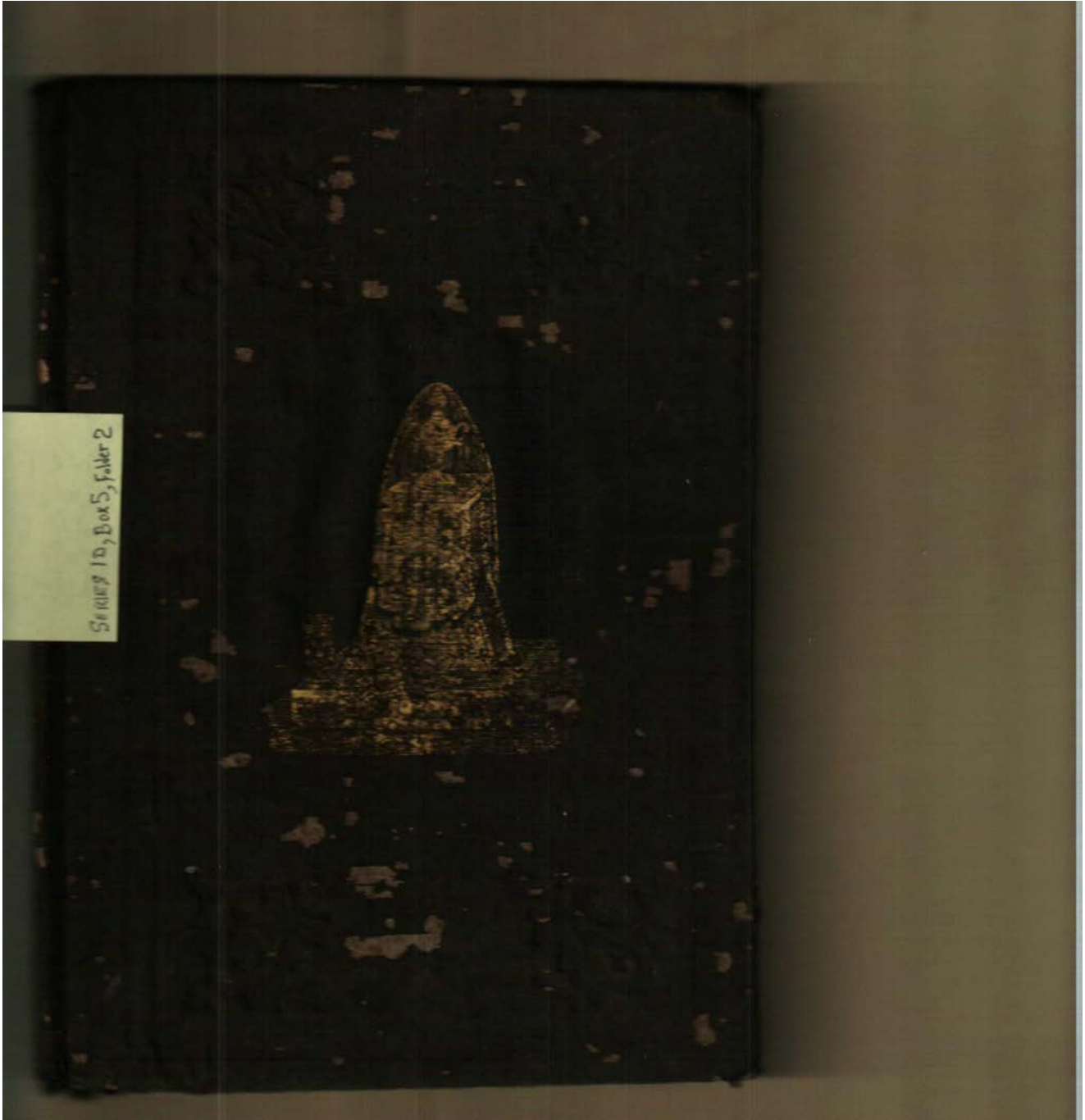


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 5, Folder 2
"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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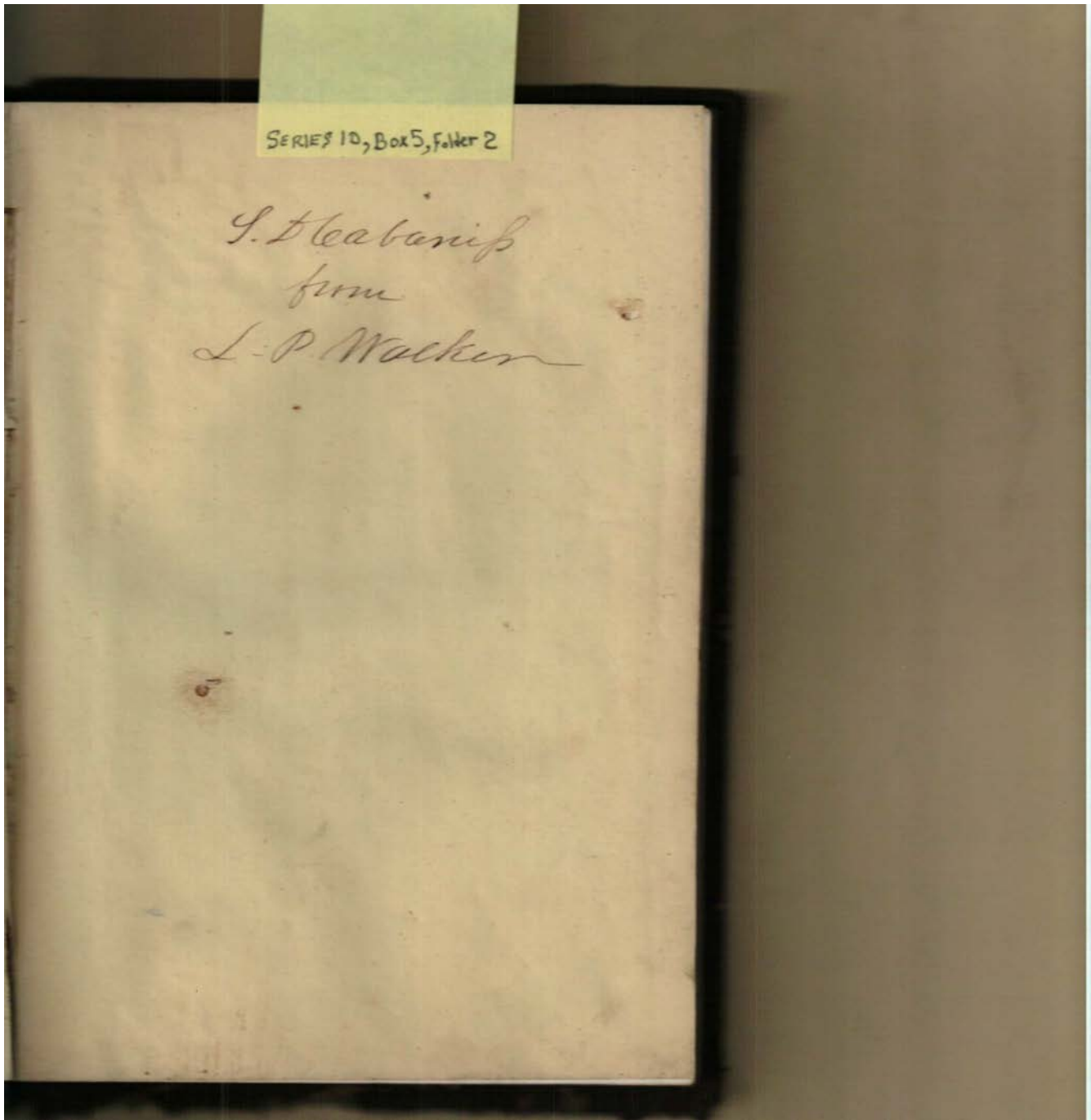


Types:
book cover

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 5, Folder 2

"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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Names:

Cabaniss, S. D.

Walker, L. P.

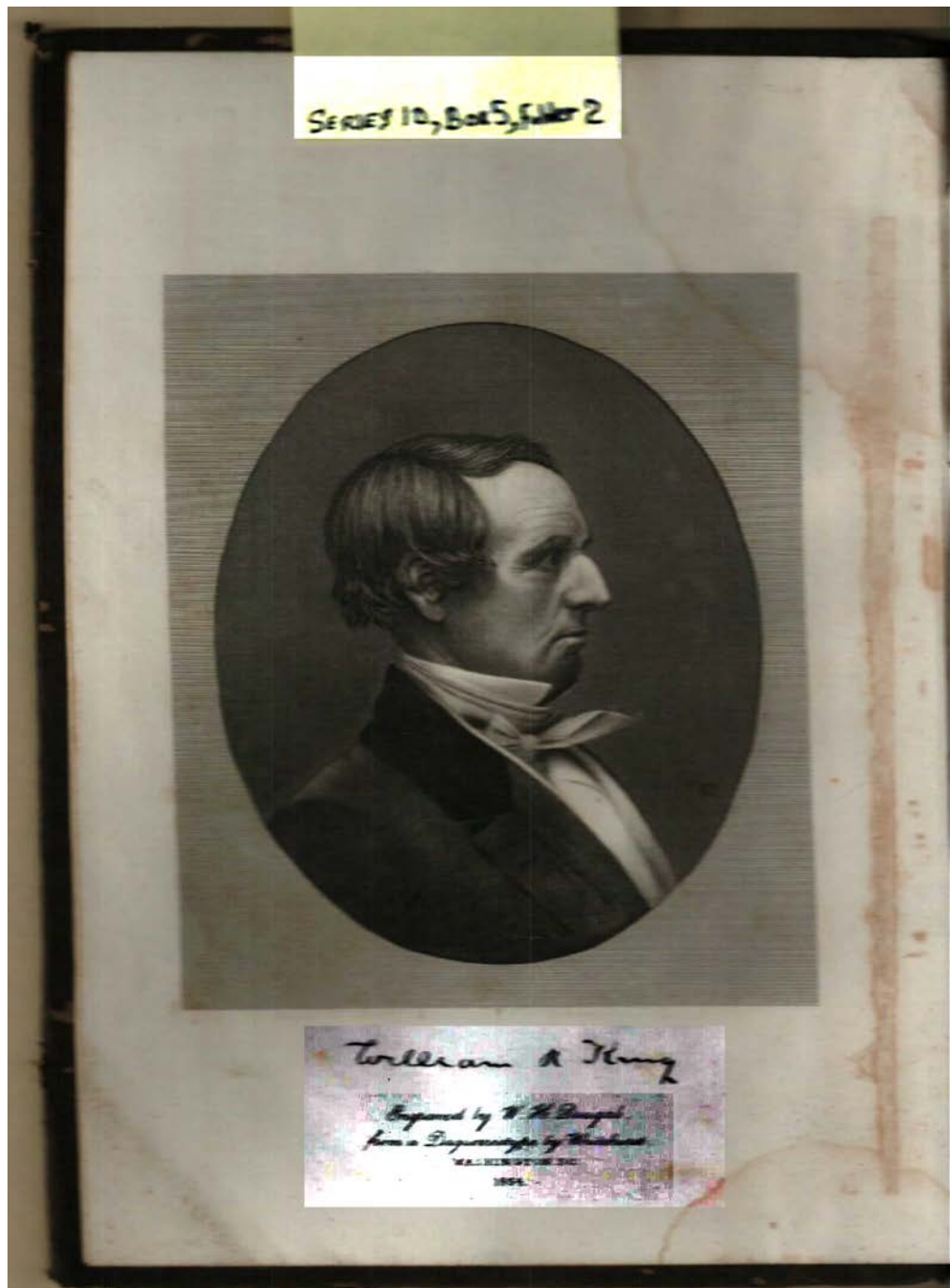
Types:

signature

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 5, Folder 2

"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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Names:

King, William R.

Places:

Washington, D. C.

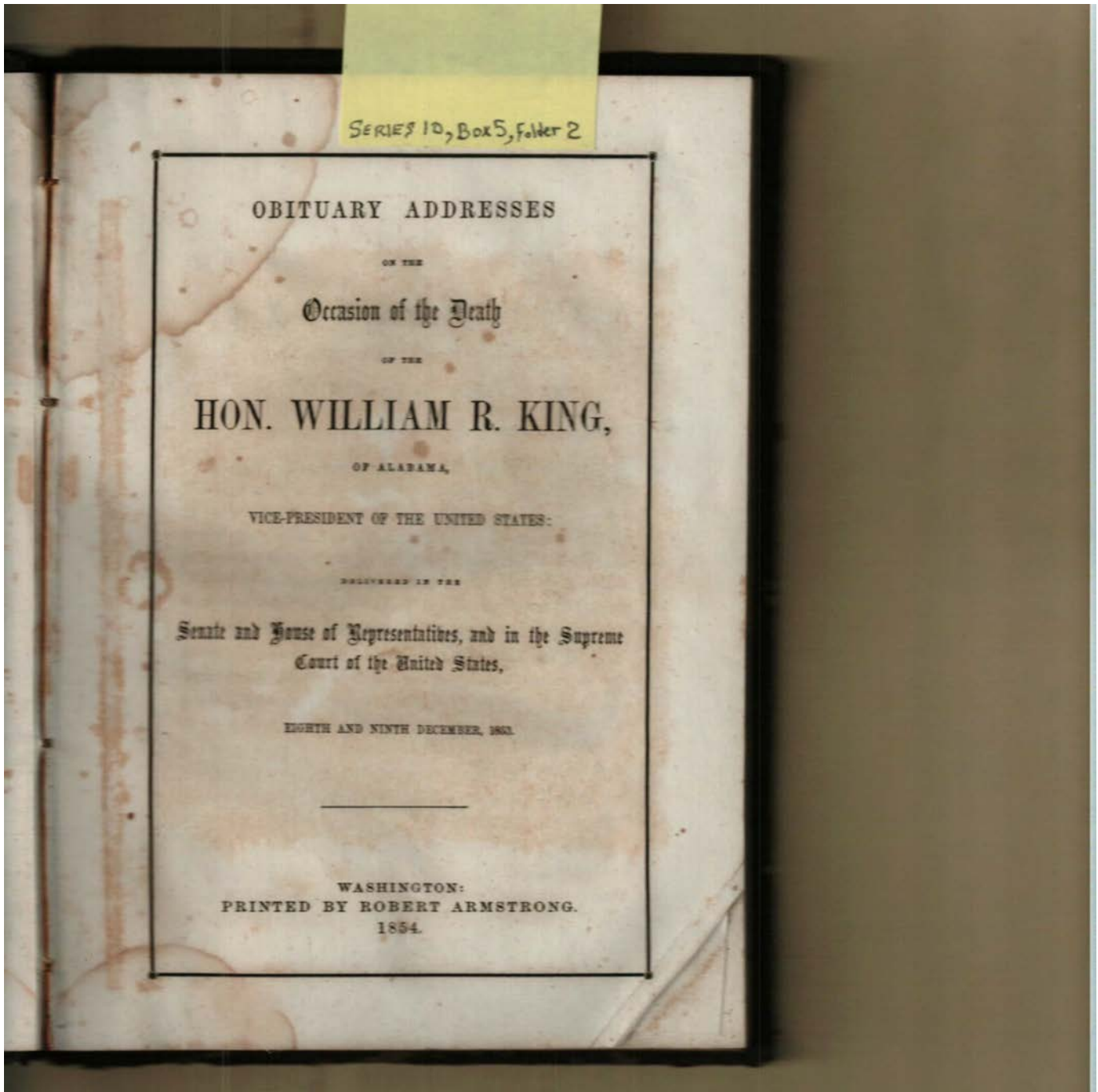
Types:

photograph

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 5, Folder 2

"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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Names:

King, William R.,
Hon.

Obituary Addresses

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

book

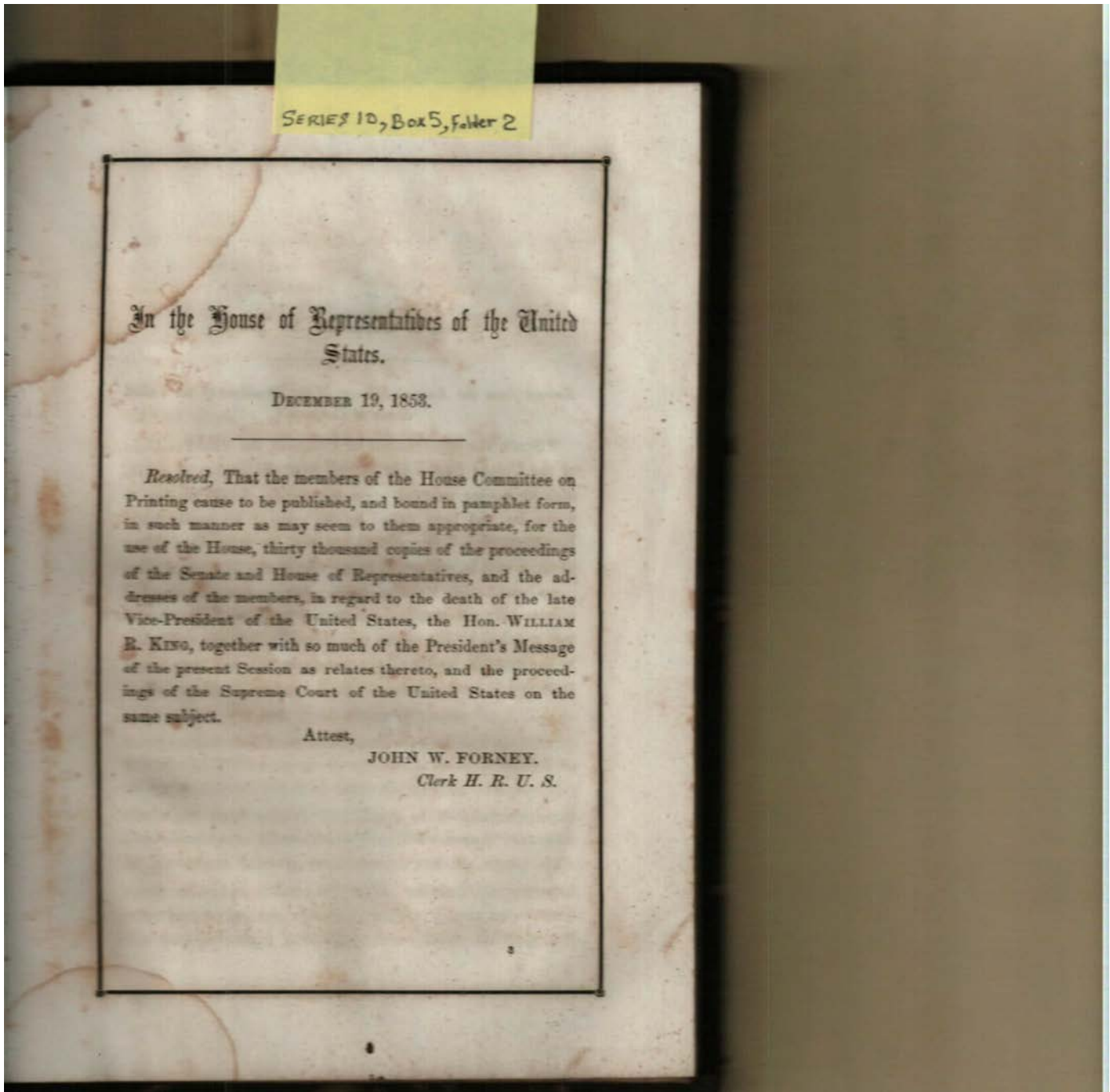
Dates:

1854

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 5, Folder 2

"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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Names:

Forney, John W.

House of
Representatives

King, William R.,
Hon.

