

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 16, Pages 451 - 480

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

The Inter Ocean,
JUL 7 1879

Chicago, July 4th 1879

Gov. John P. St. John
by mail

Enclosed you will
please find check for \$154.⁴⁰
to be added to the fund of
your Freedmen Aid Society. I
trust will do much good. The
money has been sent us by the
patrons of the Inter Ocean. Please
acknowledge Receipt.

If you would have your Treasurer
or Secretary - whoever has charge
of your books and accounts send me
for publication in the Inter Ocean a
detailed account of the money
your association has received
and who from - the number
of people you have relieved
and where they now are I think
it would do the cause more good
than many fine great speeches
- Facts on the things that speak

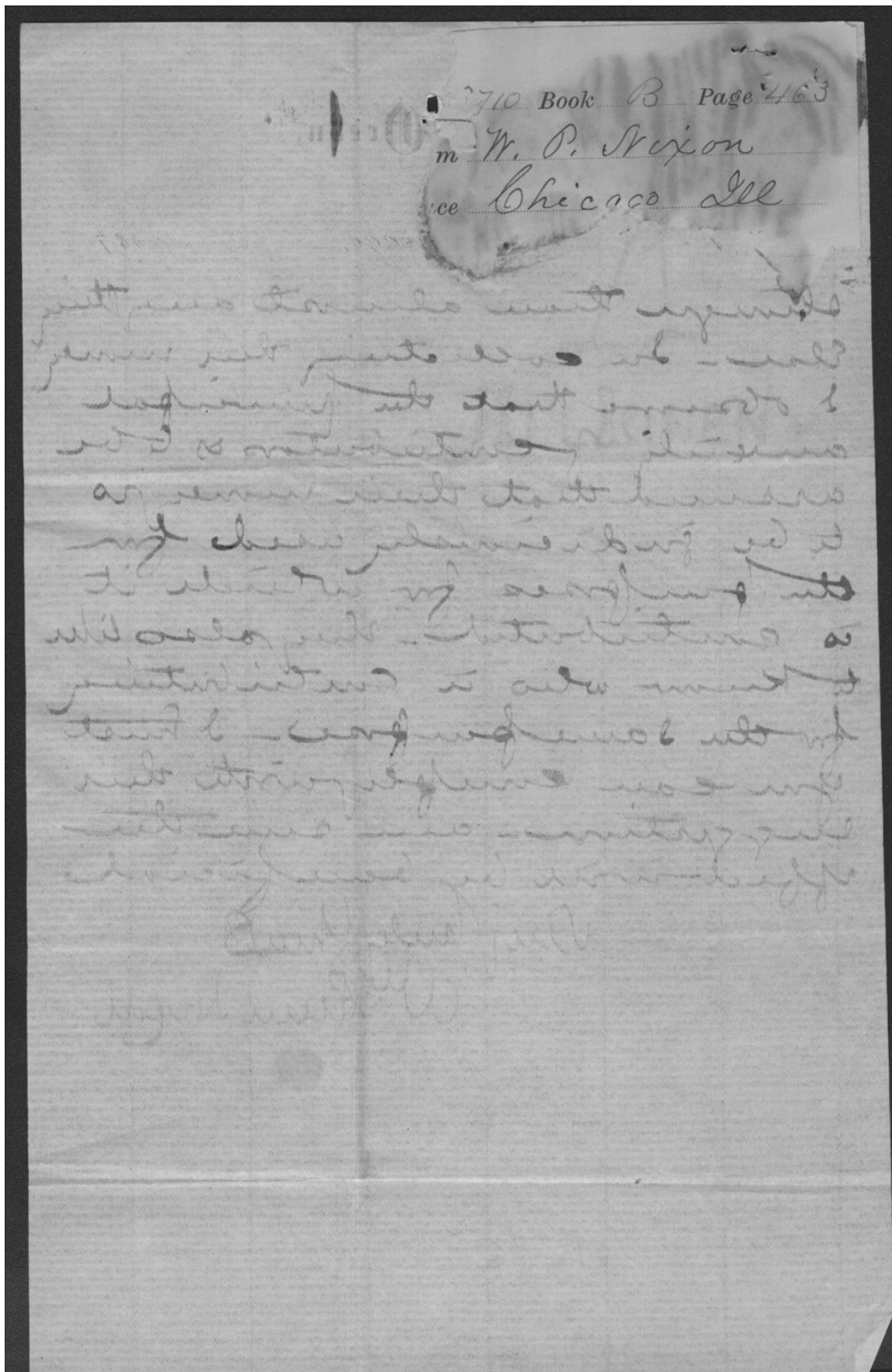
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

