

Obituary of

James M. Taylor.

He was a burning and a shining light.

The subject of this short memoir was well known to many of us, and I believe was well beloved by all who knew him. And as he was beloved in life so also he was lamented in death. To many his memory is very precious and to them these lines are affectionately dedicated, with a prayer that his acts and words may ever live (undimmed by the vicissitudes of human life or the flight of rolling years) upon memory's brightest page. To stimulate us to noble deeds of virtue, that we like him in death, may lie down not like the barren tree, but rich in the fruit of virtuous thought and noble action, winning in time

That prize

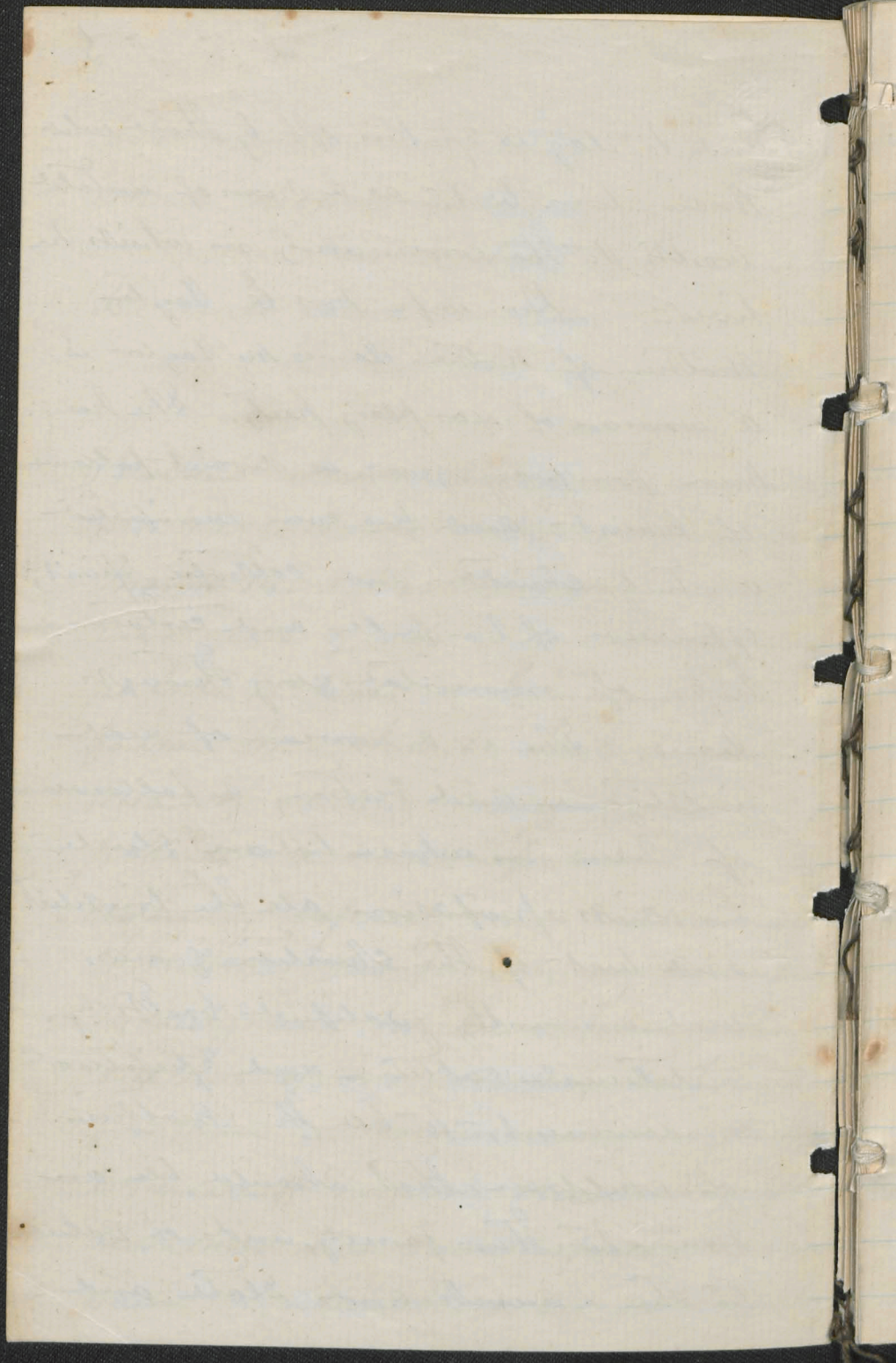
"Which nothing earthly gives or
can destroy

The soul's calm sunshine and
The heart-felt-joy"

Brother James M Taylor was born
in Pasquotank County North Carolina
March 14th 1839. and when about
two years of age came with his
parents to live in Calif. His
father Mr. James Taylor was a
man of sterling integrity and
possessed a mind of more than
ordinary capacity and culture.

Honesty and firmness, coupled with
modesty and kindness formed the
outline of his character, and were
for him a commanding influence
wherever he was known. Indeed
few men live more respected, or die
more regretted than did Mr Taylor.

and to-day is spoken of by those who
 knew him best, as a man of untold
 worth to the community in which he
 lived. His wife Mrs E Taylor,
 Mother of Mother James Mc Taylor is
 a woman of exemplary piety. She has
 been for many years a devout follower
 of Christ. And has ever manifested
 a truly Christian and catholic spirit;
 expression of her full and certain
 hope of immortal glory through
 Jesus. She is a woman of real
 intelligence and virtue, a follower
 of Jesus in whose bosom cluster
 in rich profusion all the brightest
 and best of the Christian graces,
 and eminently qualified both by
 intellectual culture, and spiritual
 endowment, - to be the mother
 of children. That should be an
 honor to their family, and of value
 to the Church and State and



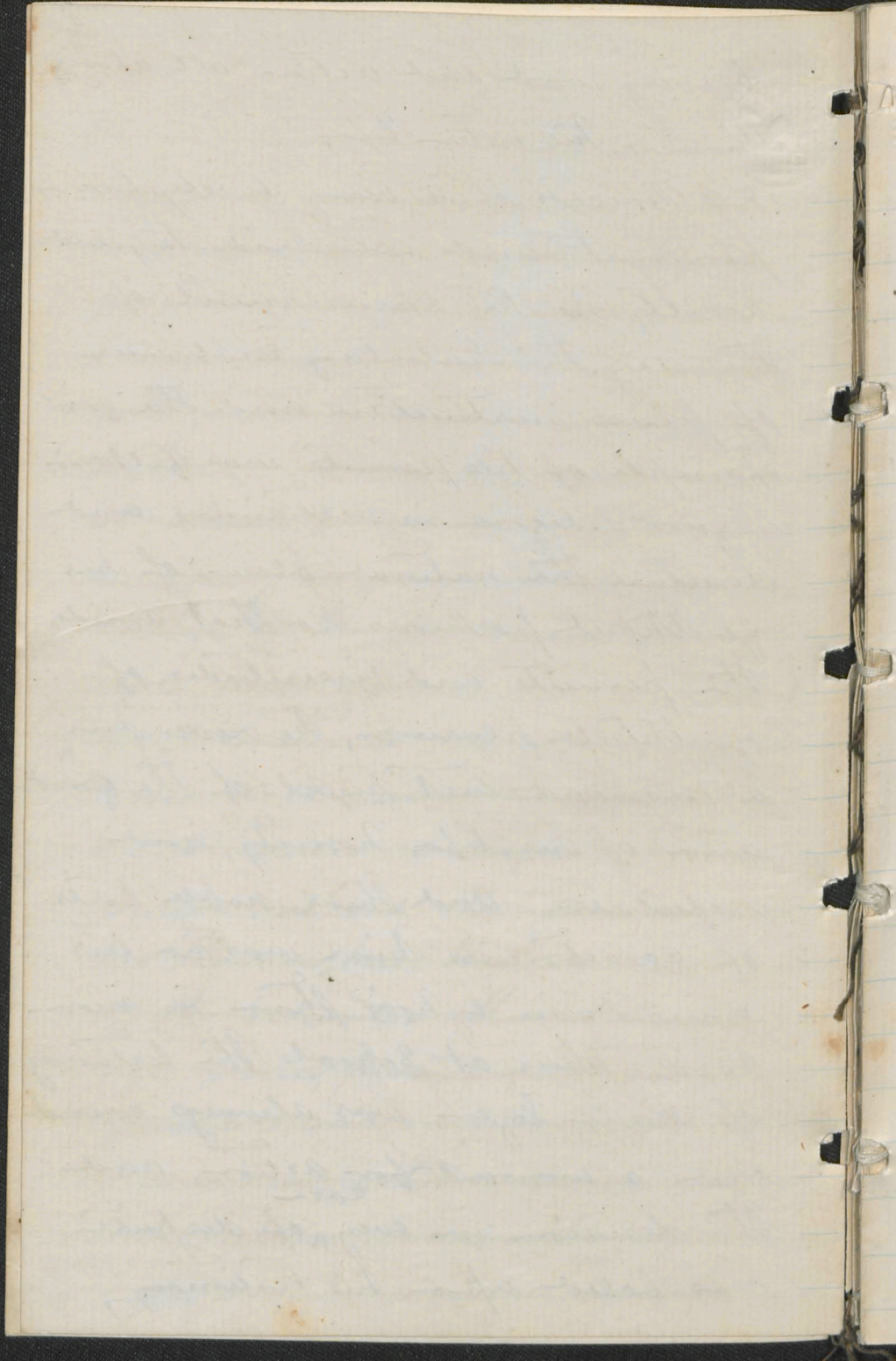
Such are the children of Sister
Taylor, among whom Brother James
was not the least.

Such were the parents of our brother
when in 1841, they came with
their family to reside in Iowa, and
settled near Sunbury. at that
time unsurpassed for intelligence and
refinement by any portion of eastern
North Carolinians. The social circle
into which Mr Taylor and family
entered was the highest - of which
if they became not the first, they
stood the peers of the proudest.
which position they have ever occupied.
Mr Taylor was possessed of fine
estate which he managed with
skill and was thus enabled to
spare no pains or expense in fitting
his family for the elevated position
which they sustained to the social world.

