Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 12, Pages 331 - 360

Kansas Governor John P. St. John (1879-1883) received these letters from persons concerned with the migration of southern blacks to Kansas, commonly known as the Exodus or Exoduster movement. The letters come from blacks considering a move to Kansas, persons assisting with or monitoring the migration, officials of cities along the route, and persons providing for the relief of the migrants upon their arrival. The letters proceed in rough chronological order. Most include remnants of abstracts that were attached to the letter and then partially removed. The top of the abstract includes a reference to the letterpress book and page number of the governor's response. The governors' letterpress books are a separate collection. This collection comprises box 13 folders 13-15 and 20, box 14 folders 1-9, and box 15 folders 1-5 of the John St. John governor's records. The 1879-1880 correspondence was filed under "Immigration, Negro Exodus." The 1881-1882 correspondence was filed under "Freedman's Institute, Relief Association." A link to an inventory of St. John's entire governor's collection is available below. A full transcription is also available under "External Links."

Creator: Kansas. Governor (1879-1883 : St. John)

Date: April 1879 - October 1882

Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

Item Identifier: 210296

www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Brenham, Texas.
June 4th 1875.

Gov John P St John.
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir. Since mailing you my communication of yesterday, I have received a letter from Lt Gov Edmund J Davis, which I herewith enclose to you. From this it will be seen that the Gov concurs with me in the opinion that it would be best to colonize the Freedmen of other Southern States in Texas.

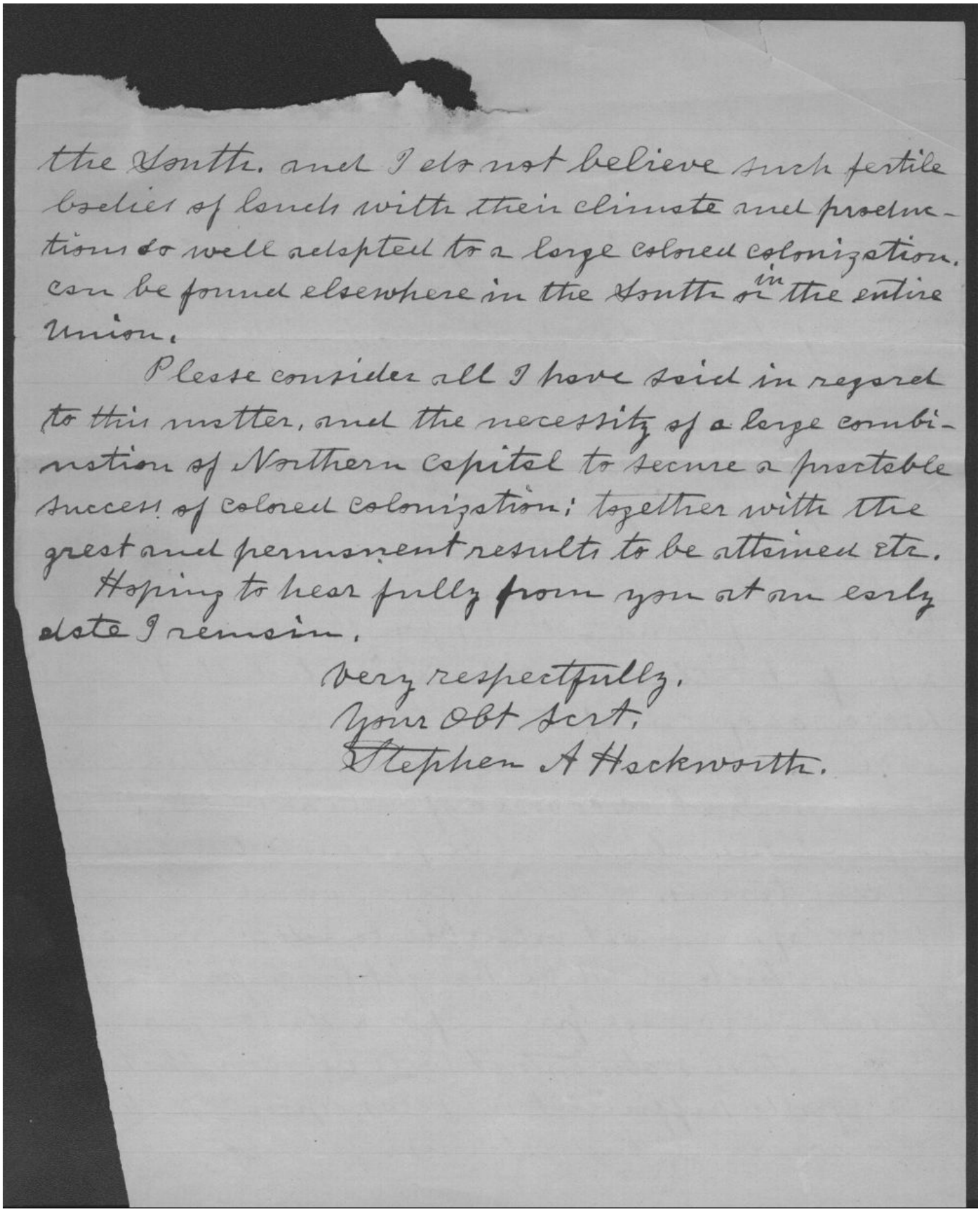
I have sent Gov Davis, a copy of "The commonwealth", containing the communication of the 19th ult, and I also give him the leading points made by me in my letter of yesterday addressed to you, and respectfully requested him to consider them and to give your Excellency, a full opinion in regard to the necessity of colored Emmigration and colonization. You will probably hear from him within the next ten days, and as there is no Republican who stands higher in the confidence of the colored people of Texas, than Gov Davis, his opinions and cooperation in any matter concerning their general welfare, will be worthy of all due consideration and attention

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

I forgot to state on yesterday, that by a recent act of our State legislature, that 3,000,000, of acres of State lands has been placed in the market for the purpose of building a new State capitol, and that it is very probable that 21,000,000 of acres of School lands will be placed in market too, at an early day. Besides this we have 32,000,000, of public State lands, which are subject to premption for homesteads of 160 acres per each head of a family. By a three years residence upon the public State lands, and the payment of about fifteen dollars fees, each head of a family who preempts and settles upon 160 acres, acquires a perfect title. It is estimated that about 15,000,000 of acres of the States domain, is very valuable and productive lands. Besides these lands there are about 30,000,000, of acres owned by R. R. Corporations, which can be purchased on very liberal terms, and there also several millions of acres of our most valuable ~~lands~~ alluvial lands which could be bought from private parties at an average price of one dollar per acre.

From these statments it will be seen that there are lands sufficient in Texas, upon which to colonize every industrious colored family in

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



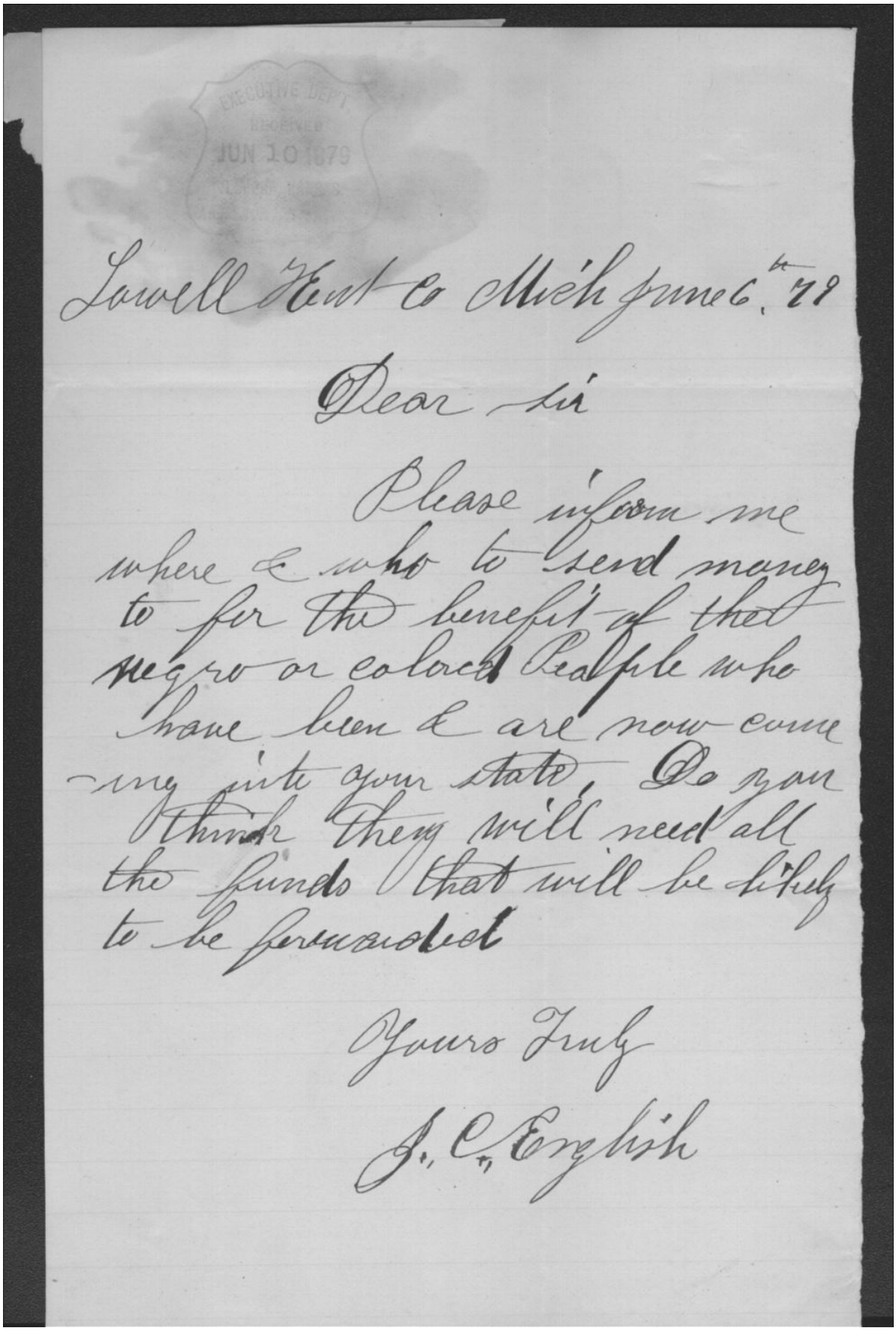
the South. and I do not believe such fertile
beleies of lands with their climate and produc-
tions so well adapted to a large colored colonization.
can be found elsewhere in the South or in the entire
Union.

Please consider all I have said in regard
to this matter, and the necessity of a large combi-
nation of Northern capital to secure a practable
success of colored colonization; together with the
great and permanent results to be attained etc.

Hoping to hear fully from you at an early
date I remain.

Very respectfully.
Your Obt Sert.
Stephen A Hackworth.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Lowell Kent Co Mich June 6th 79

