

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 13, Pages 361 - 390

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

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
JUN 16 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

New York June 12/79

To His Excellency Gov. J. St. John

Sir, enclosed you will
find a draft for two hun-
dred and fifty Dollars,
emanating from the Colored
Republican General Committee
of the City and County of
New York, for the purpose
of relieving the wants of
our People in your state
which you will be kind
enough to send us a
receipt, and also. —

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

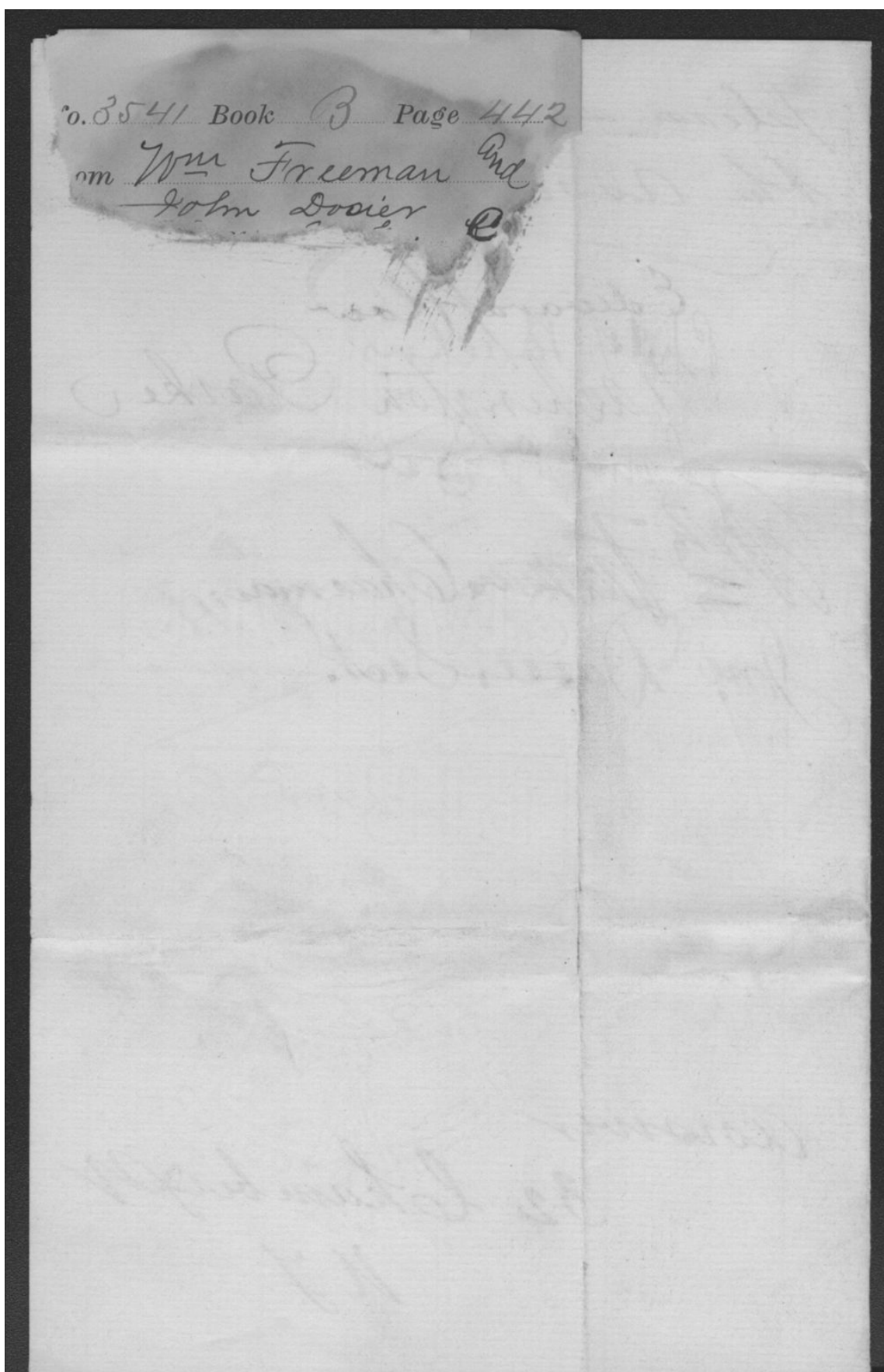
Please send a notice to
the Associated Press

Edward A. How
Philip Becker
Washington Parker
James B. Lee
John F. Chamberlain
Jno. Dorey Sect.

Answer

32 Chambers St
N.Y.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



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Kinsley Kans
June 12th 1879
John P St John
Governor

Dear Sir please accept
my thanks for the prompt
reply to my letter of the
ninth, inst,
Southwestern men seem
reluctant to lend money
on real estate, while it
appeared so dry.