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

resolution

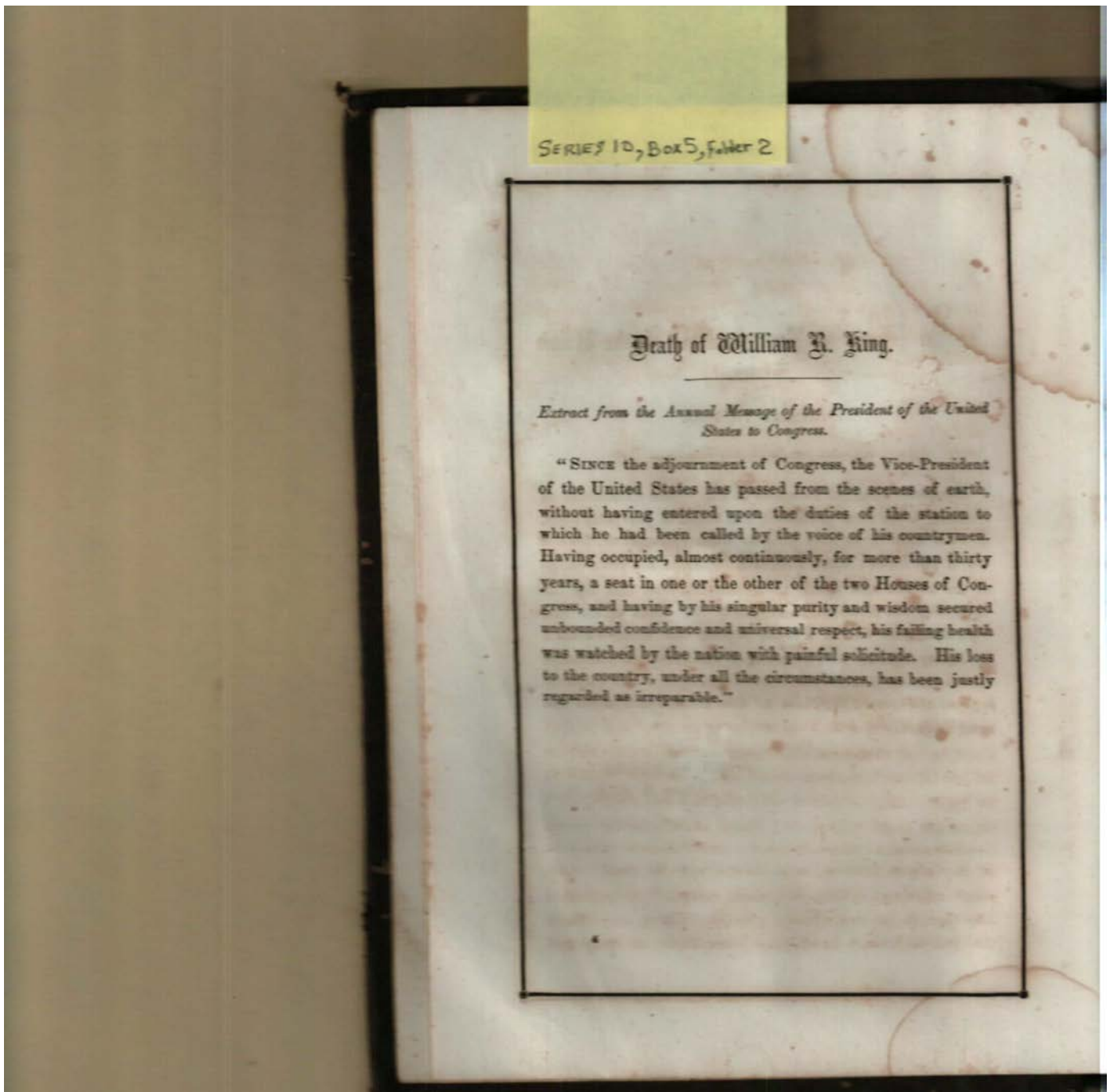
Dates:

Dec 19, 1853

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 5, Folder 2

"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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Names:

Death of William R.
King

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

extract

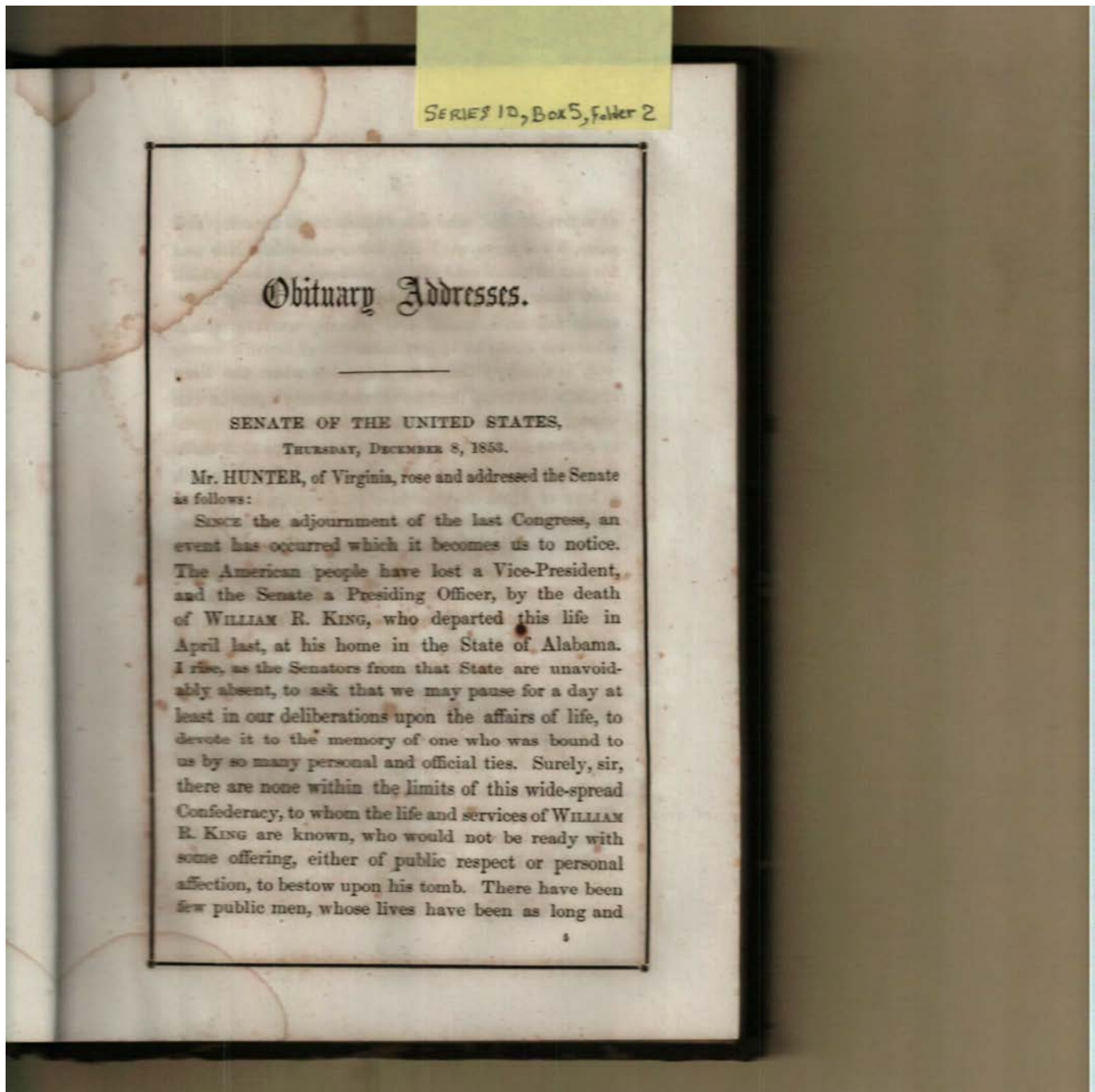
Dates:

1854

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 5, Folder 2

"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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Names:

Hunter, Mr. (of
Virginia)

Obituary Addresses

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

book

Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 5, Folder 2

"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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as active as his, who have made more friends; and none, I am sure, ever left fewer enemies. Nor was his one of those cold and impassive characters which shed their light without heat, but its kindly influences fell with genial and friendly warmth within whatever circle he might move.

It is a happy thing for a country when the lives of its public men may be thrown freely open to the world, and challenge its closest scrutiny, with a consciousness on the part of the friendly critic that there is no blot to be concealed, and no glaring fault which a love of truth forbids him to deny, and his own sense of right scarcely allows him to palliate. Here, at least, is a public man, in whose life there can be found no instance of a mean or equivocating action, none of a departure from the self-imposed restraints of a refined and lofty sense of honor; and none in which either the fear of man or the seductions of ambition tempted him to a deed which could destroy either his own self-respect or the respect of others for him. He trod the difficult and devious paths to political preferment long and successfully, and yet he kept his robes unsoiled by the vile mire which so often pollutes those ways. It is said, that the story of every human life, if rightly told, may convey a useful lesson to those who survive. Of all the public men whom I have known, there are none whose lives teach more impressively the great moral of the strength which public virtue gives than that of Colo-

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nel KING. His was an instance in which greatness was achieved without the aid of those brilliant qualities whose rare assemblage the world calls genius, but by what is better far, a sound judgment, a resolute purpose to pursue the right, and a capacity to gather wisdom from experience.

He was no orator; and yet from the force of character he could wield an influence which mere oratory never commanded. He had none of that presumptuous self-confidence which so often misleads ourselves and others, and which, though a dangerous, is still a commanding quality; but he knew how to inspire a people with a just confidence in the soundness of his judgment and the integrity of his purpose, so as to be looked to as a safe depository of trust and power.

Although gentle and kind in his intercourse with others, he could be stern enough when the public interests or his personal honour required it. He was a man, sir, whose whole soul would have sickened under a sense of personal dishonor.

It is not surprising, then, that each step in the political career of such a man should have been crowned with public honors. At the age of twenty-one he was elected to the Legislature of North Carolina, his native State, where he served until he was made Solicitor. In that capacity he acted for two years; at the expiration of which time he was again returned to the Legislature, in which body he served during the years 1808-9. In 1810, being then

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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twenty-five years of age, he was sent to the House of Representatives of the United States, where he served from 1811 to 1816, when he resigned to go abroad as Secretary of Legation to Mr. Pinckney, our Minister to Russia. Upon his return he emigrated to Alabama, where he was almost immediately sent to their Constitutional Convention.

And at the first session of the first Legislature which assembled afterward, he was sent to the Senate of the United States from the State of Alabama, where he may be said to have served continuously, until his election to the Vice-Presidency, with the exception of two years, when he was Minister to France. Finally, he was elected the Vice-President of the United States by a large majority of the American people. As he ascended step by step to this elevation, his vision seemed to grow with his horizon, and when the occasion came, he was always found equal to it. For, to the aid of a sound judgment, he brought, as he grew older, the wisdom of a large experience.

His political career may be said to have been one triumphant march through life; a march in which his step neither faltered nor stumbled, in ascending to that place which was, perhaps, the chief object of his aspiration. And yet, as if to show that even the most successful of men must sooner or later feel the emptiness of the earthly objects of our usual pursuit, that much-prized honor was to him the Dead-Sea

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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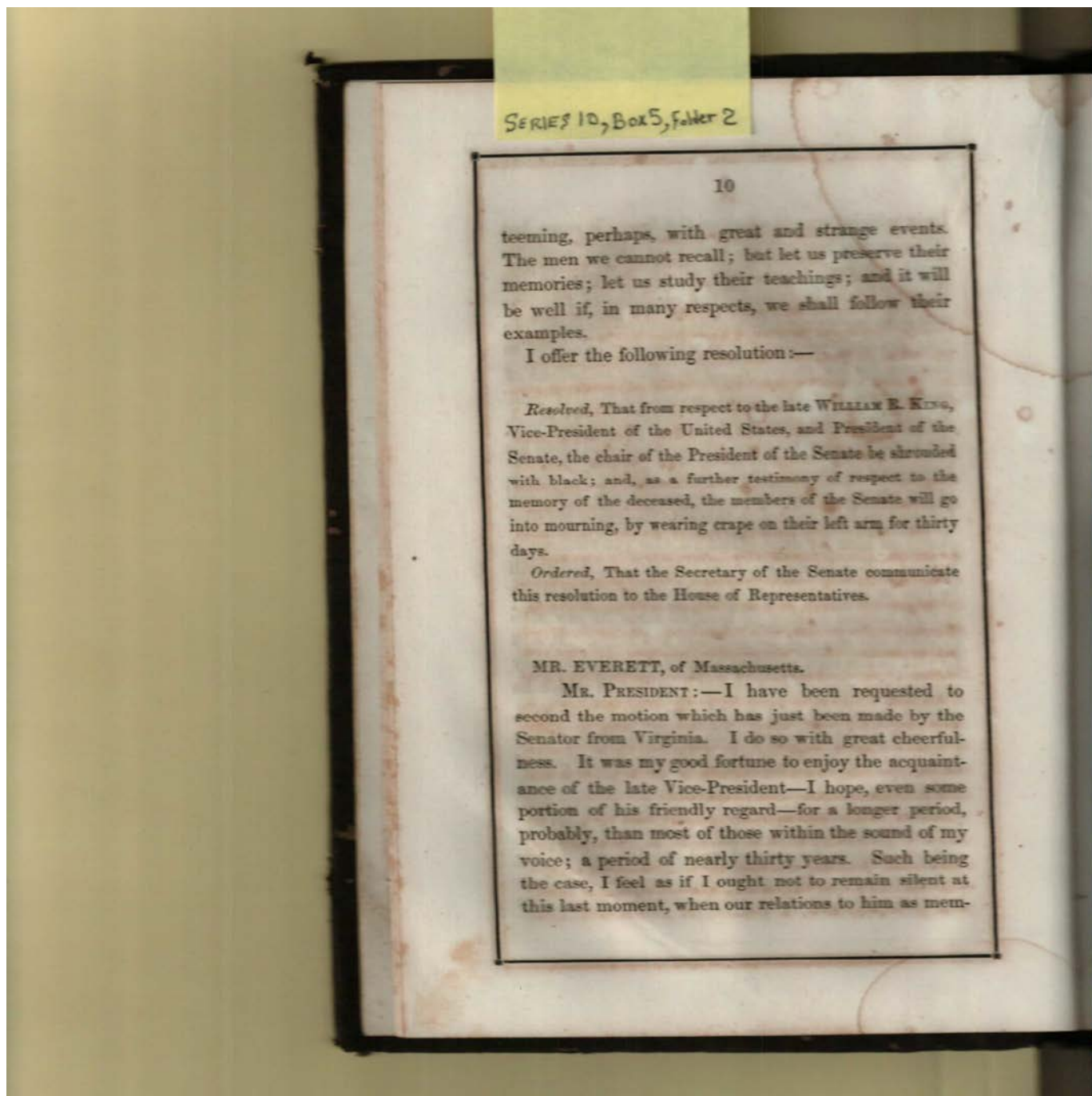
fruit, which turns to ashes on the lips. It came, but it came too late. The breath of public applause could not revive the flame which flickered in the lamp of life. In vain did the assiduity of relatives and friends surround him with affectionate care. In vain did the aspirations of a whole people ascend to Heaven for his recovery. The balmy influences of neither sea nor sky could revive or restore him. When the public messenger came to clothe him with the forms of office, his chief earthly wish was to see his home once more, and, in the midst of familiar scenes, to die among his friends. His desire was gratified. Life and its busy scenes on this side the grave are now closed on him for ever. But its tale yet remains to be told. Not by me, sir, or at this time. But it will be told in the chronicles of his State hereafter, when it may become a labor of love to some of her sons to write the story of its founders and sages. It will be told in our own political history, by whoever may portray the stirring and eventful scenes in which he acted a prominent and useful part. It will be told, too, and perhaps heard, with most interest in the traditions of a family of which he was the ornament and pride.

Mr. President, those to whom our people have been long accustomed to look, in times of difficulty and emergency, for counsel and opinion, are falling fast around us. It is an anxious thing to feel their loss at a period like this, pregnant with change, and

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Names:

Death of William R.
King

Everett, Mr. (of
Massechusetts)

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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bers of this Senate are, by the performance of this day's melancholy duty, about to be closed for ever.

There is an ancient maxim, Sir, founded at once in justice and right feeling, which bids us "say nothing but what is good of the dead." I can obey this rule, in reference to the late Vice-President, without violating the most scrupulous dictates of sincerity. I can say nothing but what is good of him, for I have never seen or heard any thing but good of him for thirty years that I have known him, personally and by reputation.

It would hardly be expected of me to attempt to detail the incidents of the private life or the public career of the late Vice-President. That duty belongs to others, by whom it has been, or will no doubt be, appropriately performed. I regret, particularly on this occasion, the unavoidable absence of our colleagues from Alabama. It is the province of those of us not connected with him by political associations, especially of those inhabiting remote parts of our common country, to express their cordial concurrence in the affectionate praises pronounced by his fellow-citizens and neighbors.

Few of the public men of the day had been so intimately associated with the Senate as the late Vice-President. I think he had been a member of the body for more years than any person now belonging to it. Besides this, a relation of a different kind

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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had grown up between him and the Senate. The Federal Constitution devolves upon the people, through the medium of the Electoral Colleges, the choice of the presiding officer of this body. But whenever the Senate was called to supply the place temporarily, for a long course of years, and till he ceased to belong to it, it turned spontaneously to him.

He undoubtedly owed this honor to distinguished qualifications for the chair. He possessed, in an eminent degree, that quickness of perception, that promptness of decision, that familiarity with the now somewhat complicated rules of congressional proceedings, and that urbanity of manner, which are required in a presiding officer. Not claiming, although an acute and forcible debater, to rank with his illustrious contemporaries, whom now, alas! we can mention only to deplore—with Calhoun, with Clay, and with Webster, (I name them alphabetically, and who will presume to arrange them on any other principle,) whose unmatched eloquence so often shook the walls of this Senate—the late Vice-President possessed the rare and the highly important talent of controlling, with impartiality, the storm of debate, and moderating between mighty spirits, whose ardent conflicts at times seemed to threaten the stability of the Republic.

In fact, sir, he was highly endowed with what Cicero beautifully commends as the *boni Senatoris prudentia*, the "wisdom of a good Senator;" and in

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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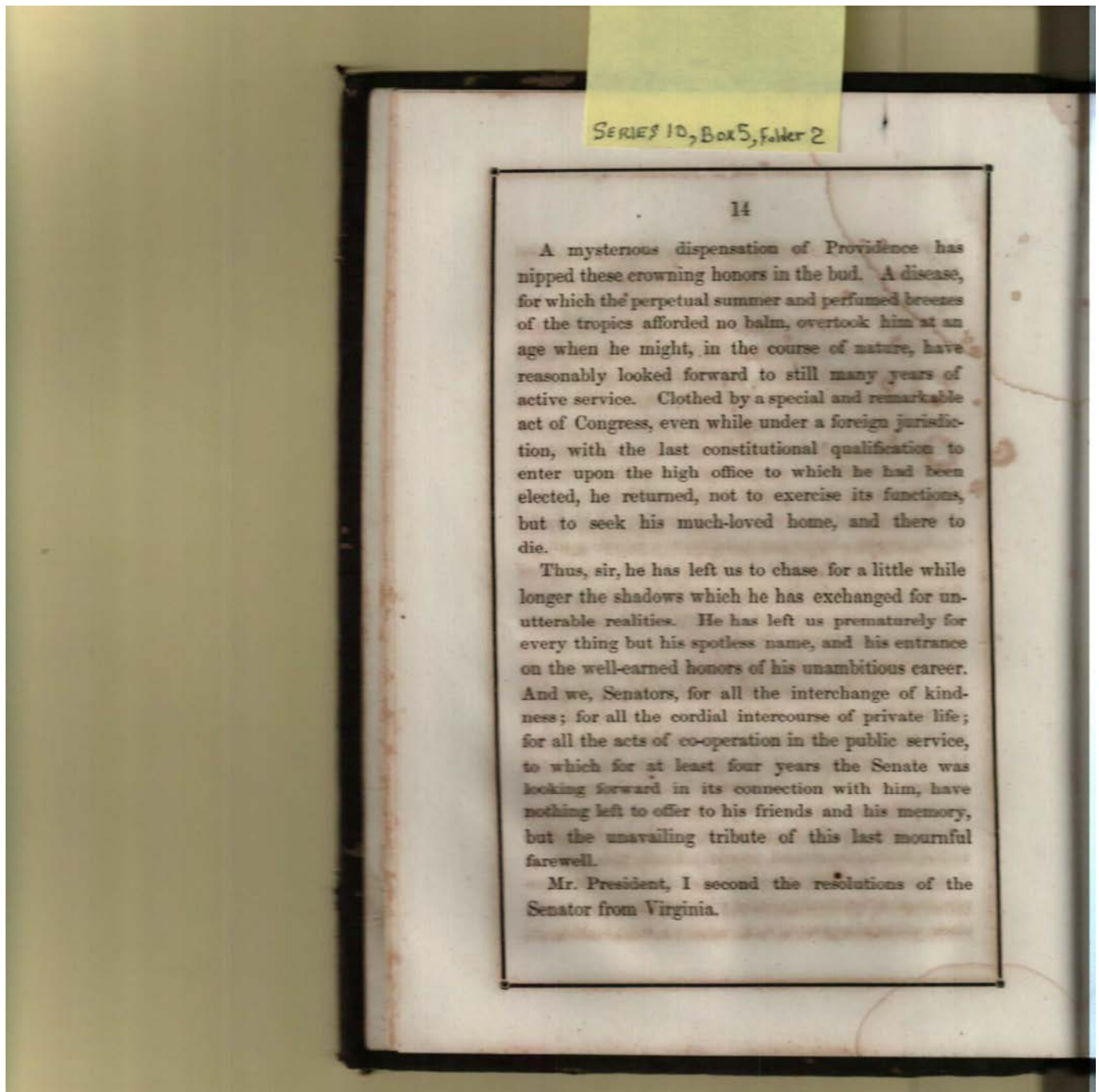
his accurate study and ready application of the rules of parliamentary law, he rendered a service to the country, not perhaps of the most brilliant kind, but assuredly of no secondary importance. There is nothing which more distinguishes the great national race to which we belong, than its aptitude for government by deliberative assemblies; its willingness, while it asserts the largest liberty of parliamentary right, to respect what the Senator from Virginia, in another connection, has called the self-imposed restrictions of parliamentary order; and I do not think it an exaggeration to say, that there is no trait in its character which has proved more conducive to the despatch of the public business, to the freedom of debate, to the honor of the country—I will say, even, which has done more to establish and perpetuate constitutional liberty.

The long and faithful senatorial career of the late Vice-President received at last its appropriate reward. The people of the United States, having often witnessed the disposition of the Senate to place him at their head, and the dignified and acceptable manner in which he bore himself in that capacity, conferred upon him, a twelvemonth since, that office, which is shown by repeated and recent experience to be above the second, if not actually the first, in their gift; the office which placed him constitutionally and permanently, during its continuance, in the chair of the Senate.