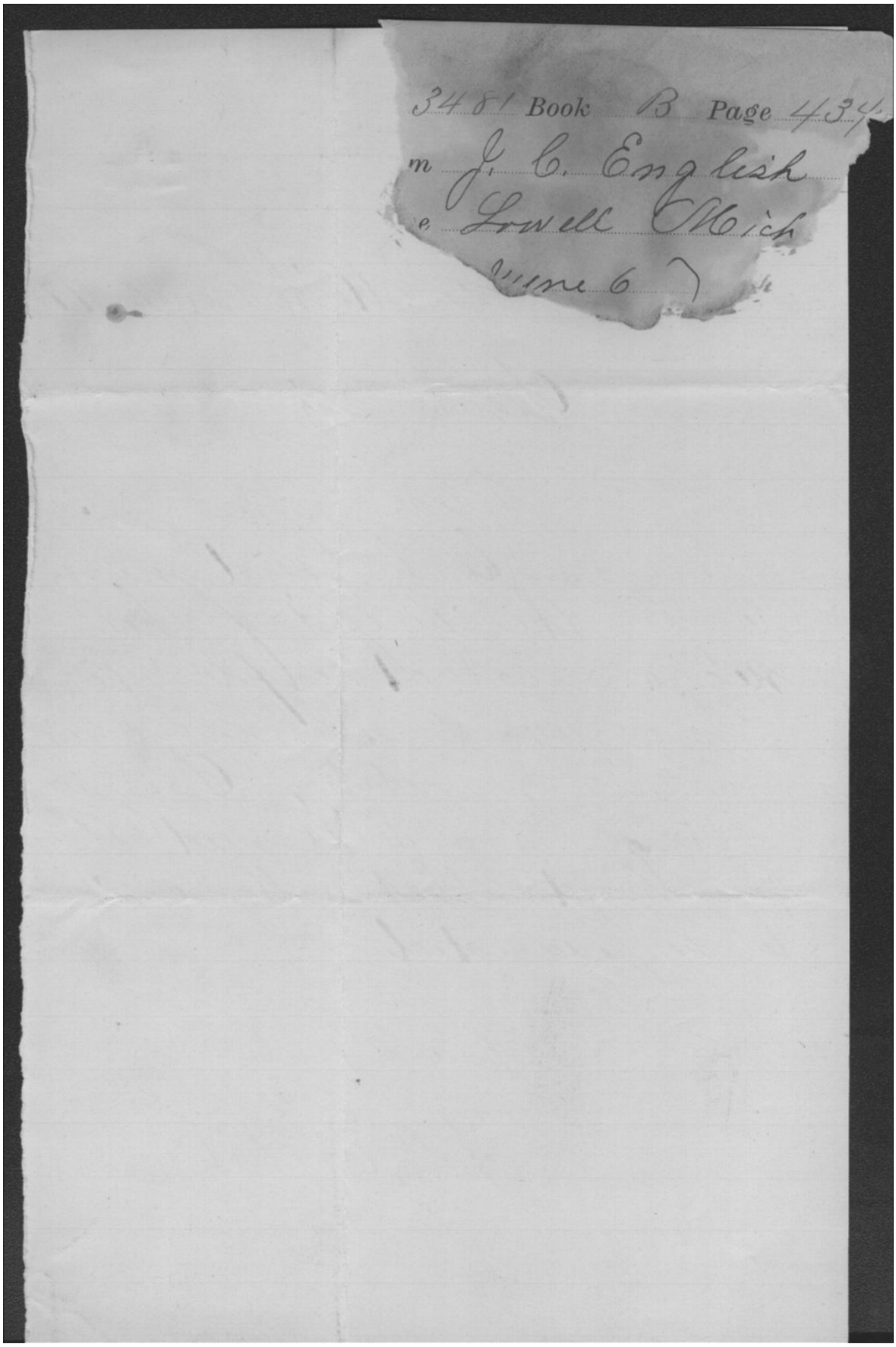
Dear Sir

Please inform me where & who to send money to for the benefit of that Negro or colored people who have been & are now coming into your State. Do you think they will need all the funds that will be likely to be forwarded

Yours Truly

J. C. English

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

St. Joseph Mo June 6th 1879

To his Excellency,
Gov. St. John
Topeka Kas

RECEIVED AND FILED JUN 7 1879 KANSAS

My dear Sir

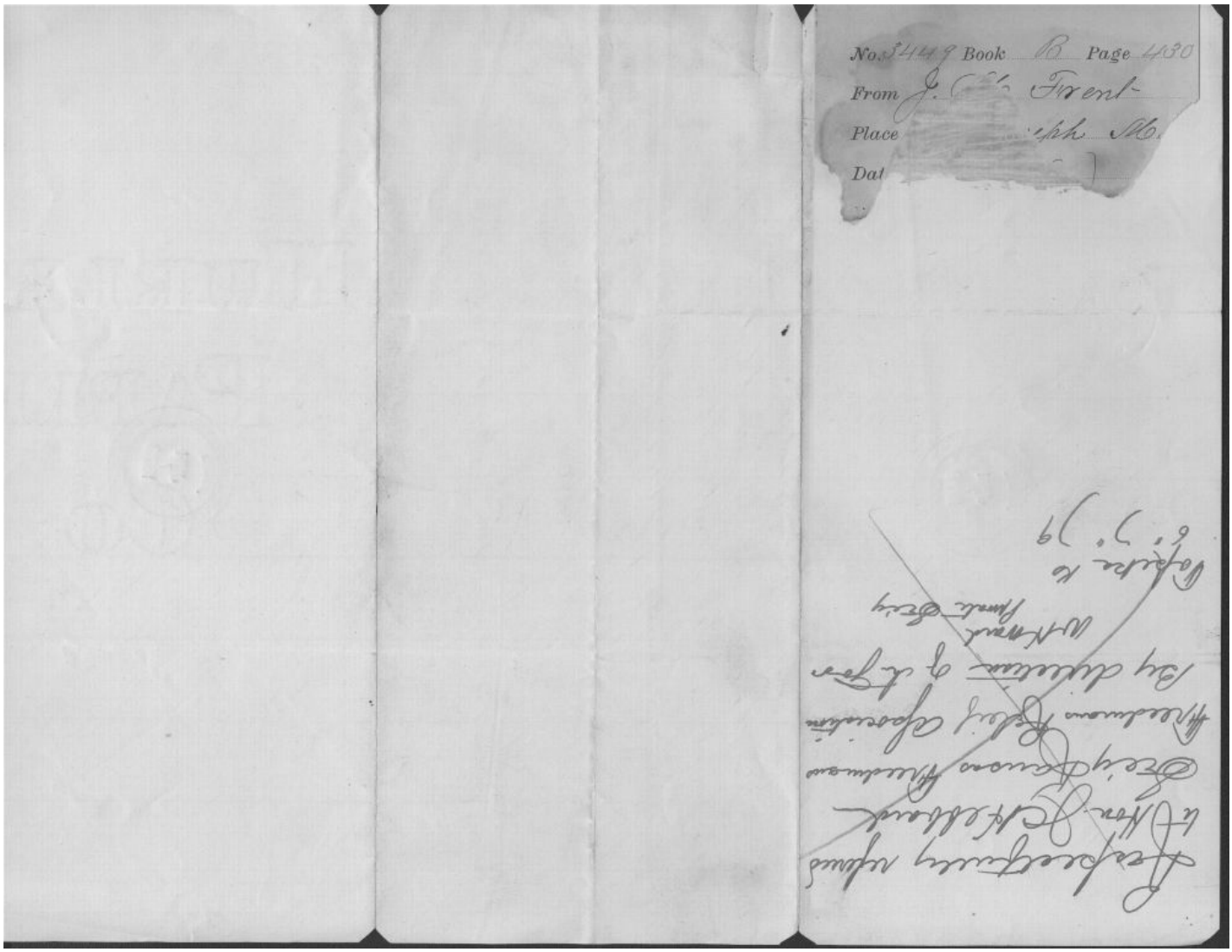
At the time of the exodus excitement, the Citizens of St. Joseph, Contributed a small sum of money, and clothing for the benefit of the needy ones. The most of the clothing were shipped to Topeka, (3 boxes) addressed to Rev. W. Hubbard, but as yet, we are not advised of their delivery.

I now enclose to you, a Post office order, for $20.00 which please hand to the right party to be disposed of in the proper manner, and cause an acknowledgement to be made as soon as convenient.

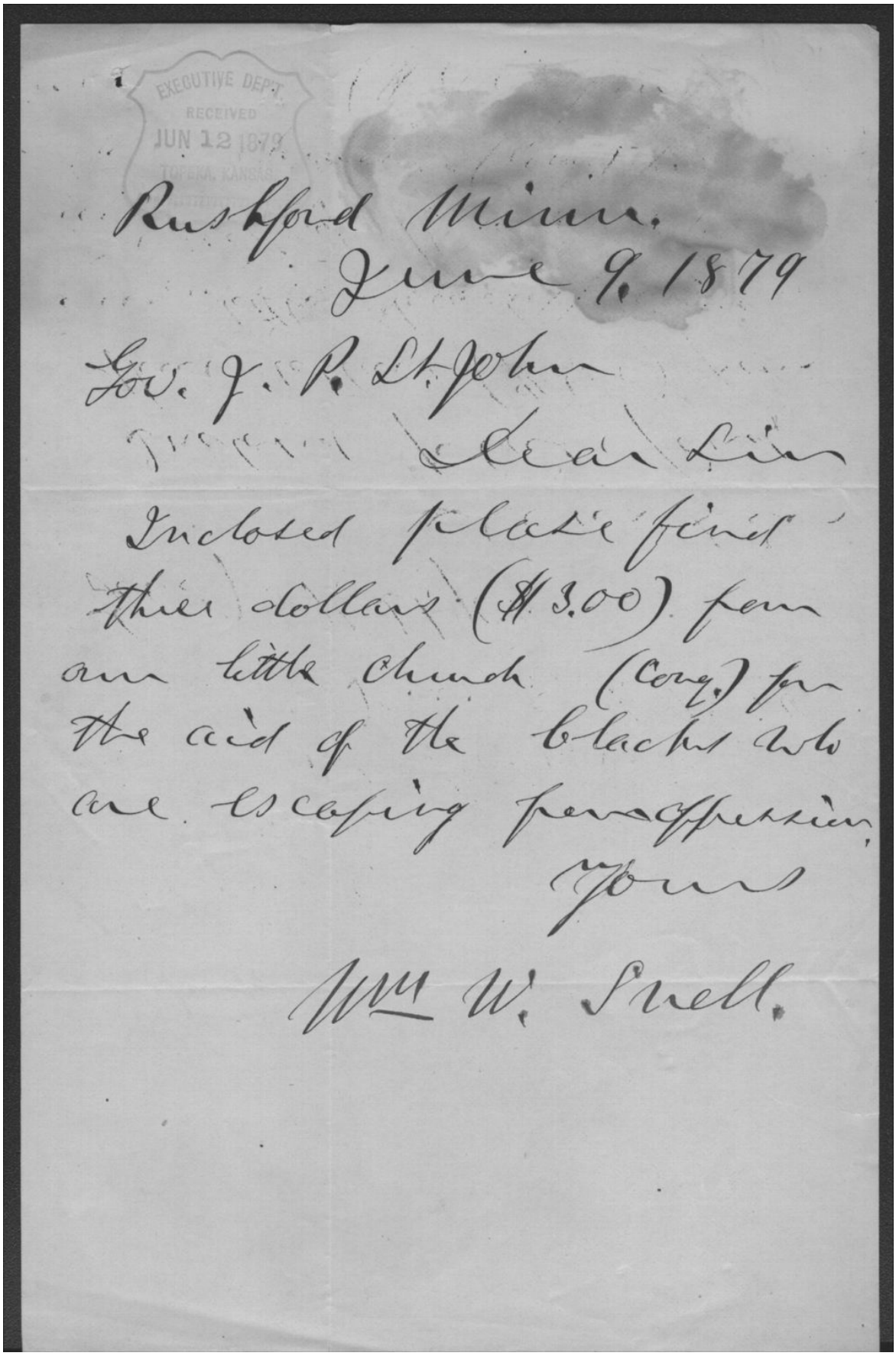
We have a few more articles of clothing, and also a small amount of money on hand still, which will be sent to those refugees who are mostly in need of assistance from the public. In view of this fact, will you kindly give me any information upon this subject, which will enable me to act wisely in the disposition of the remainder of the articles & Money on Land? Also, please direct me who to correspond with upon the subjects mentioned and greatly oblige Your obedient Servant J. M. Trent

RECEIVED AND FILED JUN 5 1879 KANSAS

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Rushford Minn.
June 9, 1879

Gov. J. P. St. John

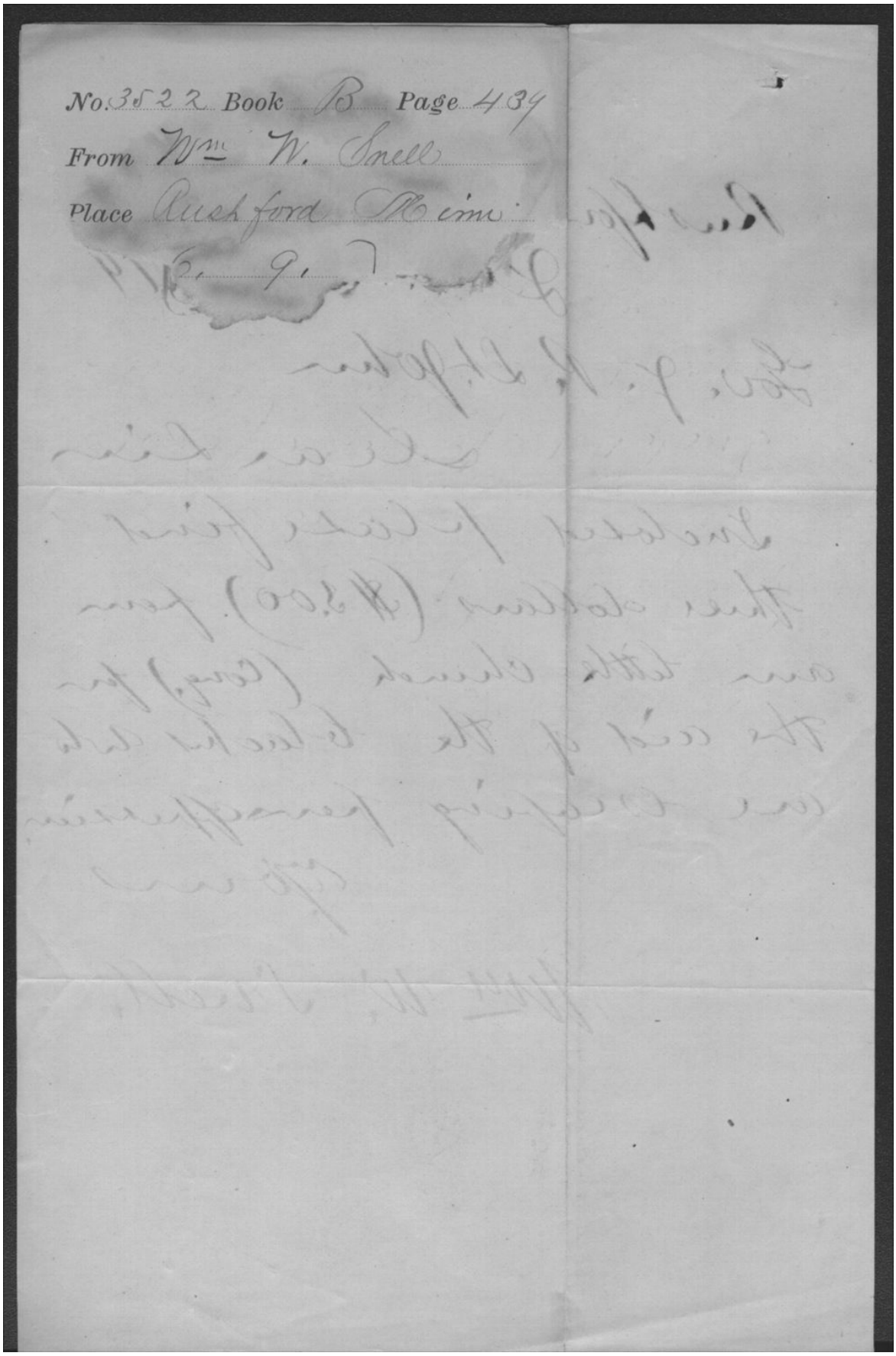
Dear Sir

Inclosed please find three dollars ($3.00) from our little church (Cong.) for the aid of the blacks who are escaping persecution.

