James Stanley Emery speeches

Section 39, Pages 1141 - 1170

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

Date: 1876-1897

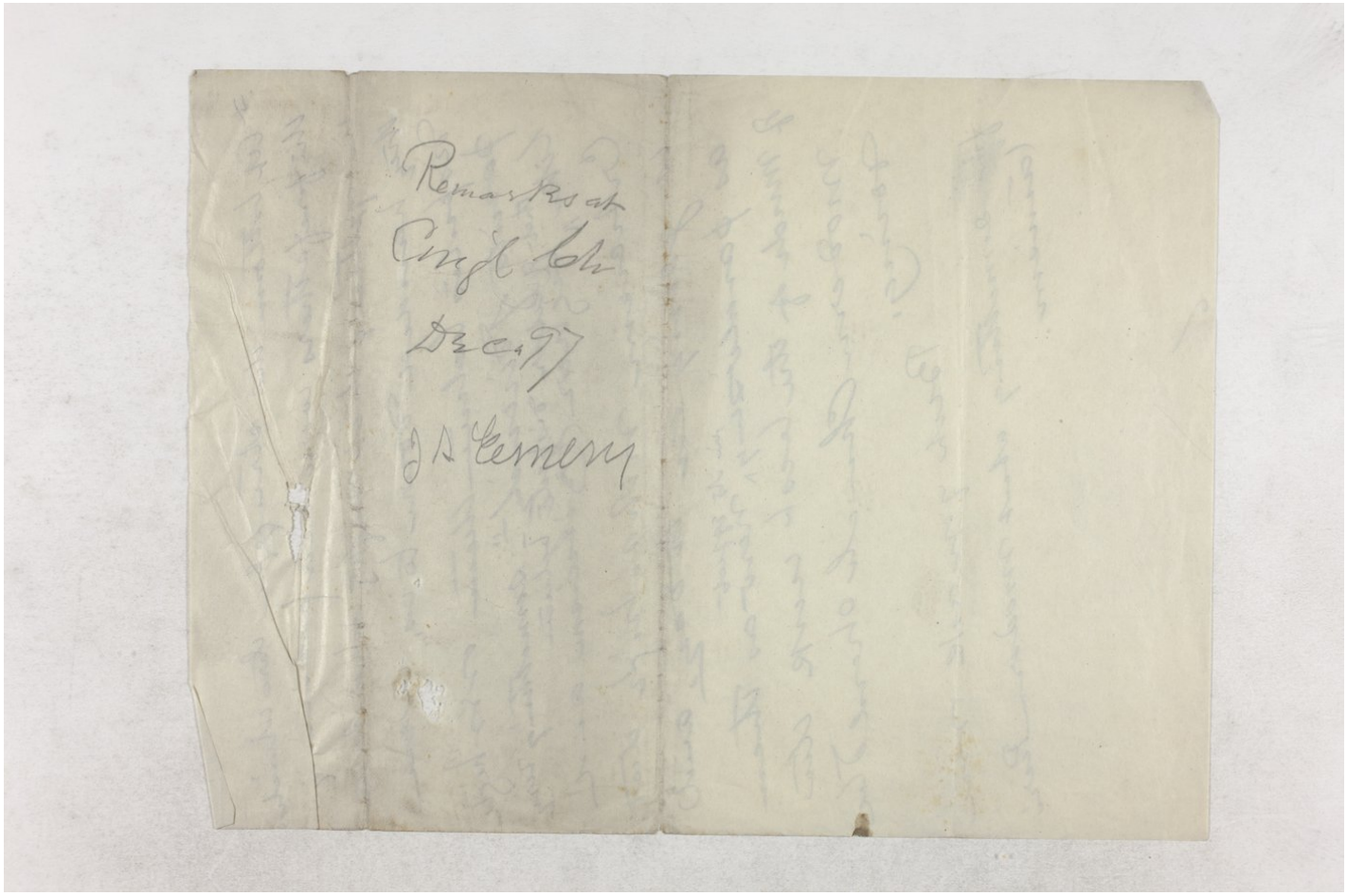
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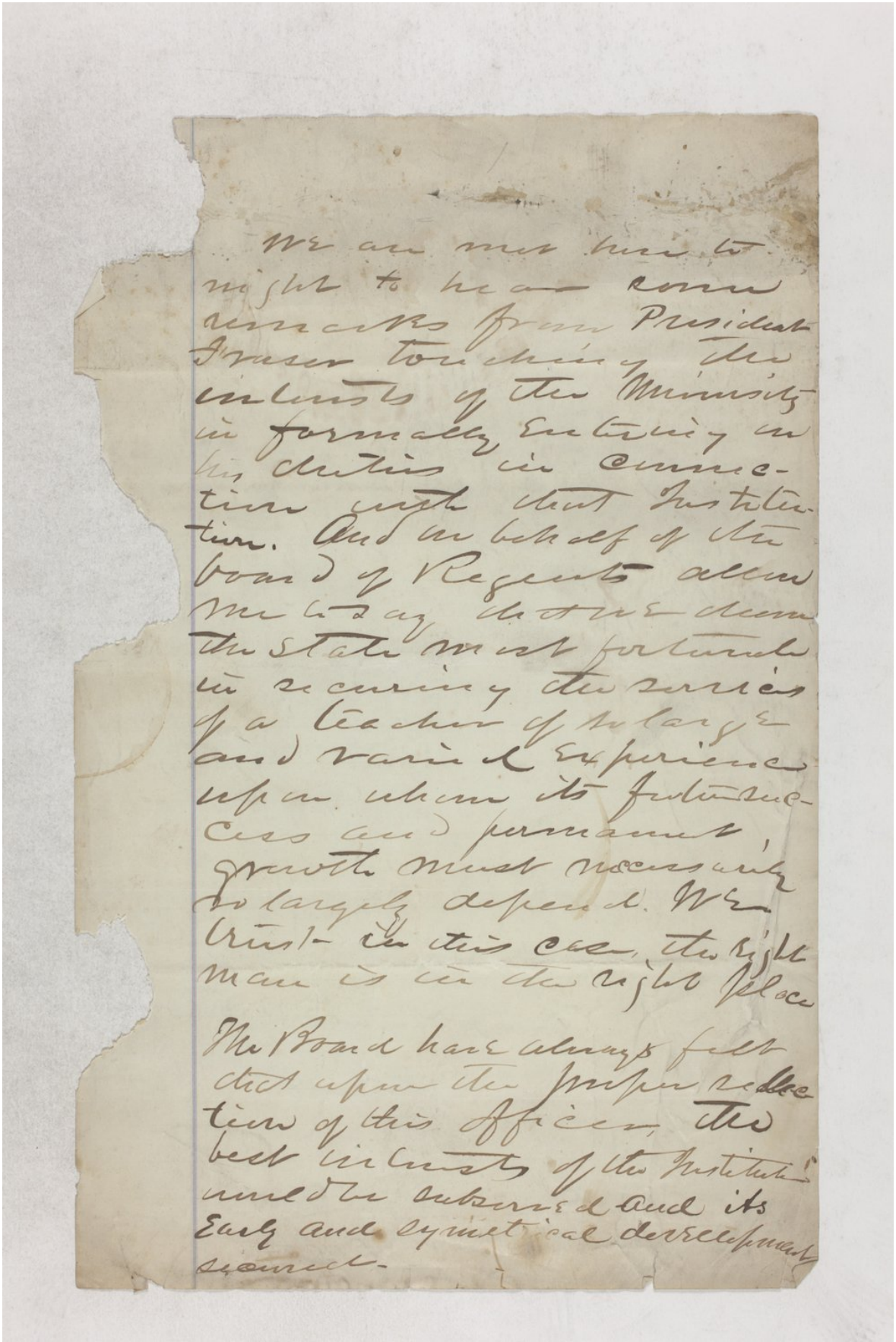
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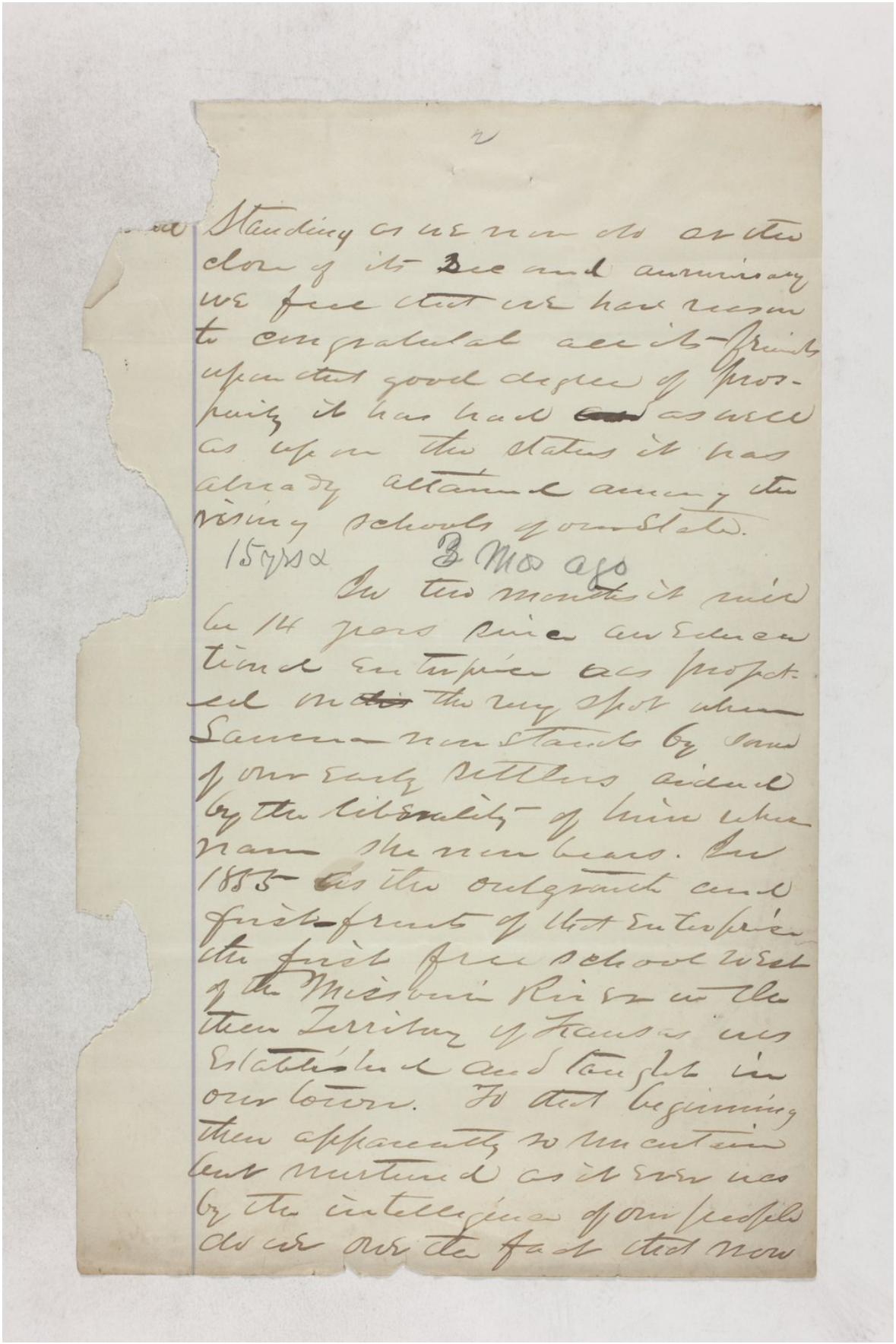
James Stanley Emery speeches





We are met here to-
night to hear some
remarks from President
Fraser touching the
interests of the University
in formally entering on
his duties in connec-
tion with that Institu-
tion. And on behalf of the
Board of Regents allow
me to say that we deem
the State most fortunate
in securing the services
of a teacher of so large
and varied experience
upon whom its future suc-
cess and permanent
growth must necessarily
so largely depend. We
trust - in this case, the right
man is in the right place.

The Board have always felt
that upon the proper selec-
tion of this officer, the
best interests of the Institution
would be subserved and its
early and symmetrical development
secured.

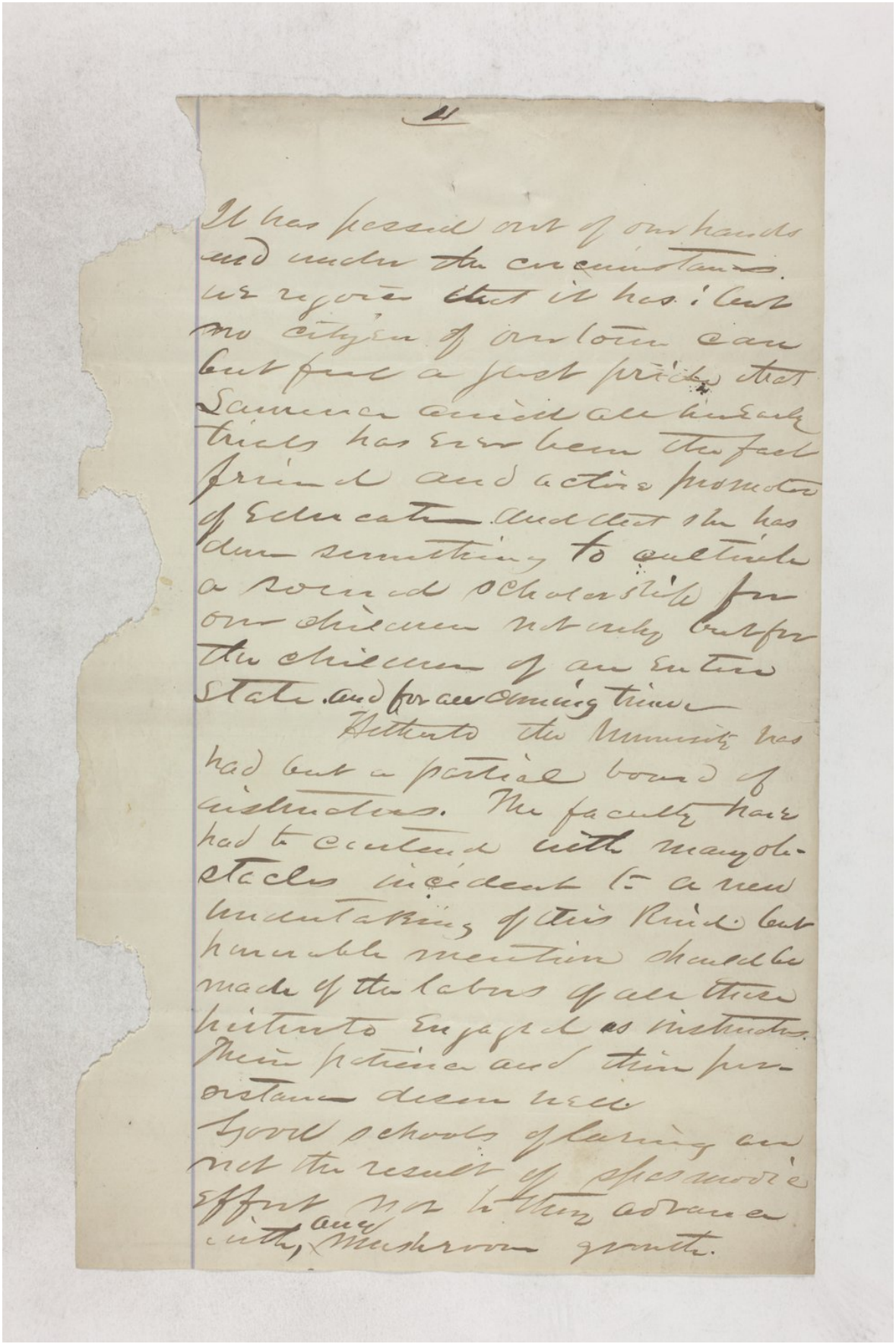


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Standing as we now do at the close of its 2nd anniversary we feel that we have reason to congratulate all its friends upon that good degree of prosperity it has had as well as upon the status it has already attained among the rising schools of our State.