The Inter Ocean,
Chicago, 187

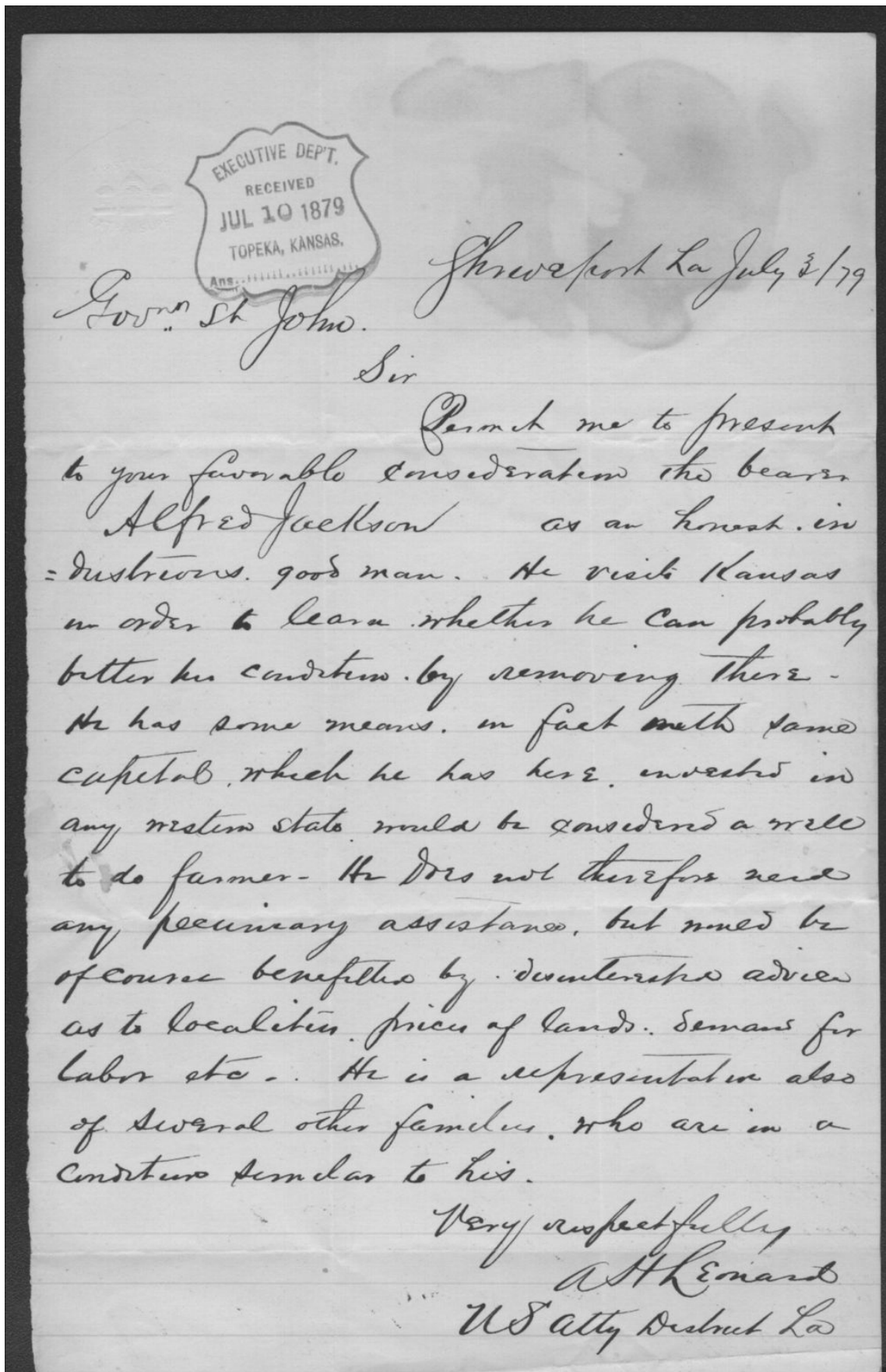
stronger than almost anything
else - In collecting this money
I observe that the principal
and chief contributors as to be
assured that their money is
to be judiciously used for
the purposes for which it
is contributed - they also like
to know who is contributing
for the same purpose - I trust
you can emphasize this
suggestion - and see the
affidavit by beneficial

Very truly yours
Wm. Allen Briggs

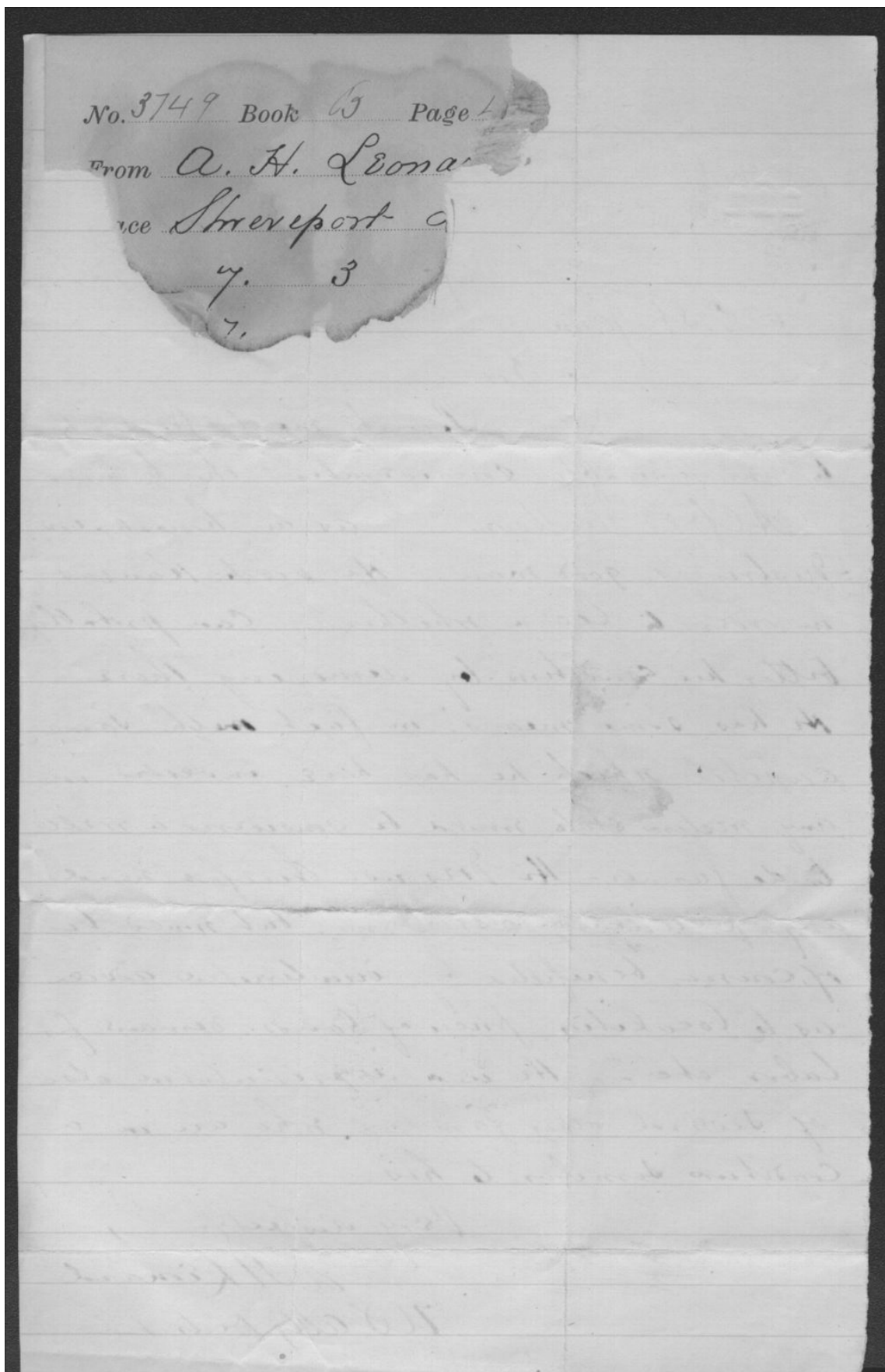
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Maline July 5, 1879.

