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Francis Henney Smith

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Gen. William H. Payne

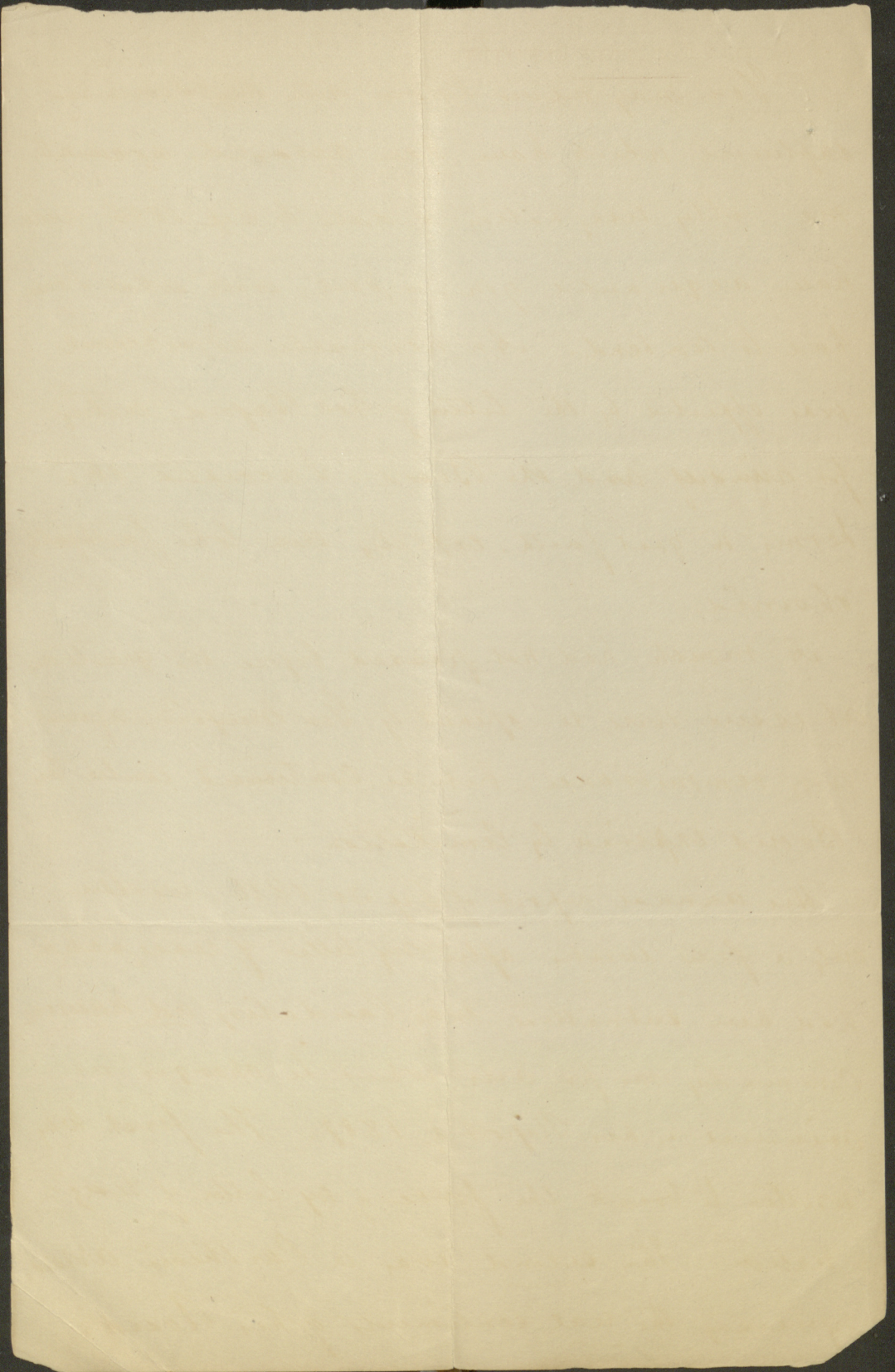
2207 Washington Circle

Washington, D.C.

My dear General.

Words are wanting when I try to tell you all that fills my heart to overflowing, when I read your more than kind letter of the 24th Feb.^{ry}. I said to my friends, Col.^s Pendleton and Gordon, as I read it, "I can stand persecution and unmerited wrong, for, like the rebel flower, I flourish the more I am trampled on. But when I read such a letter as this, my heart throbs and my eye moistens, because I have a testimonial which I may leave as a heritage to my children."

