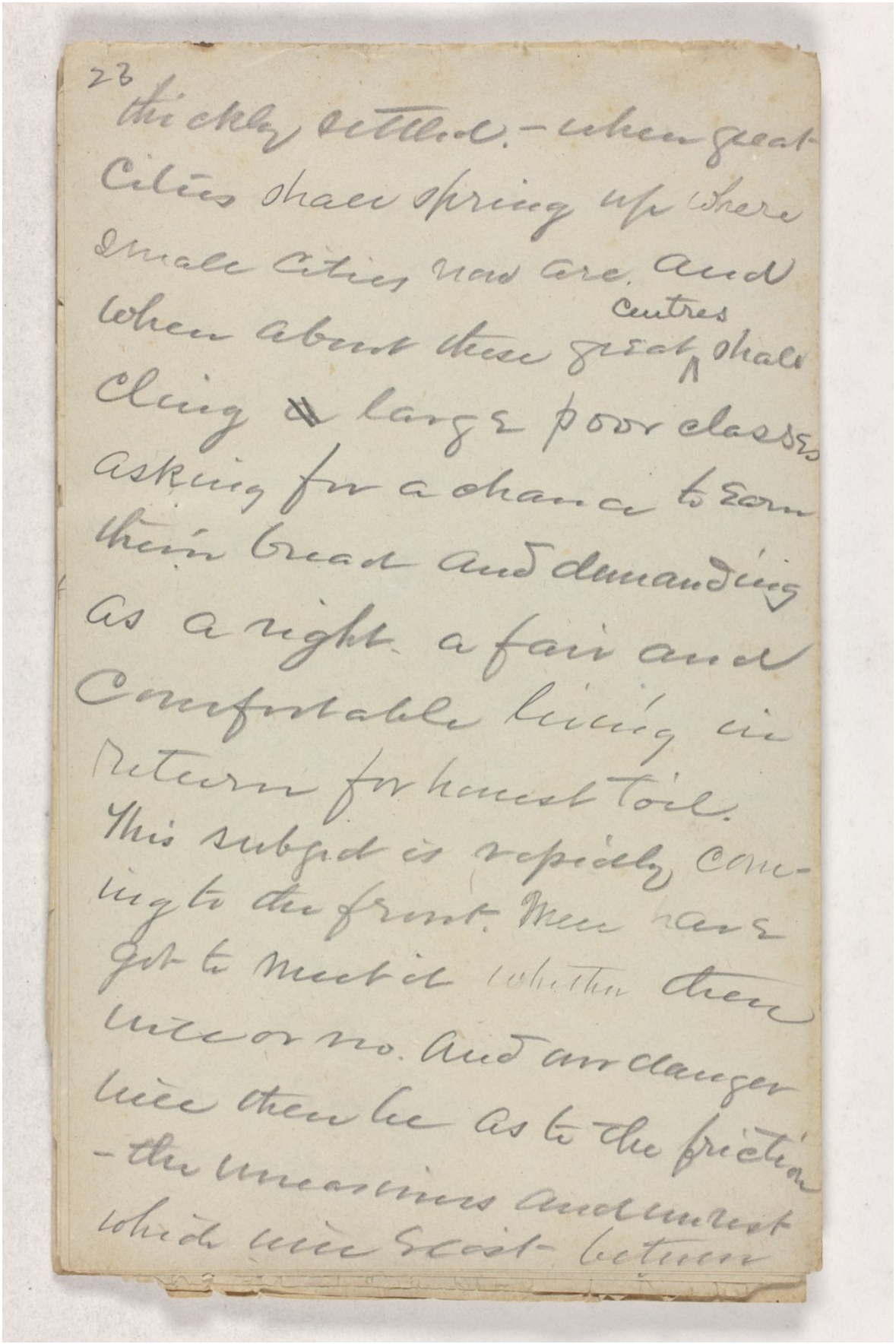
21

today being talked about
written about and thought about
as never before in America. In
the old world where popula-
tions are already crowded
it has long been a favorite
topic of discussion, but not-
like very recently, in our
own land, have our public
thinkers been attracted to
this subject. Here we have
all along had so much
land to Each man - public
lands have been so plenty
and so cheap, that men