I remain yours very

Respectfully

Taylor Jackson

Continued

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Dear Sir you will please
not think my asking
too much, in wishing
tho you to furnish me
with the following inform-
ation,

Mr A C Thorne of vicinity
A Christian a temperance
man and scholar, desire
me to inquire of you, if
there is any field open
for a school teacher. A-
mong the refugees, Mr T
is well acquainted with
the mode of Kansas farm-
ing, and I think it probable
would effect much good
in the freeman work,

He thinks the Presbyterian
freeman board of mission
will partially pay for ~~service~~
his service, provide a field



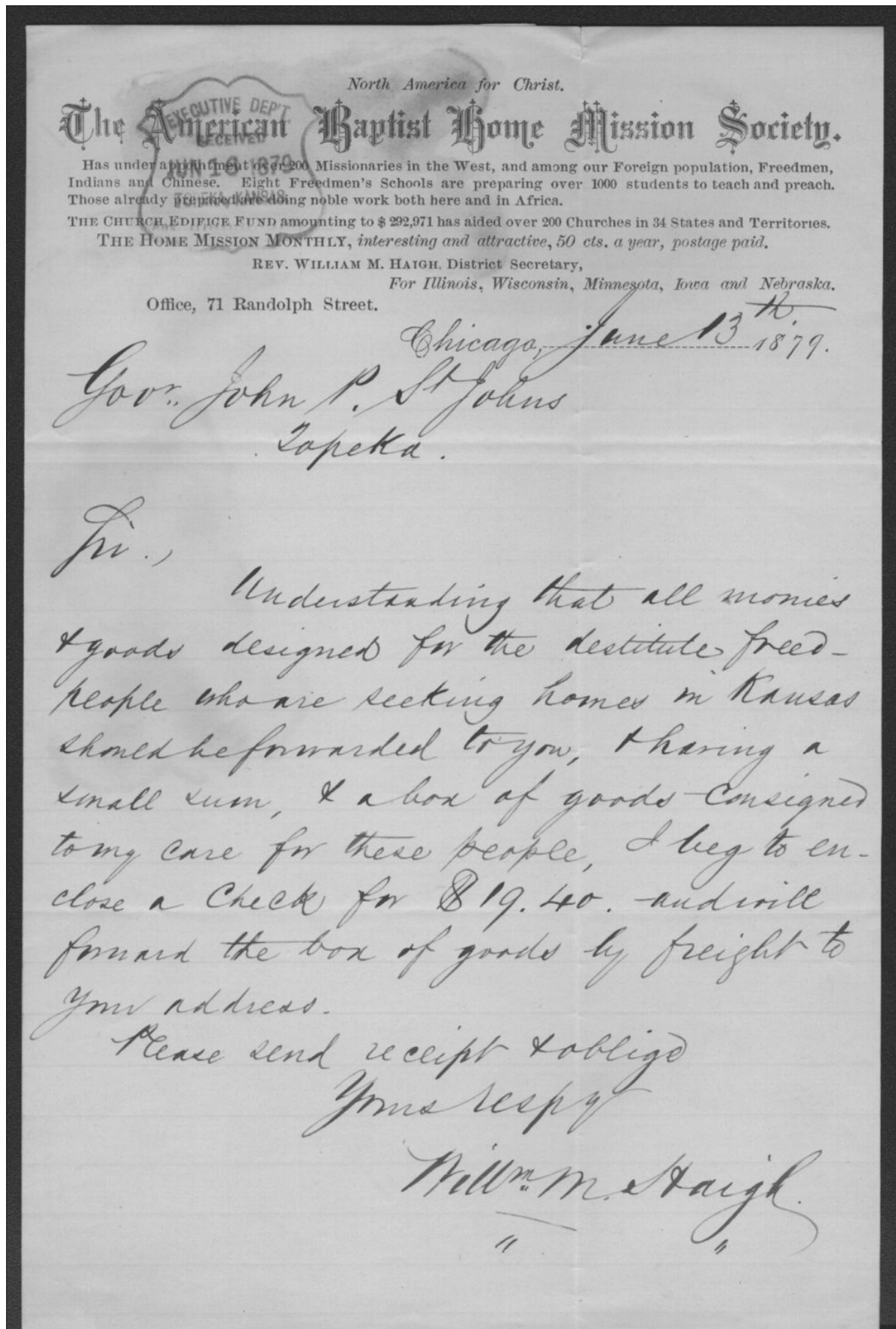
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