My dear Sir.

I inclose draft on New
York for \$100 for the use
of the "Kansas Freedman's
Association".

Warmly sympathizing
with you in your humane
and patriotic action.

J.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Ans.

Sincerely
Yours.

W. A. Wheeler

Gov. St. John.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3735 Book B Page 40

From W. A. Wheeler

Place Malone N. H.

Date 7. 5

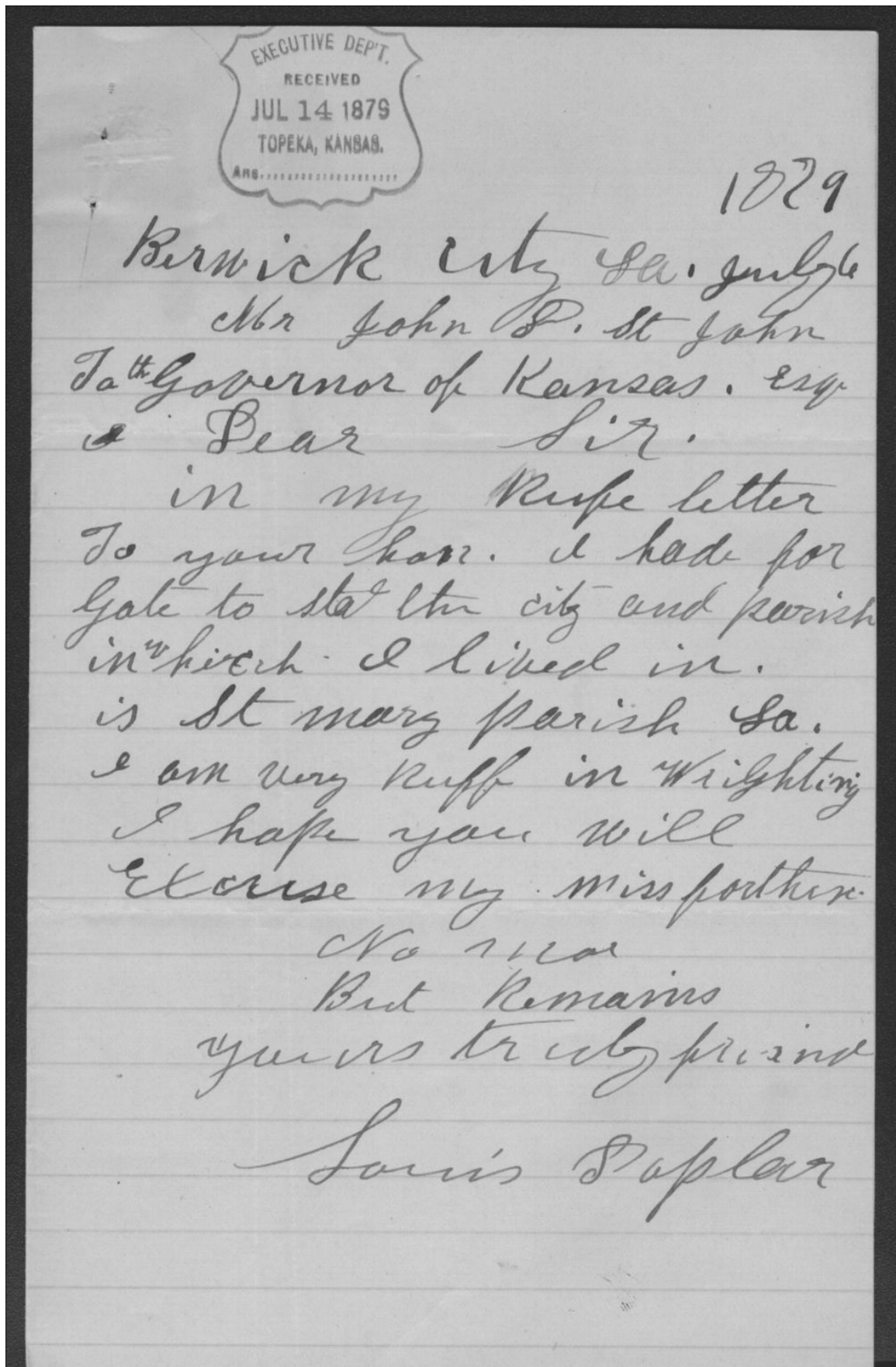
Rec'd 7. 9

Ans'd 7. 9 18

ABSTRACT.

-aft for 100.⁰⁰ c
men.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Berwick City Ia July 15. the 1879
the Governor St John. Esq
of Kansas.

Dear Sir. I take
The liberty to rite you a
few lines in the way of in
quering of the stat. ^{the} ~~the~~ matters.
Can you tell me. Where I
can find out by your help.
I please to live at. that
will give on out lte.
By waeter. that a boat may
go up or in it. I want
to come out there. but I
want to know befor I come.
With 10 or 20 men and
famils. so as we may live in
the same settle ments.
and I hope this will not
give trouble to you.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

If you can help me by
 letting me know. as you
 have the maps of the
 State. I hope you
 will. help us in that
 way. I have been the
 former judge of this parish
 Board in Ky. 36. & came
 out here in 58. and
 I don't think I am.
 at home yet. & with
 your help. I may get
 home some day. hoping
 you will give me the best
 information you can.
 to the out let. so as to get in
 with the trade & things. No
 more at present.
 But remains yours
 Truly friend &c. Judge
 Lewis Poplar



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3781 Book B Page 472

From Louis Poplar

Place Bernick City - Mo.