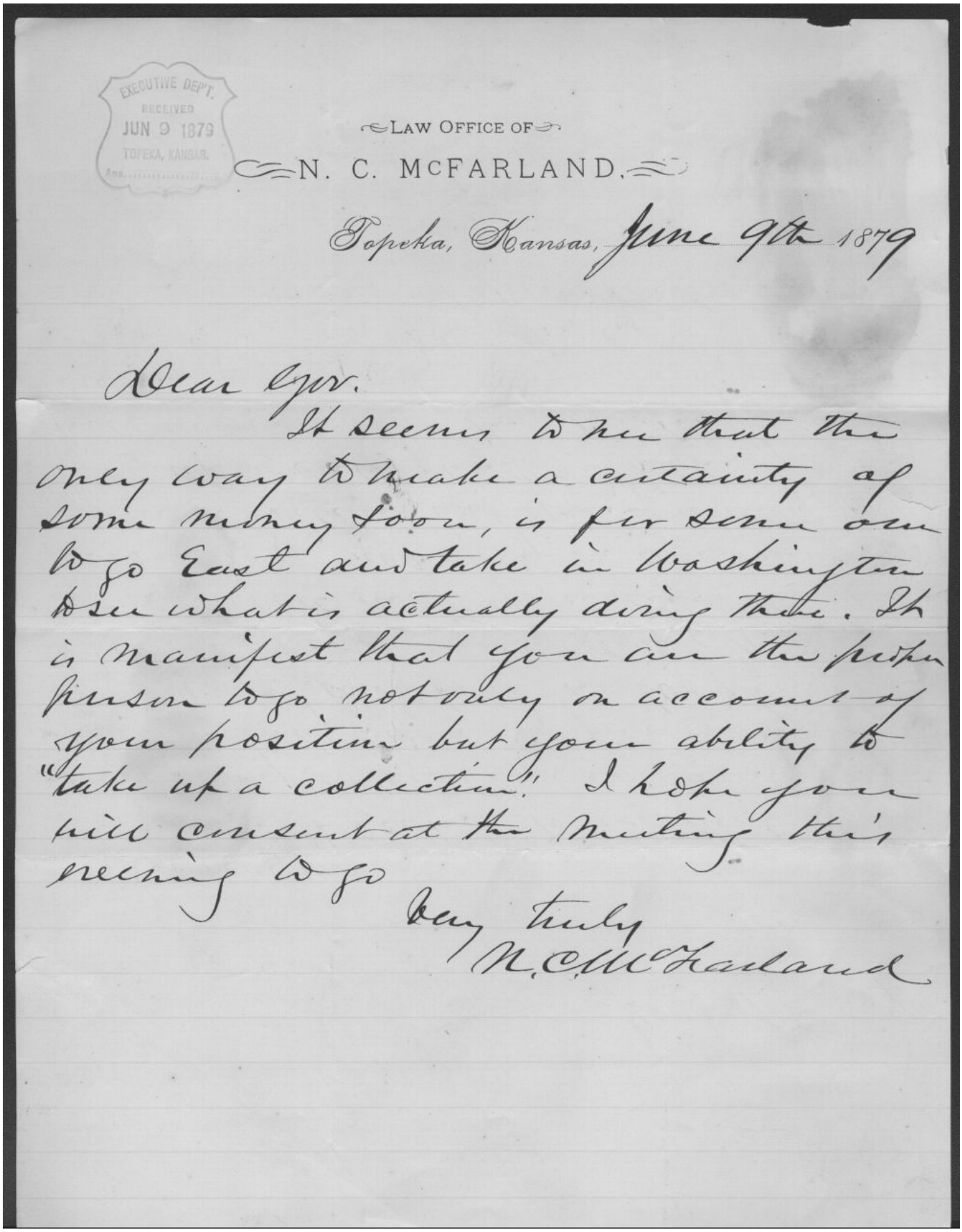
Yours

Wm W. Snell.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
JUN 9 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.
Ans.....

LAW OFFICE OF
N. C. McFARLAND.

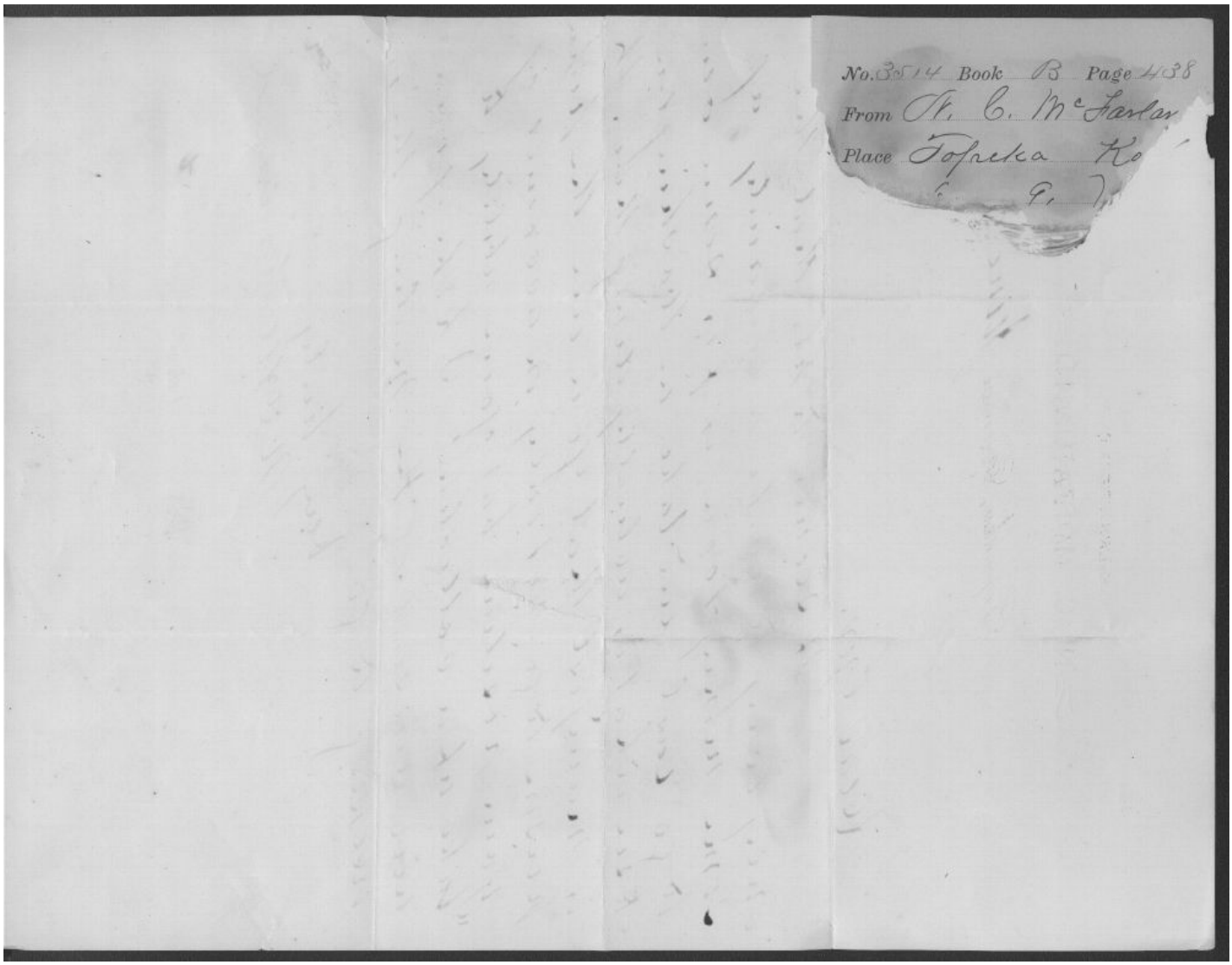
Topeka, Kansas, June 9th 1879

Dear Gov.

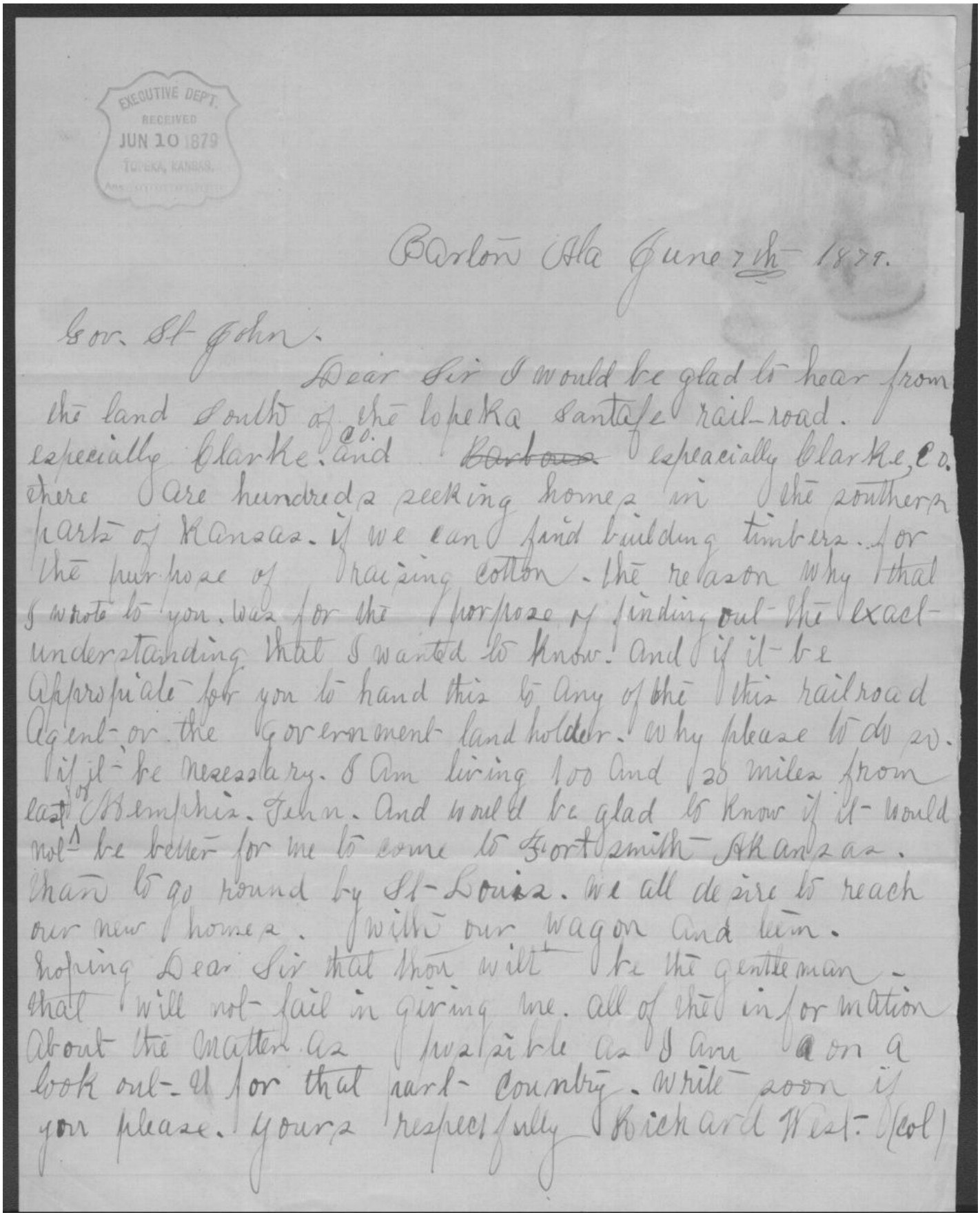
It seems to me that the only way to make a certainty of some money soon, is for some one to go East and take in Washington & see what is actually doing there. It is manifest that you are the person to go not only on account of your position but your ability to "take up a collection". I hope you will consent at the meeting this evening to go