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

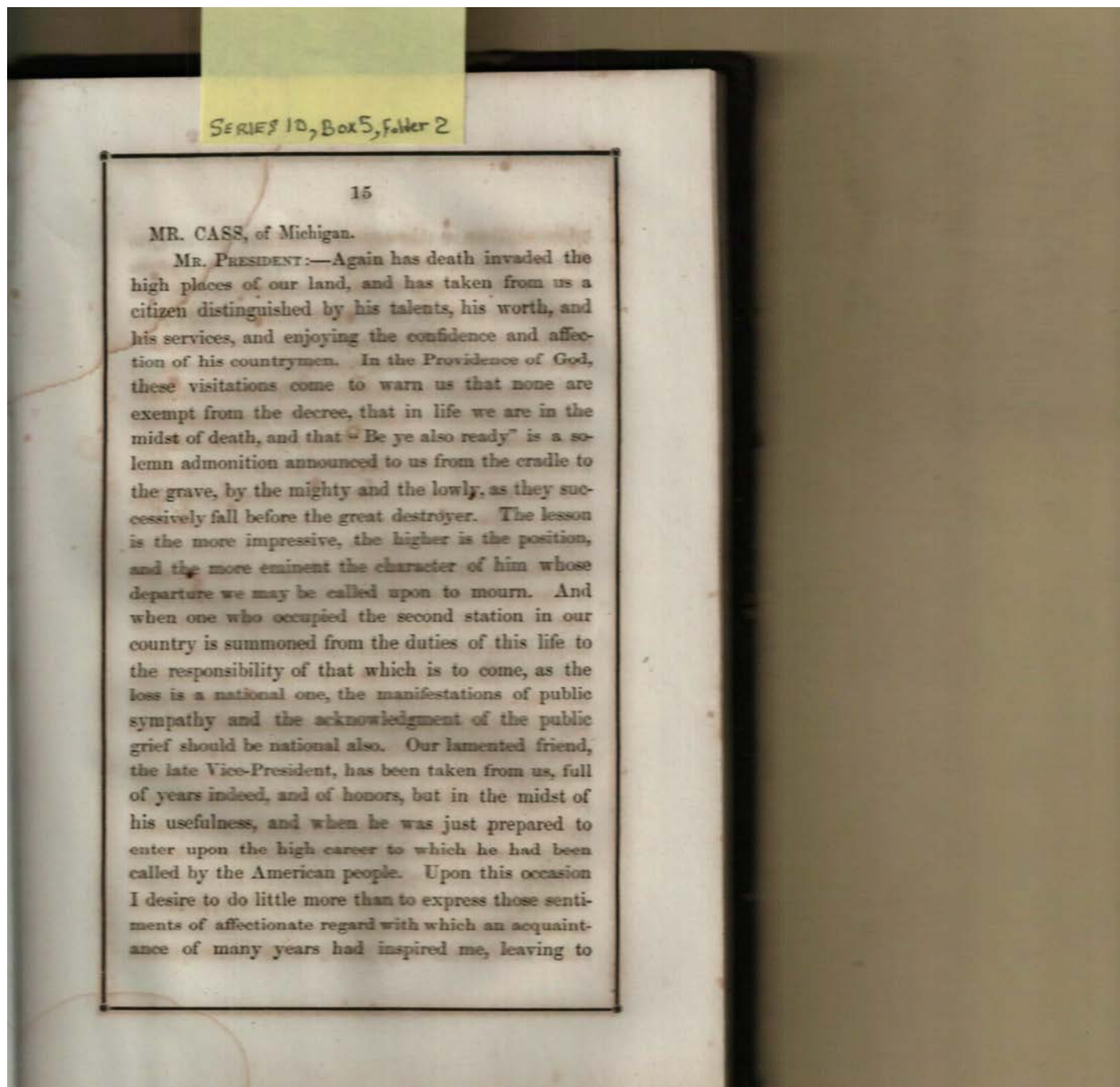
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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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Names:

Cass, Mr. (of Michigan)

Death of William R. King

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

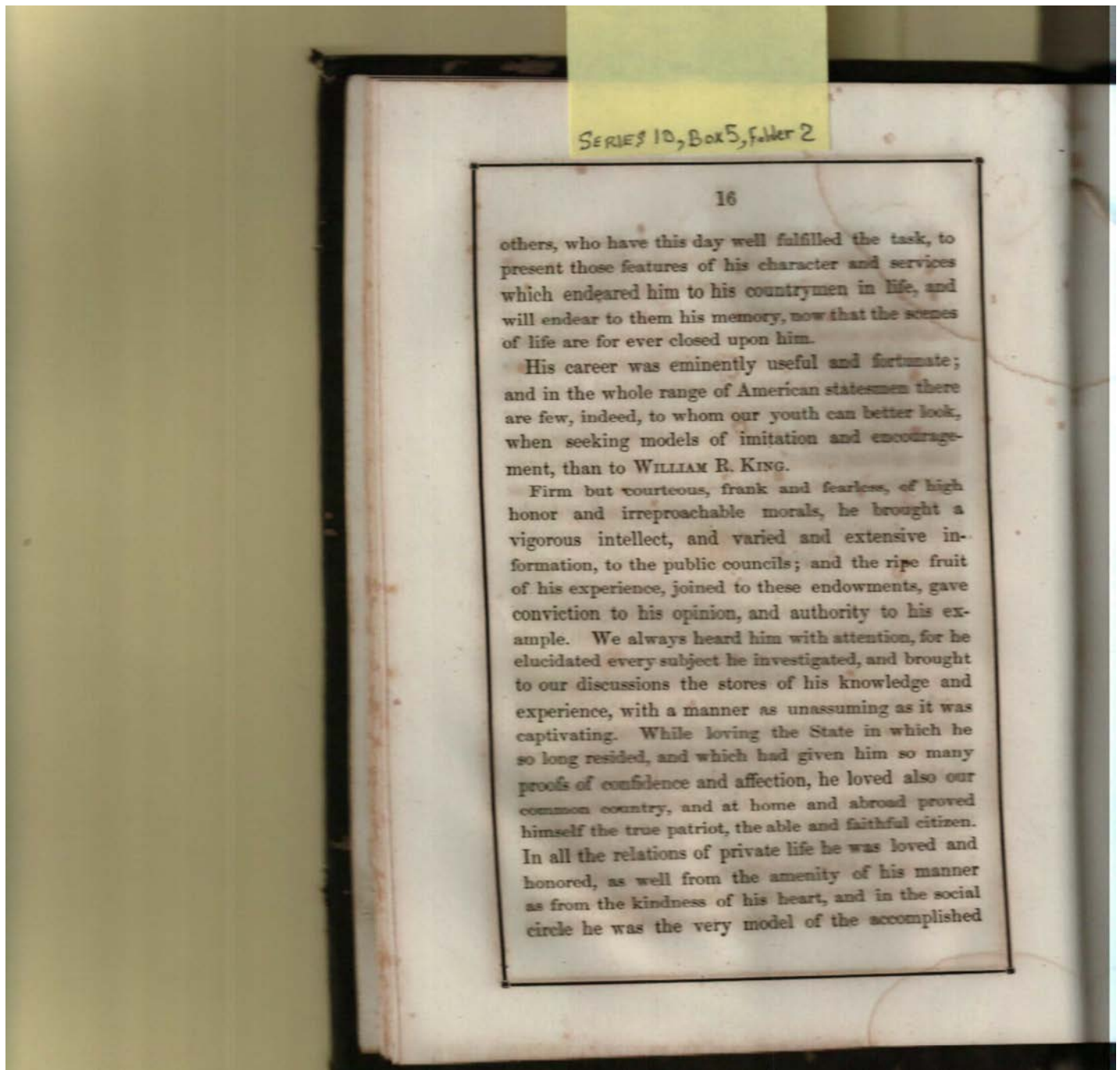
Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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gentleman. For almost half a century he was in the public service, and was intimately connected with many of the great events which marked that long and stirring period, and he proved himself equal to all the circumstances in which he was placed, sustaining himself with signal ability among men whose renown is written in imperishable characters upon the history of our country.

But better than all this, and above all this, he was a sincere Christian; adding another to the long list of eminent men who have searched the gospel of Jesus and have found it the will and word of God. In his last illness, when the world and the things of the world were fast fading before him, he found hope and consolation in the promises of the Saviour; and calmly surveying the approach of death, he looked beyond its power to the glorious immortality promised to the believer. The places that knew him will know him no more; but, though dead, his memory is embalmed in the hearts of his countrymen, and there it will live, honored and cherished, long after all those who are now taking part in this tribute to his worth shall have followed him in the journey, where, for a brief space, he has preceded us through the dark valley of the shadow of death.

MR. DOUGLASS, of Illinois.

I can scarcely hope to add any thing of value to what has been so well said by others. For the

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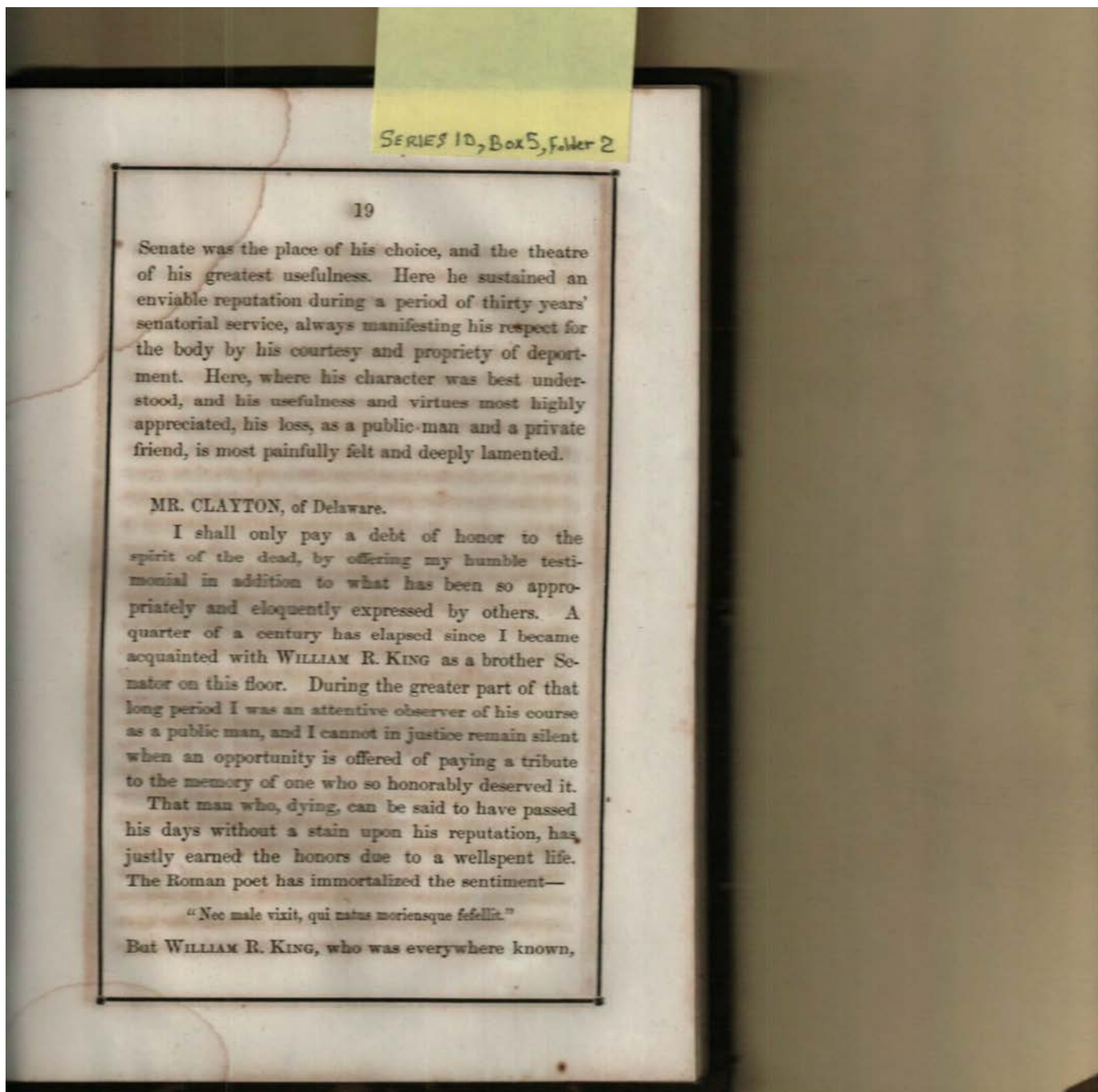
"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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last eight months, the mournful event which is now officially announced to the Senate has been known, felt, and lamented by us all. In the mean time, we have passed through scenes well calculated to engross our thoughts and divert our attention, if not to obscure the freshness of the first impression, or assuage the keenness of that sorrow which filled every heart. But no matter what the lapse of time or its results, the meeting of the Senate, and the absence of one whom all admired and loved, and delighted to greet and honor, call up associations and reminiscences which impart to the occasion all the effects of a sudden and unexpected bereavement. Those whose happiness it was to be associated with Colonel KING in public duty and private intercourse, are alone capable of realizing the extent of our loss. His example in all the relations life, public and private, may be safely commended to our children as worthy of imitation. Few men in this country have ever served the public for so long a period of time, and with a more fervent patriotism or unblemished reputation. For forty-five years he devoted his energies and talents to the performance of arduous public duties—always performing his trust with fidelity and ability, and never failing to command the confidence, admiration, and gratitude of an enlightened constituency. While he held, in succession, numerous official stations, in each of which he maintained and enhanced his previous reputation, yet the



Names:

Clayton, Mr. (of
Delaware)

Death of William R.
King

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

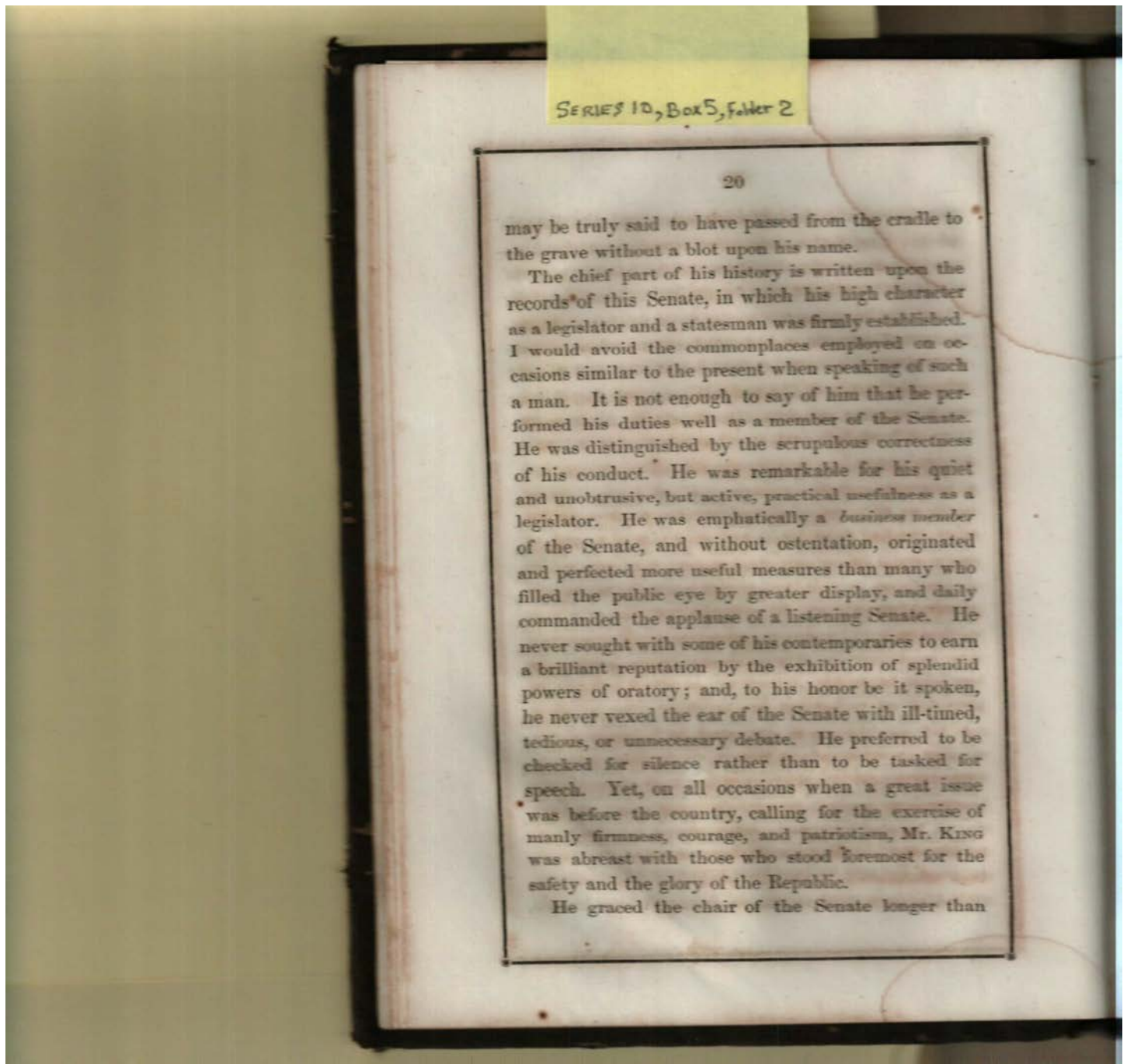
Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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any other man that ever occupied it—not continuously, or by virtue merely of repeated elections as our temporary President, but often also at the request of the Presiding Officer. I think he was thus engaged in the performance of the duties of President of the Senate during the greater part of the terms of five Vice-Presidents; and at last he reached the second office in the gift of the people—an office excelled in honor only by one other in the world. To preside over such an assembly as the Senate of the United States, and to do that as he did it, was enough to satisfy the highest aspirations of an honorable and patriotic ambition. In this elevated position he was distinguished (and I may add he was never excelled) for the dignity of his deportment, the impartiality of his decisions, and the promptness and fidelity with which he maintained the order and enforced the rules of this body. I can remember no instance in which he lost sight of what was due to his own self-respect or the rights of his political opponents, by the indulgence of party feelings in the chair. Presiding, as he did, when party spirit raged in torrents of fire, all just men will admit that he could have been no common man who maintained his high character for justice and impartiality at such a period. A little man, at that time, would have shown his littleness by yielding himself up as an instrument of oppression to the minority. But he sought an honest and enduring fame, and he obtained it without the em-

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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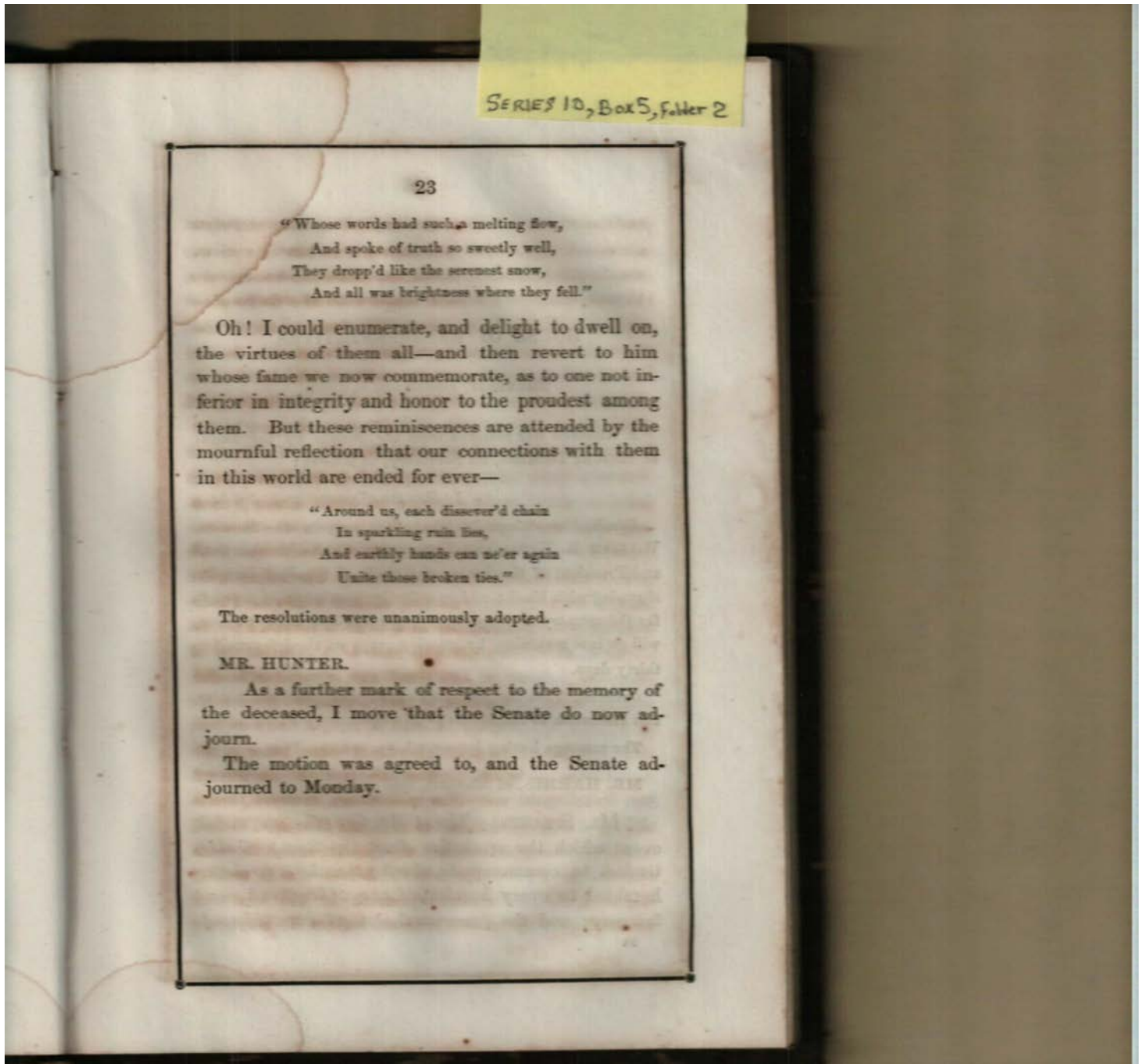
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ployment of any unworthy means, or the slightest sacrifice of principle. He engaged no hireling press, no mercenary libeller to traduce others, or to trumpet his own fame. He paid respect to the feelings of others, and rigidly exacted the observance of the same respect for himself. Generous as he was brave, his conduct to his opponents suffering under defeat, was always liberal and kind; and, by his inflexible truth, he won the entire confidence of men of all parties in his own unblemished honor.

Others have spoken of his services in other places, but I shall speak of nothing to which I was not a witness. While Mr. KING remained in the Senate, there was still one member of the body who had served with me on this floor during the memorable session of 1829-30, and the earlier years of President Jackson's administration. It is melancholy to reflect that nearly all the rest of the Senators of that period have closed their career on earth, and that not one of those who survive remains here with me to-day.

The master-spirits of the time were among the Senators of that day. I speak not of the living. But here, then, were Clay, Calhoun, Forsyth, Webster, and Livingston, the learned and laborious Woodbury, the astute Grundy, the witty, sarcastic, and ever-ready Holmes, the classic Robbins, and, among many others justly distinguished, the graceful and accomplished orator of Carolina, Robert Y. Hayne,



Names:

Hunter, Mr. (of
Virginia)

Places:

Washington, D. C.

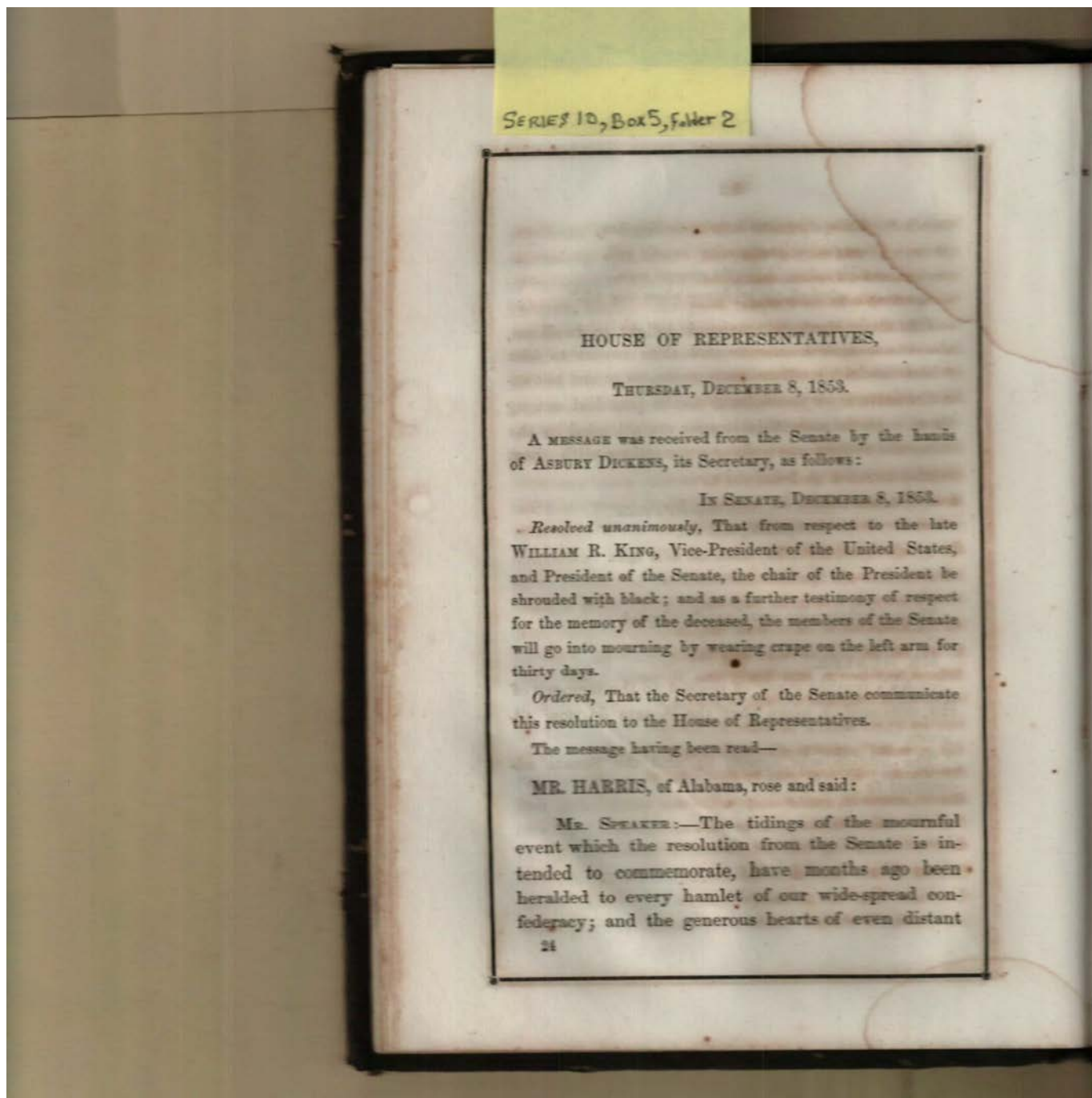
Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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Names:

Dickens, Asbury

Harris, Mr. (of
Alabama)

King, William R.,
Vice-President

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

resolution

Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

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lands have mingled their regrets with our own, that a wise and virtuous and distinguished man has been stricken from the number of earth's children. Tears have ceased to flow; and hearts the most deeply penetrated by the afflicting visitation of Providence, have learned to contemplate it with that spirit of resignation which time ever supplies as a medicine for the sorrows of earth.