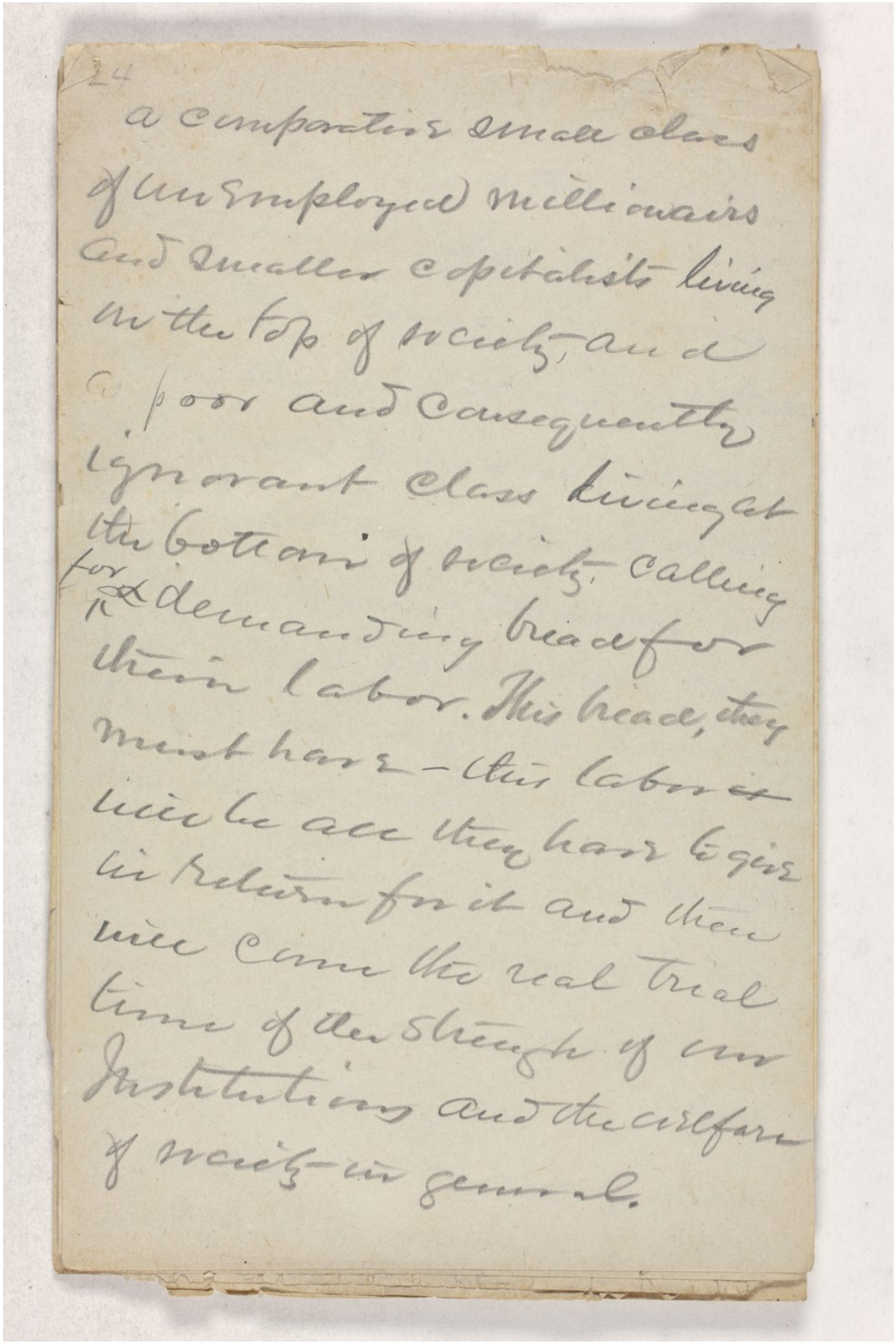
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have not thought very
much about what was going
to be the condition of things
amongst us a generation hence
when our present population
in the United States will
run up to be 100 000 000
-double what it now is. We
have had so much spare
room in the great West
for our settlements to overflow into, that the public
mind has hardly looked
forward to the day when
all lands should be high
and all lands should be