Very truly
N. C. McFarland

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

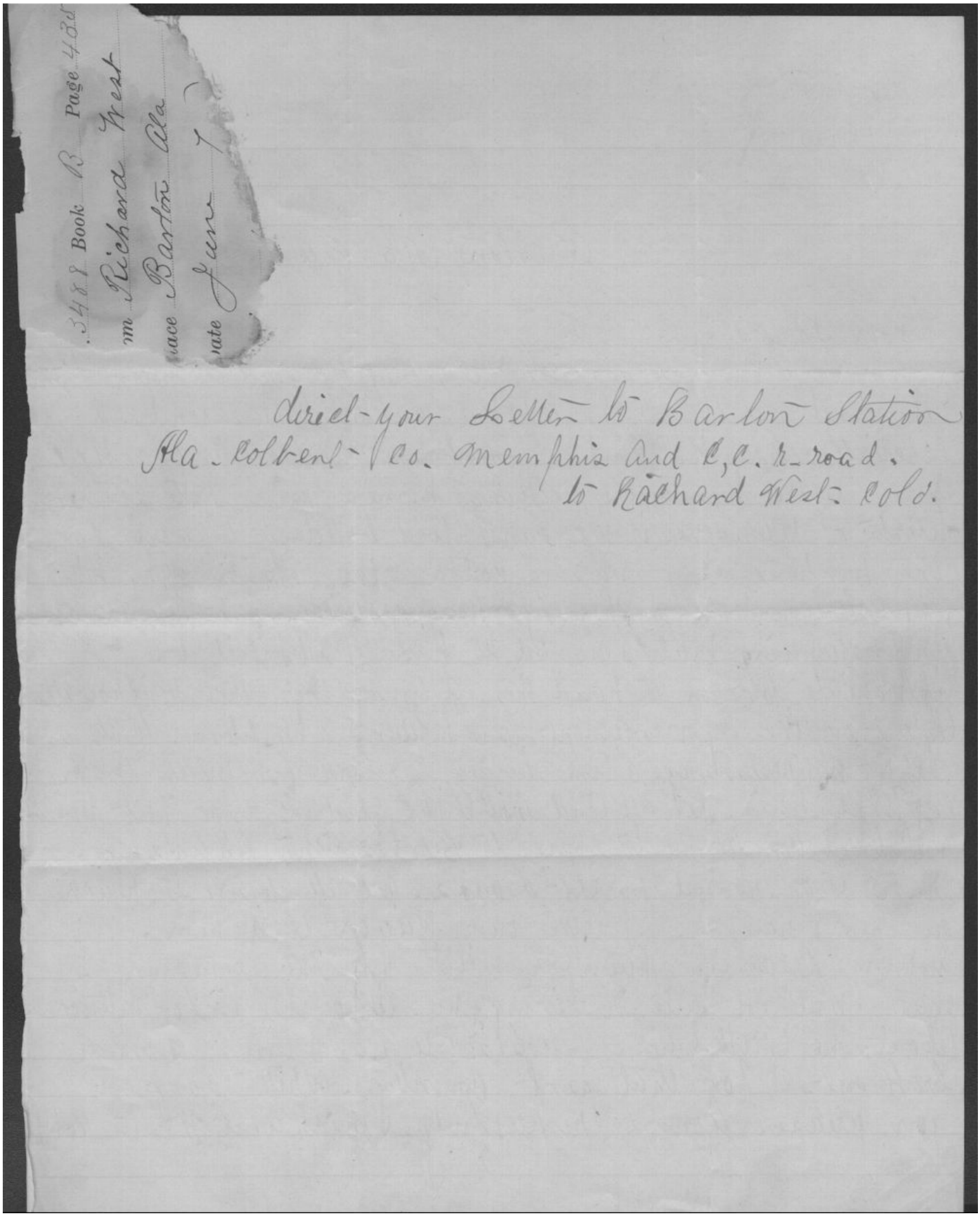


Barlow Ala June 7th 1879.

Gov. St John.

Dear Sir I would be glad to hear from the land South of the Topeka Santafe rail-road. especially Clarke Co. and ~~Barbour~~ especially Clarke Co. there are hundreds seeking homes in the southern parts of Kansas. if we can find building timbers. for the purpose of raising cotton. the reason why that I wrote to you. was for the purpose of finding out the exact understanding that I wanted to know. And if it be Appropriate for you to hand this to Any of the this railroad Agent or the Government land holder. why please to do so. if it be Necessary. I Am living 100 And 20 miles from east of Memphis. Tenn. And would be glad to know if it would not be better for me to come to Fort Smith Arkansas. than to go round by St-Louis. We all desire to reach our new homes. with our wagon and team. hoping Dear Sir that thou wilt be the gentleman that will not fail in giving me. all of the information about the matter As possible As I Am on a look out. for that part Country. Write soon if you please. Yours respectfully Richard West (Col)

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

O. D. MOORE, Pres't and Manager.
H. H. GREEN, Vice President.

OFFICE OF

Kansas City Car Wheel Co.

MANUFACTURERS OF

R. R. Car Wheels, Locomotive, Bridge & Car Castings, Frogs & Chairs,

WORKS AT ROSEDALE, KANSAS.

Particular attention paid to Chilled Castings, also to Street R. R. work and Mining Machinery.

Rosedale, Kas. June 9th 1879

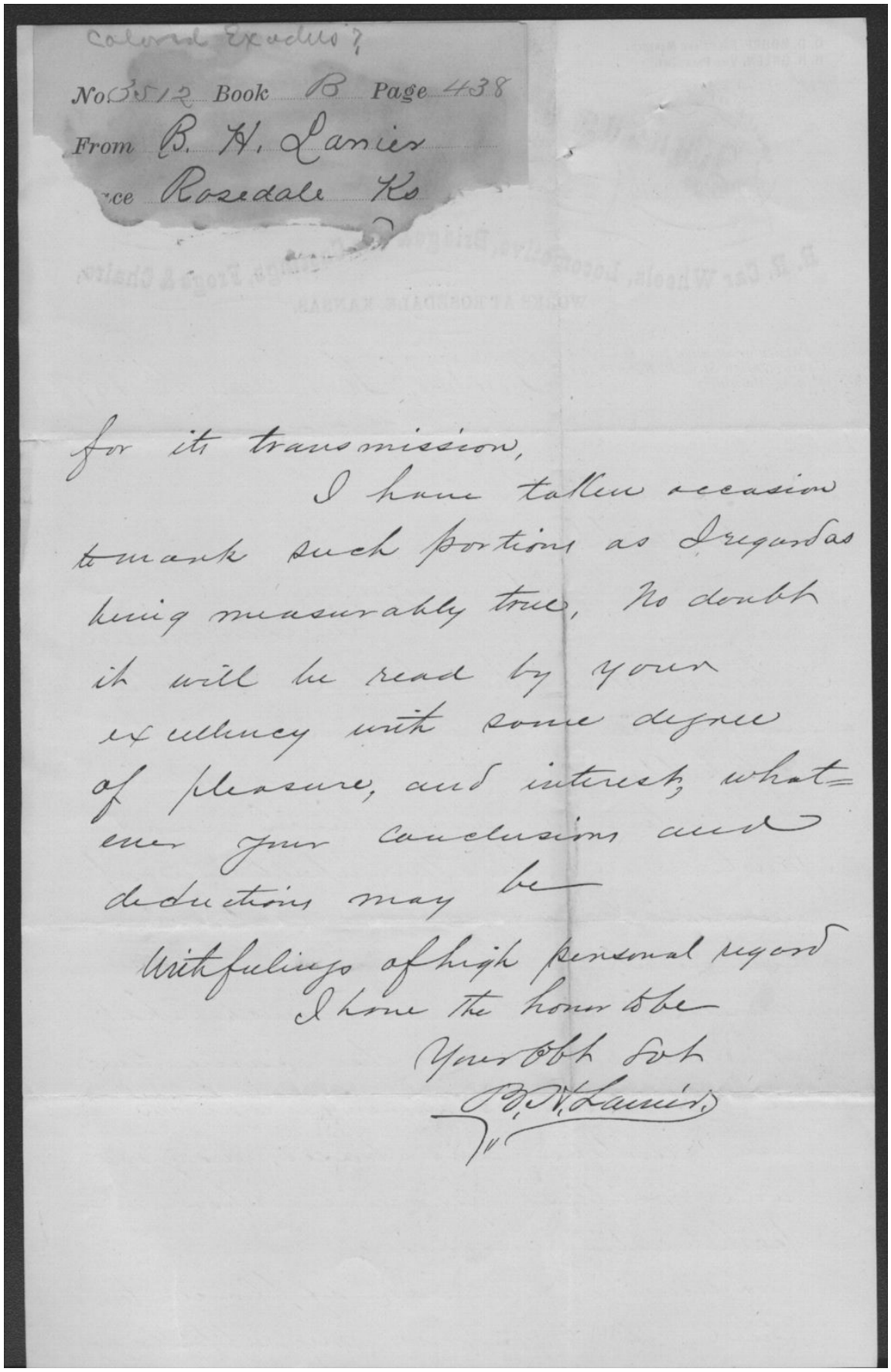
Hon John P. St John.
Gov of Kansas.

My dear Sir.

Enclosed herein I hand you the hundred-time, "Remonstrance and memorial" of the Mississippi planters referred to in our interview, and which was printed in the Mo Republican of the 4th inst, without editorial comment. This document is mixed, containing much that is true, while at the same time it contains statements which are untrue and based, as you will doubtless perceive, upon hypothetical reasoning.

Deeming it not out of place to send it to you, as my apology

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Colored Exodus?

No 3512 Book B Page 438

From B. W. Lanier

ce Rosedale Ks

for its transmission,

I have taken occasion to mark such portions as I regard as being measurably true, No doubt it will be read by your excellency with some degree of pleasure, and interest, whatever your conclusions and deductions may be