Of the early childhood of Brother
Taylor we know but little, save that
in the language of his sister "He was
petted and almost idolized at
home. And his mother and sisters
felt proud to call him son and
brother. Brother Taylor was placed
at school, at an early age, in the
Simsbury Academy then under the
charge of Mr Martin Kellogg an
able and efficient teacher, when
his attention to his books was so
remarkable and his progress in
his studies so rapid that he
gained not only the confidence of
his teacher, but the admiration
of the school. Thus at an early
age giving promise of his future
greatness, and inspiring all who
knew him with confidence as to
his future worth, which promise
was realized and confidence sustained

by every word and action all along
through his entire life,

Although of a very lively tem-
perment - and ever ready to join
heartily in the amusements of
the day. The salutary influence
of pious instruction and the good
example of his parents was felt in
a good degree in restraining and
directing the natural flow of his
youthful passions. so that amidst
the permits and vicissitudes of
youthful pleasure, he never for
a moment lost sight of the grand
aims of his life, honesty, and
usefulness. And these noble traits
of character in him was no less
evident in boyhood than in man-
hood. When at school the testimony
of Simon Taylor was always consid-
ered a warrant for action, and
the decision in every ^{case} of dispute
was based upon his testimony,

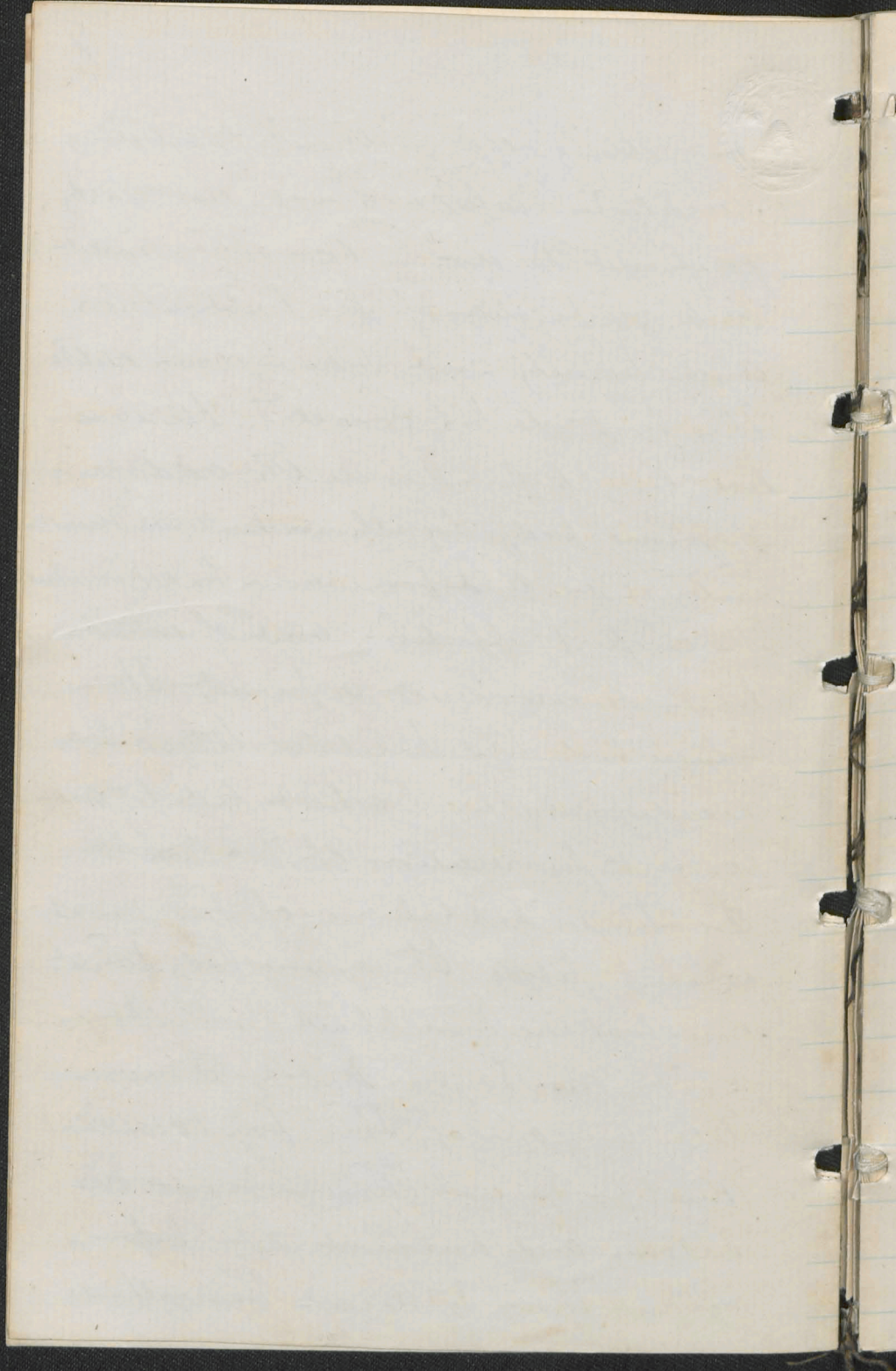


wherever his testimony could be had;
at home as at school he was known
to speak the truth and none in the
family ever questioned the statements
of Jimmie. How well he loved the
truth is aptly illustrated by the follow-
ing incident - which I have from
his mother. On one occasion

Williams a brother of Brother Taylor
opened the gate and turned out
some stock to the provoking of
this porther, when the mischief was
discovered Mr Taylor enquired as
to the author, from the tone and
manner of the old man it was
evident - that the perpetrator of the
mischief would be punished.
Williams denied the charge when
Jimmie was called and though he
loved him he must tell the truth
and in tears stated the fact - and

then going to his man sobed out -
Man I hate to see Jan whip Budie
I am sorry for Budie but - I could
not lift a lip This same spirit
of honesty, and love of truth character-
ized his whole life and ^{was} marked by
all who came in contact with him.
I was once speaking of Brother
Taylor to one of his professors in college.
when the old professor remarked "He
is a Christian a Gentleman and a
Scholar. as honest and truthful
as he is studious and Intellectual."
In a letter to his mother while he was
in the Army and dated, General
Hospital No 10. Richmond Va.
April 7th 1863. Contains the follow-
ing verification of his honesty and
love of truth. "If I could possibly
have gotten off from here I would
have tried a short trip home
anyway but - There was no way

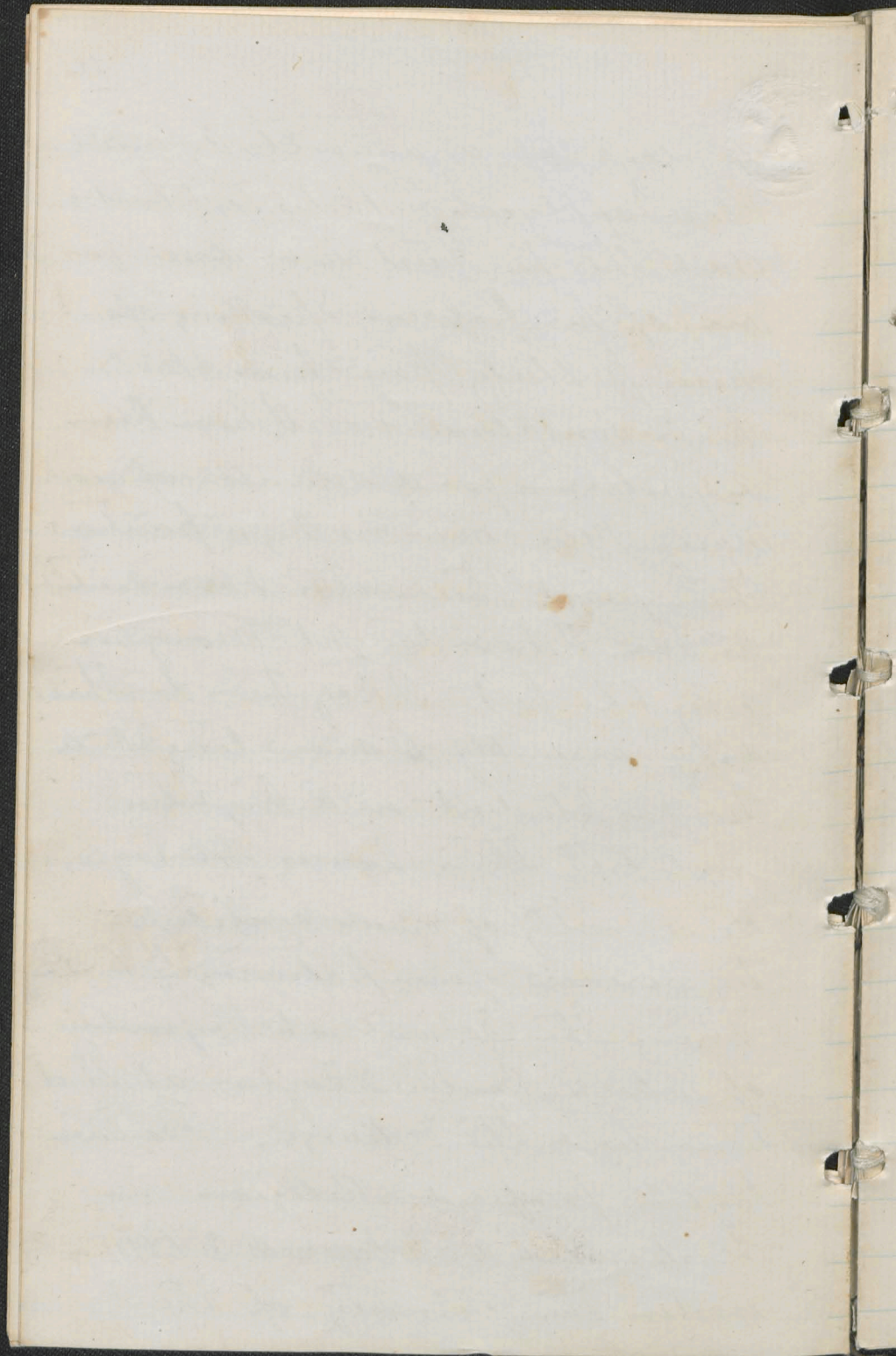
of getting off without practising deception which I was not exactly prepared to do." One other incident as a verification of his truthfulness and honesty and I have done with this part of his character. He was not long before his death addressing a young lady in whom he was much interested and for whom he cherished the deepest affection. And of which he had informed a friend. The young lady had hesitated to give a decided answer, which led to an earnest procreation of his suit. On the midst of one of his most earnest pleas. The young lady turned and looking him straight in the face said Mr Taylor did you never tell any one of this. For once in his life he was thrown from his balance and answered no. Before he had time to recover himself.



