

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 15, Pages 421 - 450

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

For many of the Colored people
are tired living in the South.
& many who ~~at~~ want to come north.
has money to come on down
that amt. it is said also that
the few numbers that has left hear &
go north, are starving almost
to death, is it so or not. please
let us know, if it will not trouble
you, which we hope will not, by
a letter. With my best wishes for
your welfare; & prosperity to your
State, in the future. I am
ever your most abt.
Sunt. D. Respectfully.

(Box. no. 144.)

G. W. Wiley.

No. 3672 Book 3 Page 44

from G. W. Wiley

Lexington

6. 26

6. 30

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Moamouth Ill June 30. 1879

To The Hon Jno St John

Governor of The State of Kansas

Dear Sir:

At the request of one of our
Colored Citizens who has lately returned from a visit to
your State, and who I judge mingles somewhat ^{freely} with the
Colored people who are making your state their star
in the east, I write you; He seems to be of the
opinion that the funds sent in from abroad for the relief
of these people is not as judiciously managed as it should
be, and that the supplies distributed are handled almost
exclusively by Colored men who belong in your state,
and have dropped their usual vocation to take part in
the relief of their brethren out of a sordid motive, and are being
paid out of the funds contributed, He also suggests that there
might be men selected from the freedmen of sufficient ability
and intelligence to manage under proper direction, the distribution
of supplies, Mr Hale my informant is of the opinion that the
present influx in to your state is but the beginning of the tide which
shall sweep into your state this fall, He seems to be alive to the
necessities ~~of the hour~~ ^{of the hour}, and anxious that his people be located, and cared
for humanely in your state - I am of opinion that the work



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done by the authorities in this matter, is all that could be done under the circumstances and hope that no ground of Complaint exists or will exist as to the proper distribution of funds received from the benevolent, for the purpose of relieving these suffering freedmen, statements that funds are not properly appropriated, will of course tend to stop contributions, and work hardship to those deserving the sympathetic aid of all good people

