James Stanley Emery speeches

Section 9, Pages 241 - 270

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

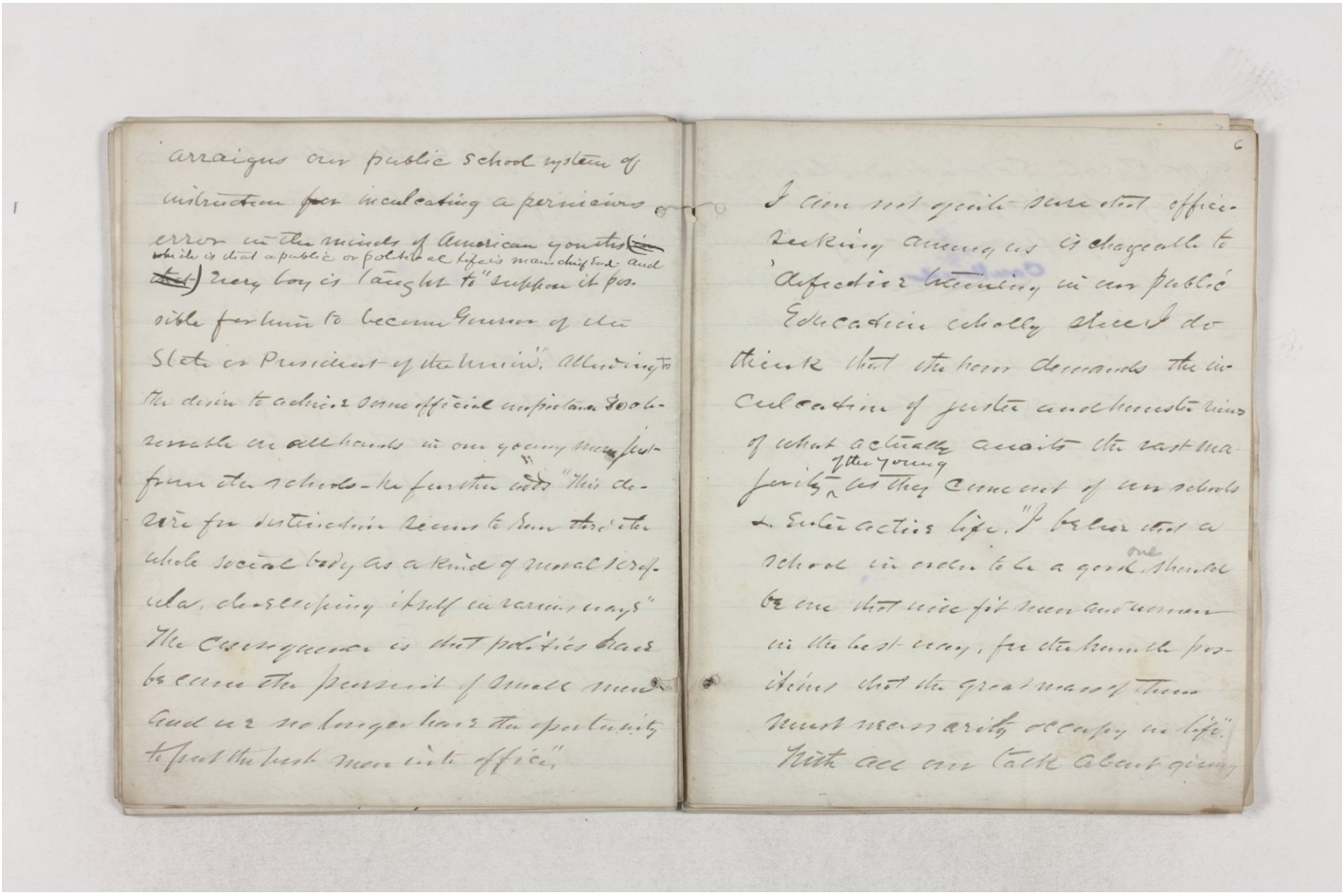
Callnumber: James Stanley Emery Coll. #339, Box 1, Folders 2-25; Box 2, Folders 1-19

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 440206

Item Identifier: 440206

www.kansasmemory.org/item/440206

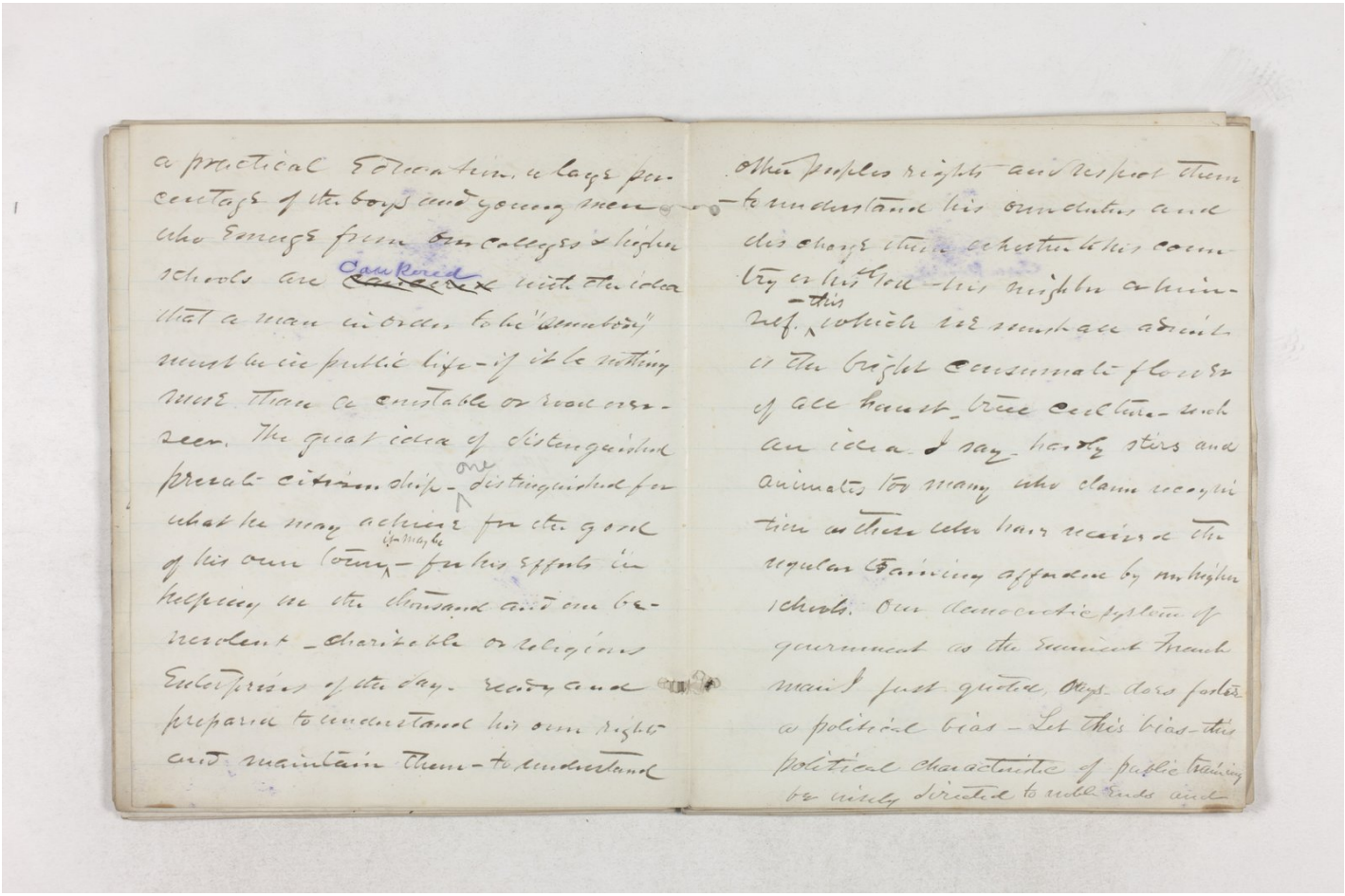
James Stanley Emery speeches



arraigns our public school system of instruction for inculcating a pernicious error in the minds of American youth, which is that a public or political life is manly and every boy is taught to "suppose it possible for him to become Governor of the State or President of the United". Alluding to the desire to achieve some official importance so observable in all hands in our young men from the schools - he further says "this desire for distinction seems to pervade the whole social body as a kind of moral disease, disorganizing itself in various ways". The consequence is that politics have become the pursuit of small men and we no longer have the opportunity to put the best men into office."

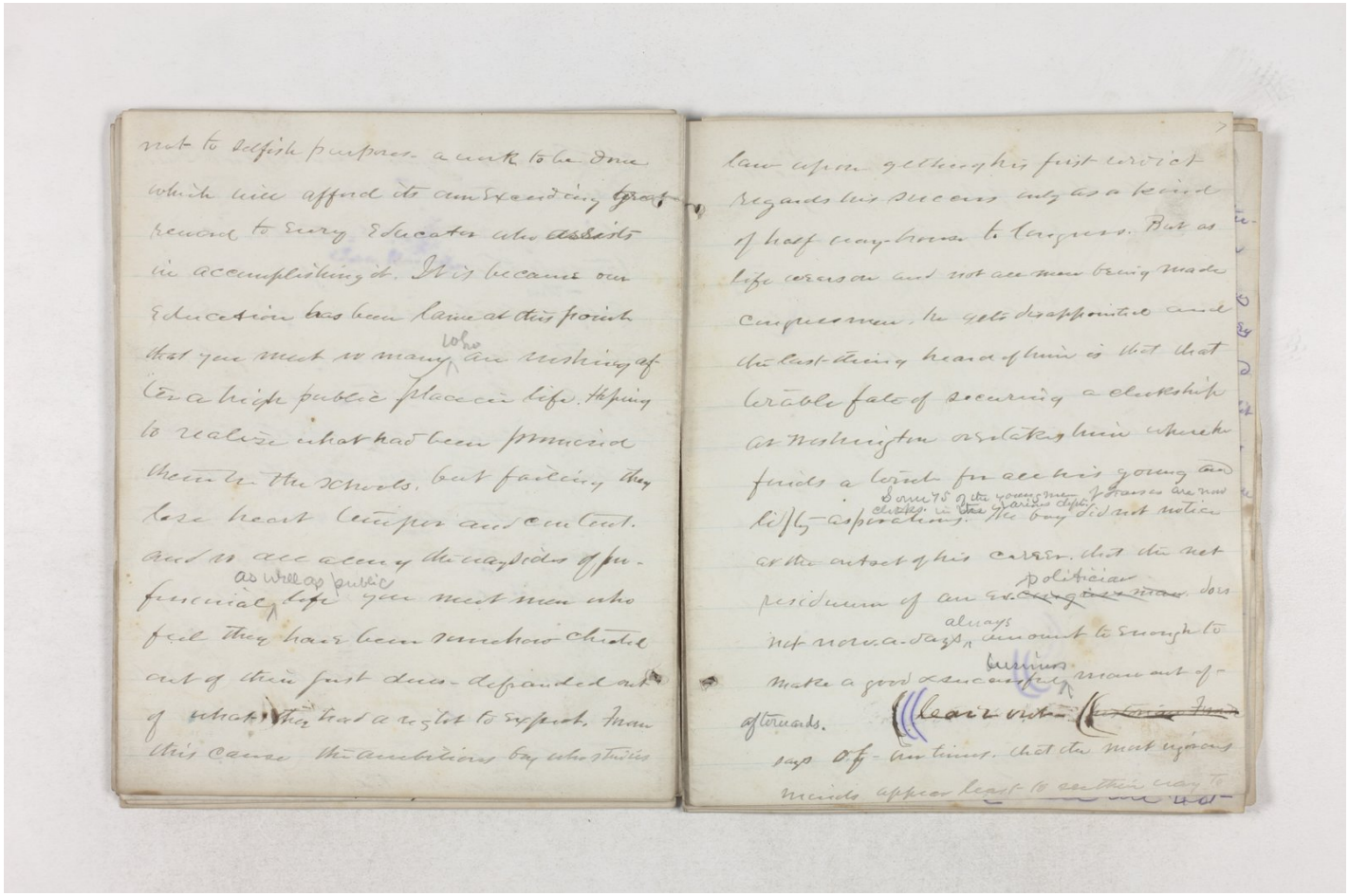
I am not quite sure that office seeking among us is chargeable to defective training in our public Education wholly since I do think that the hour demands the inculcation of juster and honester views of what actually awaits the vast majority of the young men as they comment of our schools & subsequent life. "I believe that a school in order to be a good one should be one that will fit men and women in the best way, for the humble positions that the great many of them must necessarily occupy in life". With all our talk about giving

James Stanley Emery speeches



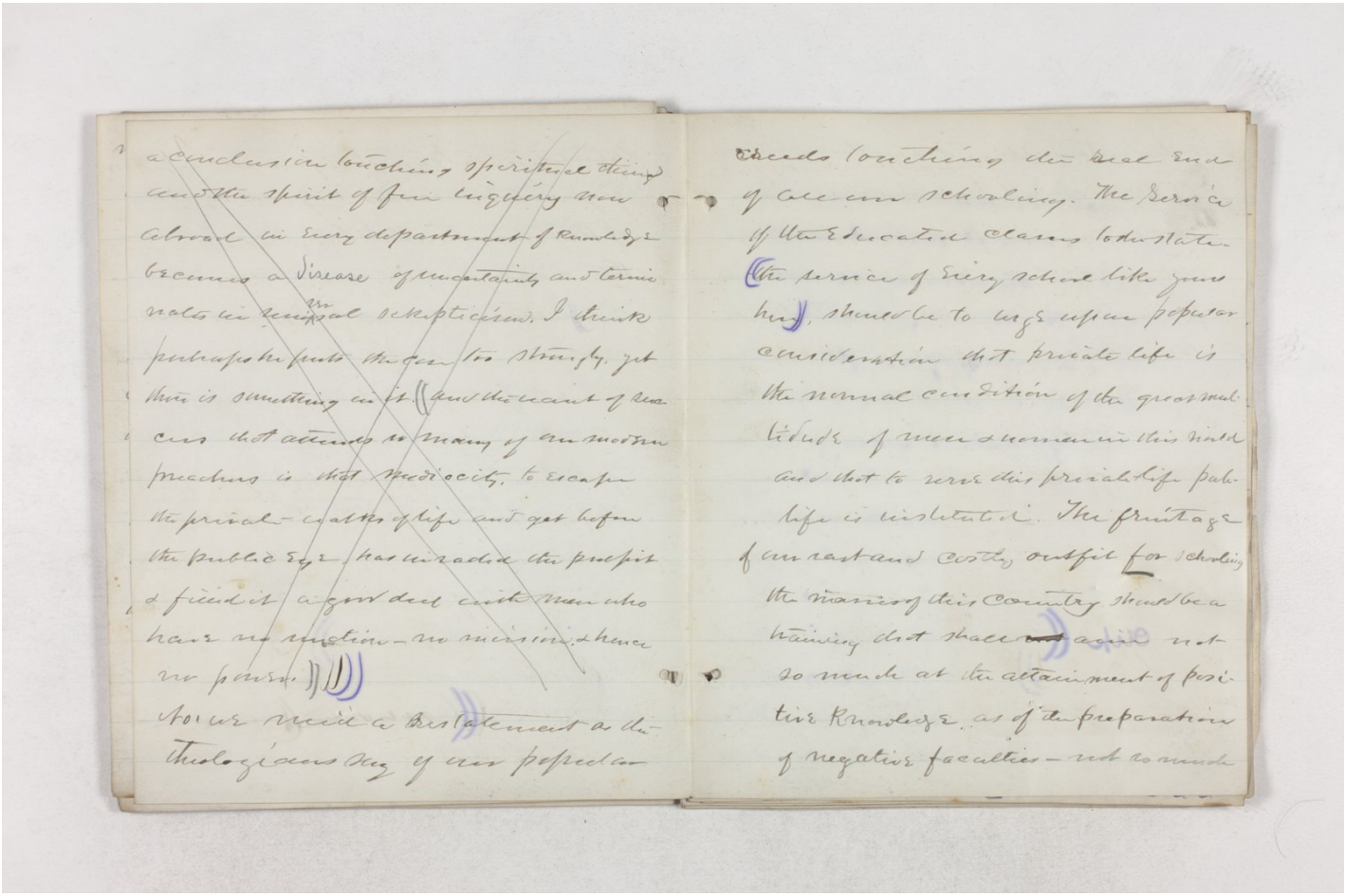
a practical Education, a large per-
centage of the boys and young men
who Emerge from our colleges & higher
schools are Confused with the idea
that a man in order to be "somebody"
must be in public life - if it be nothing
more than a constable or road overseer. The great idea of distinguished
private citizenship - one distinguished for
what he may achieve for the good
of his own home - for his efforts in
helping on the thousand and one be-
nevolent - charitable or religious
Enterprises of the day - ready and
prepared to understand his own rights
and maintain them - to understand
other peoples rights and respect them
- to understand his connection and
his charge there as to his country
& his God - his neighbor & himself. which he must ever consider
as the highest consummate flower
of all heart - true culture - such
an idea I say - hardly stirs and
animates too many who claim recogni-
tion as those who have received the
regular training afforded by our higher
schools. Our democratic system of
government as the eminent French
man[illegible] just quoted, thus does foster
a political bias - Let this bias - this
political characteristic of public training
be wisely directed to noble ends and

