

Washington, D.C. Dec 5th 97

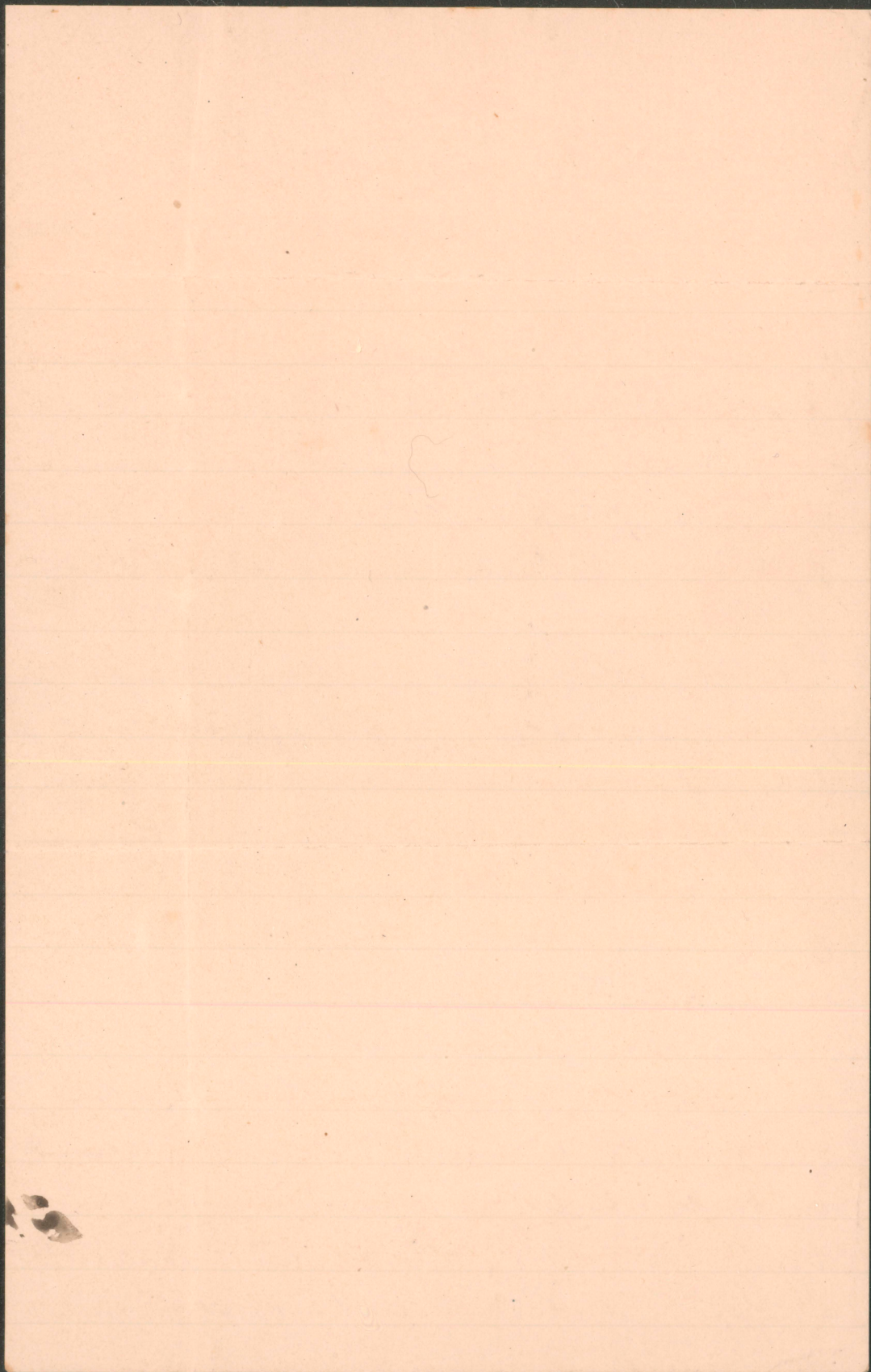
Dear little wife to Be!

All day long I have been trying to sit down and write you a letter, but not until now has the opportunity come. People have been coming in all afternoon to see my mother as if she were a freak and I tremble to think of the call I shall have to go with her to pay.

In our solitary hours I have made her miserable, and bored her exceedingly longing for you and speculating as to whether you are better or worse.

You know dear when I do not hear from you I always imagine the worst of all possible calamities.