Very Respectfully

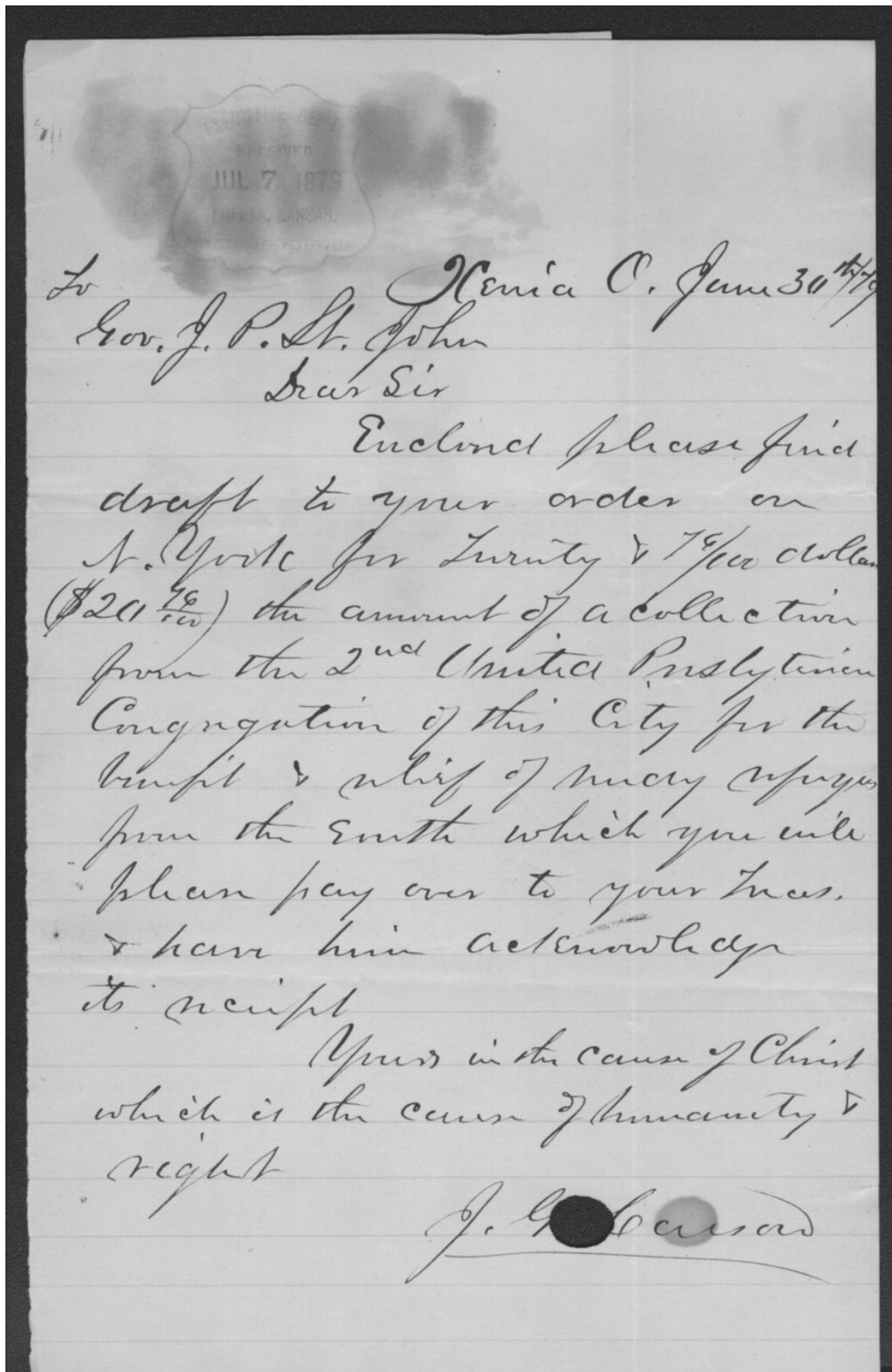
J. M. McCutcheon
Mayor City of Monmouth

I know Mr Hale and have heard his story of what he conceives to be a wrong method in the matter of relief of Freedmen, The mayor has told you his story. Think it proper, and if it is not true shall be glad to know it, believe the good people of Kansas are and have been doing their best for relief of these bondmen

W. H. Dutton
OK Count

No. 3696	Book
From J. M. C.	
Place Monmouth	
Date 6.	
Rec'd 7.	
Ans'd 7.	