15 yrs ago 2 Mo ago

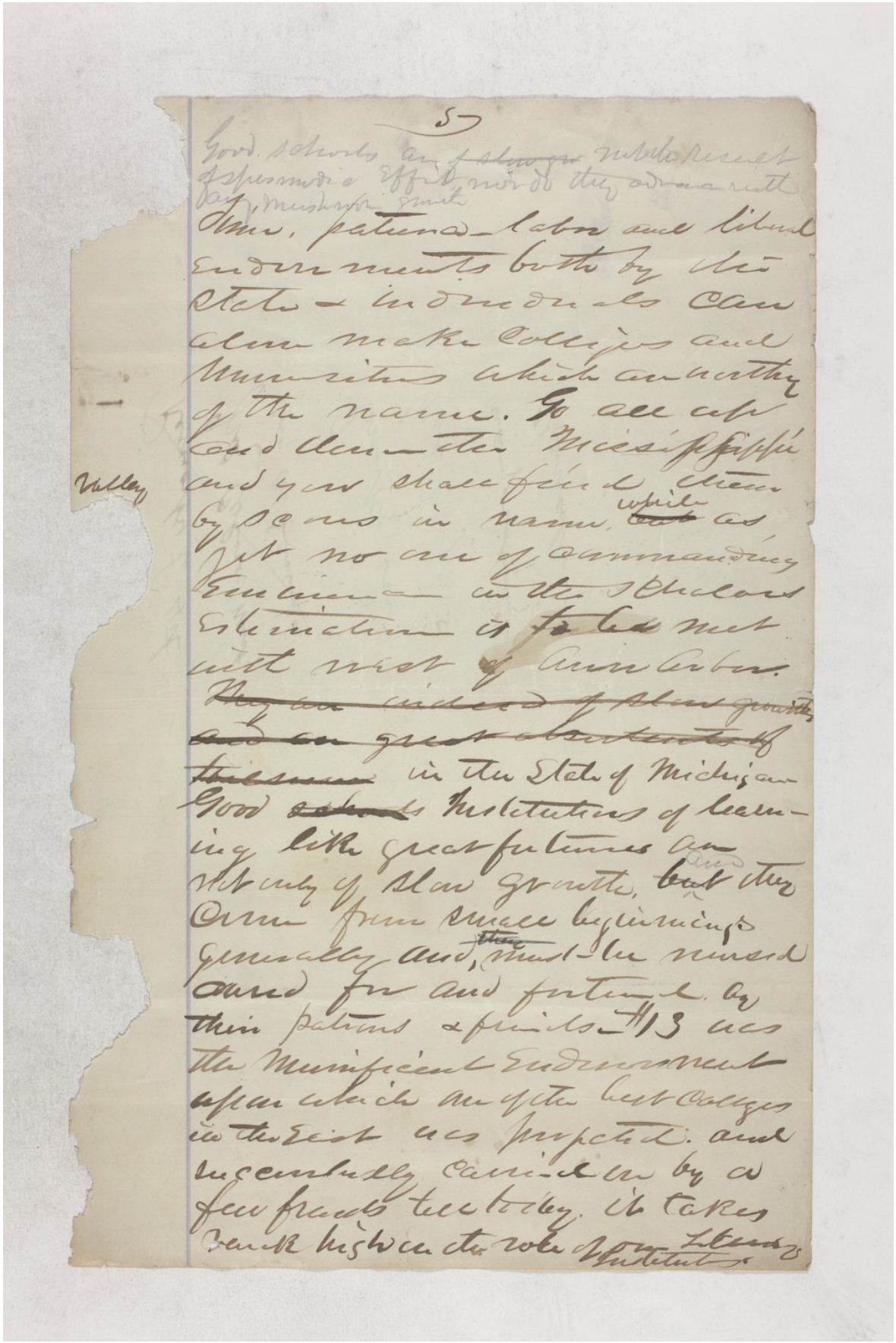
In two months it will be 14 years since an Educational Enterprise was projected on this very spot where Lawrence now stands by some of our early settlers aided by the liberality of kind friends whose names the members bear. In 1855 as the outgrowth and first-fruits of that Enterprise the first free school West of the Missouri River in the then Territory of Kansas was Established and taught in our town. To that beginning then apparently so uncertain but nurtured as it was by the intelligence of our people do we owe the fact that now



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It has passed out of our hands and under the circumstances we regret that it has; but no citizen of our town can but feel a just pride that Lawrence amid all her trials has ever been the fast friend and active promoter of Education. And that she has done something to entitle a second Charter for our children not only but for the children of an entire State and for an coming time.

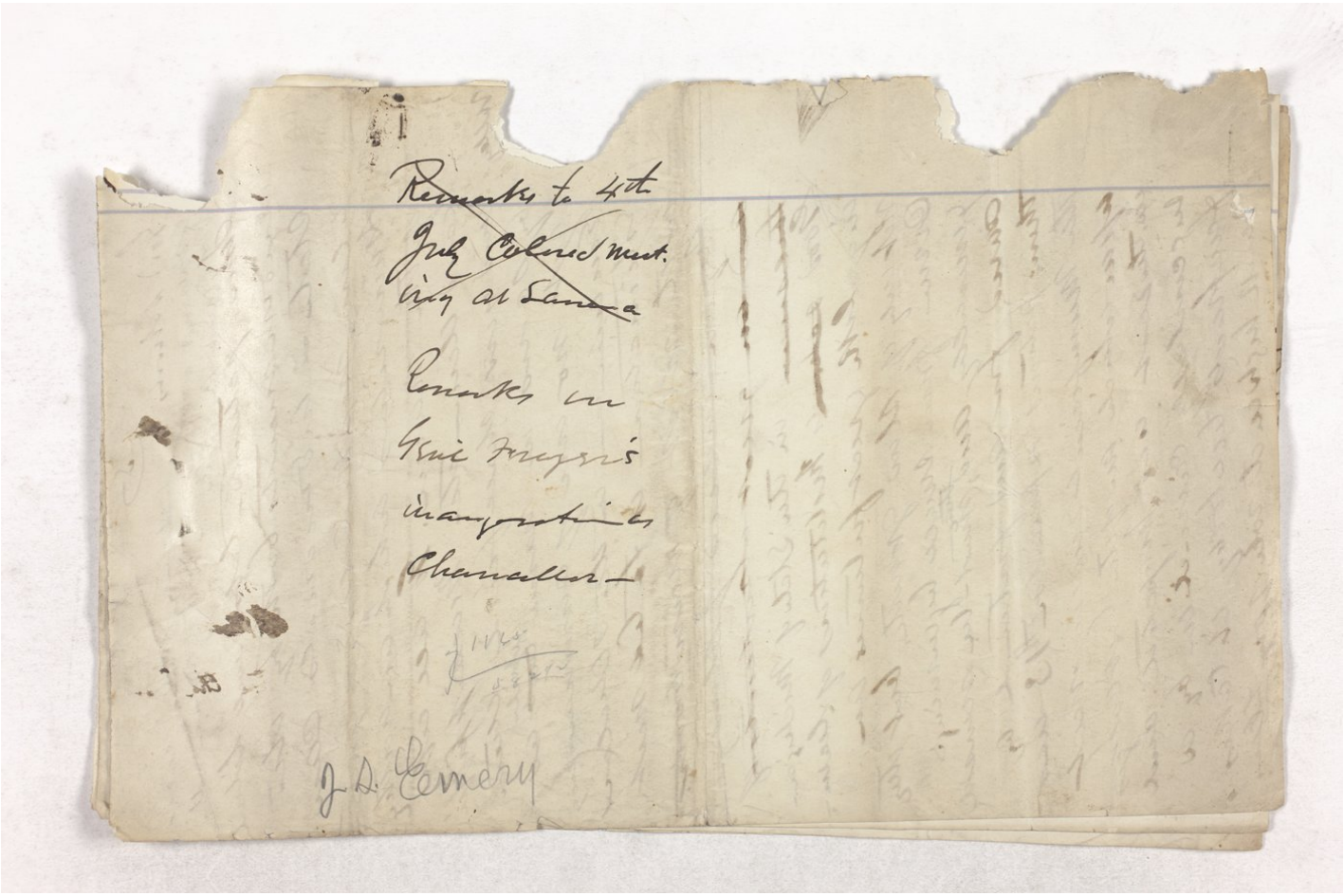
Hitherto the University has had but a partial board of instructors. The faculty have had to contend with many obstacles incident to a new undertaking of this kind but humble mention should be made of the labors of all those hitherto engaged as instructors. Their patience and their perseverance deserve well. Good schools of learning are not the result of a moments effort but by slow advance with, and Mushroom growth.



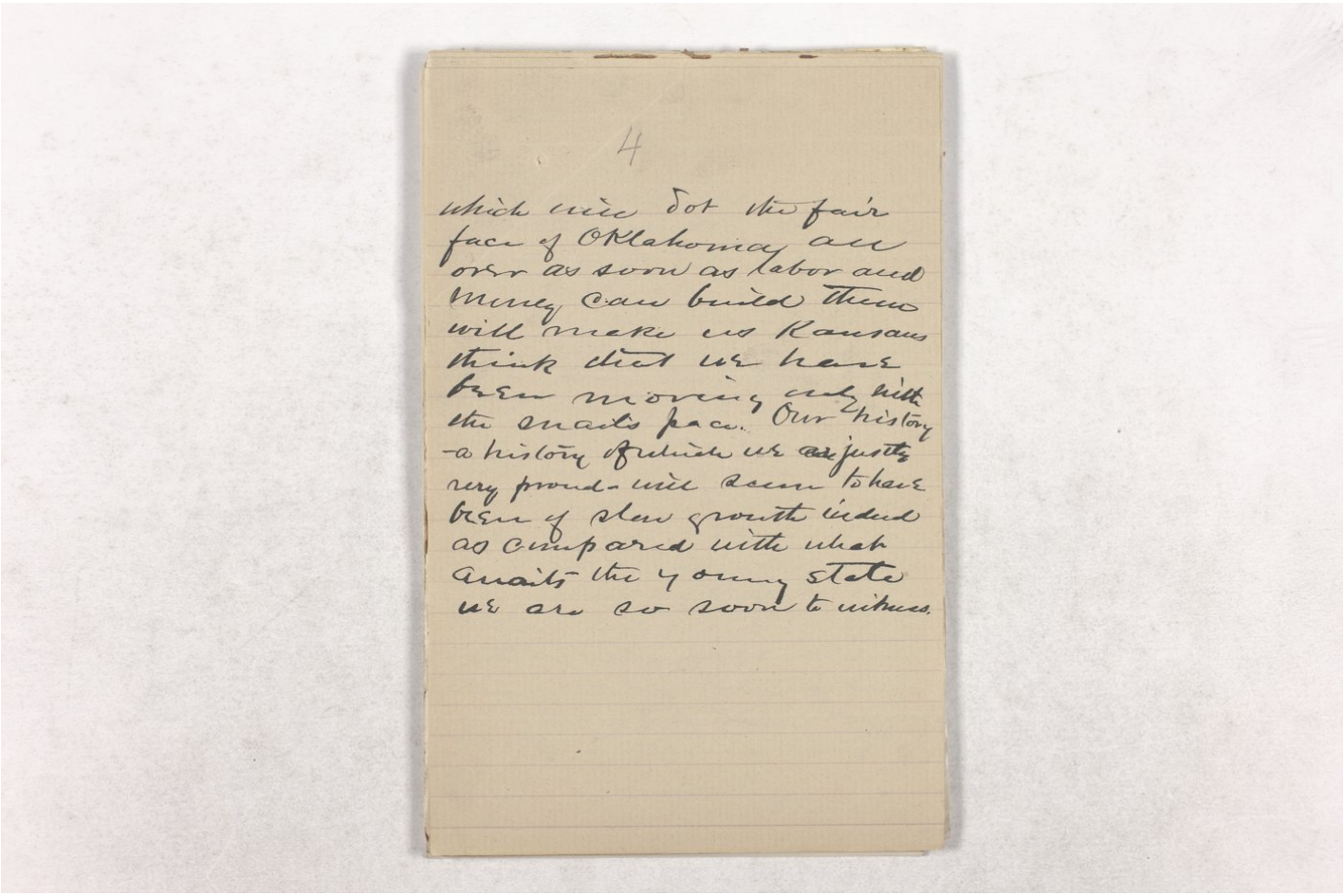
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Good schools in ~~the~~ ~~Mississippi~~ Valley Result
of spasmodic effort would they advance with
any rapidity
Men, patient labor and liberal
endowments both by the
State & individuals can
alone make Colleges and
Universities which are worthy
of the name. Go all over
and down the Mississippi
Valley and you shall find them
by scores in name, while as
yet no one of commanding
influence in the Christian
Education is to be met
with west of Ann Arbor.
~~Ann Arbor richest of these growths~~
~~and on great exhibitions of~~
~~this sort~~ in the State of Michigan
Good ~~schools~~ Institutions of learn-
ing like great fortunes are
not only of slow growth, but they
come from small beginnings
generally and, must be nursed
cared for and fostered by
their patrons & friends. Hill's was
the munificent endowment
upon which one of the best Colleges
in the West was projected. and
successfully carried on by a
few friends here today. It takes
such help as the rich & [illegible]
Institutions

