Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 17, Pages 481 - 510

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

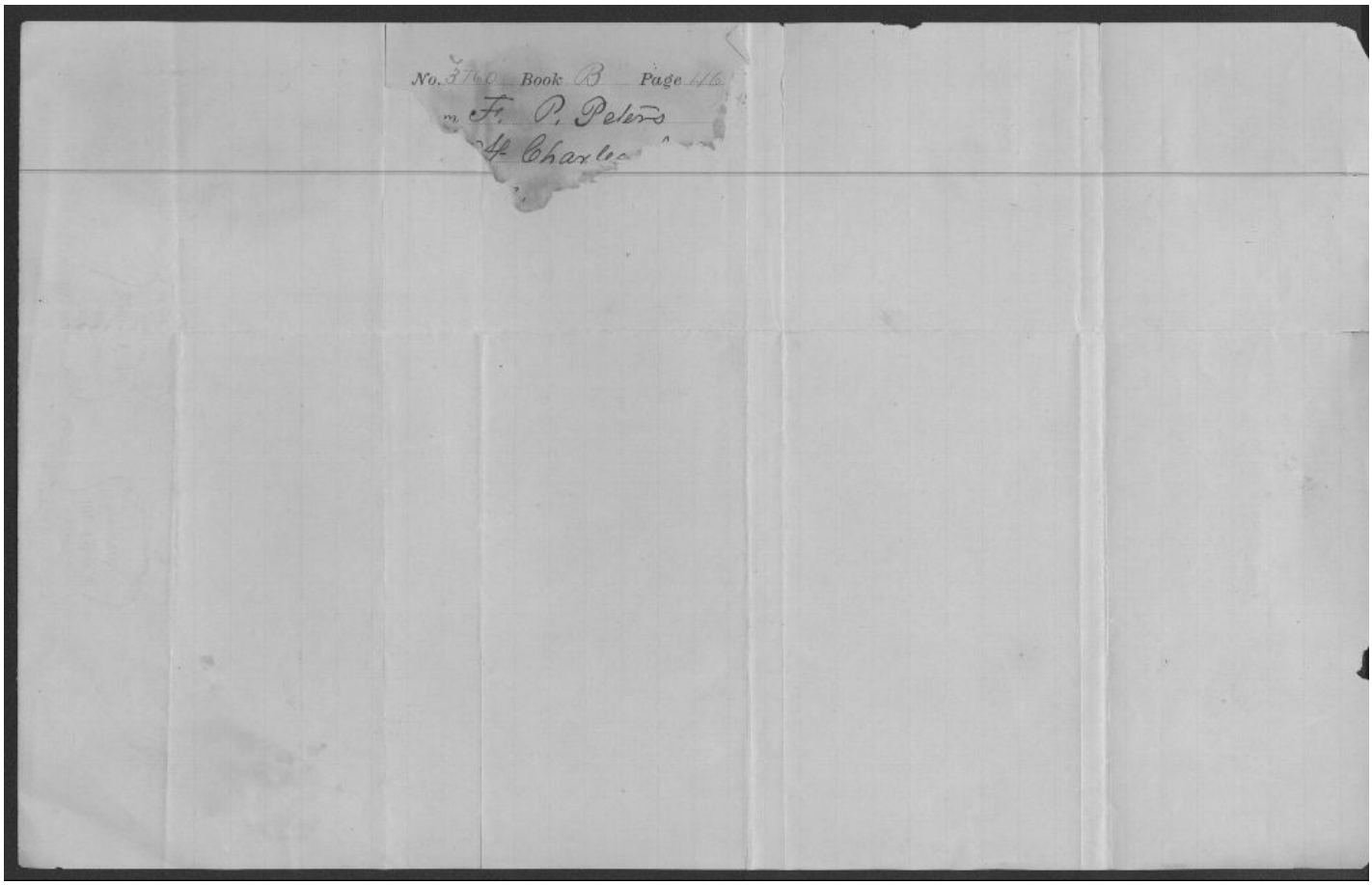
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