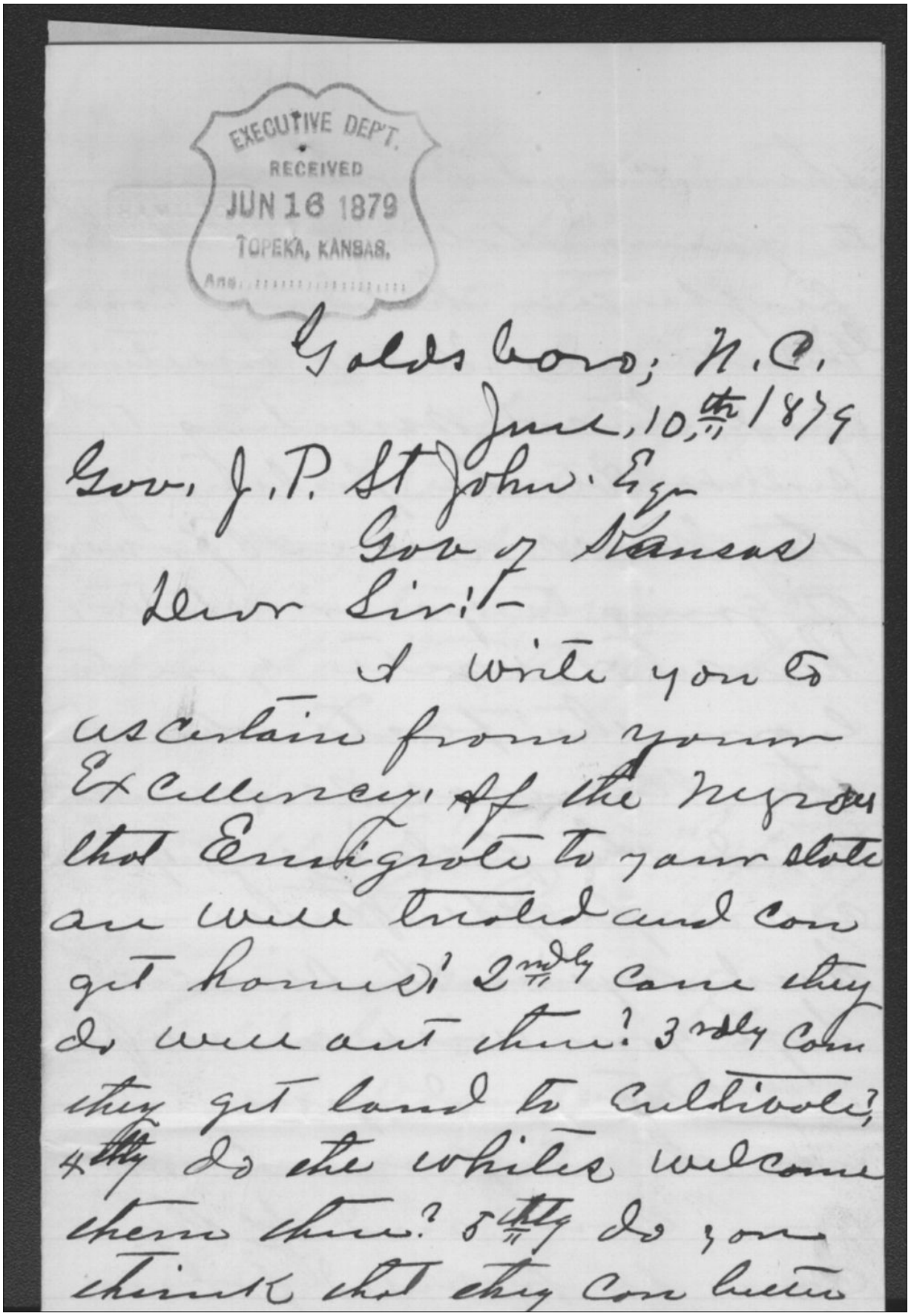
With feelings of high personal regard

I have the honor to be

Your Obt Svt

B. W. Lanier

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



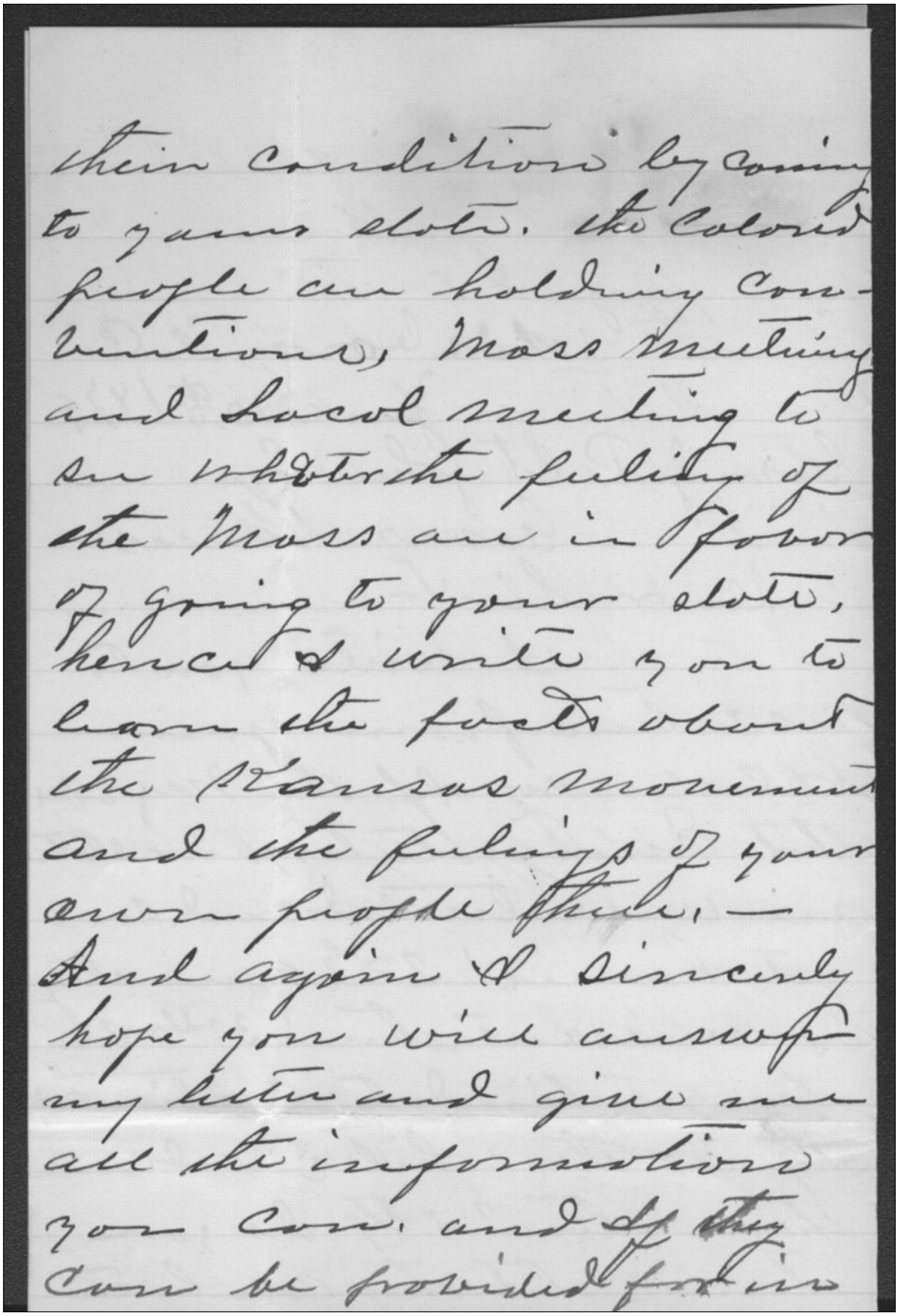
Goldsboro; N.C.
June, 10th 1879

Gov. J.P. St John. Esq
Gov of Kansas

Dear Sir!—

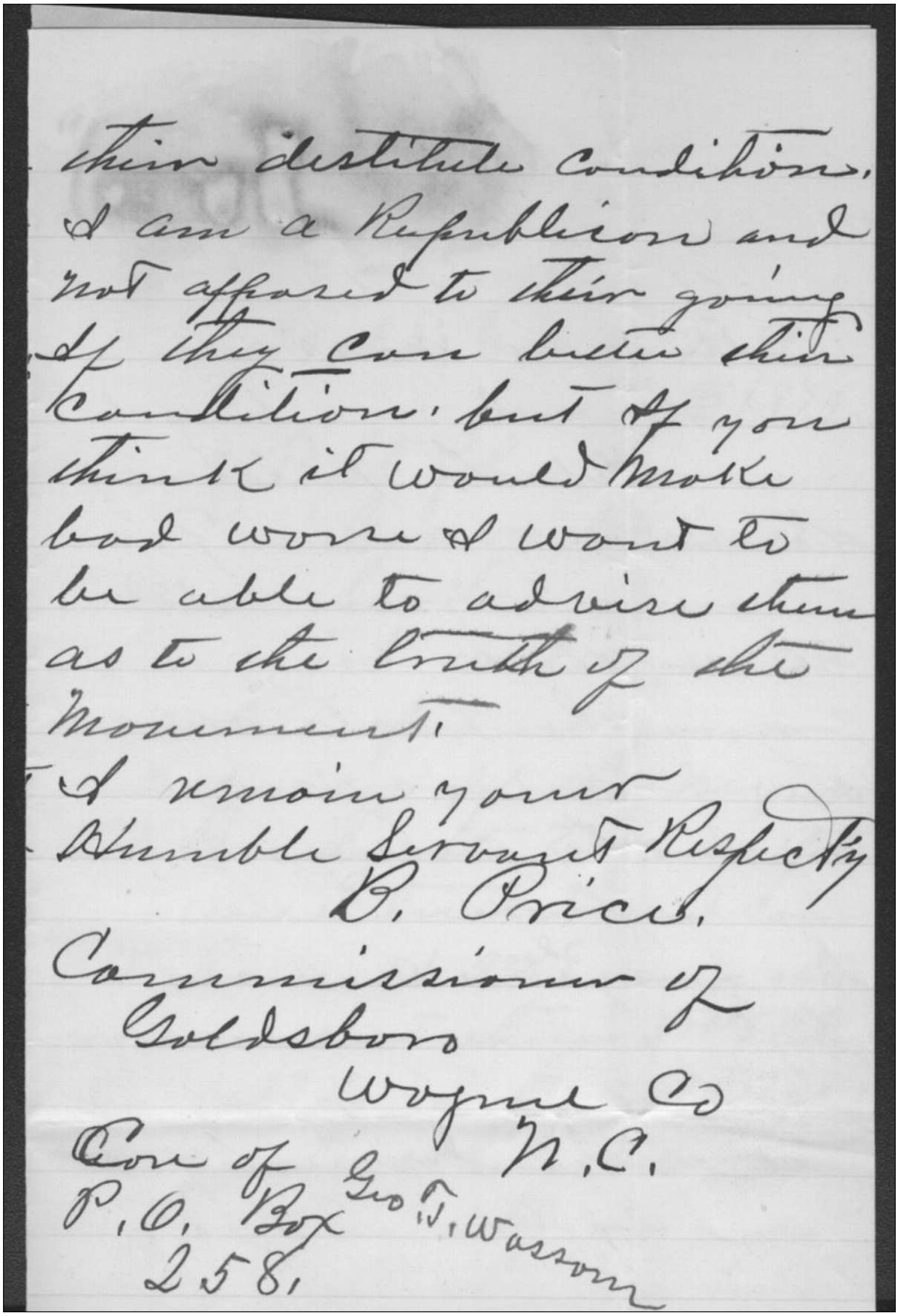
I Write you to ascertain from your Excellency. If the negroes that Emigrate to your state are well treated and can get homes? 2ndly Can they do well ant there? 3rdly Can they get land to Cultivate? 4thly Do the whites welcome them there? 5thly Do you think that they can have

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



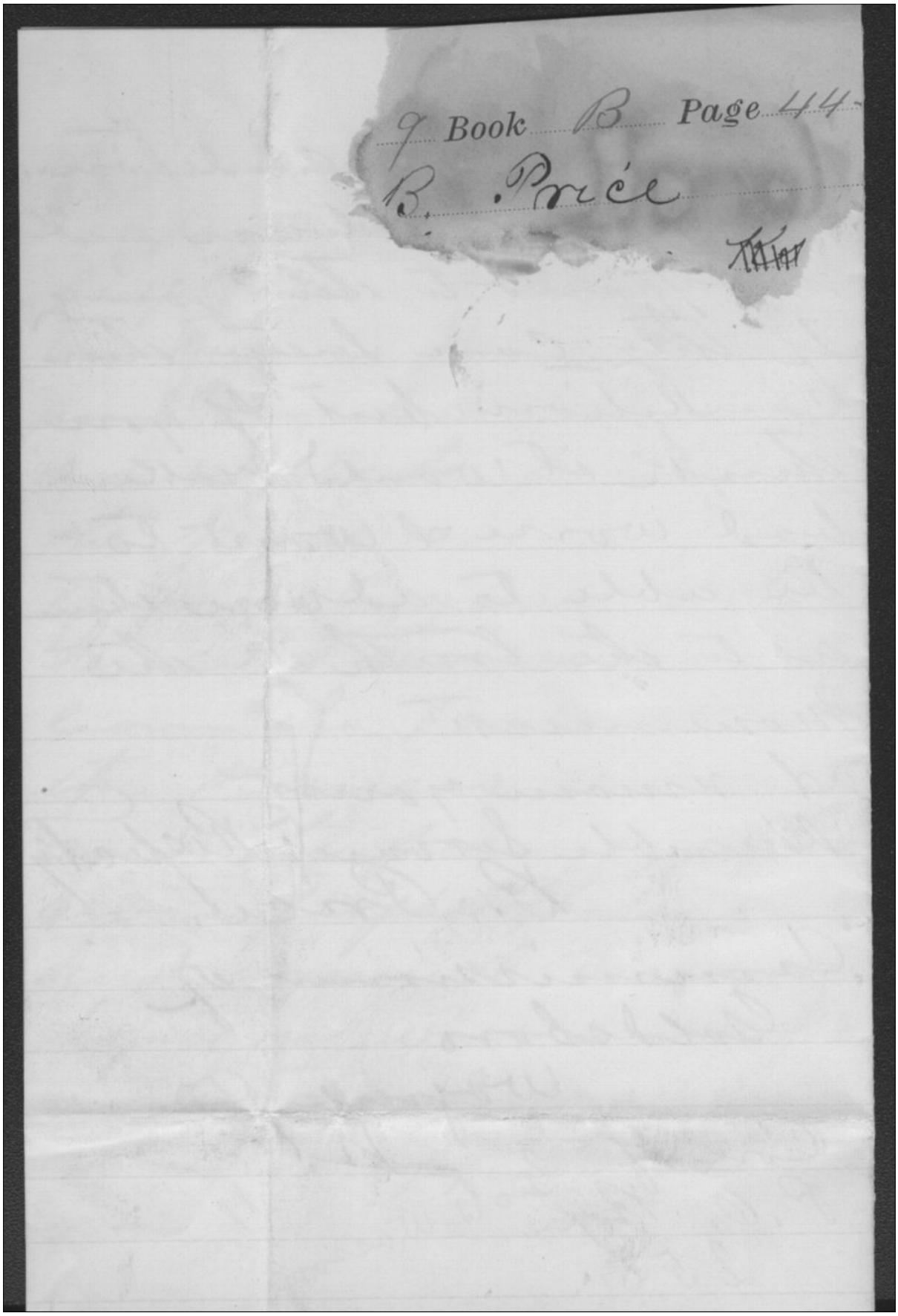
their conditions by coming to your state. the Colored people are holding Conventions, Mass meeting and Local meeting to see whether the feeling of the Mass are in favor of going to your state, hence I write you to learn the facts about the Kansas movement and the feelings of your own people there. — And again I sincerely hope you will answer my letter and give me all the information you can. and if they can be provided for in