But in conformity with a solemn and impressive usage, the Senate, over whose deliberations the distinguished dead so long presided with such marked ability, pauses from its labors to consecrate a brief day to the memory of WILLIAM R. KING. And while the sympathizing sons of sister States gather around his bier, I crave the indulgence of the House of Representatives, while, in behalf of the State of Alabama, I offer the tribute of her homage and respect to the memory of her most distinguished citizen.

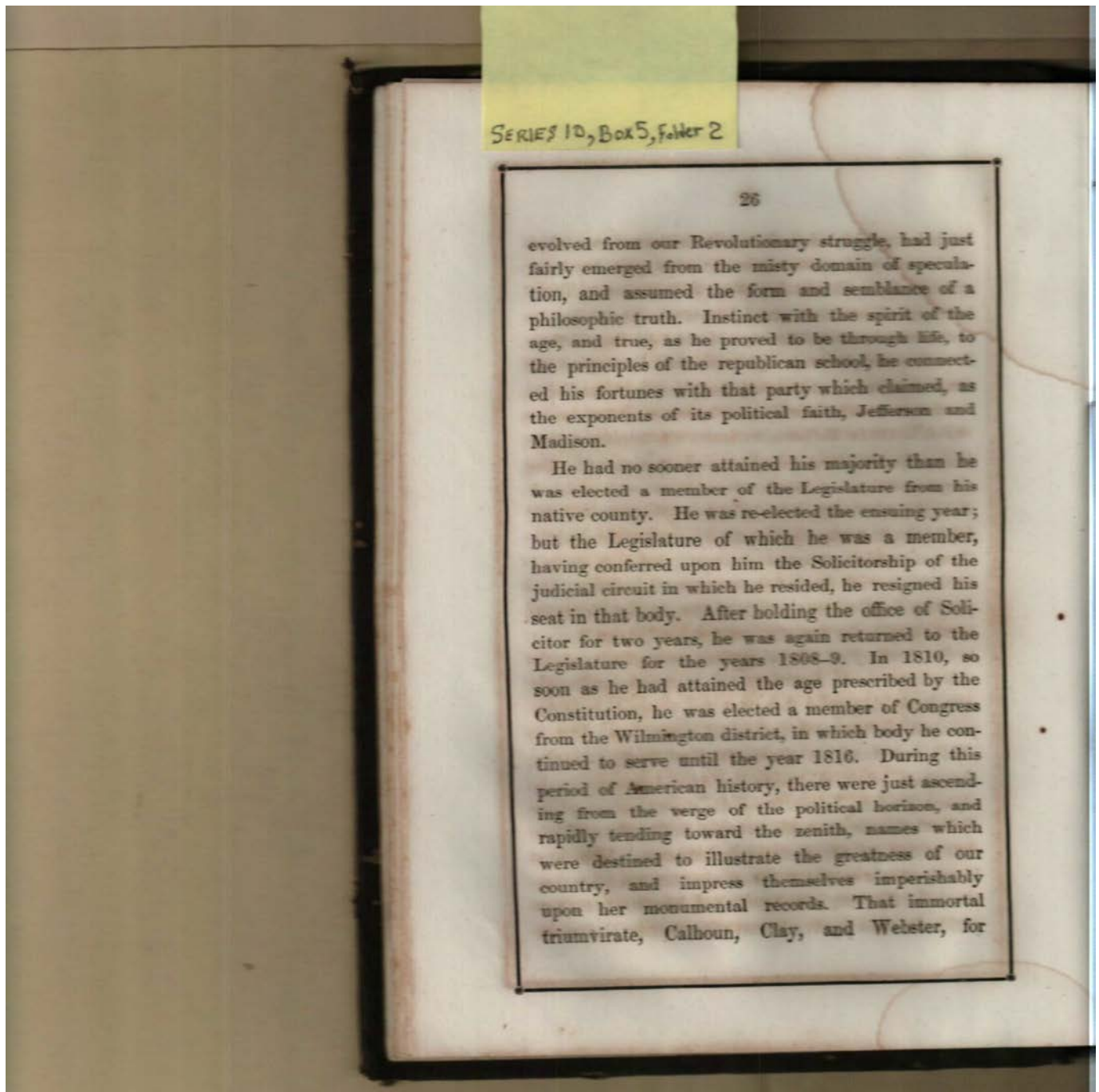
Recent events, familiar to us all, render unnecessary any thing more than a cursory allusion to the political services of WILLIAM R. KING.

He was born on the 7th day of April, 1786, in the State of North Carolina. Coming into being almost contemporaneously with the adoption of our Federal Constitution, his eventful and protracted life covers one of the most remarkable periods in the history of the world. When the dawn of mature manhood first began to open upon him, the great experiment of self-government, whose principles were

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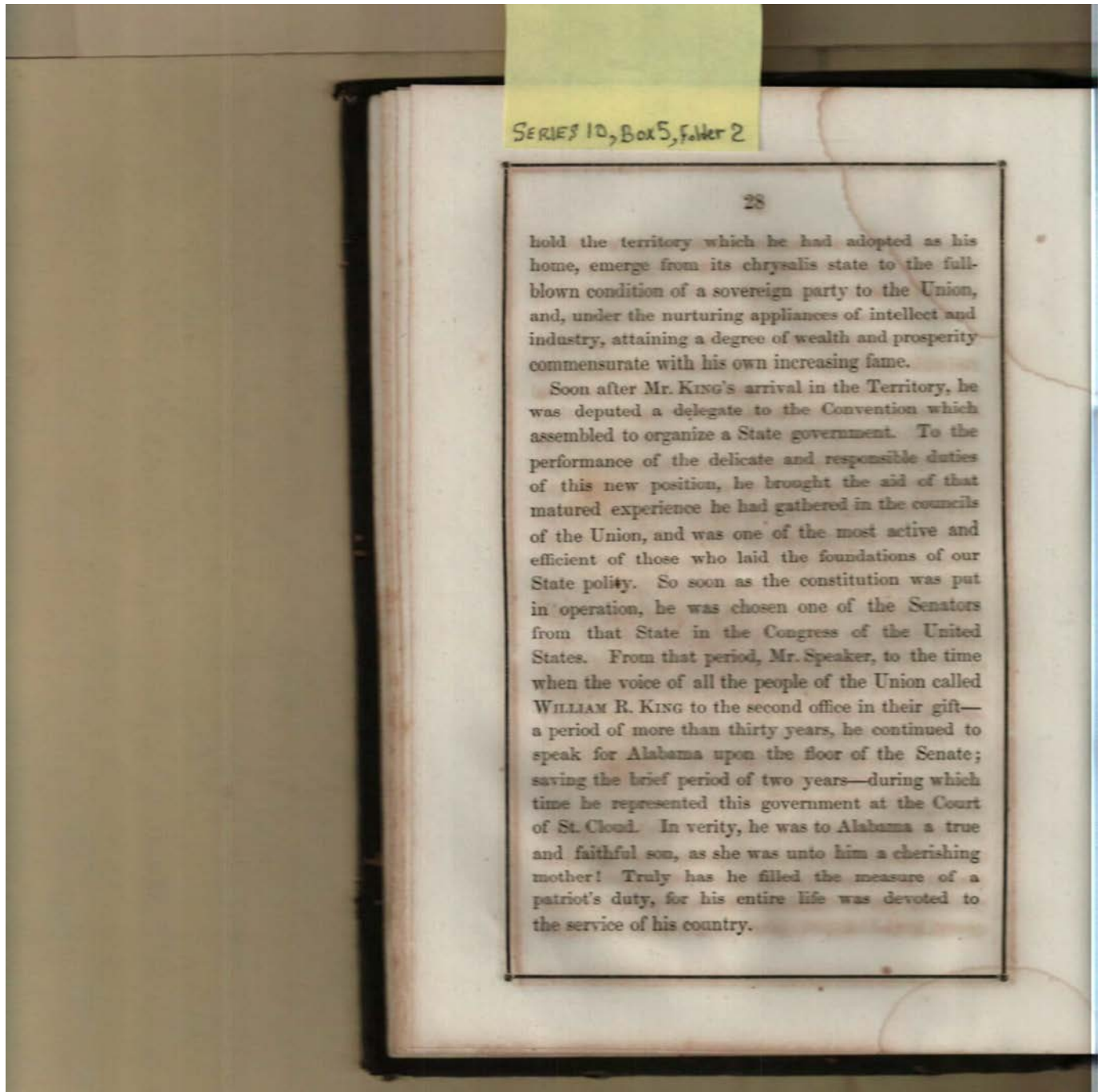
whose decease the sable habiliments of a nation's wo have scarce disappeared, were just then beginning to exhibit the giant proportions of their unmatched intellects, and entrancing their countrymen and the world by the electric power of their resistless eloquence. Randolph and Lowndes were there too—and other great names indelibly secured by the diamond pen of history's muse. Among these stood WILLIAM R. KING, a co-worker and a compeer. Differing somewhat from them all in many of those great attributes of mind, which dazzle and lead captive the admiring throng; yet in all the elements which go to make up the useful legislator—in prudence, caution, firmness, wisdom, and patriotism—occupying with them the same proud pedestal; and lending his influence and his voice to the successful vindication of "free trade and sailors' rights."

In 1816, Mr. KING, having been tendered the appointment of Secretary of Legation under Mr. Pinckney, resigned his seat in Congress, and accompanied that distinguished statesman, first to Naples, and afterward to St. Petersburg. Having returned home at the expiration of two years, he determined to break from the endearments of his fatherland, and cast his fortunes in the then almost unpeopled wilds of distant Alabama. This land was now to constitute the theatre of his after usefulness. God gave him sufficient length of days to see "the wilderness blossom as the rose;" and be-

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

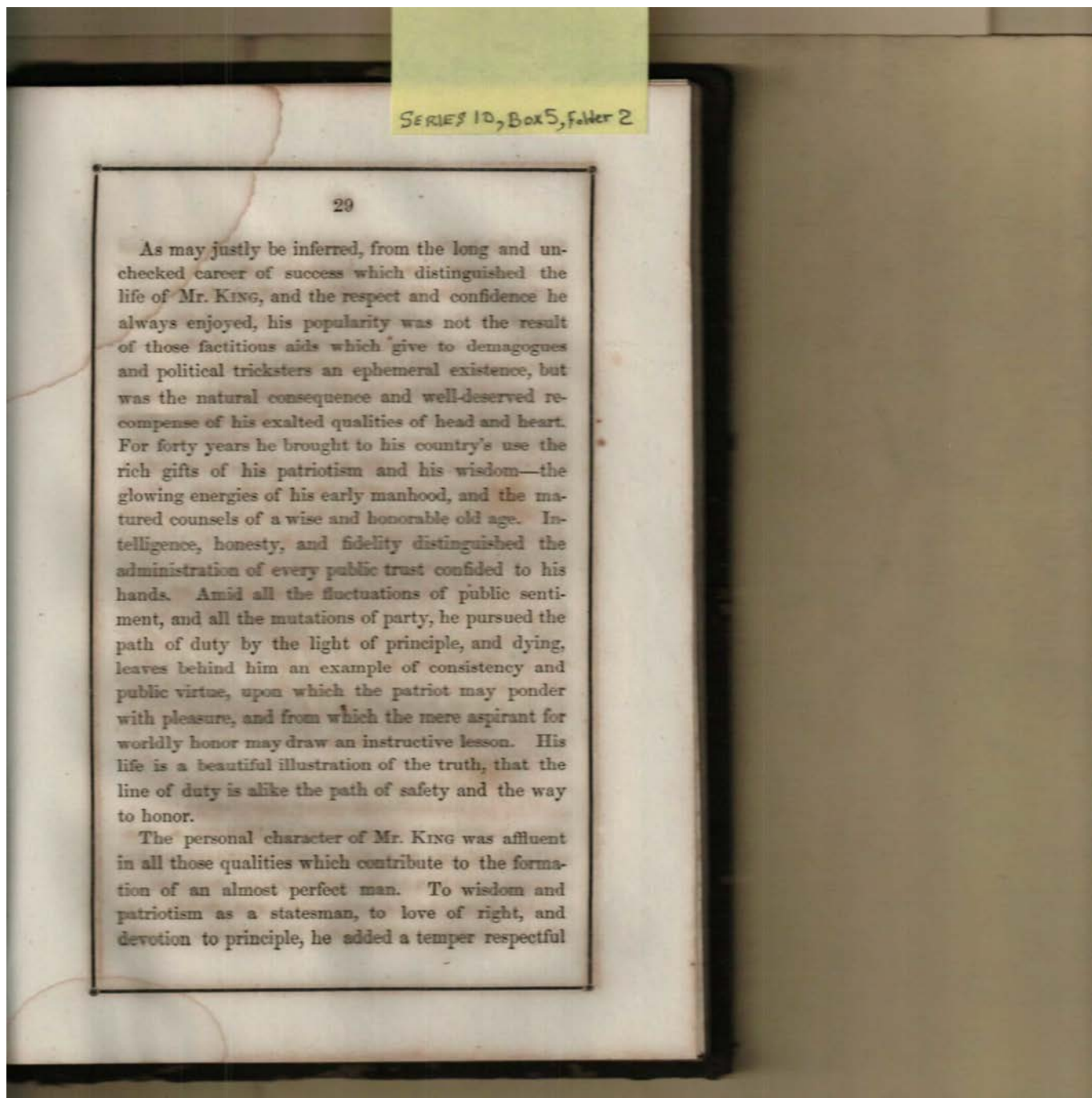
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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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As may justly be inferred, from the long and unchecked career of success which distinguished the life of Mr. KING, and the respect and confidence he always enjoyed, his popularity was not the result of those factitious aids which give to demagogues and political tricksters an ephemeral existence, but was the natural consequence and well-deserved recompense of his exalted qualities of head and heart. For forty years he brought to his country's use the rich gifts of his patriotism and his wisdom—the glowing energies of his early manhood, and the matured counsels of a wise and honorable old age. Intelligence, honesty, and fidelity distinguished the administration of every public trust confided to his hands. Amid all the fluctuations of public sentiment, and all the mutations of party, he pursued the path of duty by the light of principle, and dying, leaves behind him an example of consistency and public virtue, upon which the patriot may ponder with pleasure, and from which the mere aspirant for worldly honor may draw an instructive lesson. His life is a beautiful illustration of the truth, that the line of duty is alike the path of safety and the way to honor.

The personal character of Mr. KING was affluent in all those qualities which contribute to the formation of an almost perfect man. To wisdom and patriotism as a statesman, to love of right, and devotion to principle, he added a temper respectful

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and courteous to others; a courage unquestioned, and honor intact. No stain blurred the pure ermine of his good name. Conceding to all men the full measure of what was their due, he was punctilious in the exaction of what was due to himself. Exempt from that acrimony which party collision too often engenders, and always tolerant of the opinions of others, he was inflexible and unswerving in the maintenance of his own—

"Vir justus, et tenax propositi."

In all those more intimate and tender relations which bound him to his friends, his kindred, and his servants, he was all that friendship could ask, or affection claim, or humanity and kindness enjoin. While in that higher and more solemn relation, which he bore to the Author of us all, he was exact and scrupulous in the discharge of all those duties enjoined by a regard for the sacred behests of religion;—and in the closing scenes of life's fleeting, final hour, he leaned with humble trust upon the merits of his Saviour.

"His life was gentle—and the elements

So mix'd in him, that nature might stand up

And say to all the world—'This was a man.'"

In the first month of this year, the Vice-President resigned his post of Presiding Officer of the Senate, with the vain hope that a winter residence in Cuba might ameliorate his health. But the balmy breezes

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of the ocean gem could not relume the waning fire that flickered to its close. Death was demanding its victim, and the dying patriot felt that he must need obey the summons. He hastened home from Cuba to spend his last hours among the friends who watched with such intense solicitude his gradual decline. Like the imprisoned monarch whose life went out on the storm-rocked island of the sea, he did not wish to sleep upon a foreign strand, but rather on the banks of the Alabama, "in the bosom of the people he had loved so well," and served so faithfully. In the midst of that people he died—beneath that sod he takes his final rest. But a fragrance shall still cling around his memory, exhaled from the clustering virtues which beautified his character. Calmly he confronted the icy monster; and with Christian dignity, resigned him to his fate. "Be silent," said he, to the anxious friends around him, "let me die quietly." Silence prevailed, and quietly his noble spirit passed to the land of shadows.

"He sat, as sets the morning star, which goes
Not down behind the darken'd west, nor hides
Obscured amid the tempests of the sky—
But melts away into the light of heaven."

How fruitful, Mr. Speaker, in admonition to us, who were associated with Mr. KING in the direction of this great Government, and who now survive him, are the circumstances which give such melancholy prominence to the closing hours of his life.

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Upon the full tide of an almost popular acclaim, he had been just elevated to one of the most exalted stations of the earth. But along with the flattering consciousness of popular confidence and merited promotion, came the stunning sense that life's decaying energies were sinking to the grave. While the joyous gratulations of an admiring people were welling up from the depths of the nation's heart, and falling with thrilling accents upon the ear of gratified ambition, there was mingling with them another voice from the spirit-land, whose tones were heard above the loud tumult of popular applause, and calling to the failing statesman—

"Child of the dust, come away!"

The garlands had been thrust upon the victim, only that it might prove a more fitting sacrifice for the altar, which already smoked for its immolation. What a humiliating mockery of earth's aspirations, which end in nothingness—of its evanescent honors, which vanish at the touch! and how strikingly suggestive of the solemn reflection that

"The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

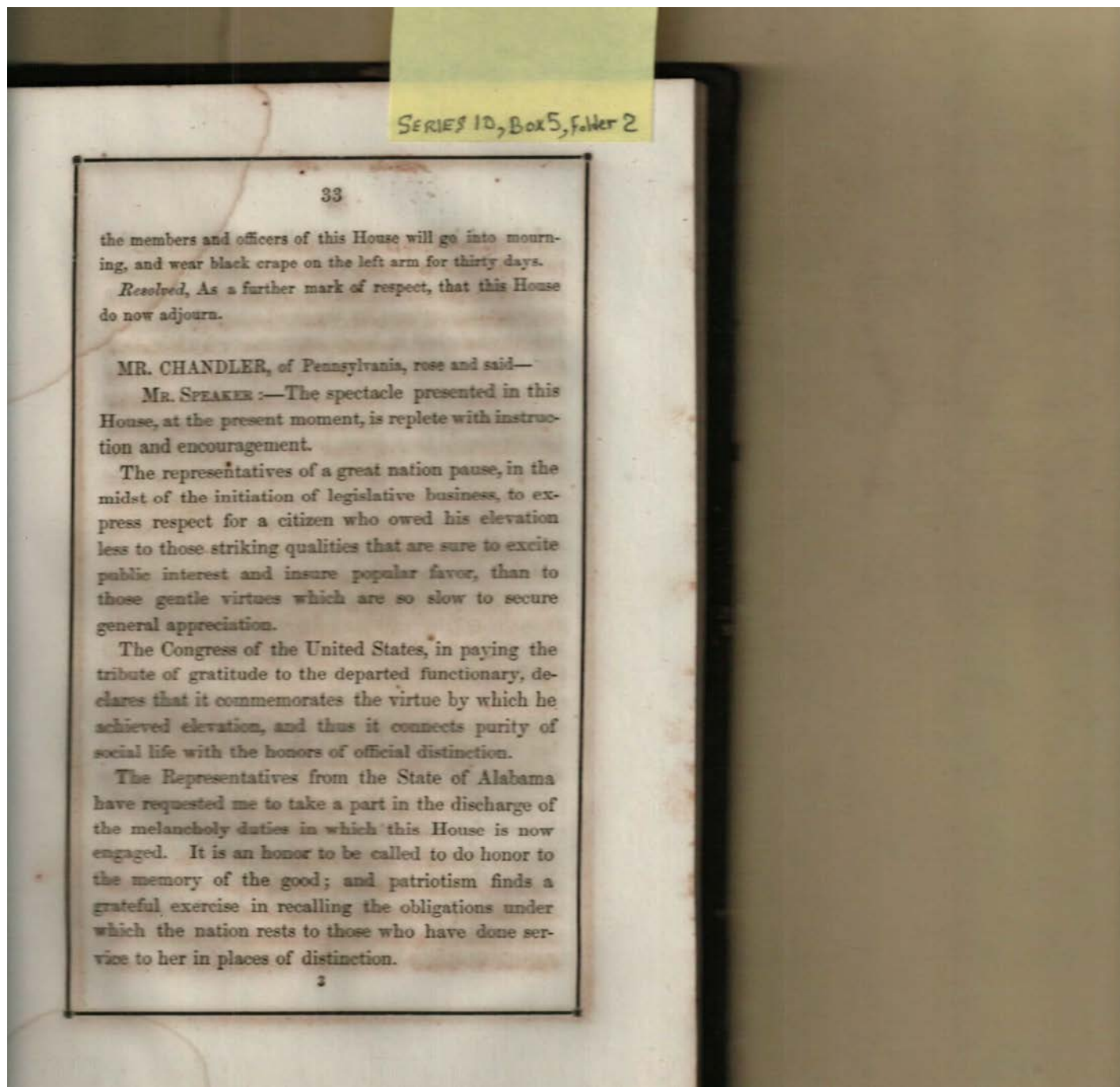
Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That from an unfeigned respect to the late WILLIAM R. KING, Vice-President of the United States, and President of the Senate, the Speaker's chair be shrouded in black during the present session of Congress; and, as a further testimony of respect for the memory of the deceased,

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Names:

Chandler, Mr. (of
Pennsylvania)

Death of William R.
King

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

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I should have promptly declined the service, if I did not believe that my colleagues, the Representatives of Pennsylvania on this floor, shared in the sentiments of respect for the dead which I entertain, but which I shall so feebly express; and while they and their constituents, and mine, judge according to their various political creeds, of the public measures which are connected with the name and services of the deceased, they have looked through the mist with which party hostility and party partiality alike invest their objects, and have done honor to the purity of motive and the consistency of patriotism, in which those measures were proposed or advocated.