James Stanley Emery speeches

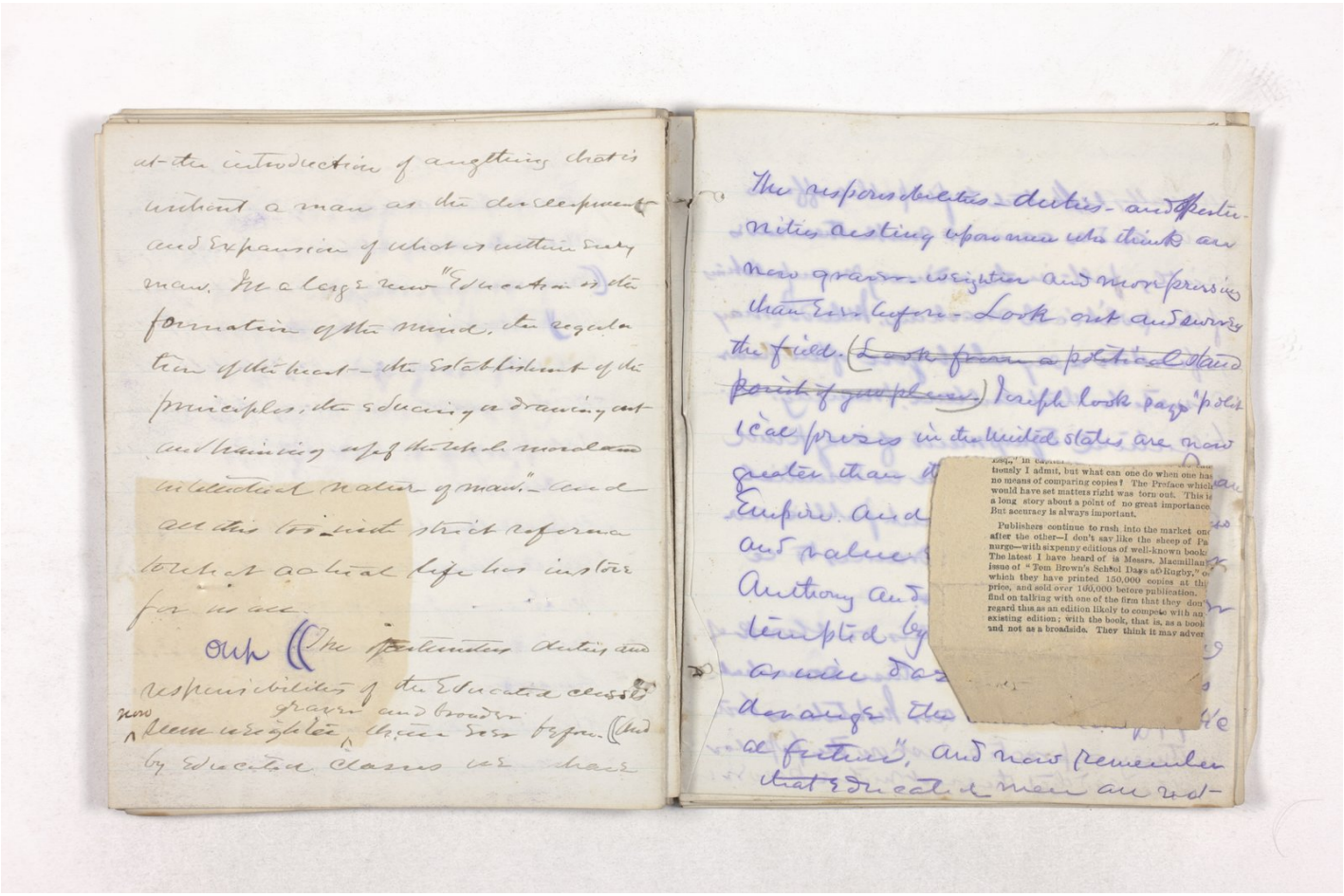


not to selfish purposes a work to be done which will afford to unstanding great reward to every Educator who assists in accomplishing it. It is because our Education has been lame at this point that you meet so many who are rushing of to a high public place in life. Hoping to realize what had been promised them by the schools, but failing they lose heart temper and confidence and in all accounts the many sides of public as well as financial life you must mean who feel they have been somehow cheated out of their just dues - defrauded out of what they had a right to expect. Many this cause the ambitious boy who studies law upon getting his first view of regards his success only as a means of how many dollars he acquires. But as life wears on and not as man being made empty man, he gets disappointed and the last dying heard of him is that that terrible fate of securing a clerkship at Washington awaits him where he finds a tomb for all his young and some of the young men I know are now clerking in the various offices. lofty aspirations. The boy did not notice at the outset of his career that the most prominent of our politician does not always amount to enough to make a good successful statesman afterwards. clear vision ~~[illegible]~~ says Of - times. that the most ingenious minds appear least to possess this way to

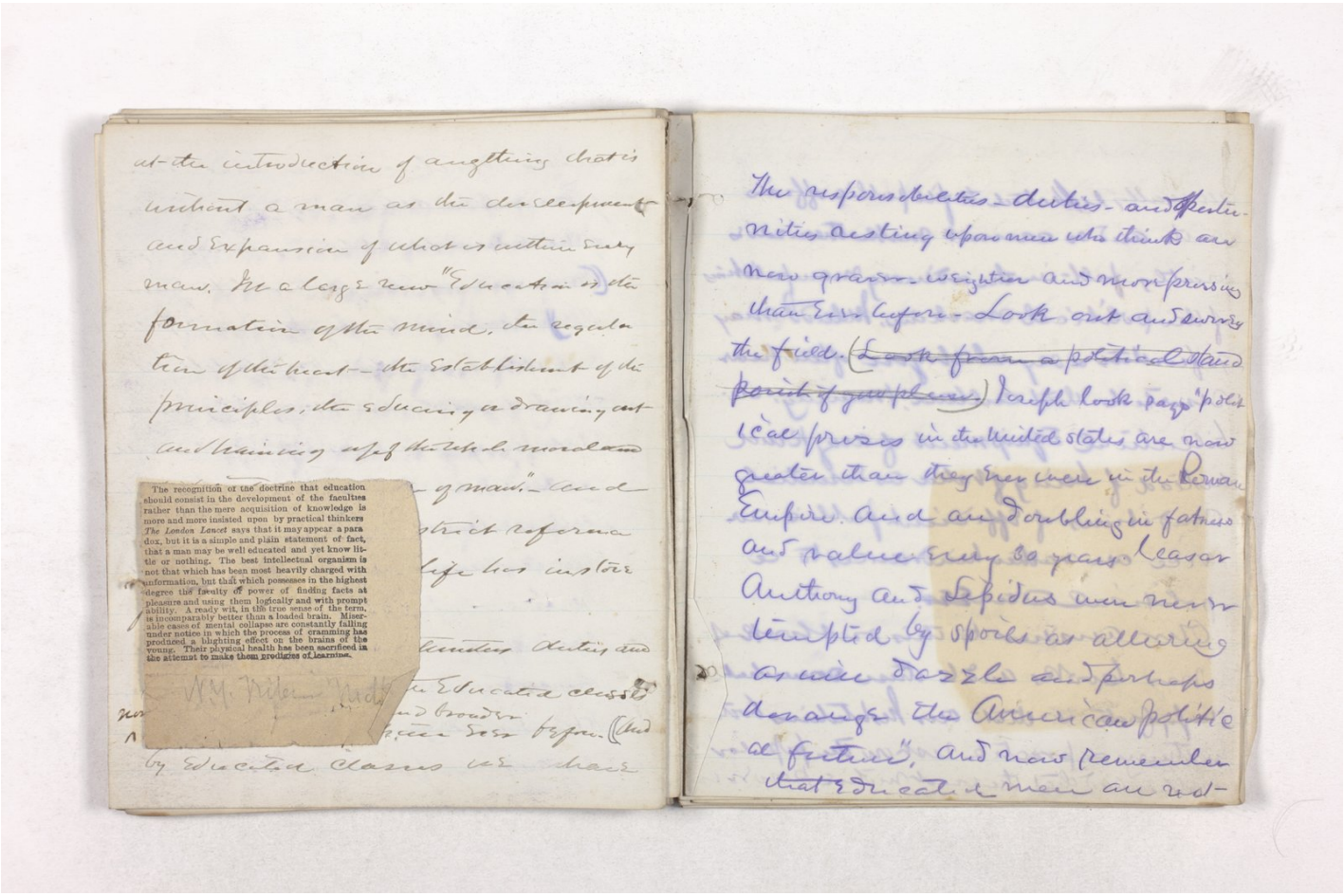
James Stanley Emery speeches



James Stanley Emery speeches

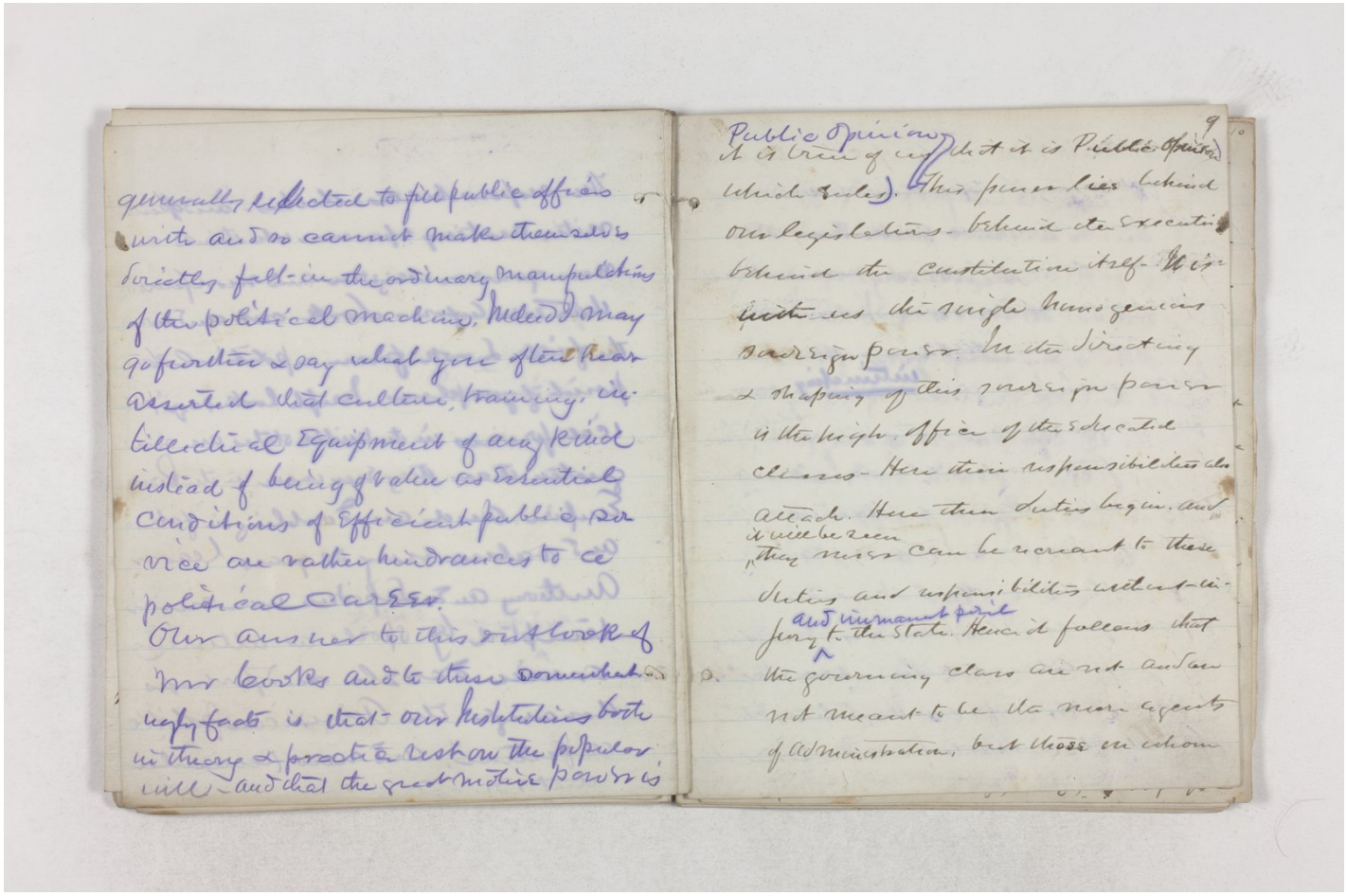


James Stanley Emery speeches



The recognition of the doctrine that education should consist in the development of the faculties rather than the mere acquisition of knowledge is more and more insisted upon by practical thinkers. *The London Lancet* says that it may appear a paradox, but it is a simple and plain statement of fact, that a man may be well educated and yet know little or nothing. The best intellectual organism is not that which has been most heavily charged with information, but that which possesses in the highest degree the faculty of power of finding facts at pleasure and using them logically and with prompt ability. A ready wit, in the true sense of the term, is incomparably better than a loaded brain. Miserable cases of mental collapse are constantly falling under notice in which the process of cramming has produced a blighting effect on the brains of the young. Their physical health has been sacrificed in the attempt to make them prodigies of learning.

James Stanley Emery speeches

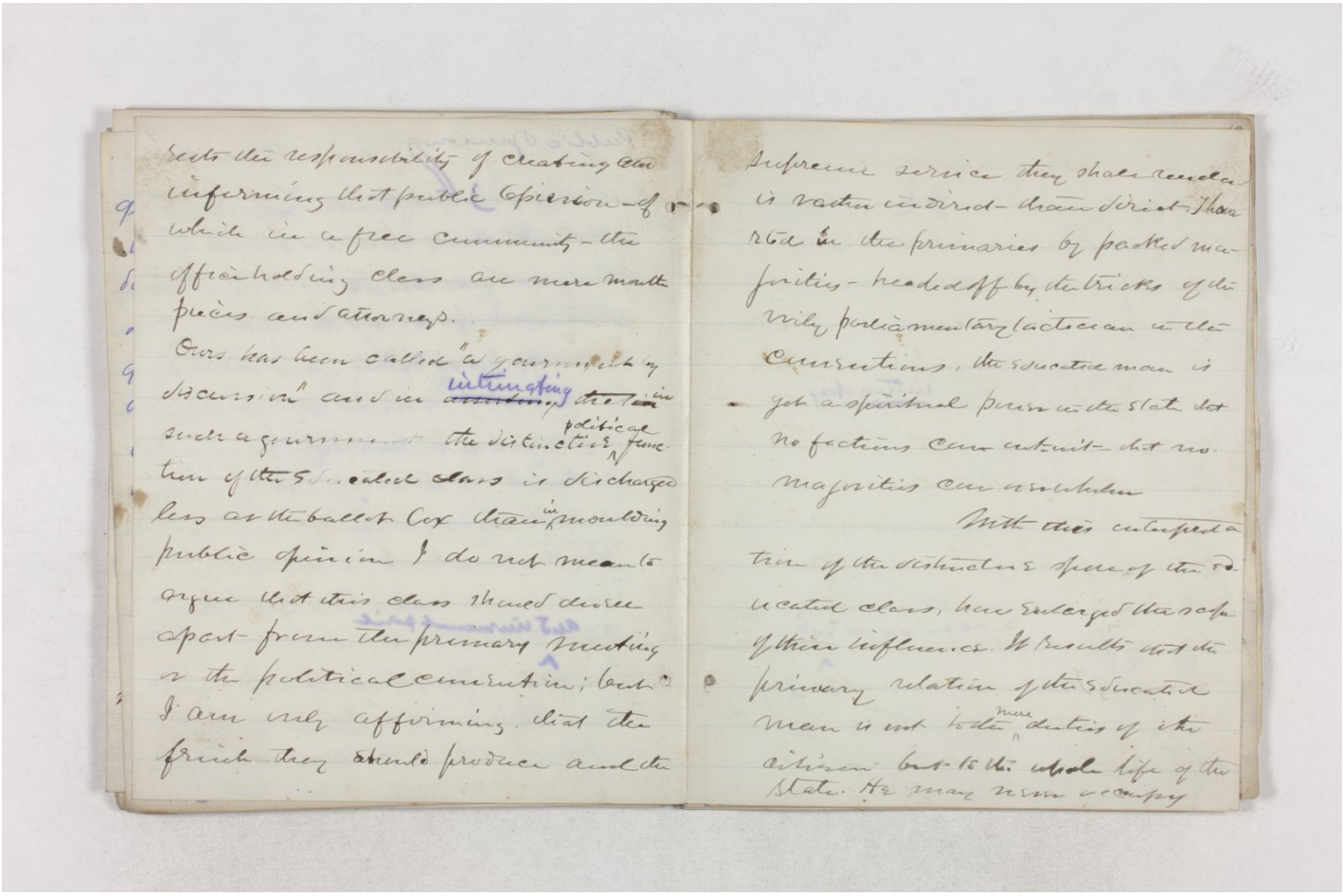


generally selected to fill public offices with and so cannot make themselves strictly fall in the ordinary manipulations of the political machine. Indeed I may go further & say what you often hear asserted that culture, training, intellectual Equipment of any kind instead of being of value as essential conditions of efficient public service are rather hindrances to ce political Careers.