4 6

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Marshall Texas &
July 6 " 1879.

Honorable Jno P. St. John

Sir all of your

kind favors have been received. We
held a state conference at Houston Texas
a few days ago, on migration. I will send you
a copy of proceedings as soon ^{as} I get them. We
will hold a grand meeting on same occasion
at Marshall on 19 inst - we wish to the following
by that time. How many immigrants have
arrived in Kansas? How getting along? I have
lost the last letter you wrote me relative to land mules
horses, cows &c &c - please reprint it as I wish to read
it to the audience on aforesaid day. Jno. F. Anderson Cor

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JOHN C. TOMLINSON, Mayor.

C. P. COCHRAN, Clerk.



MAYOR'S OFFICE.

Atchison, Kas. July 6 1879

Hon John P St John
Governor

Lebanon Conn.

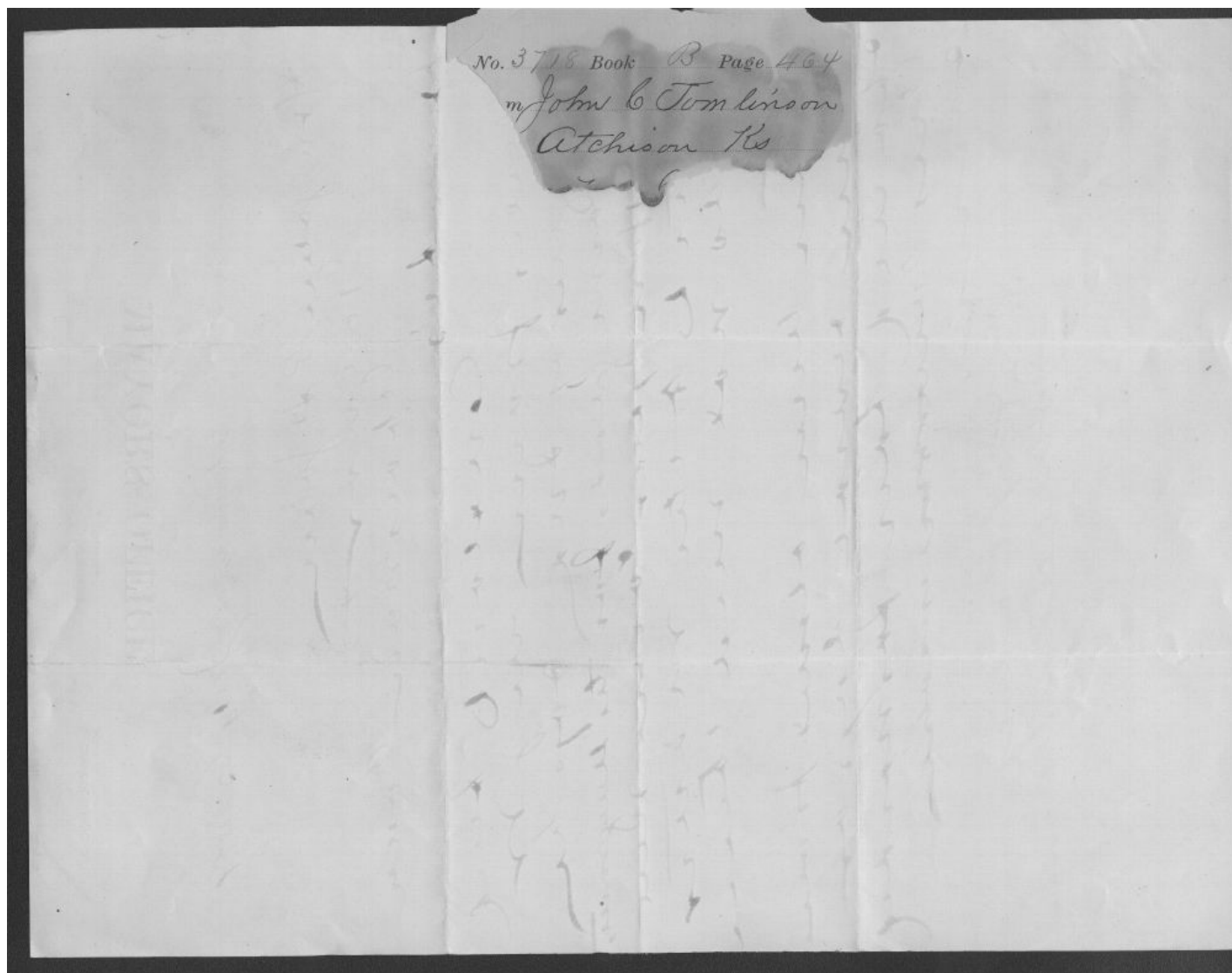
Dear Sir

Enclosed find
a letter from one of the
huggins of Ind. says he
has some goods for the huggins
and expects your letter. We
anticipate to take matters
we do not need them
here.

