

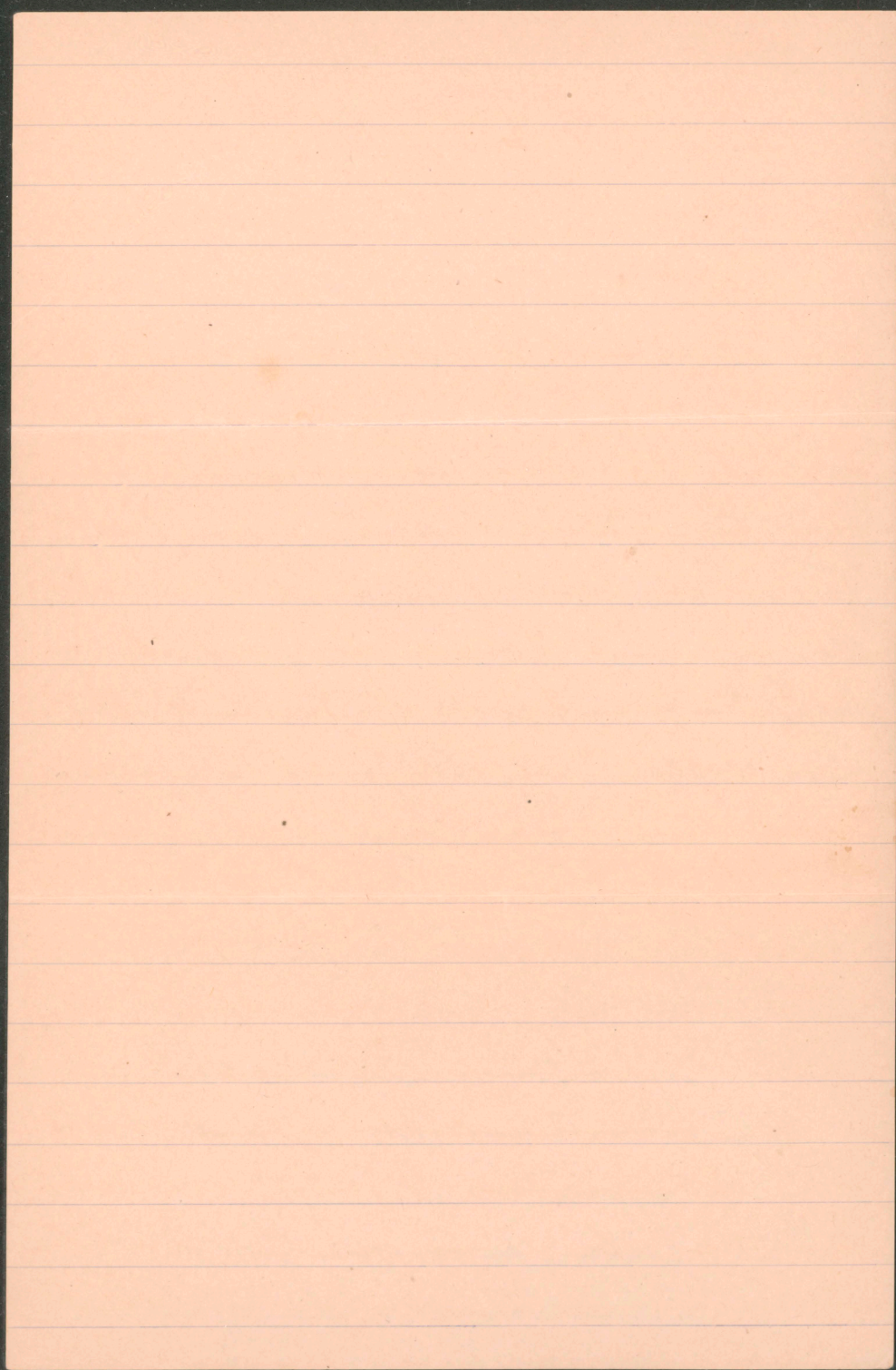
Washington, D.C. 12/24/97

My darling little wife to be:

I don't see what right you have to
ever think that I do not love you.