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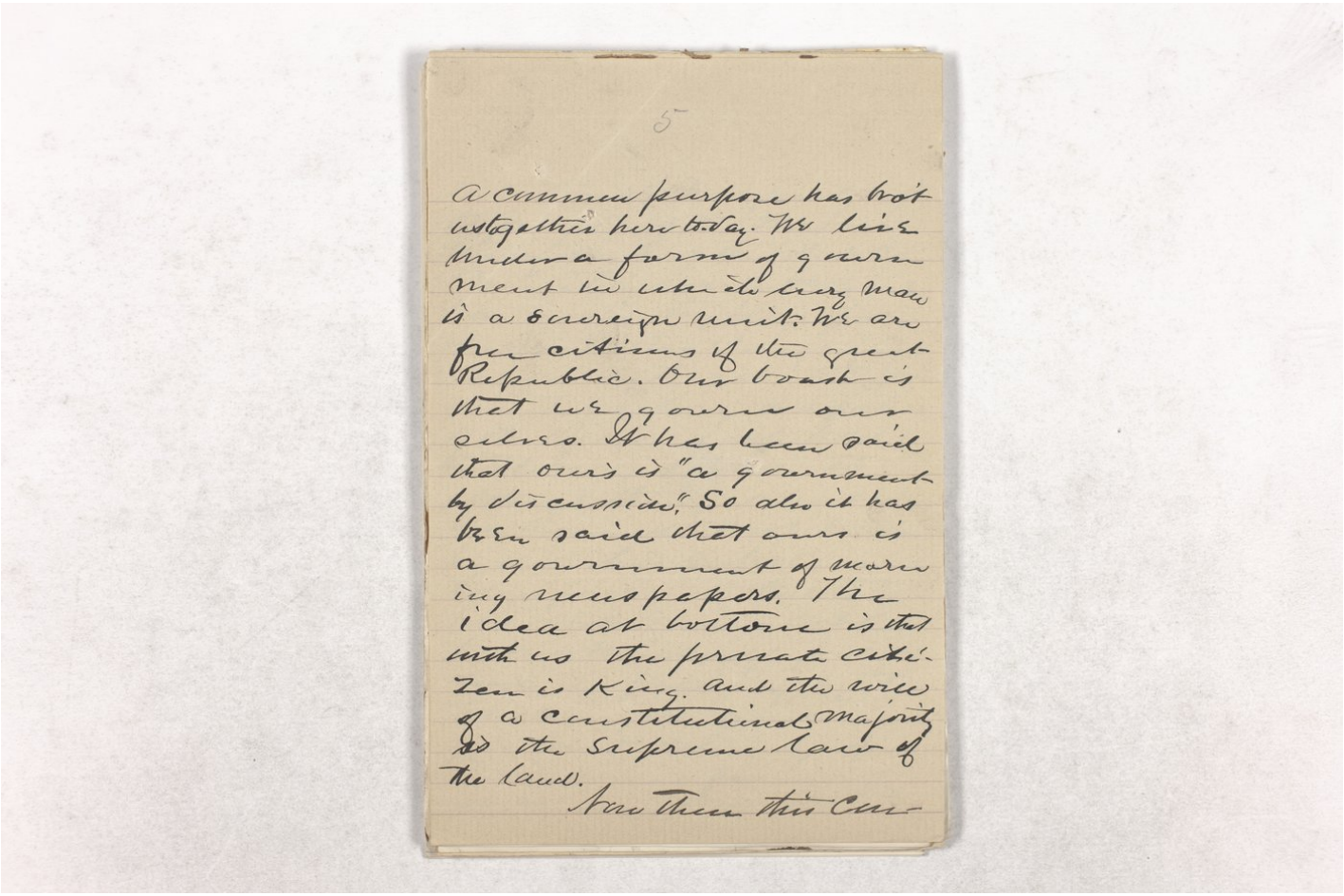
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which will dot the fair face of Oklahoma all over as soon as labor and money can build them will make us Kansans think that we have been moving and with the swiftest pace. Our history -a history which we as justly very proud- will seem to have been of slow growth indeed as compared with what awaits the young state we are so soon to witness.

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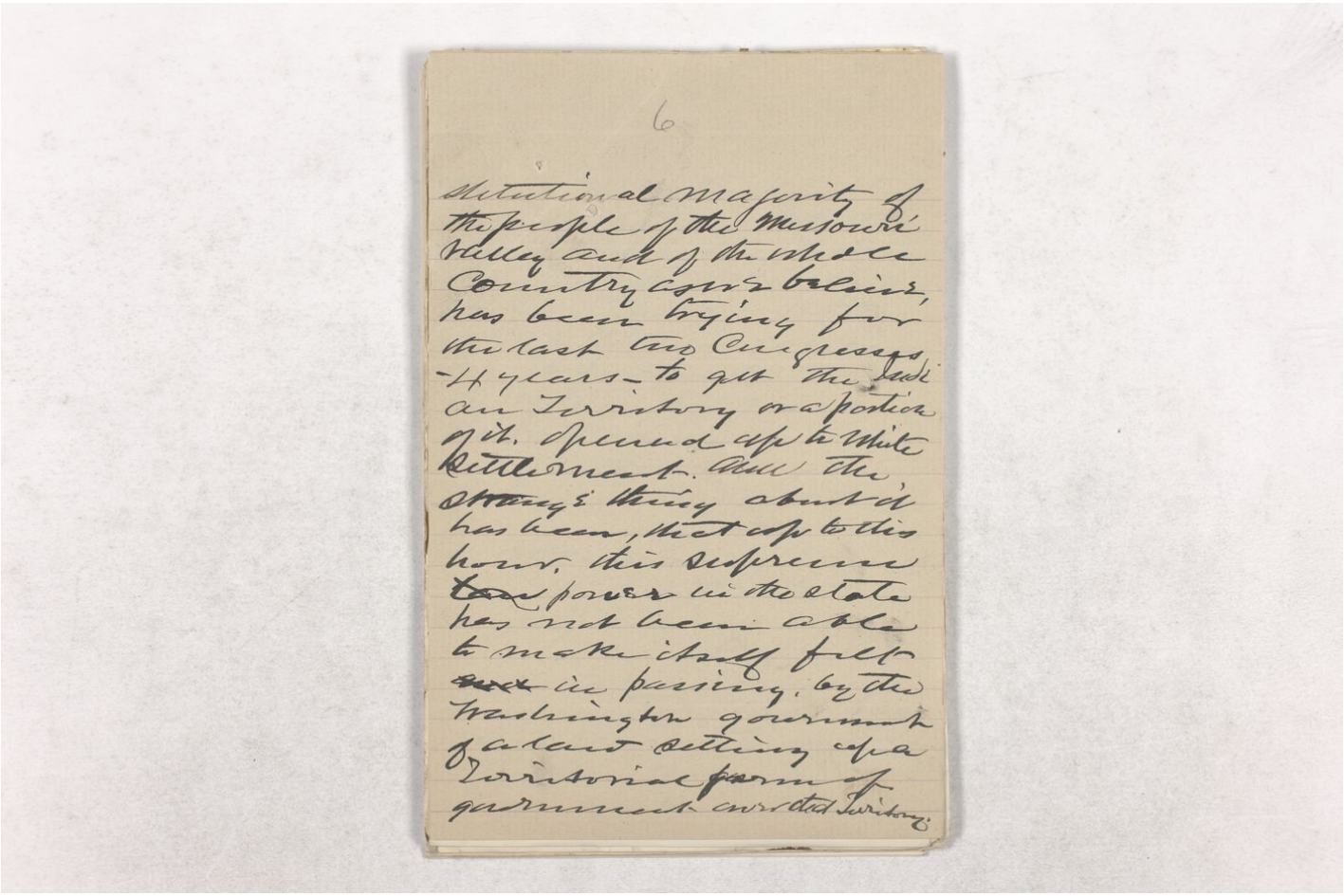


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a common purpose has brot us together here to-day. We live under a form of government in which every man is a sovereign unit. We are free citizens of the great Republic. Our boast is that we govern ourselves. It has been said that ours is "a government by discussion." So also it has been said that ours is a government of morning newspapers. The idea at bottom is that with us the private citizen is King and the will of a constitutional majority is the supreme law of the land.

Now then this Con-

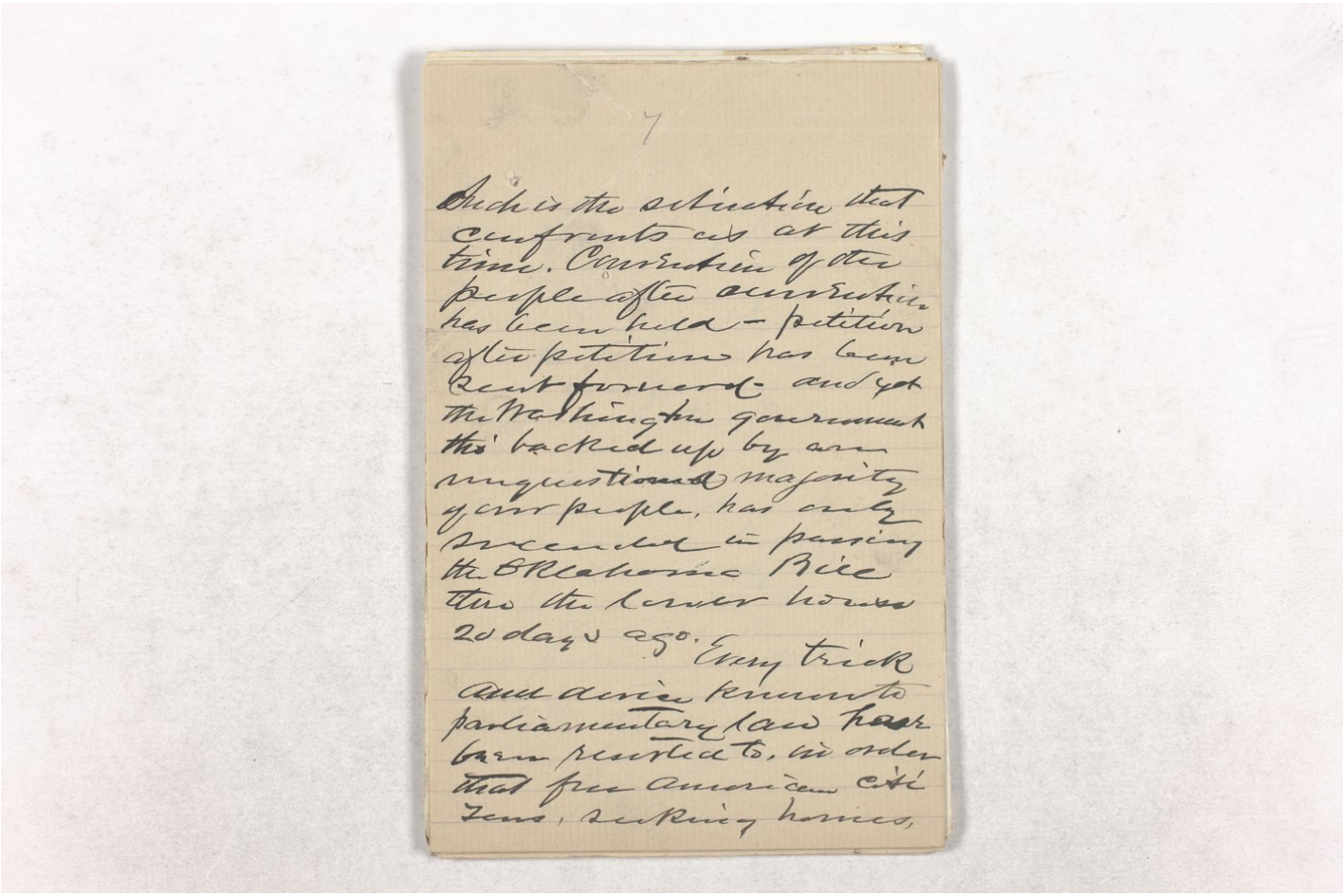
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sectional majority of
the people of the Missouri
Valley and of the whole
Country west & below,
has been trying for
the last two Congresses
-4 years- to get the last
on Territory or a portion
of it. Opened up to white
settlement. And the
Attorneys think about it
has been, that up to this
hour, this supreme
power in the state
has not been able
to make itself felt
in passing by the
Washington government
& at once setting up a
Territorial form of
government over that Territory

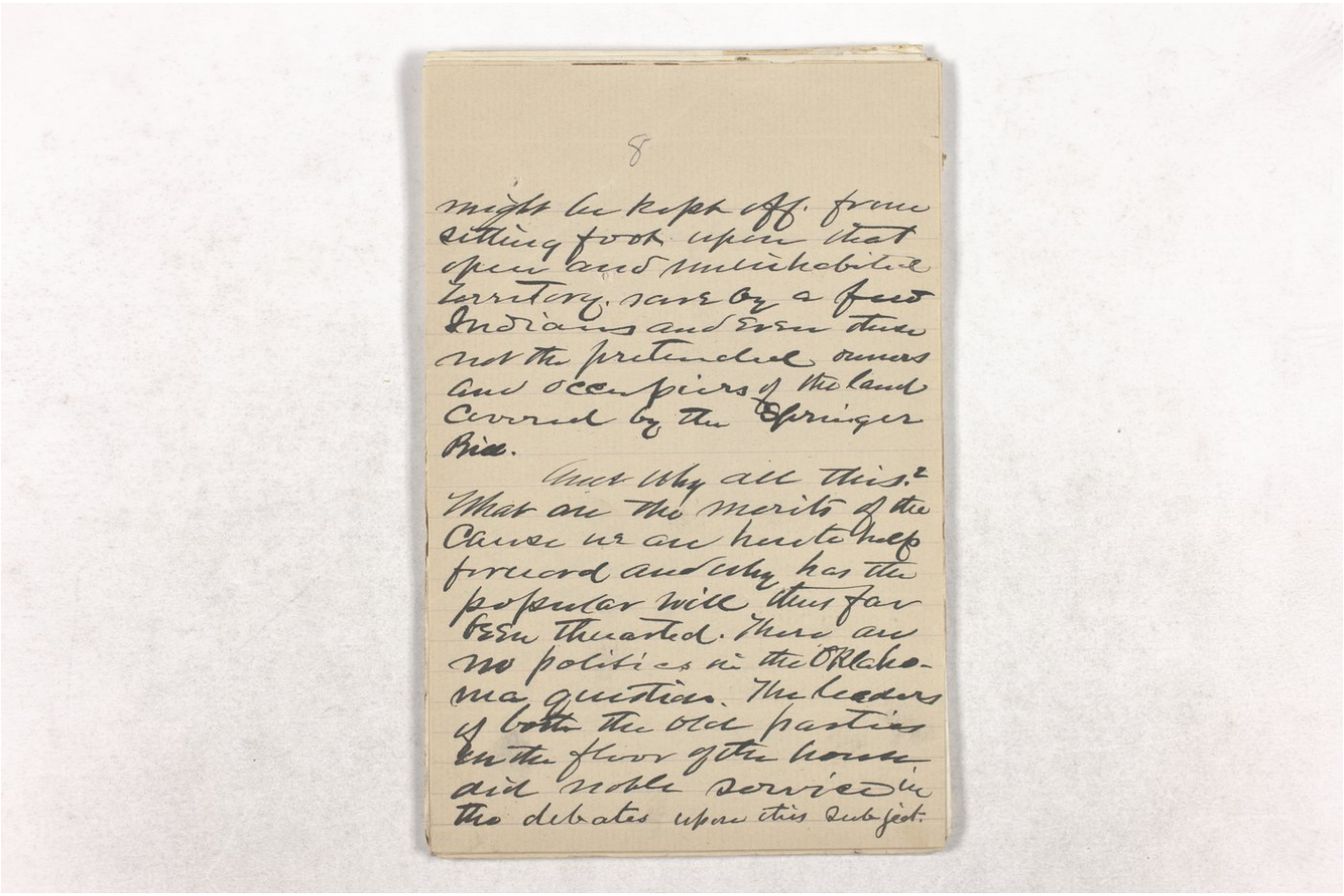
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Such is the situation that confronts us at this time. Convention of the people after convention has been held - petition after petition has been sent forward and yet the Washington government this backed up by an unquestioned majority of our people, has only succeeded in passing the Oklahoma Bill thru the lower house 2d day of ago. Every trick and device known to parliamentary law has been resorted to, in order that free American citizens, seeking homes,