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3707 Book B Page 462

From J. G. Carson

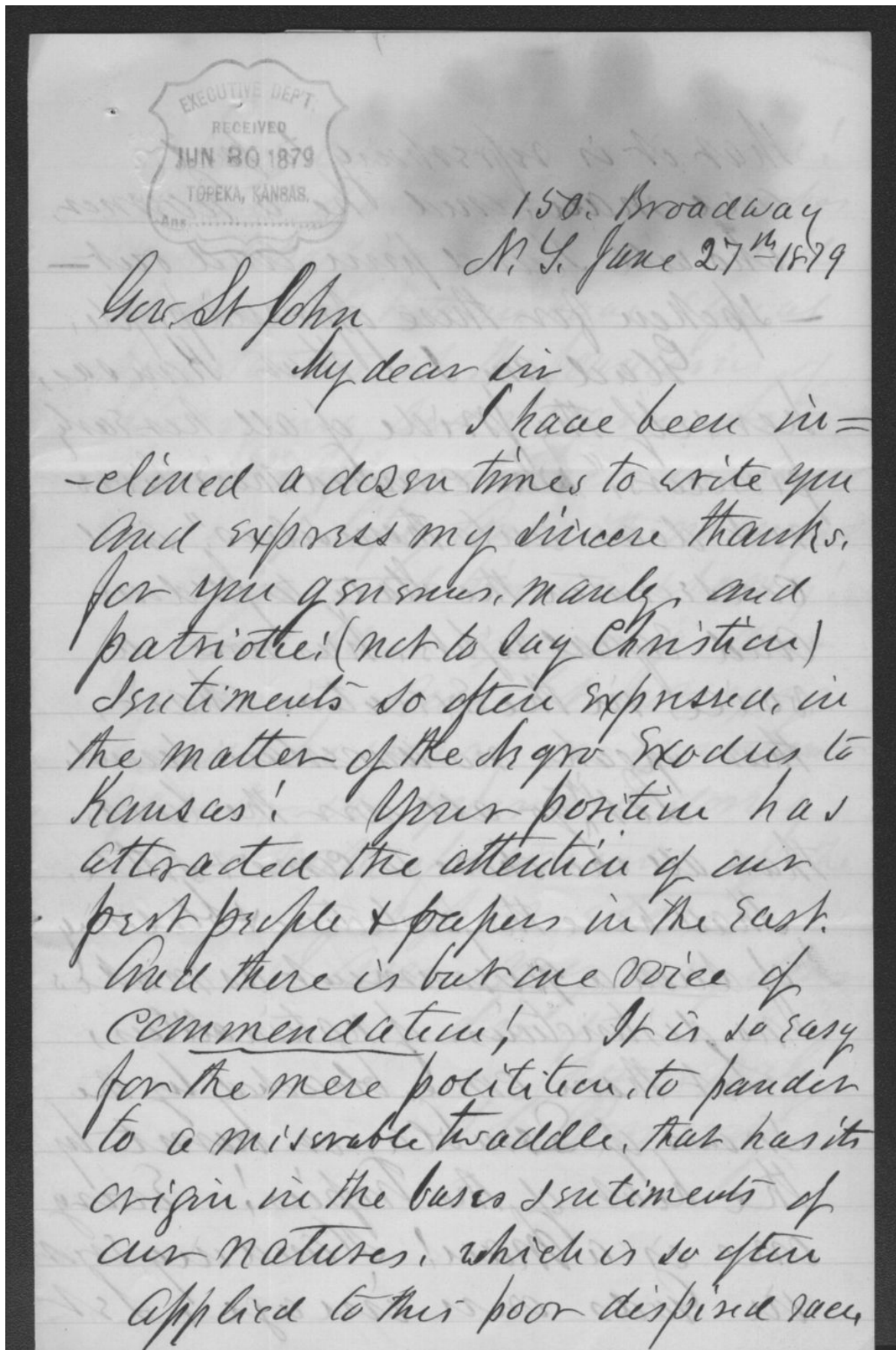
Place Xenia Ohio

Date 6. 30

Rec'd 7. 7

Ans'd 7. 7 1879

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

that it is refreshing to find
one man, and the a Governor,
who will stand firm, and out-
spoken for these oppressed people.

Glad am I, that Kansas,
herself the pride of all her early
pioneers, "who counted their lives
not dear unto themselves," and
consecrated the State to freedom
and equal rights, has now a
voice, in the Executive Chair,
that speaks no uncertain sound.

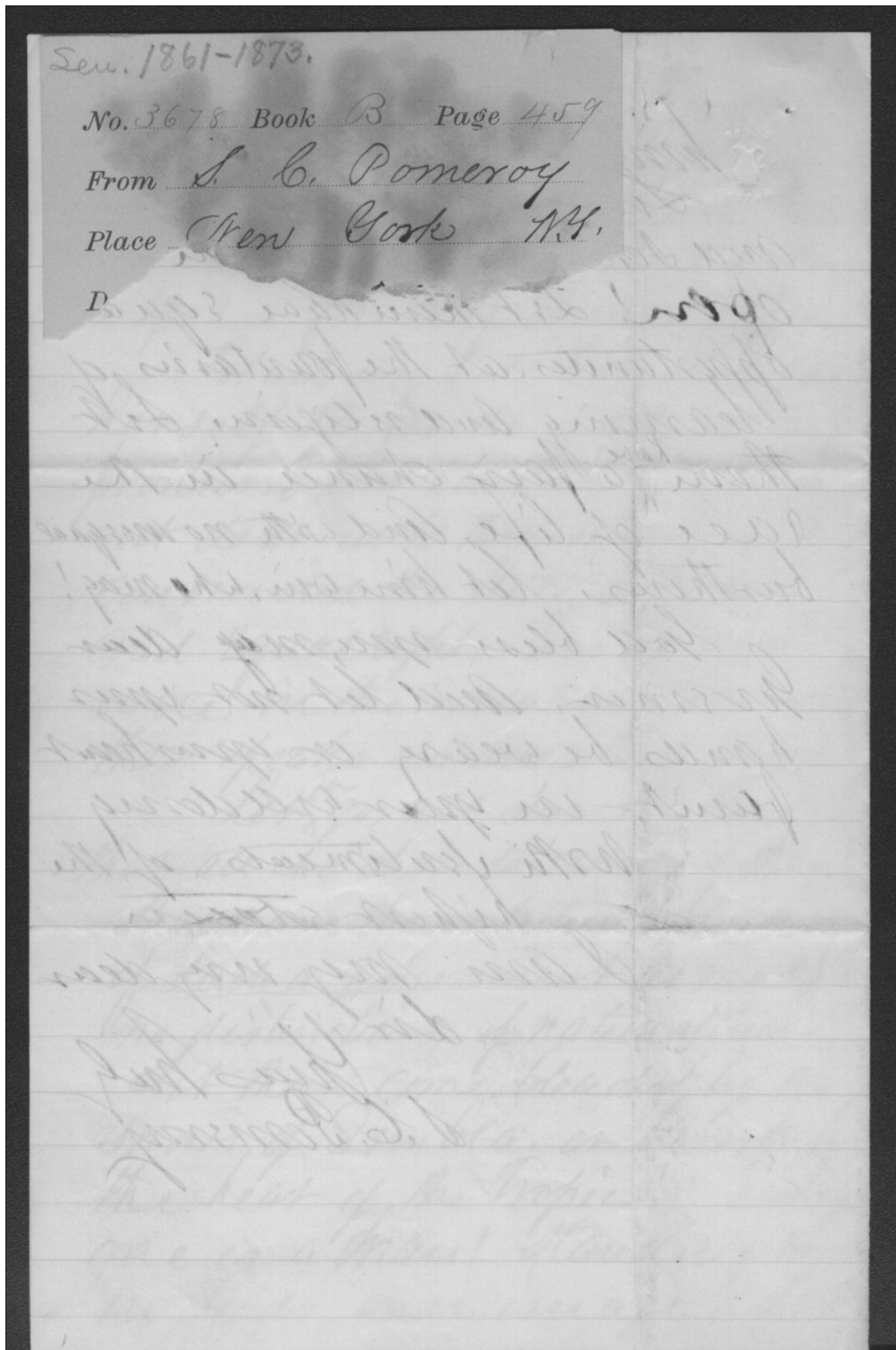
Let ^{it} go all over the land,
that all who chose to come & settle,
shall have the protection & blessing
of such a government as makes
no distinctions, of nationalities,
Let them come, bleached by the
snows of Zembla, or burnt by
the heat of the Tropics! Every
one is a man! Standing even
in Gods own image! Let