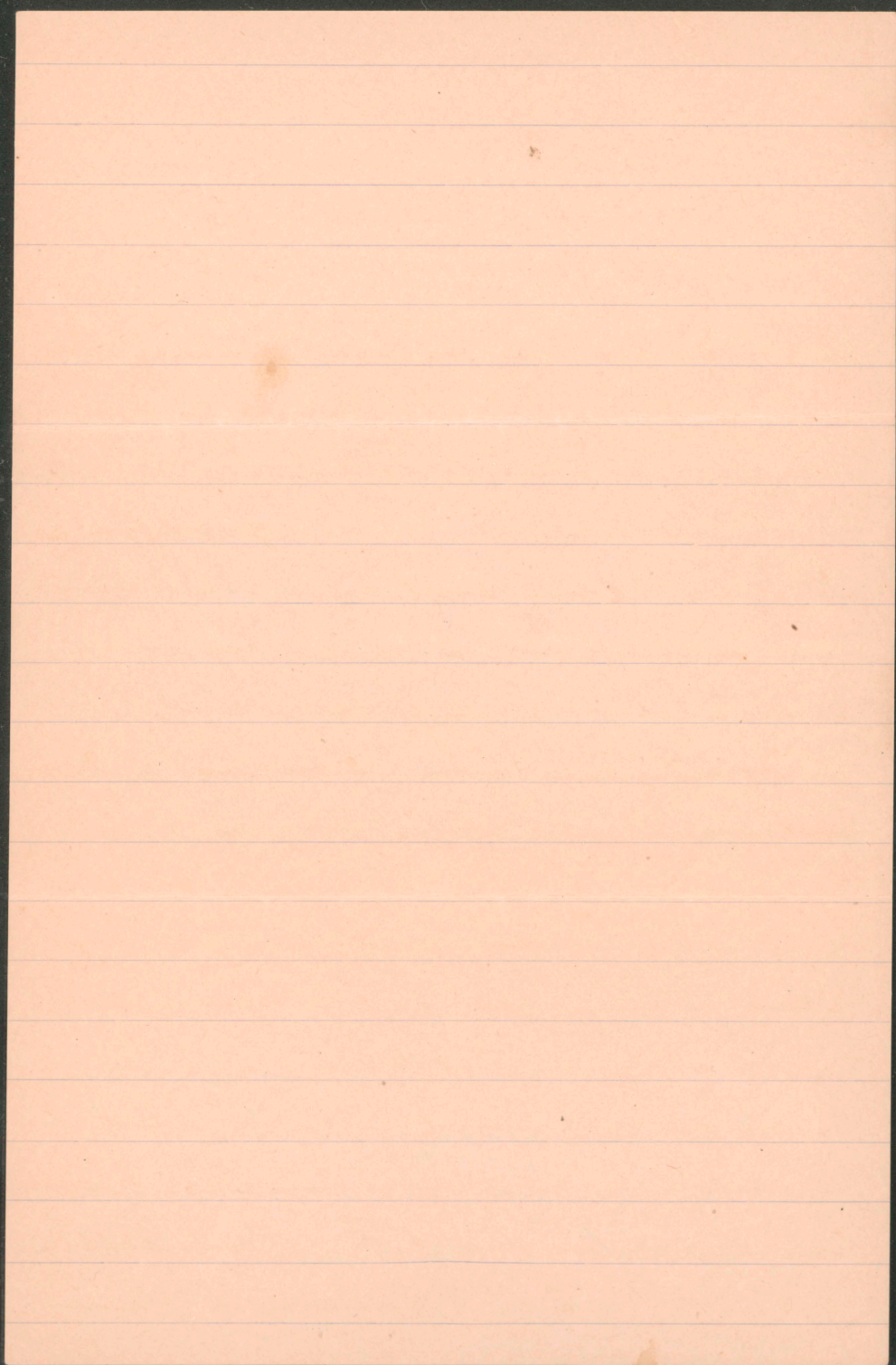
You know better, dear. Now I am
going to be your husband and you
had as well begin to learn ~~that~~ obey
now as later, so I commanded you
not to think such things any more,
for I do love you beyond my power
to express it. I am trying to
live just as you would have me
live. Liquor seldom passes my lips,
and I am striving hard against
other temptations that are strongly
assailing me.