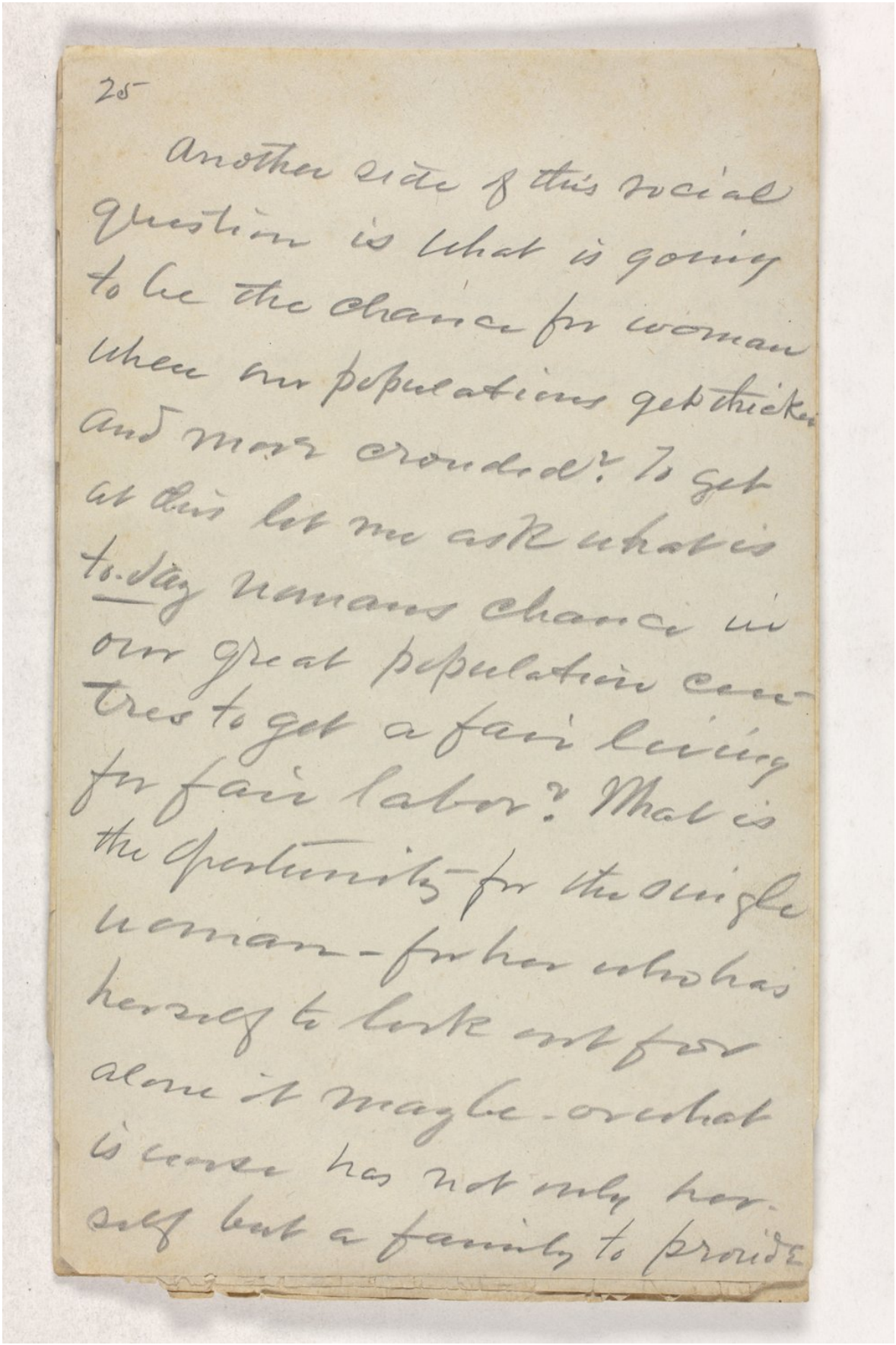
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thickly settled. - when great
Cities shall spring up where
small cities now are. And
when about these great centres shall
cling the large poor classes
asking for a chance to earn
their bread and demanding
as a right a fair and
comfortable living in
return for honest toil.
This subject is rapidly coming
to the front. Men must
get to meet it whether they
will or no. And no danger
will there be as to the friction
- the unseemliness and unrest
which will exist between