They parted This occurred on Sunday
evening Monday evening I visited
him and found him Restless and
anxious And when I inquired
the cause he told me that he had
told Miss — a falsehood and had
not slept a wink ~~the~~ since
that he was much troubled about
it — and had just written her a
letter acknowledging the falsehood
Which letter he read to me and which
contained this sentiment — That
he had rather weep to see her free
than win her by a false hood.
But enough I think — who have
known him in life will agree
with me When I borrow the ex-
pression of a Gentleman of Religon
ty. when speaking of brother Taylor
He says "I have met and mingled
with many men in my life but

never with one of more sterling
integrity a higher sense of pro-
priety, and embodying more of
those manly, honorable, and virtuous
characteristics, that so well adorn
the Christian and the Gentleman.
Brother Taylor entered Wake Forest
College in the month of July eighteen
hundred and fifty-four. Then little
more than fifteen years of age.
And though so young he at once took
the head of his class when he re-
mained almost without a peer
for two years, he quit college in June
fifty six and did not resume his
studies until January fifty nine
and graduated in June of the same
year. Although I have often
heard Brother Taylor speak of this
part of his life I do not now
recollect any thing specially re-
markable. He only refers to it.

as days of arduous study and
 close application to his text books.
 And this he must have done for
 one of his Professors speaking of
 him publicly paid him this
 high compliment. "I have been
 a professor for a number of years.
 Many men now in high positions
 throughout the South have resorted
 to me. I have taught many in
 my life but - I say here to this
 large assembly I never taught a
 harder student - or a brighter
 intellect than James M. Taylor.
 He is worthy of your confidence
 he deserves your patronage!! Re-
 member the school at Reynoldson
 of which Brother Taylor at that
 time had the charge. Brother
 Taylor prospered Religion in
 Clarksville Va March 3 1860
 under the Ministry of the



Rev Mr Green. When he was
at that time teaching, and was
baptized a few weeks after con-
necting himself with the baptist
church at that place. of his
Religious impressions and the circum-
stances that led to his conversion
we will then allow him to speak
for himself. we insert the letters
with respect to date and copy vir-
bation.

Clarksville Va Feb 27/60

Dear Sir

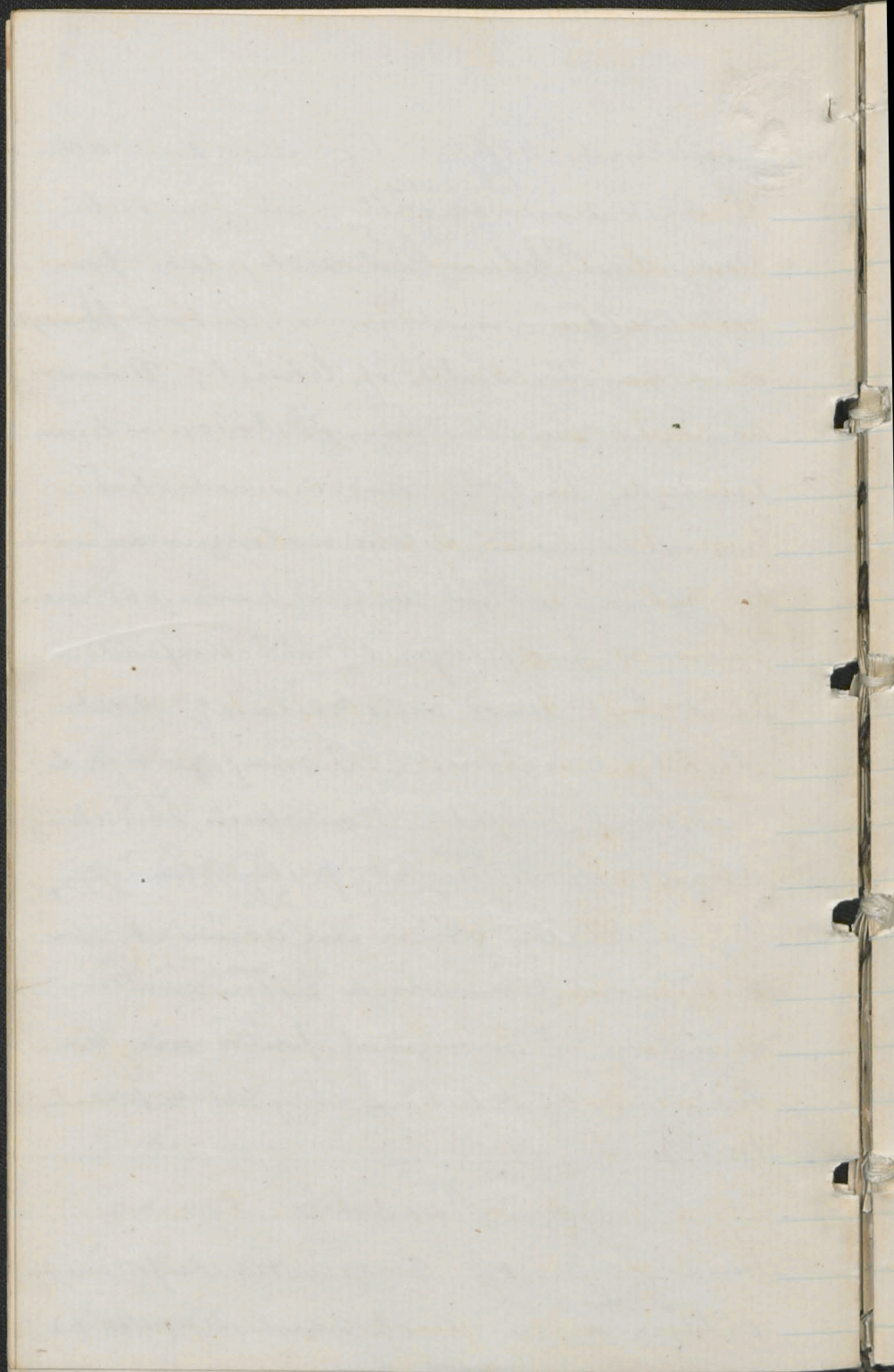
I wrote you in Suppise
one or little more than a week
ago and but that it is almost
time to write again. I always feel
uneasy when I do not let you all
hear from me quite often. I magni-
fy myself to great importance and
suppose you are always willing to

here from me. And I don't know
 why I should wish to write so
 often, for if there is at all times as
 great a dearth of news as at pres-
 ent - surely it would tire any one
 to read frequent letters from such
 a poor correspondent. But especi-
 ally do I feel like writing to night.
 Mr Green has been carrying on a
 protracted meeting here for several
 weeks (more than two) and I have
 felt on this as on all previous occasions,
 when I reflect seriously and solemnly
 on the subject, that I am an unwashed,
 unwashed sinner and that without
 Christ's atonement and God's favor
 I am lost. And I have thought
 too that my life is not destin-
 ed to be very long, and unless a pure
 Radical change of heart and
 purpose, it will not be well with
 me after death. Now I know

yard and Steffie love me and all
 I ask now is that you present
 my case before God, and plead for
 my welfare and in my behalf, through
 and for the sake of Christ; I have
 thought - here & there - that it was him-
 enough, but it has reached that
 point - when I can no longer deceive
 myself in that way, I have not been
 forward for prayer at the anxious
 seat but have been seriously and
 deeply concerned. I may go up to-
 morrow night; have been thinking
 about it - to night pretty strongly,
 I gave Sister Ann an account of
 my condition in a letter written
 Sunday. I have great faith in her
 prayers, and believe they will avail
 much.

Your Buddie

Three days of anguish, deep and
 bitter anguish of soul, such as



none can describe, and none know
save those who have drank of the
worm wood, and the gall of Repentance,
who have felt the need of a Saviour,
and the crushing weight of their sins,
minging as it even the sweat of blood
from the pores of their body, was spent
by Brother Taylor when on the 2^d March
with a broken heart and a bowed
spirit he deats himself to write to
his Mother. His letter is dated

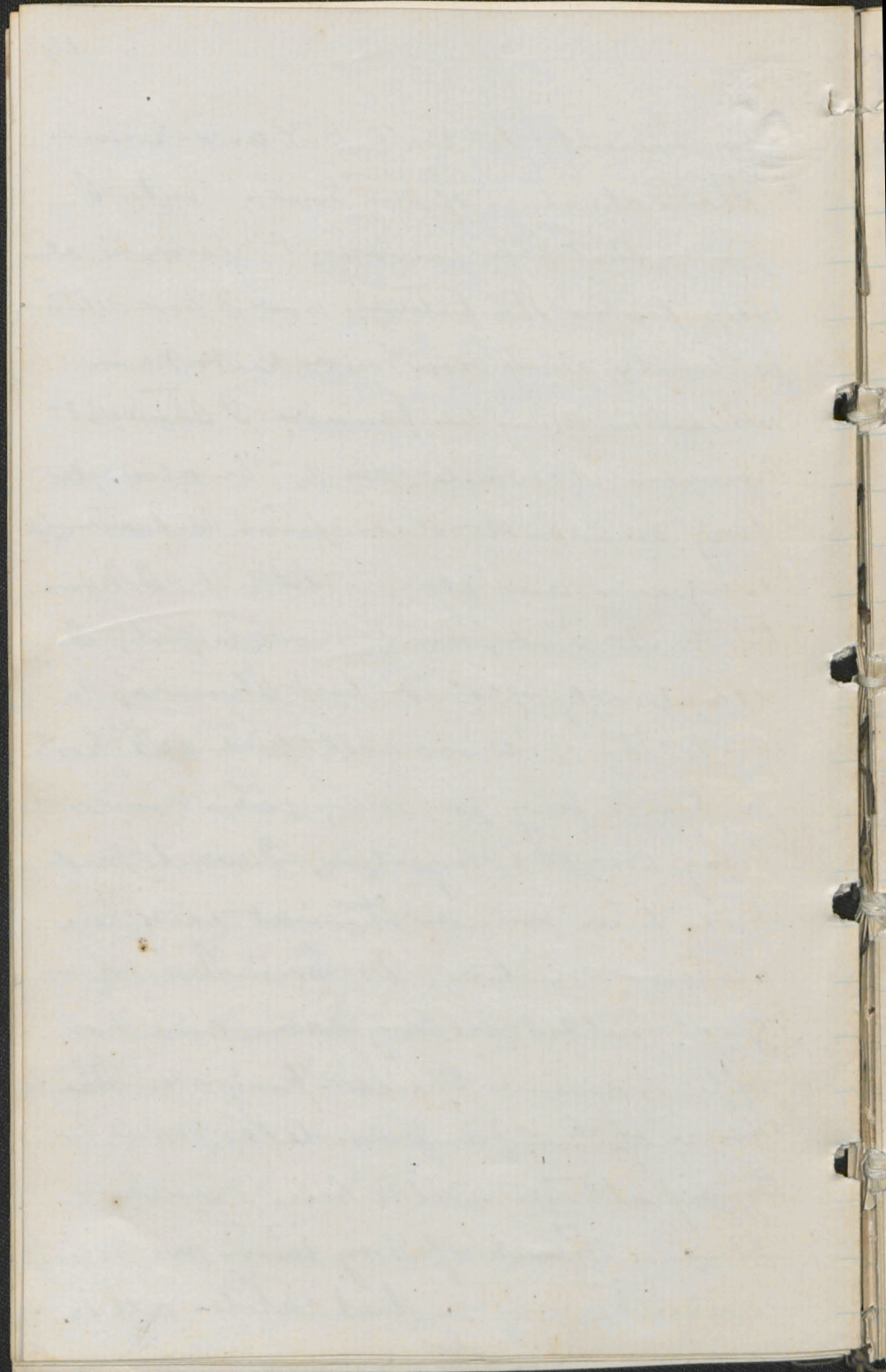
Clarksville March 2^d 1860

My Dear Mother

I write you to day lest
I may not have an opportunity to-
morrow. I have nothing however
of news to communicate. My whole
soul has been steeped in sorrow
and grief and I have been earnest
ly (I think) seeking for a remission
of my sins, for some evidences of

divine favor and acceptance, but
alas, alas! The darkness thickens
and the gloom increases. There
has been no time in my life when
I have not at times, felt concerned
about my soul but especially
during the last two years has it
come home to me with overwhelming
force. I have reasoned much and
tried sophistry. And I have Skep-
ticism, but they will not stand
the test and are obliged to yield
before the truths of the Gospel. I
am now fully convinced that it
is my duty, my highest good and
greatest happiness to serve God
and lead the life of Christian.
Indeed I have been convinced of this
fact for a long time but have
thought it was time enough
and have intended at some
future period, when all was

convenient to seek God and secure
 the salvation of my soul, but I
 find that the convenient season is al-
 ways far in the future and I have determined
 to break away now and seek Him
 while He may be found. I thought
 however it would do to be alone, to
 pray in secret and strive to leave off
 every sin and cling to Christ. I have
 tried it and found no comfort; I
 accordingly resolved last Thursday to
 go to the anxious seat and ask God's
 people to pray for me, for I cannot
 pray ought myself. I went and
 have been found there at each suc-
 cessive meeting. Mr Green has taken
 great interest in my case, and has
 offered several special prayers in the
 house of God for me. All dearer
 sympathize with me. I have
 spent much of my time in secret
 earnest prayer, but still all is