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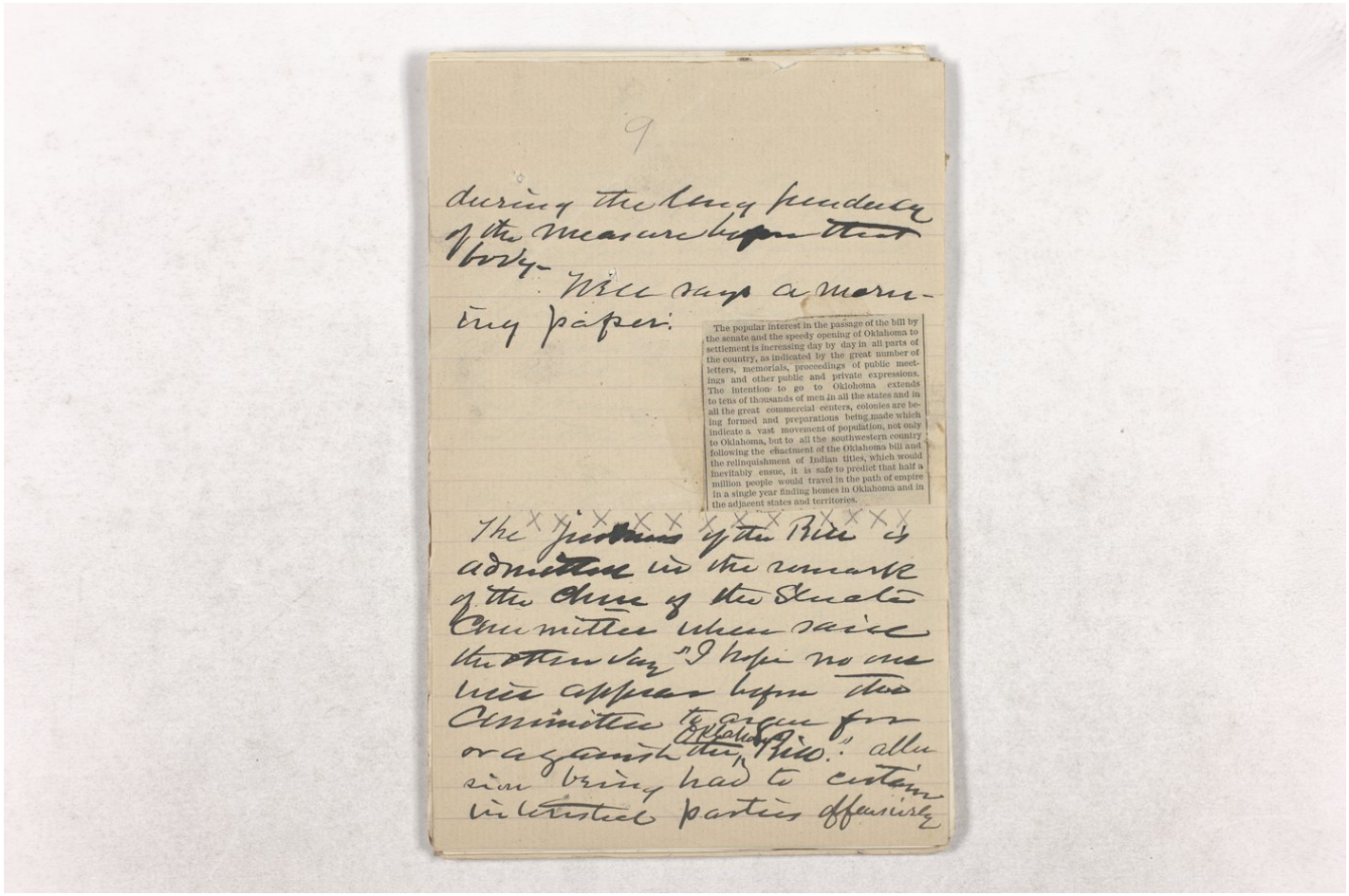


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might be kept off from
sitting foot upon that
open and unlikeable
territory, save by a few
Indians and even them
not the pretended owners
and occupiers of the land
covered by the Springer
Bill.

But why all this? 2
What are the merits of the
Cause we are here to help
forward and why has the
popular will thus far
been thwarted. There are
no politics in the Oklaho-
ma question. The leaders
of both the old parties
on the floor of the house
did noble service in
the debates upon this subject.

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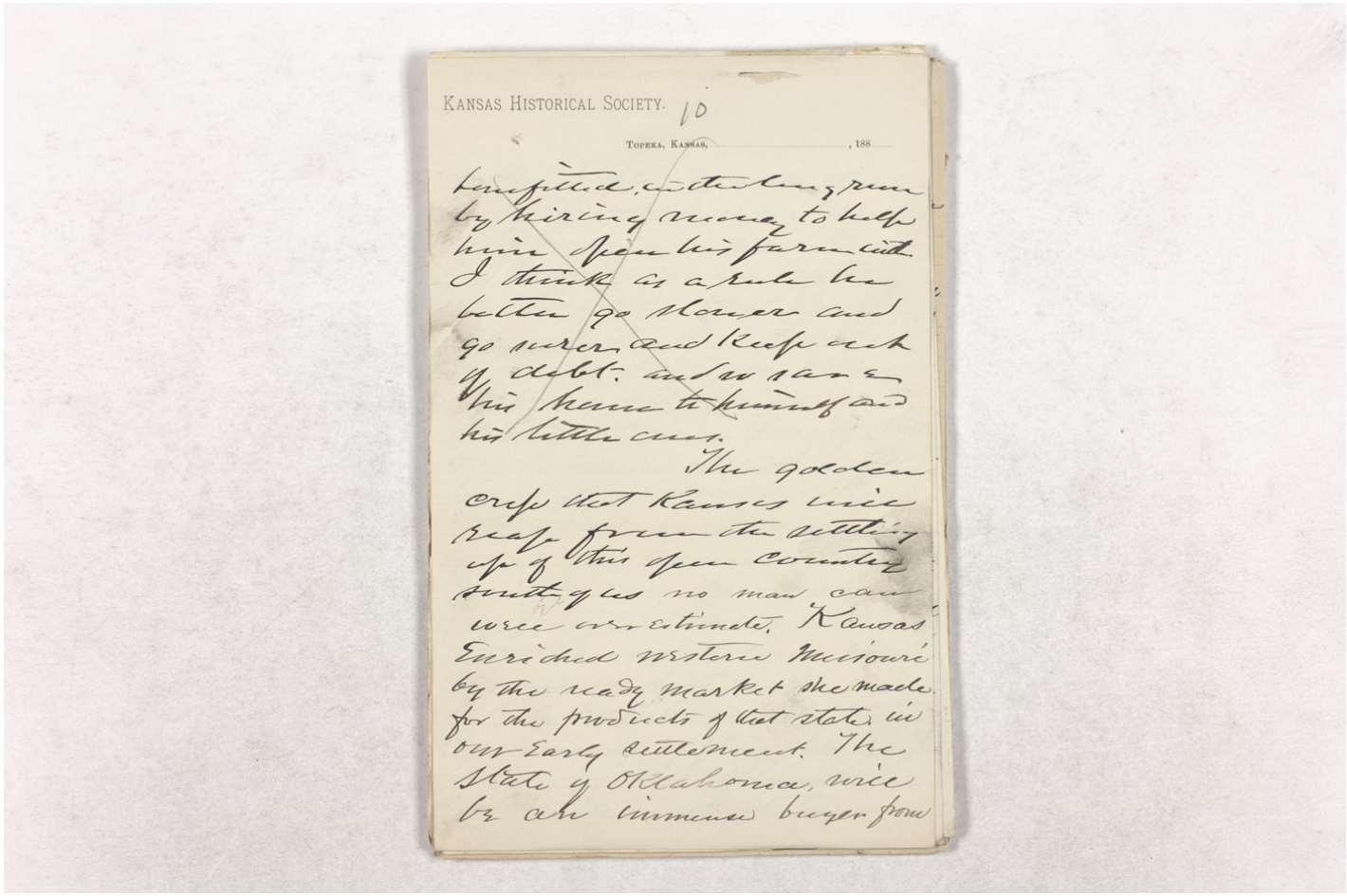
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during the long pendency of the measure before that body. Will says a morning paper.

The popular interest in the passage of the bill by the senate and the speedy opening of Oklahoma to settlement is increasing day by day in all parts of the country, as indicated by the great number of letters, memorials, proceedings of public meetings and other public and private expressions. The intention to go to Oklahoma extends to tens of thousands of men in all the states and in all the great commercial centers, colonies are being formed and preparations being made which indicate a vast movement of population, not only to Oklahoma, but to all the southwestern country following the enactment of the Oklahoma bill and the relinquishment of Indian titles, which would inevitably ensue, it is safe to predict that half a million people would travel in the path of empire in a single year finding homes in Oklahoma and in the adjacent states and territories.

The [illegible] of the Bill is admitted in the remark of the Chairman of the Senate Committee when said the other day "I hope no one will appear before the Committee to argue for or against the Bill." allusion being had to certain interested parties offering

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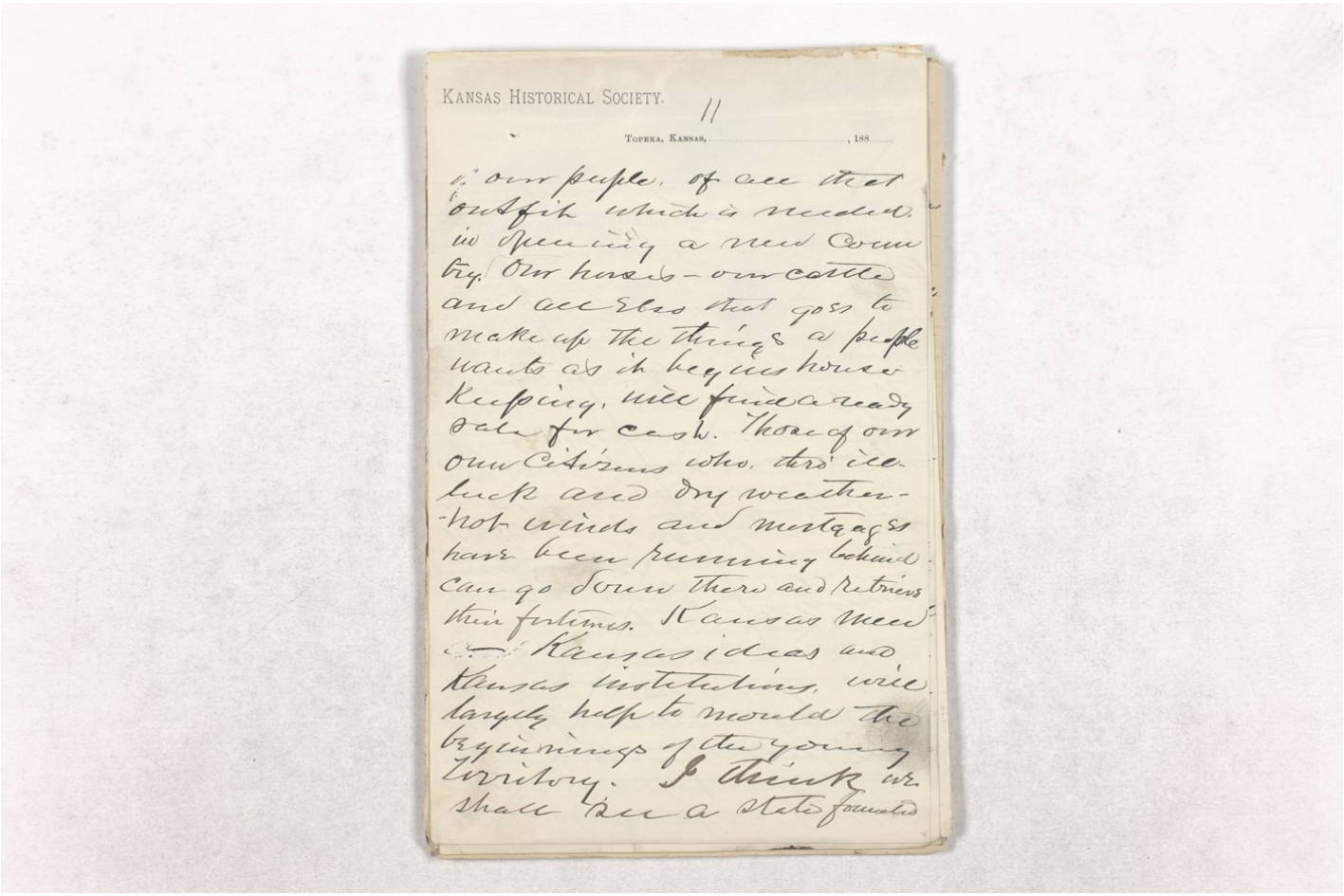
KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 10

TOPEKA, KANSAS, ..., 188....

benefited, entertaining men by hiring men to help him open his farm and I think as a rule he better go slower and go surer and keep out of debt. and so save his means to himself and his little ones.

The golden crop that Kansas vice reaps from the settling up of this fine country entitles no man can over estimate. Kansas Enriched western Missouri by the ready market she made for the products of that state in our early settlement. The state of Oklahoma, vice by an immense buyer from

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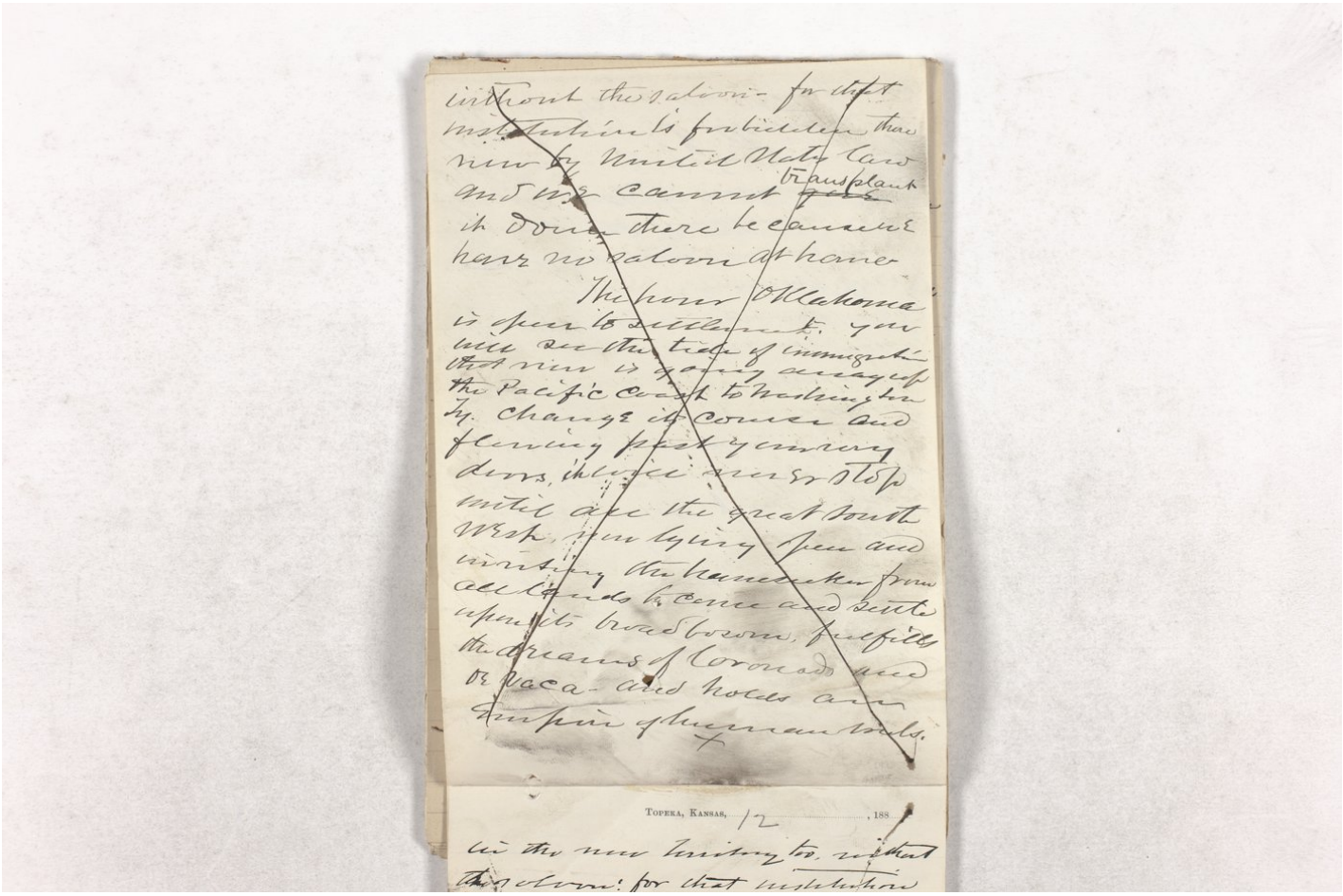


KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 11

TOPEKA, KANSAS, ..., 188....