of work could be obtain
your friend and well
wisher

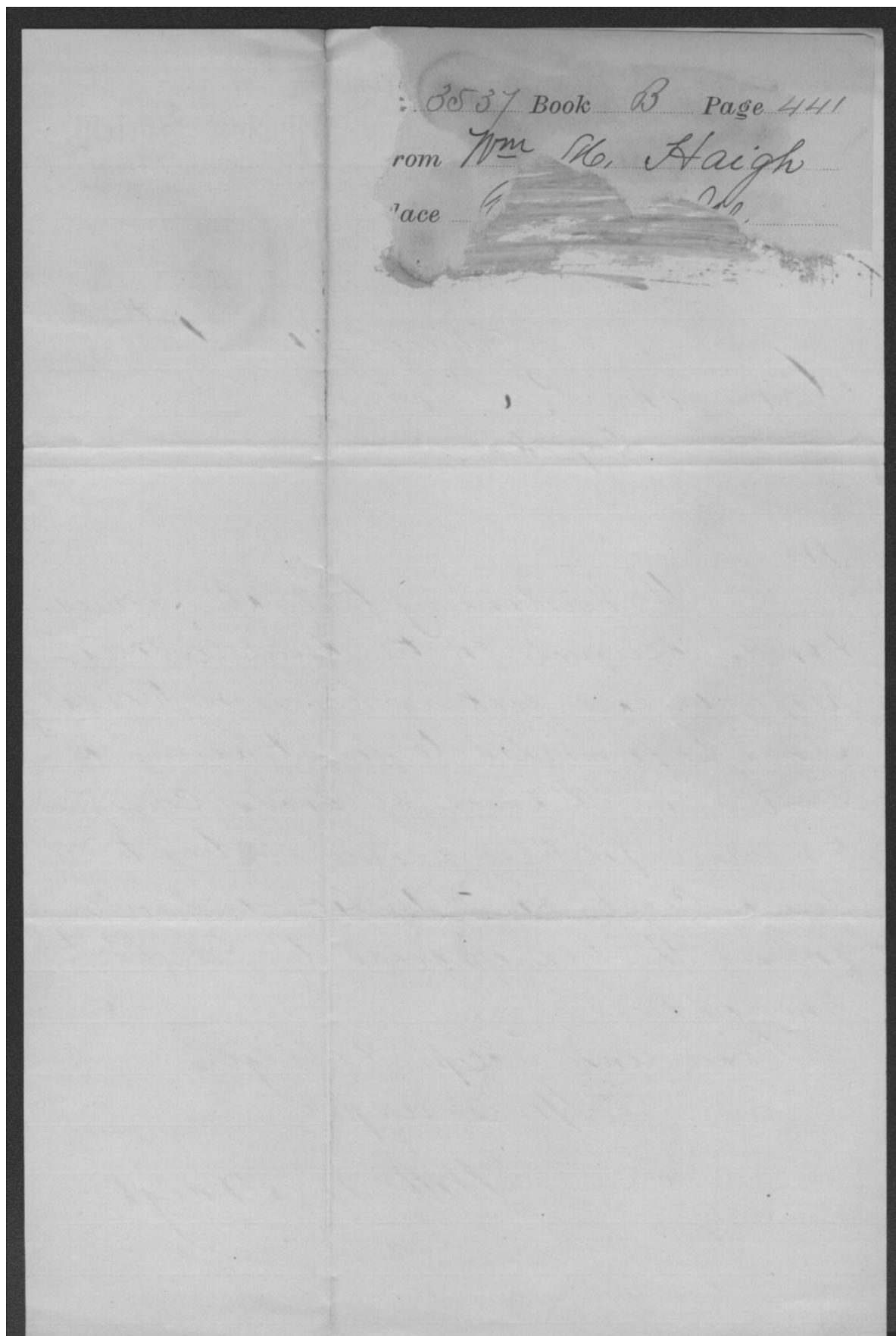
Taylor Jackson
answer

No. 0529 Book B Page 144
From Taylor Jackson
Place Kinney Mo
Date 6. 12. 7

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O. D. MOORE.

C. E. MOSS



MOORE & MOSS,

Car Wheel Foundry,

EIGHTH AND MILL STS.,

OFFICE - Sixth and Broadway.

Kansas City, Mo. June 13th 1879.

Hon Jno St John.
Gov of Kansas.
My Dear Sir

I am informed that, an intimate friend of yours has expressed the opinion that the publication of your letter to me of the 9th inst' was bad faith on my part. I am unwilling to believe, for at present, that you can take such a view of the matter, as the letter was written to me, as I understood at the time, for public use, and after your excellency and myself had had a full and free interchange of opinion upon the subject matter of your letter, and in which you had expressed to me precisely the same ideas as ~~re~~ contained in said communication, there was nothing contained in this letter but truth and fact, and for these reasons I saw no possible objection to getting an editorial from a Democratic paper favorable to the black people of my section, based upon

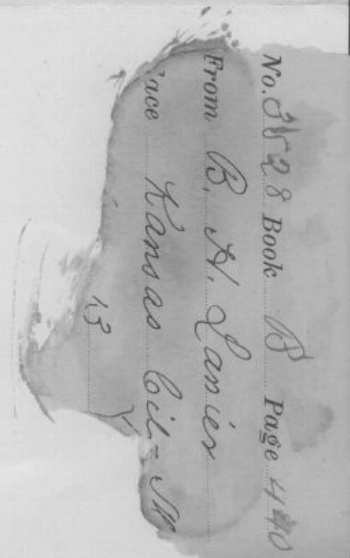
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

the publication above referred to.

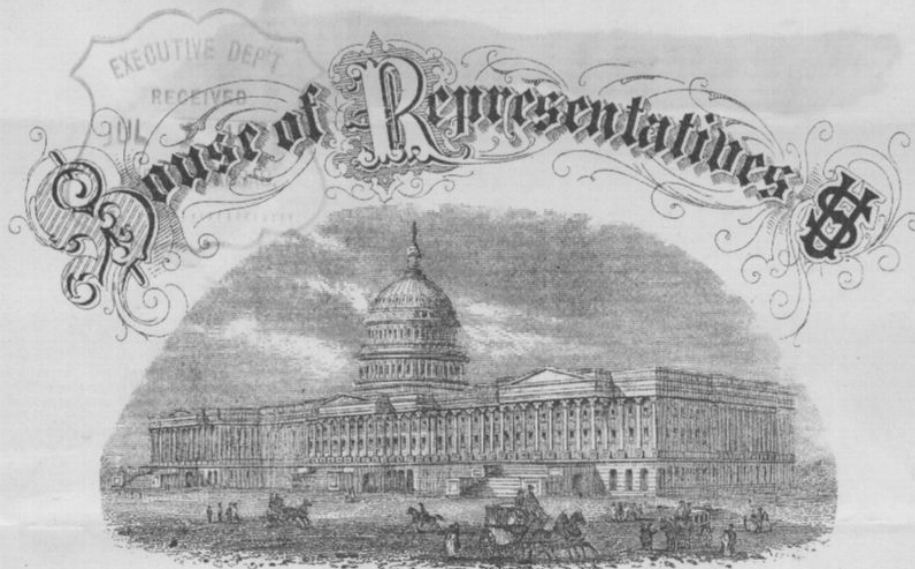
Most sincerely trusting the information which has reached me is erroneous, that my position is correct, and that I have done nothing to forfeit, or even disturb the friendship of one whom I have every reason to hold in the highest personal esteem and consideration, I have the honor to be

Your abridged & obt. servt,

B. St. John



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Washington, D.C. June 14 1872.
Governor M. John

My dear Governor

The bearer

M. J. N. Harvey of Mississippi desires
to go to Kansas to teach among his
colored friends

He has been recommended to me
as a competent and worthy person
I commend him to your good offices
and for such advice and assistance as
you can render him.