I do not suppose, that in the tribute which we are now paying to the memory of a distinguished statesman, we are acquitting ourselves, as the representatives of the people, of the indebtedness of the country for services through years of unremitting devotion. Sir, while the nation shall enjoy the prosperity with which she is now blessed, she will feel and confess her obligations to those whose talents, virtues, and devotion procured the blessing. And should adverse circumstances overtake us, we should then recall the lessons of wisdom and patriotism which the lives and services of our good men impart; and while we should lament the consequences of a neglect of their examples and precepts, we should do honor to virtues which we had ceased to imitate, and venerate the patriotism which we had forgotten to follow.

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The gentleman who has preceded me has given to the House a sketch of the public services of the late Vice-President KING. It is an instructive lesson; one that we should "teach diligently unto our children." One that at the present time comes with peculiar pertinency, and seems to illustrate the nature of our institutions, and to encourage the growth of quiet, unobtrusive virtues, by showing the ability of the people to appreciate, and their willingness to reward them. The history of our country shows that consummate statesmanship may be combined with the possession and professional exercise of military skill. The halls of legislation, and the bureaus of the Departments have been the arenas of noble and successful efforts of those who came from the activity of the camp to take part in peaceful forensic contests, or to discharge the duties of ministerial office. And we have seen the accomplished warrior lay aside his military trappings, and assume the garb and discharge the duties of the first office of our nation.

But while these things show the versatility of genius, and the wonderful adaptation of mental powers, they lead sometimes to the apprehension that the people, who seemed so struck with the services of the military man, would overlook the unobtrusive qualities of the civilian, and forget that patriotism has its services and its sacrifices in the halls of legislation and the walks of diplomacy; and

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that the qualifications for lofty place were to be manifested in the silent, laborious, unpretending privacy of the closet, as well as in the more stirring and striking duties of military life.

The official life of Mr. KING redeems the people of the United States from imputations of a false estimate by a false standard of the services of their public functionaries, and it shows how much confidence may be placed in their judgment of the capability of men to discharge distinguished trusts.

The manners of Mr. KING were unobtrusive, retiring, gentle. No appearance, no act of his could be regarded as challenging attention. He moved among his fellow-men with manifestations of constant respect for their rights and their positions; and among his fellow-legislators he was distinguished by that constant deference to others which is the characteristic of excessive modesty and available talents. Abroad, sir, in Europe, he presented himself with no demands, as a *man*, upon the consideration of others, and no claim to distinction, in the free use of his ample means. But as the representative of a nation of freemen, he claimed the regard which his representative character challenged, and he maintained social hospitalities with the profusion which his ample means warranted, and his generous patriotism suggested.

Mr. KING, sir, was a party man. Few men, Mr. Speaker, attain political distinction in a country like

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ours without party attachments and party feelings. And none will more readily pardon Mr. KING for his efforts for party measures than those, who, differing from him in politics, know by the purity of their own motives how to do justice to the sincerity of those by which he was influenced; and this the more readily, because the courteous bearing of that distinguished man deprived his opposition of all appearance of bitterness, drew from the defeat of his opponents, when their defeat ensued, the sting of mortified self-esteem, or imparted to his own discomfort the ease of gentlemanly submission.

Sir, from the quiet walks of life, that seemed at first to promise little eminence, Mr. KING rose to the second office in this great republic; attaining that position, too, in the midst of all his country's greatness, in the midst of all her amplitude of extent, and in the midst of all her profusion of means; more than that, sir, in the midst of all her munificence of men.

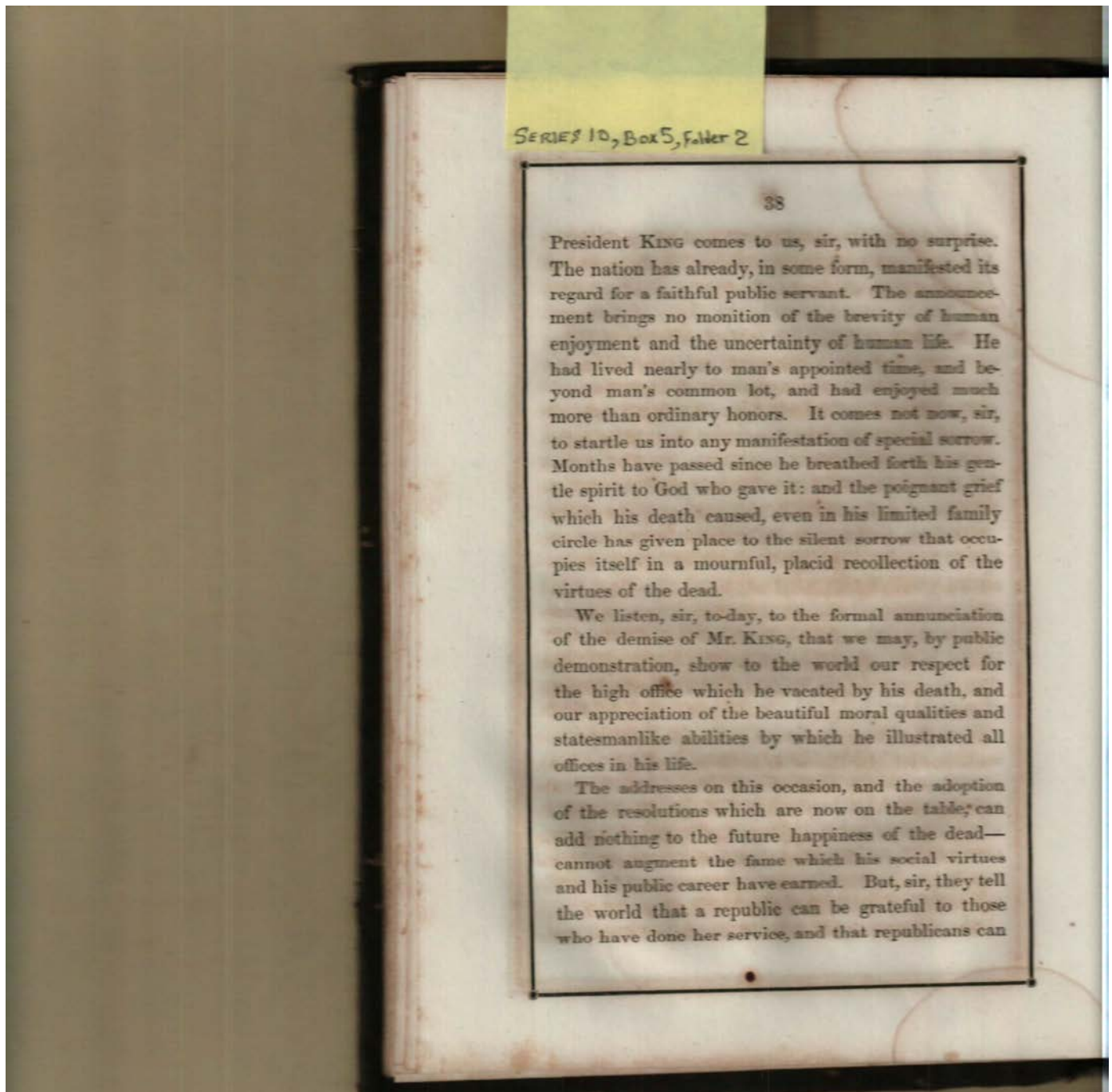
Though absent, sir, absent to die, far from the immediate seat of his duties, yet the memory of his excellence and purity sustained him in the affection and respect of his brethren of the Senate chamber, who seemed to feel it a pleasure as well as a duty to testify to him their full appreciation of his conciliatory habits, his sagacity as a statesman, and his justice as their Presiding Officer.

The annunciation to-day of the death of Mr. Vice-

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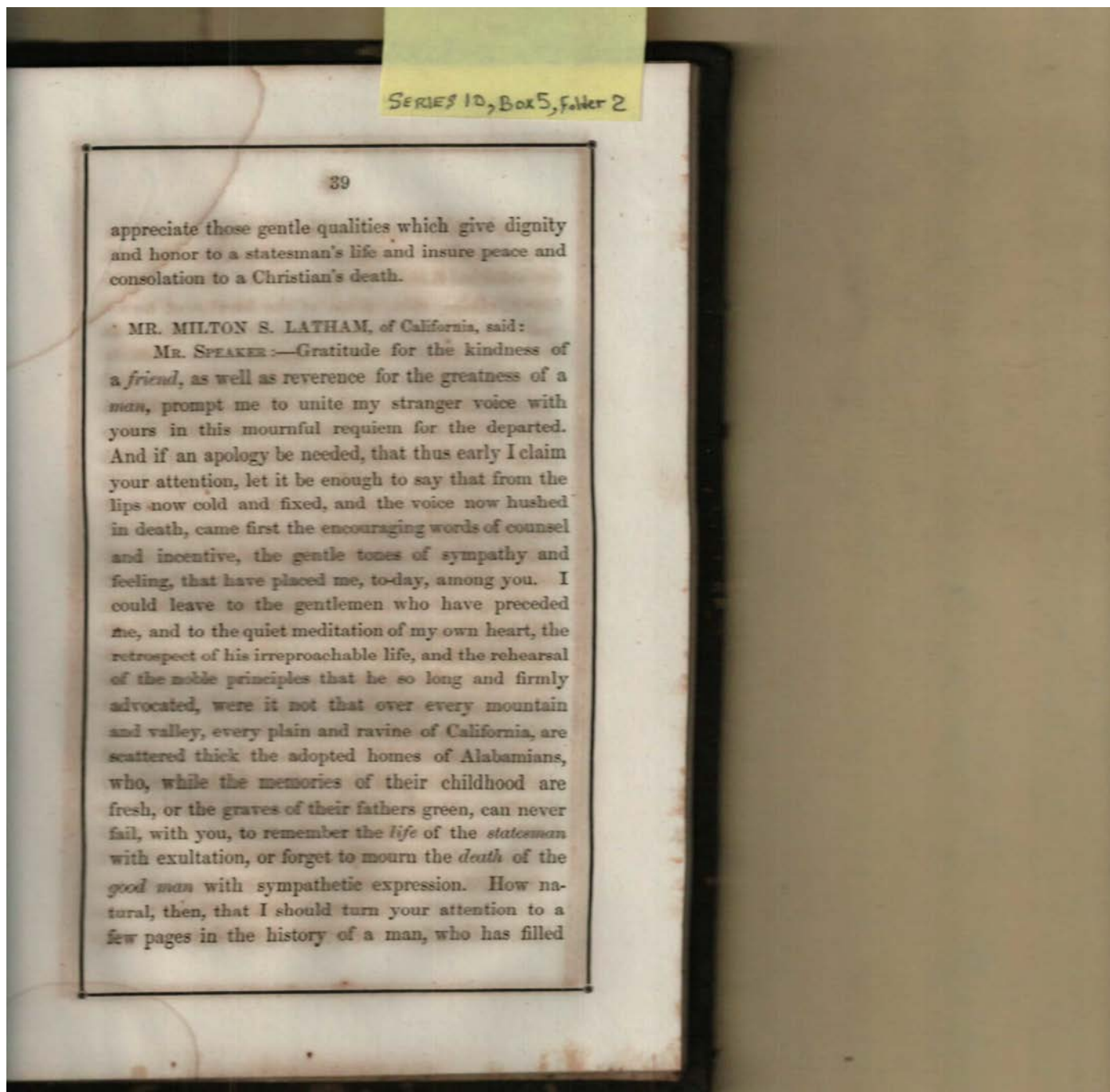
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Names:

Death of William R.
King

Latham, Milton S. (of
California)

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

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every place but one, to which the ambition of an American citizen may aspire, and has filled all with distinguished credit to himself and honor to the country.

WILLIAM RUFUS KING was a noble specimen of an American statesman and gentleman. The intimate friend of John C. Calhoun, and the contemporary of Webster, Clay, Cass, and Benton, he maintained a proud position in the Senate of the United States by his strong, practical good sense, his experience and wisdom as a legislator, the acknowledged rectitude of his intentions, and that uniform urbanity of manner which marked, not so much the man of conventional breeding, as the true gentleman at heart. He was no sophist to himself, and hence it was that he was truthful and sincere to all the world. His course in the Senate was considerate and dignified. He never yielded to the impulse of the moment, but made his tongue wait upon his judgment. He never knew what it was to speak, act, or legislate by indirection. He was frank and loyal to his colleagues, as he was devoted to his own State, and sincerely attached to the Union. Is it a wonder, then, that the Senate listened to every word which fell from his lips; that his voice was potent whenever it pleaded the cause of his country?

It is said that during a primary meeting held by one of the factions into which the first French National Convention was divided, one of the men who

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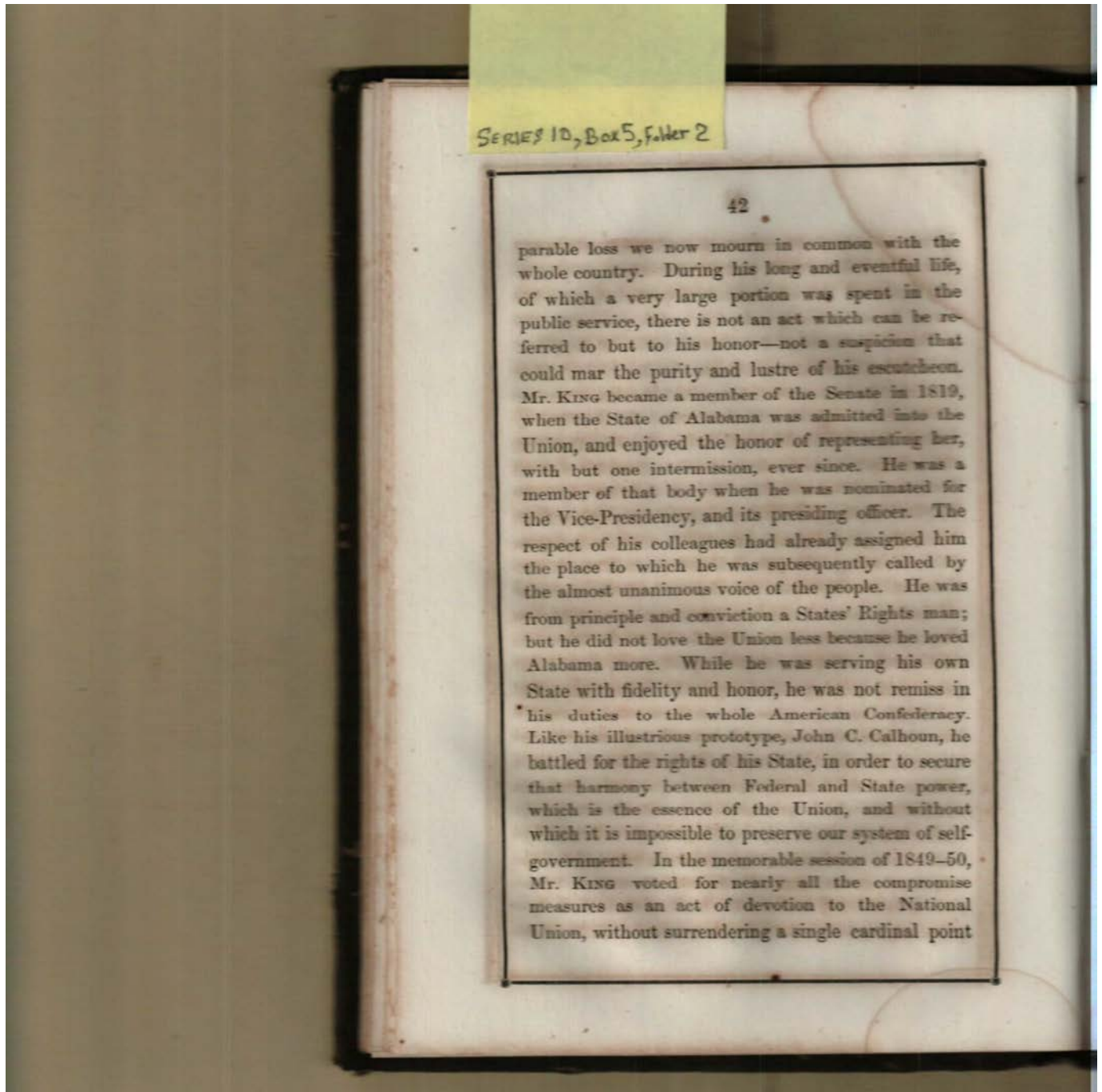
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afterward played a most conspicuous part in history, spoke but a few words, and these without emphasis. Yet such was the conviction he produced, that his views were instantly adopted. He possessed the genius of *character*; he believed what he said, and produced conviction in others. It is this peculiar "genius of character" which gave force and direction to Mr. KING's speeches in the United States Senate, and produced that deference to his avowed opinions and principles which none of his colleagues shared in a more eminent degree. In all that belonged to him individually, Mr. KING was the very type of an American gentleman. Free from artifice and disguise, his every thought and instinct was chivalric. Not to adventitious circumstances, not to the chances of birth or fortune, not to the society into which he was thrown, was he indebted either for the distinction to which he rose in public life, or to the grace which adorned his private character. He never borrowed thoughts or sentiments from others. His mind and heart were of American growth, while his eminent virtues served to illustrate our national character. As Americans, we recognise no standard of greatness which is not based on moral excellence, such as pre-eminently distinguished the early founders of our institutions and laws; and, in this respect, few of the great men whose names have passed into our history can boast of a nearer approach to those great exemplars than he whose irre-

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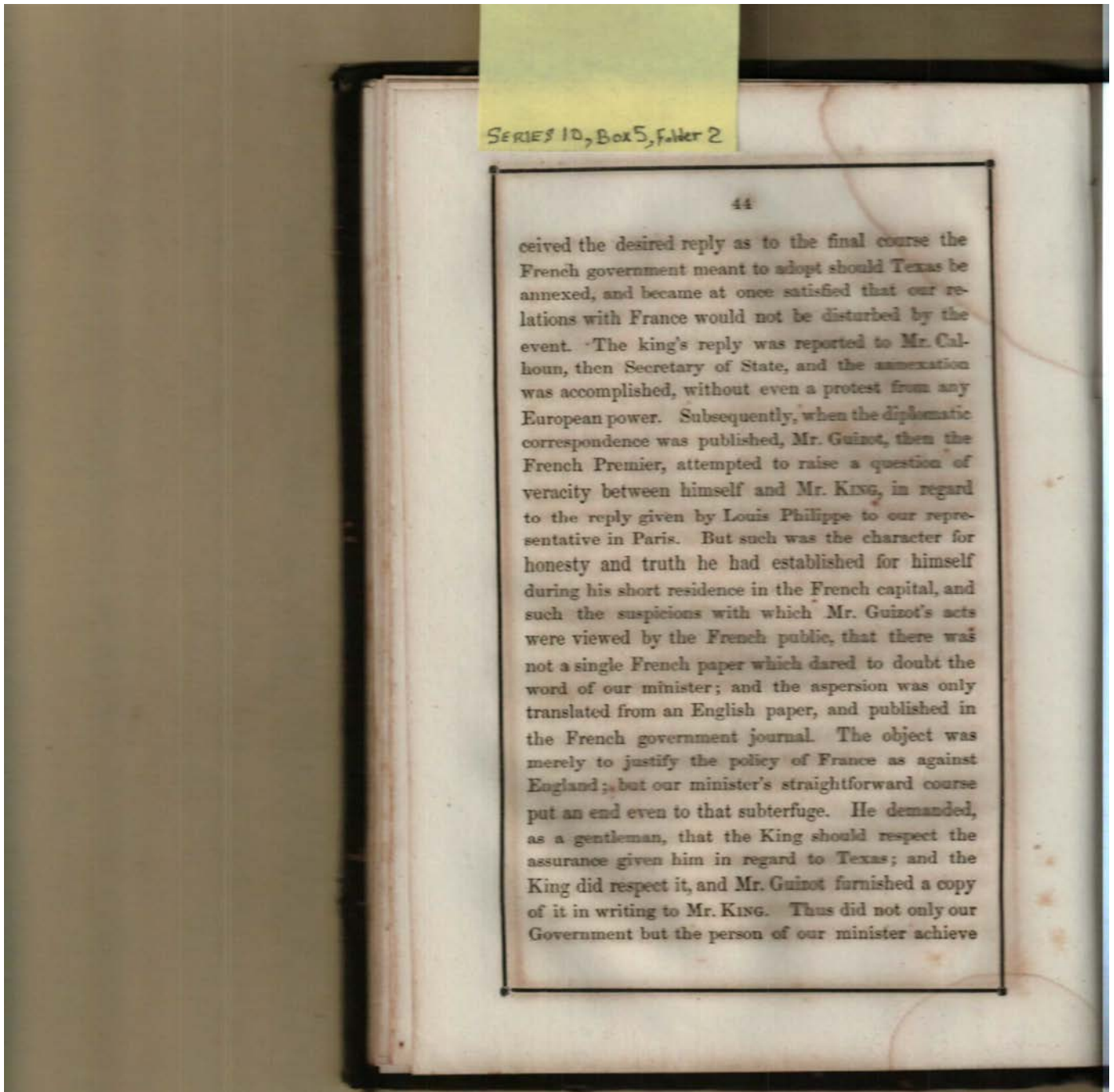
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of the political faith which had guided him through life, and had secured to him the affection and attachment of the citizens of his own State. The most important event in his political history was when he represented the United States in the Court of France, during a most interesting and exciting period. It was well known that the governments of England and France, severally and jointly, opposed the annexation of Texas to the American Union, and that similar instructions had been given by these governments to their respective ministers in Washington and Texas. These instructions were, no doubt, intended to be used with diplomatic effect; neither party seeming at the time willing to proceed to extremities. Mr. KING, true to American character, and to the generous instincts of his nature, did not plunge into the labyrinth of European diplomacy. He had nothing to disguise, nothing to withhold, nothing to ask for that was not just; and with the straightforwardness and dignity which ought always to characterize an American minister abroad, at once demanded of the King himself a frank avowal of his intentions. Louis Philippe might have been prepared to evade the artful approaches of a Talleyrand or a Richelieu, but he had no means of refusing to answer a plain question, honestly proposed by a foreign minister, whose official rank did not add the weight of a feather to the volume of his private character. Mr. KING re-

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a signal triumph over the sinuous course of European politics and statesmen.