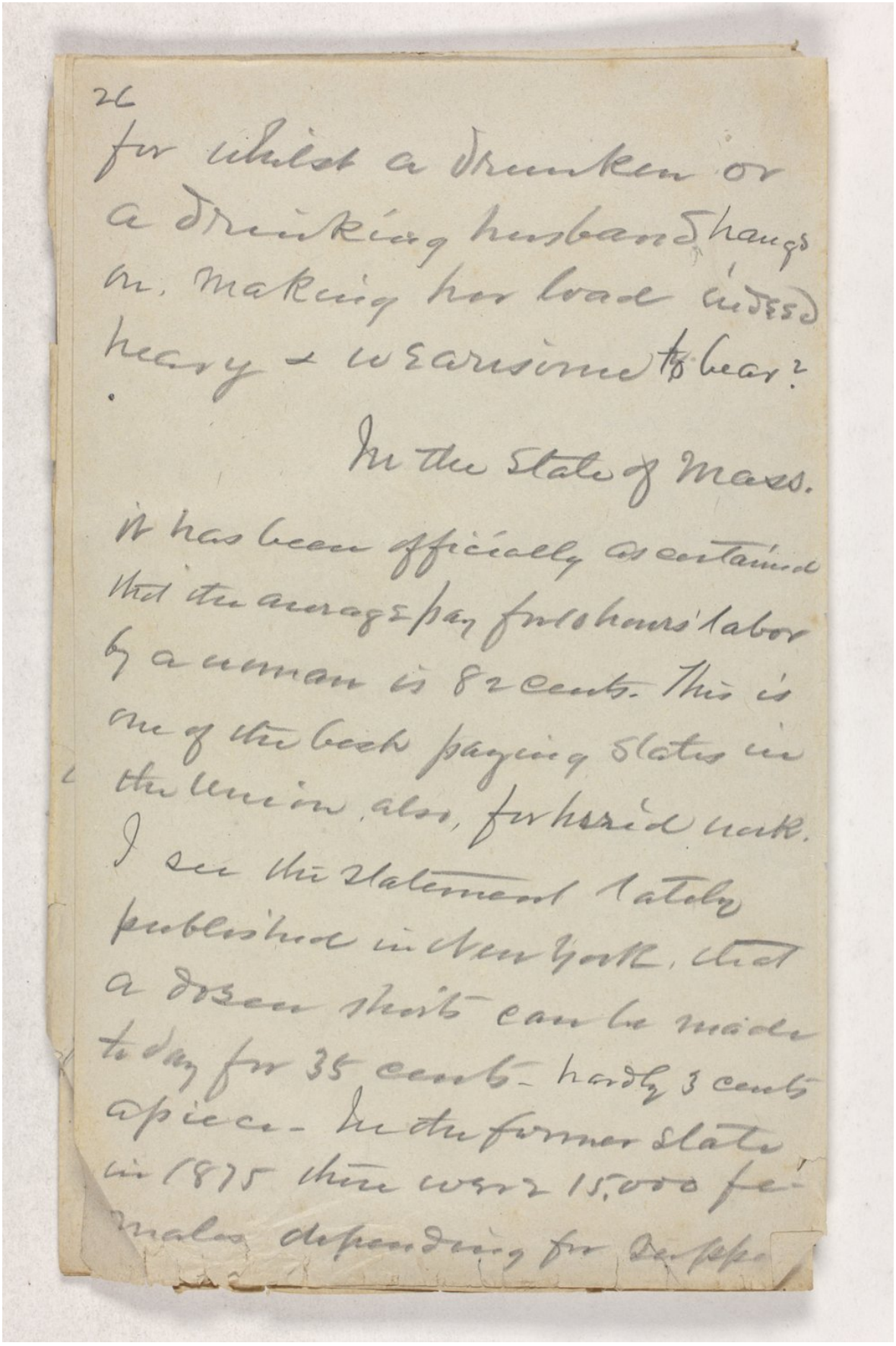
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a comparatively small class
of unemployed millionaires
and smaller capitalists living
on the top of society, and
a poor and consequently
ignorant class living at
the bottom of society, calling
for & demanding bread for
their labor. This bread, they
must have — this labor
will be all they have to give
in return for it and then
will come the real trial
time of the strength of our
institutions and the welfare
of society — in general.