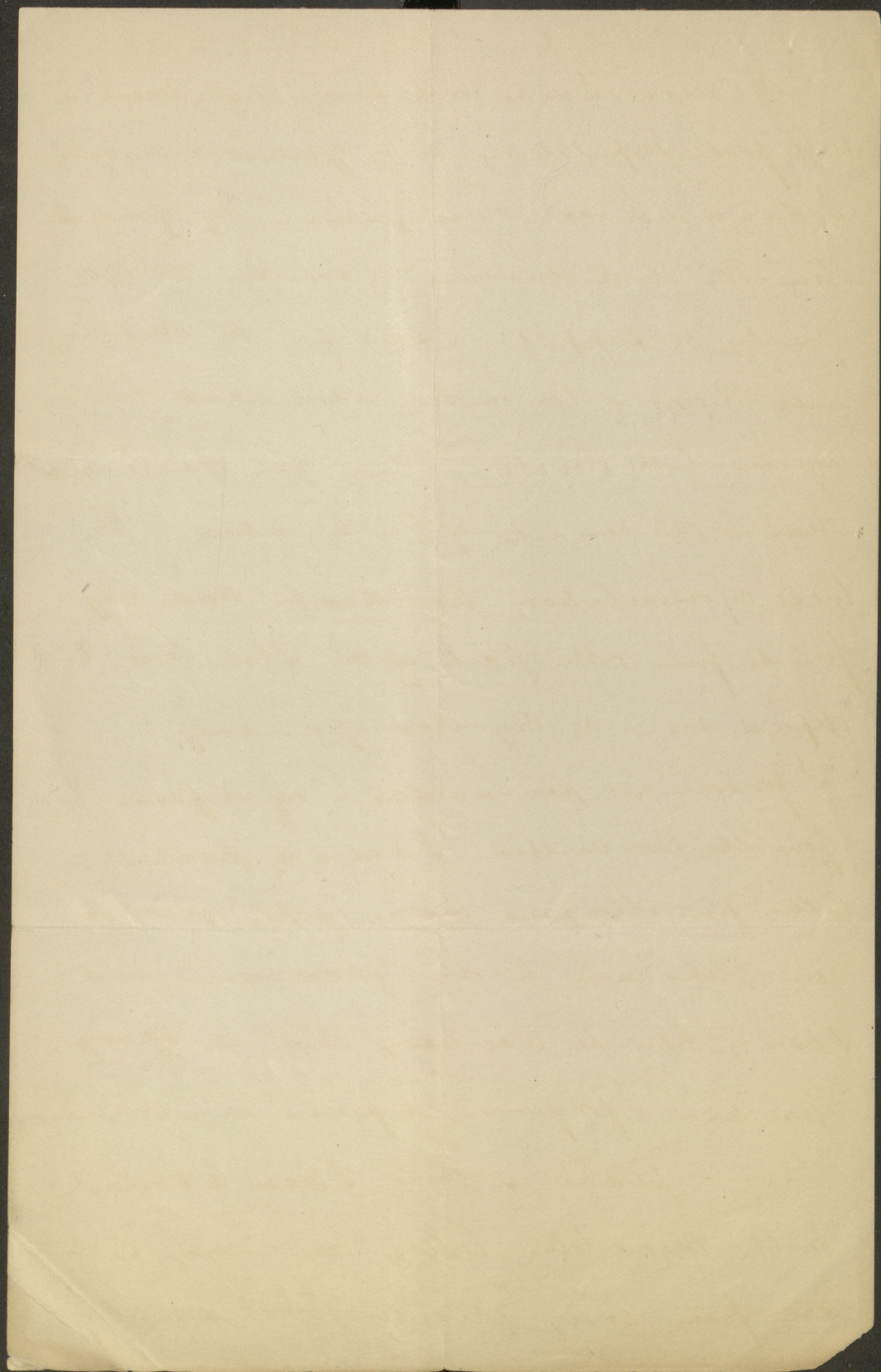
"Laudari laudato" gives me untold wealth, which I will cherish as long as I live.



You may never know all the similar
 captives which have been arrayed against
 me. My resignation of date 6 Sep 1886. will
 have acquainted you, in part, with what I then
 had to contend. An honorable adjustment
 was effected by the letter of Col Buford, acting
 for himself and the Board. I accepted the
 terms in good faith, expecting them to be faithfully
 observed.