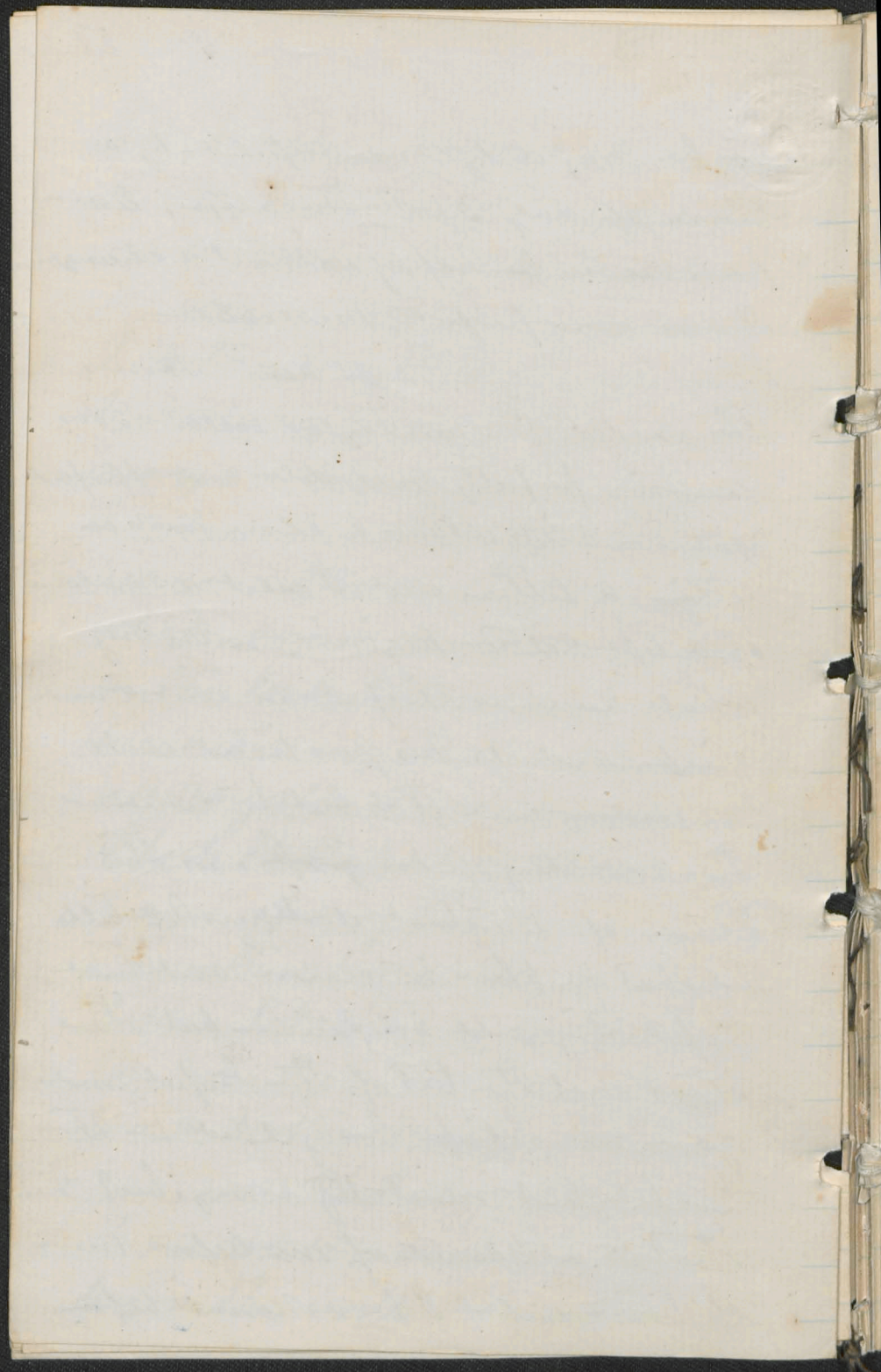
not well. But I have Resolved by
the grace of God to hold fast - to the
horns of the altar, I will never let
go and if I die without - Gods smile,
I have determined to die seeking
It, I have done what I can and
feel not only willing but anxious
to surrender all to submit. What
interventions between me and God
I know not, But I shall ever
continue to knock, to ask, to
importune, to importune God for that
blessing I so earnestly desire, I
owe him my allegiance, I owe him
every thing, and I desire to con-
secrate myself unreservedly to
his service, I feel that I am
already condemned and deservedly
so. I have no claim upon
Divine Goodness and if I never
Repent I must say that it is
just.

But - I believe Christ-blood is efficacious
to cleanse from all sin; and I have
resolved never to cease to ask that
it may be applied to my soul, and
O Mother pray that I may be able
to keep my vow, that I may be able
to carry out my resolution, pray that
I may receive the approbation of
Heaven, I desire to feel on the
whole assured and come out boldly
on the Lord's side, but without
His assistance I can do nothing,
all my efforts will be unavailing,
I feel that it is in answer to the
prayer of my pious friends that
I am thus brought to see my con-
dition, take this as an evidence that
they have been answered, and pray
for a bolder manifestation of His
goodness. If I can do any good in
this world I want to do it - and
begin the work now, I feel it -

to be my duty and impelled by a
 sense of duty I take this step, I
 can never be happy without a change
 I am now perfectly miserable.

Yours Son James

Thus ended Brother Taylors letter to his
 Mother. perfectly miserable and afforced
 sentiment with which to close such a
 letter a letter did I call a Revolution
 of a life rather beginning with my
 whole soul is steeped in sorrow and
 grief. and as his pen traced each
 succeeding line it is but to rehearse
 the sad story of his ~~grief~~ in this
 storm of spiritual darkness he tells
 us that he place to reason and tried
 sophistry and skepticism but these
~~did~~ not the test of the Gospel and
 gave no relief. he yielded to the
 Gospel but must try every but the
 that is ashamed of me before men
 of him will I be ashamed before

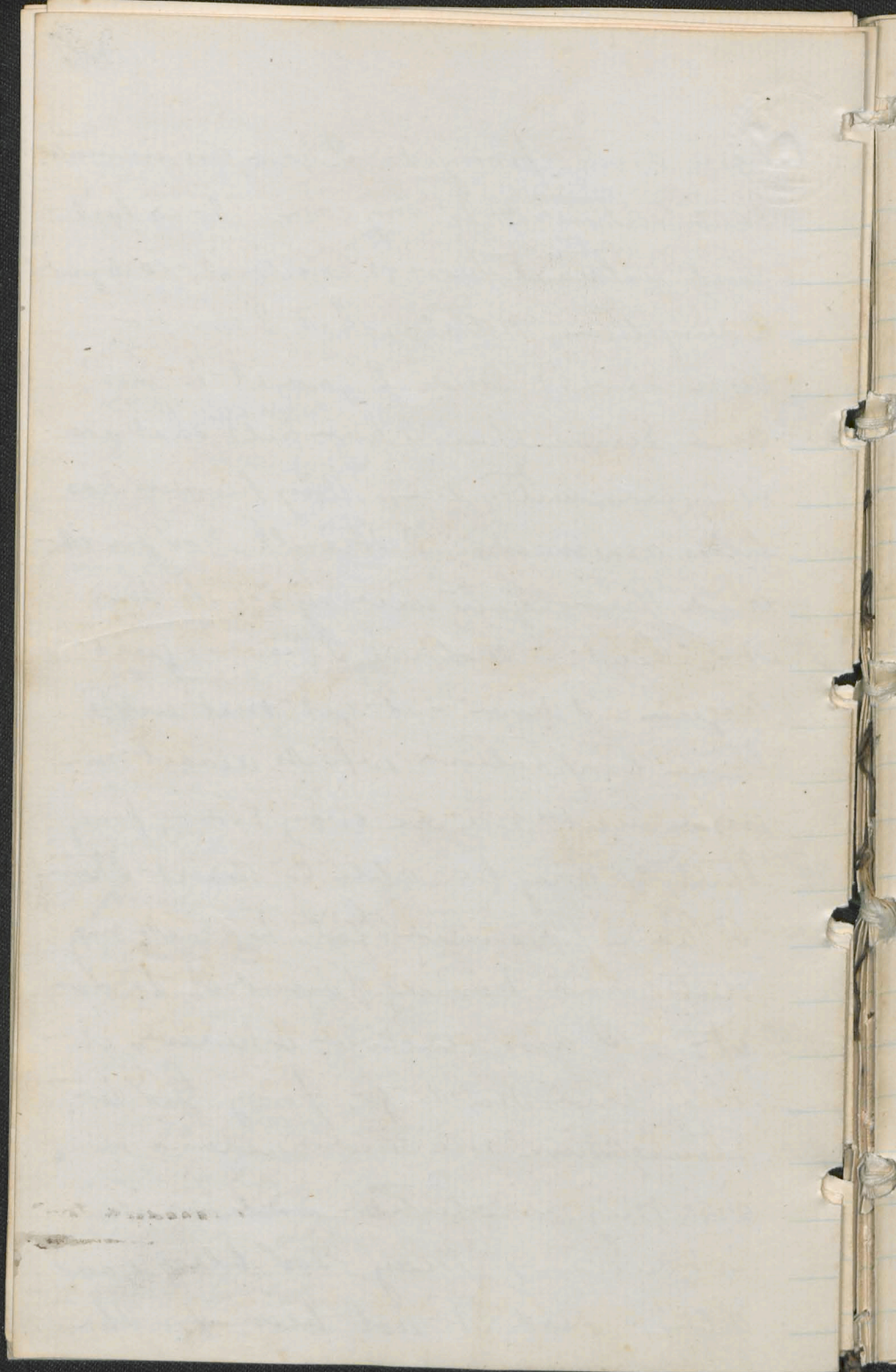


my father and the angels and
then he found no comfort - He then
must needs acknowledge the law of
Christ - and do all he can but it
is not of him that wills nor of him
that suffers and still all is not
well. Thus he wandered in darkness
and in doubt with a spirit-bond
and broken till perfectly miserable
he stand before God and hunger
and thirst for "salvation" as the
lost-children after the water-brook.
With him the law has indeed been
a school master, and right well
has it - taught him that eternal
life is the gift of God through
Jesus Christ - our lord. Thus it
was a school master to bring him under
Christ - and now here him in the
R. S. How soon the calm has ^{descended to} ~~bottomed~~
the storm, How rapidly the first -

Shrinks of morning are developed into
perfect day. How resplendently bright-
lens the sun as it glides from
between the clouds. And oh how re-
freshing beautiful appears the drooping
flower after a refreshing rain. He
has changed our father, no longer
tossed by the billows ^{no longer} ~~or~~ shrouded
in gloom but basking in the calm
sunshine of God's favor and
watered by the dews of heavenly
grace. Revived in spirit like a
watered flower and strong in
faith as the cedar of Lebanon and
fruitful in affliction ^{with the cure of} ~~and~~ will to
work for God. He hastens in almost
the same breath in which he says
I am perfectly miserable to tell
you how him.