Our answer to this sort work of our books and to these Democratic ugly facts is that our institutions both in theory & practice rest on the popular will - and that the great motive power is

Public Opinion

It is true of us that it is Public Opinion which rules). This power lies behind our legislatures - behind the executive behind the constitution itself. It is with us the single homogeneous sovereign power. In the directing & shaping of this sovereign power is the high office of the educated classes - Here their responsibilities attach. Here their duties begin. and it will be seen they must can be recreant to these duties and responsibilities without incurring and permanent guilt to the State. Hence it follows that the governing class are not and can not be meant to be the mere agents of Administration, but those on whom

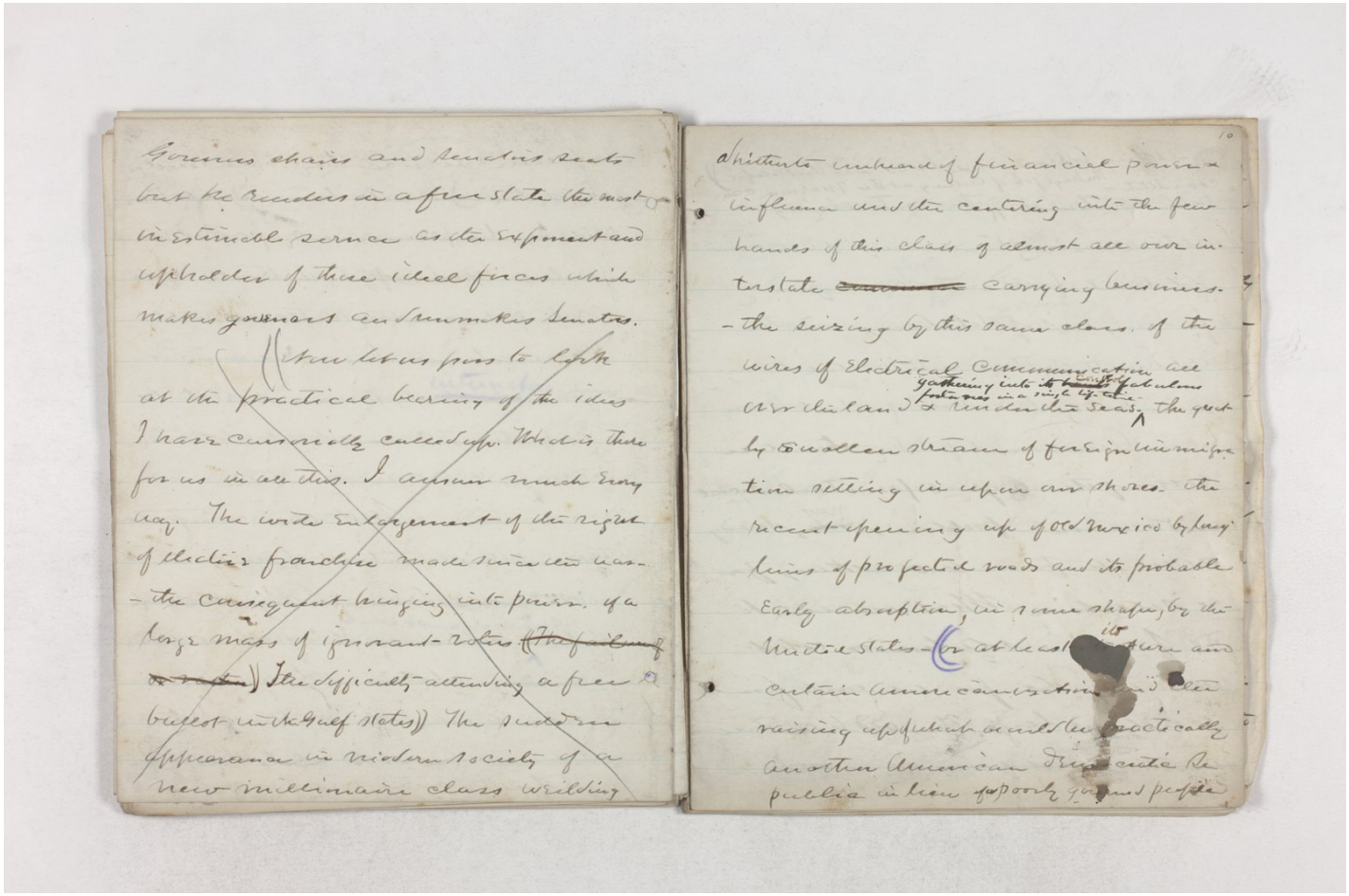


seats the responsibility of creating the
conforming that public opinion - of
which in a free community - the
office holding class are mere mouth
pieces and attorneys.

Ours has been called "a government by
discussion" and in ~~educating~~ illuminating the
such a government the distinctive political function
of the educated class is discharged
less at the ballot box than in moulding
public opinion. I do not mean to
argue that this class should divorce
apart from the primary meeting
or the political convention; but
I am only affirming that the
fruit they should produce and the
supreme service they shall render
is rather indirect than direct. Than
vote in the primaries by packed ma-
jorities - headed off by the tricks of the
wily parliamentary tactician in the
conventions, the educated man is
yet a spiritual power in the state that
no factions can extinct - that no
majorities can annihilate.

With this enlarged conception
of the distinctive sphere of the ed-
ucated class, how enlarged the scope
of their influence. It results that the
primary relation of the educated
man is not to the mere duties of the
citizen but to the whole life of the
state. He may never occupy

James Stanley Emery speeches



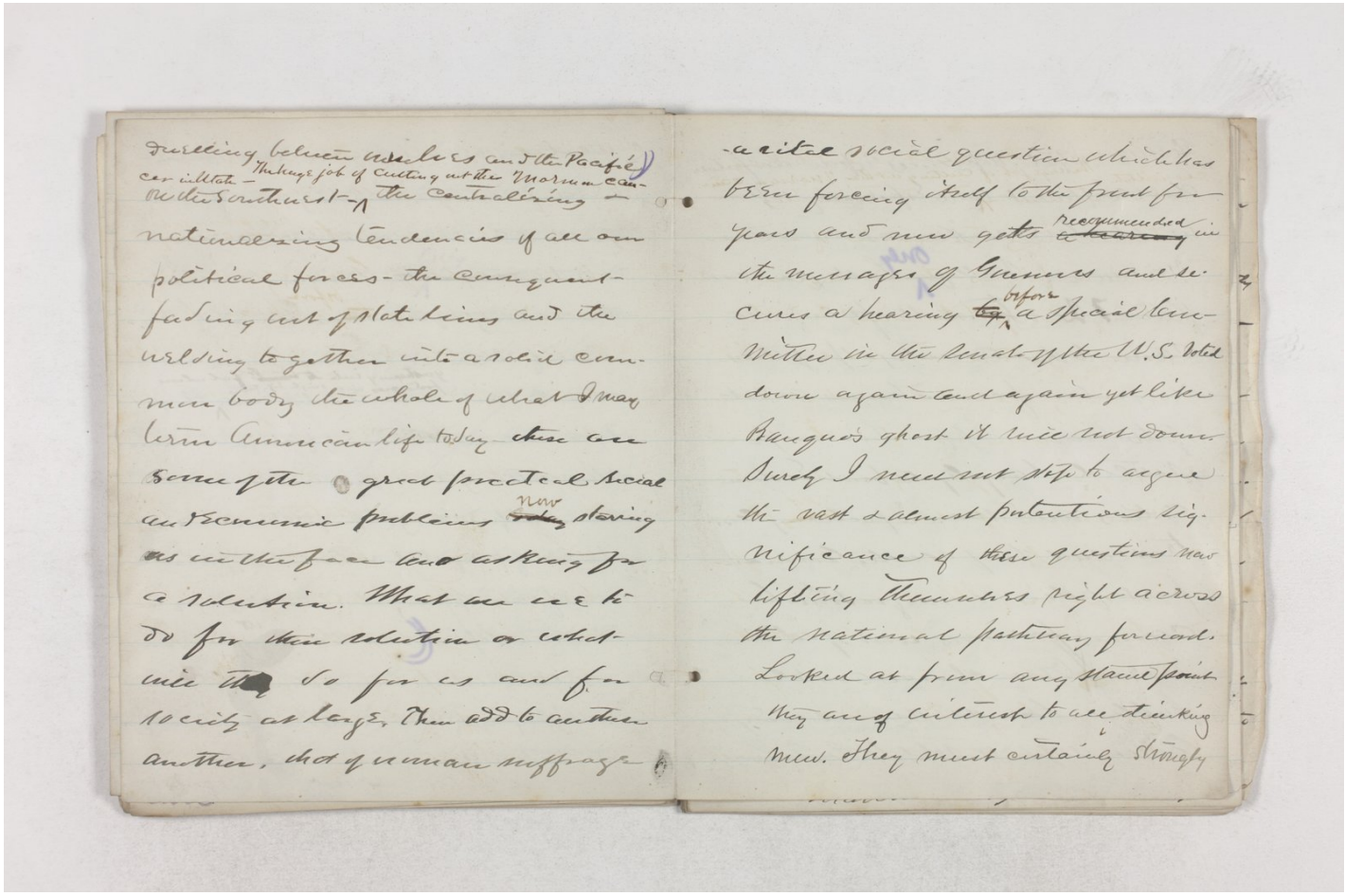
Governs chairs and benches seats but the readers in a free state the most indefensible service as the support and upholder of those ideal forces which makes governors and lawmakers senators.

((Now let us pass to look at the practical bearing of the idea I have carefully called up. What is there for us in all this. I answer much every way. The wide enlargement of the right of electric franchise made necessary - the consequent bringing into power of a large mass of ignorant voters ((The ~~fact~~ difficulty attending a free ballot in the Gulf States)) The sudden appearance in modern society of a new millionaire class wielding

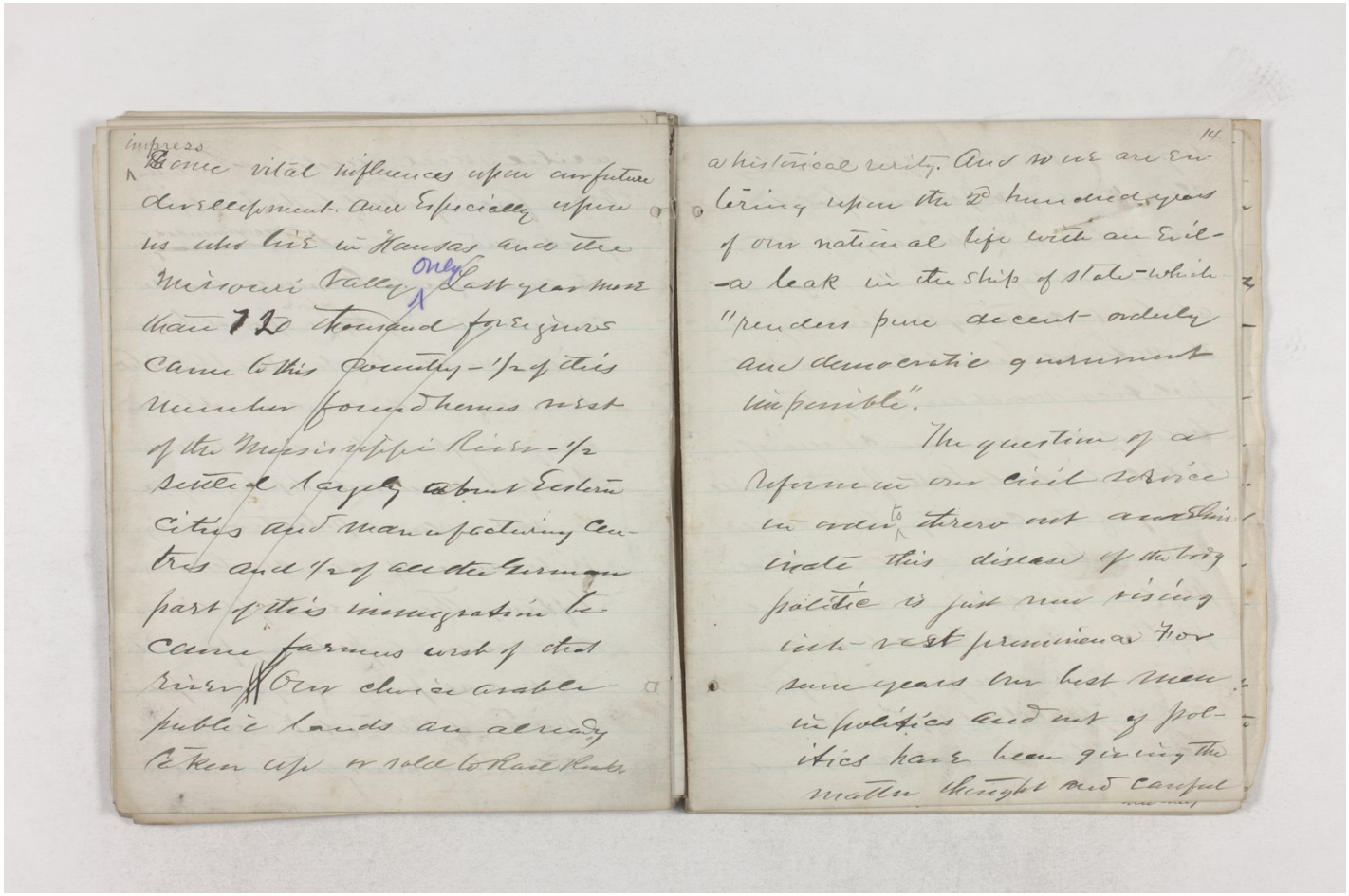
10

almost unheard of financial power & influence and the centering into the few hands of this class of almost all our interstate carrying business. - the seizing by this same class of the wires of Electrical Communication are gathering into its hands of tabulous fortunes in a night of time & ~~hurdles~~ the seas, the past by a sudden stream of foreign immigration settling in upon our shores. the recent opening up of Old Mexico by lines of projected roads and its probable Early absorption, in some shape, by the United States - (or at least ~~its~~ its future and certain Americanization) and the ~~raising~~ uprising of Cuba and her practically another American Democratic Republic in her ~~of~~ poorly governed people