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

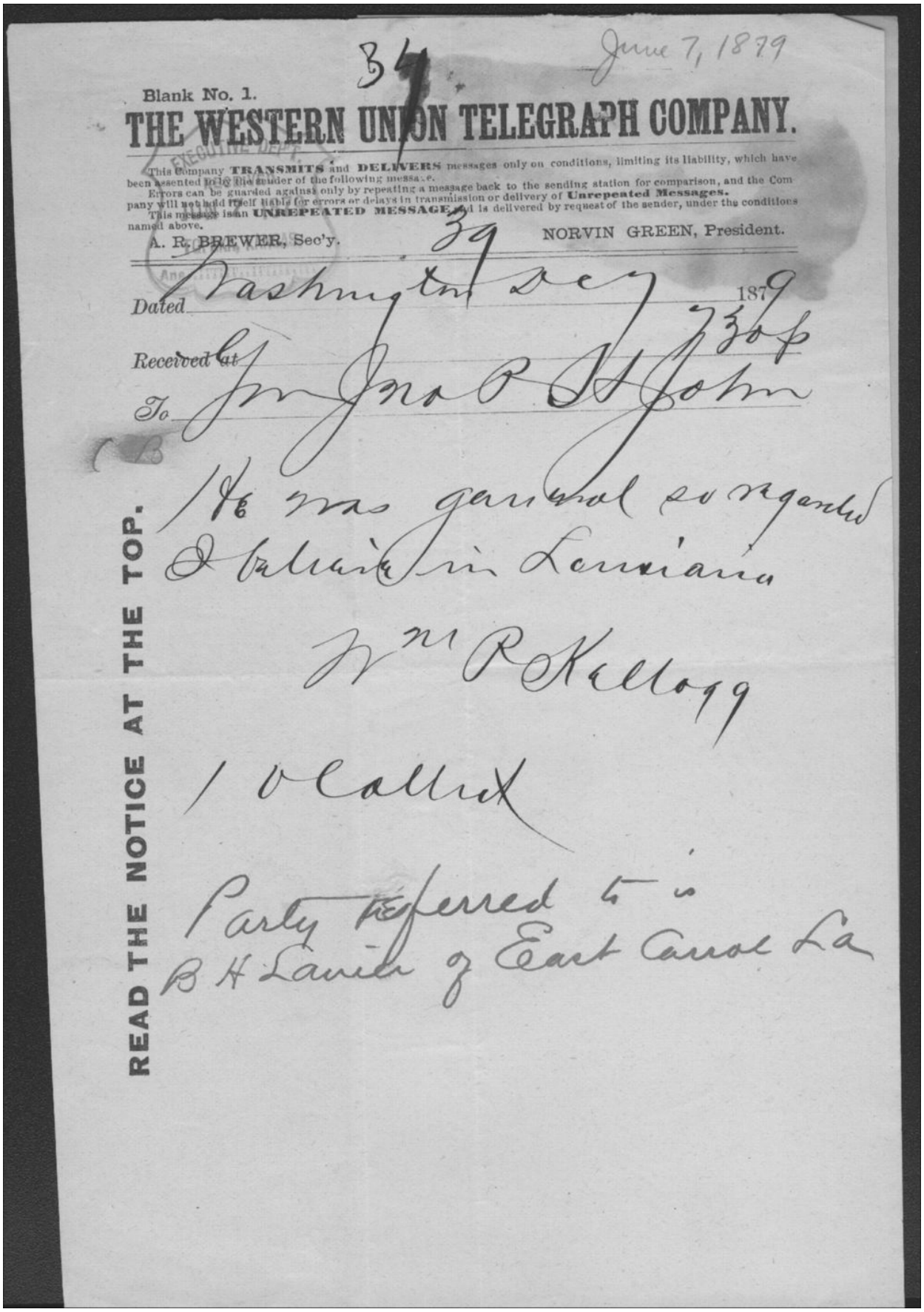


their destitute condition.
I am a Republican and
not afraid to their going
if they can better their
condition. but if you
think it would make
bad worse I wont to
be able to advise them
as to the truth of the
movement.
I remain your
Humble Servant Respectfully
B. Price.
Commissioner of
Goldsboro
Wayne Co
N.C.
Care of Geo. W. Wasson
P.O. Box
258.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Blank No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions, limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message.
Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages.**
This message is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. NORVIN GREEN, President.

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

June 7, 1879

B 4 39

Dated Washington Dec 187 9

Received at 3 30 p

To Jno P St John

(B

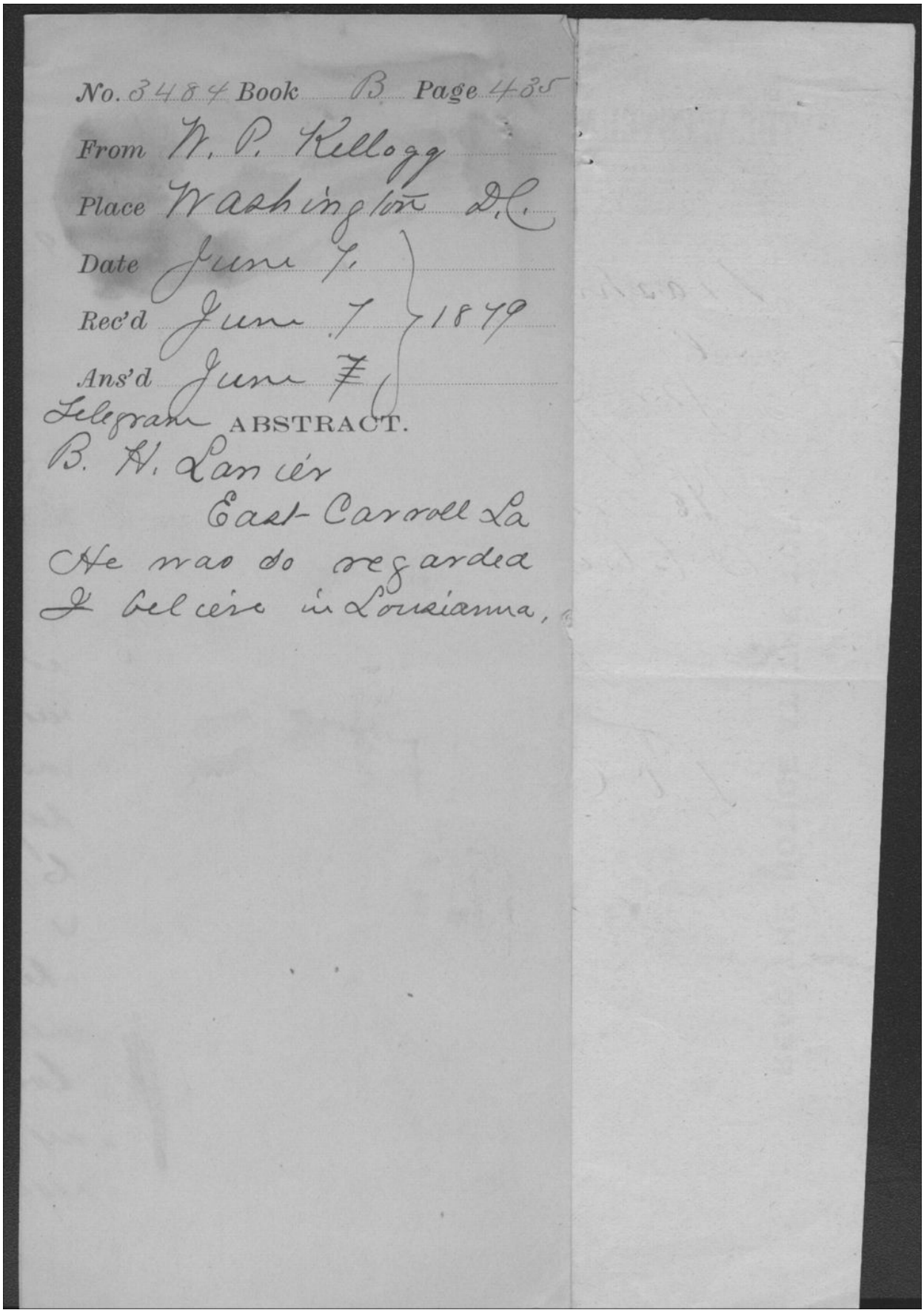
He was general co operator & Politician in Louisiana

Wm R Kellogg

I do call it

Party referred to is B H Lewis of East Carrol La

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



No. 3484 Book B Page 435

From W. P. Kellogg

Place Washington D.C.

Date June 7.

Rec'd June 7 } 1879

Ans'd June 7 }

Telegram ABSTRACT.