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him come and be welcome!
 Let the doors of our churches
 and school houses be thrown wide
 open! Let them have equal
 opportunities at the fountains of
 learning and religion. Let
 them ^{have} a fair chance in the
 race of life, and with no unequal
 burthens. Let him win, who may!
 God bless you, ~~may~~ dear
 Governor. And let not your
 hands be weary or your heart
 faint, in your well doing
 with sentiments of the
 highest esteem
 I am, my very dear
 Sir
 Yours truly
 J. C. Pomroy



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

I failed getting to the bank for a check so I mail this to wait until Monday give me all the news

Philadelphia June 28th 1898

Gov St. John

You doubtless wonder at my long silence, and I regret exceedingly that I have not had more to report. At Detroit I met several delegates from Penn. who suggested that if I would go directly to their state and attend their S. Lodge I could arrange appointments throughout the State. I imagined that Philadelphia would be my best point, so I decided so to do. I arranged for Lancaster Philadelphia West Chester &c &c. I confess myself very much disappointed in the feelings of the people, and the work is hard & very slow. So far I have received but little at any place, but I have left a committee that is deeply interested and I hope

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(2)

No. 3694 Book B Page 461

will continue the work. It is an impossibility to get a good audience to hear me on that subject, and I have adopted the plan of calling out the people on other subjects and bringing that in at the close.

The quakers here wrote to the quaker preacher at Lawrence to know what was needed, and he wrote back that all that had arrived there (that was in May) were provided for. So of course they have settled down for the present. I enclose a note I received from a leading friend and I hope you will address him for I believe that our help here will come from the friends. At West Chester, I found an aged wealthy friend by the name of John Hall.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

(3)

that said if he could be there and see that his money was spent as he liked, he would not hesitate to give \$2000. I have suggested to him that you might write to him and spend the money as he may direct, for instance build houses for one colony and have that colony named for him. I think it is worth while to try. I presented the matter at the preachers meeting last week. There were 40 or 50 present and I think they will carry it to their people. One preacher suggested that I ask you to give the probable expense of the houses to be built in these colonies & then each congregation might take a house. I have done more hard unpleasant work

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

On this mission than I
ever undertook before. I felt
it was right, and the words of the
master comes to when I think of
turning back, "inasmuch as ye
did it not unto the least of one of
these my brethren ye did it not
unto me," else I would have given
it all over. I shall leave this
state in few days, and go into
Ohio. If you have any thing to
say or send me that will help
to stir up the people I shall
be glad. I have the promise
of a great many to whom
I have written of something
from their localities, but I
have found out that it takes
time. There is no enthusiasm
now because there is not great
suffering. Enclosed I send
a check.

I hope to do better in
Ohio and Indiana. If not I shall



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

From *A. M. Way*
Place *Philadelphia Pa*
Date *6. 28*
Rec'd *7. 3 1879*
Ans'd *7. 7*

ABSTRACT.

Giving an account of her efforts to raise money for the Freedmen. Also transmitting letter from James C Rhoades.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

I find some of the people here taking Great Douglas' view of it and opposing the Exoduster, and unwilling to aid because it will encourage others of W.M.

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
JUL 3 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Mr. Nathan Phillips -
Care, 23, 1879.
To At. W. W.

Respected Friend
According to promise I
consulted some of our friends
about the cause of the Exoduster
Freedmen. They concur that
at present it would be im-
possible to raise money, except
upon the plea of present and
urgent suffering. Reduced in-
comes, and the pressing claims
of permanent modes of philan-
thropic and missionary work
combine to this conclusion.
Regretting not to be able to
make a more favourable
response, and with sincere re-
gard, I am, very truly, Jas. E. Rhoads

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

5th
my

The people here have sent
\$1800 to St. Louis. I suppose
they used it to buy tickets to
ship them on to Kansas. How
many has come since I left?
How many all told? Have you
located the colony lands? If so
in what counties?