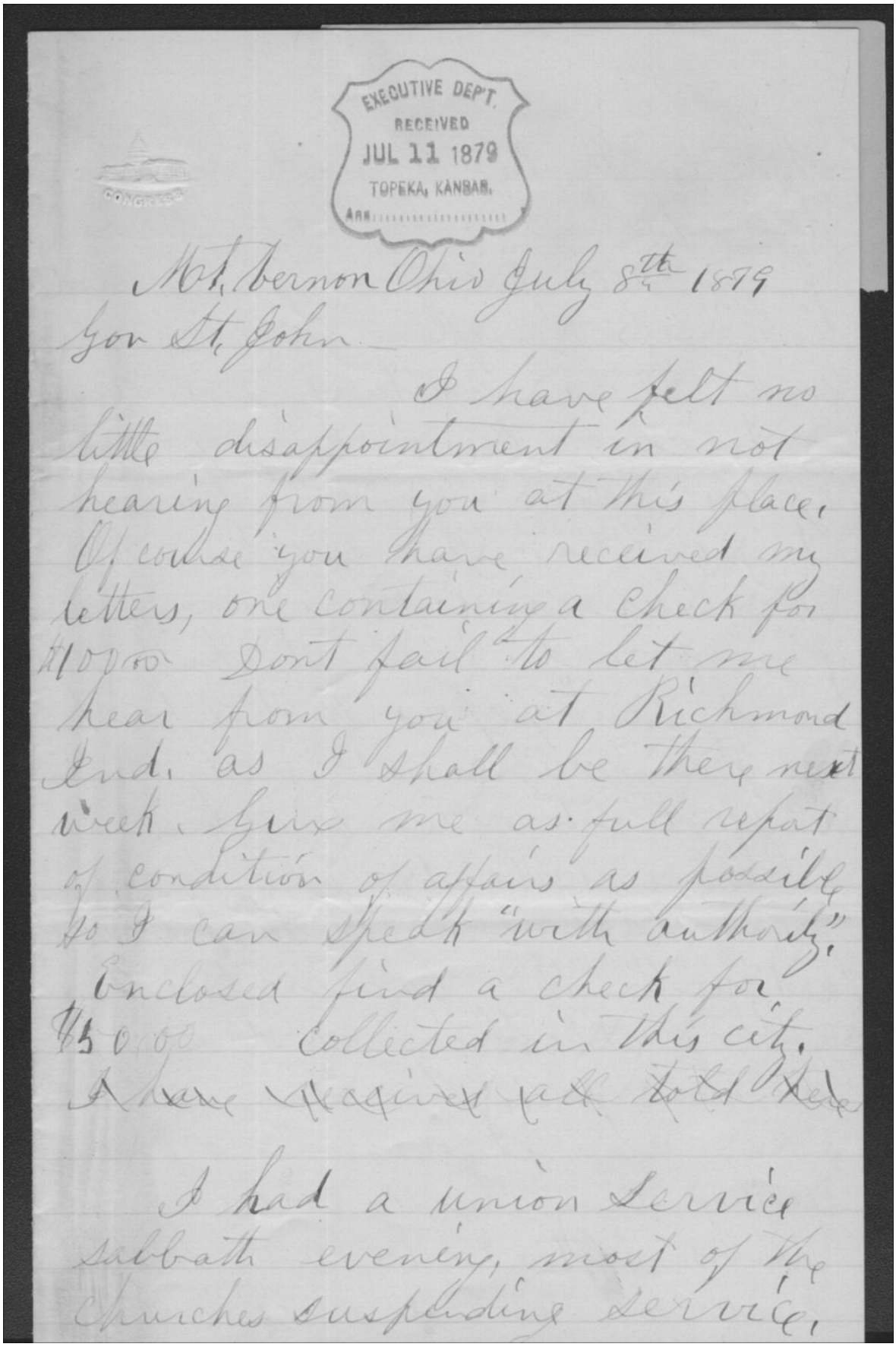
Item Identifier: 210296

www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Mt. Vernon Ohio July 8th 1879

