

The history of that matter is this:

Dr. Ansel Eddy-with whom I was very well acquainted with at the East-- came to Chicago in 1854, in the fall, prospecting. He had been formerly a tutor(?) of Mr. Douglas, and a close intimacy and warm friendship had always existed between them.

One day walking over(?) Mr. Douglass property at Cottage Grove, Dr. Eddy suggested that the best use/ he could put a portion of his land would be to endow a college or university. After a few moments silence, Mr. Douglass replied, "I will D^r if you will be the President of it." (I have this from Dr. Eddy.)

In the spring of 1855 Dr. Eddy came here as pastor of a presbyterian Church on the North Side. Some time in the spring -- April, I think it was-- the subject of the College grant was renewed between him and Mr. Douglass. An arrangement was entered into that he should have the ten acres, provided he raised \$100,000 by the first of December, in cash or good subscriptions.

A few weeks thereafter, Mr. Douglass -- who was in disgrace with the people of Chicago, on account of the part he took in the Kansas-Nebraska affair, and they hooted, hissed and badgered him, and would not allow him to speak at North Market Hall,-- went over to visit some friends at Terra(sic) Haute, Indiana. He was taken sick there, and did not return to Chicago, but went from there to Washington on the opening of Congress, and was not in the city until about the first of April, 1856.

About the middle of July 1855, Dr. Smith and his wife who boarded where we did left their rooms. In a couple of days or so, they were taken by F.W. King and wife, Mrs. King being a niece of Dr. Eddy, and daughter of Rev. Alfred Eddy. She was an educated and intelligent woman, and she and my wife soon "struck up" quite an intimacy.

One evening about the middle of November, I went home from the office about 10 o'clock, and found my wife quite excited, for her. Mrs. King had spent the evening in her room, and had told her that her uncle had made an utter failure-- "had not raised a dollar," was his expression to her.

We had some talk previously with Dr. Burroughs, as to why the grant was not made to the Baptists, as Mr. Douglass' first wife was a Baptist.

My wife now saw an opportunity for the Baptists, and wanted me to go over and see Dr. Burroughs next morning, but not finding ~~left~~ him, left an invitation to come over to tea in the evening. He did so and the matter was talked over.

Mrs. King went out of the city visiting and we heard no more about for a week.

In the first days of December/ Dr. Burroughs, getting a letter of introduction from Mr. Hogue, went over to Terra Haute, and had an interview with Mr. Douglass. He found that Dr. Eddy had been over near the last of November and got an extension to the first of March, 1856. If he did not succeed by that time, Dr. Burroughs got the promise of the grant.

Dr. Burroughs suggested, and we fell in with the suggestion, to watch the matter through Mrs. King and Dr. Eddy, and to keep advised of what progress had been made; and at the same time to keep the matter secret lest the Presbyterians might learn that something was being done by the Baptists and might bestir themselves.

Being advised that Dr. Eddy had had no better success ~~than previous success~~ than before December, Dr. Burroughs presented himself at Mr. Douglass' rooms in Washington on the first of March 1856. Mr. Douglass had heard nothing from Dr. Eddy, and still clung to him, lest there might be some communication from him on the way. He therefore, asked Dr. Burroughs to wait until the 15th, which, of course, he did.

The 15th arrived and Dr. Burroughs received the transfer of the grant. It was ~~then~~ ^{after that} so far as I know, that the first public announcement was made.

The feeling against Mr. Douglas was so great that Dr. Burroughs had to feel his way slowly and cautiously. I remember C. N. Holden wrote a bitter article for the paper against receiving the land but the odium ~~which~~ should be transferred from Mr. Douglas to the Baptists. I squealed the article, however, after it was in type, not having seen it before.

to which
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Now about Mr. Walker. Dr. Everts came honestly enough by the story in the first place, and under the circumstances had a right to believe it. But, as it was afterwards proven to him that it could not possibly be true, he had no right to repeat it.

It came about this way. At the meeting of the Association at Morris Dr. Everts "stopped" with Judge Hopkins. As the university was coming ^{up} for discussion in the evening, the Judge told the story to this effect at the tea table: He said ^{he} was at a railroad meeting at the Tremont, Douglass and Walker being present. In a lull of the talk around the table ^{where they were sitting} Mr. Douglass, turned to Mr. Walker and said, "I have offered then acres of land to Dr. Eddy, ~~I~~ who has failed to comply with the terms and I have offered it to the Baptists." He said (Judge Hopkins) that Mr. Walker ~~arouse~~ arose, took a few steps, and then said, "We will accept the offer, Judge Douglass."

Dr. Everts was much elated over this, as he could use it to detract from Dr. Burroughs, what credit there might be attached to the transaction. He repeated it twice in the prayer meeting of the church, within a few weeks, and I presume at every opportunity elsewhere.