I received a letter from Detroit
saying that Laura Haviland
was on her way to Kansas with
supplies for the refugees. She is
an old friend of mine & I
regret that I am not at home
to meet her. I need not
say that ^{I hope} she will meet with a
cordial greeting and every facility
given her possible. I know she will
write to me at Mt. Vernon
Ohio, Care of Amanda Clark
(Mrs Smiths Sister). I hope to have
something to report often hereafter.

Yours &c A. B. Way

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Philadelphia June 30th
Gov St John

EXECUTIVE DEPT
RECEIVED
JUL 3 1879
GOVERNOR, KANSAS

Yesterday I mailed
a letter to you, to day I send
the check for \$100. I saw the
parties appointed by the Mayor
of this city this morning, and
they said if you had not re-
ceived, you would very soon
\$190.00. I was very much
afraid that it be sent
to St. Louis as they had al-
ready sent \$18.00 there, so I
have been looking after it,
and if you have not received
it you will.

I have been doing my
best to enthruse the people
and reach their pocket books
by speaking, visiting, and
writing letters. I cannot
but believe that God will



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so bless the good seed I have
tried to sow, as to yet cause
it to bring forth abundant fruit
I am writing to all my friends
in the different states, urging
them to action. I believe that
if you were to send me a letter
stating fully the pressing needs
now, and let me have it pub-
lished in part or in full in
the papers I can have ac-
cess to, it will aid in our work.
I have retained only my actual
expenses and I have been
entertained at almost every
point where I have been
by my temperance friends.
I would like to have
all the newspapers and other
documents from Kansas on
the exodus, that you can
send me, Clipped and enclosed.

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in an envelope. News papers
are too liable to be lost in
the P. O.,
I had a mind to go to
Washington and see if I
could not get some money
out of our Republican
~~Congress~~, but concluded
to write to Haskell & An-
derson, and see if they
would not do something in
that direction. Have you
written to them. They ought
to raise \$3000 there to help
the Republican party if noth-
ing else. If you have not
made a special demand of
them I would do it, and
let them show their colors.
I see by the papers the
Bostonians are trying to
raise money to help those

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I send some notices of my work. If you think best you can put them in the commonwealth and they will go over the western states to help me in and when I get there. A.M.W.

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down south to get to Kansas. I most earnestly protest unless they will send the funds to take care of them. But the Lord will take care of his own, and if this movement be of God, there will be the needed help from some source. I shall give my time and strength to the work for a short season yet, and if I fail I shall have the consciousness of having tried to help God's poor, even though I do but little.

Direct to me Mt Vernon
Ohio Care Amanda Clark
Yours for the Right
Amanda W. May

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

All Colored People

THAT WANT TO

GO TO KANSAS

On September 5th, 1877,

Can do so for \$5.00

IMMIGRATION.

WHEREAS, We, the colored people of Lexington, Ky., knowing that there is an abundance of choice lands now belonging to the Government, have assembled ourselves together for the purpose of locating on said lands. Therefore,

