

From: Paul Laurence Dunbar Boston To: Alice Dunbar Wilmington, Del.

[1903]

Boston, Mass. May 7<sup>th</sup>

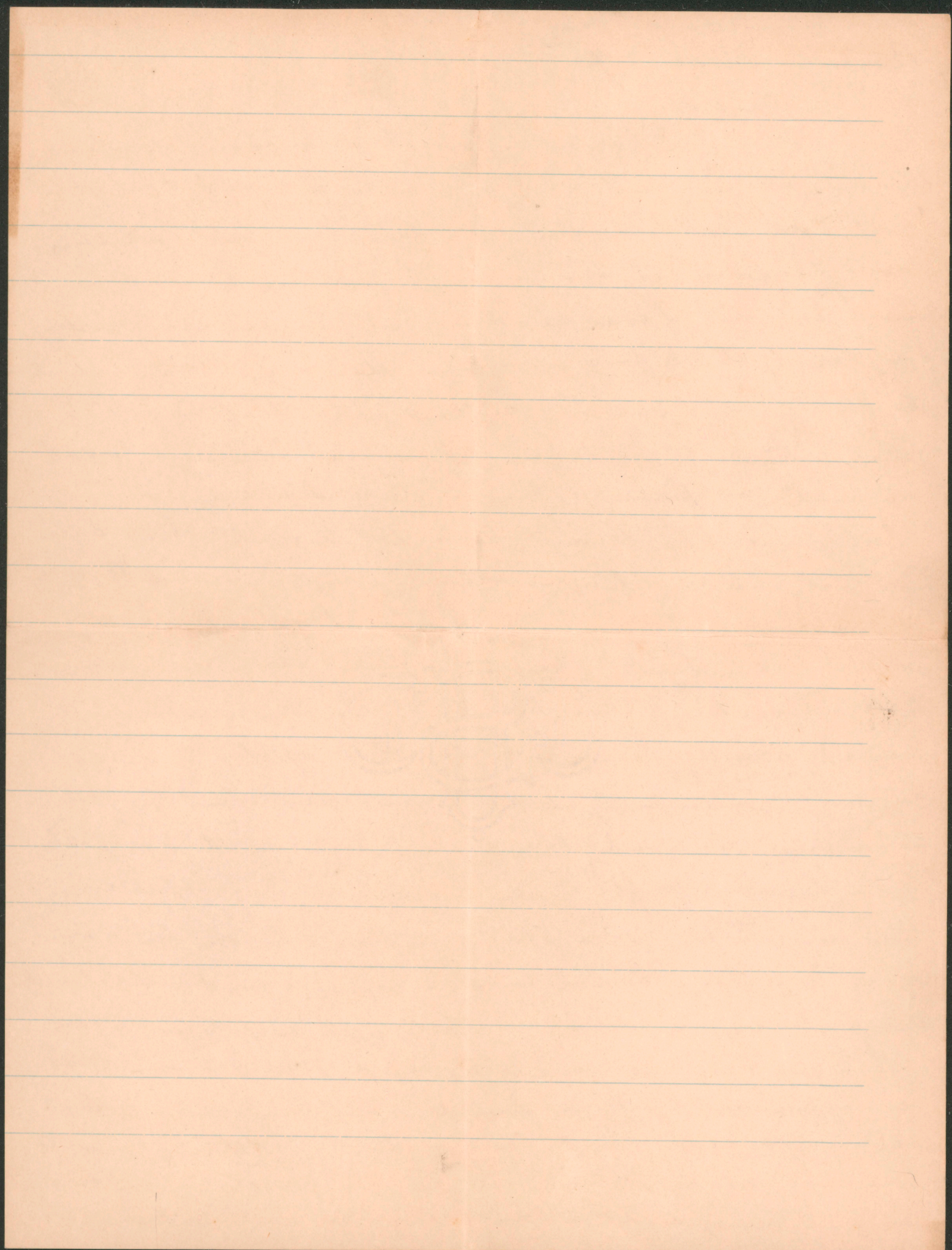
Little girl:

I hardly know how to begin writing to you. It has been so long since I could call you 'little girl', but whether you like it or not, whether your freedom is too sweet to give up or not I must say the I was reading at Salem yesterday for one of the oldest woman's clubs in Mass. and the joy of the success was so great that I felt I must share it with you. You are always with me and the past is like a black dream.

Perhaps I should not have dared write this letter had not our situation been brought home to me by meeting a Mrs. May, a friend of Leila's, in Salem. She knew Leila's whole story for she had stopped at the hotel (with the impossible name) which James ran. She spoke of Leila's coming up unexpectedly to see him and of his decentiment and she sent love and sympathy to the deserted wife! by God, how I felt. Alice, there must be some plane upon which we can come together. I have been a coward and a bastard but I love you, may I call you wifeless again?

Won't you visit me some where and take it over? Don't be influenced by your friends. The very ones who who would have been the quickest to advise you to remain away from me are the quickest to take me up, here, and it has been so every where.







After the first two weeks of our separation, a separation that I have not yet realized, there has not been a day when with heartache I have not longed for you my wife. Nothing can take you away from me. Nothing can run away us. Don't you remember when we used to say that we had married for eternity?

I am a broken hearted man, but, thank God, you are mine. Will you meet at Sallie Brown's or some place in New York within the next few days? Write me please and I shall stay here for a day or two to await your answer. What ever that may be, answer.

I am here at 221 West Newton St. with Pong Marshall. Answer me for God's sake.

Goodnight, little wife.

Hubbins.