James Stanley Emery speeches



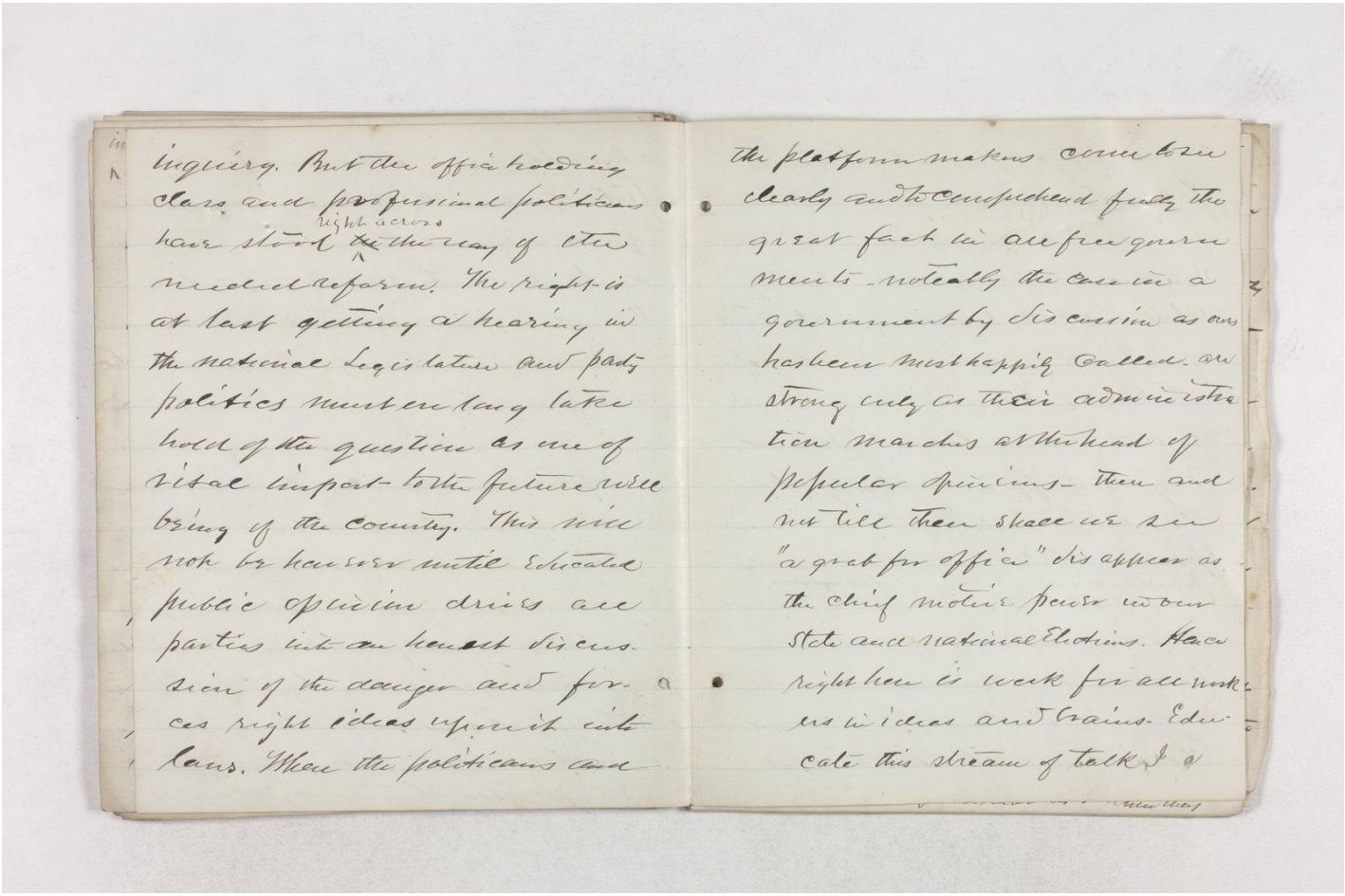
James Stanley Emery speeches



impress
Some vital influences upon our future development. are Especially upon us who live in Kansas and the Missouri Valley. Last year more than 720 thousand foreigners came to this country - 1/2 of this number found homes west of the Mississippi River - 1/2 settled largely about Eastern cities and manufacturing centers and 1/2 of all the German part of this immigration became farmers west of that river. Our choice arable public lands are already taken up & will be Rail Roads

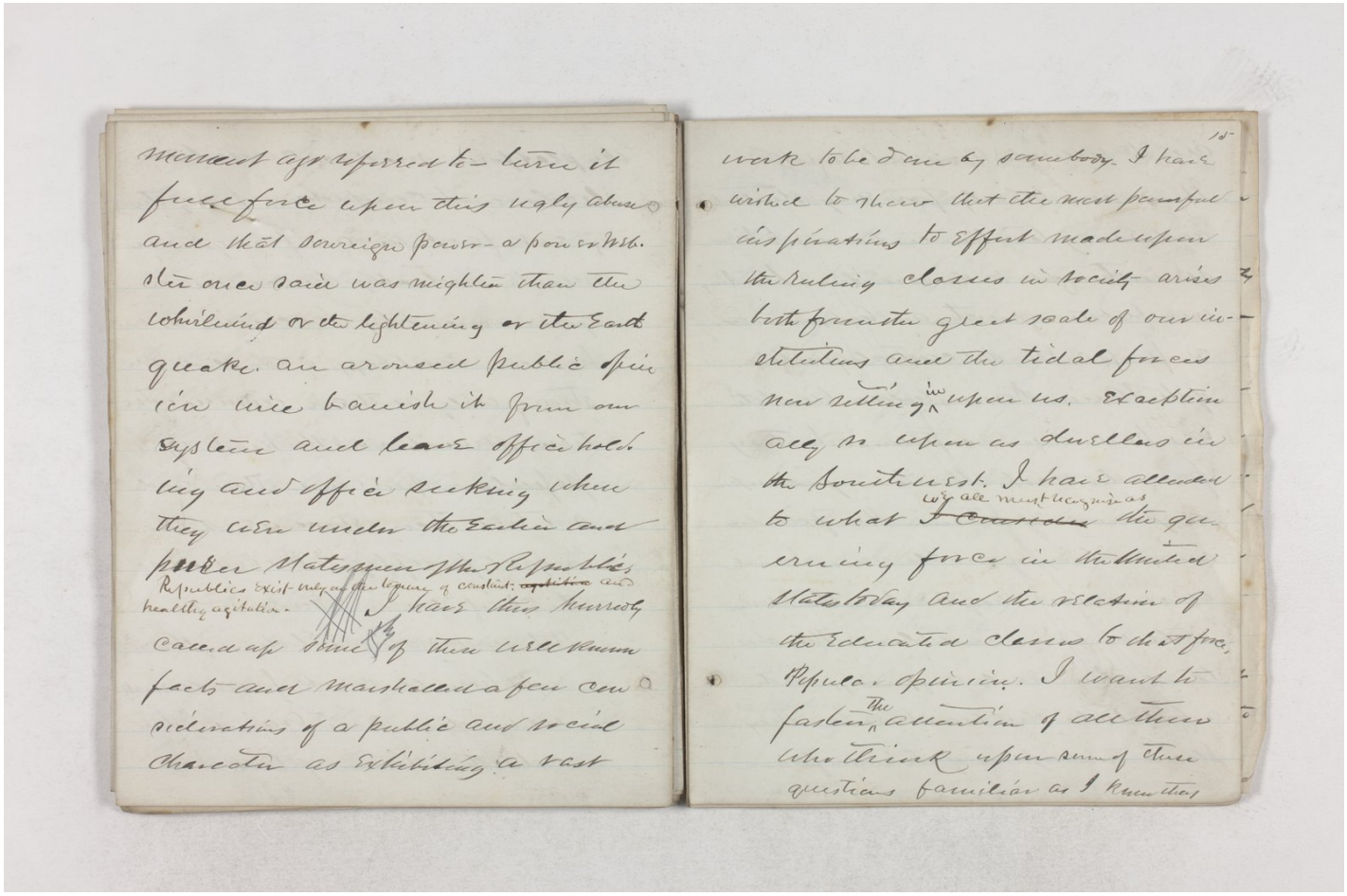
14
a historical verity. And now we are entering upon the 2d hundred years of our national life with an evil - a leak in the ship of state - which "renders pure decent orderly and democratic government impossible".

The question of a reform in our civil service in order to thereby eradicate this disease of the body politic is just now rising into most prominence. For some years our best men in politics and not of politics have been giving the matter thought and careful



inquiry. But the office holding class and professional politicians have stood right across the way of the needed reform. The right is at last getting a hearing in the national Legislature and party politics must ere long take hold of the question as one of vital import to the future well being of the country. This will not be however until Educated public opinion drives all parties into an honest discussion of the dangers and forces right ideas upon it into laws. When the politicians and the platform makers come to see clearly and to comprehend finally the great fact in all free governments - notably the case in a government by discussion as ours has been most happily called - no strong only as their administration marches at the head of popular opinions - then and not till then shall we see "a grab for office" disappear as the chief motive power in our State and national Elections. Hence right here is work for all workers in ideas and brains. Educate this stream of talk & a

James Stanley Emery speeches

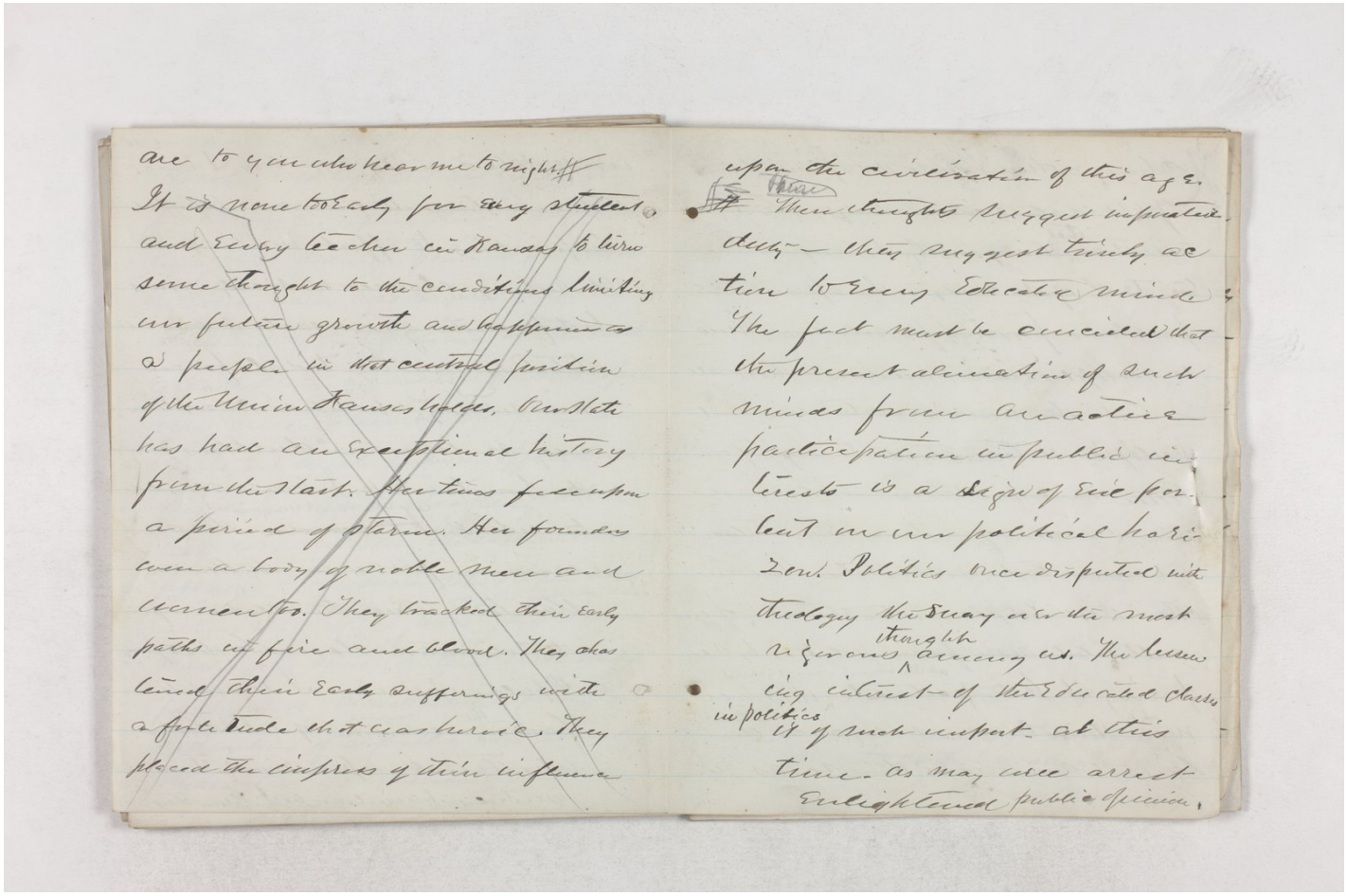


moment appeared to – turn it full force upon this ugly abuse and that sovereign power – a power which once said was mightier than the cyclone and the lightening or the Earthquake. an aroused public opinion will banish it from our system and leave office holding and office seeking where they were under the Earlier and purer Statesmen of the Republic. Republics exist only on the bequest of constant; ~~agitation~~ and healthy agitation. I have thus hurriedly called up some of the well known facts and marshalled a few considerations of a public and social character as exhibiting a vast

18

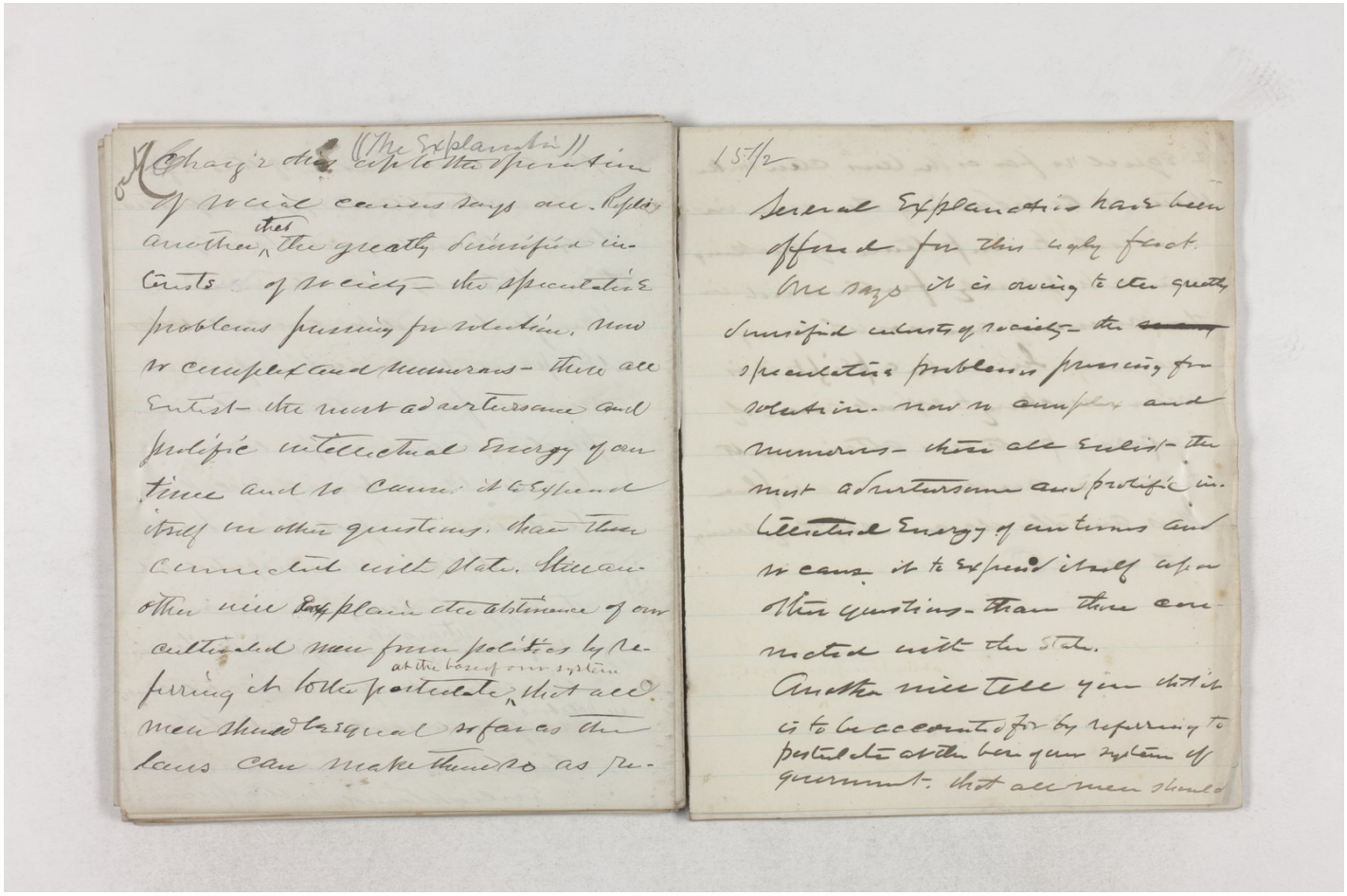
work to be done by somebody. I have wished to show that the most pungent aspirations to effect made upon the ruling classes in society arises both from the great scale of our institutions and the tidal forces now rolling in upon us. Exceptionally as upon us dwellers in the Southwest. I have alluded to what we all must recognize as the governing force in the United States Way and the relation of the educated classes to that force, Popular opinion. I want to fasten the attention of all those who think upon some of these questions familiar as I know they

James Stanley Emery speeches



are to you who hear me to night?
It is none too early for every student and every teacher in Kansas to give some thought to the conditions limiting our future growth and happiness as a people in that central position of the Union Kansas occupies. Our State has had an exceptional history from the start. Her times for even a period of storm. Her founders were a body of noble men and women too. They tracked their early paths in fire and blood. They obscured their early sufferings with a fortitude that was heroic. They placed the impress of their influence upon the civilization of this age. Their thoughts suggest important duty — they suggest timely attention to every Educated mind. The fact must be conceded that the present alienation of such minds from an active participation in public interests is a sign of evil portent in our political horizon. Politics once disputed with theology the sway over the most strenuous thoughts among us. The lessening interest of the educated class in politics of such import at this time as may ever arrest enlightened public opinion.