Sunday evening my Dear
Mother after writing the above
and folding it up I knelt

Here and prayed. I have an immortal
Soul entrusted to my care, it is lost
and without Heavens smile it is beyond
Redemption, nothing that I can do
can save it - and I gave it to God,
and since then I have felt that all
is well with me. My burden has
been removed, I thank God for it
and know you will rejoice to hear
it. But O Mother I have just
begun. I have not yet met with
those temptations which await me
and beset me on every side, pray
that I may be able to resist them.
I have promised God to seek my
duty and having found it to do
it. I am resolved whenever it
may lead me to go, pray God to
strengthen me and sustain me
in my resolution and in its
execution, May God bless you
all, Had it not been for the



prayers of pious friend, in all probability it would not be with me as it is. Continue to offer them for me for they avail - it much.

Yours Son James.

Thus we hear brother Taylor rejoicing in the moments of his first love, and anticipating his future trials and temptation, he was not ignorant of the consequence of the sleep he had taken - but he had acted from a sense of duty; aware of his own insufficiency he relies upon the promises of God who is able and willing to help. And like a faithful soldier awaits the conflict. In a state of mind happily resigned to God he seems to have spent the night of 3^d of March 1860 and rises on the morning

of the 1st of March to dictate to
his sister the following

Clarksville wa March 3^d / 66

Dear Peppie I have only a few
moments to write this morning. I
wrote you a few days ago something
about my feelings as to the salvation
of my soul. I am most happy to
inform you that my feelings are
entirely different. I am no longer
in distress, the burden has passed
from me, Now or why I don't know,
I have dedicated myself and conse-
crated the whole energies of my soul
to the service of God, I rely upon him
to sustain me in my Resolution.

I ask an interest in your prayers, Peppie
pray God to make me useful, I
desire to be, I want to know
my duty, and knowing, I intend to
do it at all hazard. May God
sustain me and strengthen me

in my vows and their execution, I
 feel that I have a work to do and
 by the grace of God I'll do it. My
 only hope is in Him, But Iippin
 the prayers of a pious Mother
 and Sisters (I honestly believe) has
 first-brought me to reflect and God
 has done the rest, continue to pray
 for me and plead earnestly, I am
 just setting out and have innume-
 rable difficulties to encounter and
 temptations to resist; may I may be
 able to overcome them.

Yours Buddie

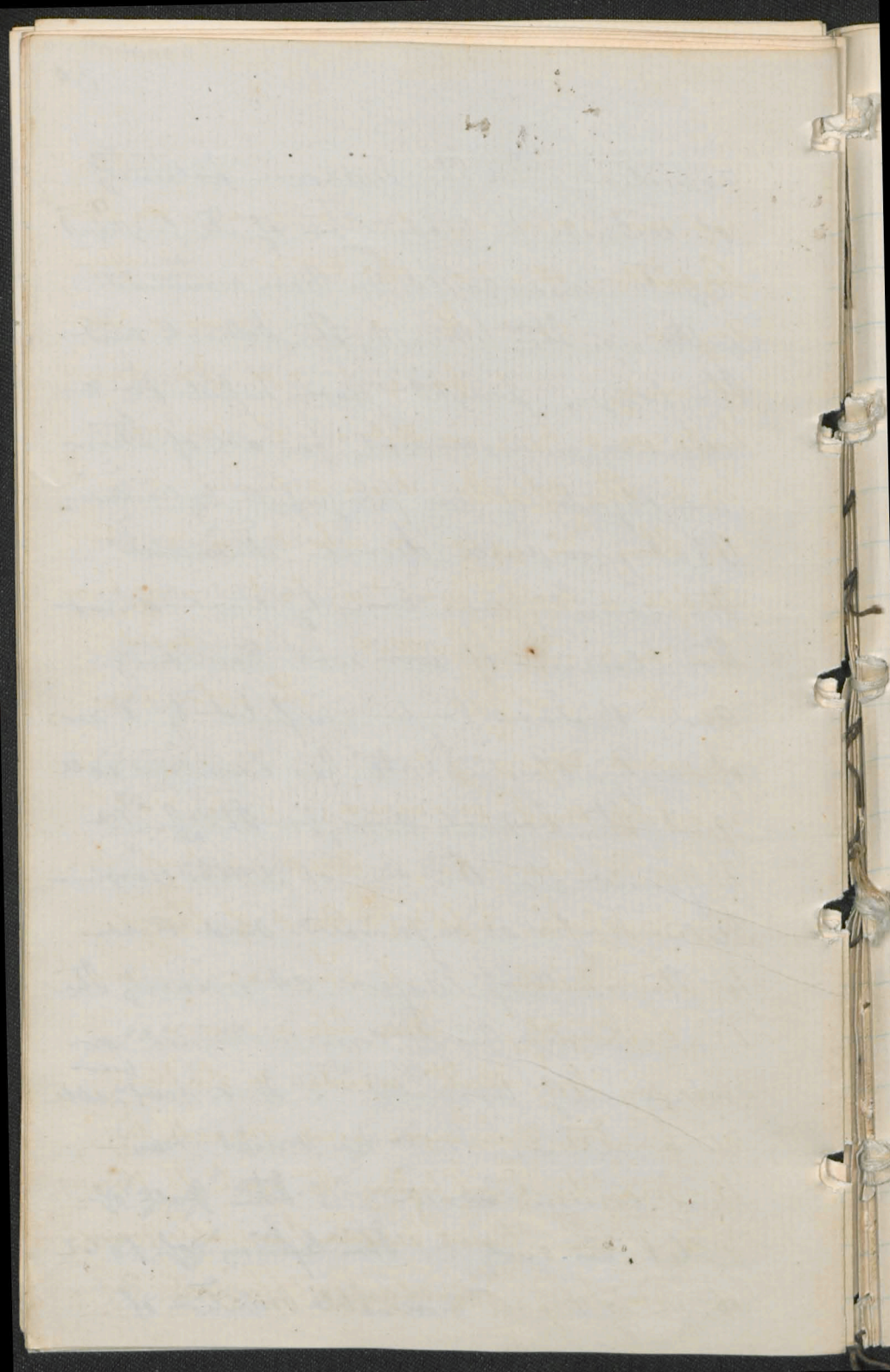
Mr Thos Litten brother Taylor has
 given us a clear insight to his
 hopes and aspirations as a Christian
 as well as his trust and confidence
 in God. Entering this world as the
 offspring of the great giver of all that
 is good and great, and looking round
 upon a whole ^{Race} ~~man~~ of brothers his

first-inquiry is, what-part can I
do- what-contribution can I make,
and not what-claim can I establish
and what-consideration can I obtain,
what can I do for all and not what
can I force all to do for me, to
be a giver, and not a taker was
his motto to be useful for his day,
and generation was his heart-ambition
and how well he accomplished
this, to what extent his prayer ~~to~~
be useful ^{was} answered dost thou his-
tory of his many labours and
noble deeds crowded into the
narrow space of his short life
abundant testify

Brother Taylor closed his School
year in Clarks Mill where he
had been teaching and where he not
only acquired some reputation as a
teacher but made many warm and

lasting friends among the old and
young of both sex and returned
in the summer of 1860 to Gates where
he became joint principal with Brother
Joseph D Bushall in the school at
Reynoldson. Reynoldson at one time
one of the most flourishing primary
schools in the eastern portion of the
State had for some cause unknown
to the writer very much declined and
at the time of which we speak was
compositively lifeless. But under
the fostering care of its principals
Bushall & Taylor it much revived
and was in 1861 in a fair way to be
again flourishing. It was in the
fall of 1860 that Brother Taylor was
united to the Baptist Church at
Perry known by letter and from the
day of his connection with it became
one of its most useful and efficient
members. About the same time he

connected with the Masonic fraternity
 of which he became one of its brightest
 lights. And could he have remained
 with us, the Church, the School, and
 the Lodge, might have hoped for a
 decided improvement, for all of them
 were objects of his prayerful solicitude.
 But providence decreed otherwise
 the country was torn by civil discord
 the clamor of war was sounding
 and Brother Taylor impelled by a sense
 of duty, obedient to his country's call
 quit the School Room, for the ^{field}
 he joined the 5th Reg of North Carolina
 State Troops as a private and rose
 to the rank of Major at precisely the
 time he was first commissioned or
 subsequently promoted. I ~~am~~ ^{was} not able
 to ascertain, But he must have
 been commissioned in the fall of
 1861 or early in the Spring of 1862
 as he is made honorable mention of