I asked Judge Hopkins what time the meeting to which he referred was held? He said he did not remember, but could probably ascertain, as he recorded daily almost every occurrence of importance.

Two or three months afterwards I was at Morris again to speak at a temperance gathering. The Judge invited me to go home and stan with ^{him} which I did over night.

During the evening he said he would go up to his library and find the memorandum of what he had said about the University. After about two hours he came back and said he could not find it.

The logic of events shows how the matter stands.

Judge Douglass made the grant to Dr. Eddy in the spring of 1855.

In a few weeks -- possibly a couple of months -- he went to Terra Haute before he had given Dr. Eddy time to Demonstrate whether he would make a success or a failure.

Mr. Douglass was not in Chicago again until about the first of April 1856

In December 1855 he still clung to Dr. Eddy, and extended the time to March 1, 1856--promising it to Dr. Burroughs on a certain contingency, on that day.

That contingency happened, but Mr. Douglass still clung to his old and loved preceptor, and got an extension of two weeks beyond the time he had stipulated to transfer the grant to Burroughs.

This shows that he could not have offered it to any body else previously, and that no railroad meeting could have been held at the Tremont prior to Dr. Burroughs receiving the grant.

My theory is this -- and it is the only possibly (sic) one: After Mr. Douglass' return about the 1st of April 1856, after the adjournment, the meeting was held at the Tremont. That at this time Mr. Douglass, said to Mr. Walker that as Dr. Eddy had failed for the Presbyterians he had concluded to make the offer to the Baptists. Mr. Walker, not having heard of it before, thought it an original proposition and made the reply he did.

Dr. Burroughs went to Philadelphia (an illegible word and and inserted) Boston, I believe, to consult the brethren, and might not have returned after until after the Tremont meeting was held.

The first public meeting on the subject of the University was held in my brother's office on the 14th of July, 1856. Mr. Walker was chairman and I was secretary.

It was there resolved to advise Dr. Burroughs to go ahead with the enterprise.

Mr. Walker took ^{hold} of the matter with zeal, and worked with his accustomed energy.

Dr. Eddy called on my a few months before his death -- two or three years ago-- and spent a couple of hours. He never tired of talking about Mr. Douglass, and repeated the story of the part he took in the University matter.

(Written by J. O. Brayman

signed T.W. Goodspeed)