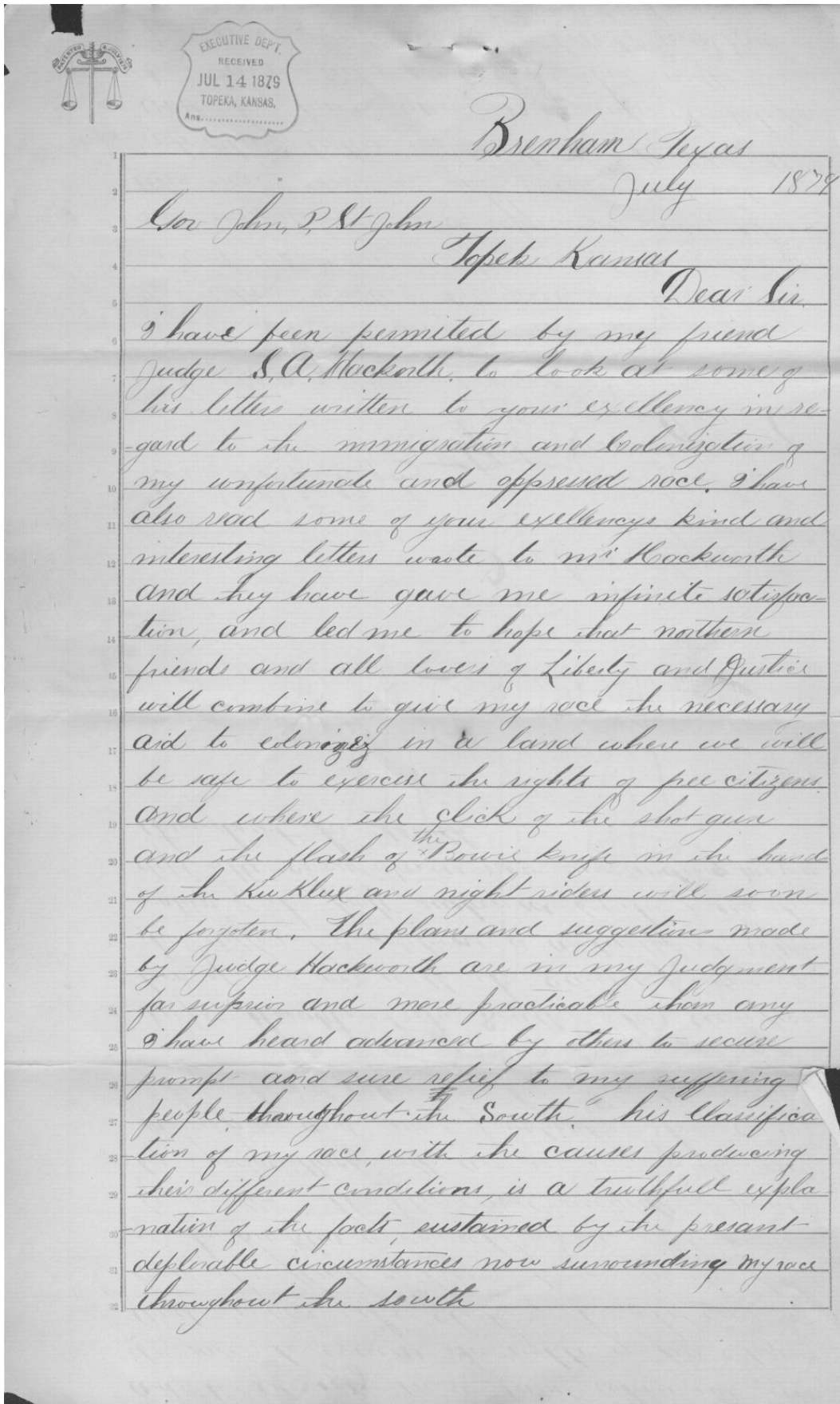
BE IT RESOLVED, That we do now organize ourselves into a Colony, as follows:— Any person wishing to become a member of this Colony can do so by paying the sum of one dollar (\$1.00), and this money is to be paid by the first of September, 1877, in instalments of twenty-five cents at a time, or otherwise as may be desired.

RESOLVED, That this Colony has agreed to consolidate itself with the Nicodemus Towns, Solomon Valley, Graham County, Kansas, and can only do so by entering the vacant lands now in their midst, which costs \$5.00.

RESOLVED, That this Colony shall consist of seven officers—President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Trustees. President—M. M. Bell; Vice-President—Isaac Talbott; Secretary—W. J. Niles; Treasurer—Daniel Clarke; Trustees—Jerry Lee, William Jones, and Abner Webster.

RESOLVED, That this Colony shall have from one to two hundred militia, more or less, as the case may require, to keep peace and order, and any member failing to pay in his dues, as aforesaid, or failing to comply with the above rules in any particular, will not be recognized or protected by the Colony.


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The intelligent classes of my race do not
 desire or expect our friends to give us lands
 and other means to enable us to colonize,
 but we earnestly ask them to sell us
 good lands at reasonable prices and upon
 such terms of payment as will enable
 all of the industrious element of my race
 to pay for their homes. Help and direct
 us and we will gladly pay back every dollar
 used to place us in an independent posi-
 tion where we can reap the full fruits
 of our own labor. As the Judge truly
 tells your excellency, my race "are a
 hardy and industrious people," easily organ-
 ized and disciplined, and will undergo any
 amount of hardships when they are convinced
 that it is for their ultimate good" and that
 "their leaders are acting in good faith with
 them," all we want is a fair field
 and we will then show the world
 that we will be a nation inferior to
 none on earth. we want good men to direct
 and just laws faithfully enforced to protect
 us, give us charters and assist us to colonize
 unpensured and well directed principals
 and regulations and we will prove oursel-
 ves worthy of your aid and confidence.
 But the blind must not lead the blind
 no ignorant inexperienced men to lead and
 direct us, it will be necessary to select
 good intelligent men, men who our people
 know and have implicit confidence in

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



To aid us in organizing and prepare for
 our Exodus. For that reason I and all of
 the intelligent colored men who know Judge
 Hockworth earnestly desire that he should
 be chosen as one of the main directors
 of our Exodus. He is widely known
 and his unshaken fidelity to republican
 principles and the great service he has
 rendered us in many ways has secured
 him the general respect and confidence
 of our people throughout Texas. It is
 generally conceded that he stands preem-
 inent^{ly} over all other ^{white} republicans of this
 state, as evidence of this fact - when I intro-
 duced the motion in our state convention
 on the 3rd inst to return him a vote of
 thanks - to be engrafted in my address to the
 country - it was hailed with shouts of appro-
 val, and adopted by the unanimous vote of
 the convention. I am informed that many
 friends are willing to help us and
 only waiting for an effort to be made
 by us. we are waiting and watching
 and having our nightly meetings
 and as there are a great many that
 are unable to go at present we meet
 regular and devise plans and give encou-
 ragement to those unfortunate that have
 been and are daily being robbed by
 their former masters their daily cry
 is Oh Lord How long How long I am
 waiting patiently for answer.