James Stanley Emery speeches

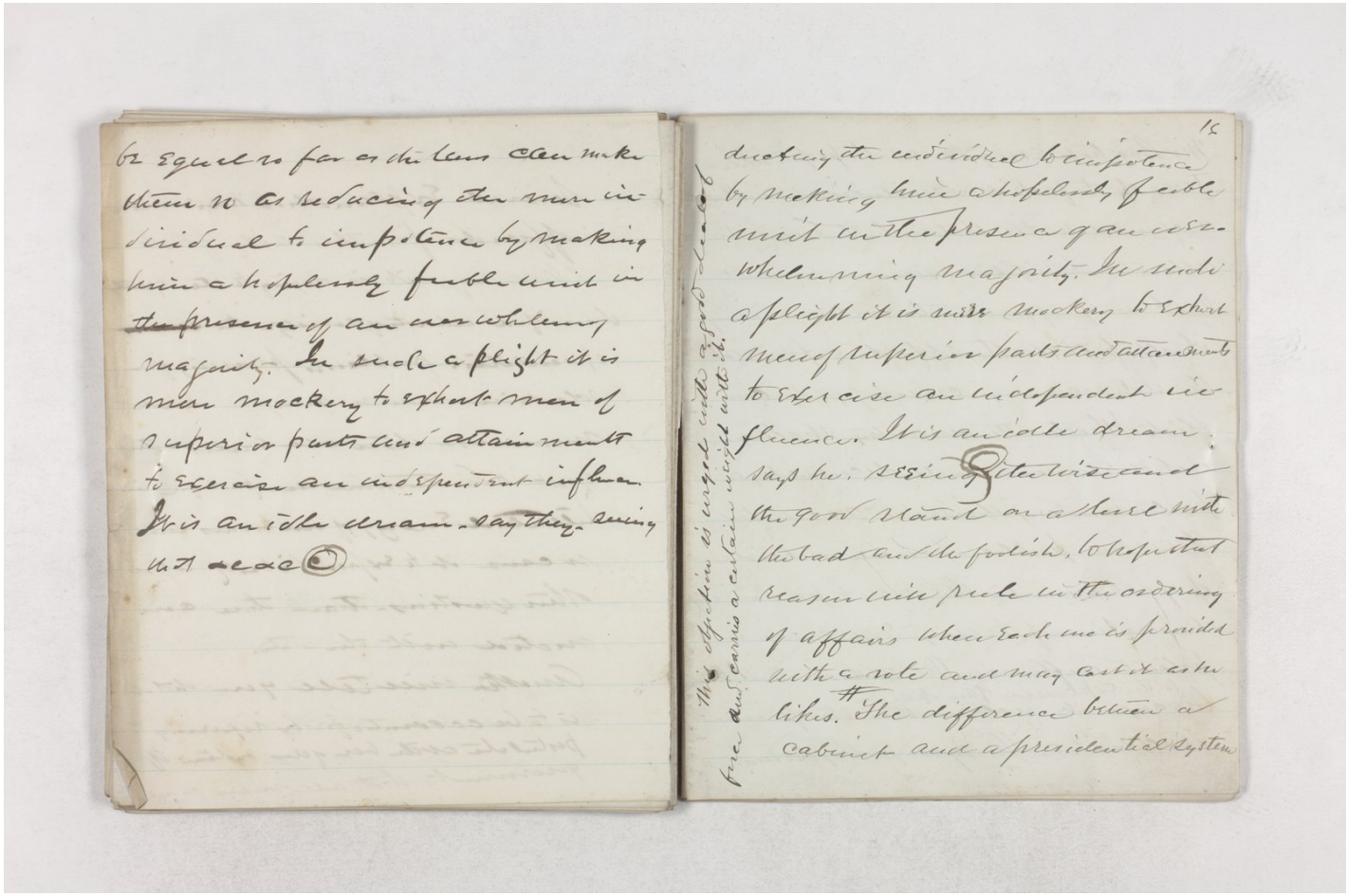


Many of these explanations to the question of social causes says one. Replies another, the greatly diversified interests of society — the speculative problems pressing for solution, now so complex and numerous — these all enlist the most adventurous and prolific intellectual energy of our time and so cause it to expend itself on other questions than those connected with State. Another will explain the abstinence of our cultivated men from politics by referring it to the partisan character at the bar of our system that all men should be equal so far as the laws can make them so as pe-

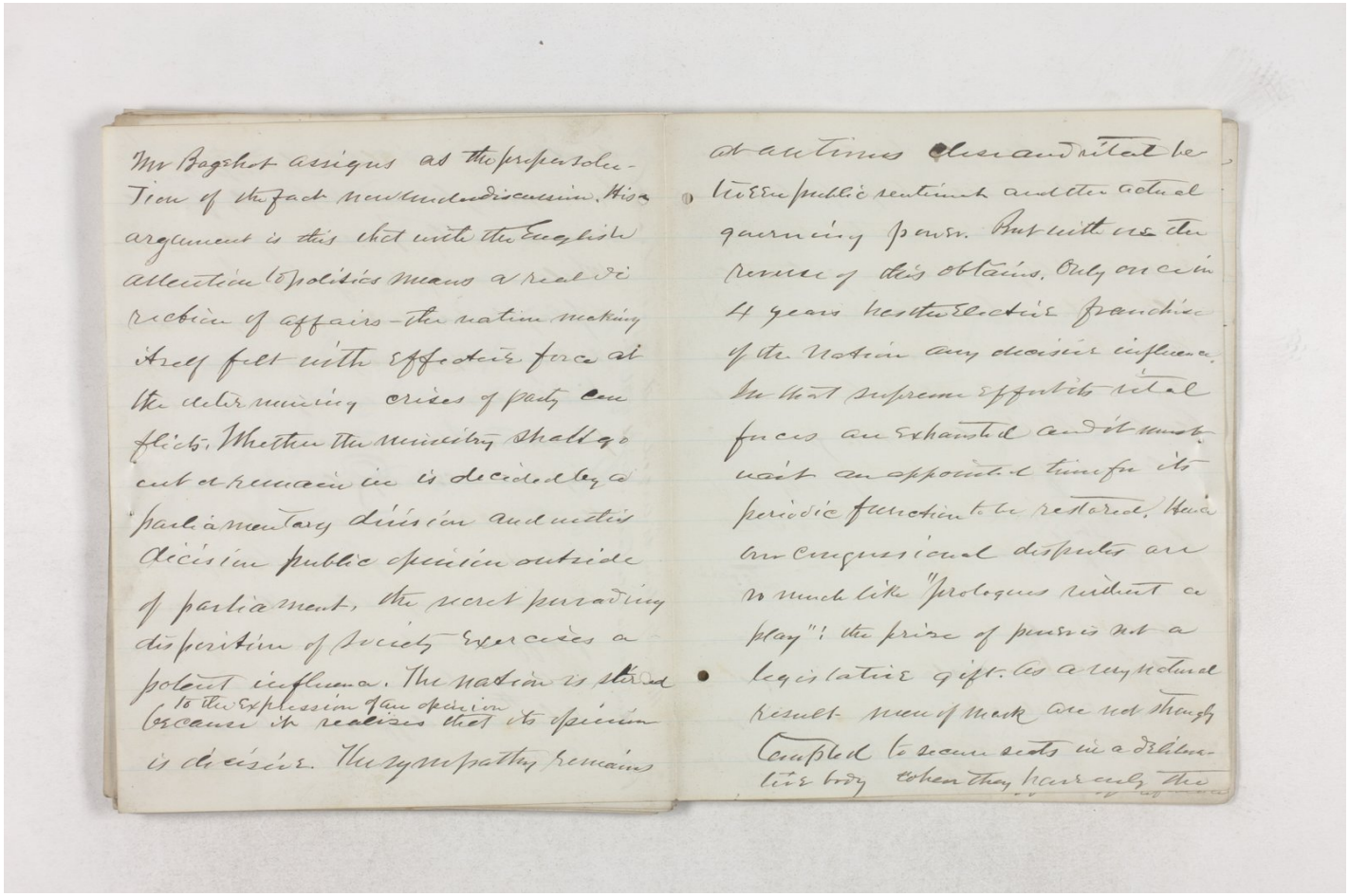
15-1/2

Several explanations have been offered for this ugly fact. One says it is owing to the greatly diversified interests of society — the speculative problems pressing for solution now so complex and numerous — these all enlist the most adventurous and prolific intellectual energy of our times and so cause it to expend itself upon other questions than those connected with the State. Another will tell you that it is to be accounted for by referring to partisan character of our system of government. that all men should

James Stanley Emery speeches

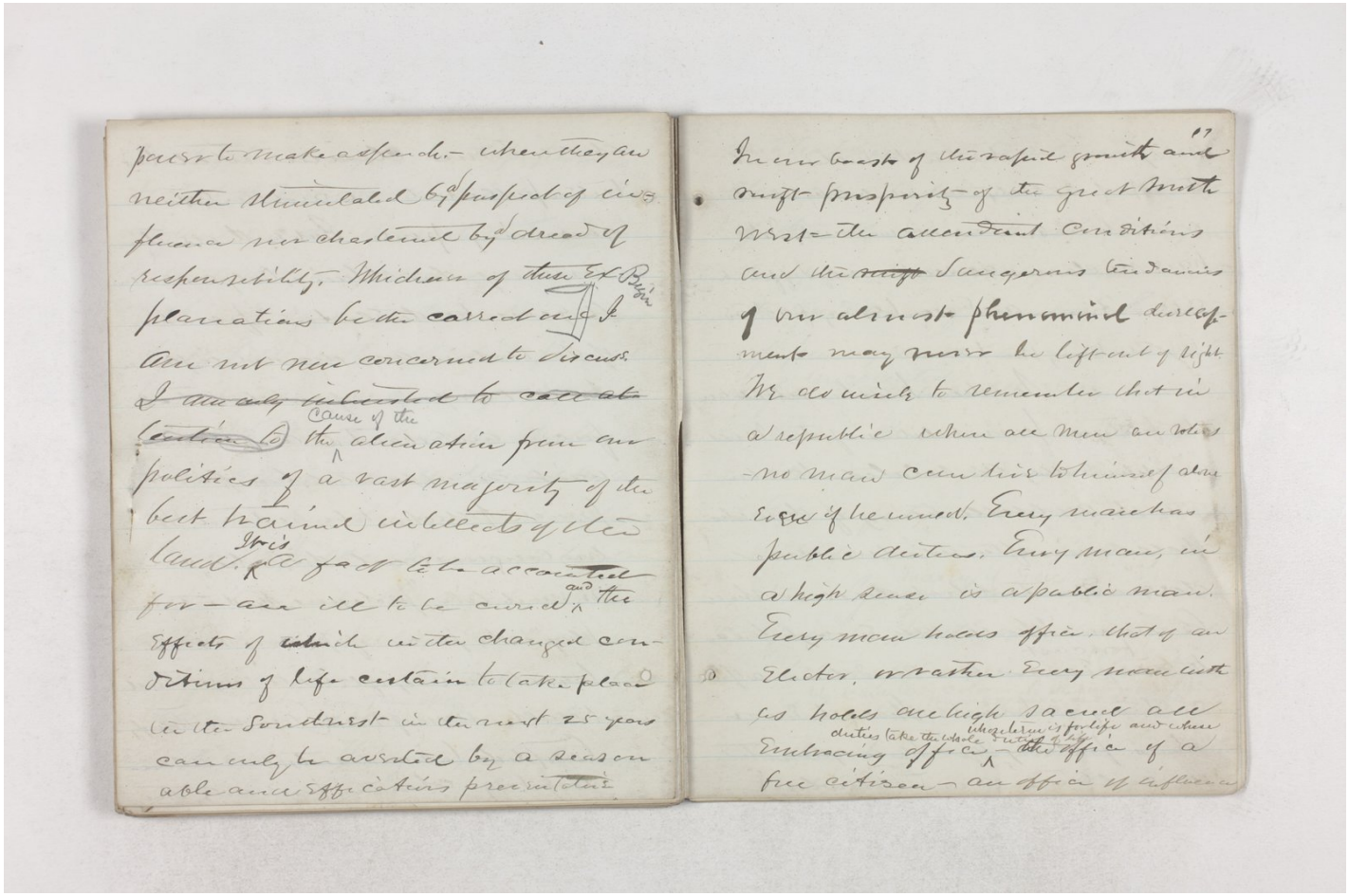


James Stanley Emery speeches



Mr Bagehot assigns as the proper solution of the fact now under discussion. His argument is this that with the English attention to politics means a real direction of affairs – the nation making itself felt with effective force at the determining crises of party conflicts. Whether the ministry shall go out or remain in is decided by a "parliamentary division and not by decision public opinion outside of parliament. The secret pervading disposition of society exercises a potent influence. The nation is stirred to the expression of an opinion because it realizes that its opinion is decisive. The sympathy remains at all times alive and vital between public sentiment and the actual governing power. But with us the reverse of this obtains. Only once in 4 years has the elective franchise of the nation any decisive influence. In that supreme effort its vital forces are exhausted and it must wait an appointed time for its periodic function to be restored. Hence our congressional disputes are as much like "prologues without a play": the prize of power is not a legislative gift: as a mechanical result men of mark are not thought competent to secure seats in a deliberative body when they have only the

James Stanley Emery speeches

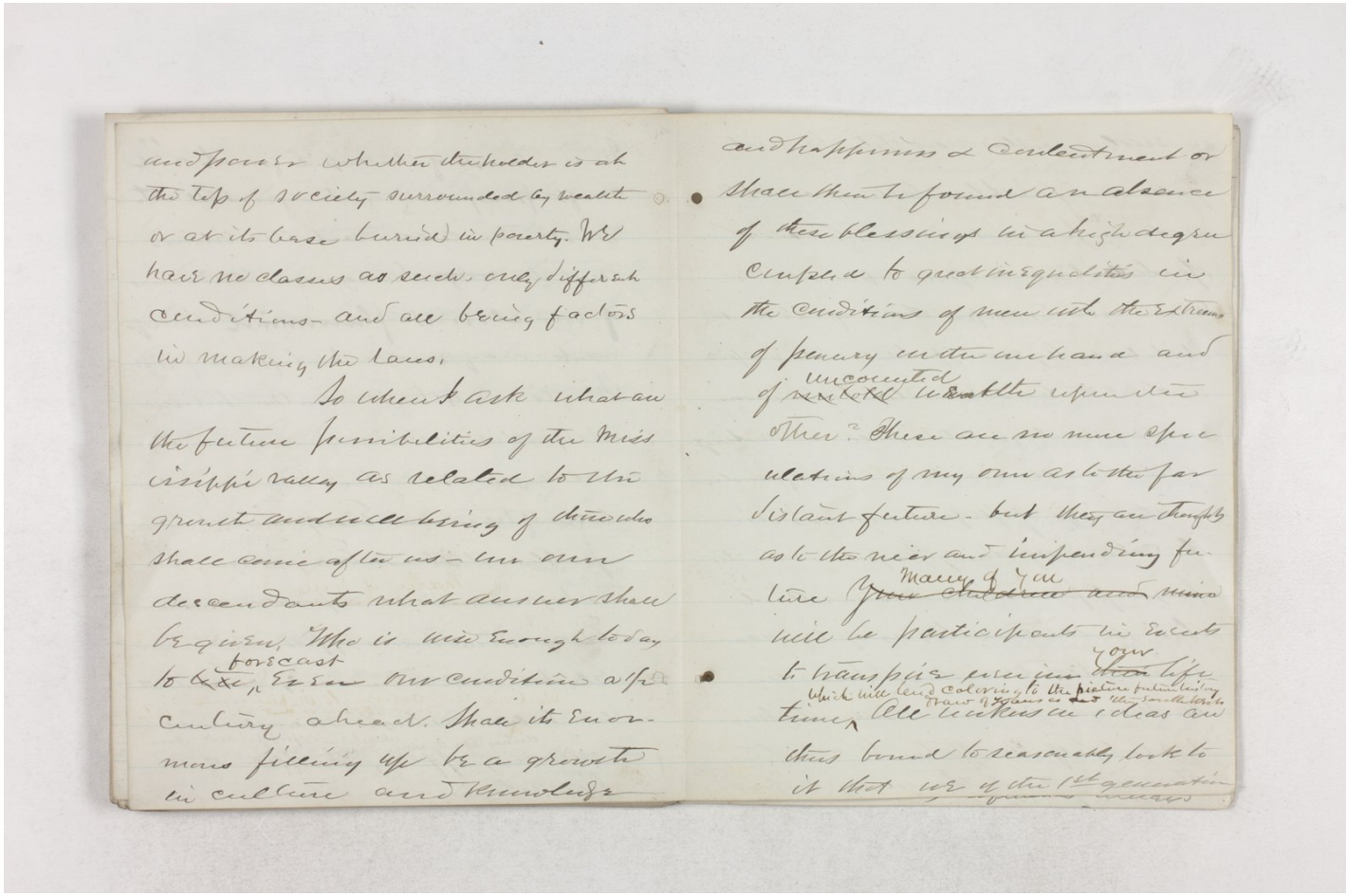


pass to make a speech— when they are neither stimulated by prospect of influence nor chastened by dread of responsibility. Midnum of these Explanations be the carried on? I am not now concerned to discuss. I am only interested to call attention to the cause of the alienation from our politics of a vast majority of the best trained intellects of the land. This is a fact to be accounted for— one ill to be cured and the effects of which will be changed conditions of life certain to take place in the Southwest in the next 25 years can only be averted by a reasonable and effectual precaution.