& our people. of all that
outfit which is needed
in opening a new Country. Our horses - our cattle
and all else that goes to
make up the things a people
wants as it begins house
keeping, will find a ready
sale for cash. Those of our
own Citizens who, thro' ill-
luck and dry weather -
hot winds and mortgages
have been running behind
can go down there and retrieve
their fortunes. Kansas need -
Kansas ideas and
Kansas institutions, will
largely help to mould the
beginnings of the young
Territory. I think we
shall see a State founded

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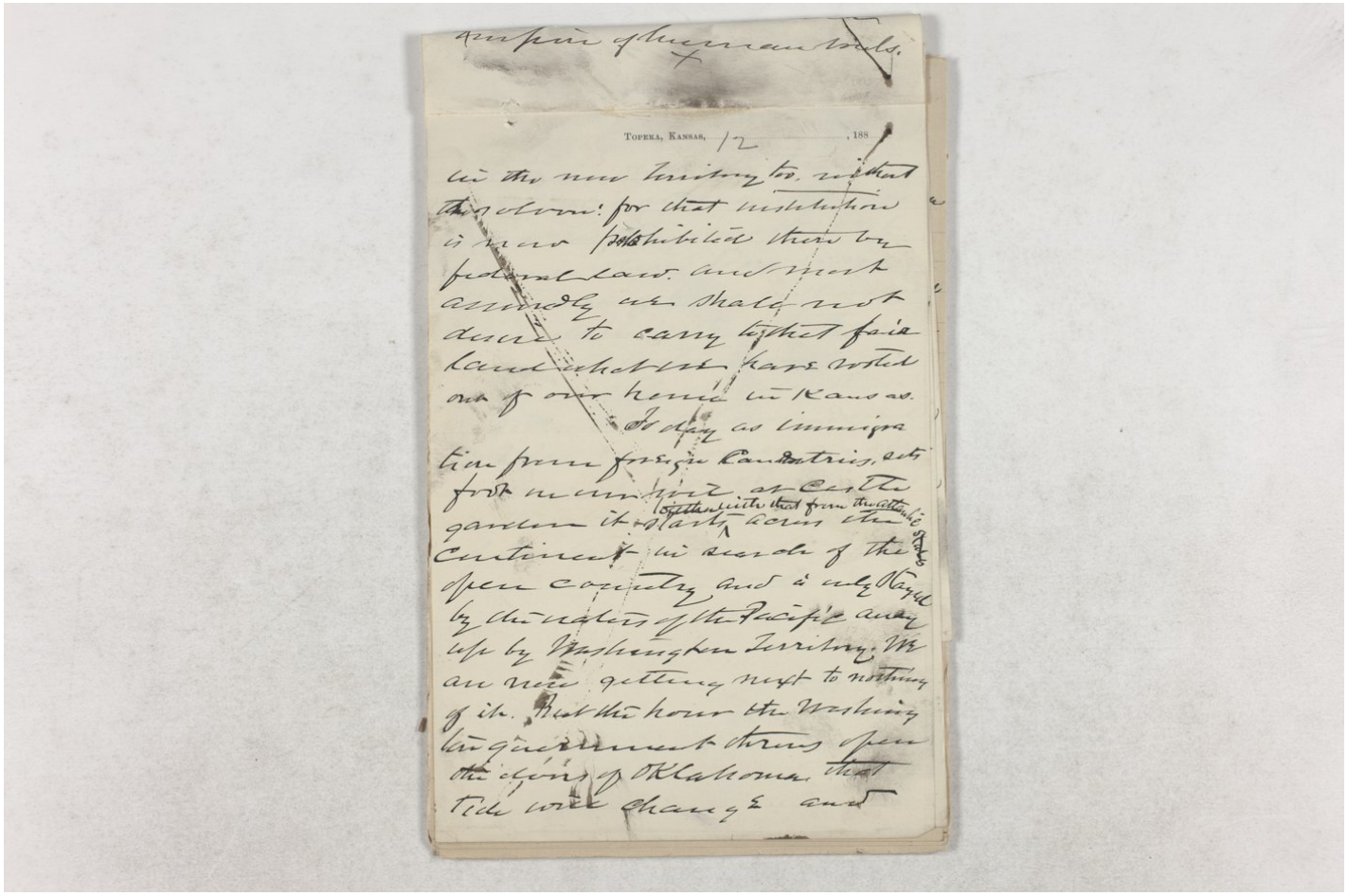
without the saloon- for dept institutions is forbidden than now by United States Law and no one cannot [transplant] it down there because have no saloon at home

The [illegible] Oklahoma is open to settlement, you will see the tide of immigration is now [illegible] the Pacific coast to Washington by change it comes and flowing past every [illegible] doors, [illegible] never stop until all the great South West, [illegible] and winding its [illegible] from all lands to come and settle upon its broad bosom, fulfills the dreams of Coronado and Vaca- and holds out [illegible] of human souls.

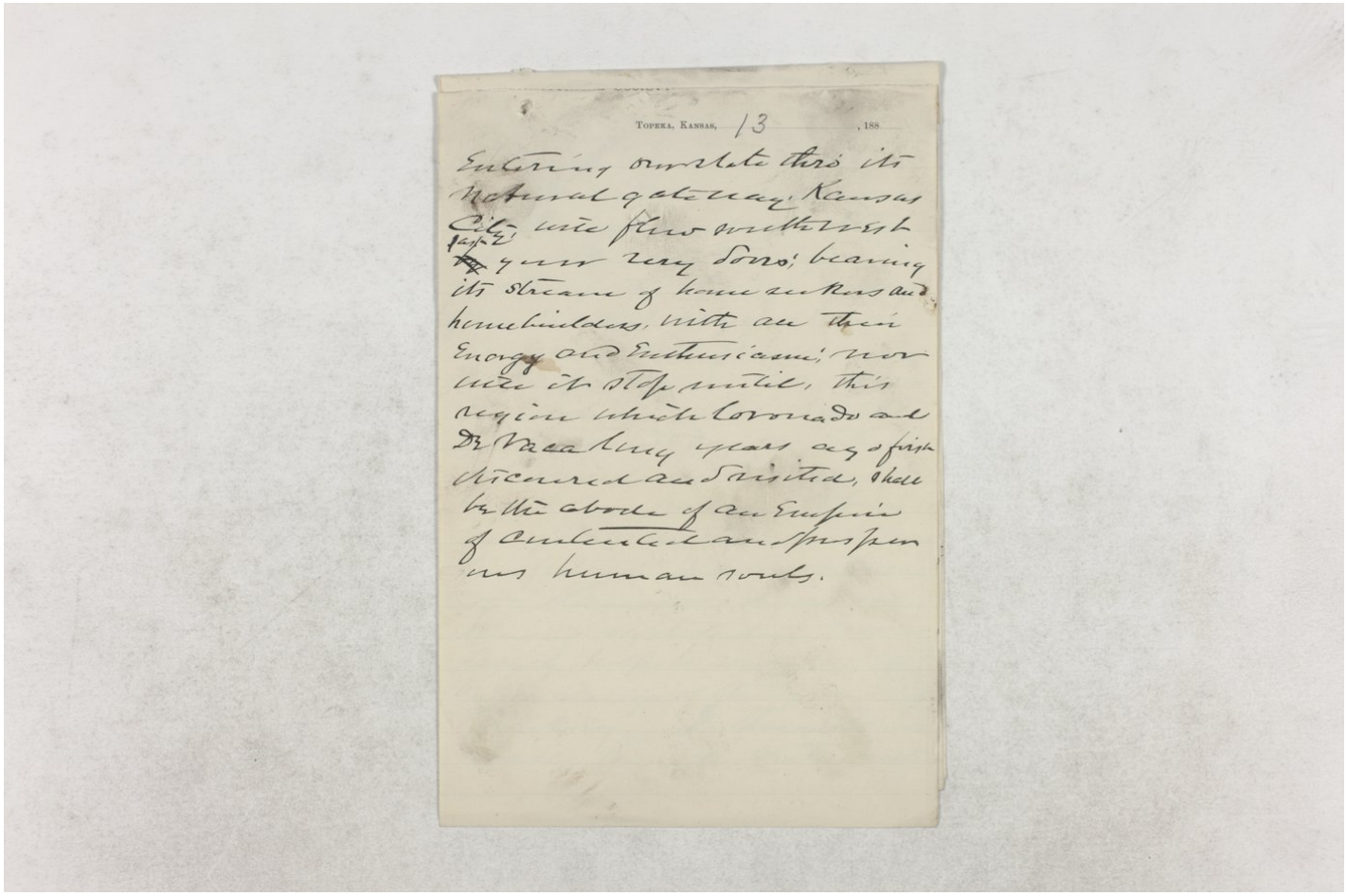
TOPEKA, KANSAS, 12, 188

in the new territory to protect [illegible] for that institution

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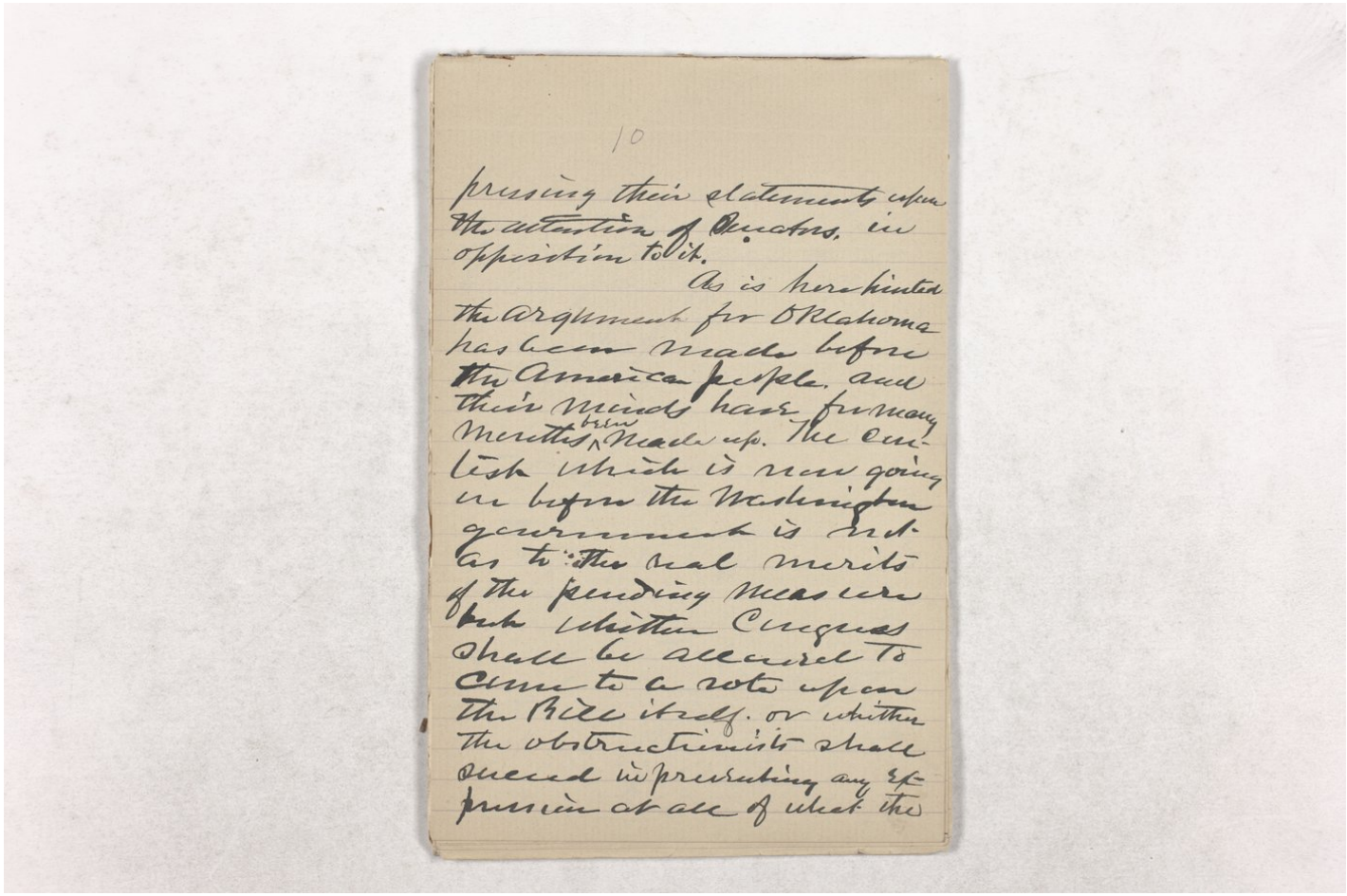


TOPEKA, KANSAS, 13, 188

Entering our state thro' its
natural gateway, Kansas
City, into flow our tide of
~~[illegible]~~ 1492
young very sons, bearing
its stream of home seekers and
homebuilders, with all their
Energy and Enthusiasm, now
like its Steppe until, this
region which Coronado and
De Vaca long years ago first
discovered and visited, shall
be the abode of an Empire
of enlightened and prosperous
free human souls.