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I forwarded to the Kansas City Journal
a copy of the address as adopted by
our Convention with the request
that it be printed. we have called
a mass meeting in this county
(Washington) to elect five commissioners
to visit Kansas and other lands
the meeting takes place on the 20th inst.
I will further say that the colored
people of this Nation are determined
to leave the south their minds
are made up and they are unchangeable,
please use your influence
to get the necessary aid those
that so sorely need it and furnish
information. And if managers are
appointed those we know and can
trust are preferred.

May God in his
infinite wisdom bless and guide your
every action and fortify all friends
of a suffering race against the threats
and abuses of our oppressors.

I remain your Humble Servant

Obadiah Stewart

C. H. Hicks

Brunham

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3777 Book B Page 431	
From C. P. Hicks	
Place Brenham Texas	
Date	
Rec'd 7. 14	
Ans'd 7. 14 1879	
ABSTRACT.	
Requesting that Hon. St. John	
Hickman be employed	
to	
of	

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



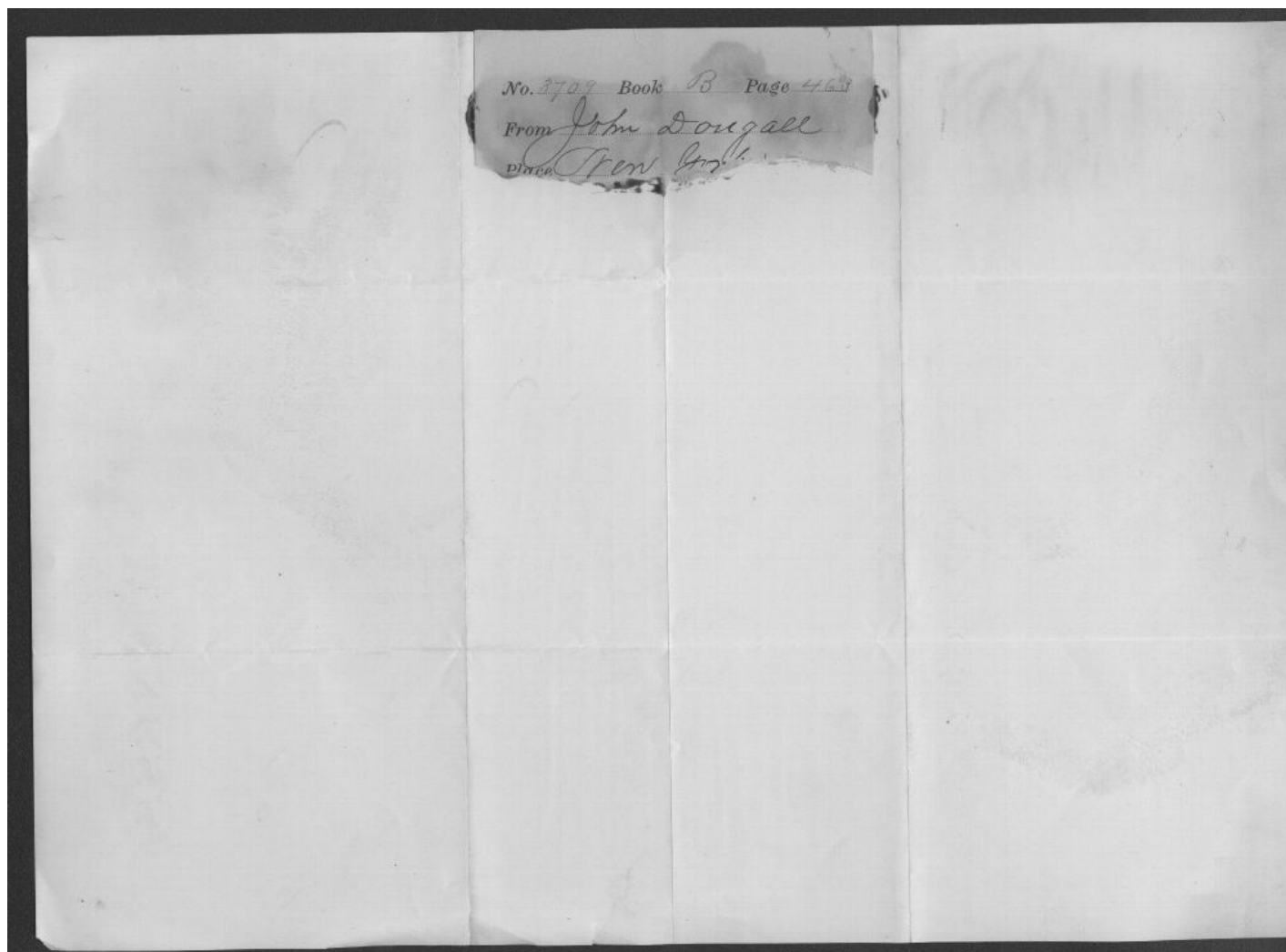
New York July 1. 1879
Governor St. John.
Topeka Kansas
Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find
check for \$597.50 for the benefit of
the colored emigrants from the South
to your State.