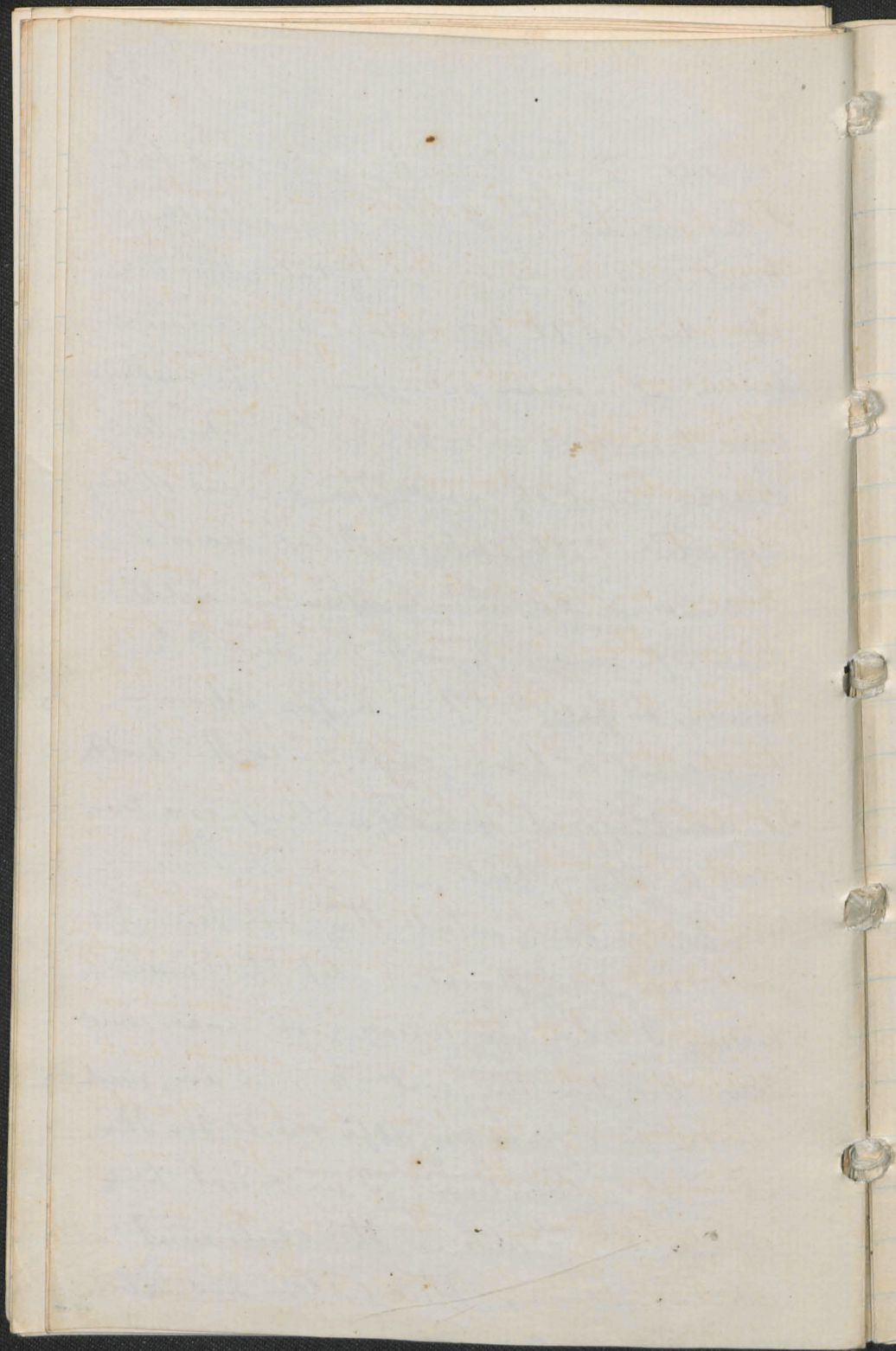


for his gallantry on the field ⁱⁿ the
Register of May 1862. Further
Taylor entered the army from a sense
of duty, and fought not for fame
but as a son in defence of Mother.
as to the spirit which actuated him
in the struggle in which he bore so
noble a part, we may best learn from
his own pen, from a letter dated
on the field, we take the following.
I used my every exertion by pleading,
exhorting and encouraging, to Rally
them to their flag, and support the
honor of the Fifth, and of their
Native State. But they went forward
Reluctantly. For this doing
simply my duty under a Raking
of both Cannon and Musketry
it may be gratifying to you to know
that I have been made honorable mention
of in Maj Sirelaers official Report.

X

to the General and to the Govt of
 North Carolina. Such thing avail
 little with me however, provided
 I have the conscious satisfaction of
 knowing I have done what I can
 to defend my home and friends and
 drive the invaders from our
 soil. I pray for my safety for your
 sakes, and only ask that I may be
 spared as a protection in after years
 to a widowed Mother and fatherless
 Sisters. But my dear Mother ^{and sisters} my prayers
 and yours may not be in accordance
 with Divine will, It may be that
 I too must fall in defence of all that
 is dear to me. If so may God sustain
 and comfort you. I often commit you
 to his kind care. I implore his richest
 blessings upon you. Indeed I often be-
 get to invoke his guardianship over me
 in my eagerness for you. It is a hard
 struggle between my love for you and

My duty to my country. O so hard but
 I am decided. I shall never wilfully
 hesitate to go when duty calls though
 it should be to instant and certain
 death. I would be unworthy the mother
 who bore me and the sisters who love
 me so devotedly. and the shades of my
 departed Billy, whom I had learn to
 love and admire so much, would
 rise up and reproach me, were I to
 waver or falter before a foe whom
 he dared to brave even unto the death.
 So don't expect any thing else from me.
 Such are my feelings here in their
 very face. and while they are piercing
 just in my front. At the same
 time I have too much good sense and
 love my life too well to run any need-
 -less risk or expose myself merely for the
 sake of adventure. I will not be
 Rash. Such is the sentiment
 contained in this letter and such



The Spirit that actuated our Brothers
amid all the scars of suffering and danger
incident to four years of almost
incessant fightings. I challenge
the history of the world to show a
character endowed with a nobler
spirit: fired by a higher sense of
honor, or impelled by a holier ambi-
tion. There is wisdom in the foregoing
letter, and in that sentiment our brother
Rives above the name of a Soldier and
deserves to be ranked with Washington.
and Adams and Henry and Hamilton
and all the heroes of patriotism who
has suffered and sacrificed all for country
for the test of heroism is not found in
faculty but in sentiment which directs
the faculty, the love of glory must
therefore yield the palm to the love
of country and the hero as a
patriot take precedence of the hero as a
Soldier

By such a sentiment was our Brother
Moved He fought not for glory or fame,
but was impelled by a sense of duty and
love to his country. On him this sentiment
Rose to the heroic standard of patriotic
love of country, and impelled him to
do all and sacrifice all that it is in the
nature of love to do and sacrifice for
its object. In him it was lifted to the
Ideal, hallowed by the affection and glorified
by the imagination until his whole being
was thrilled and moved by the inspirations
With him it was no mere intelligent
regard for a nation's material interest, but
it was the love of country felt in his
blood and thrilled through his heart,
that withdrew him from himself and
I depicted him with the nation,
Inspired with a sentiment like
this is wonderful that it should
be said of him as of Sisy, that
he was the bravest of the brave.

and may we not at least spare an old
comrad in arms when in speaking of
Brother Gayles and comparing him with
others he exclaimed I challenge the State
of North Carolina yes I challenge the
entire Southern army to show a braver
or better Soldier than May James M. Gayles
Brother Gayles served with distinction in
the Fifth Regt North Carolina Troops
during the war. He was twice wounded
once through the abdomen at the
Battle of Gettysburg where the position
of his Regiment, could be marked
by the men that fell ~~in~~ line with
their face to the foe. And again in
the Original Regt. The ball lodging
in the hip, in which condition he
did duty and performed all the service
incident to an Infantry captaincy
for several months in the heat of a
bloody campaign, before the ball was
extracted, during the entire war he

[Faint, illegible handwriting visible through the paper, likely from the reverse side.]

was never when able to walk about
from his command in time of a fight -
The anxiety he manifest in regard to
this command in time of a fight and
his desire to show the dangers of the field
with his fellow soldiers is beautifully
shown in a letter to his mother dated

General Hospital no 10 March 28/63

Richmond Va

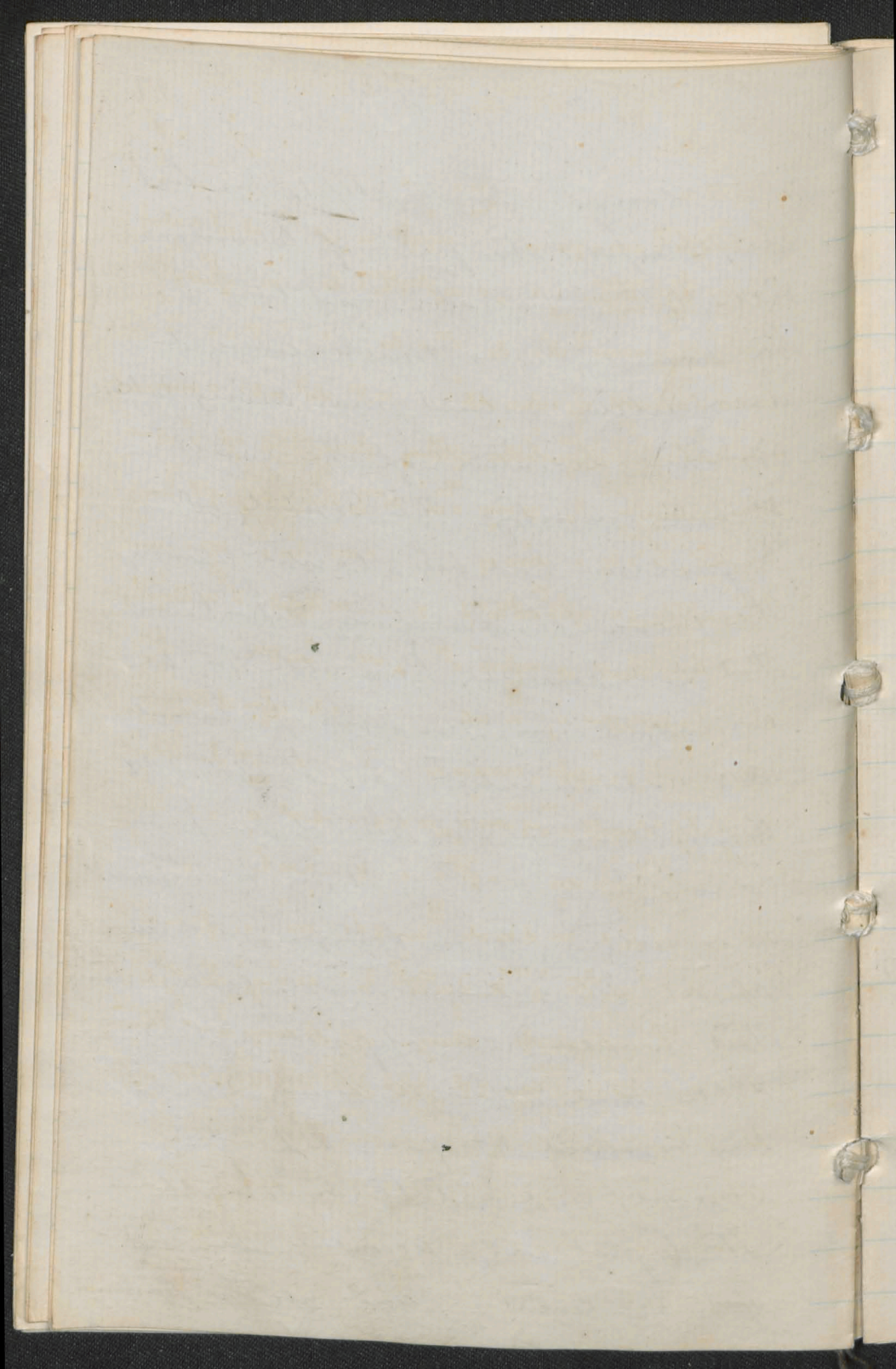
I now intend to remain here until
I am satisfied that I can stand it,
unless there is an imminent prospect
of a fight with our army. Then I
will certainly leave sick or well,
impelled by a sense of honor he should
no duty. desiring nothing more than
his just proportion of Rest - and
ever sought to make the necessity
of the occasion his pleasure. indeed he
was a true and chivalrous soldier
a firm and undaunted officer a
bold and heroic patriot.