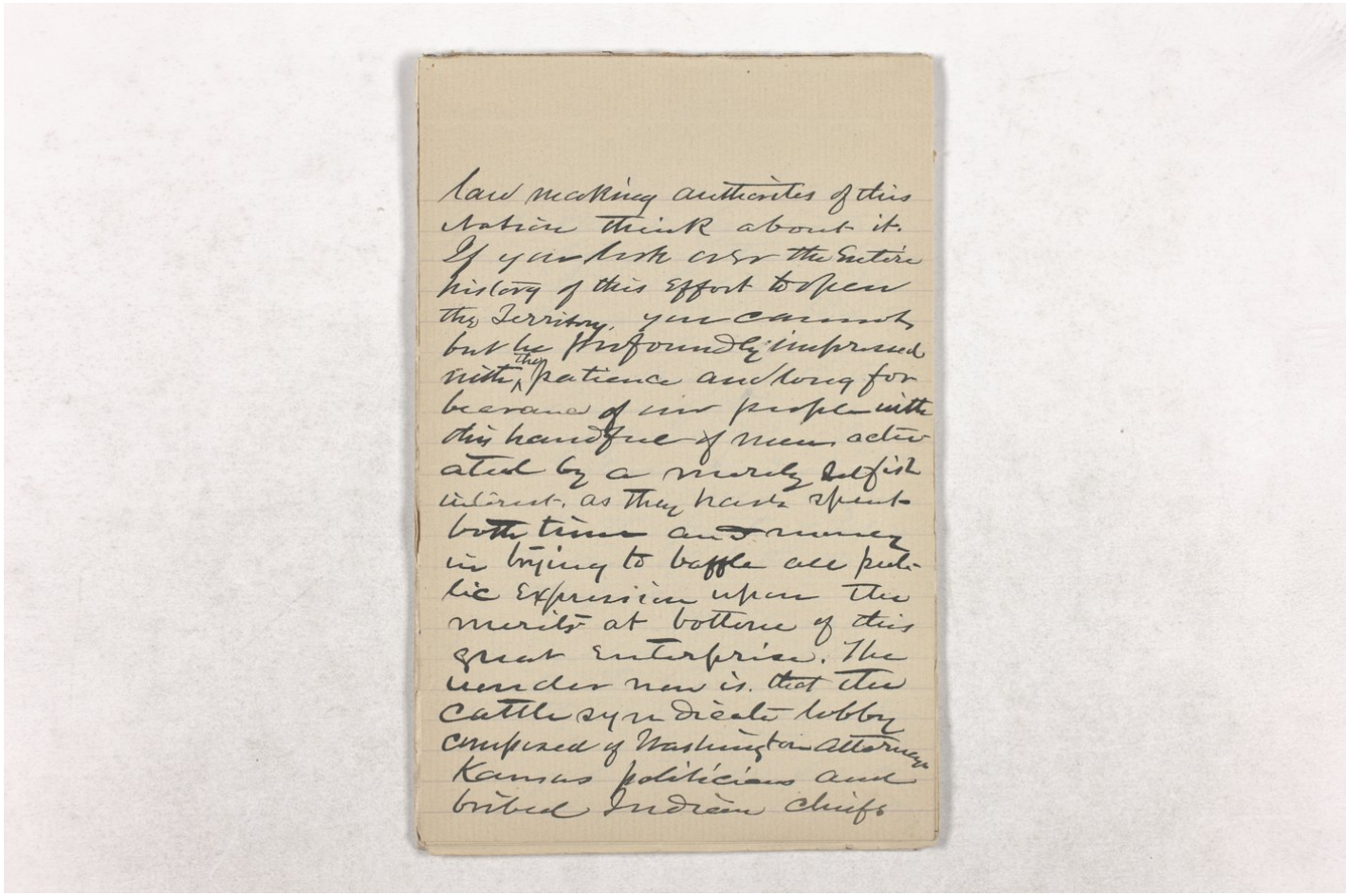
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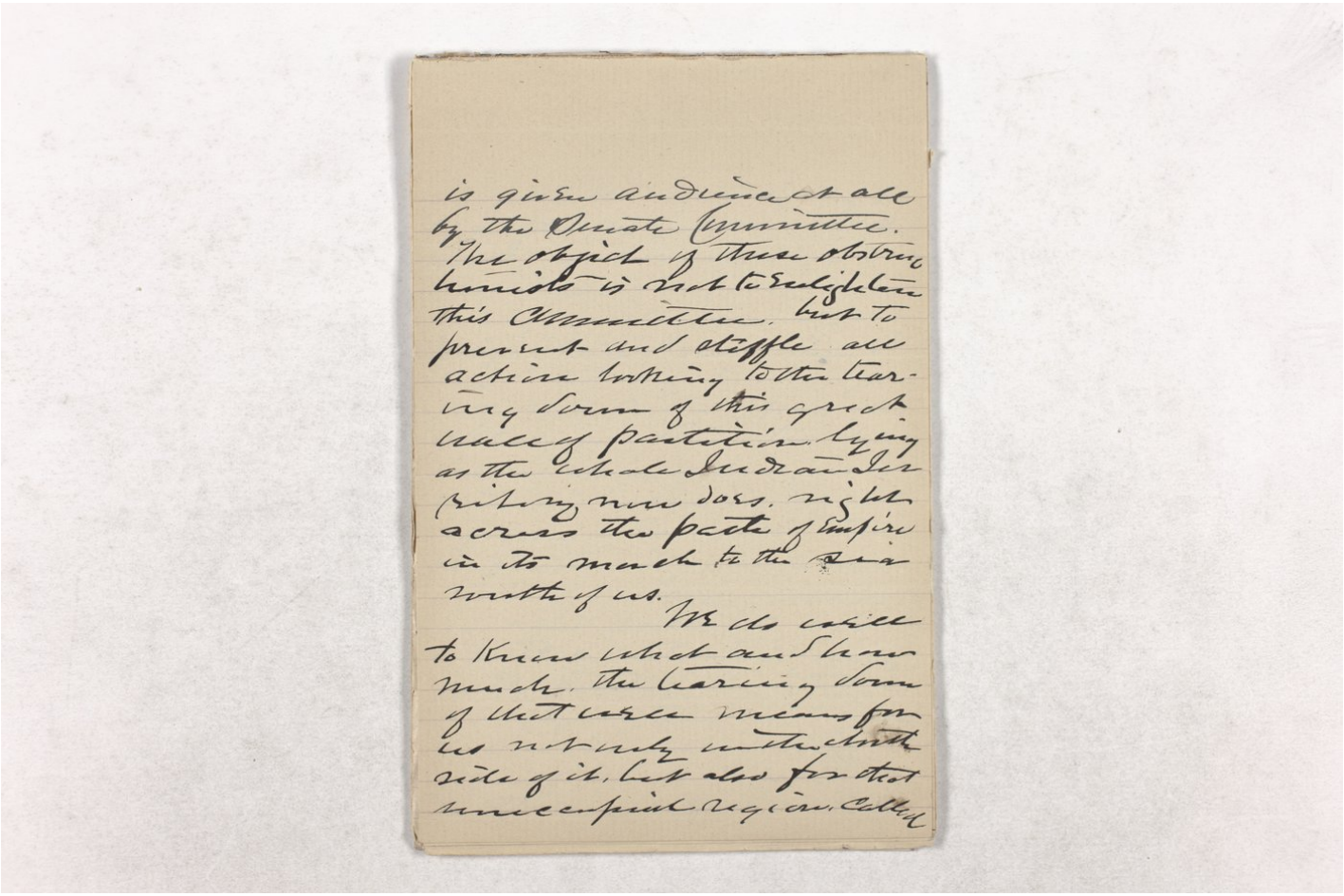
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pressing their statements upon
the attention of Senators in
opposition to it.

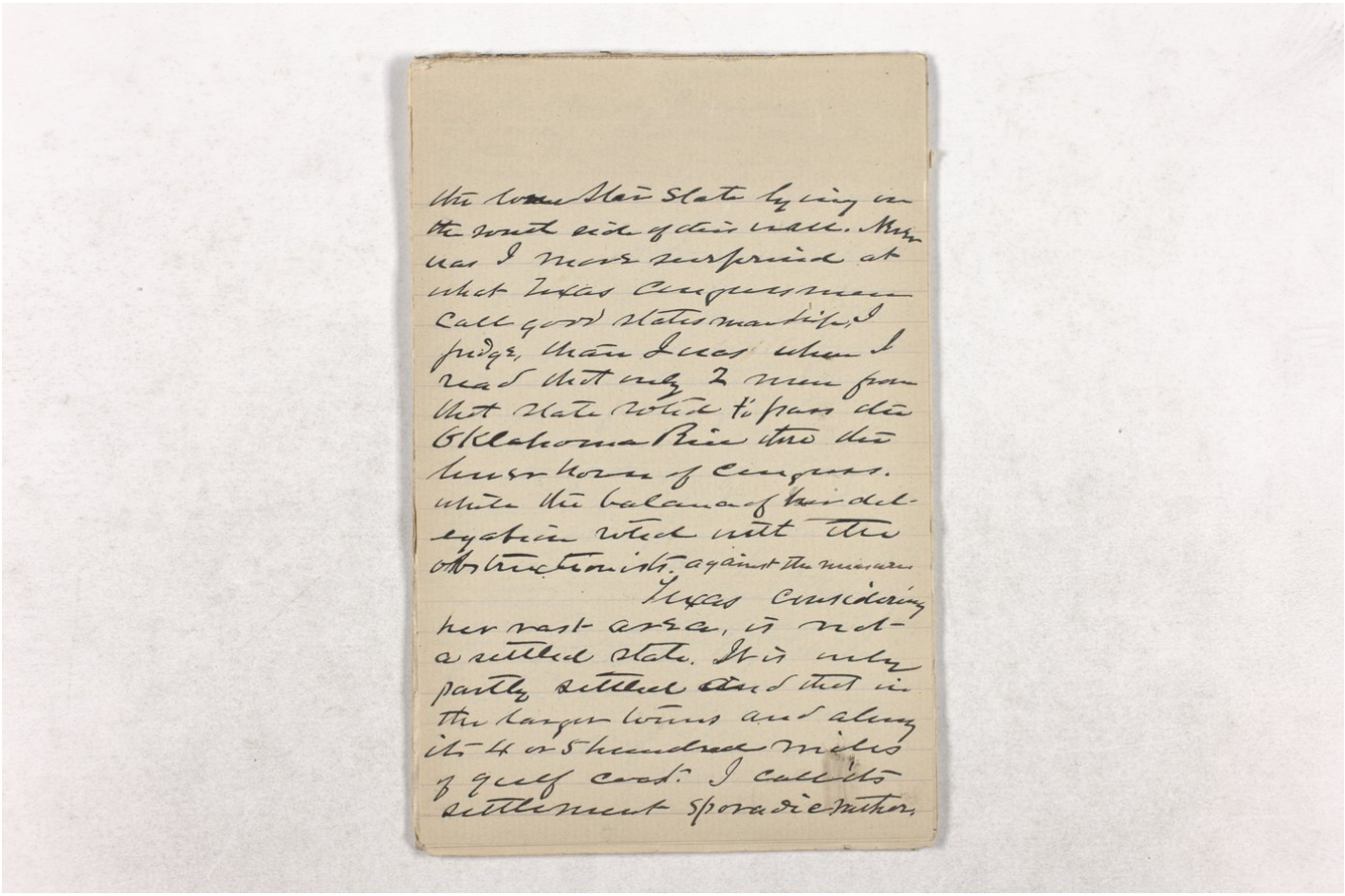
As is here hinted
the argument for Oklahoma
has been made before
the American people, and
their minds have for many
months been made up. The con-
test which is now going
on before the Washington
government is not
as to the real merits
of the pending measure
but whether Congress
shall be allowed to
come to a vote upon
the Bill itself, or whether
the obstructionists shall
succeed in preventing any ex-
pression at all of what the



land mcKinley authorities of this nation think about it. If you look over the entire history of this effort to open this Territory, you cannot but be profoundly impressed with the patience and long forbearance of our people with this handful of men, actuated by a merely selfish interest, as they have spent both time and money in trying to baffle all public expression upon the merits or bottom of this great enterprise. The wonder now is, that the cattle syndicate lobby composed of Washington attorneys, Kansas politicians and bribed Indian chiefs



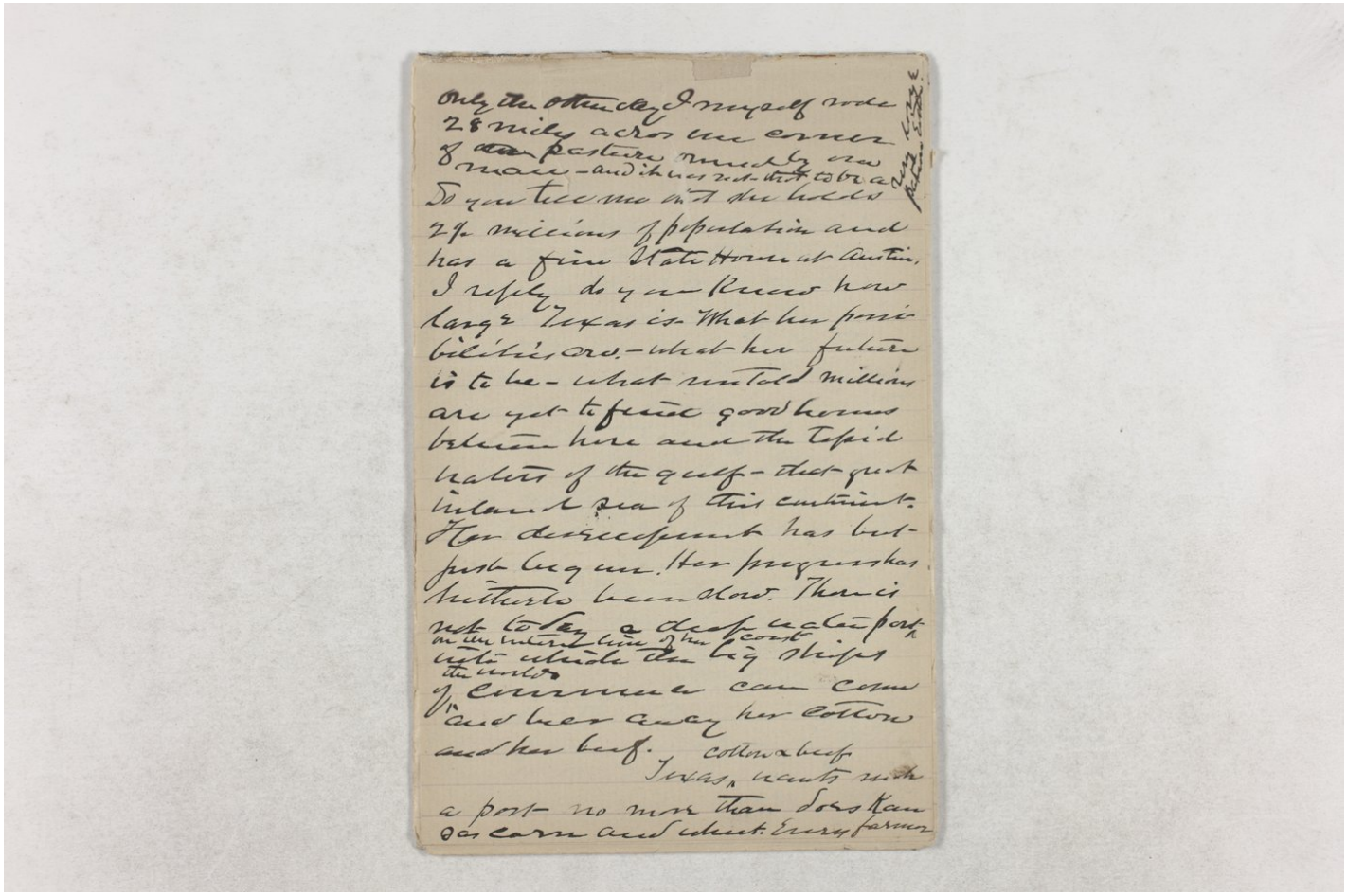
is given audience at all
by the Senate Committee.
The object of these obstruc
tionists is not to enlighten
this Committee, but to
prevent and stifle all
action looking to the tear-
ing down of this great
wall of partition lying
as the whole Indian Ter
ritory now does, right
across the path of Empire
in its march to the Sea
north of us.
We do will
to know what and how
much the tearing down
of that wall means for
us not only on the north
side of it, but also for that
unoccupied region called