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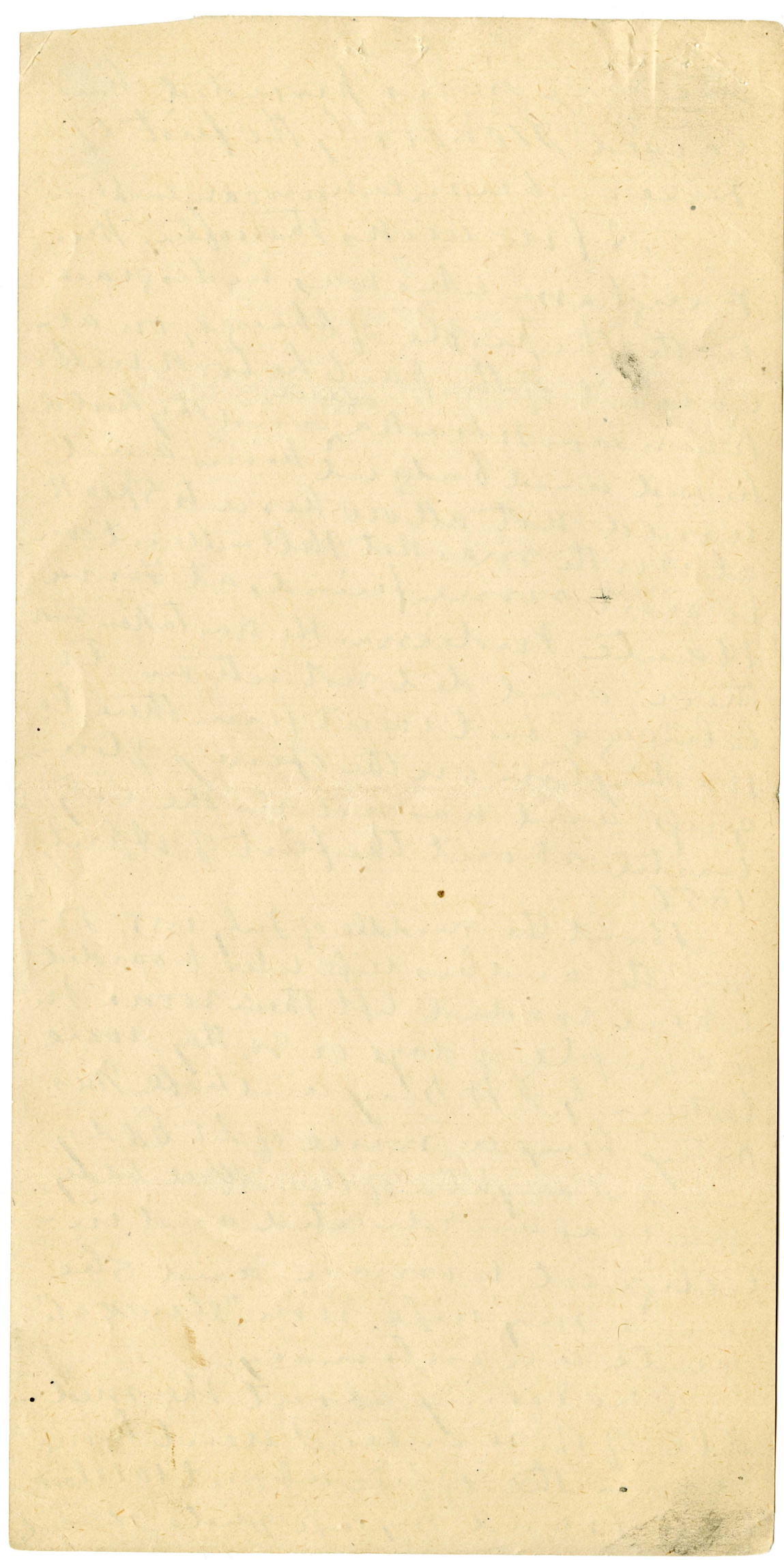
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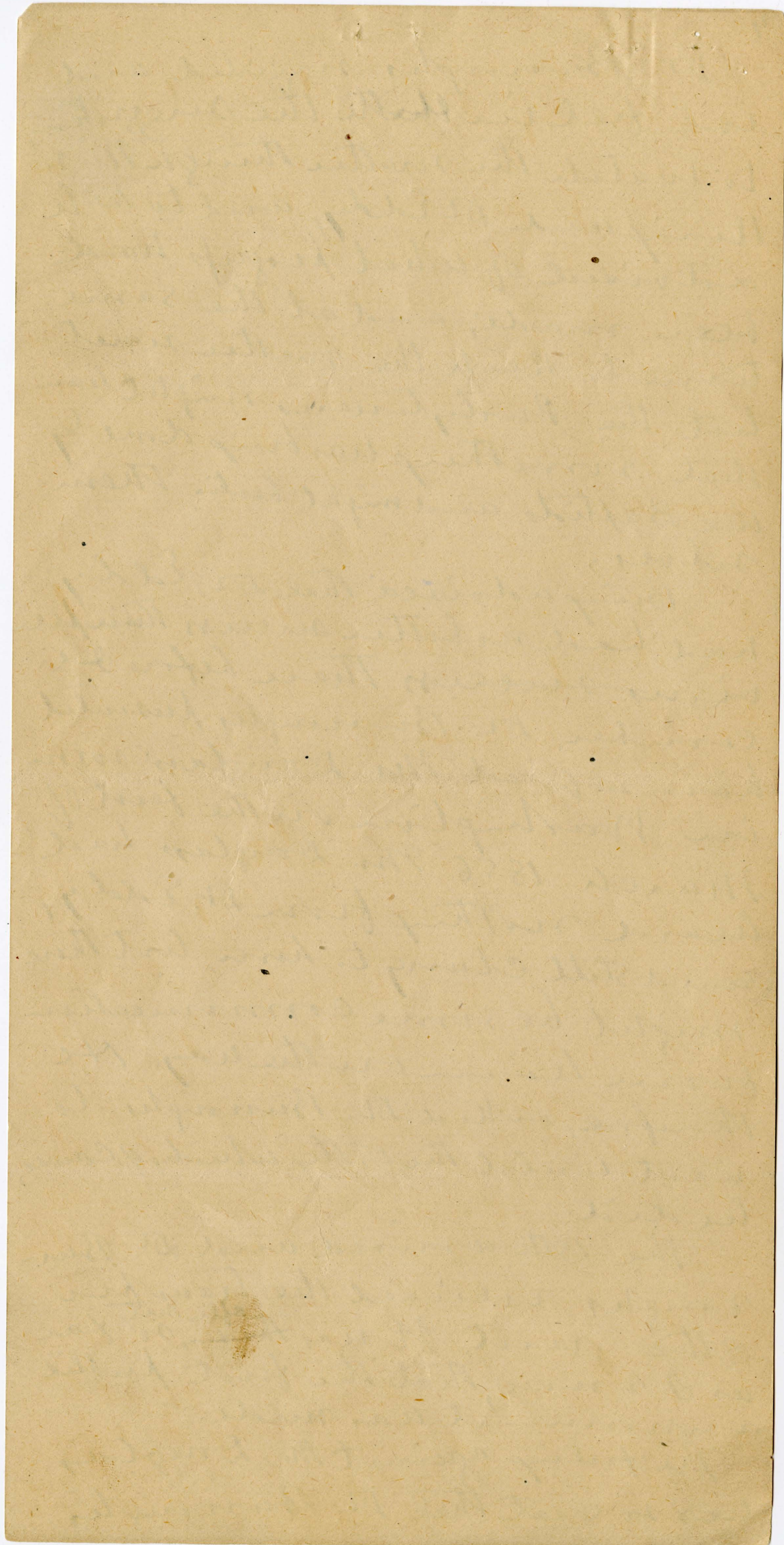
[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