Very Respectfully and Truly Yours
W. S. Phillips

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

St. Marys - Ste. Genevieve Co.
Mo.
His Excellency Gov. St. John

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith
I send a letter of introduction
from Mr. H. A. Phillips. I am a
young man, 24 years of age
and a native of Lishomingo Co.
Mississippi. A few years since
I had some correspondence
with your State Supt. in reference
to the schools of Kansas. He informed
me that I could probably get
a school in one of the large towns.
I am now on my way to
your state but as the schools
will not begin till Sept. and my

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means being quite exhausted
I am afraid to come unless
there is a certainty of getting
immediate employment.

Would you please be so kind
as to give me your advice
about coming ^{to} Kansas now.

I am Sir,

Your v^l servant
G. A. Harvey

25
62-82



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

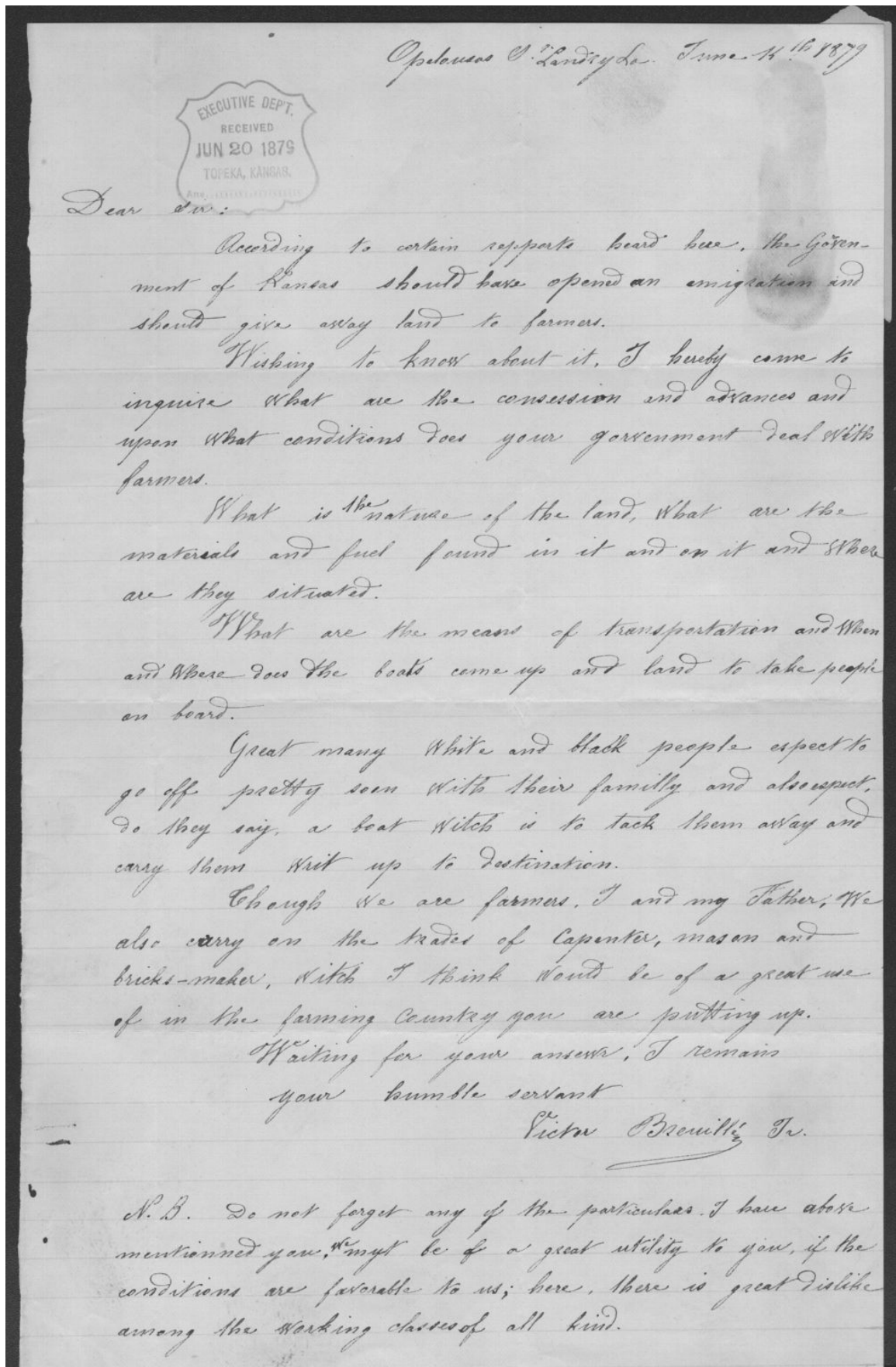
W. A. Phillips Cong. 1873-79
 No. 3659 Book B Page 456
 From G. St. Harvey
 Place St. Marys Mo
 Date
 Rec'd July 1 1879
 Ans'd " 1 "

ABSTRACT.