I am yours, conscious dear that
the Journal work is far below



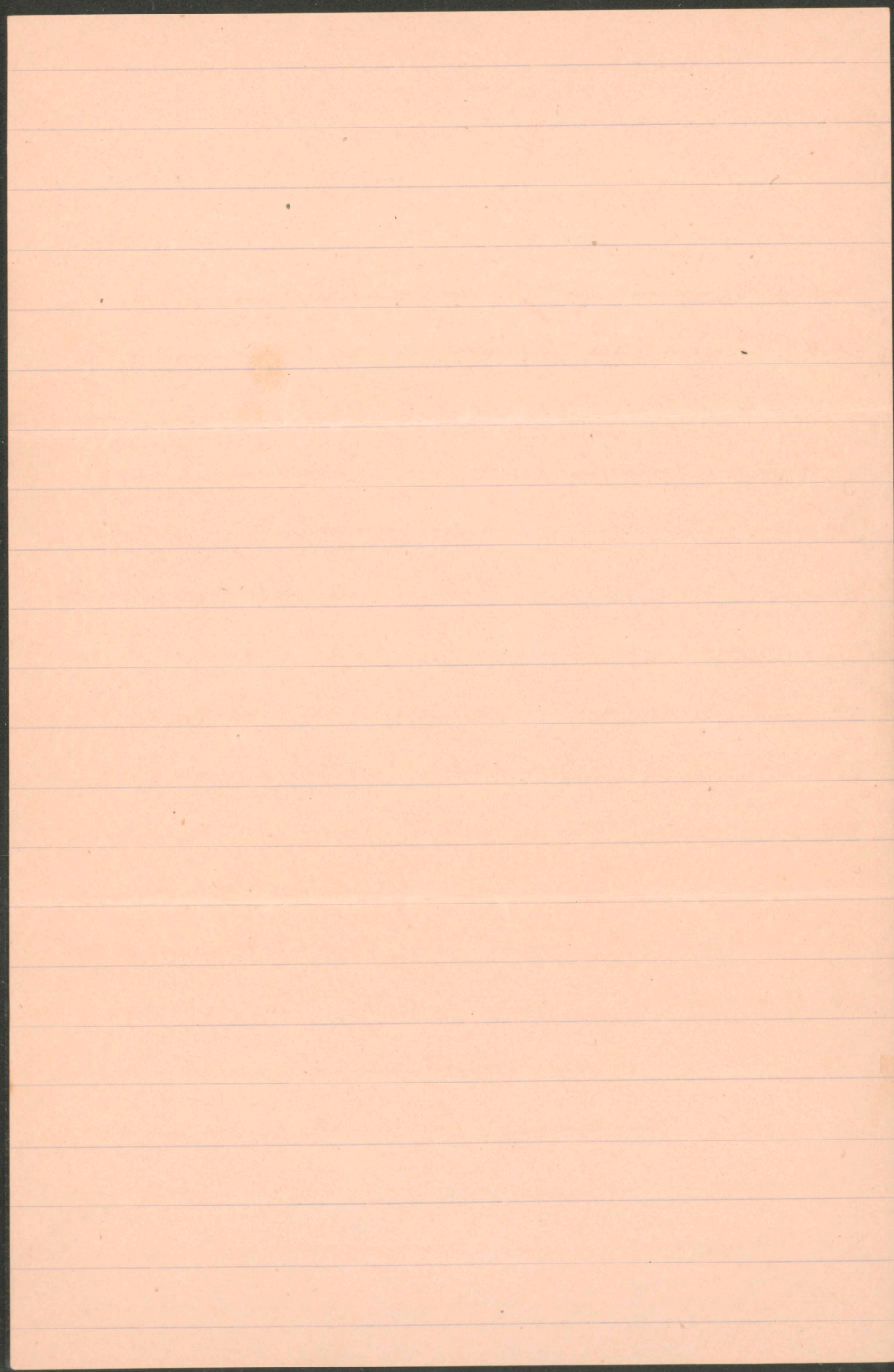
my standard of production, and I
 will quit if you wish me to, but it
 is hard to give up the money these little
 sketches bring. They paid me \$20.00
 for the one last week and I do not
 know what I shall do to supply the
 place when I quit the Journal. Fif-
 teen dollars a week is so much
 less than thirty and looks partic-
 ularly small when a man must
 to many more.

Every one here is talking about our
 approaching marriage and I am
 being unsuccessfully joked about
 it. I have had to give non-com-
 ments about the matter. The Col-
 orad American announces it this



week. So you see we must hurry now
even if I have to write back for the
journal in order to do it. However, I
take your scolding with a good grace
and with my soul with the kisses
that follow it. I wish they were
real, and long and 'dangerous.'