25

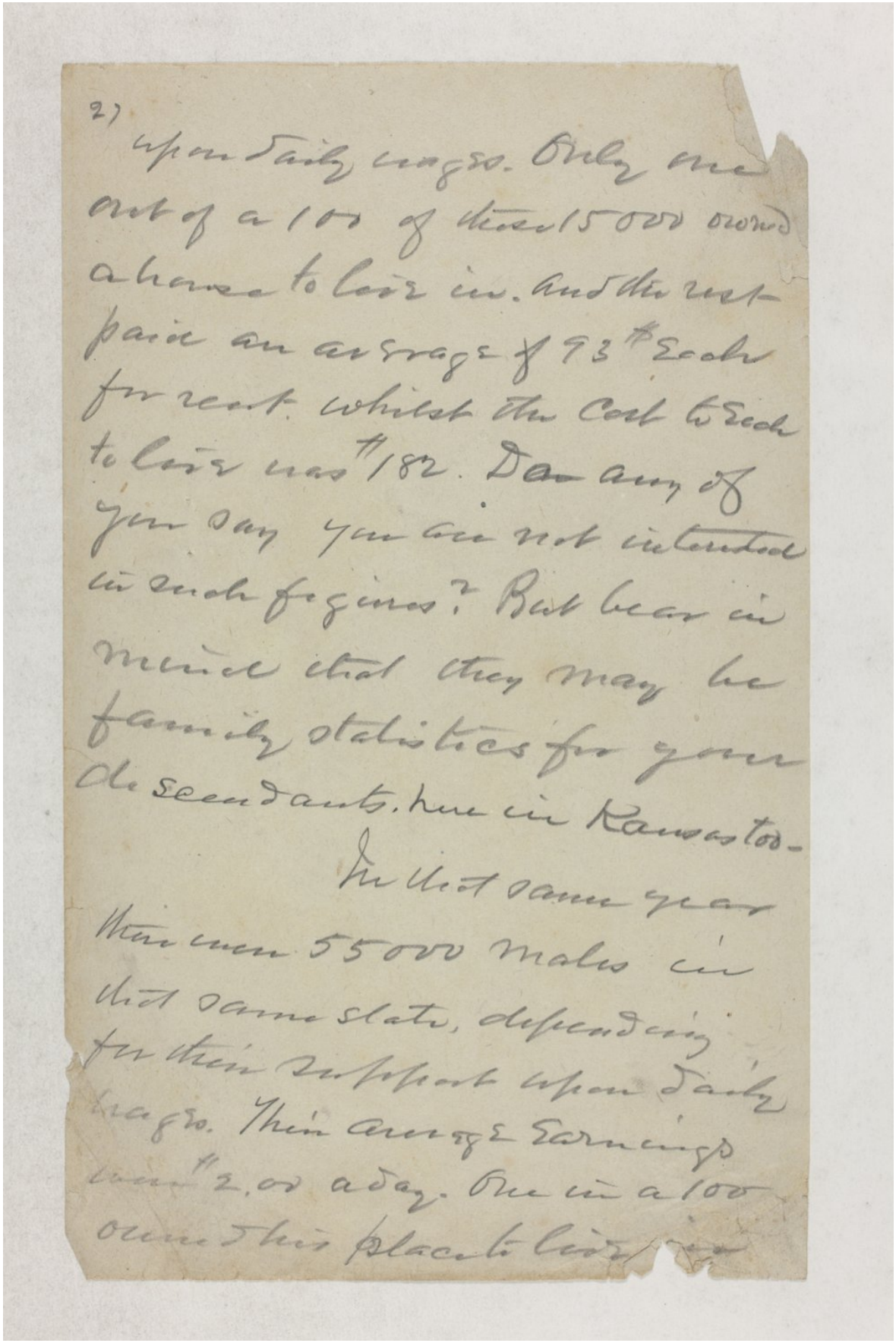
Another side of this social question is what is going to be the chance for woman when our populations get thicker and more crowded? To get at this let me ask what is to stay woman's chance in our great population centres to get a fair living for fair labor? What is the opportunity for the single woman - for her who has herself to look out for alone it may be - or that is more has not only herself but a family to provide



26

for whilst a drunken or
a drinking husband hangs
on, making her load indeed
heavy & wearisome to bear?