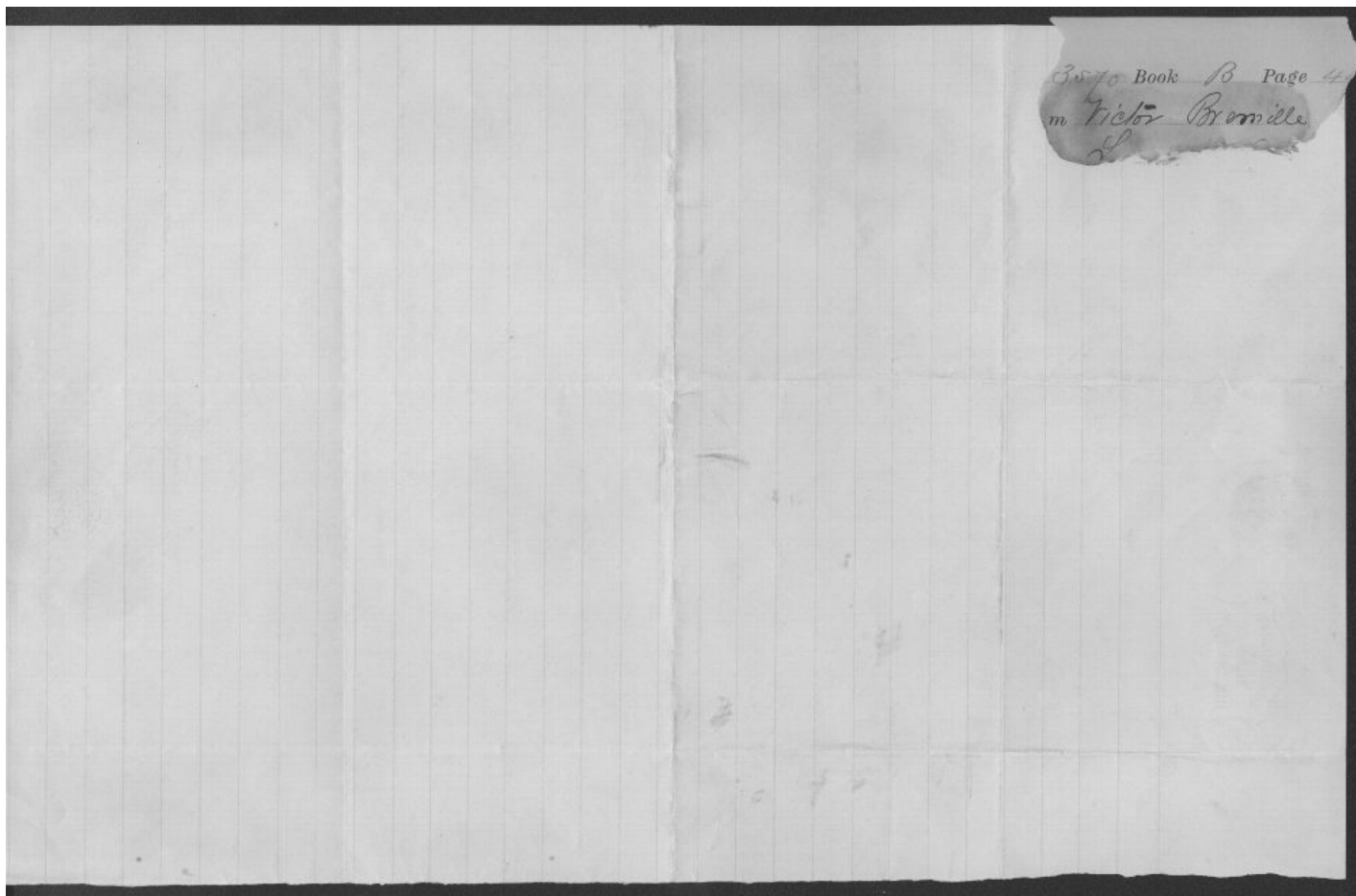
Transmitting letter of
 Recommendation from
 Hon W. A. Phillips and
 Enquires when is the
 best time to come to
 Kansas to secure a
 public school

Transmitted
 to the
 Governor
 for his
 consideration
 and
 answer
 to the
 Hon. W. A. Phillips
 and
 the
 Exoduster
 Association

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Belleville June 16. 1879

Governor of Kansas

Dear Sir. having learned that you are chairman of the Freedmen's relief and emigration Society. I take the liberty of addressing you

1st What are the plans adopted by your society for their settlement in communities in Morris and other Counties

2^d Will their education be conducted under the common school system of the State, or by your aid Society or by the various church Boards of the Freedmen's Schools as established in the south

If the way should be open I would like to engage as Teacher among them and make myself generally useful among them as Providence may open up the way. I am a man of Forty-Four years of age with a wife and four children. Have had an extensive experience as Teacher of Common Schools in Pennsylvania and have taught one term at Kinsley Kansas.

I also have had some experiance in farming in Kansas



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

will you please write me giving me such in-
formation as you may be in possession of.

By so doing you will very much Oblige.