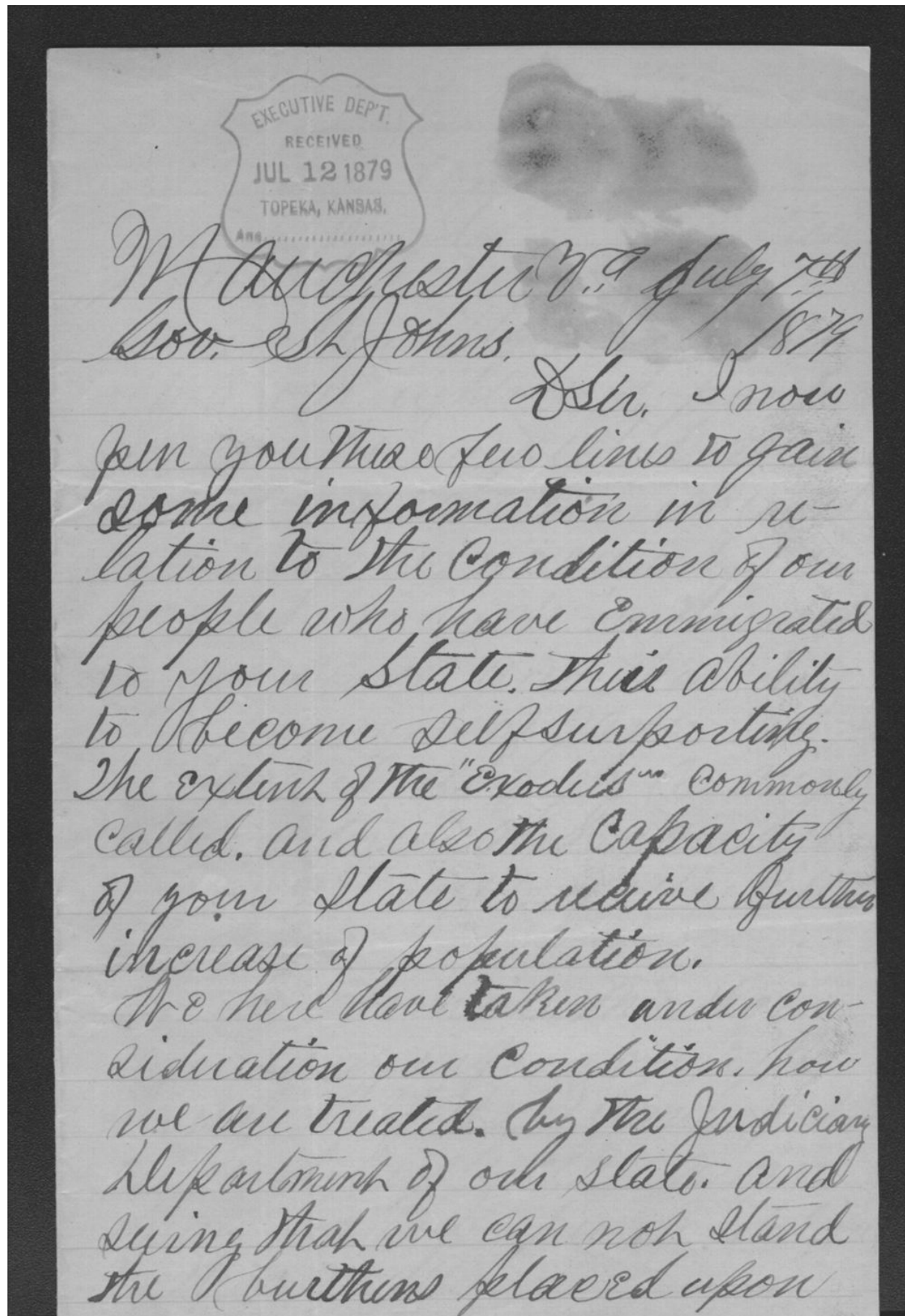
I have been absent from
home several days and
cannot have forwarded
this communication
earlier

Respectfully
John C Tomlinson

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

us by the State Authorities.
we have come to the Con-
clusion in State Convention
Assembled. to Emigrate to
some other State or Territory
where our rights and privi-
leges can be respected, and
where we can be recognised
as Citizens. As we are only rec-
ognised as such in this State
in one sense, and that in
the payment of taxes, we
are taxed as high as any
other Citizen and can not
enjoy the rights of other Cit-
izens.

I now write this that
you may inform me of the
several subjects I have spoken
on and such others as you
may deem proper in relation
to this matter.

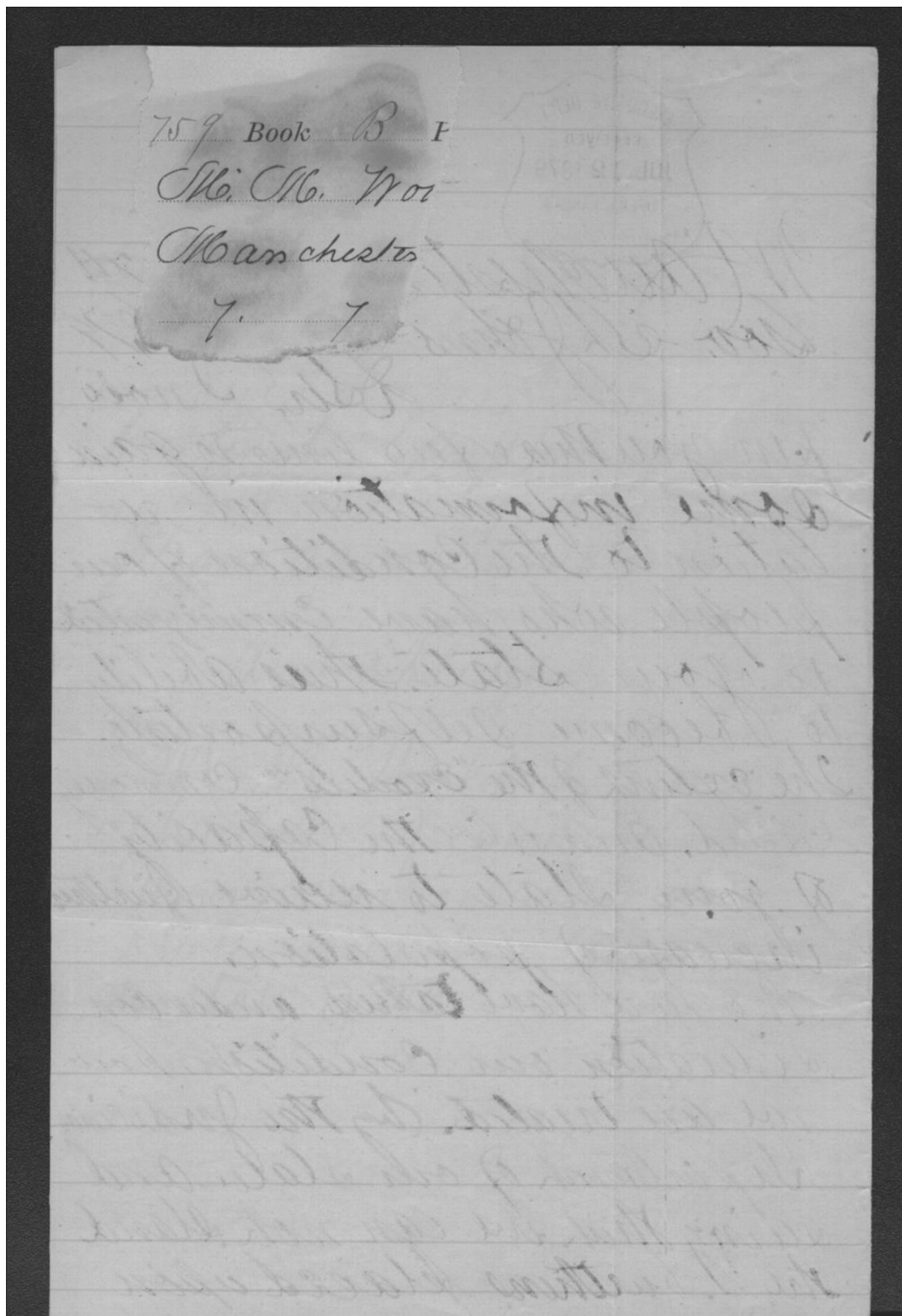
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