Pending this controversy, it is said, Mr. Guizot attempted to assuage Mr. KING, by assuring him that "he had often been told that he (Guizot) lied." To which Mr. KING modestly replied, that "he had never been told so." French appreciation of sarcasm had no difficulty in discovering the true meaning of Mr. KING's caustic reply. I cannot but allude to his kind and noble disposition to bring forward and advance the fortunes of young men, struggling up in life. I have myself been the recipient of his kindness in this respect. In all such relations he never assumed the position of patron and client. It was not his position, but his heart which determined the place occupied by his friends, and his exalted character looked to no return of favors. After his election to the Vice-Presidency, when lingering under a painful and mortal disease, in a foreign country, his thoughts naturally reverted to his own beloved Alabama. Once more he wished to behold the sun of his country—once more he desired to breathe the invigorating air of home. Friend and kindred had followed him abroad; but he yearned for a wider circle of hearts beating in unison with his own. The American people had taken a deep interest in his recovery. They had a pride in seeing him occupy the position to which their suffrages had raised him. They had an abiding confidence in his integrity as a

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statesman, and a warm sympathy for his bodily sufferings. With breathless anxiety did the people receive the tidings of the progress of his illness, and each note of sorrow, which travelled with the velocity of light, found a painful echo in the public breast. To the people of his country did the old statesman and patriot return, to draw his last breath. Once more he trod the soil of his home; once more his eyes gladdened with the sight of his native land,—free, prosperous, and happy; once more his heart beat with rapturous delight at the future prospect and greatness of this glorious Union. The strife and clamor of ruthless partisans had subsided; the olive-leaf of peace had once more spread her blessings over twenty-five millions of contented beings; and as his dying lips murmured a blessing on them all, his pure soul was wafted to that unknown land, which, in the midst of the busy scenes of his life, his Christian heart always looked to as his last and surest resting-place.

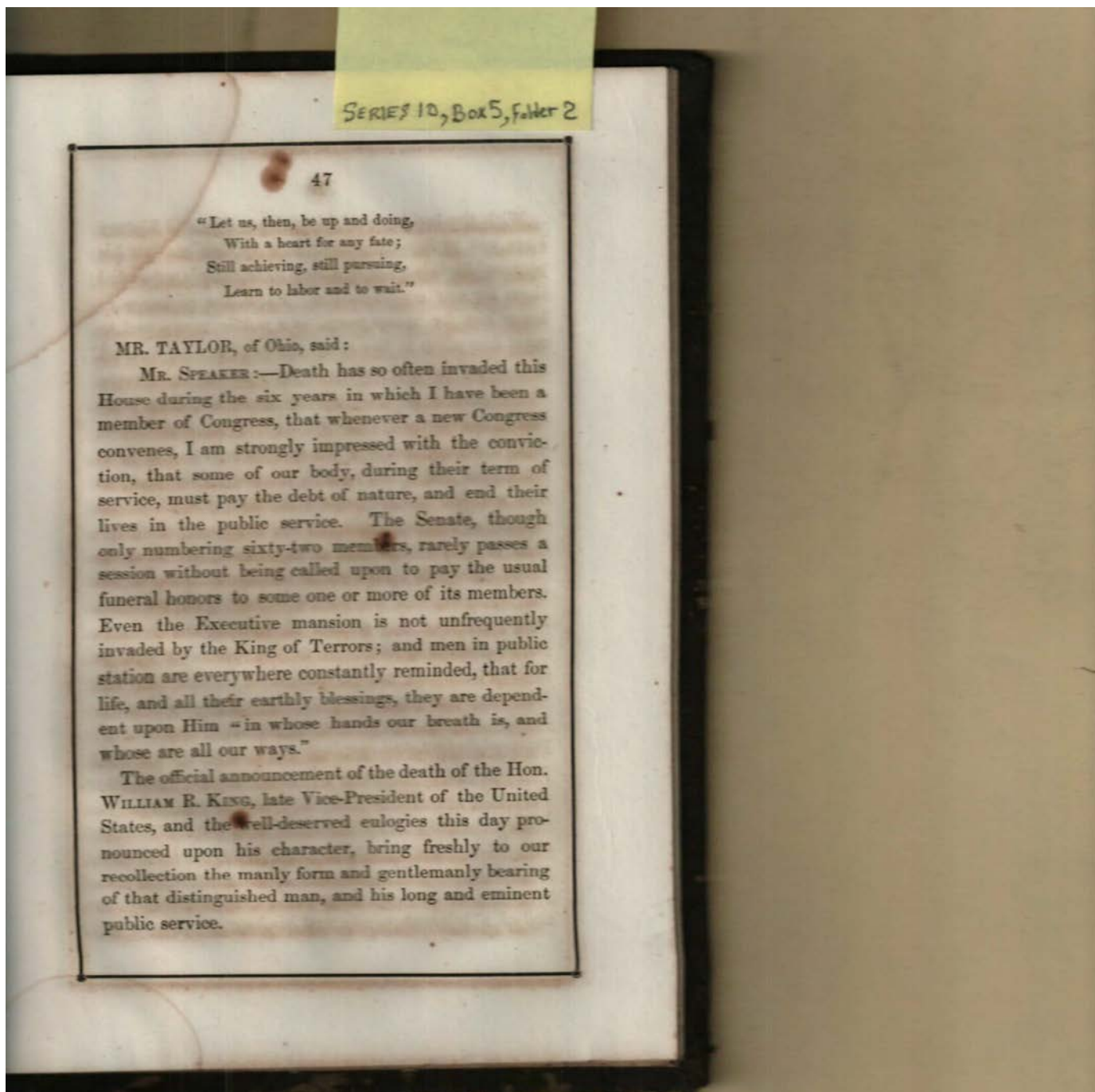
"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime;
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

"Footprints that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main—
A forlorn and shipwreck'd brother—
Seeing, shall take heart again.

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Names:

Death of William R.
King

Taylor, Mr. (of Ohio)

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

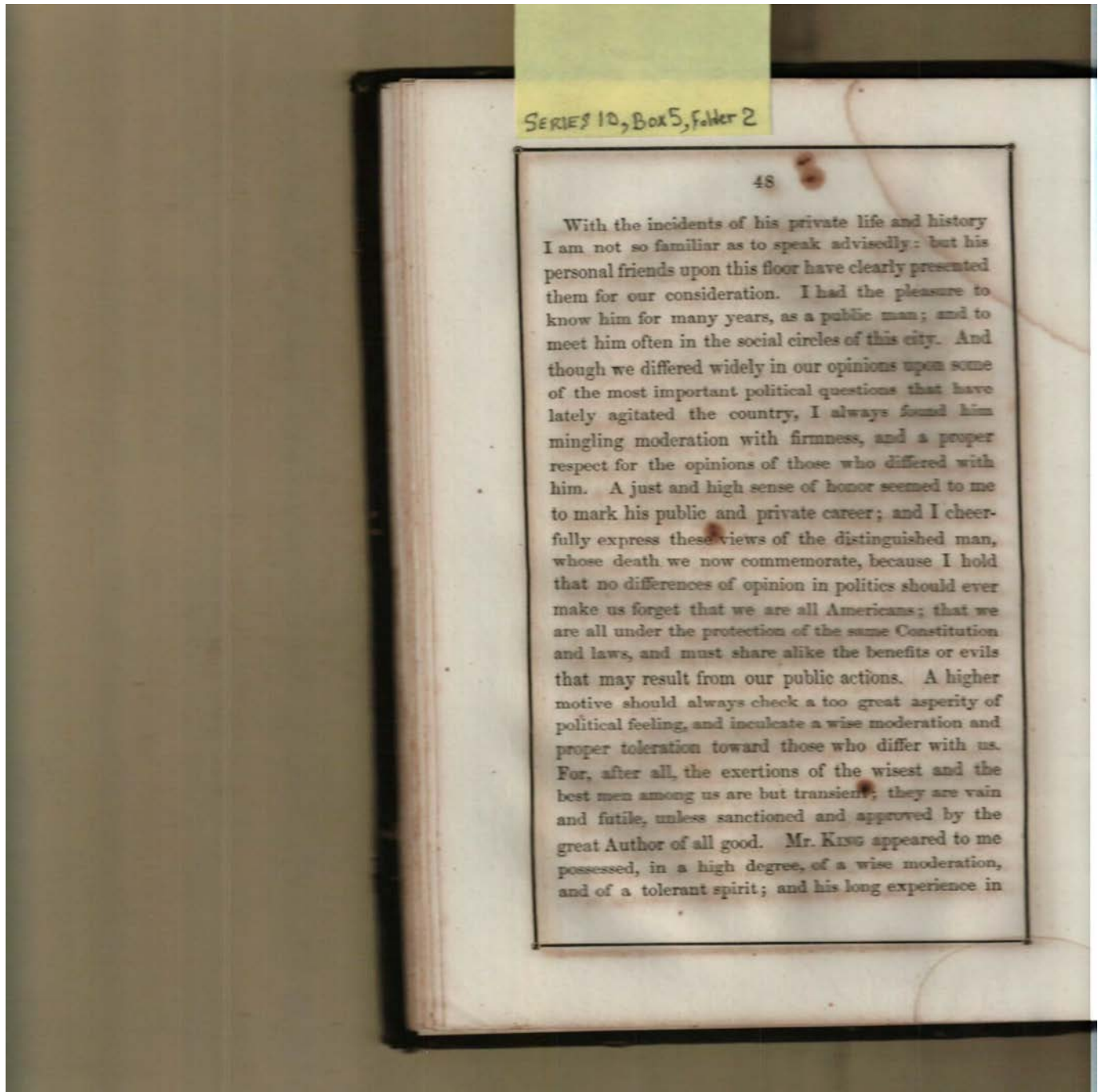
Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

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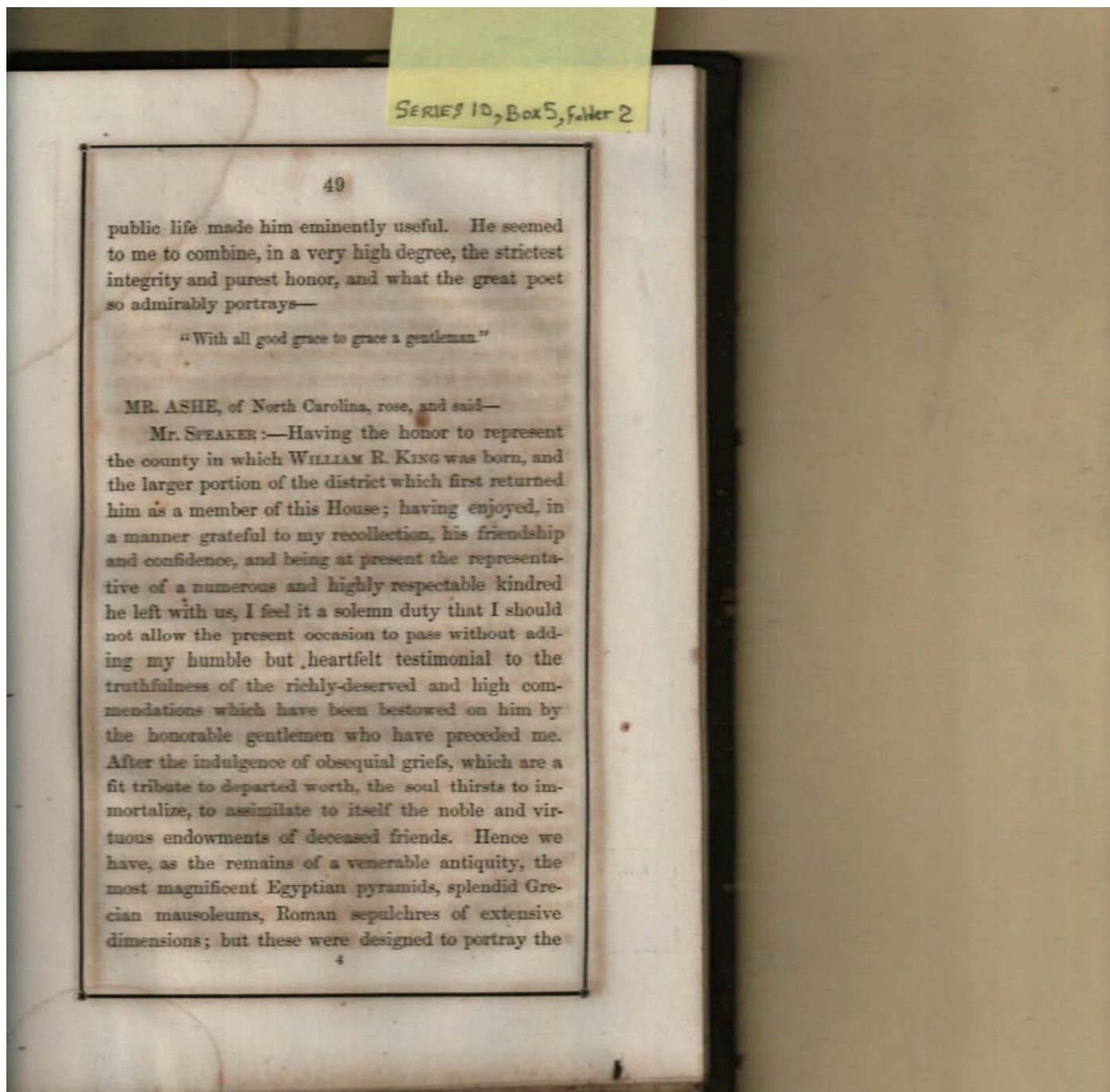
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With the incidents of his private life and history I am not so familiar as to speak advisedly: but his personal friends upon this floor have clearly presented them for our consideration. I had the pleasure to know him for many years, as a public man; and to meet him often in the social circles of this city. And though we differed widely in our opinions upon some of the most important political questions that have lately agitated the country, I always found him mingling moderation with firmness, and a proper respect for the opinions of those who differed with him. A just and high sense of honor seemed to me to mark his public and private career; and I cheerfully express these views of the distinguished man, whose death we now commemorate, because I hold that no differences of opinion in politics should ever make us forget that we are all Americans; that we are all under the protection of the same Constitution and laws, and must share alike the benefits or evils that may result from our public actions. A higher motive should always check a too great asperity of political feeling, and inculcate a wise moderation and proper toleration toward those who differ with us. For, after all, the exertions of the wisest and the best men among us are but transient; they are vain and futile, unless sanctioned and approved by the great Author of all good. Mr. KING appeared to me possessed, in a high degree, of a wise moderation, and of a tolerant spirit; and his long experience in

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Names:

Ashe, Mr. (of North
Carolina)

Death of William R.
King

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

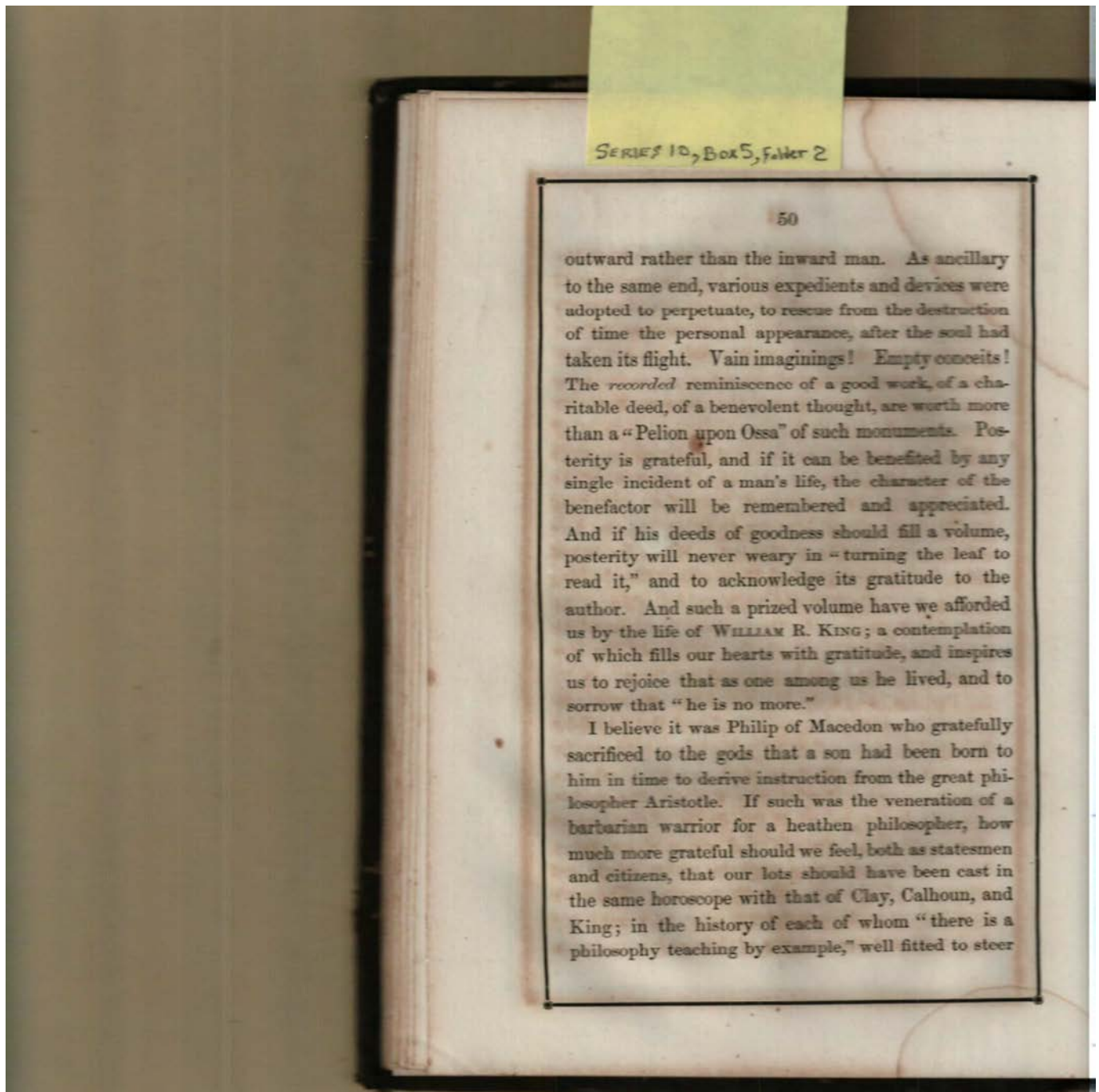
Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

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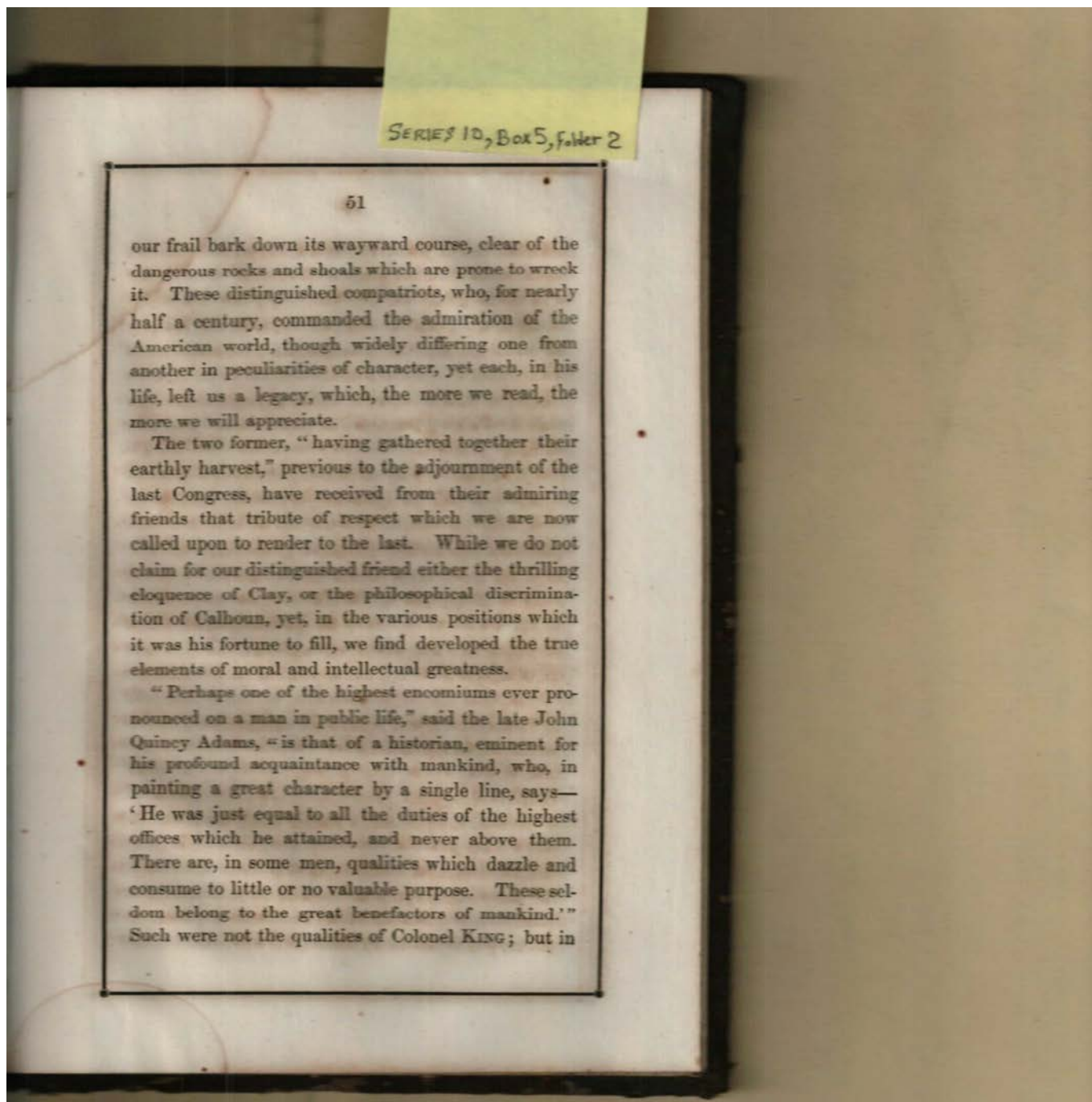
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our frail bark down its wayward course, clear of the dangerous rocks and shoals which are prone to wreck it. These distinguished compatriots, who, for nearly half a century, commanded the admiration of the American world, though widely differing one from another in peculiarities of character, yet each, in his life, left us a legacy, which, the more we read, the more we will appreciate.

The two former, "having gathered together their earthly harvest," previous to the adjournment of the last Congress, have received from their admiring friends that tribute of respect which we are now called upon to render to the last. While we do not claim for our distinguished friend either the thrilling eloquence of Clay, or the philosophical discrimination of Calhoun, yet, in the various positions which it was his fortune to fill, we find developed the true elements of moral and intellectual greatness.

"Perhaps one of the highest encomiums ever pronounced on a man in public life," said the late John Quincy Adams, "is that of a historian, eminent for his profound acquaintance with mankind, who, in painting a great character by a single line, says— 'He was just equal to all the duties of the highest offices which he attained, and never above them. There are, in some men, qualities which dazzle and consume to little or no valuable purpose. These seldom belong to the great benefactors of mankind.'" Such were not the qualities of Colonel KING; but in

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all the relations of life, in every position he attained, he was fully equal to their responsibilities, and discharged their varied duties with fidelity and ability.