17

In view of the rapid growth and unexampled prosperity of the great North West— the attendant conditions and the dangers and dangerous tendencies of our almost phenomenal development may never be lost sight of. We do wish to remember that in a republic where all men are voters no man can rise to himself above the level of humanity. Every man has public duties. Every man in a high sense is a public man. Every man holds office that of an Elector, whether Every man with its holds are high sacred all duties take the whole Tenure of office is for life and when Embracing office — the office of a free citizen — an office of influence

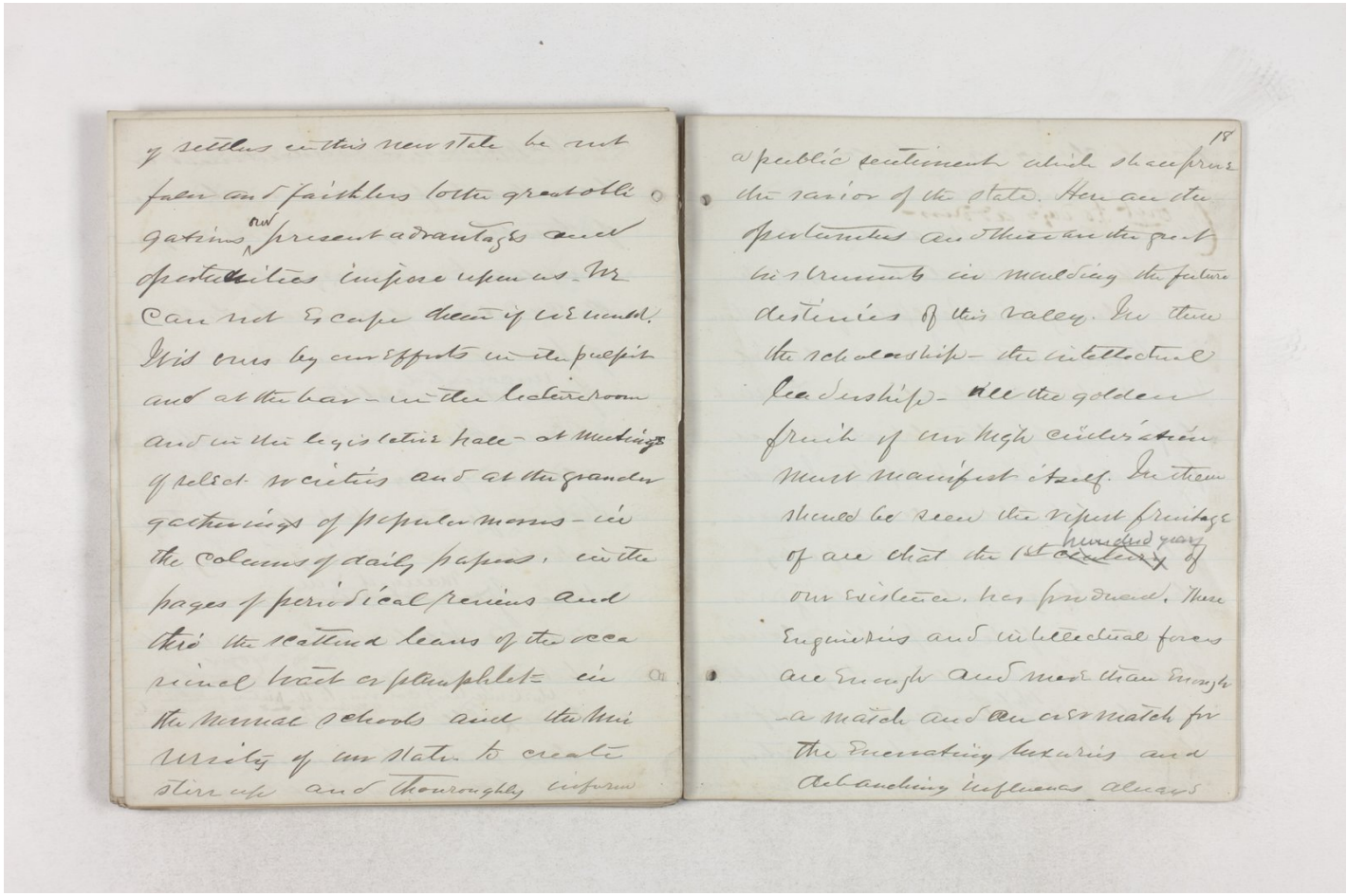
James Stanley Emery speeches



and power whether the lowlier is at the top of society surrounded by wealth or at its base buried in poverty. We have no classes as such. only different conditions - and all being factors in making the laws.

So when I ask what are the future possibilities of the Mississippi valley as related to the growth and well being of thousands shall come after us - our own descendants what answer shall be given. Who is wise enough today to forecast even our conditions a century ahead. Shall its enormous filling up be a growth in culture and knowledge and happiness & contentment or shall there be found an absence of these blessings in a high degree coupled to great inequalities in the conditions of men with the extremes of penury on the one hand and of uncounted wealth upon the other? There are no mere speculations of my own as to the far distant future - but they are thoughts as to the near and impending future Your Children and mine will be participants in events to transpire even in your lifetime which will lend coloring to the picture future history will draw of us. Many of our ideas and theories will be found to reasonably look to it that we of the 1st generation

James Stanley Emery speeches

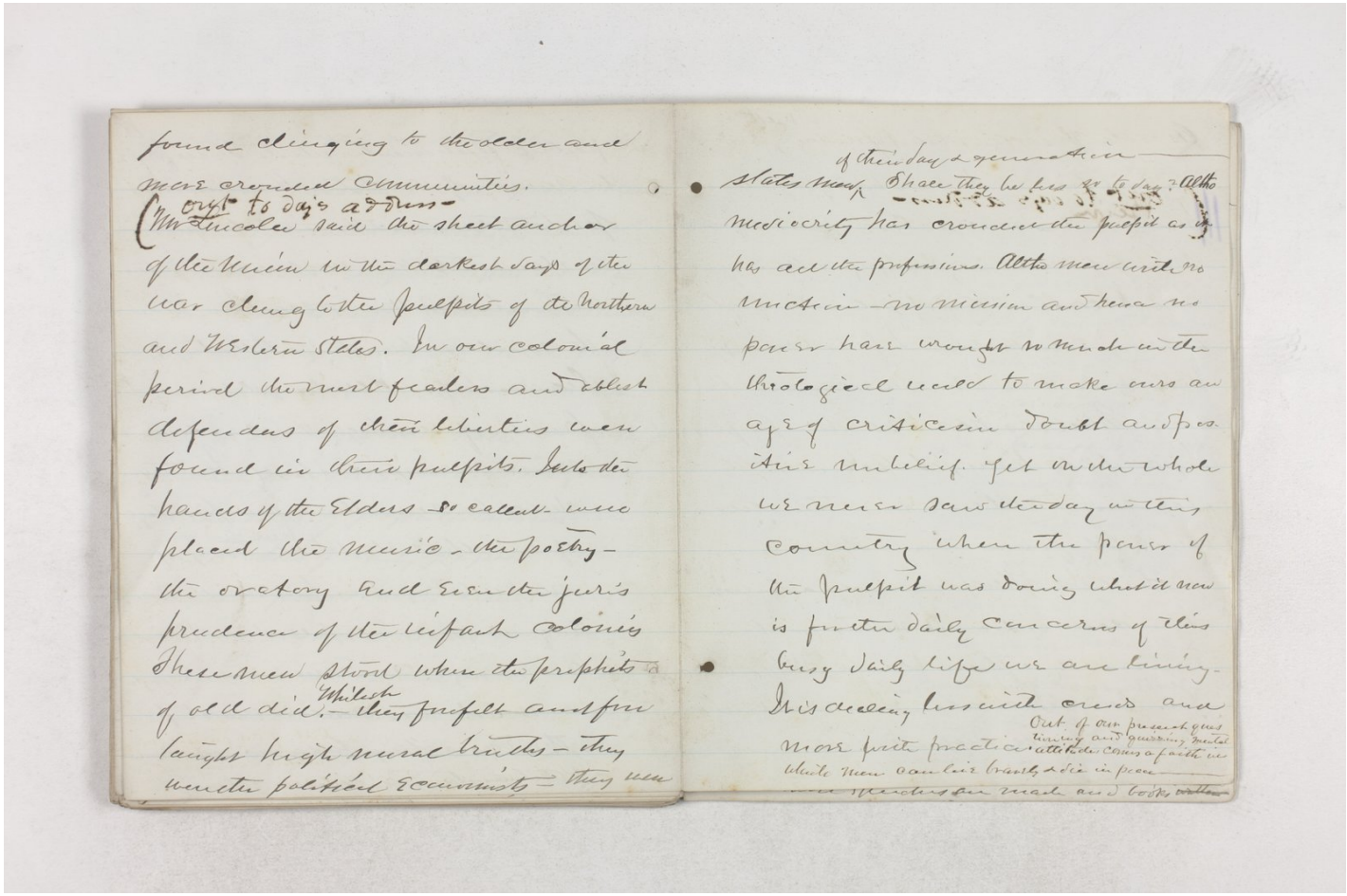


y settlers in this new State be not
false and faithless to the great obli-
gations our present advantages and
opportunities impose upon us. We
can not escape them if we would.
It is ours by our efforts in the pulpit
and at the bar - in the lecture room
and in the legislative hall - at meetings
of select societies and at the grander
gatherings of popular moods - in
the columns of daily papers, in the
pages of periodical reviews and
third the scattered leaves of the occa-
sional book or pamphlet - in
the normal schools and the Uni-
versity of our State to create
stir up and thoroughly inform

18

a public sentiment which shall prize
the savior of the state. How are the
generations and things and the great
instruments in moulding the future
destinies of this valley. In them
the scholarship - the intellectual
leadership - all the golden
fruits of our high civilization
must manifest itself. In them
should be seen the ripest fruitage
of one hundred years
of all that the 1st century of
our existence has produced. Their
Enquiries and intellectual forces
are enough and more than enough
a match and an overmatch for
the enervating luxuries and
debauching influences always

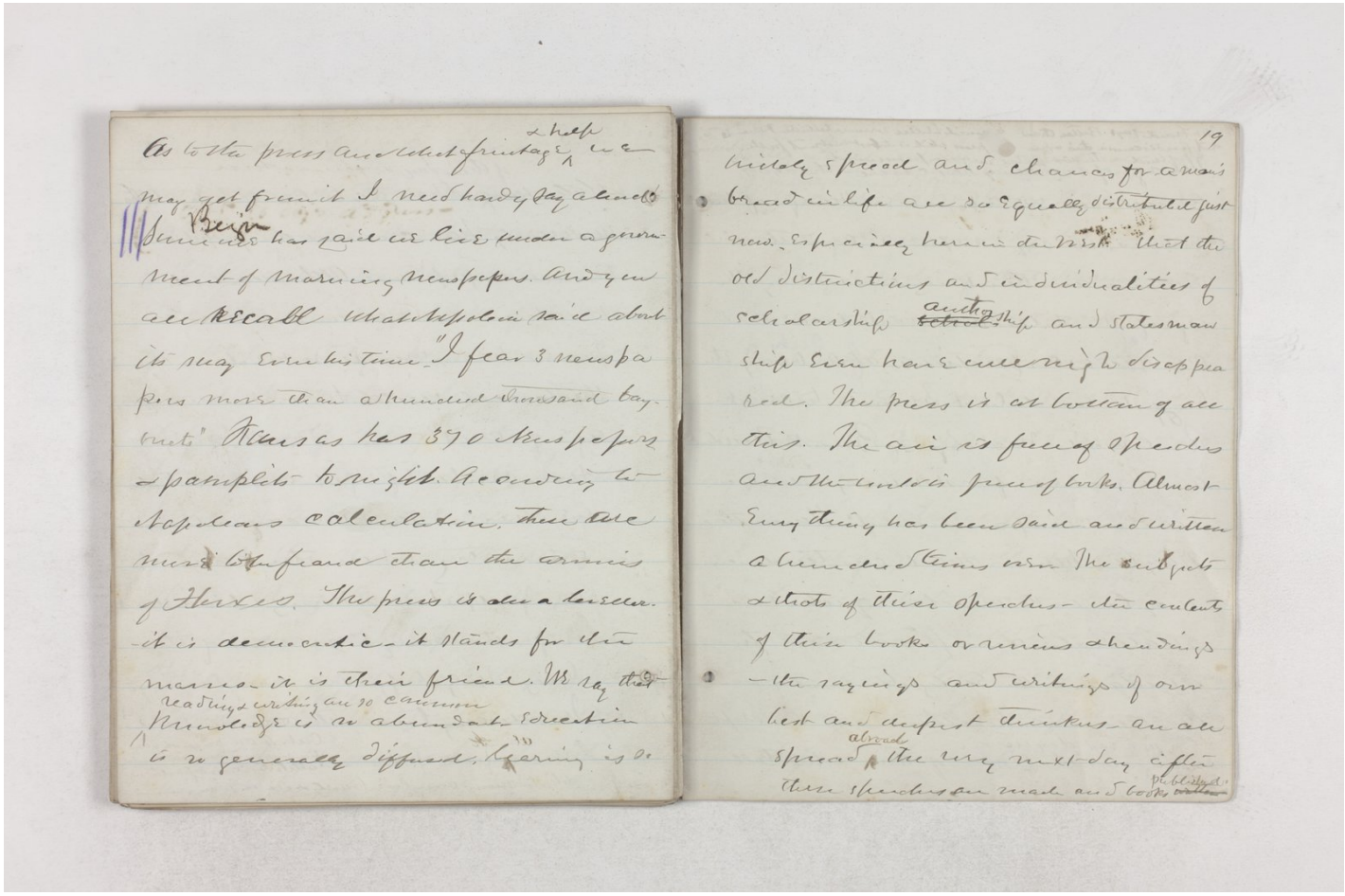
James Stanley Emery speeches



found clinging to the older and more crowded communities.
(Ought to dig's address—
Mr Lincoln said the sheet anchor of the Union in the darkest days of the war clung to the pulpits of the Northern and Western States. In our colonial period the most fearless and ablest defenders of their liberties were found in their pulpits. Into the hands of the Elders so called were placed the music—the poetry—the oratory and even the jurisprudence of the infant colonies. These men stood where the prophets of old did.—Whilst they prophesied and taught high moral truths—they were not political economists—they were

of their day & generation—
States must Shall they be less so to day? Alas mediocrity has crowded the pulpit as it has all the professions. Alas men write no music—no mission and hence no power have wrought so much in the theological world to make ours an age of criticism doubt and positive unbelief. Yet in the whole we never saw the day in this country when the power of the pulpit was doing what it now is for the daily concerns of this busy daily life we are living. It is dealing less with creeds and more with practical Out of our present gross literary and grasping mental attitude. Comes a faith in which men can live & die in peace