A. C. Shorne

Bellfonte

Ford County

Kansas

No. 4154 Book B Pa
From A. C. Shorne
Bellfonte
Ford County
Kansas



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Uniontown Perry Co. Pa June 17/89

Governor John S. St. John
Topeka Kansas

Dear Sir

I have just read in the New York Tribune of June 10th your views relative to the emigration of the freedmen to your state you have so kindly and truthfully stated the case I feel compelled to thank you Dear Sir for thus coming to our aid in this our darkest hour. I served as a slave 27 years of my life and have seen that institution in all of its blackest colors none but the recording Angel will ever know the griefs of the precious blood and bitter tears which have been spilt and shed by my people in the South. Oh for the war for 25 years we were hunted and torn in pieces by bloodhounds every whipped to death and buried in the cotton and rice swamps, after the war

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we thought that the Christianity and
 civilization of the age in which
 we live would compel the white
 people of the South to treat
 humanely at least. But what
 have we seen of our people
 have been murdered in the
 most inhuman manner
 all over the South our ballots
 is of no use to us. We are
 only citizens in name. We
 well informed person condemn the
 fact that we are denied nearly every
 right which commonly belong to American
 citizens. We are robbed out of our
 votes have no redress in the courts of
 justice no means of educating our
 children the jails, chain gangs and the
 penitentiaries all over the South is filled
 with our best colored people
 for no crime which they have
 committed, any white man matters
 not how low he may morally if he
 hands in charge to the grand
 jury ever so false it being the
 product of hate against any
 colored man who has dared advise
 his people how to vote. This
 advice not with noting the republican



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

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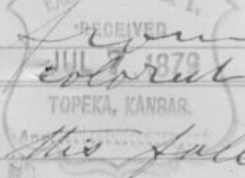
ticket - is always carrying here
hundreds and thousands of us home
been murdered in cold blood for
simply noting our sentiments
year after year we are
robbed of our hard earnings
this state of things has grown
worse and worse year after
year until bleeding humanity
can have no longer feeling
that life nor property are
safe here for us
and that we are compelled to
seek refuge in some part
of the country where the
Christianity and humanity
of the people will not
allow them to oppress
us. We had a secret
meeting here and I was requested
by said meeting to write you
stating our troubles and
asking you a few questions
we desire to come to Kansas
about 50 in ^{company} ~~company~~
we intend bringing all
we have our mules and
cattle we are coming by
the short road in ~~Imagined~~
can such a ~~good~~ number
of person find homestead

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270) Land so they can settle to
better forming colonies
we do not intend bring
along a single person
but all hard working men
and women, could such
colonies find means of
education for their
children. If government
land cannot be obtained
on what terms can we
get land because we
are coming to your state
not to be supported but
to maintain our selves
and to contribute something
to the well being of the
state. If from all we
here of Kansas we
believe our rights will
be secured in your midst
the white people here tell
us if we come we will
freeze and starve to death
I say we had better freeze
and starve trying to be
men than to stay here
and be slaves. For if
this news letter was made
public I would be in
prison in a week and never
see a free land.

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you will please inform us what
time to come so we can make acrot 261

for next year.  The present
feeling among the colored here get
numbers will live this fall I think
all say they are coming to Kansas no
other place seem to attract attention
Please let me here from
you at your earliest convenience

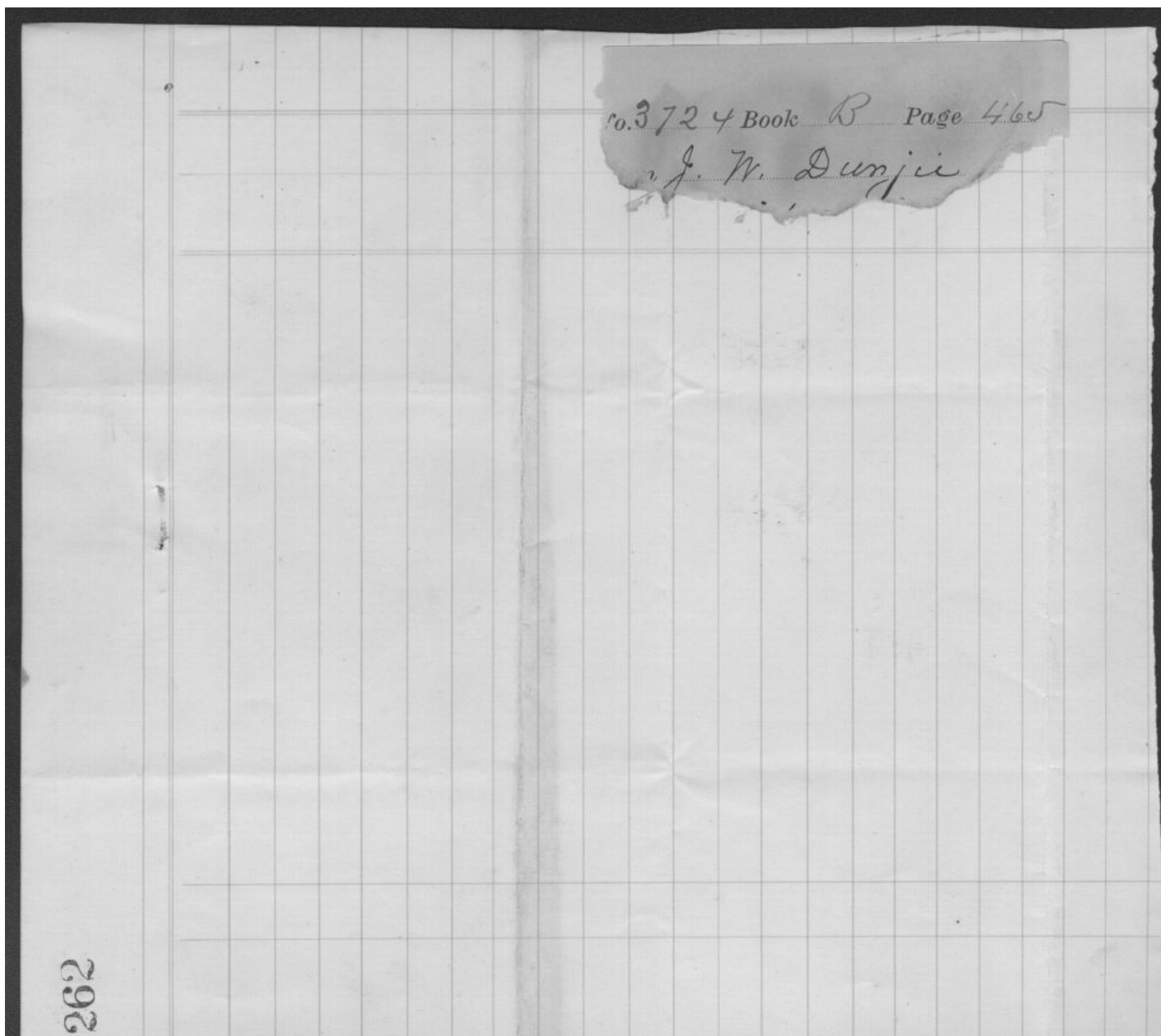
Yours with Great Respect.