Colonel KING was born in Sampson county, in my State, April, 1786. His father, William King, was a gentleman of fortune and character. During the Revolutionary war, he rendered important services to his country's cause, both by personal service and the generous use of his fortune. After the conclusion of the war, he was a member of the Convention which was called to adopt the Federal Constitution, and was repeatedly elected a Delegate to the General Assembly from his county. His situation in life enabled him to bestow on his children all the advantages of education which our country at that time afforded.

Colonel KING was sent at an early age to the University of North Carolina, located at Chapel Hill, which institution he left in his seventeenth year, bearing with him the happy consolation of having commanded the respect of his professors, the love and esteem of his associates. He studied law with William Duffy, an eminent jurist, residing in the town of Fayetteville, where he formed friendships which he preserved with affection to the day of his death. On being admitted to the bar, he settled in his native county, from which he was returned the following year as a member of the Legislature. By this body he was elected Solicitor for the Wilmington

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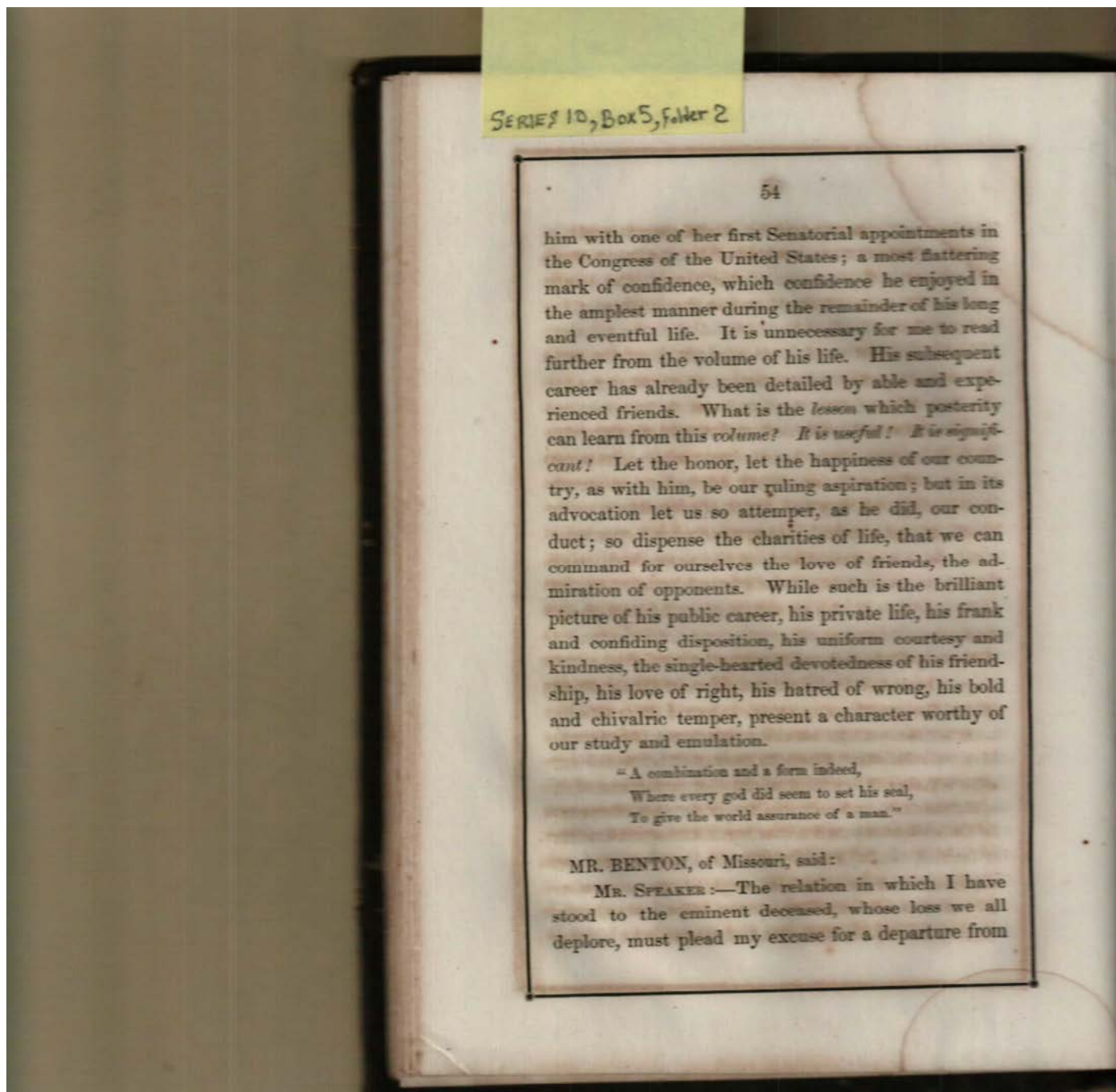
judicial district, in which situation he continued for two years. He was then again returned to the Legislature for the years 1808-9. In the year 1810 he was elected to the Congress of the United States, being the Twelfth Congress. This was a most important crisis in our national affairs. France dominant in Europe, England mistress of the ocean, our neutrality was grossly disregarded by each of these supercilious Powers. To our menacing protests, France ultimately yielded respect. England continued her career of haughty insolence. War or national degradation was inevitable.

True republicans avoided not the issue, but met it boldly. Colonel KING acted with them with his whole soul; and, though one of the youngest members of the Congress, he was distinguished for the firm and fervid earnestness with which he supported the illustrious Madison in his patriotic efforts to sustain the honor of our country. He continued a member of Congress until after the conclusion of the war, when he accepted a diplomatic position abroad, associated with that scholar and statesman, William Pinckney. On his return from Europe, he changed his residence from North Carolina to Alabama, carrying with him the cordial respect and good wishes of all—the enmity of no one. Alabama was then a Territory, but on the eve of organizing a State Government, and as soon as it was done, she, although Colonel KING was then absent from the State, honored

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Names:

Benton, Mr. (of Missouri)

Death of William R. King

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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the ancient practice, which limits the number of tribute-offerers, on an occasion like the present, to the mover and seconder of the resolutions which express the sense of the House at the death of a fellow-member.

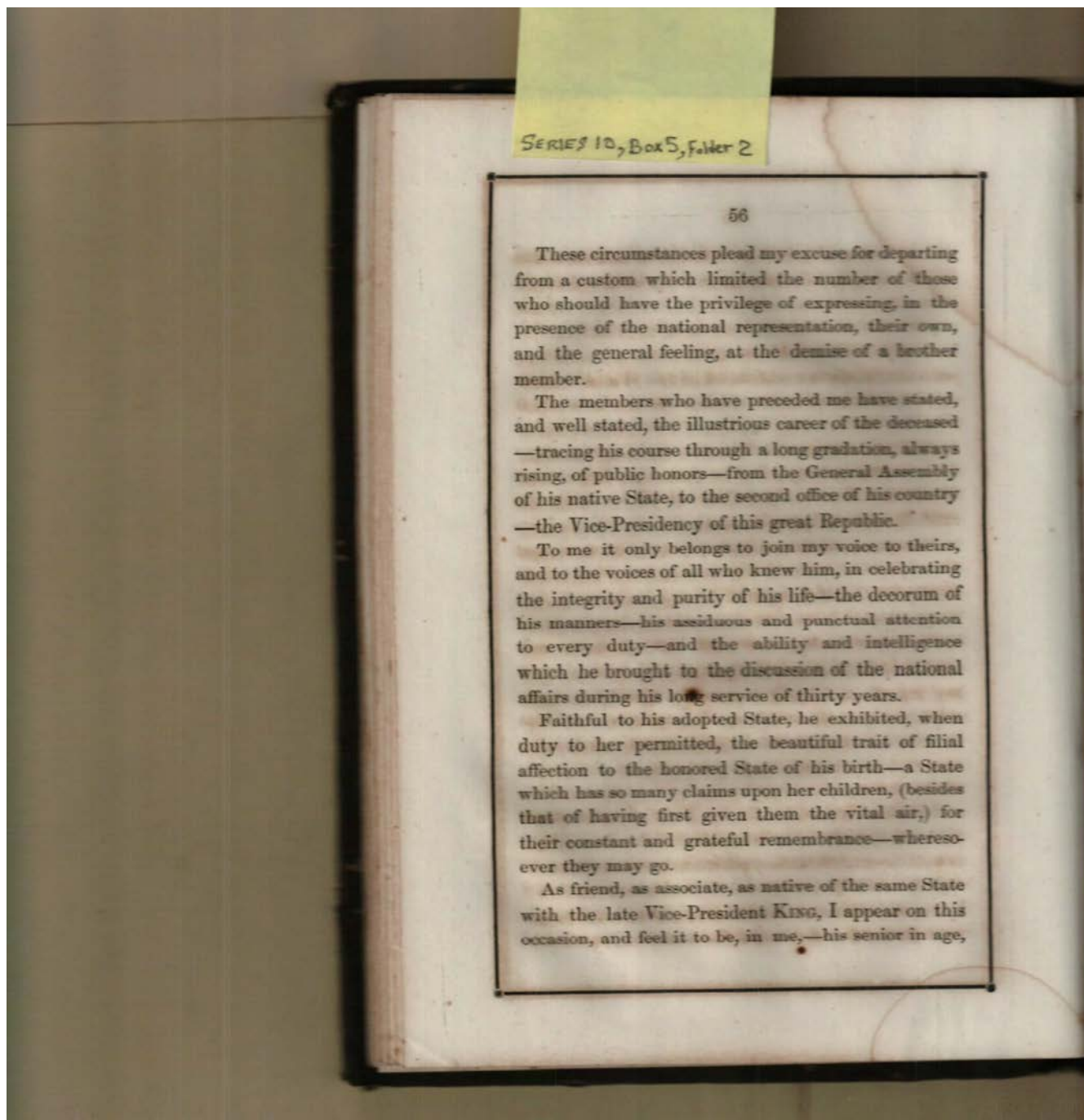
Natives of the same State, and nearly of the same age, we emigrated when young, to what was then the Far West; and by the favor of our adopted States, were both returned, and nearly at the same time, to occupy seats on the floor of the American Senate. Commencing—he in 1819, I in 1820—we remained for thirty years, (with the exception of the brief interval in which he represented his country at a foreign court,) members of the same body—intimately associated in all the current business of that body, and in all the amenities of social and private life.

But my knowledge of him goes beyond thirty years—goes back to forty—and not even to the beginning of his Congressional service—when I first saw him on this floor. And I mention this first time of seeing him, and in what place, to do honor to the *public man* who could so long retain the confidence of his constituents; and to their honor for the steadiness of their support; and to the credit of our institutions, to which such stability between constituent and representative promises a duration, not to be measured by the brief lives of those republics whose people were given up to fickleness and versatility.

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"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

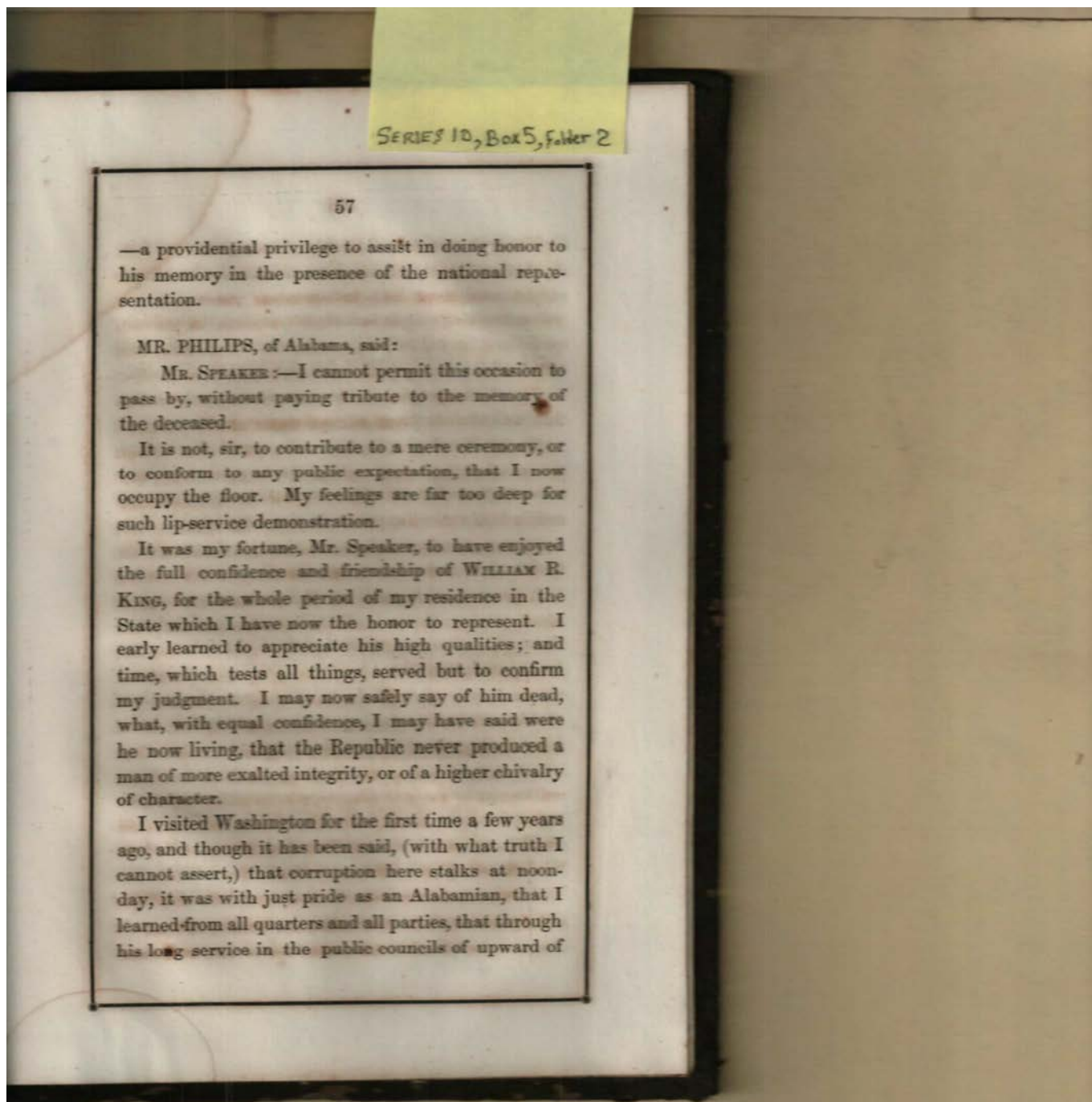
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Names:

Death of William R.
King

Philips, Mr. (of
Alabama)

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

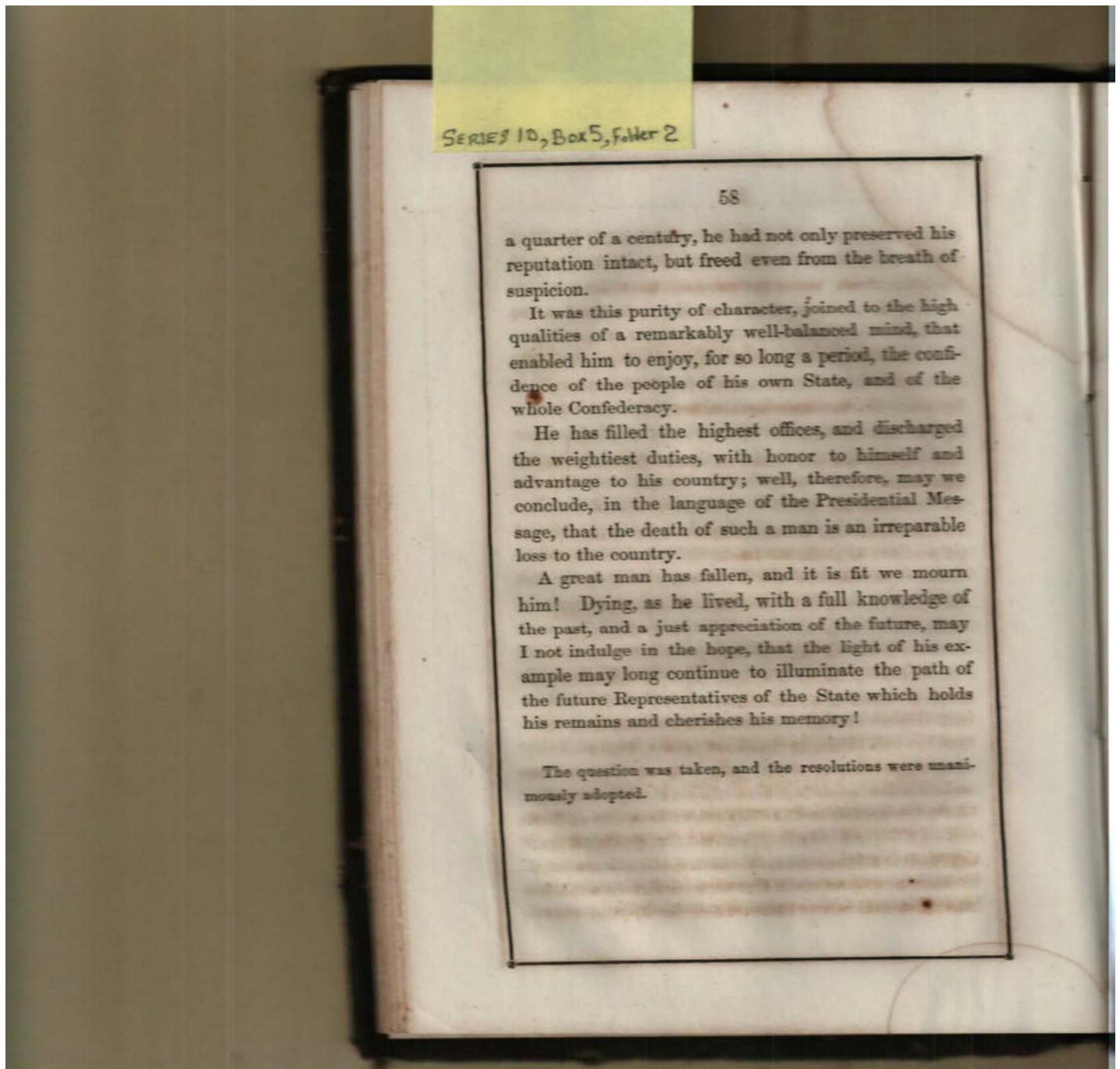
Dates:

Dec 8, 1853

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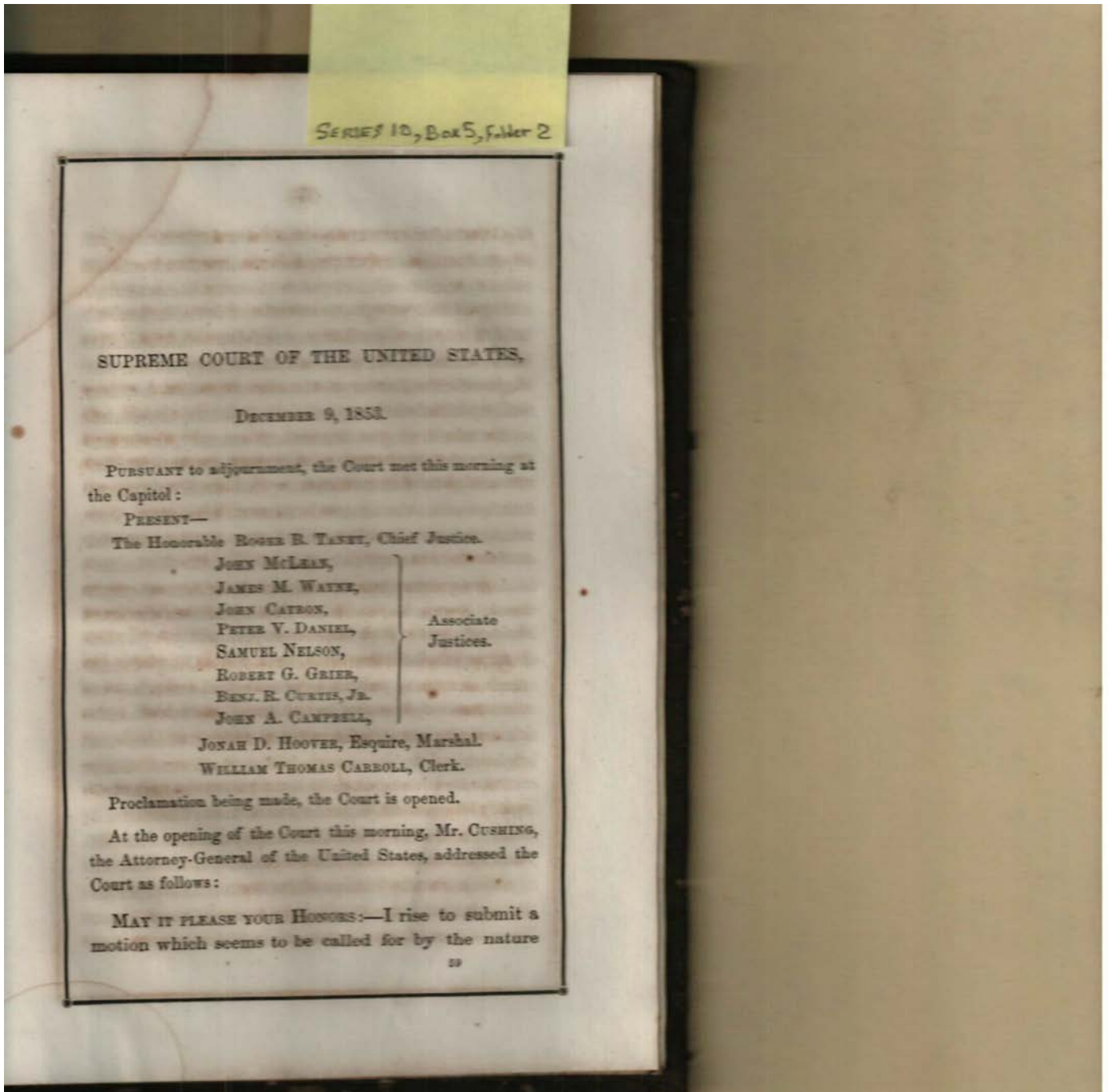
a quarter of a century, he had not only preserved his reputation intact, but freed even from the breath of suspicion.

It was this purity of character, joined to the high qualities of a remarkably well-balanced mind, that enabled him to enjoy, for so long a period, the confidence of the people of his own State, and of the whole Confederacy.

He has filled the highest offices, and discharged the weightiest duties, with honor to himself and advantage to his country; well, therefore, may we conclude, in the language of the Presidential Message, that the death of such a man is an irreparable loss to the country.

A great man has fallen, and it is fit we mourn him! Dying, as he lived, with a full knowledge of the past, and a just appreciation of the future, may I not indulge in the hope, that the light of his example may long continue to illuminate the path of the future Representatives of the State which holds his remains and cherishes his memory!