And if there be no objection
I shall publish your answer
in our paper, "The Laborer's
Criterion," published in Rich-
mond Va. by colored men.
Please answer as soon as pos-
sible.

And oblige yours.

M. M. Sholdridge
Chairman of Emigration and
Communications with other
States and Territories. For
the State of Va.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Normal Ill
July 7th 1879.

To The Gov.
Of the State of Kansas.
Sir.

Having written to The Hon Wm Windom
U. S. Senator at Washington D. C.
in regards to the exodus of the Southern
Refugees, stating that I should like to be
among them, giving them aid, teaching them,
etc, etc. - And also this coming fall and
winter I shall go forth to deliver lectures
for their benefit. That I will give one
third of the proceeds of all my lectures
for their benefit. - The Hon Senator Wm
Windom advised me to correspond with
you in regards to the exodus, - That you
could give all desired information, in regards
to all their necessary wants, I should like
to correspond with several societies that
are organized in Kansas for the benefit
of the Southern Refugees.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

I know of several good competent
kind-hearted teachers to teach school
among them. - I myself was
son of Arabian born parents, ^{was} Born
in Hamilton Canada, - And was raised
and brought up by Gen. Charles M.
Reed of the City of Erie. Penna.
The subjects of my lectures to
the Black man - why he was made a
Slave - why freed - and why he could
not be kept into slavery etc etc.
And many other Biblical mysteries.

Respectfully yours

G. W. Jacobs.

Normal

McLean Co
Illinois

Hoping To
Hear from you,
Immediately.

736 Book 18 Page
G. W. Jacobs

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Lake Providence Louisiana

July 1st 1879



Sir Gov. St. John I avail myself to drop you
A few lines as I saw your Epistle of the 9th of June
to B. H. Laniel thus asking you for all of information
you can possibly give me about Kansas and other
connecting States now as respecting what you said
about the colored people being honest industrious
and economy in my ~~opinion~~ opinion if it be
worth it I think the word economy signify to
make the prudentest use of money that we can
in the 1st place we poor colored people of these low
States have been in bondage and destitute of education
and since we have been emancipated we have been
forced by a combination to rent land at from
\$8.00 to \$10.00 per acre and from \$3.00 to \$4.00
for each and every 400 lbs Bale of cotton as
lined & baled and forced to deal with our
employer under the impression of exorbitant
rates for every thing we use and that is no
more than salt pork & corn meal and the
terms of affairs is all ways in such condition
that we never gets the money to live ~~economy~~ ^{economy}

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3812 Book 15
From L. A. Willson
Oct 9
7.

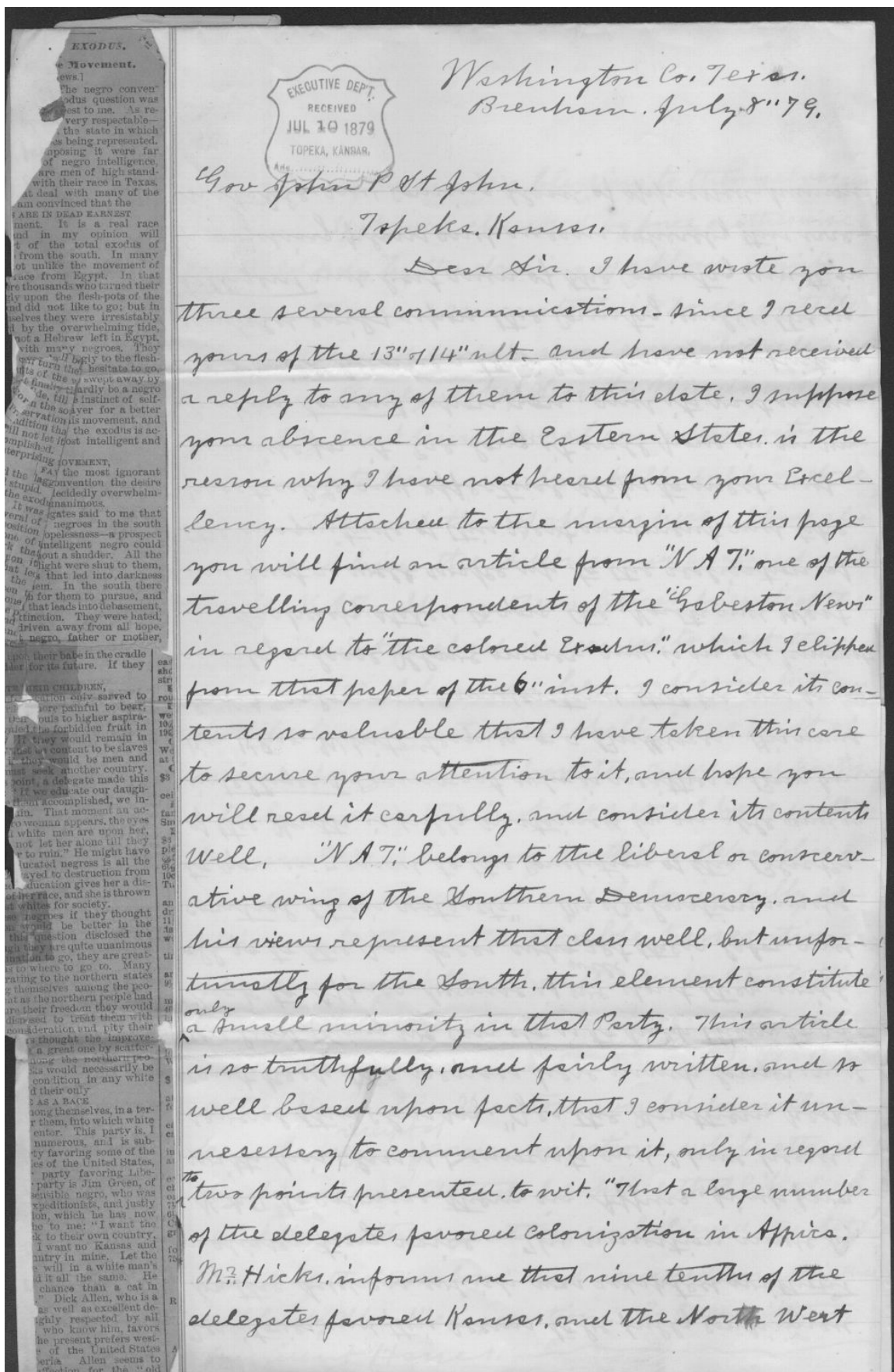
By and further it has even been a crime to
This country white for to advance any mode to
the negro education and we are ingenerally in
such condition as we hardly know our right hand
from the left and we are under such impression
by our superior race ~~and~~ that if we dont find
some better salvation than what is here our children
will come up just as ignorant and foolish as we
are Now I ask you for further information that
is so the Government advance or aid any
implement or provision on any terms or condition
for poor people that are ~~or~~ unable to aid
them selves Please answer soon