James Stanley Emery speeches

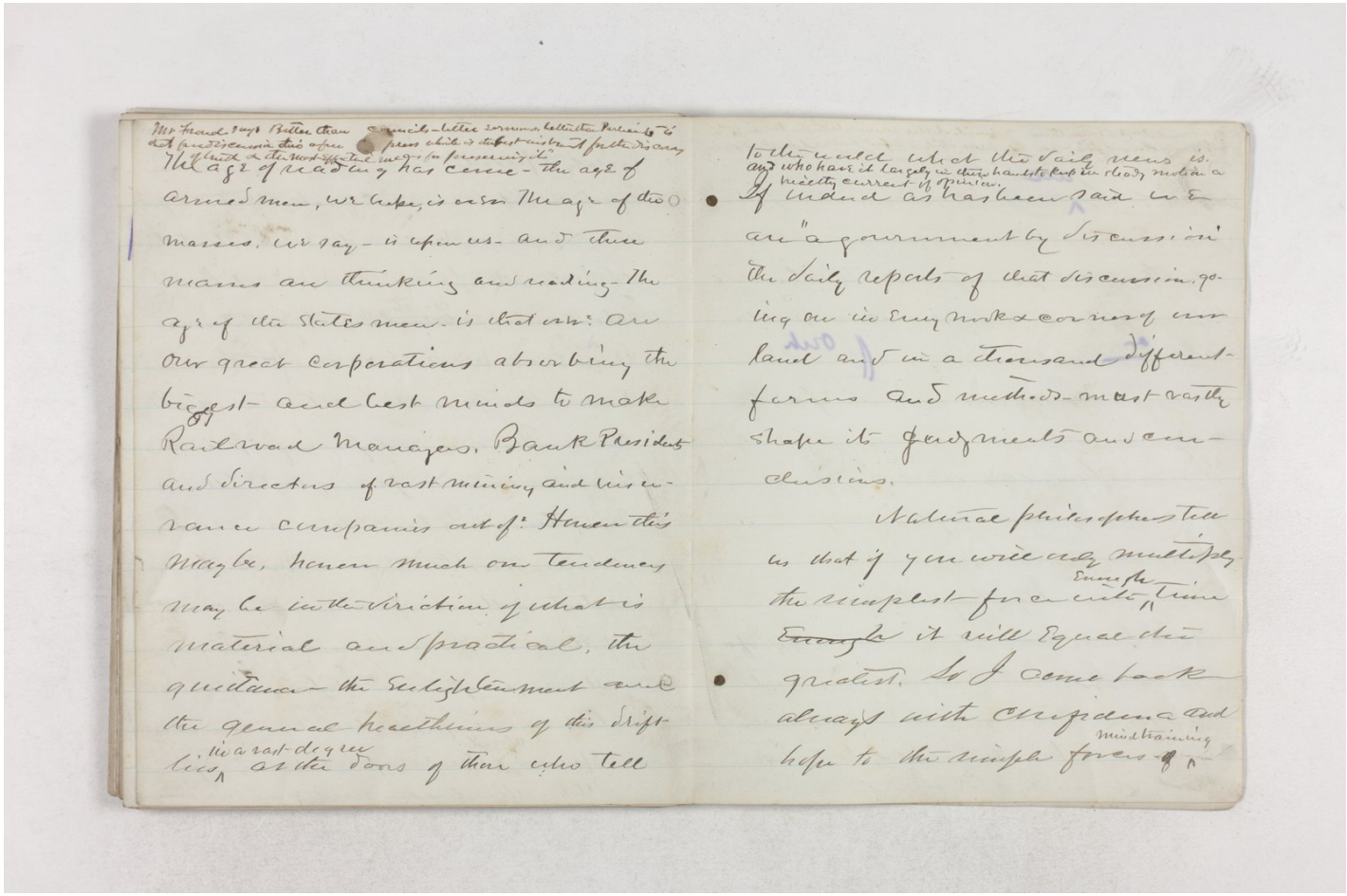


As to the press and cheap printage & help we may get permit I need hardly say almost Science has said or lies under a government of warning newspapers. And you all recall what Napoleon said about its may & one his time. "I fear 3 newspapers more than a thousand bayonets" Kansas has 370 Newspapers & pamphlets to night. According to Napoleans calculation there are more bayonets than the armies of Heroes. The press is also a teacher. it is democratic - it stands for the masses - it is their friend. We say that reading writing and common knowledge is so abundant & education is so generally diffused, learning is so

19

widely spread and chances for a man's bread in life are so equally distributed just now, & so in this country that the old distinctions and individualities of scholarship authorship & statesmanship seem have ceased to disappeared. The press is at bottom of all this. The air is free of speeches and the land is free of books. Almost every thing has been said and written a hundred times over. The subjects & texts of these speeches - the contents of these books or writings & speakings - the sayings and writings of our best and deepest thinkers are all spread abroad the very next day after these speeches are made and books published

James Stanley Emery speeches



Mr Freund says Better than a quick-letter sermons, better than Parker's & that preacher in this age press which is the best minister of the Gospel of truth & the most effective means for promoting it."

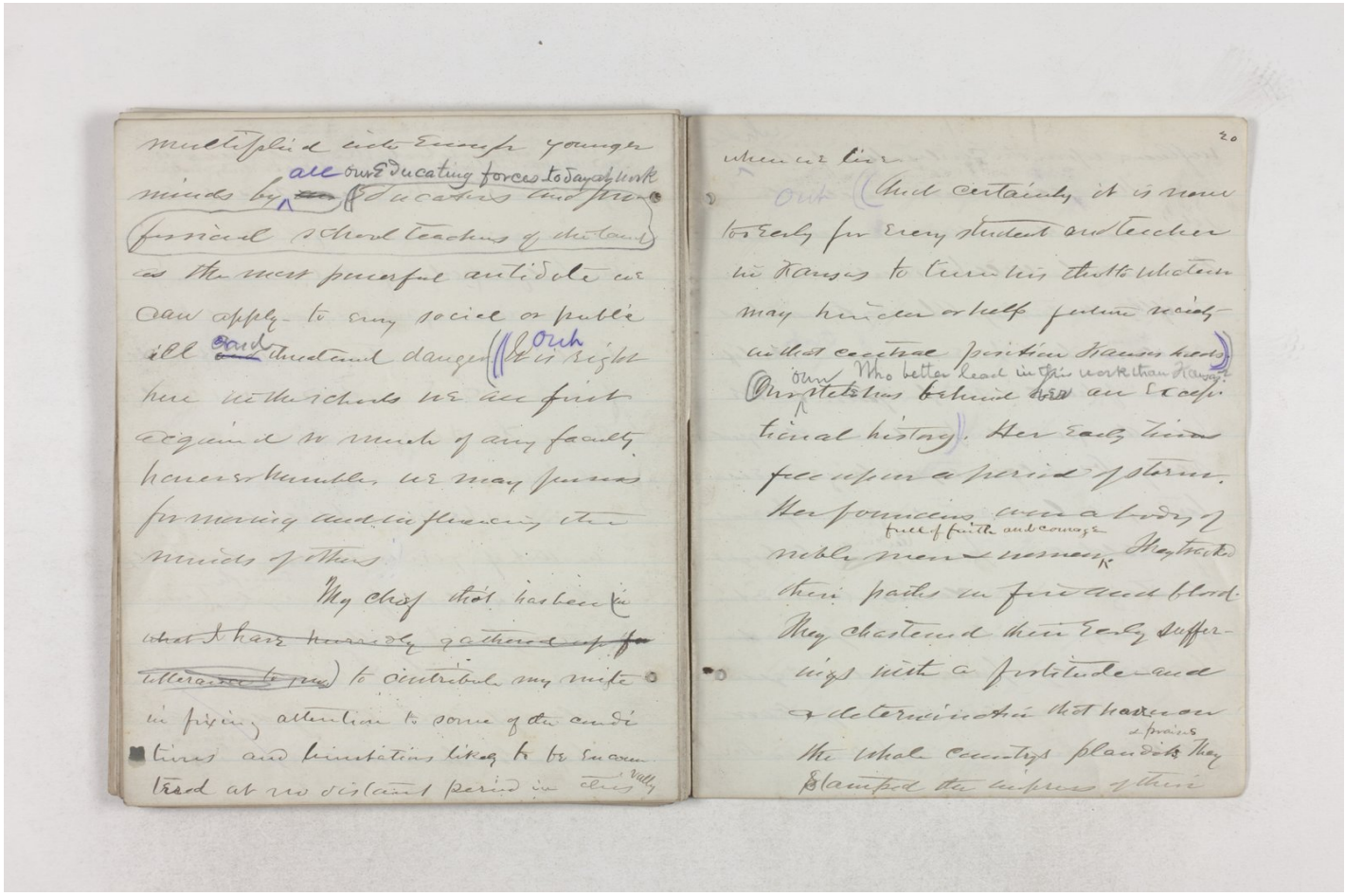
The age of reading has come - the age of armed men, we hope, is over. The age of the masses, we say - is upon us - and the mass are thinking and reading. The age of the statesmen is that over? Are our great corporations absorbing the biggest and best minds to make Railroad Managers, Bank Presidents and Directors of vast mining and insurance companies out of? Hence this may be, hence much our tendency may be in the direction of what is material and practical, the question - the enlightenment and the general heathenism of this drift- less, in a great degree as the sons of men who tell

to the world what this daily news is. and who have it largely in their hands to keep its moral current of opinion.

If indeed as has been said in E- are "a government by discussion" the daily reports of that discussion going on in every work & corner of our land and in a thousand different forms and methods - must vastly shape its judgments and conclusions.

Natural philosophy tells us that if you will only multiply the simplest force a sufficient time example it will equal the greatest. So I come back always with confidence and hope to the simple forces of right mindtraining

James Stanley Emery speeches



multiplied tide. Every younger minds by all our educating forces to say & work (Educators and professional school teachers of the land) as the most powerful antidote we can apply to any social or public ill and threatened danger (Our Right here in the schools we can first acquire & mark of any faculty however humble we may possess for moving and influencing the minds of others.

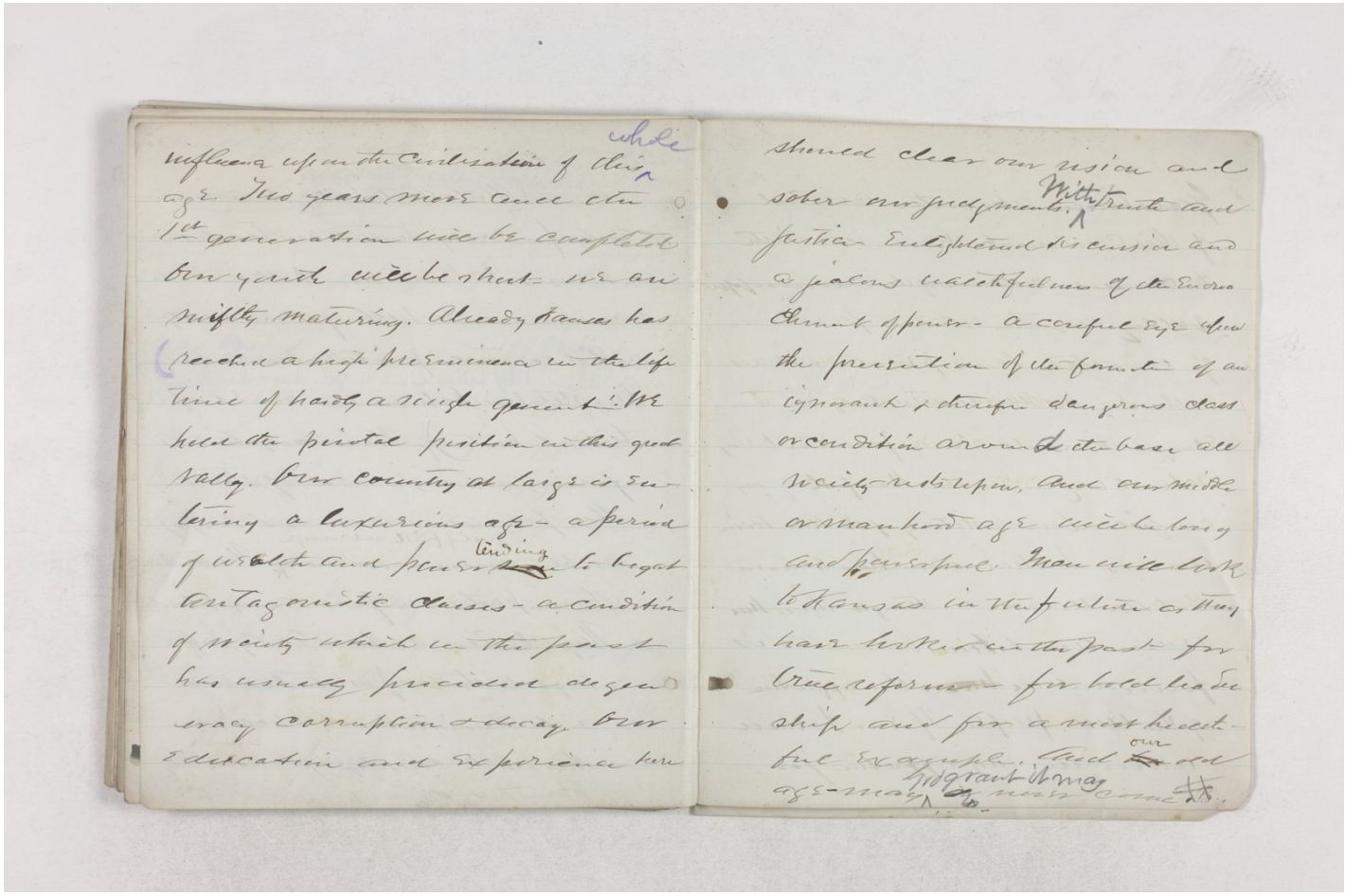
My chief text has been (what I have hurriedly gathered up for utterance to you) to contribute my mite in giving attention to some of the conditions and limitations likely to be encountered at no distant period in this valley

20

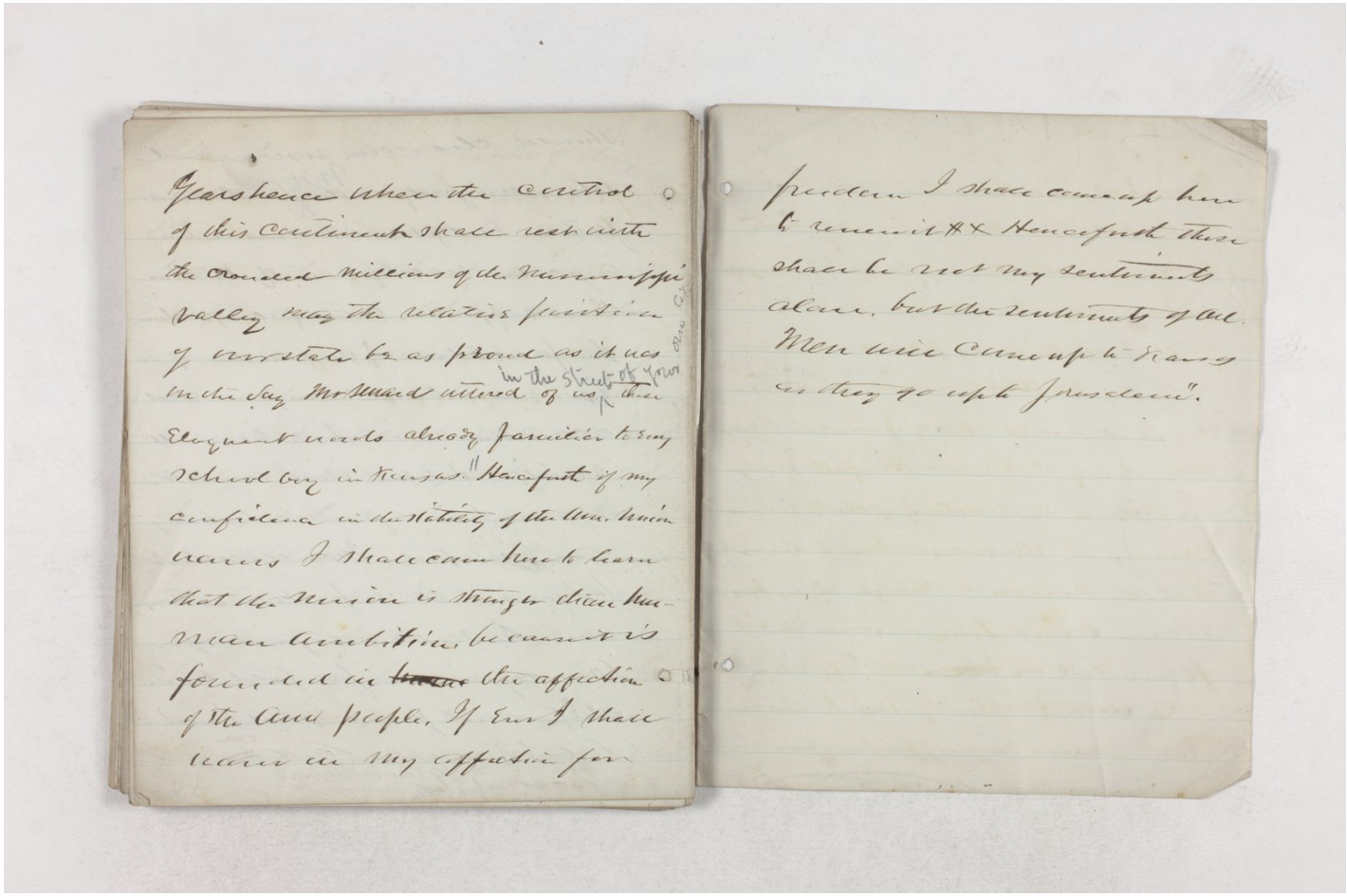
when we live

out (And certainly it is more timely for every student and teacher in Kansas to turn his attention where may hinder or help future society in its most central position Kansas holds (Our Who better lead in this work than Kansas? Our traditions behind her an historical history). Her early time fell upon a period of storm. Her pioneers were a body of noble men & women, full of faith and courage. Historic their paths in fire and blood. They shortened their early sufferings with a fortitude and determination that have won the whole country's plaudits & praises. They stamped the impress of their