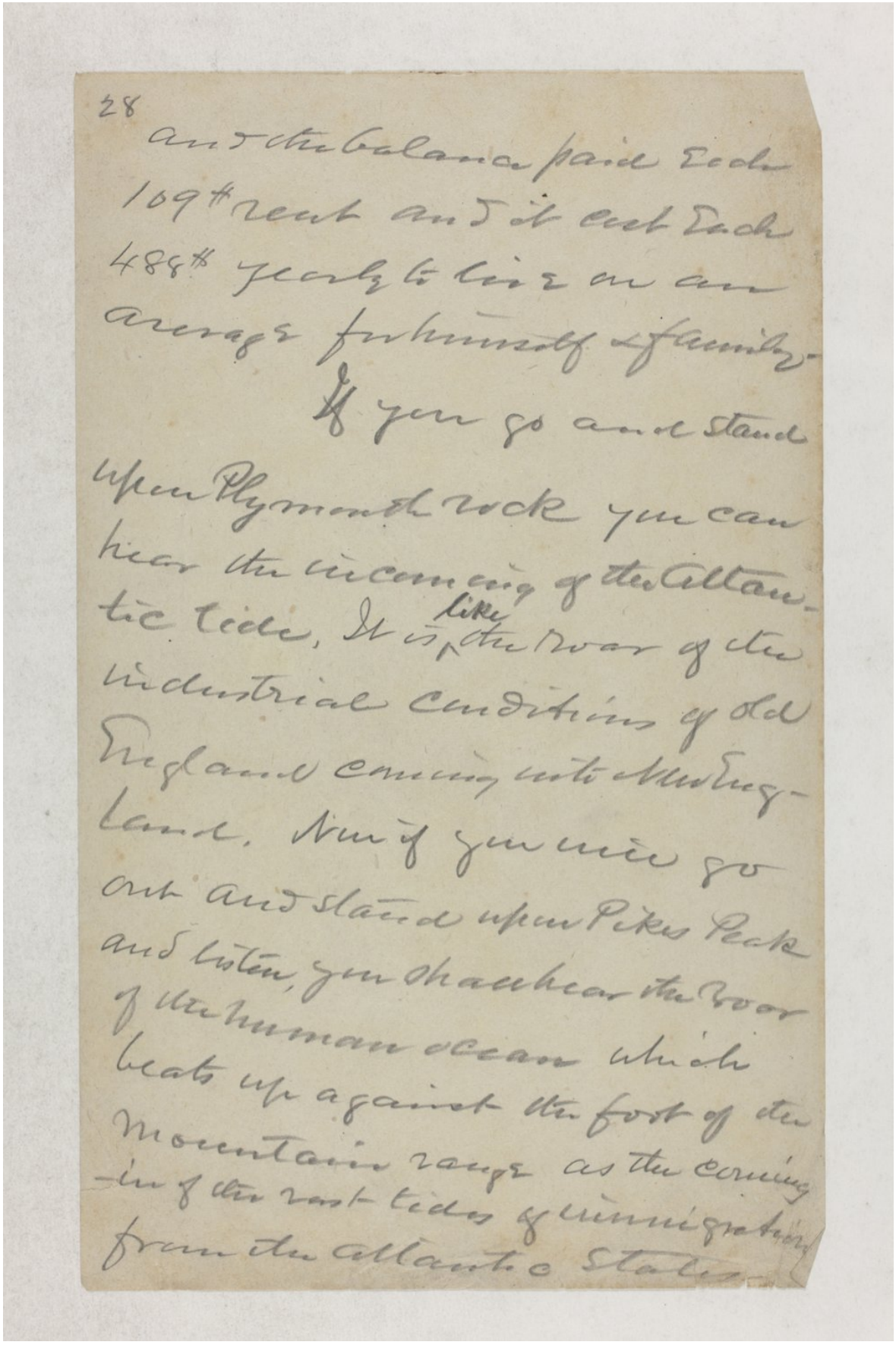
In the State of Mass.
it has been officially ascertained
that the average pay for 8 hours' labor
by a woman is 82 cents. This is
one of the best paying States in
the Union. also, for hard work.
I see the Statement lately
published in New York, that
a dozen shirts can be made
to day for 35 cents - hardly 3 cents
apiece - In the former State
in 1875 there were 15,000 fe-
males depending for Dr. pepo



27

upon daily wages. Only one out of a 100 of these 15000 owned a home to live in. And the rest paid an average of 93# each for rent whilst the cost to each to live was #182. Do any of you say you are not interested in such figures? But bear in mind that they may be family statistics for your descendants. here in Kansas to-