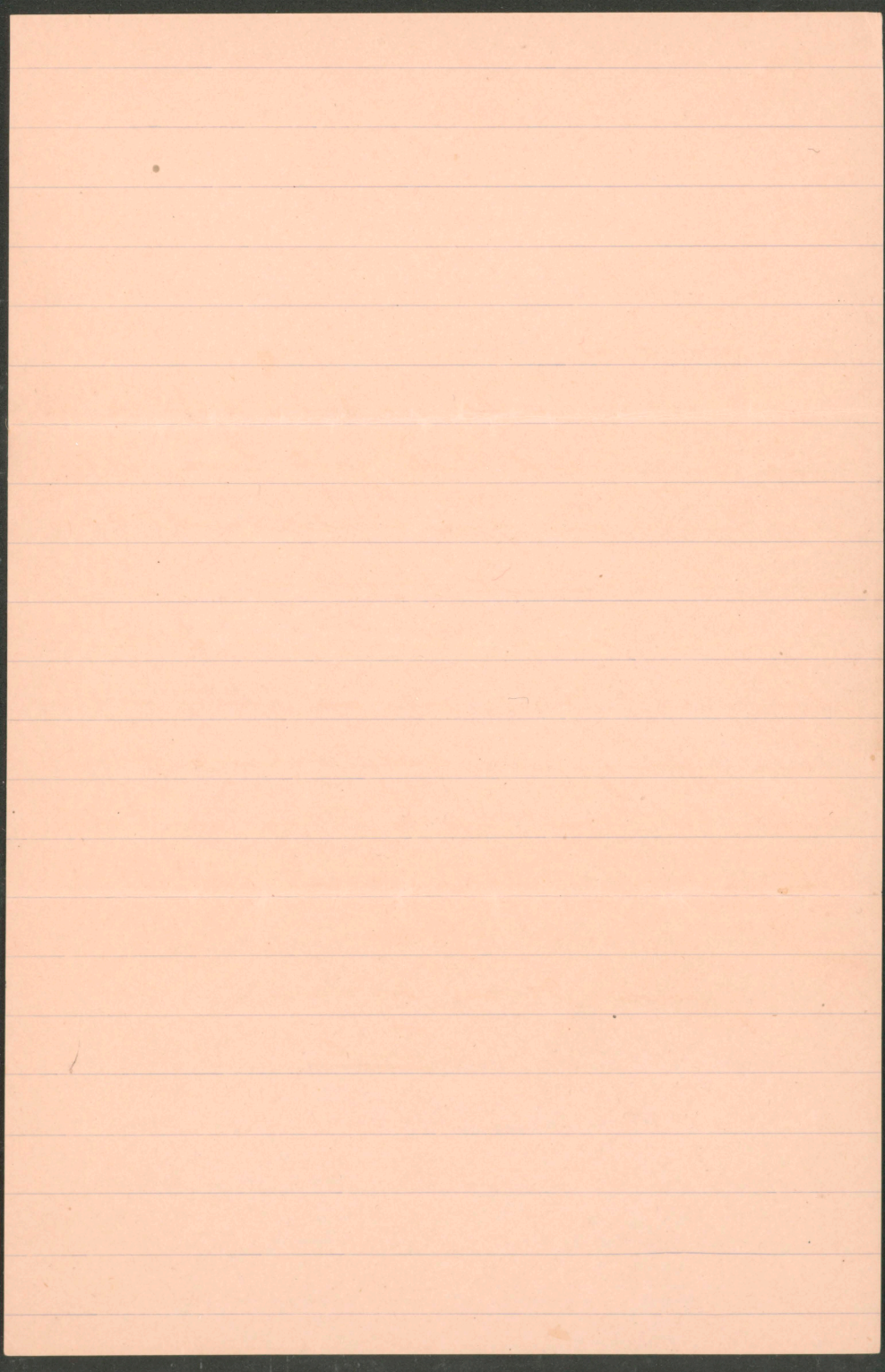
Sometimes dear, I feel as if I can-
not wait any longer for you, but
must marry you at once. I know
now what Louis's heart-hunger is.
I am working my hand to accomplish
my object, even that I have not done
a line on my novel. My recital
Monday night was a success. I sell
here again on the 5th, Philadelphia
on the 17th (I wish you could be here),



here again at Friends Church on the
23rd and in Baltimore during the
same month as you see I may ex-
pect to make some money.

I am debating now whether to take a
house among colored people in the n.
w. which is far from my work & costs
25⁰⁰ a month or one in the n. e. away
from colored people (that is generally)
nearer my work and costing about
\$20⁰⁰.

The advantage of being
in the northwest is that we are al-
ways near a crowd of the folks often
too near. I am not sure just what
to do. Blessing, I want you so much.
I want to be your protector. I want
to take all your burdens off your
shoulders and bear them for you.



Can we not do it now?

I shall never do you such a trick as
that man did that girl, love, only
not marrying you could make me
want to commit suicide.

Love me dear always, as I shall
love you. Write me as often as you
can, for your letters help me
and lift me up. They are talk-
ing temperance here for God
take let me close.

Your own lover

Paul. (DOWBAR)