James Stanley Emery speeches



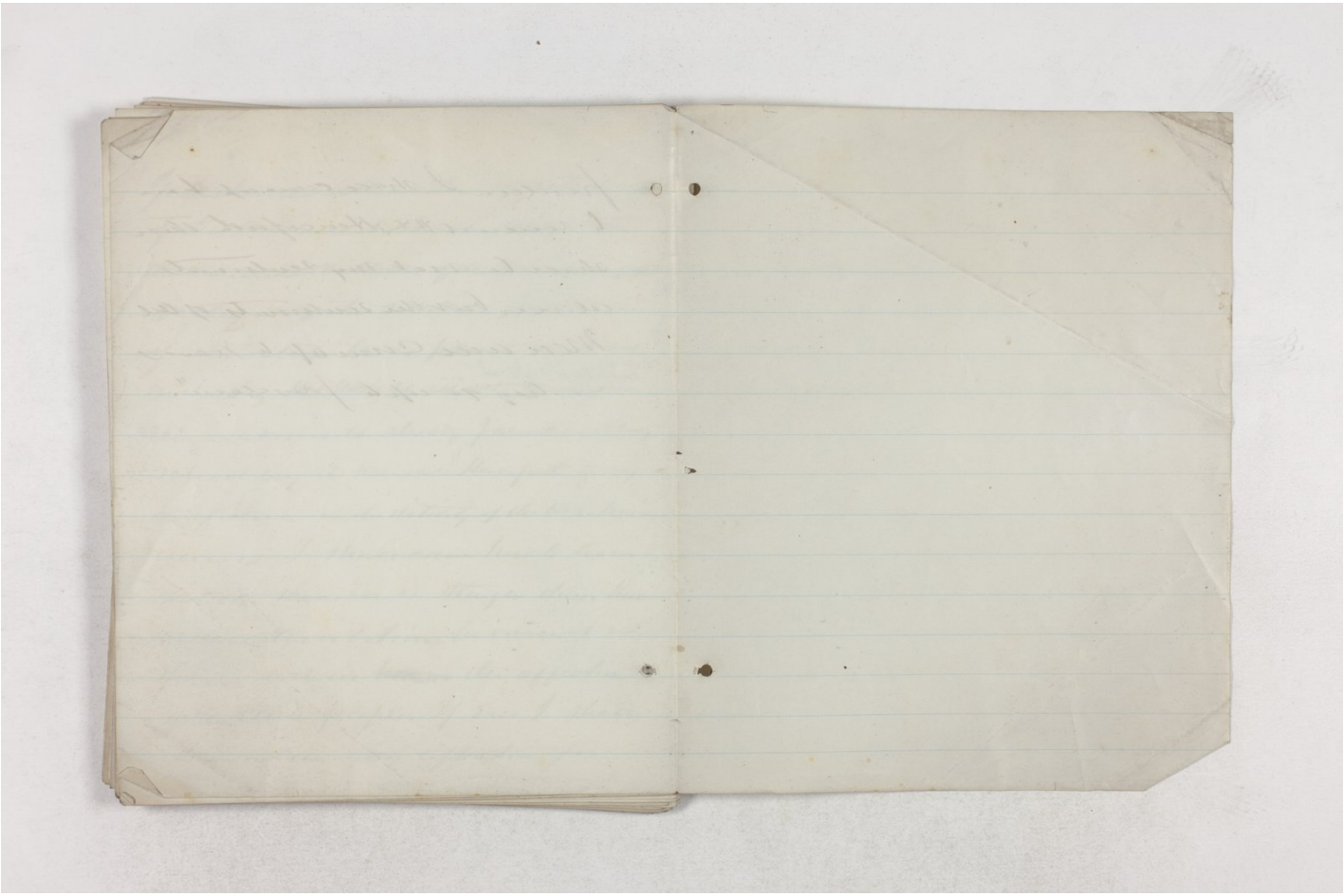
James Stanley Emery speeches



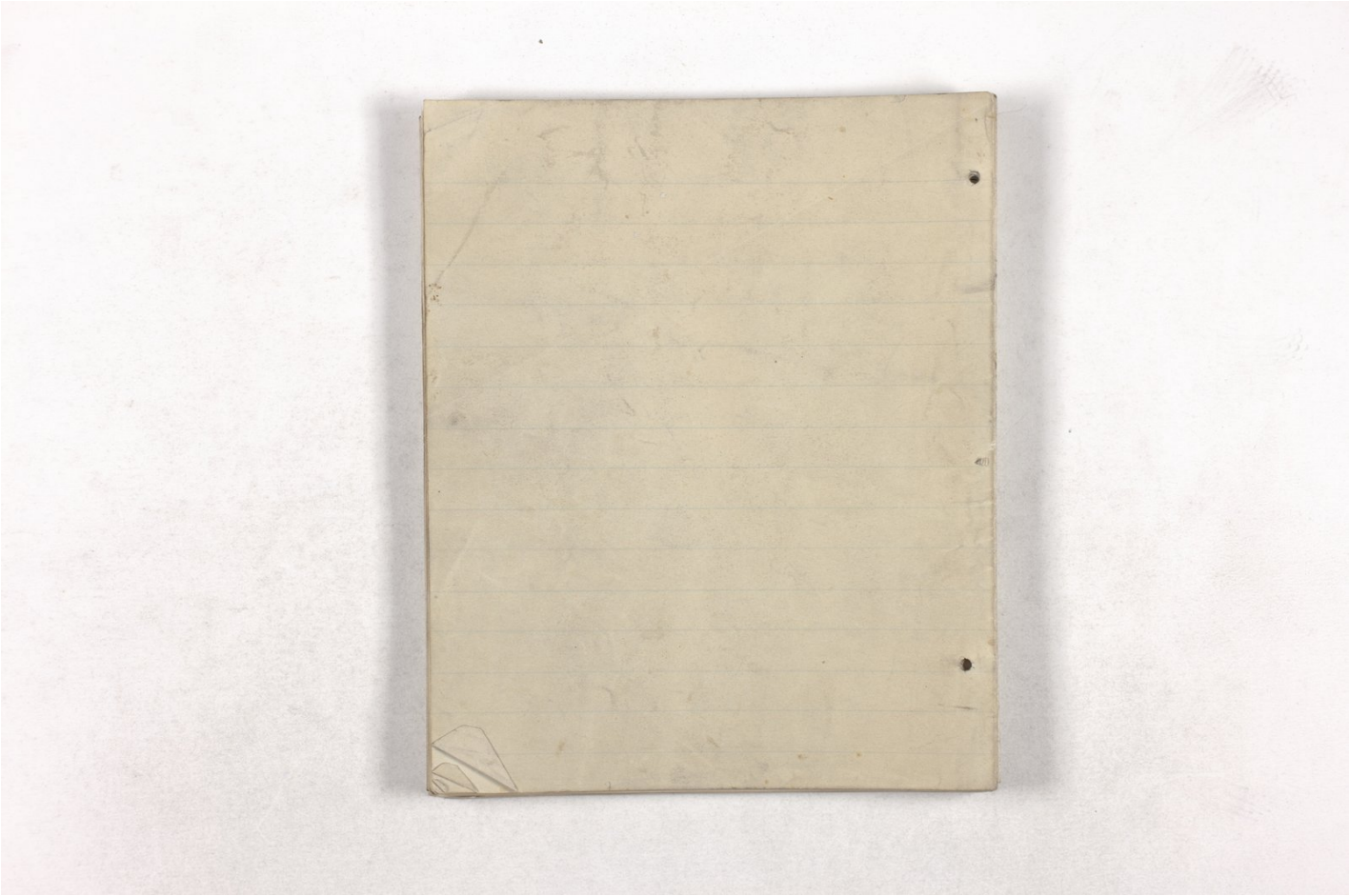
Years hence when the control
of this Continent shall rest with
the crowded millions of the Mississippi
valley may the relative position
of our state be as proud as it was
in the day Mr Allard attended us in the streets of our
Elegant words already familiar to my
school boy in Kansas." Henceforth if my
confidence in the destiny of the American
names I shall come here to learn
that the Union is stronger than human
ambition, because it is
founded in ~~human~~ the affection
of the free people. If ever I shall
learn in my affection for

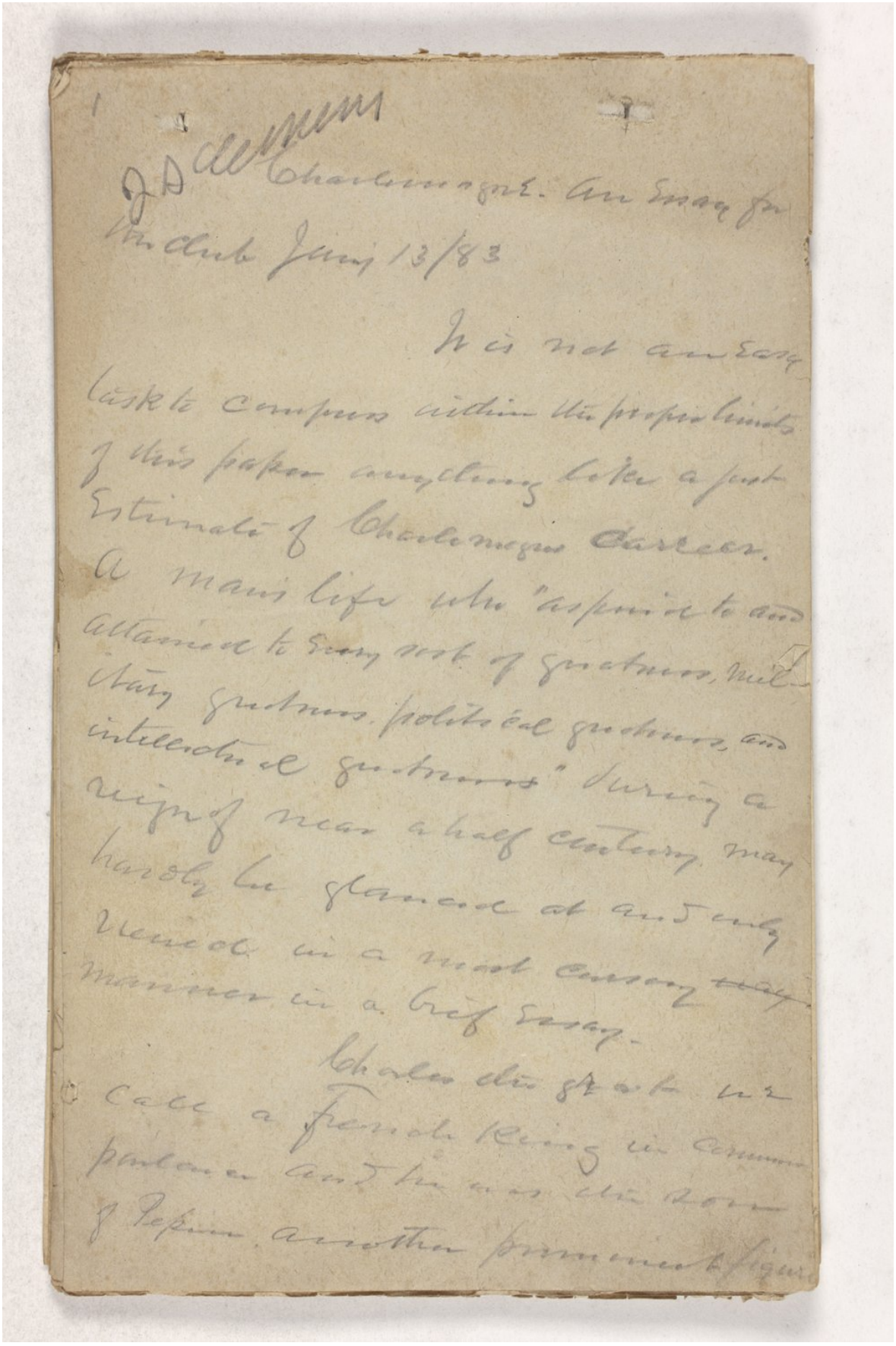
freedom I shall cease to
be remind ~~me~~ Henceforth these
shall be not my sentiments
alone, but the sentiments of all.
Men will come up to Kansas
as they go up to Jerusalem".

James Stanley Emery speeches



James Stanley Emery speeches

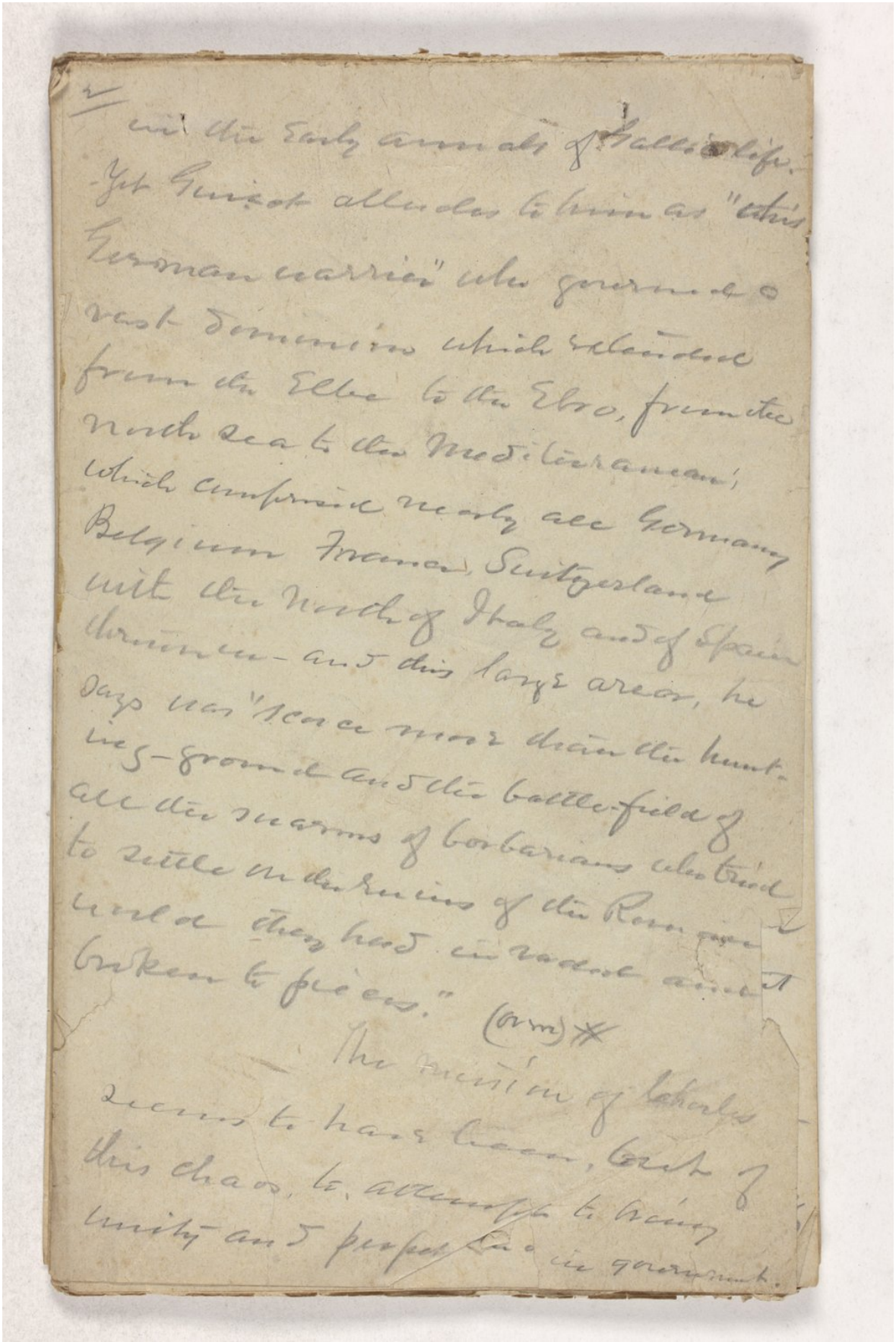




1

D A Charlemagne. An Essay for
the Club Jan 13/83

It is not an easy
task to compress within the proper limits
of this paper anything like a just
Estimate of Charlemagne Character.
A man's life who "aspired to and
attained to many not of greatness, mili-
tary greatness, political greatness, and
intellectual greatness" during a
reign of near a half century, may
hardly be glanced at and only
viewed in a most cursory
manner in a brief Essay.
Charles the Great or
Carl a French King in Annus
pontanus and he was the Son
of Pepin. Another prominent figure



2

with the early annals of Gallic life.
Yet Guizot alludes to him as "this
German warrior" who governed a
vast dominion which extended
from the Elbe to the Ebro, from the
North sea to the Mediterranean;
which comprised nearly all Germany
Belgium France, Switzerland
with the North of Italy and of Spain
Dominion - and this large area, he
says was "more than the hunting-
ground and the battle-field of
all the swarms of barbarians who trod
to settle in the ruins of the Roman
world than has ever existed since
broken to pieces." (over) *

The fusion of races
seems to have been, first of
this chaos, to attempt to bring
unity and perpetuity in government.