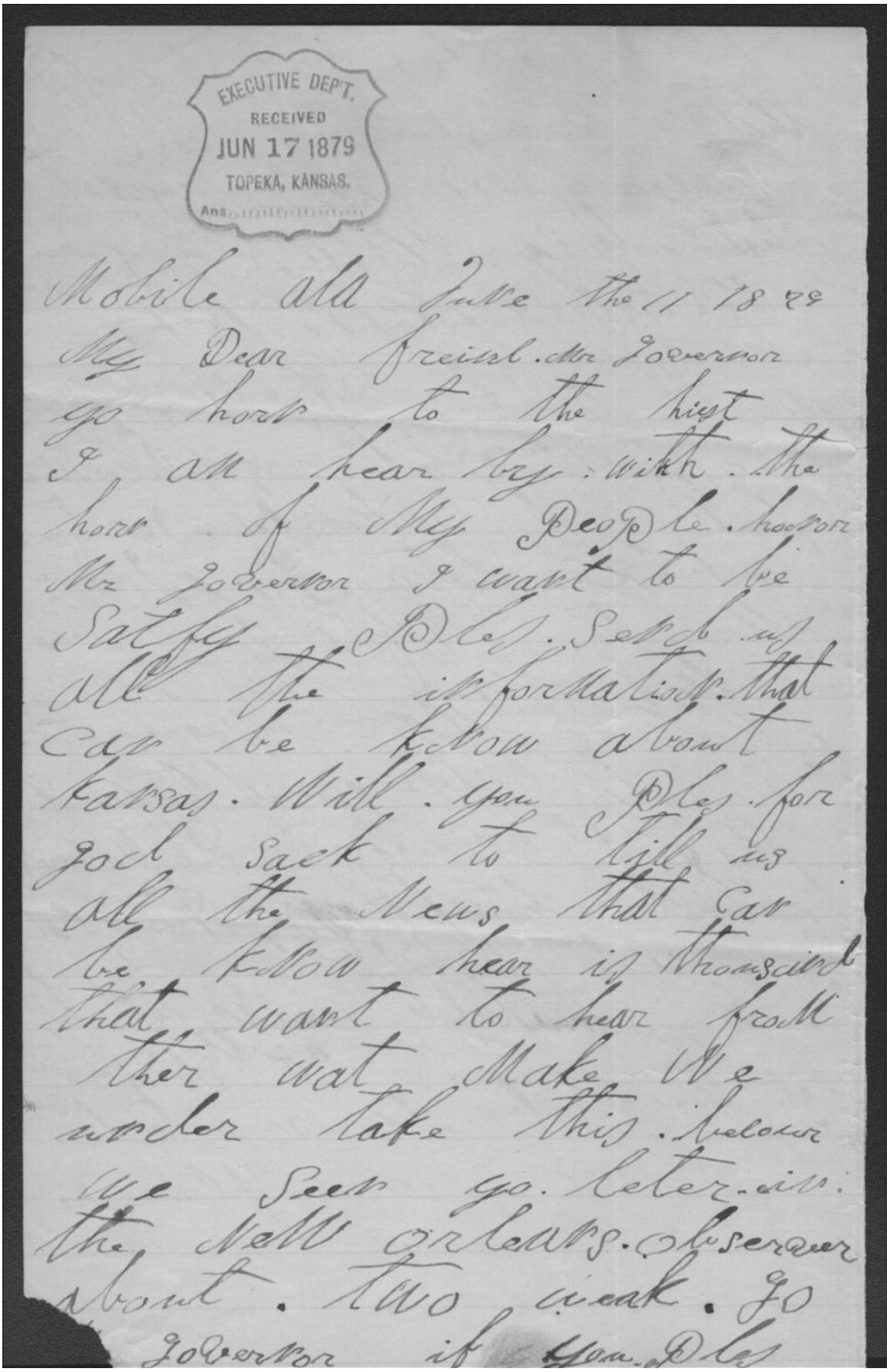
B. H. Lancier

East-Carroll La

He was do regarded

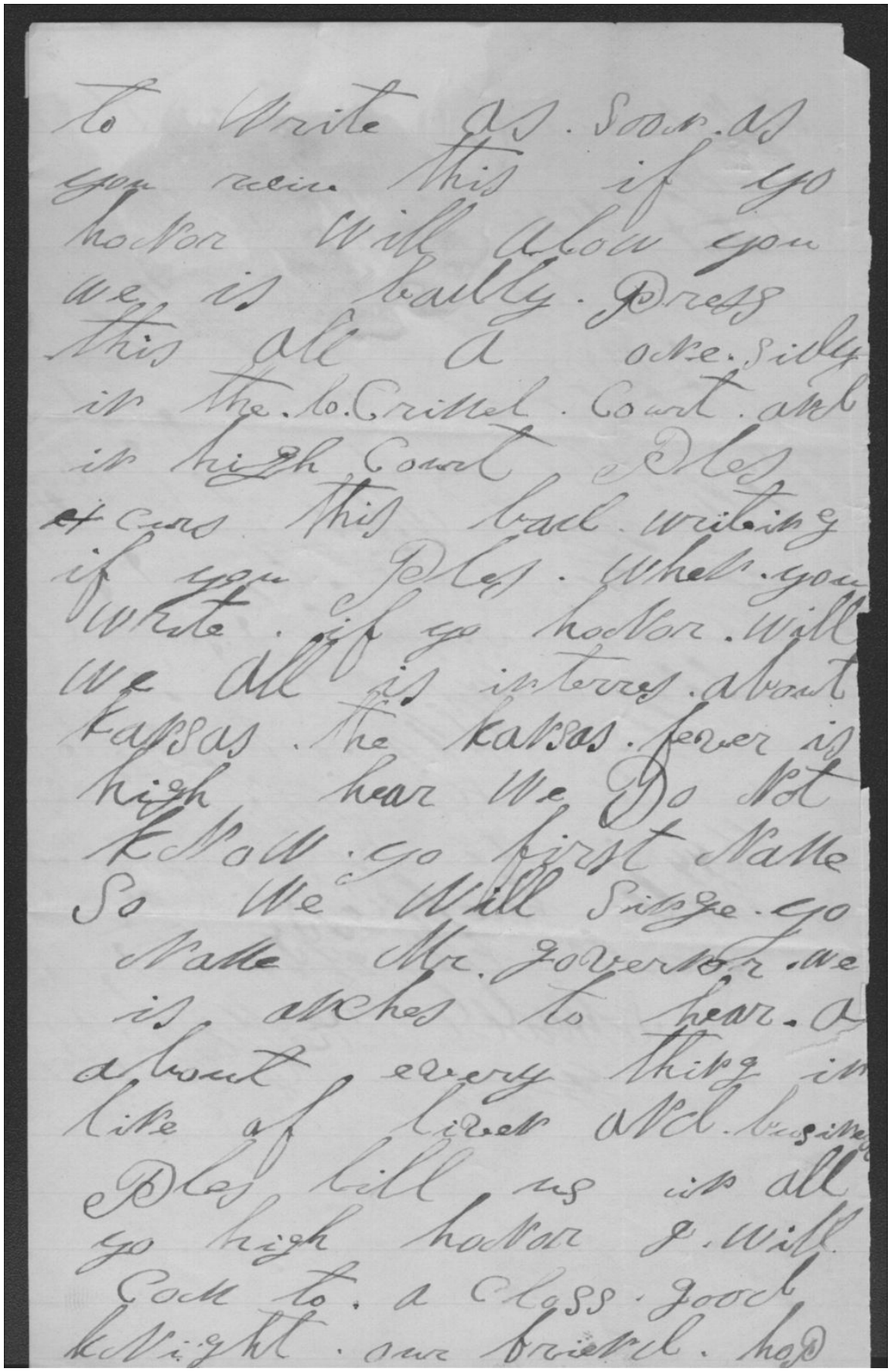
& believe in Louisiana,

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



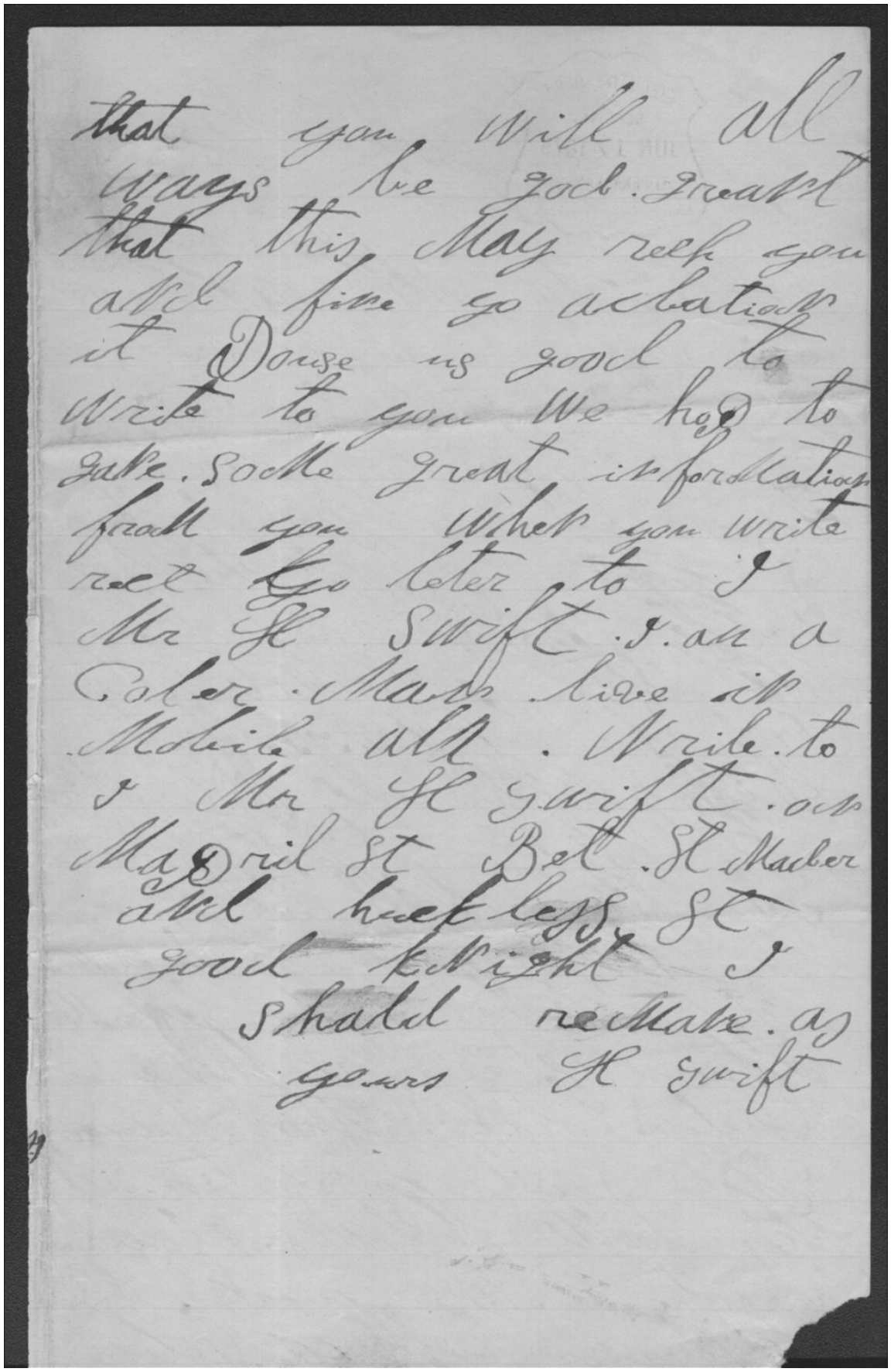
Mobile Ala June the 11 1879
My Dear Freind. Mr Governor
go hosts to the hist
I am hear by: with. the
hosts of My People. hoo for
Mr Governor I want to Ive
Satisfy Dis. Send us
All the information. that
Can be know about
Kansas. Will. you Dis. for
God Sack to Till us
all the News that Can
be know hear is thousiend
that want to hear from
ther wat Make We
under take this. before
we Seen go. leter-ins.
the New Orleans. Observer
Wont. two weak. Go
Governor if you Dis

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



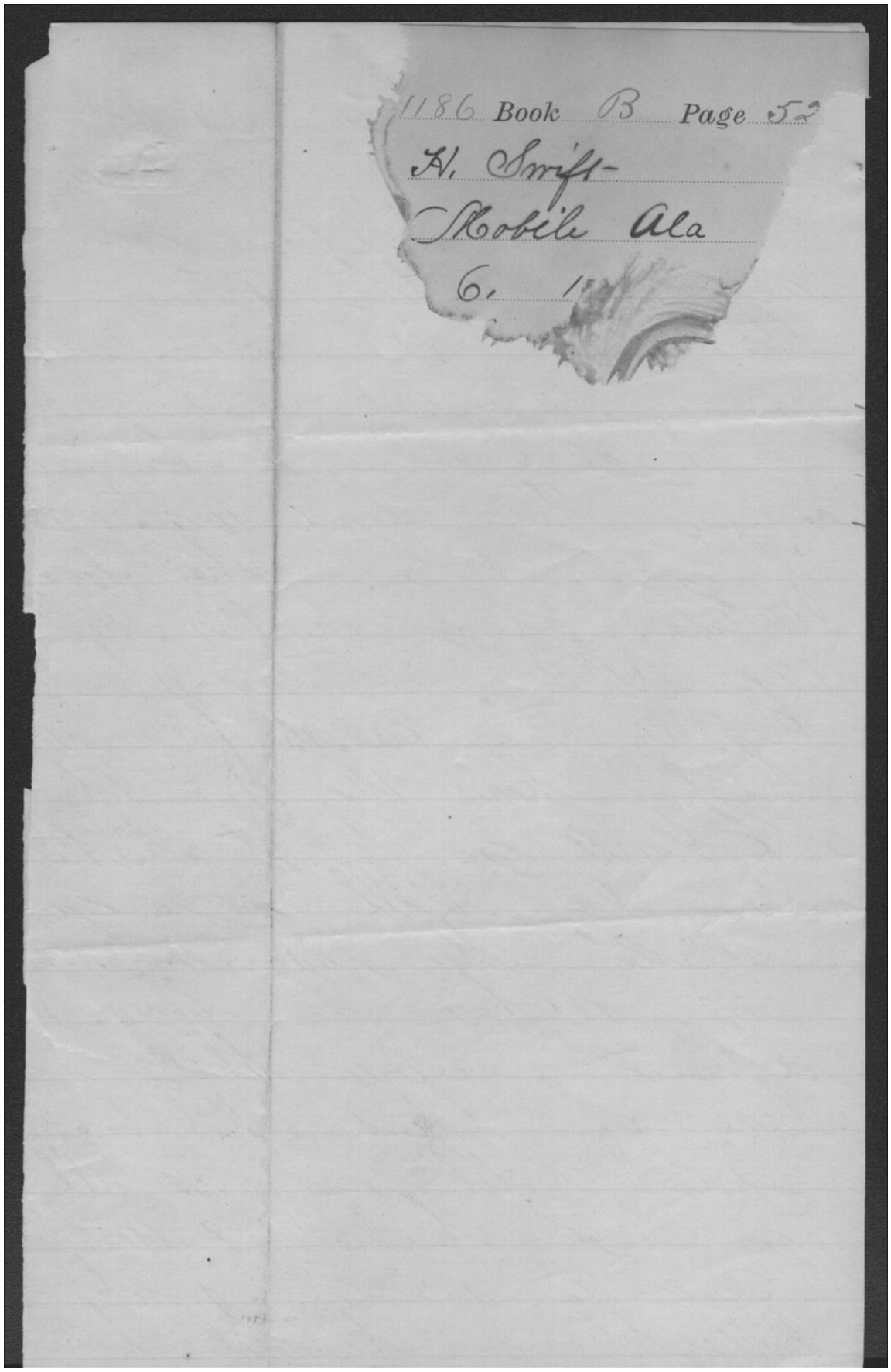
to write as soon as you receive this if yo honor will allow you we is badly. Dress this all a one. Sibly is the so. Critical. Court. and is high Court, Dess of Cors this board writing if you Dess. When you write. if yo honor. will we all is interest about Kansas. the Kansas fever is high hear We Do Not Know. yo first Make So We will Suage. yo Make Mr. Governor we is wishes to hear. a about every thing is like of Liver well. Business Dess till us is all yo high honor I will Cook to a Class. Good Knight. our friend. hop