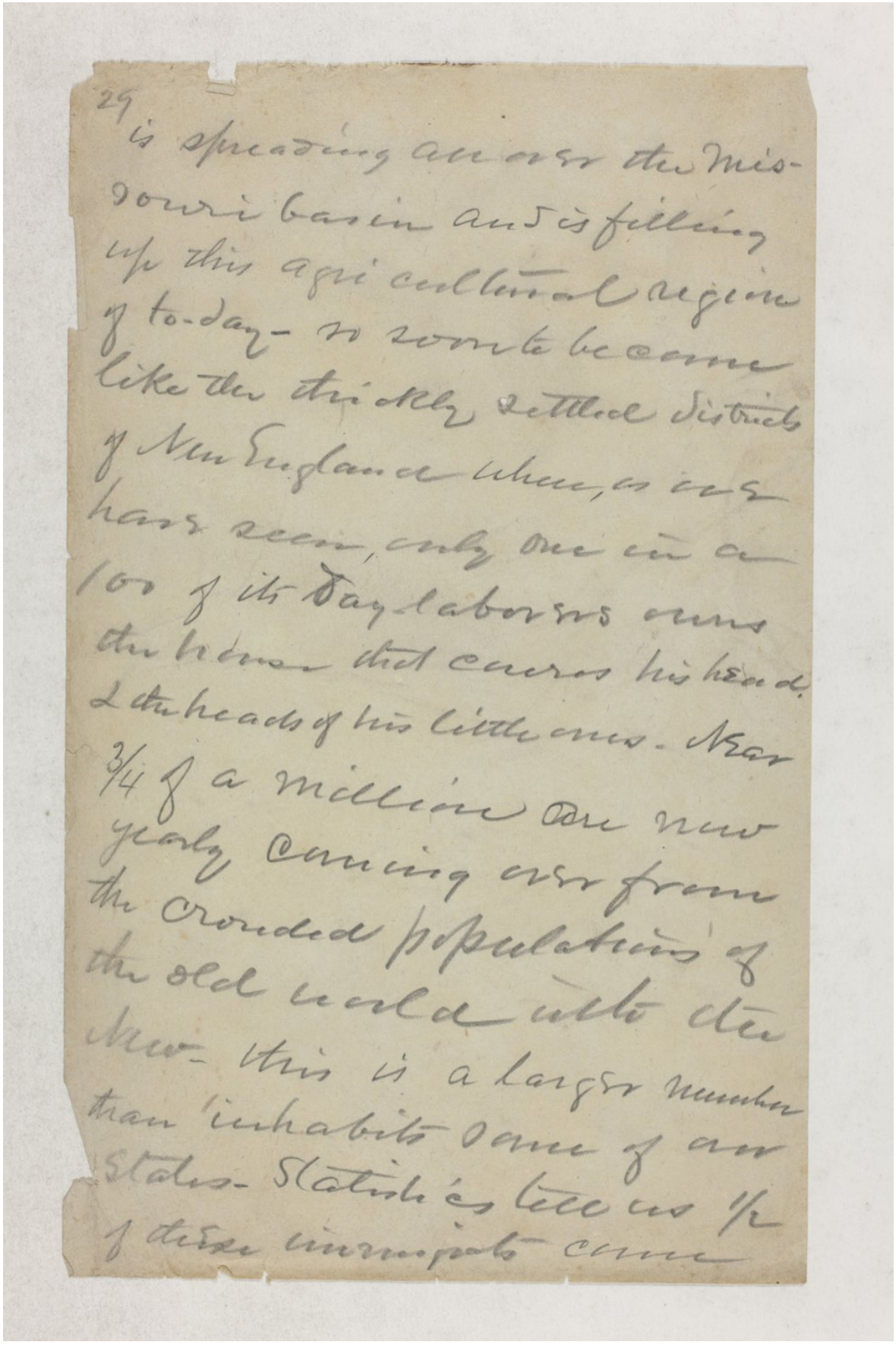
In that same year there were 55000 males in that same state, depending for their support upon daily wages. Their average earnings were #2.00 a day. One in a 100 owned this place to live in



28

and the balance paid Each
109# rent and it cost Each
488# yearly to live on an
average for himself & family.

If you go and stand
upon Plymouth rock you can
hear the incoming of the Atlan-
tic tide. It is like the roar of the
industrial conditions of old
England coming into New Eng-
land. Now if you will go
out and stand upon Pikes Peak
and listen, you shall hear the roar
of the human ocean which
beats up against the foot of the
Mountain range as the coming
in of the vast tides of immigration
from the Atlantic States



29

is spreading across the Mis-
souri basin and is filling
up this agricultural region
of to-day - to soon become
like the thickly settled districts
of New England where as each
has seen only one in a
100 of its day laborers owns
the home that covers his head
& the heads of his little ones. Near
3/4 of a million are now
yearly coming over from
the crowded populations of
the old world into the
New - this is a larger number
than inhabits one of our
States - Statistics tell us 1/2
of these immigrants come