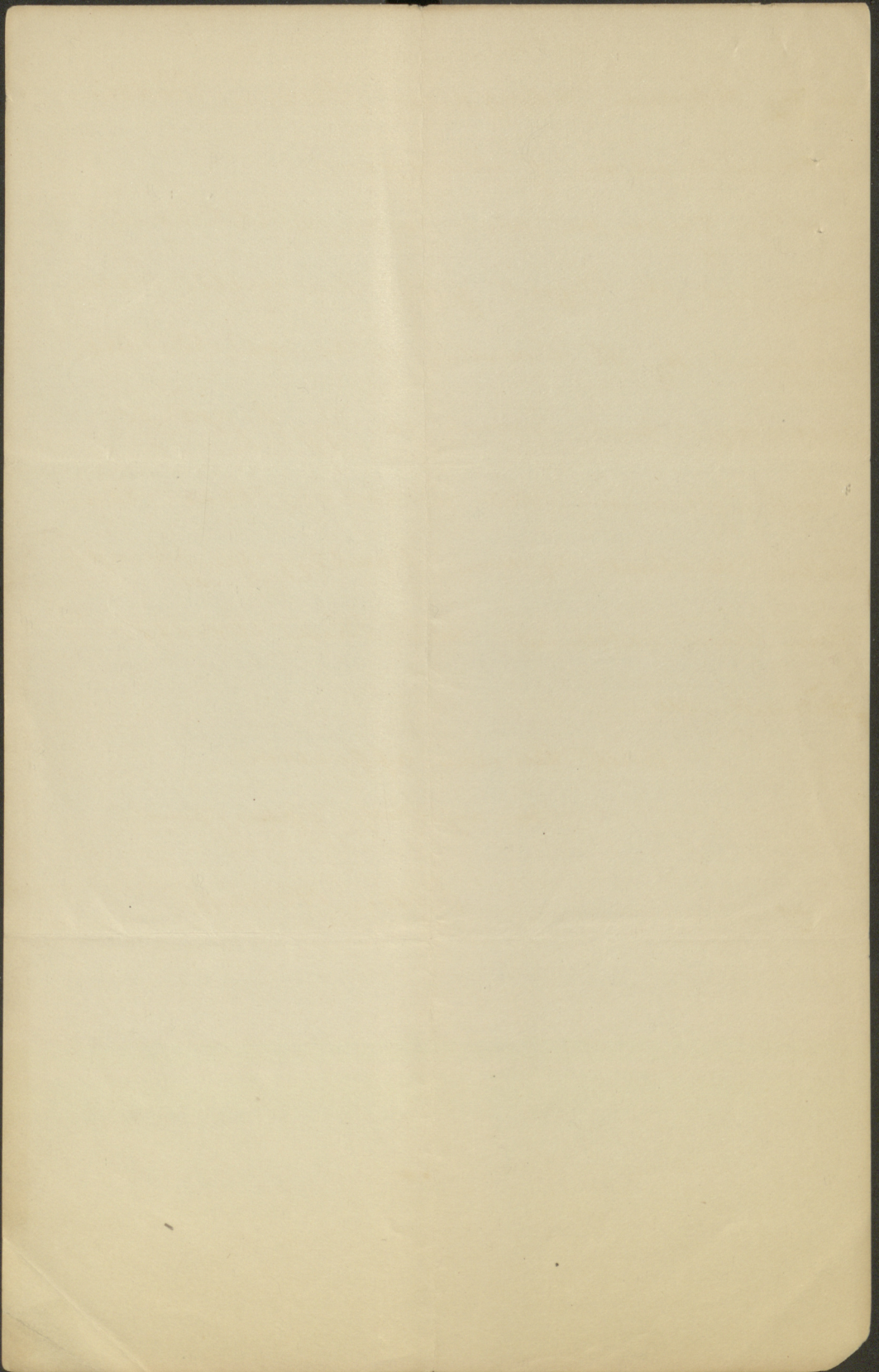
A month had not passed before the questions
 at issue were re-opened by Gen Buford, against
 every remonstrance, but he continued until his
 Board expired by limitation.

His annual report of Sep 30. 1886. written
 only a few weeks after my letter of resignation
 had been submitted was Caudatory ad nauseam,
 commending me for acts which he charges as
 criminal in his Report of 1887. The first way
 written to break the force of my letter of resi-
 = nation. The second was a Parthian arrow,
 expressing the real sentiments of his Board.



Of course I was not going to submit to such base insinuations, or of official integrity. I demanded an investigation - My representative here Mr. W. A. Anderson, gave me no sympathy or support - I send you the Despatch with Report of Committee, which report was rejected by the Senate. I call your special attention to the remarks of Gen Wickham. The local representatives were dumb, and my friends from other parts of the State had to defend me - as they did effectively.

I forbore all personalities in my defence before the Committee. I had in my pocket a letter from Memphis to one of his minions here, who came to an ignominious end, showing how he was using them as spies, upon me - I preferred defence on a broader & higher plane - & there I mean to stand. In the mean time letters are coming in to me from every quarter, not simply



in my defence & support - but in better
denunciations of Mansford.

You know me well enough to know
that had the Report of the Committee been
adopted by the Senate, I am not the man
to accept such terms as they proposed.

But I forbear - but I cannot close this
letter without again thanking you for all
your kind interest - and kind words. I
cherish all -

With sincere affection

I am, my dear friend

Francis A. Smith

Gen Smith

July 18