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

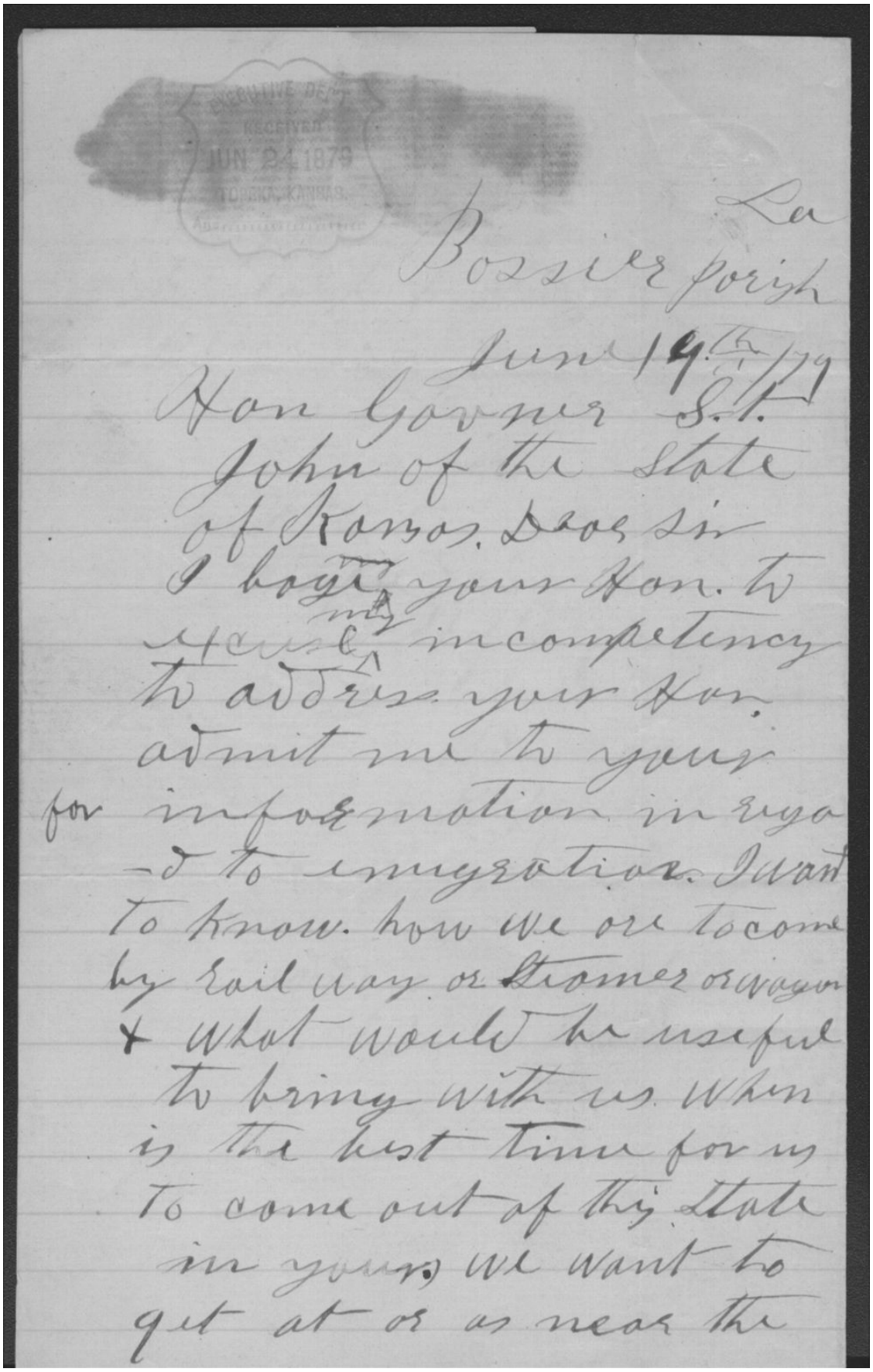


that you will all
ways be good. I trust
that this May reach you
all fine go ocbation
it Douse us good to
Write to you We had to
take. Some great information
from you When you write
next Go later to J
Mr H Swift. I am a
Color. Man. live in
Mobile all. Write to
J Mr H Swift. on
Madrid St Bet. St Mader
and huckleberry St
Good bye I
Shadd remain. as
yours H Swift

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

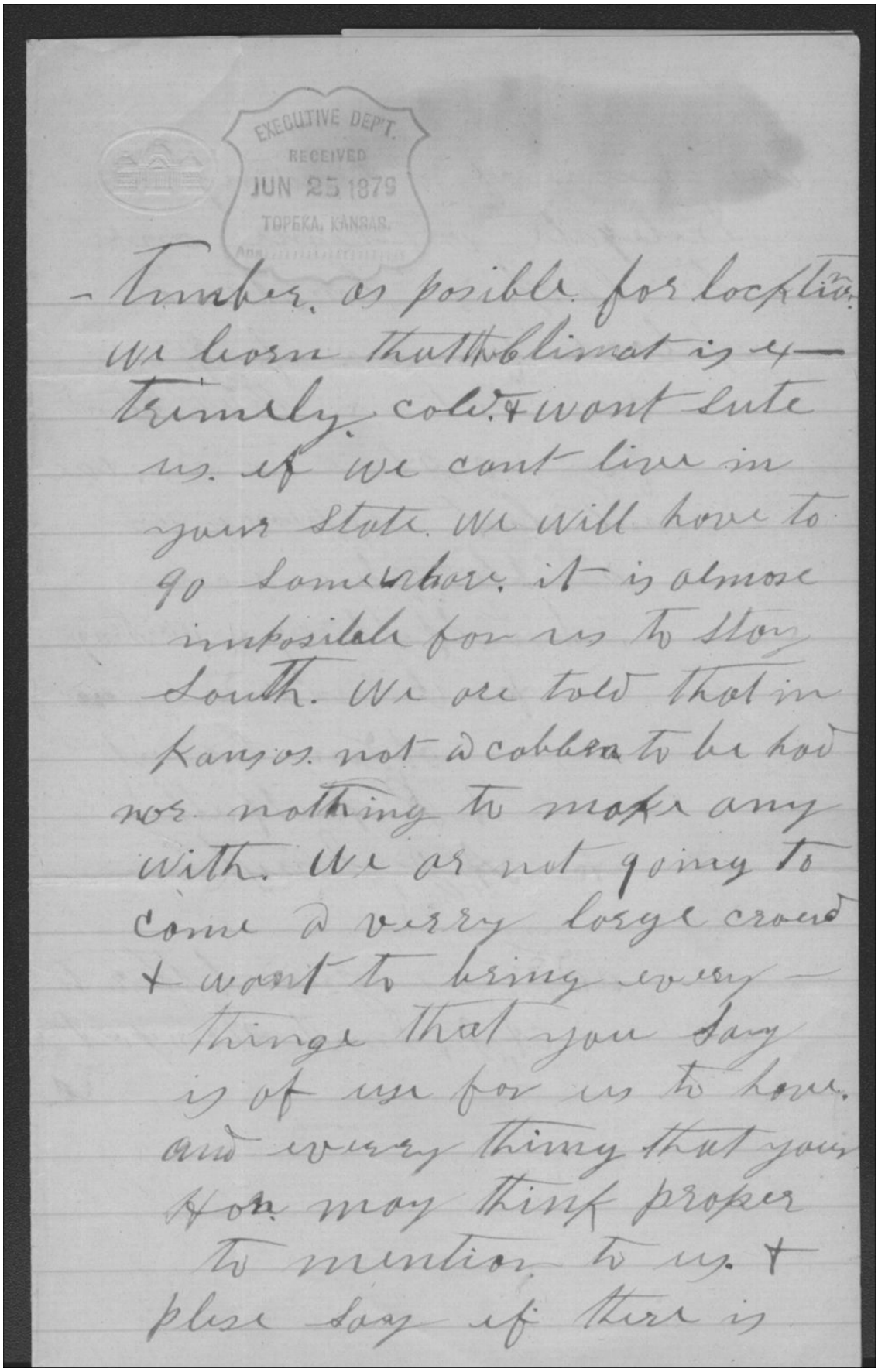


Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



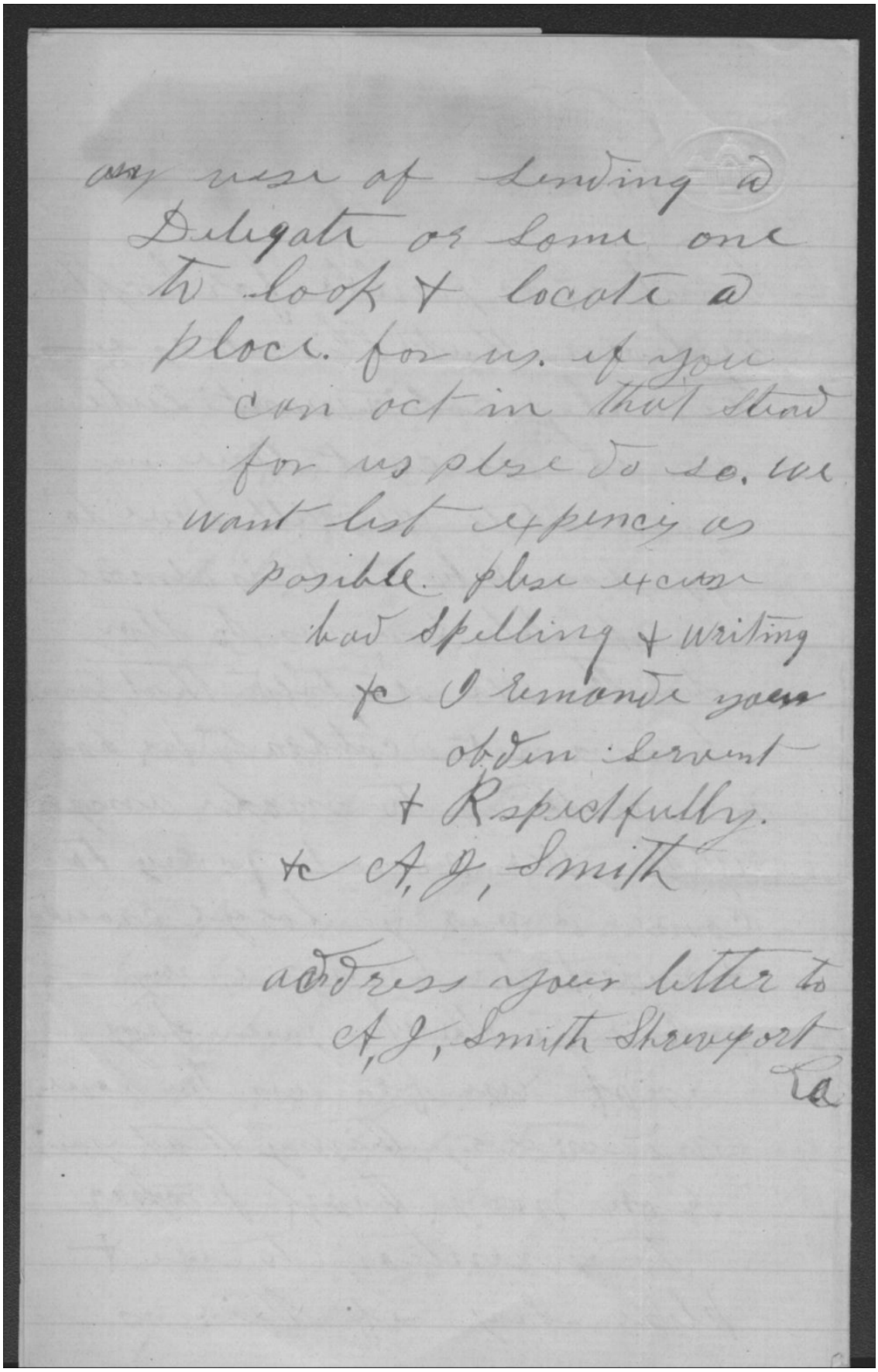
La
Bossier parish
June 19th 79
Hon Governor S. St.
John of the State
of Kansas. Dear Sir
I beg your Hon. to
excuse my incompetency
to address your Hon.
admit me to your
for information in rega
-d to emigration. I want
to know. how we are to come
by rail way or Steamer or wagon
& what would be useful
to bring with us. When
is the best time for us
to come out of this State
in your. We want to
get at or as near the

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



- Timber as posible for lock lin.
We learn that the climat is extremely cold & wont suite us. if we cant live in your State we will have to go somewhere. it is almost impossible for us to stay South. We are told that in Kansas not a cobbler to be had nor nothing to make any with. We are not going to come a very large crowd & want to bring every thing that you say is of use for us to have. and every thing that you may think proper to mention to us. & plese say if there is

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



any use of sending a
Delegate or some one
to look & locate a
place for us. if you
can act in that stead
for us plse do so. we
want last agency as
posible. plse excuse
bad Spelling & writing
& I remain your
ob'dn Servant
& Respectfully.
& A. J. Smith

address your letter to
A. J. Smith Shreveport
La

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