Dear, one thing has been haunting me for days. Won't you tell the doctor about me - our whole story - how I was a drunkard's wife who let his passion obscure his love? I want you to do it, dear, because I am afraid that he will think ill of you



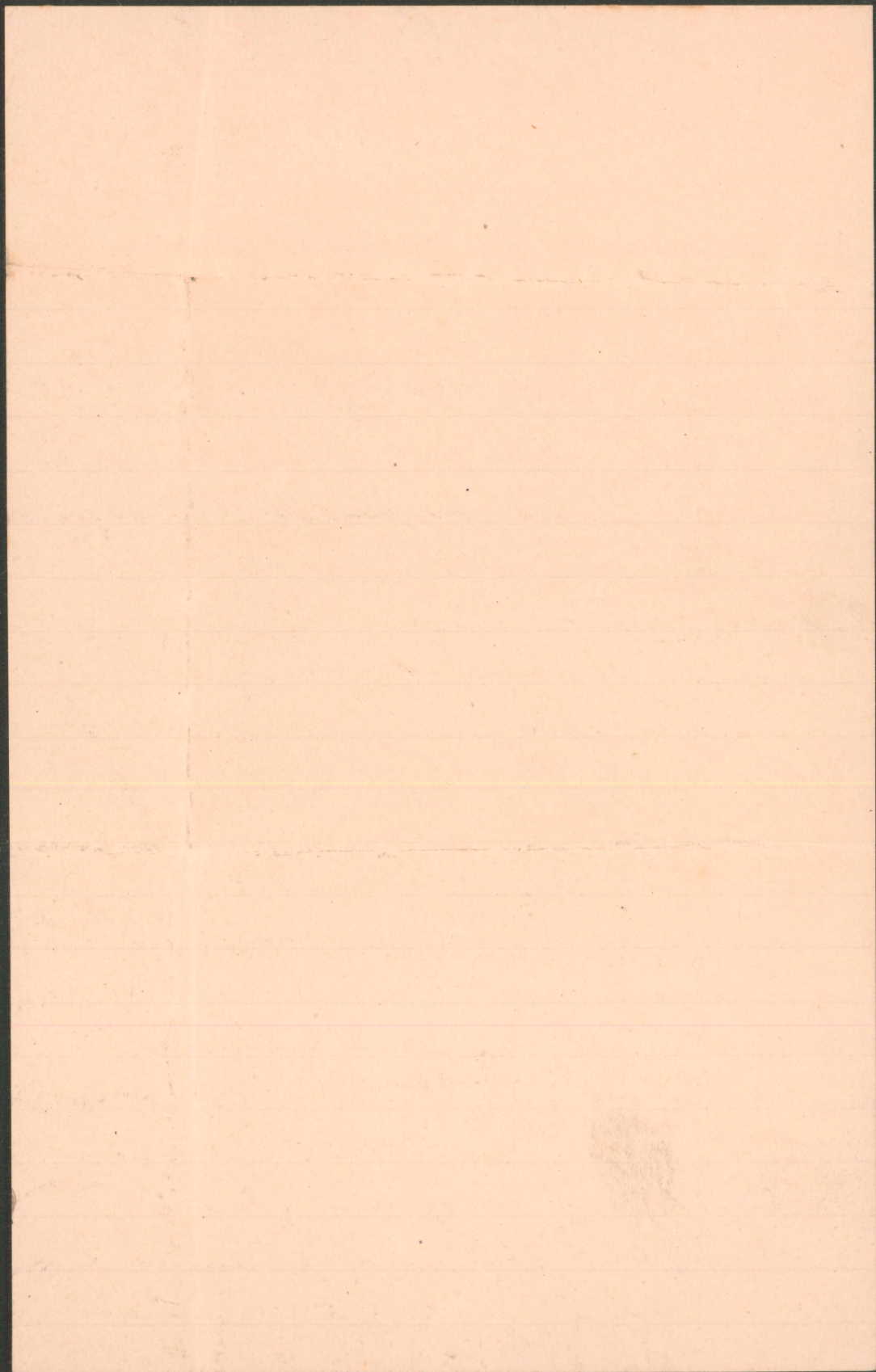
and I could not bear that. What he thinks of me I do not care.

Another question, Cannot you not visit
hastily in Christmas or before that time?
I want to see you so much and talk with you.
You can either come to us or go to Mrs.
Tweed. You might come to us at once
while you are convalescing. I should so
like to help nurse and cuddle you. It
would brace me up a bit, I know.

I hope that Mrs. Matthews has not
yet suspected any thing as I do not re-
gard her as entirely discreet; but, let
us not think of the past now, but look
forward to a happy future together.

This is all my dearest, dear, and I
have come to think that I have wronged
her my former place without you.

It must all sound very ironical to
you when I protest that I do love you
so much; but dear I am going to try
and live down that black phantom of
the past that follows and curses



me. Some day, soon I hope, you shall
lay your head on my breast and sob
out all your sorrows and your anguish
of body and mind to me, and I will soothe
you and kiss your tears away, and
say, "but it's all right now, little wife,
let us spend the rest of our days
in loving and for getting?"

Shall this be the picture, darling?

Your Husband — — (L. L.)

Paul
(DUNBAR)