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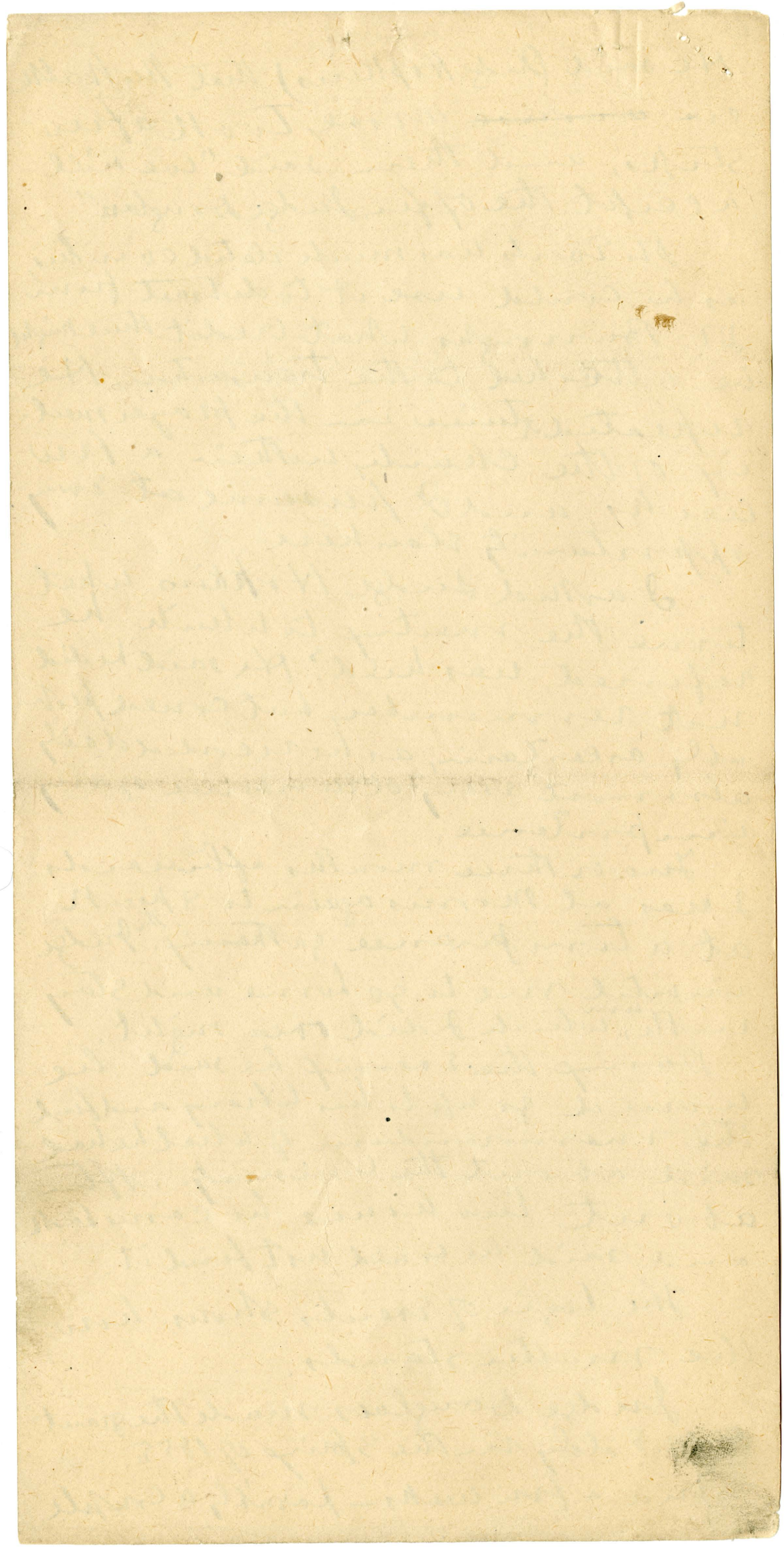
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