Be pleased to acknowledge
receipt of same, and let it be used
to the best advantage. Any information you
could furnish as to the colored people's
state & necessities would be greatly
appreciated. Yours truly

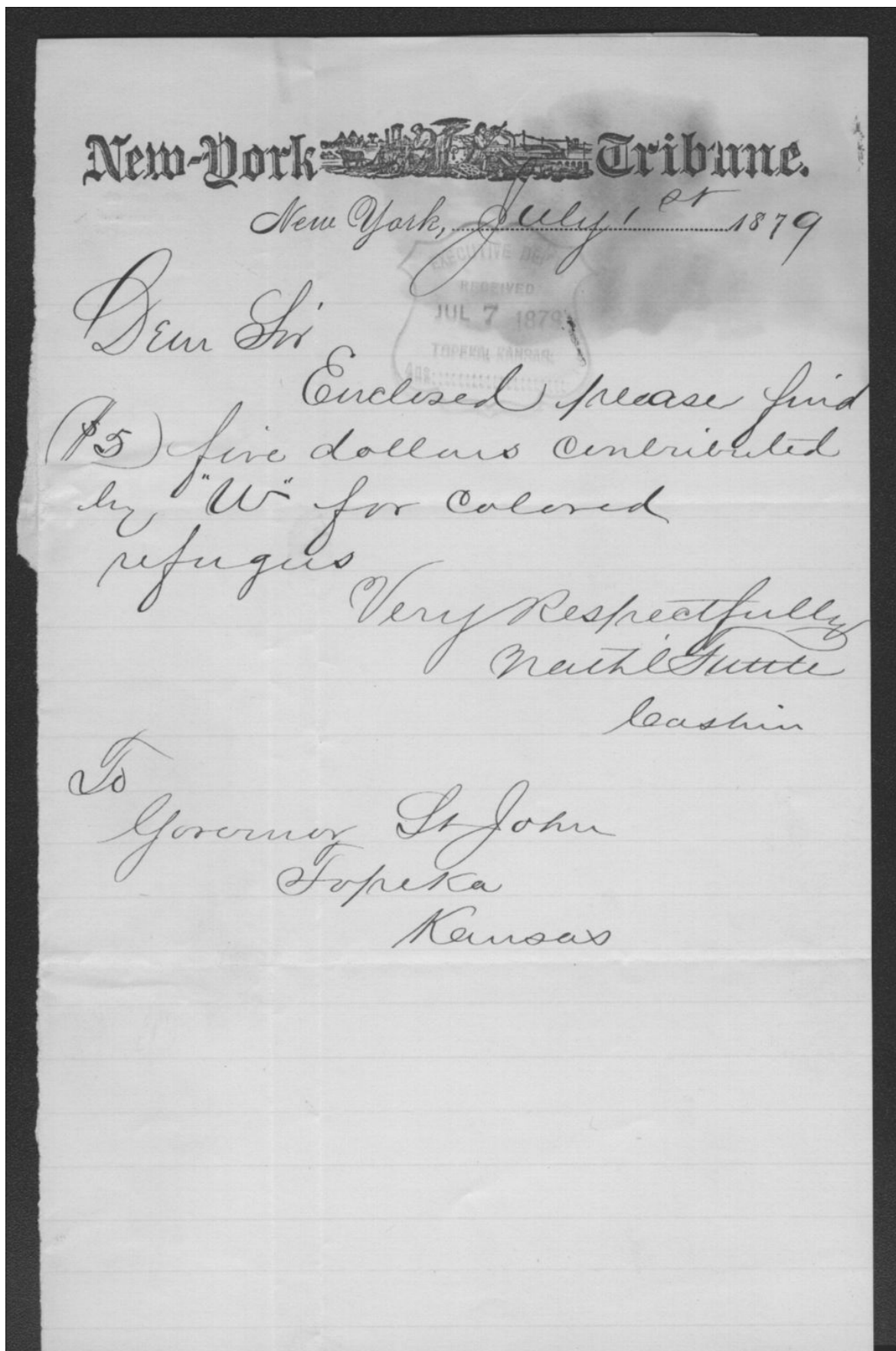
John Douglass
per A. M. Cochran

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