J. W. Dwyer

P.S. Please don't make this
letter public as if so doing
my life would be in danger
as they have decided here to
harden any colored man who
shall move in the matter

J. W. Dwyer

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

OFFICE OF THE INTER-OCEAN,

CHICAGO, JUNE 19, 1879.

GOV. JOHN A. ST. JOHN,
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

DEAR SIR:

YOUR VERY INTERESTING FAVOR OF THE 14TH INST. WAS DULY RECEIVED. I WOULD BE GLAD TO PUBLISH THE SAME IN THE SEVERAL EDITIONS OF THE INTER-OCEAN IF YOU WOULD GIVE YOUR CONSENT FOR ME TO DO SO. I FULLY AGREE WITH YOU ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MATTER, AND HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE TIDE WILL FLOW STRONGER THE COMING FALL THAN IT HAS EVER BEFORE BUT I WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AS MOST PEOPLE WILL BE IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY THAT THE MOVEMENT WAS STILL TAKING PLACE; FOR I HAD THOUGHT AND SO ADVISED OUR READERS, THAT THE MOVEMENT HAD PRACTICALLY CEASED FOR THE SUMMER.

I THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT THE COMMUNITY BE KEPT FULLY ADVISED IN REGARD TO THE MATTER, AND I WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE SOME ONE CONNECTED WITH YOUR SOCIETY MAKE MONTHLY OR WEEKLY REPORTS OF WHAT HAD BEEN DONE AND WAS BEING DONE, THROUGH THE INTER-OCEAN TO THE PEOPLE. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY THAT WE CAN INTEREST THEM SO MUCH IN THE MOVEMENT. FACTS TALK ALL THE TIME LOUDER AND STRONGER THAN WORDS CAN.

THERE WILL BE NO TROUBLE, I THINK, ABOUT MONEY WHEN THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT THERE IS SUFFERING--ACTUAL NEED--AND THAT THE FUNDS ARE SURE OF REACHING THE PERSONS FOR WHOM THEY WERE DESTINED.

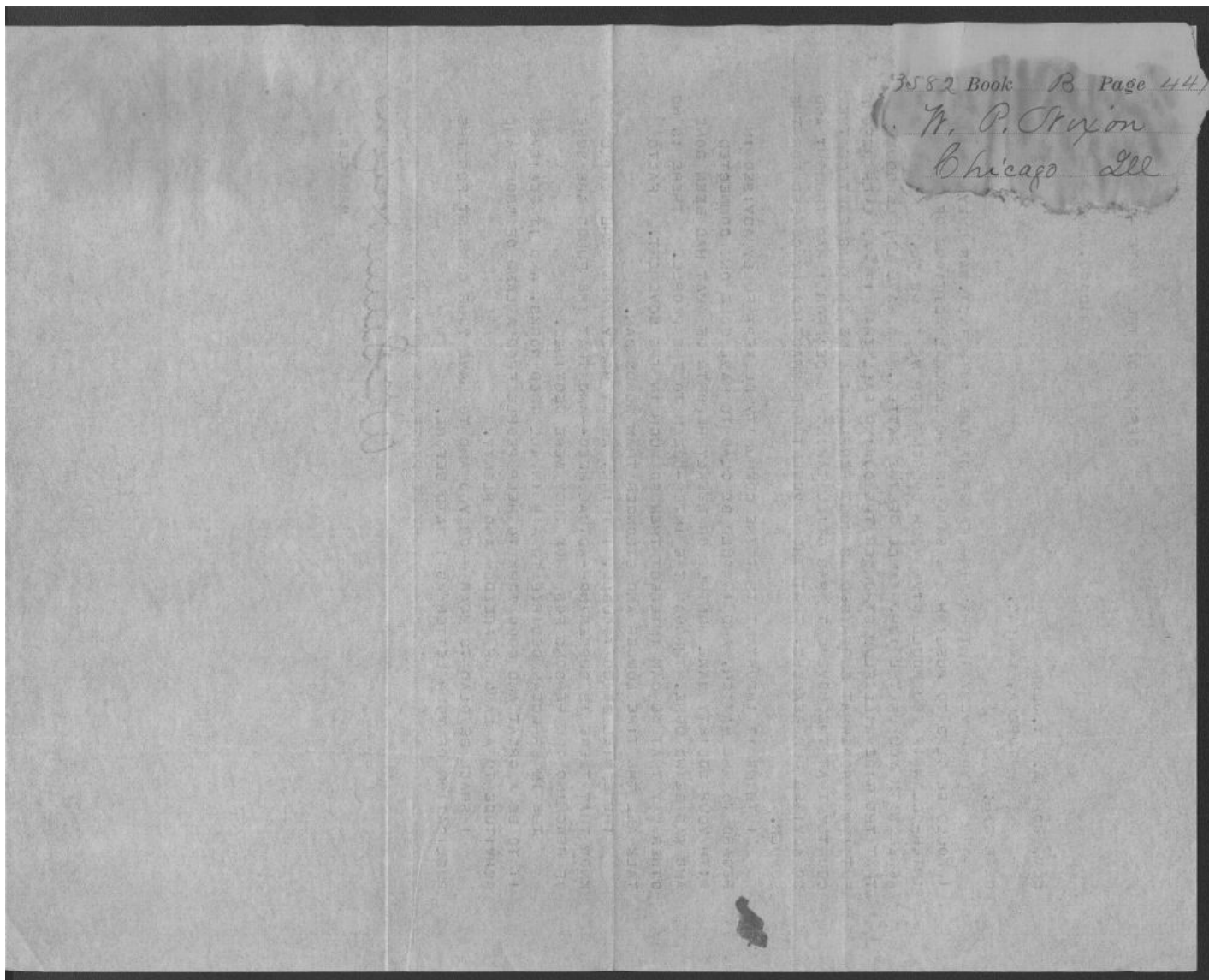
THE INTER-OCEAN DESIRES TO AID IN ALL GOOD WORKS, AND IT BELIEVES IT TO BE A GREAT AND GOOD WORK TO HELP PEOPLE FROM A LAND OF WRONG AND SERVITUDE TO A LAND OF FREEDOM AND PLENTY.