The question was taken, and the resolutions were unanimously adopted.



Names:

Campbell, John A.,
Justice
Carroll, William
Thomas, Clerk
Catron, John, Justice

Curtis, Benjamin R.,
Jr., Justice
Cushing, Attorney
General
Daniel, Peter V.,
Justice

Hoover, Jonah D.,
Marshal
McLean, John,
Justice
Nelson, Samuel,
Justice

Supreme Court of the
United States
Taney, Roger B.,
Chief Justice
Wayne, James M.,
Justice

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

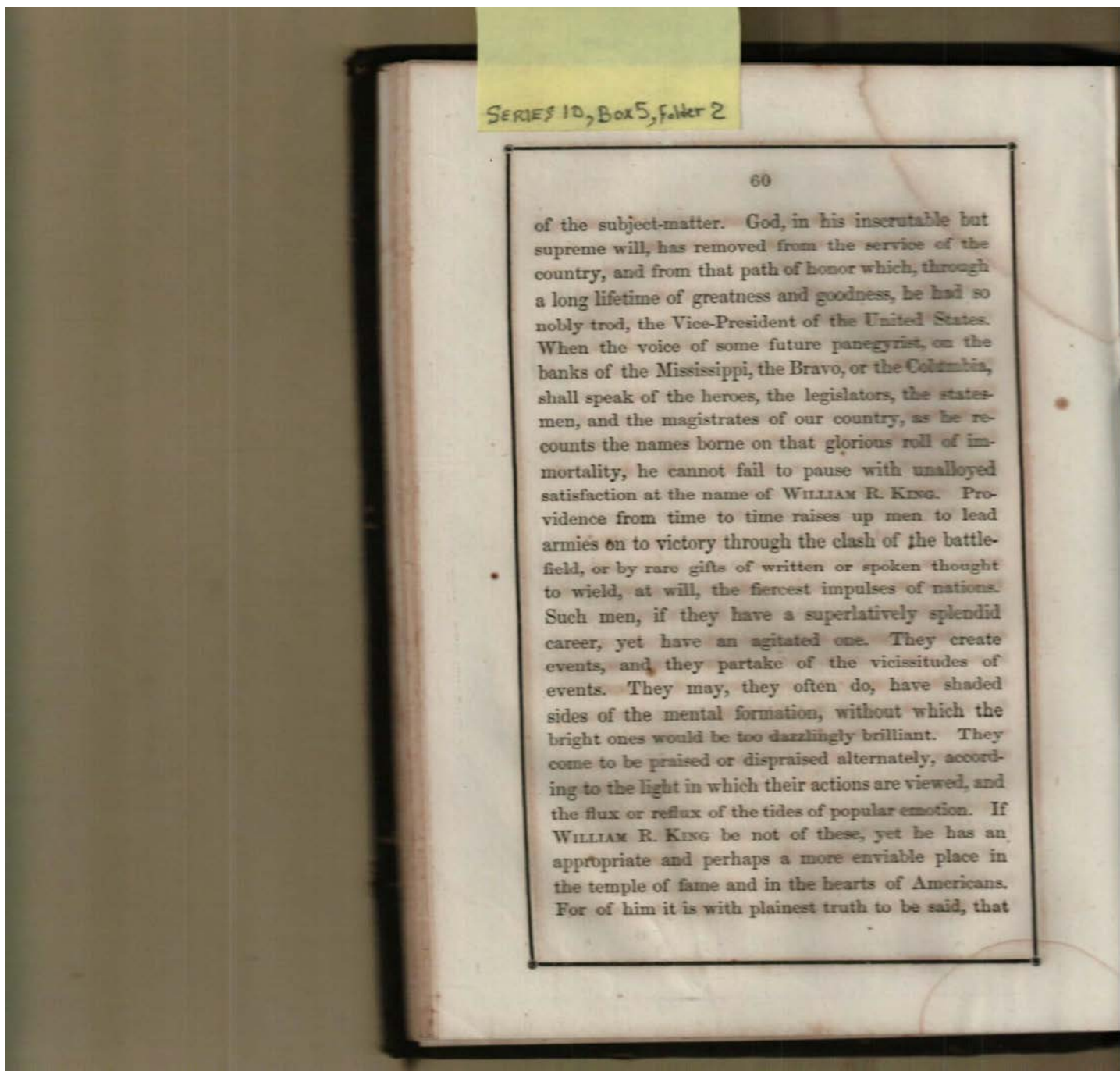
Dates:

Dec 9, 1853

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Names:

Cushing, Attorney
General

Death of William R.
King

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

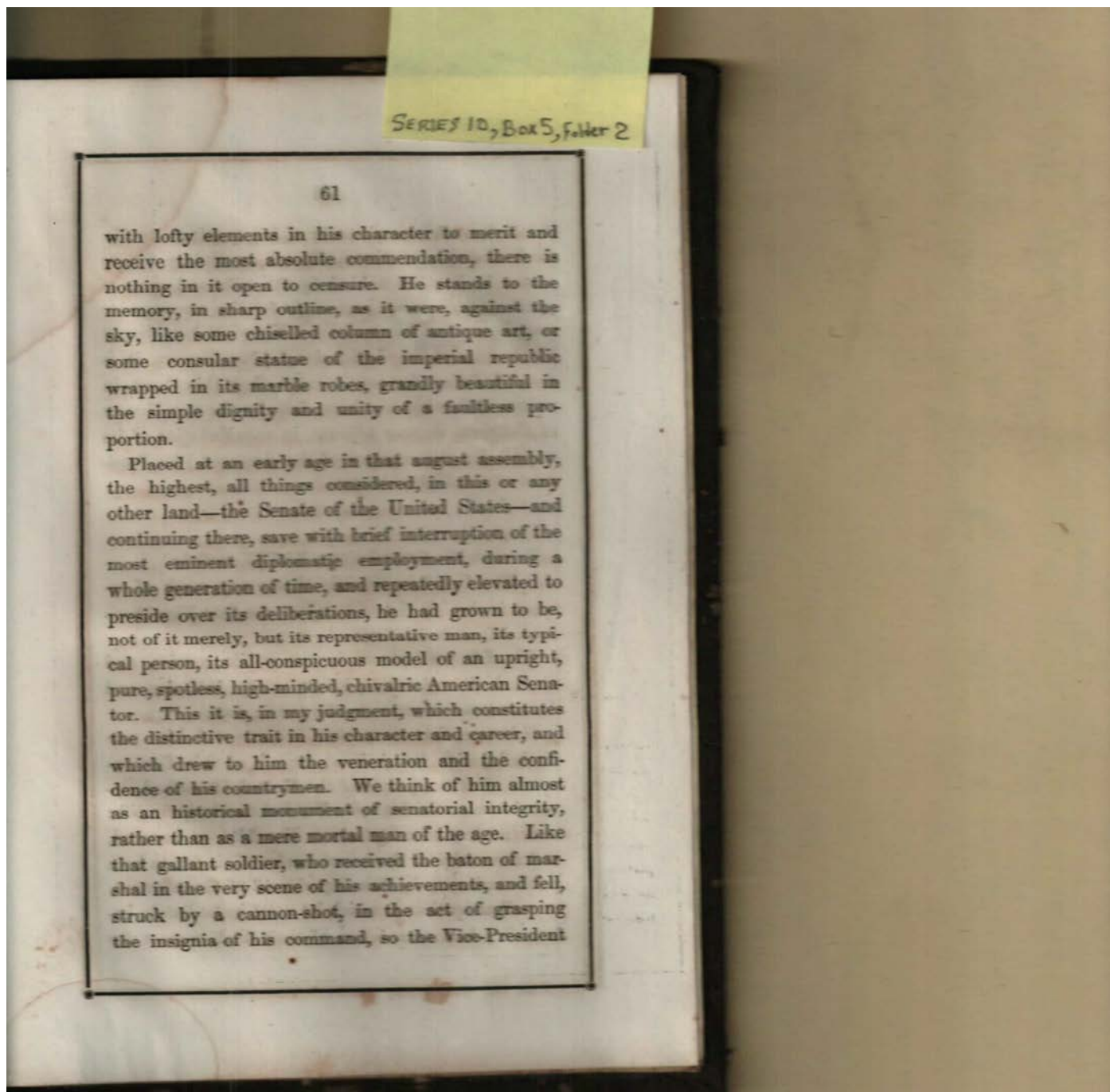
Dates:

Dec 9, 1853

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Names:

Cushing, Attorney
General

Death of William R.
King

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

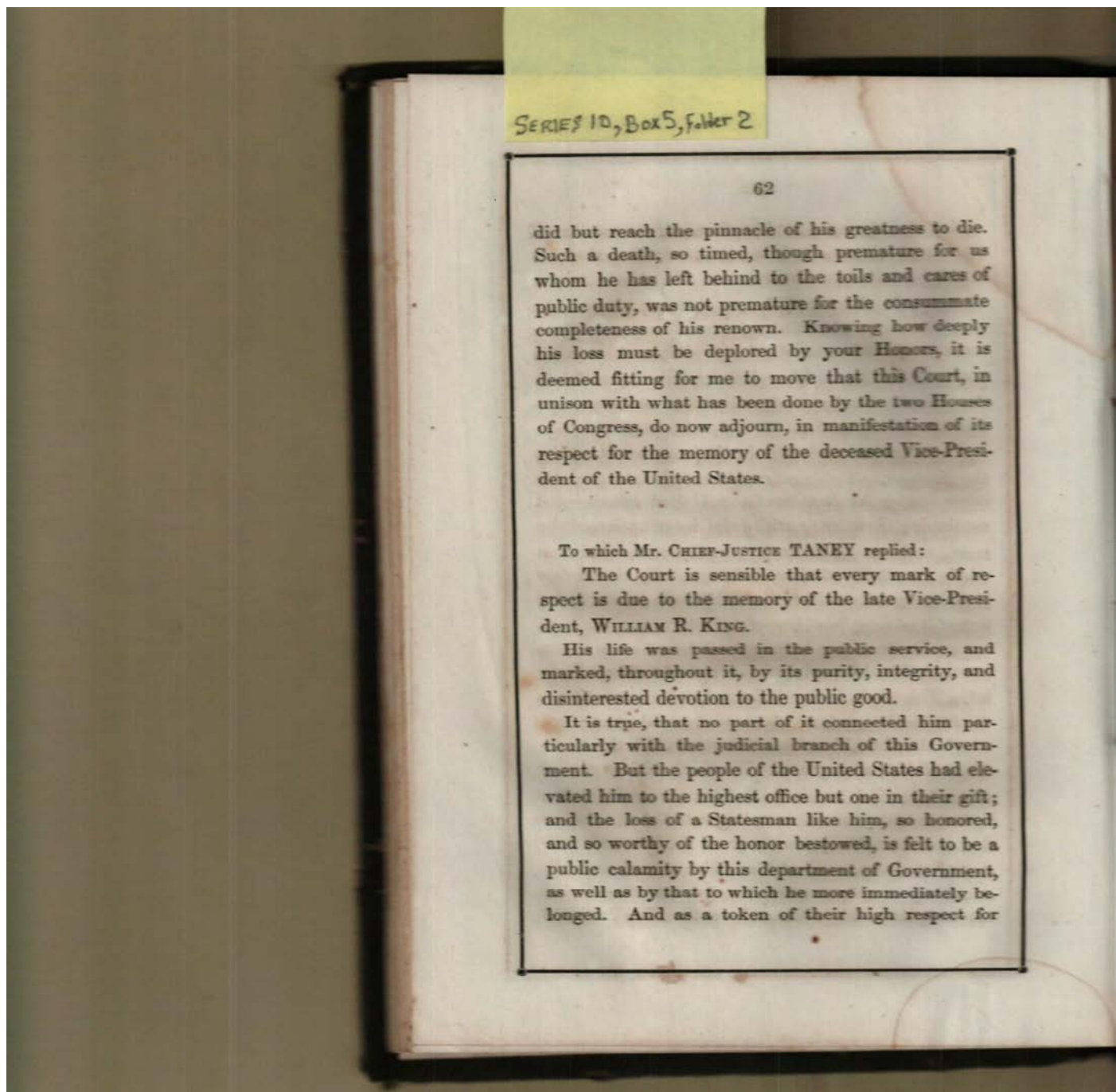
Dates:

Dec 9, 1853

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 5, Folder 2

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Names:

Death of William R.
King

Taney, Roger B.,
Chief Justice

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

address

extract

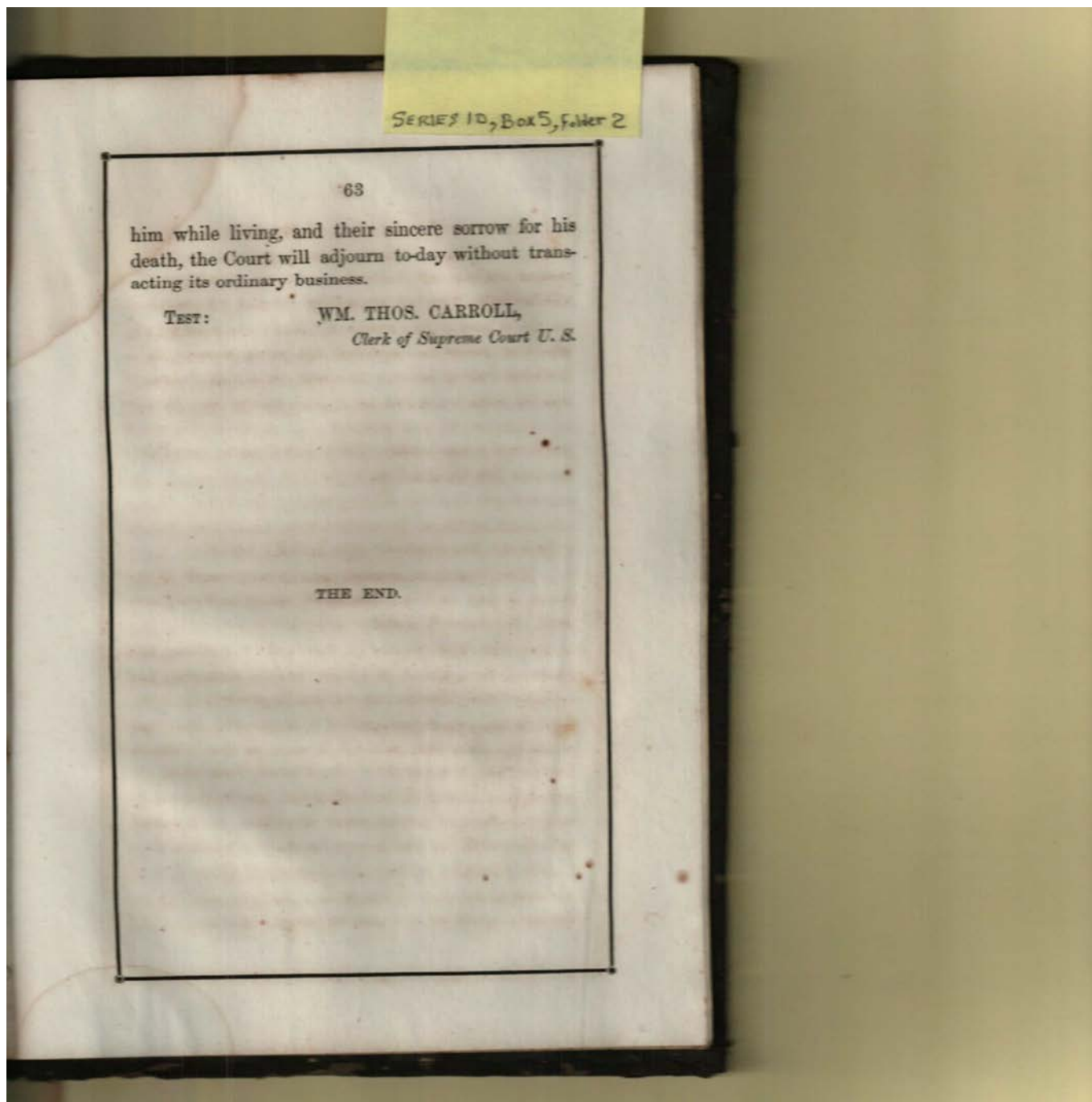
Dates:

Dec 9, 1853

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Names:

Carroll, William
Thomas, Clerk

Places:

Washington, D. C.

Types:

extract

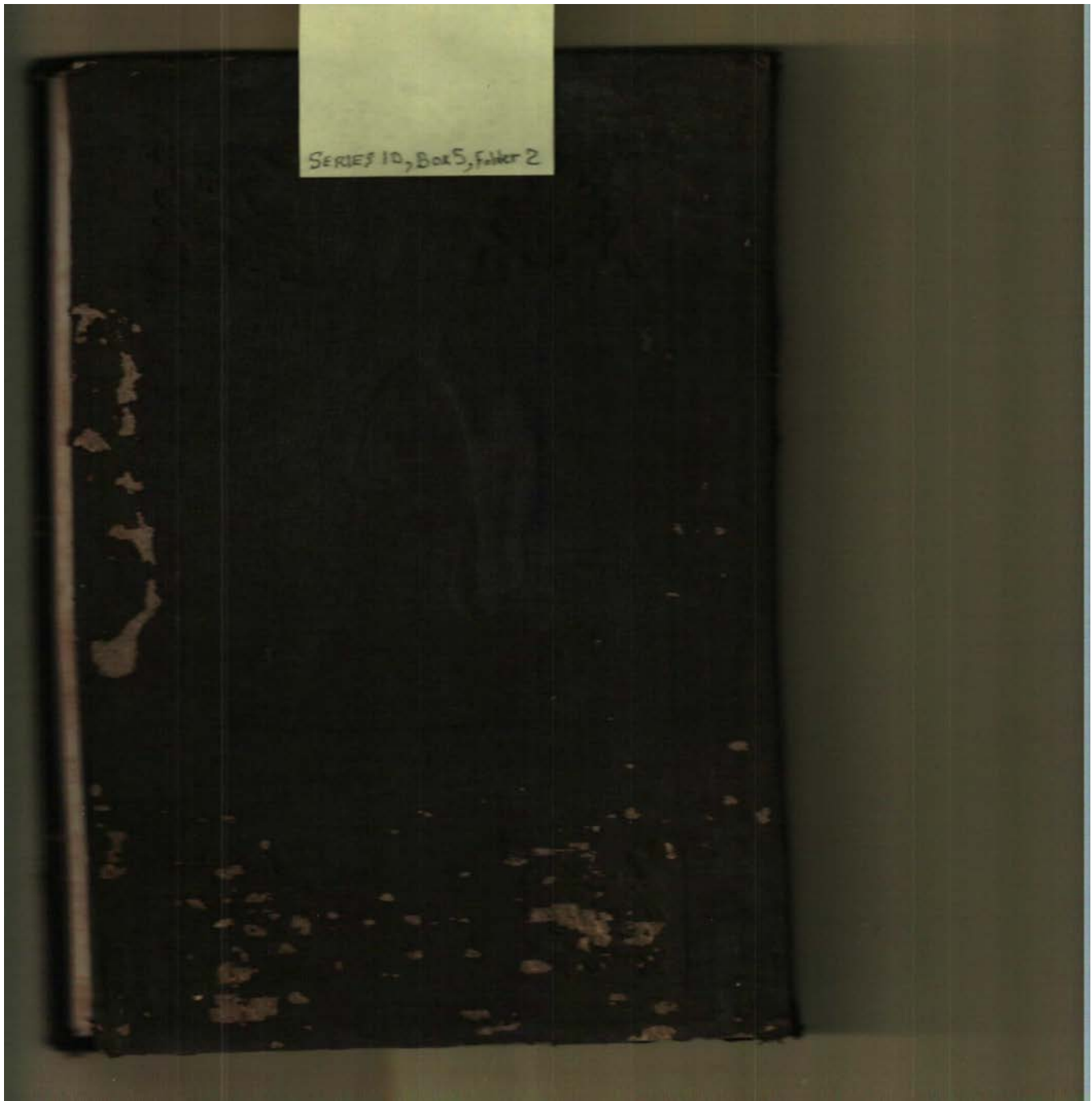
Dates:

Dec 9, 1853

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Types:
book cover


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SERIES 10, BOX 5, FOLDER 2
WILLIAM R. KING (OBIT)

FirstSearch: Libraries that Own Item Page 1 of 2

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Your requested information from your library University of Alabama - Huntsville Return

Current database: **WorldCat** Total Libraries: 94

Title: Obituary addresses on the occasion of the death of the Hon. William R. King, of Alabama : vice-president of the United States: delivered in the Senate and House of Representatives and in the Supreme court of the United States, eighth and ninth December, 1853 **Author:** United States
Accession Number: 3100891

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|----------|----------------------------------|------|
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| US,AL | BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN COL | ABB |
| US,AL | BIRMINGHAM-JEFFERSON LIBR | ABJ |
| US,AL | HUNTSVILLE-MADISON CNTY PUB LIBR | MWD |
| US,AL | JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIV | AJB |
| US,AL | MOBILE PUB LIBR | AMP |
| US,AL | SAMFORD UNIV LIBR | ABF |
| US,AL | UNIV OF ALABAMA | ALM |
| US,AL | UNIV OF ALABAMA, BIRMINGHAM | ABC |
| US,AL | UNIV OF N ALABAMA | ANO |
| US,AL | UNIV OF W ALABAMA THE | ALT |

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Title: **Obituary addresses on the occasion of the death of the Hon. William R. King, of Alabama : vice-president of the United States: delivered in the Senate and House of Representatives and in the Supreme court of the United States, eighth and ninth December, 1853.**

Corp Author(s): United States. 33d Cong., 1st sess., 1853.; United States.; Congress.; Memorial address.; United States.; Supreme Court.

Publication: Washington : Printed by R. Armstrong,

Year: 1854

Description: 63 p. : front. (port.) ; 23 cm.

Language: English

Standard No: LCCN: 01-9197

<http://libsys.uah.edu:2051/WebZ/FSPage?pagename=records:pagetype=print:entityprinting=true:e...> 2/27/2007

Names:

King, William R.

Library Search

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

record

Dates:

Mar 27, 2007

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 5, Folder 2

"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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WILLIAM R. KING (OBIT)

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SUBJECT(S)

Named Person: King, Williams Rufus, 1786-1853.

Note(s): Printed according to resolution of the House of Representatives, December 19, 1953./ Another edition, printed according to resolution of the Senate, December 12, 1853 (Washington, B. Tucker, 1854, 77 p.) does not contain the proceedings in the Supreme Court.

Class Descriptors: GovDoc: Y 7.1: K 589; LC: E340.K54; Dewey: 973.4

Material Type: Government publication (gpb); National government publication (ngp)

Document Type: Book


Entry: 19770708

Update: 20050804

Accession No: OCLC: 3100891

Database: WorldCat

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Names:

King, William Rufus

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

record

Dates:

Mar 27, 2007

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 5, Folder 2
"Hon. William R. King of Alabama, Vice-President of the United States Obituary" belonging to Cabaniss, Septimus D., 1853

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

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Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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