But it was not in the character
of Soldier or a lover of his country
that he shone most brightly.

Sharing the various fortunes of the
Southern Army till the surrender
of General Lee. he returned home
like many others cast down.

but not destroyed, realizing the
true position of affairs, devoted
to a family that almost idolized
him with a mother and five
sisters in a great measure depen-
dant on him. he immediately
set to work to retrieve his and
the fortune of his family. For it
must be remembered that he lived
not for himself (but for his
mother and sisters) Reynoldson
had been the run of his early promise
as a leader and to it he now
looked. his associate Brother Boushall
had sealed with his blood his devotion

to his country and slept his last sleep upon the field of horrors -
vill. The financial condition of the country was much deranged and little interest was being taken in the education of the youths of our country. The School at Reynoldson had been vacated during the war. The boarding department that had formerly been able to accommodate any number of students was now limited, in therefore to Reynoldson as the son of his future career he had every thing to confound and nothing to in courage, in view of all these circumstances, circumstances that would have appealed a less noble and self sacrificing spirit: he resolved to open a boarding School, and establish himself at Reynoldson, according he sent out his circulars, and in the summer



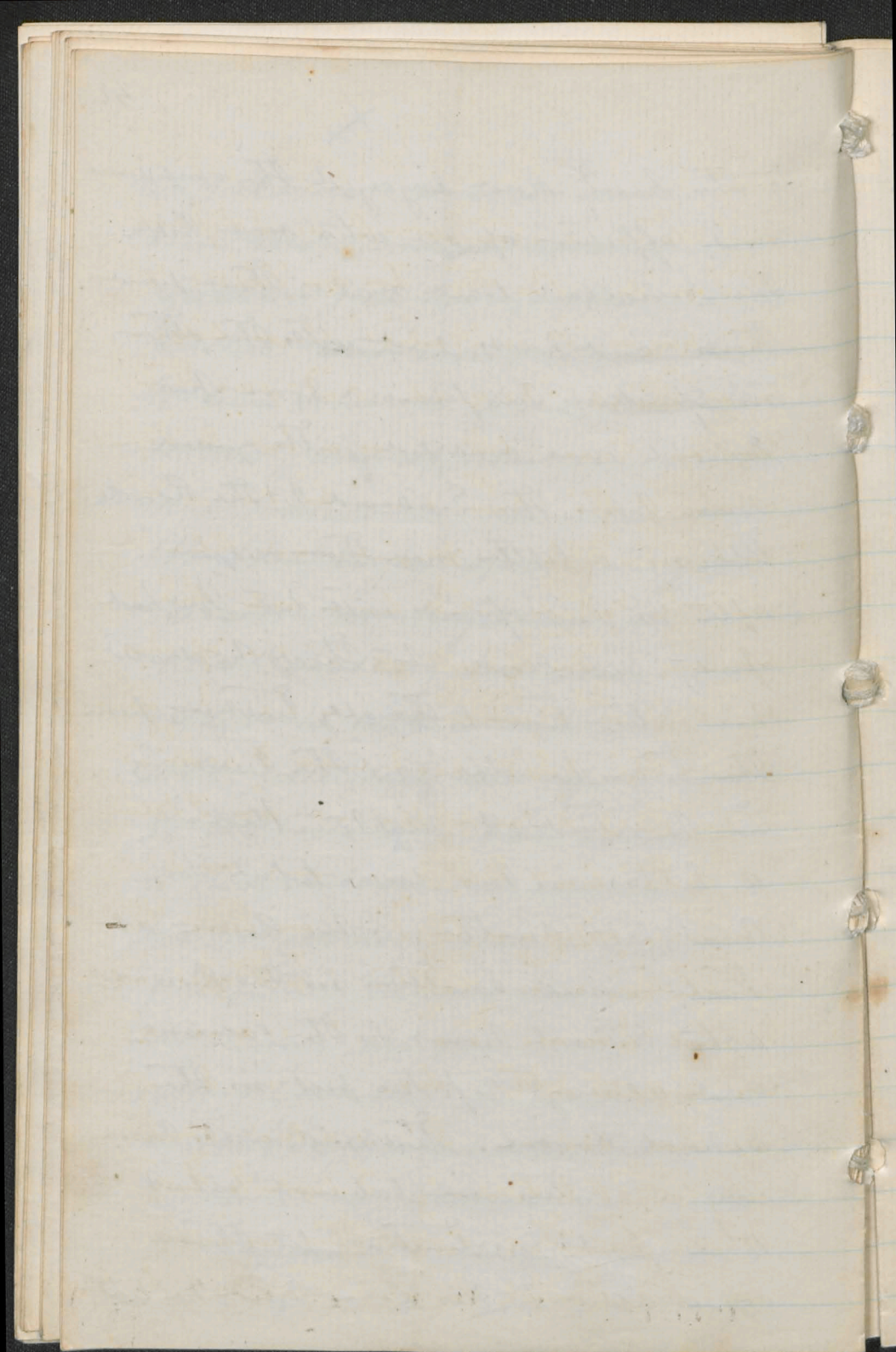
X

of 1865 began alone and unaided
Sustained by the spirit of the living God.
That came as a Truth that for usefulness
and general good to all concerned
stands unrivalled ~~the~~ length of time
considered by any in the history of our
State. Brother Taylor was eminently
qualified both by nature and cultivation
to be an instructor of youth.
Endowed by nature with an intellect
of the first magnitude. That intellect
highly cultivated by splendid opportunities
and years of patient thought, with
a mind stored with principles
and facts relating to every subject
in the broad range of human thought.
The whole cast in the mould of
a pure and genuine Religion.
Choosing teaching as a profession he
presented ~~the~~ ^{an} prodigy of almost human
perfection in the School Master at

Reynoldson And it would have
been strange indeed if Thos. High
qualities had not guaranteed to him
success and won for him a name
to live (while he is dead) in the
Memory and affection of all who
knew him.

Brother Taylor opened his first
Session at Reynoldson with only
two scholars but nothing dis-
courage he continued to work and
wait: diligently did apply himself
to the task of imparting instruction
to Thos. labouring as earnestly as Thos
his School Room ^{made him} ~~was~~ crowded. His
faithfulness however was not long without
its reward. His fame went abroad
every spirit that found his way to
Brother Taylors School. Returned to
his home a living circular. As to
the superior Merits of Brother Taylor
as a teacher. He won his way

X
to the heart and enjoyed the confidence
and affection of all who knew him.
His scholars loved no less than feared
him and each vied with the other
in speaking his praise. Soon his
School was crowded with young
men from the Seaboard to the Roanoke.
Till in a little more than a year
after he had opened with but he had
forty scholars. To these he devoted
his inter-tim literally teaching from
the time he rose in the morning
till he retired at night. - Keeping
a lesson in his room before the
Breakfast another in his room at
twelve and another in his room
after school hours in the evening,
and always kept his pen in the
School Room. Teaching with him
was a continued laboured effort
to impart instruction to those
committed to his care and he left



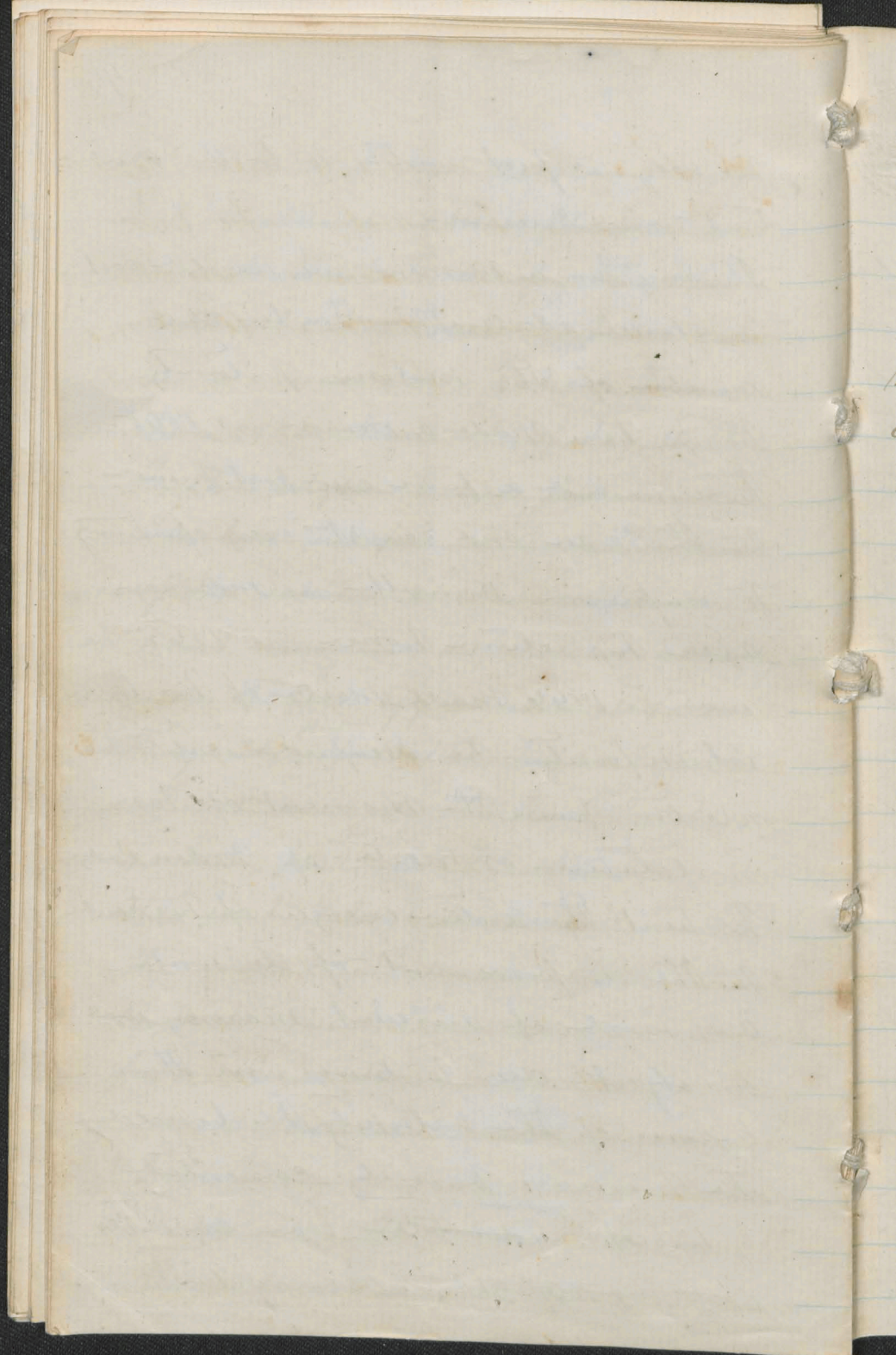
no stone unturned to accomplish
 this end. Brother Taylor possessed
 the power of imparting knowledge
 and taught school not for the
 love of money but from a love to impart
 to others the knowledge he possessed.
 He desired to be useful and believed
 that God had called him into this
 sphere. On speaking to me of his
 hopes and aspirations in life he once
 said the highest ambition I have is
 to be useful as a teacher for I believe
 this is the work God has given me to do.
 I desire therefore first to be used then
 to be considered the most efficient
 school teacher in North Carolina.
 On ~~another~~ other occasion in speaking
 of his school I remarked Brother
 Taylor I believe your love to teach.
 When pointing from the window
 of his room, to the Academy building