Very truly Yours friend

J. A. Willson



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Note,
I forgot to mention in my last letter, that I did not attend the Houston convention nor that I did not have anything to do in the matter of the vote of thanks tendered myself.

It was not in the original copy which I aided Mr. Hicks, to draft, but was added to it by the unanimous action of the convention, and added to the Address after it had been presented by Mr. Hicks.

It was done to rebuke the other leading white Republicans of the State, for their opposition, and to express confidence in me for what I have done etc.

W. A. H.

Territories, and this seems to be fully confirmed by the Address, which was adopted without a dissenting voice. The suggestion made by N. A. T. to colonize them in Africa, finds favor with his class of Democrats, and I have heard several of this class say, "Yes the Southern people can't keep the negroes here much longer, and the best thing we can do, is to help them to go back to Africa, because if we don't, they will all go to the Yankees, who ^{will} get their labor, and control their votes etc". My declaration made to you in regard to the Condition of the Blacks, of the South, is fully sustained by an able and an intelligent Democrat, who is neither a Bomber, Ku Klux, White Leaguer, or a Bull Dog, His name is N. A. Taylor, and I understand that he was formerly a large Slave owner, and is an old Unionist.

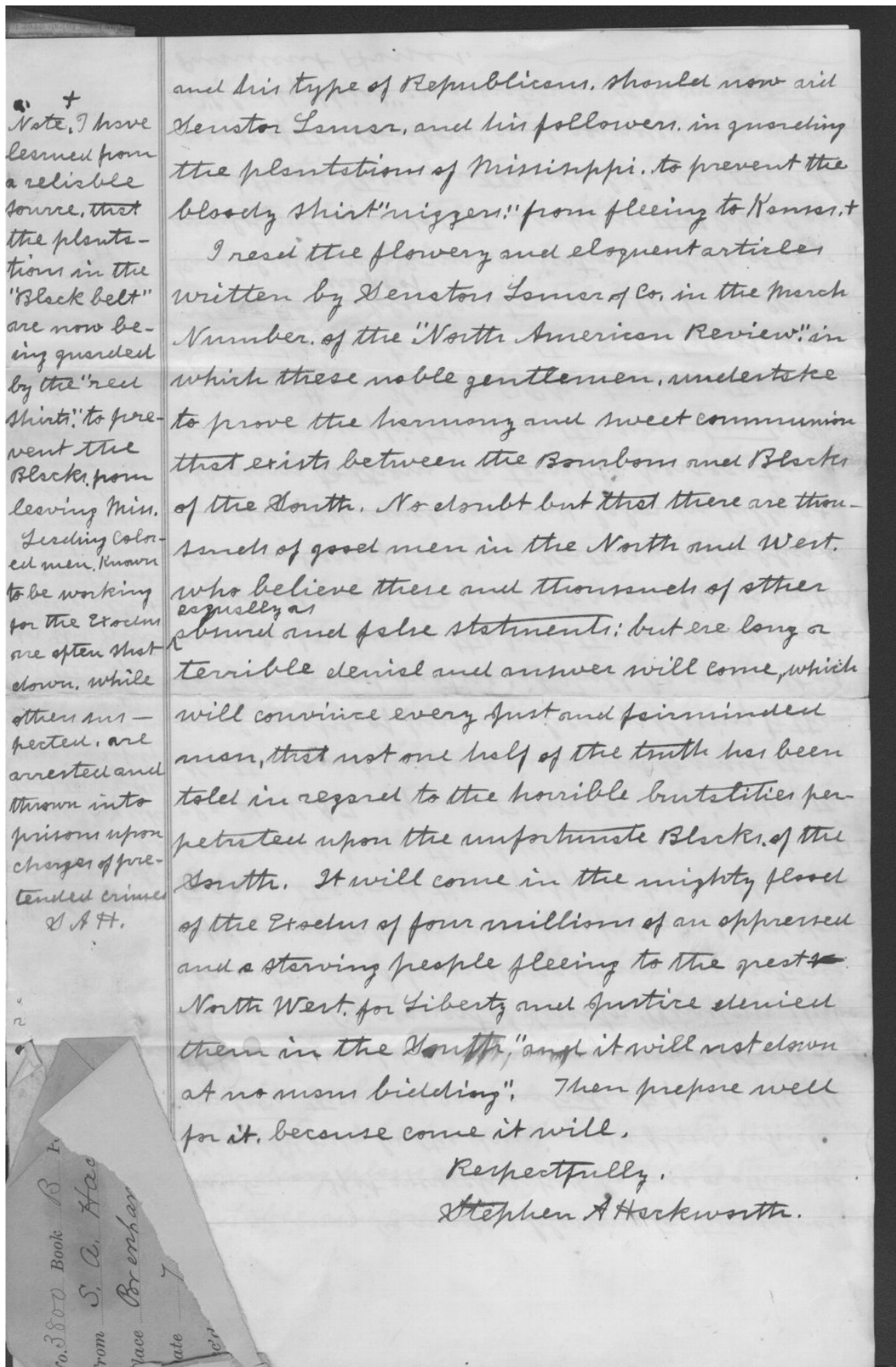
As already stated to you, the North and West had just as well wake up to the realization of the magnitude of this great movement, and take practicable and effectual steps to meet and provide for it. Ere long, it will pour in, an unbroken torrent upon you, and its vast numbers will become a terrible scourge, inflicting untold evils upon the Country; unless the intelligent and best men of the Country unite in providing plans and means, whereby this irresistible and coming flood of oppressed human