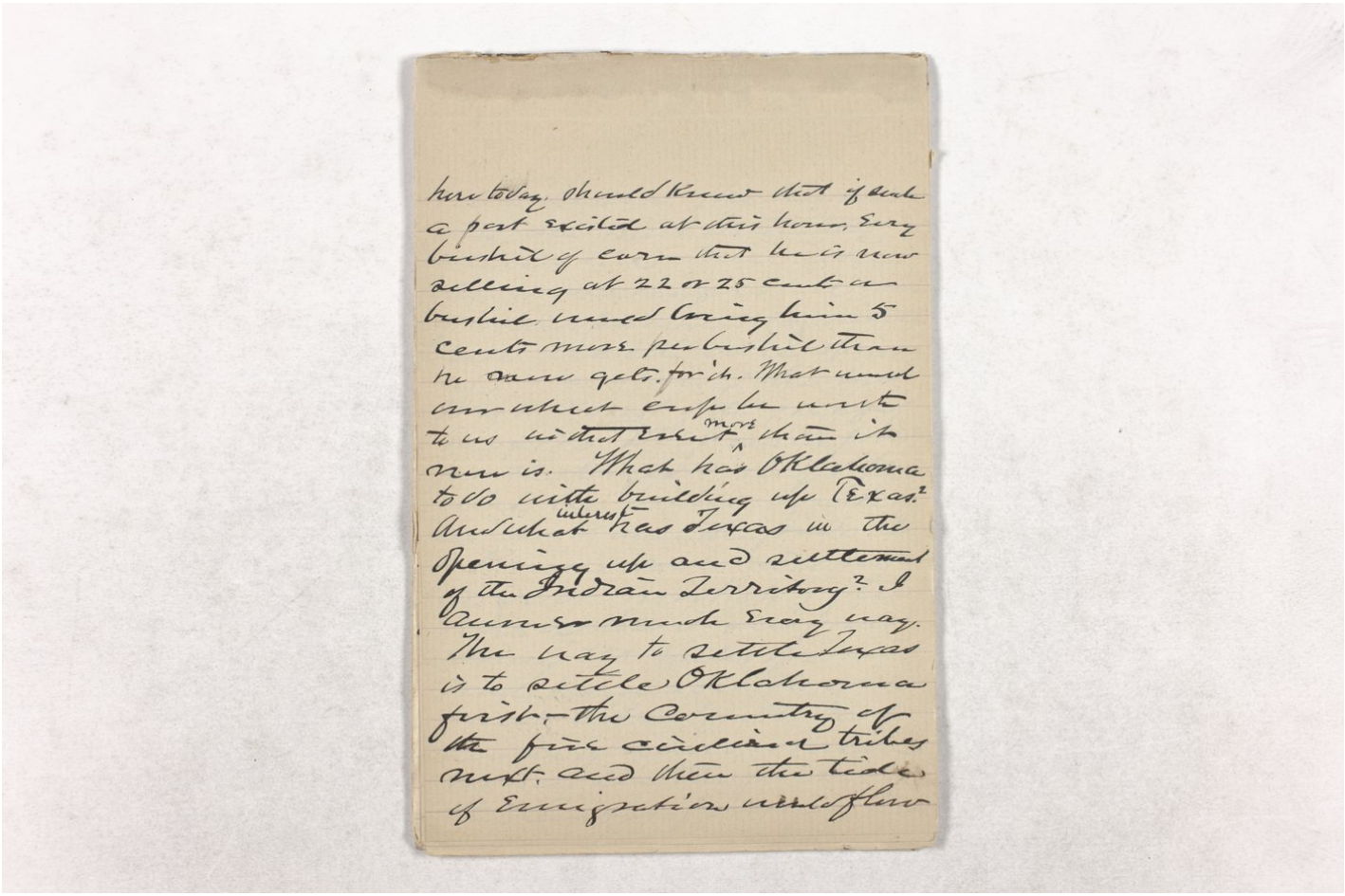
the Lone Star State by lying in the south side of this hall. Many was I more surprised at what Texas Congressmen call good States manship, I judge, than I was when I read that only 2 men from that State voted to pass the Oklahoma Bill thro the lower House of Congress. while the balance of their delegation voted with the obstructionists against the measure

Texas considering her vast area, is not a settled State. It is only partly settled and that in the larger towns and along its 4 or 5 hundred miles of gulf coast. I call it settlement sporadic[illegible]

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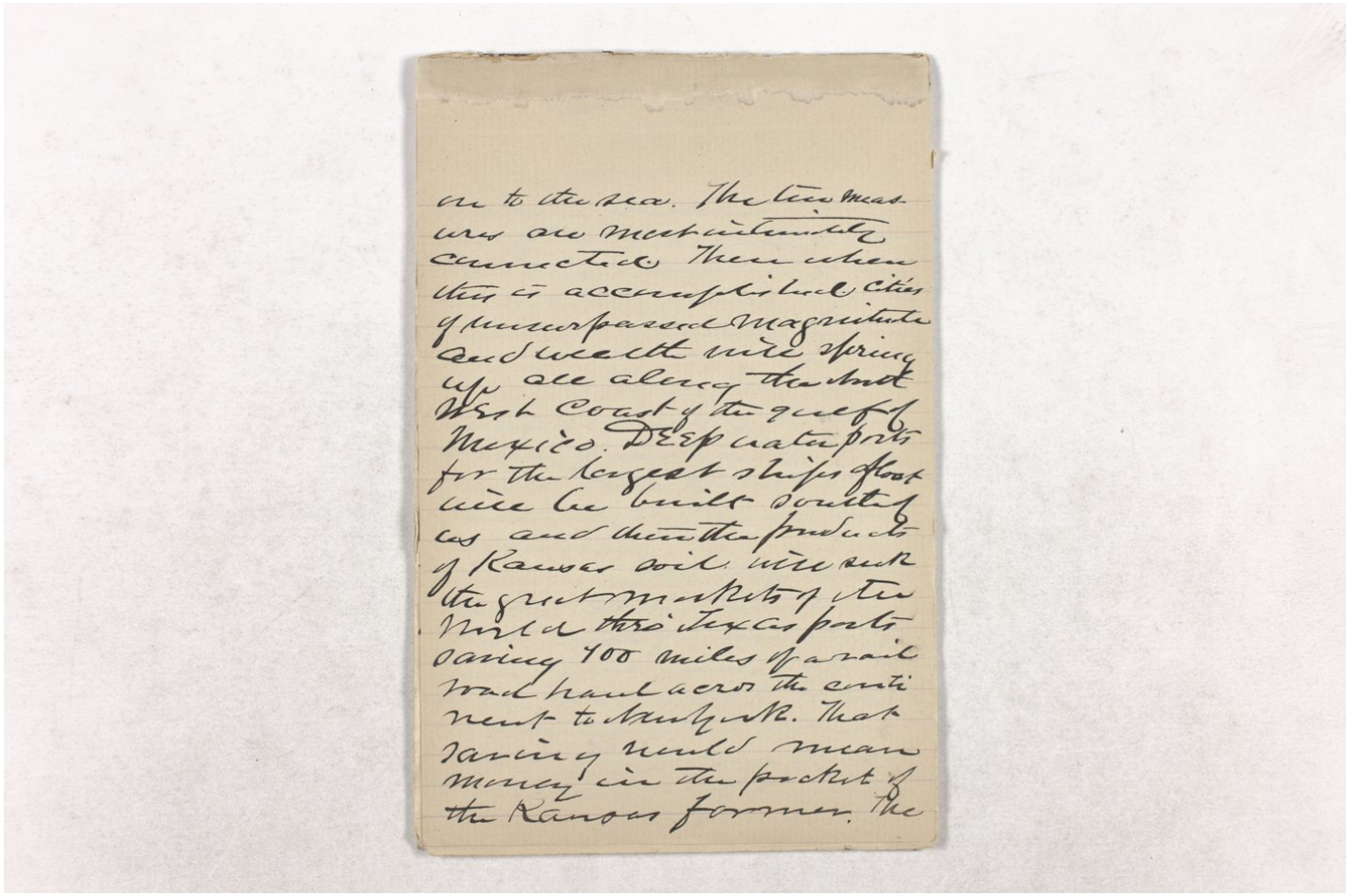


Only the other day I myself rode
28 miles across one corner
of a pasture much as new
land - and it was not that to be a
So you see we've the lands
2½ millions of population and
has a fine State House at Austin.
I ask you do you know how
large Texas is. What her possi-
bilities are. - what her future
is to be - what untold millions
are yet to find good homes
between here and the tepid
waters of the gulf - that great
inland sea of this continent.
Her development has but
just begun. Her progress
hitherto been slow. There is
not to-day a deep water port
on the entire line of the coast
with which the big ships
of the world
of commerce can come
and bear away her cotton
and her beef. cotton & beef
Texas wants such
a port - no more than does Kan
sas corn and wheat. Every farmer



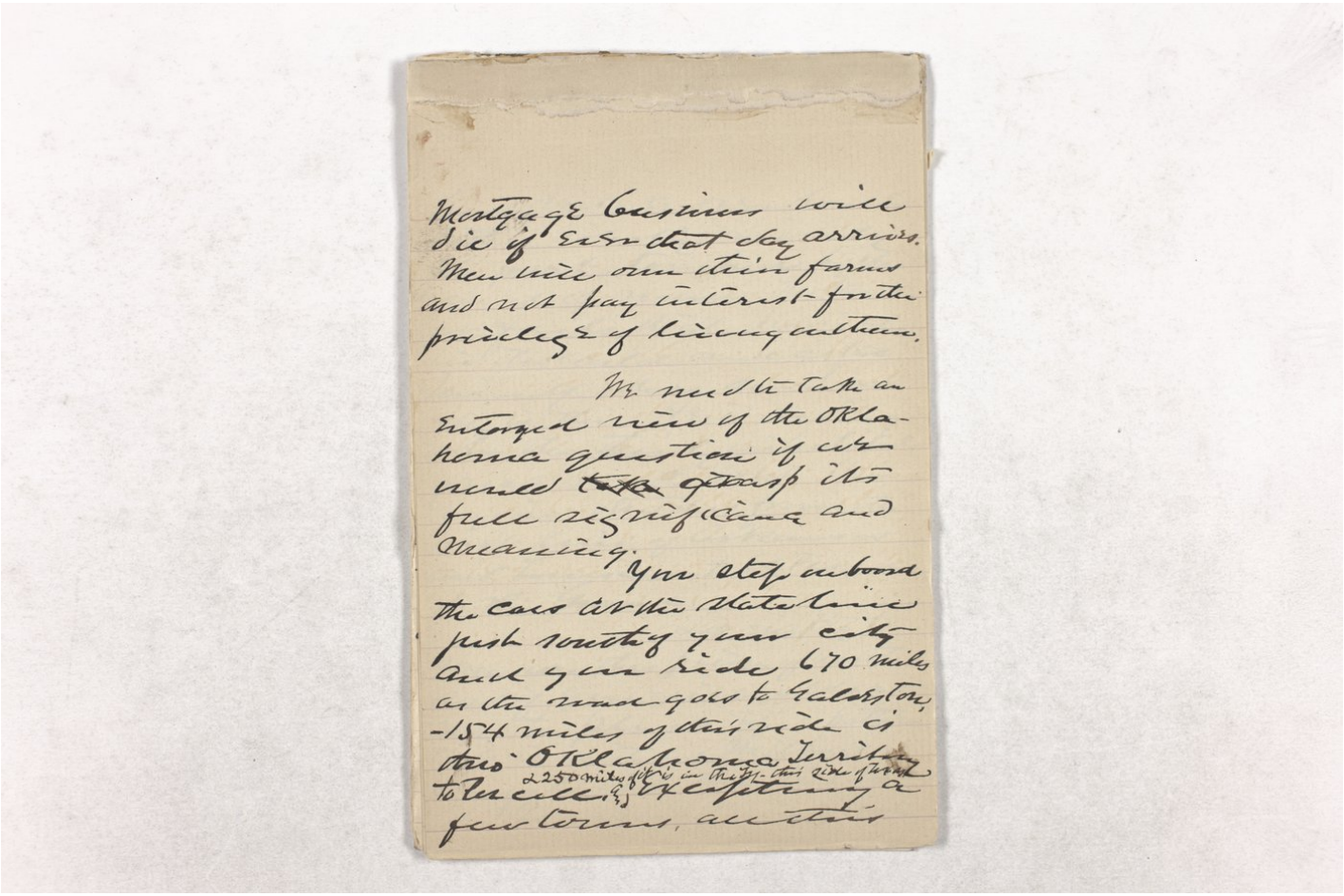
here today, should know that if such a post existed at this town, every bushel of corn that he is now selling at 22 or 25 cents a bushel would bring him 5 cents more per bushel than he can get for it. What would an object be unto to us without more than it now is. What has Oklahoma to do with building up Texas? And what interest has Texas in the opening up and settlement of the Indian Territory? I cannot see much way way. The way to settle Texas is to settle Oklahoma first—the country of the five civilized tribes next; and then the tide of Emigration would flow

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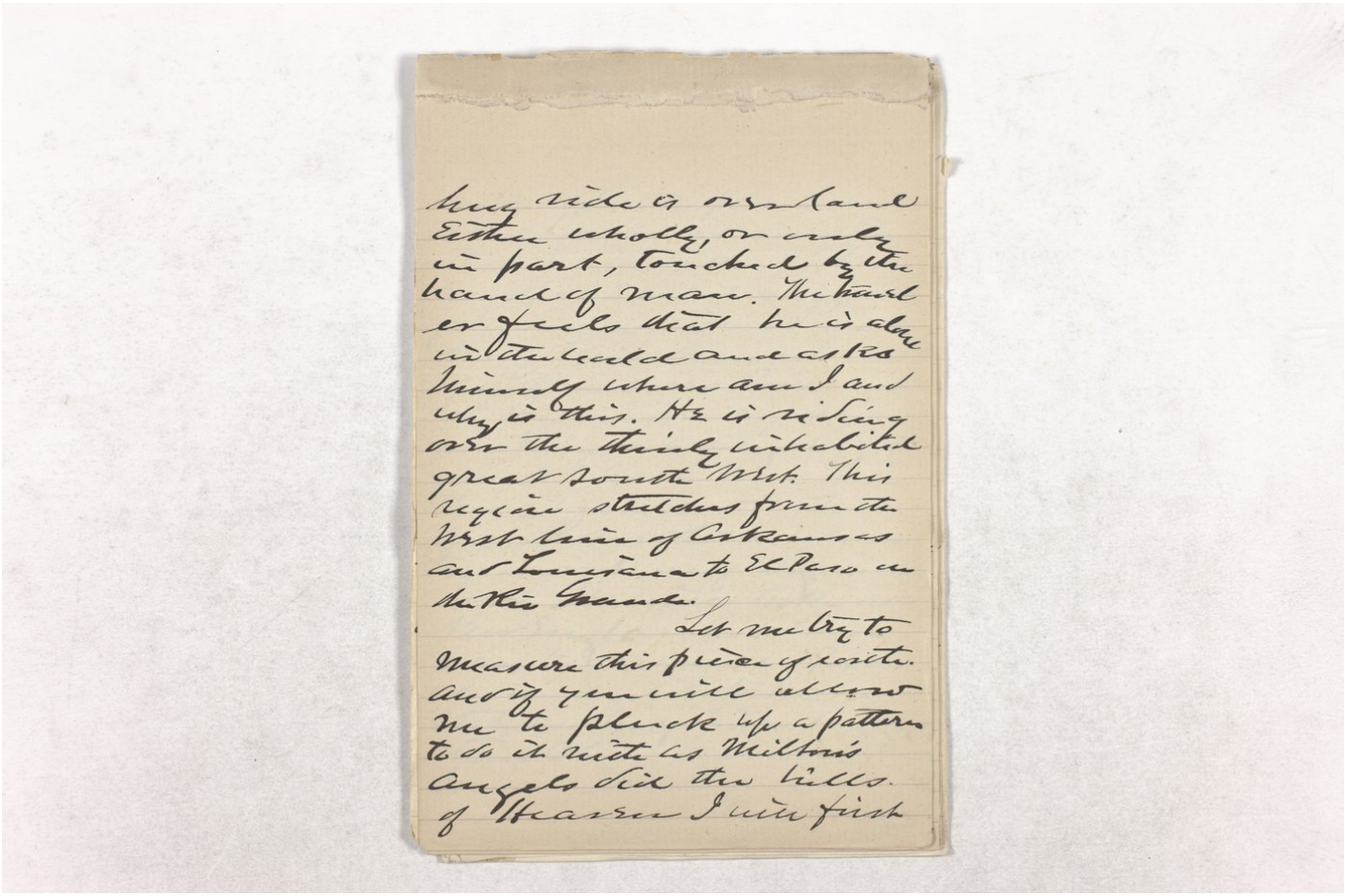
on to the sea. The two measures are mutually connected. Then when this is accomplished cities of unsurpassed magnitude and wealth will spring up all along the whole West Coast of the gulf of Mexico. Deep water ports for the largest ships afloat will be built, factories and then the products of Kansas soil will seek the great markets of the world thro' Texas ports saving 400 miles of rail road haul across the continent to Atlantic R. That saving would mean money in the pocket of the Kansas farmer. The

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Mortgage business will die if ever that day arrives. Men like own their farms and not pay interest for the privilege of living on them.