+

he replied I had rather occupy
 that building with a flourishing
 School than to occupy the White
 House at Washington, I had rather
 be a successful School Teacher
 than to be President of the U. S.
 Brother Taylor Success had ^{now} already
 stilled his mind and the funds
 of the School it had surpassed their
 most sanguine hopes and already
 was it fast approaching its former
 Prosperity. ^{And} if Brother Taylor had not
 as yet reached the position he desired
 in being first, and then being considered
 the first School Teacher in the State.
 The road to it lay open before him.
 And to meet the increasing ~~demands~~
 patronage now bestowed upon him
 he associated with him in the
 fall term of 1867 Brother Julius
 F. Hawick the present Teacher at
 Reynoldson and a young Gentleman

is very respect worthy to be his assist-
ant and successor,

Pausing for a moment we would cast
a glance at Brother Taylor as a
member of the Masonic fraternity.
Having been made a mason in 1860.
He remained a firm and fast friend
to the order and sought every opportunity
to improve himself in masonry.
After his return home in 1865 he
was in 1866 made Master of his lodge
which position he occupied until his
death. From the moment of his
installation as Master of Jordan Lodge
he bent the entire energies of his soul
to the improvement of its work.
A revival of ancient masonry was
an object dear to him. in the
bosom of the fraternity, he beheld
the human family, cemented
by ties of ^{indissoluble} moderate love and this
was his delight, - accomplishment



of this, he sought by every means
in his power to effect. He was
indeed a worthy master. In the
~~death of brother Taylor~~ And in
his death the Lodge sustained
an irreparable loss. He saw in
Masonry something more than a
mere system of forms and ceremo-
nies. He beheld in it and a
living tangible good and as an
exponent of its facts, enunciated
every virtue and discountenanced
every vice, and as one of the most
exemplary members of the fraternity
he was temperate in all things and
practised the most inflexible in-
tegrity in all his dealings. But it is
not of Brother Taylor as a Mason
we would speak but of him as a
Christian, and member of this Church.
Love is the religion of the Gospel
and except the religion of Brother

Taylor is a picture of the religion
of the Bible, it is not worthy of
imitation, nor will it bore the severity
of the day of trial; But his religion
was evangelical, It was like gold
tried in the fire, and losing nothing
by the severest test; He had taken the
right method to obtain this grace,
Being humbled by the Spirit of Truth, he
confessed his sins, Believed in Christ
found pardon, and received the witness
of the Spirit in his heart enabling
him to cry Abba Father,
This work thus happily begun was not
superficial, But like a well of water
in his soul springing up to everlasting
life, It was no top dressing but a deep
work of grace that reached the very
rootlets of his soul and impelled
him to give all "diligence to make
his calling and election sure" that
made him to press with vigor

toward the mark for the prize of
the high calling of God in Christ-
Jesus, from such an intercourse with
God it is natural to suppose that
he attained to a degree of stability ~~not~~
not to be found among superficial
professors of religion.

Such professors may enjoy the comforts
of religion in some lucid intervals,
but like the self-confident Peter
they are easily shaken in mind and
their comforts like their devotions,
are transient. But what Brother Taylor
enjoyed was the result of serious
investigation, honest self-examination,
frequent and fervent prayer, and self-
denial, Believing that the means
of religion were appointed by divine
authority and when properly attended
to yielded a rich harvest of bliss to
the soul. He delighted in the use of
them, and did not perform the

ceremonies of Religion nearly from
a sense of duty. But from a delight
he felt in them, and a personal
knowledge of their happy effects upon
his heart and practice. Hence his
regular attendance upon the Ministry
often sitting under the word with
a heart glowing with delightful
emotion while expressions of joy beamed
from his eyes and played on his counte-
nance.

Prayer was also the delight of
his soul and none who ever with
him bowed and prostrated with
him in these devotions can forget
the deep feeling with which he pleaded
with the great God for Peace, Order,
Sanctification and Redemption.

His attendance to reading is an
apparent necessity. And there
is much propriety in it. for with-
out Reading and Meditation it
is impossible for a Christian to

become acquainted with the wickedness
of his own heart, the wiles of the
Devil or the divine and spiritual
consolation that is found in an
implicit obedience to the will of God.
Neither is it probable that those who
persistently neglect this duty will ever
be the steadfast and immovable friends
of Christ. Brother Taylor felt the
force of this sentiment and therefore
read and reflected much.

His reading was not superficial but
general and profound. He did not
make choice of those pernicious works
novels, and romance which mortify
poison the mind, and adulterate
all the finer feelings of the soul. But
the Books of God. This he read
and studied, and it became a light
to his feet and a lamp to his path
to illuminate him through this dark
and inhospitable valley of tears.

To fairer worlds on high,
 Trials and temptations are common to
 us in this life and of them he had his
 share, and his was no common portion.
 The waves and billows often ran high
 and threatened to overwhelm him
 in the annihilation of his fairest
 prospects. But even in such circum-
 stances, the winds, and waves were
 made subservient to his spiritual
 advancement, and he who once
 calmed the boisterous Tiberias, and
 brought the vessel to land, preserved
 him in the storm and did not
 permit the unruly elements to harm
 him. To the Laskewans hear what
 has been said of our Brother. May is
 appear in exaggerated colours, but
 so far from being exaggerated it
 comes not up to the truth. I speak
 it soberly and in the fear of God that
 it would require more than human

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Language to do him justice.

His Piety was of the purest and highest
kind, His benevolence and mercy was
equal to his piety, and his Humility
and thankfulness kept pace with
his piety and mercy. Such are the
attributes of that character that like a
mountain that although the horizon
of our life and such the precious gifts
with which it pleased the Father of
Mercy to crown our departed brother.
But all that has been said all that
can be said is but a faint-sketch
of his exalted character, a character
in which the love of God and resig-
nation to his divine will, could
only be rivaled by its unbounded
liberality, and its unswerving
devotion for the good of others
and its unconquerable zeal for the
spread of the Redeemers Kingdom.
In each of these illustrious features

his character shone conspicuously,
and taken in the aggregate, they form
such a constellation of virtues as
we never meet save in Christians
of the highest the most exalted rank.
A gem so precious could not long be
expected to ornament the church in
its militant state. His Heavenly Father
had prepared him for himself and,
in much love took him from a world
of trial and affliction to join the
Church Triumphant in glory.

But his exalted worth will ever be remembered
and while it has increased the fringe
of deprecation it has furnished reasons
for calm submission to the will of
him who does all things well.
Our Brother has fallen Rich in Honor
usefulness and hope. In his death
the cause of Education the cause of
Masonry the cause of Religion has
sustained a great & grievous loss.

In the School Room, in the Lodge,
 in the Church, and in the community
 the shock is felt. and many hearts
 bleed afresh at the rehearsal of ^{story} the
 his death. He has fallen and mysteri-
 ously, ^{indeed} is the dispensation of divine provid-
 ence that took him from us. But
 to unravel this mystery is not the work
 of time but of eternity. Can we witness
 effects without seeing the causes, and
 this sometimes involves these branches
 of divine economy in the most impen-
 etrable obscurity. But we know
 from the nature and unbounded
 perfections of God, that he is judge of
 all the earth and as each must do
 right. We know also from the attributes
 that form his character, that toward
 those that are ^{the} objects of his love, that
 mercy is extended in all his ways,
 On these grounds we must attend,
 with pious adoration, to his

visible unveiled providences, and
wait for the light of eternity to
disclose the rest; It is not long before
the curtain of mortality will drop
with us, when through the merits
of our crucified God we hope to
see face to face and know even as
we are known. Thus the causes of
those apparent calamities will fully
appear, and we shall no doubt all
of us have reason to thank and
adore the goodness of God for the
painful occasion of this prison
separation. And perhaps however
incomprehensible this event may
now appear, it will tend to
brighten the felicity of heaven,
and add to the crown of our
Rejoicing through eternity.

On conclusion thus allow me
to say Repeat He is gone yes our
brother is gone no more to return

and true piety requires us to submit
without a murmur. God has called
him to his Rest and his Reward.
His Family circle his intimate friends
as well as the community and
Church has in his death sustained
a loss. But oh how much has been
his gain. He has gained what
the eye has not seen nor the ear
heard, and what it has not entered
into the heart of man to conceive of.
He has gained a place of Rest and
has ceased to toil. He has finished his
work on earth and is now receiving
his reward in heaven. True he has
left an interesting family circle
on earth as devoted mothers and
affectionate sisters, with whom we
may sympathize and for whom we
may pray. But has he not found
an infinitely more so in Heaven,
yes in the mighty group of disembodied

Saints he is now mingling with
 worthies of all ages, who are now
 happily commingling in one
 glorious immortality. What friend
 ship then can estimate the gain^{the gain}
 of an immortal soul. Come
 let us go and see his bliss,
 Rocks and hills may separate us
 and the pressing cares of life may forbid
 an interchange of feeling but they
 cannot destroy them, death may
 remove the objects of our affection
 but memory will recall it and clothe
 it in all the beauty and vigor of
 immortal youth. Beside there
 is a fairer world beyond the grave
 and there we hope to meet our friend
 and brother, for he died in full
 prospects of heaven, no cloud ob-
 scured the radiance of his setting
 sun, no gale of doubt shattered
 his bark of heavenly hope.

But though he is dead though the heart
 that once beat with sympathy and affection
 for us is now still in death still there
 is nothing melancholy in the thought
 for death at least for one time came
 into our midst - slipped off all his
 terrors and touched our hearts as
 softly as a mothers hand upon her
 infants brow and thus the fond
 soul began its flight - when the tired
 wheels of nature ceased to move
 and when I thus reflect upon his departure
 and remember that he is now in the
 unclouded presence of his God I can
 but dry my tears and utter a fervent
 prayer that we all may copy his virtues
 and follow in his footsteps that we
 may share in his bliss

Thos. W. Bebb

C. Reynolds M.L.,
 April 1870