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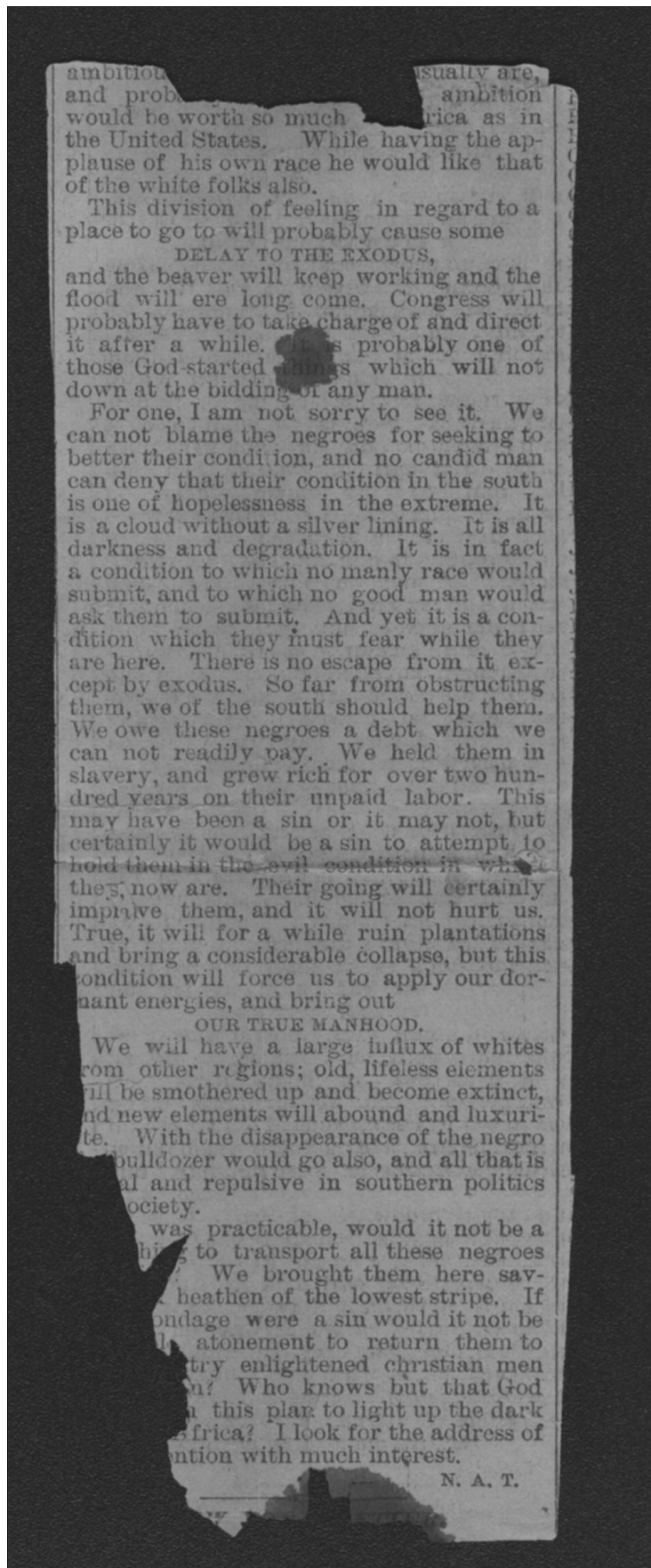
beings, may be made a blessing to themselves and country. If it were checked by force or otherwise, it would only be the damming of a flood, which would gather and concentrate its forces, until at last it would sweep away every obstacle and barrier. By request of Senator Windom, I have recently sent him several communications explaining to him nearly as fully as I have done to you - the condition of affairs here. I have also forwarded him the Address, and enclosed article of N A T. If my Republican friends of the North, do not propose in earnest, to meet this avalanche of human beings fleeing to them for liberty and justice: it shall be no fault of mine: for during the past ten years, and particularly during the past six years, I have written to numbers of leading Northern Republicans, and devoted much care and labor in fully explaining to them the terrible persecutions and oppressions inflicted upon the unfortunate Blacks of the South. Senator O P Morton, was the only one that seem to realize the true state of affairs. Other Honorable Senators, would formally acknowledge ^{receipt of} my communications, while others would not even do that. I suppose that like President Hayes, these gentlemen believed the statements of the "Bourbons" and regarded my evidence as "bloody shirt" exaggerations. To be consistent, President Hayes.

I call your attention to the above because it is likely that this letter was in reply to a letter some Democrat had written you for the purpose of eliciting information to be used for other purposes than pretended. I advise you to preserve printed circulars to send to the bulk of correspondents.
- V A H.

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