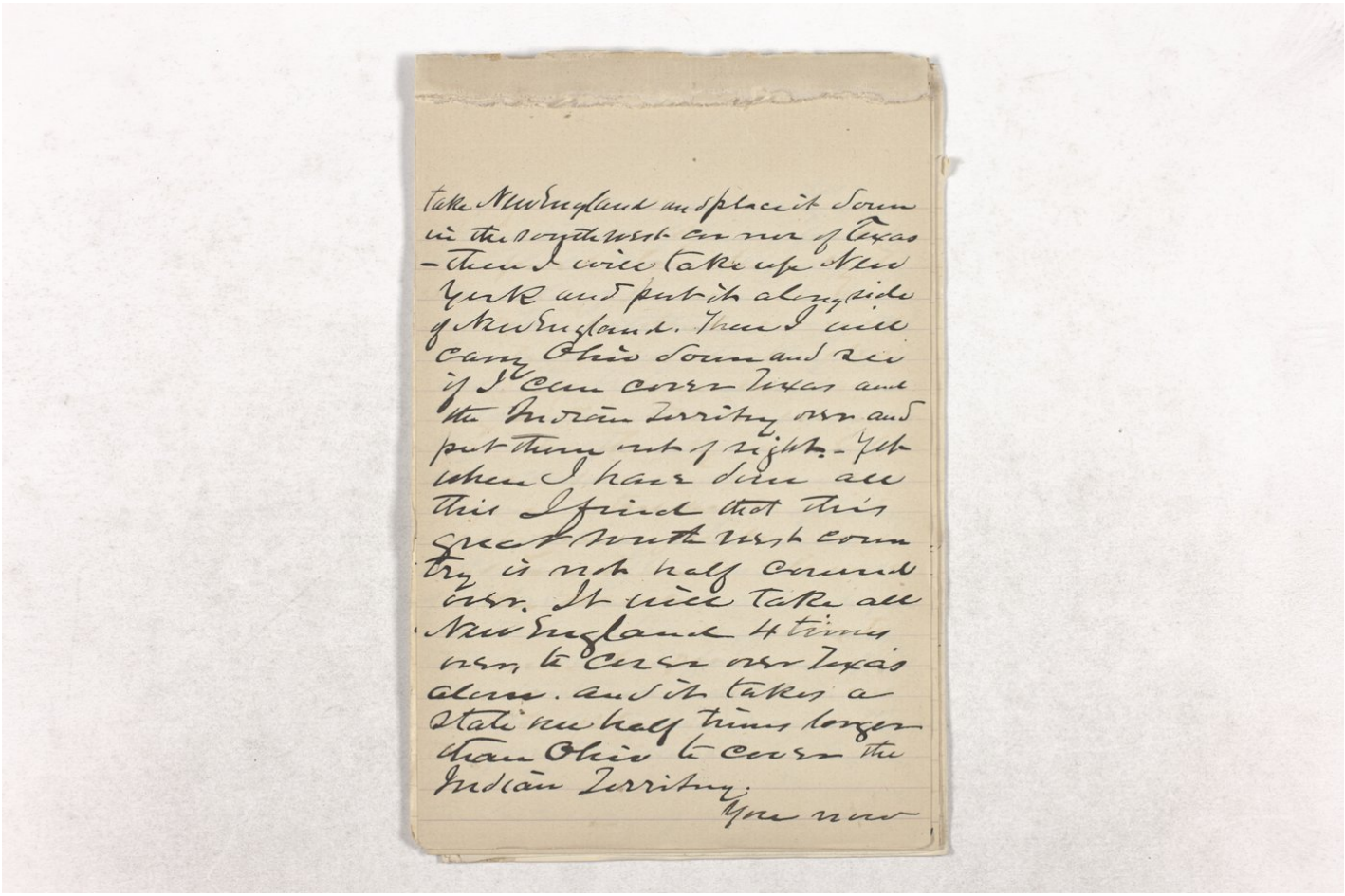
We must take an enlarged view of the Oklahoma question if we would grasp its full significance and meaning. You step aboard the cars at the state line just south of your city and you ride 670 miles as the road goes to Galveston, -154 miles of this ride is thru Oklahoma Territory (2250 miles of it is in the U.S. this side of Texas) to reach Ok. capitol, a few towns, all this



hung ride is wasteland
Either wholly, or only
in part, touched by the
hand of man. The wand
er feels that he is alone
in the wild and asks
himself where am I and
why is this. He is riding
over the thinly inhabited
great South West. This
region stretches from the
West bank of Arkansas
and Louisiana to El Paso on
the Rio Grande.

Let me try to
measure this prairie sea to
and if you will allow
me to pluck up a pattern
to do it with as Milton's
angels did the hills
of Heaven I will first

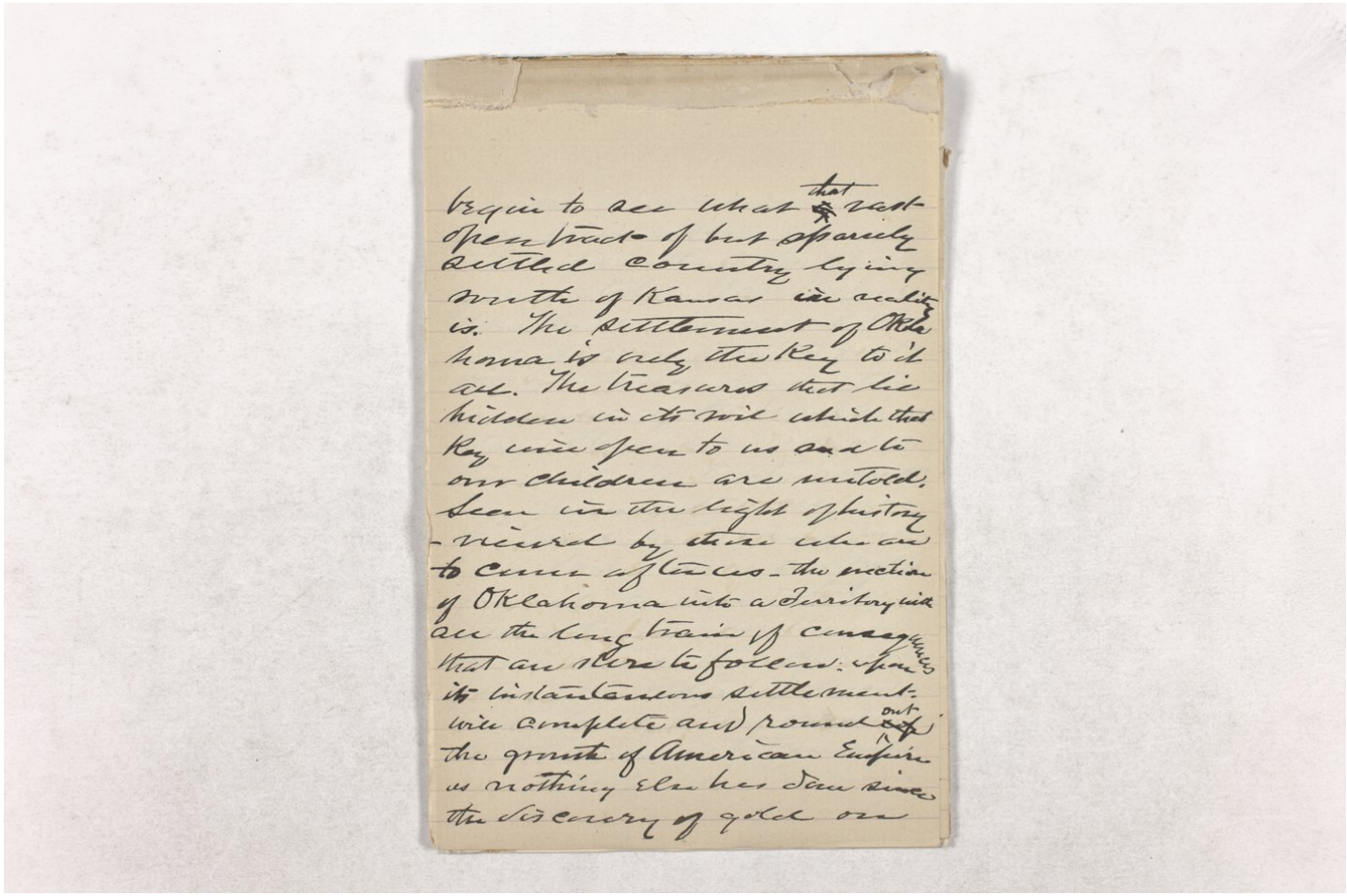
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take New England and place it down in the Southwest corner of Texas - Then I will take up New York and put it alongside of New England. Then I will carry Ohio down and see if I can cover Texas and the Indian Territory and put them out of sight. - Yet when I have done all this I find that this great South West country is not half covered over. It will take all New England 4 times over to cover over Texas alone. and it takes a State nearly half times larger than Ohio to cover the Indian Territory.

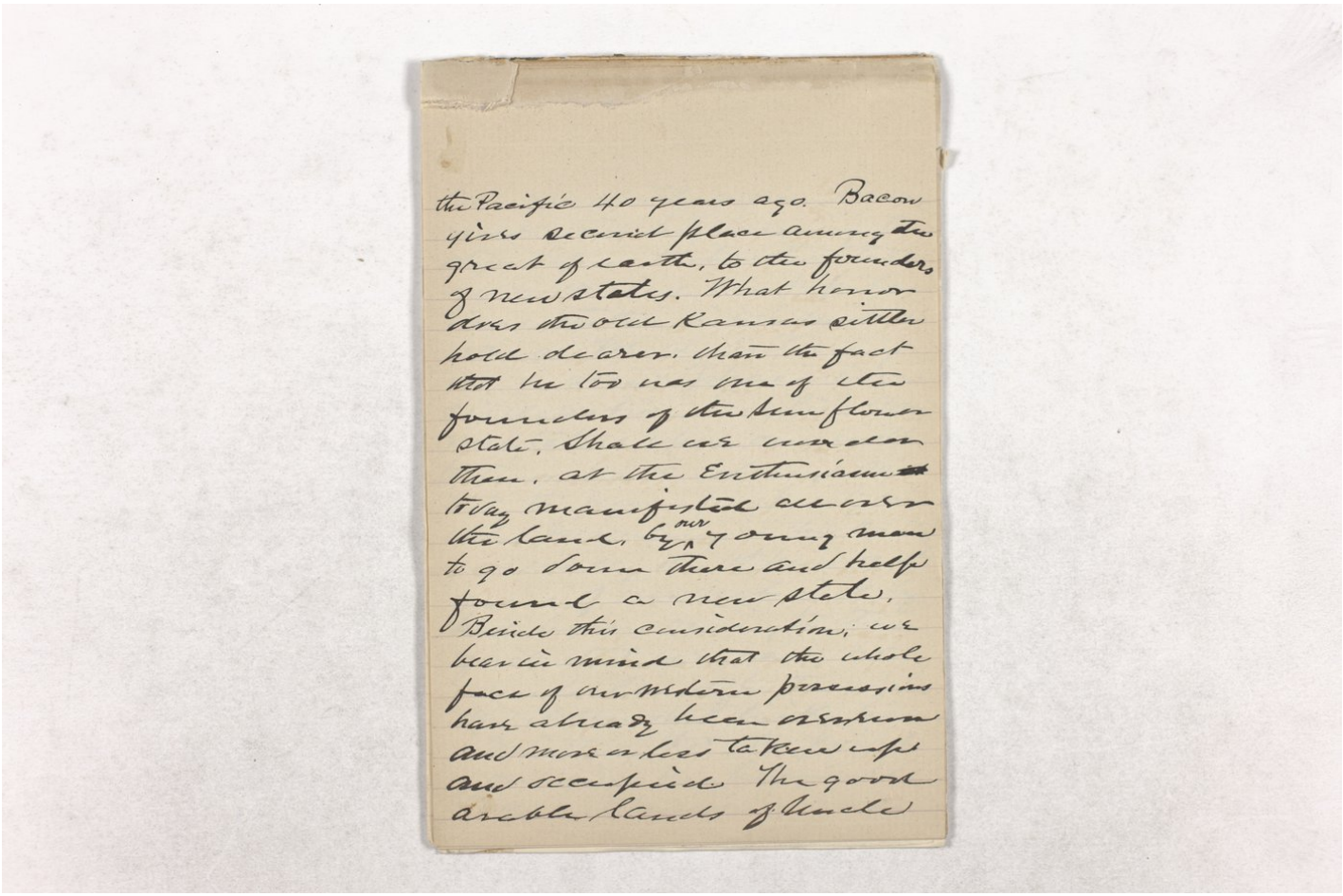
You now

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begin to see what that vast
open tract of but sparsely
settled country lying
south of Kansas in reality
is. The settlement of Okla-
homa is only the key to it
all. The treasures that lie
hidden in its soil which that
key will open to us and to
our children are untold.
Seen in the light of history
- viewed by those who are
to come after us - the action
of Oklahoma into a Territory with
all the long train of consequences
that are sure to follow upon
its instantaneous settlement
will complete and round out
the growth of American Empire
as nothing else has since
the discovery of gold on

James Stanley Emery speeches



the Pacific 40 years ago. Bacon
yirks a certain place among the
great of earth, to the founders
of new states. What honor
does the old Kansas settler
hold dearer, than the fact
that he too was one of the
founders of the Sunflower
state. Shall we wonder
then, at the Enthusiasm
& by manifested all over
the land, by many young men
to go down there and help
found a new state.
Beside this consideration, we
bear in mind that the whole
face of our Modern possessions
has already been overrun
and more or less taken up
and occupied. The good
arable lands of Uncle