I SHALL BE GLAD TO HEAR FROM YOU AND TO HAVE YOUR CONSENT FOR THE PUBLICATION OF YOUR LETTER AS I SAID BEFORE.

VERY RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

William D. H. Brown
MANAGER.

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No. 354	Book 13	Page
From Henry	Place	Date
Ans'd	Rec'd	

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
JUN 23 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

New Orleans. La
June the 19th 1879

To His Excellency John P. St. John
Governor of the State of Kansas
at Topeka. Kan

My Sir

being elected
as Agent or Representative of the emigrants of the
North Louisiana & Red River Valley. (Colo) to visit
your State in the Interest of the Colored immigrants
who desire to immigrate there - believing it best
to their interest to do so - and having such unbounded
Confidence in the administration of your Government
I shall visit your State sometime in the month of
July. for the above named purpose. I am the leader
of this movement and represent about the neighborhood
of 50,000, Old and young; I shall therefore request of
you all the information you will see fit to extend to
me as their representative regarding the state of
which you are so wisely placed to rule over -
I trust that our movement hence - to your noble

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State where we find that the honest the industrious
the frugal man can enjoy the rights and privileges
that nature in her wisdom bestow upon all mankind
we are laboring men & women - we are tillers of the
soil. Our labor has made a South rich - and today
had we been treated as human beings - the South
would be able to boast in her pride of wealth - equal
to the Indies - therefore we wish to live only in
peace - and harmony with all races of mankind -
And your State will be proud in days to come, that
she opened her arms of friendship and sympathy
to receive the Sons of Afric a persecuted race - as
we are - Our labor - our frugality and industry will
soon make her copse with any State in the Union
Hoping to hear from you soon -

I will be in your State sometime in July 1879 - I am
a resident of Shreveport Caddo Parish - but is here in
the City on business of immigration - but will leave direct
from here for Topeka -

Your Obedt.

No 451. Thalia st.

New Orleans

La.

Henry Adams -

President of the Colonization Council at Shreveport
Caddo Parish Louisiana -

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Washington County, Texas.
Brenham, June 20th 1879.

Gov John P St John.
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Gov. Your interesting favor of the 13th and 14th insts. both come to hand on the 16th inst. I have delayed replying to them because I have by special invitation of colored friends attended two large exodus meetings, and their celebration held here on the 18th inst of the anniversary of their real emancipation in this state. (Gen Granger. issued general orders on June 18th 1865. declaring all slaves of Texas free, and since then the colored people here regard it as an anniversary.) I made them three speeches in regard to the necessity of emigration and colonization, and I never saw such general enthusiasm among any class of people, as was manifested by them at these three large gatherings of over 2000 persons. The general cry was "on to free Kansas." I debated the questions presented by the "Exodus" with two able Democratic orators, both lawyers, and I won them badly, because I had the best side of the question. Since then I have been appealed to by large Democratic farmers to stop urging

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this question, because they say it will ruin the Negroes, and exterminate them, ^{to take them North,} but I fear the main reason for their apparent solicitude for the welfare of the Negro, is because they ^{know they} can never supply his place with other good labor. I shall never cease my efforts to encourage the Blacks, to colonize, and I earnestly hope that my letters to your Excellency in regard to this great question may aid you in the efforts you are making to procure the cooperation of friends and capital to ensure a successful and a complete exodus and colonization of the colored people of the South. It will take brains, energy and perscrutability, combined with capital to do this, and I have done my utmost in my communications to your Excellency, to impress upon you - and through you - other real friends of colored colonization, the absolute importance of systematic and well devised plans aided by capital and brains to make this great movement a final triumph. My plan is, for capital to buy up sufficient bodies of fertile lands to colonize the first and second classes of the Blacks. Upon, then to select the best mechanics among these classes, furnish ^{them} with material to build small, but comfortable houses upon every 50 acre tract, then en-