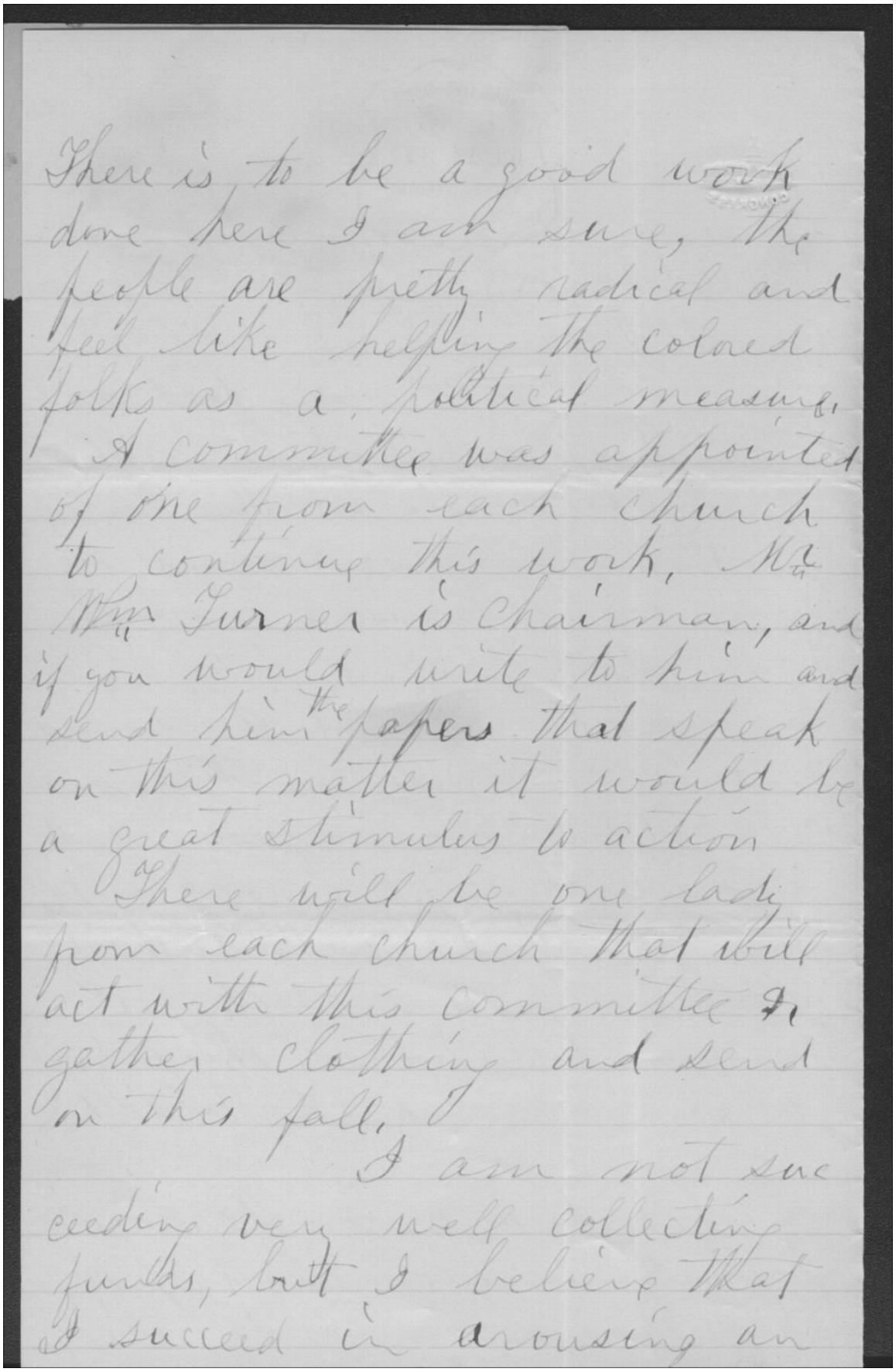
Gov St. John—

I have felt no little disappointment in not hearing from you at this place. Of course you have received my letters, one containing a check for $100.00 Dont fail to let me hear from you at Richmond Ind. as I shall be there next week. Give me as full report of condition of affairs as possible so I can speak "with authority."

Enclosed find a check for $50.00 collected in this city. I have [illegible]

I had a union service Sabbath evening, most of the Churches suspending service,

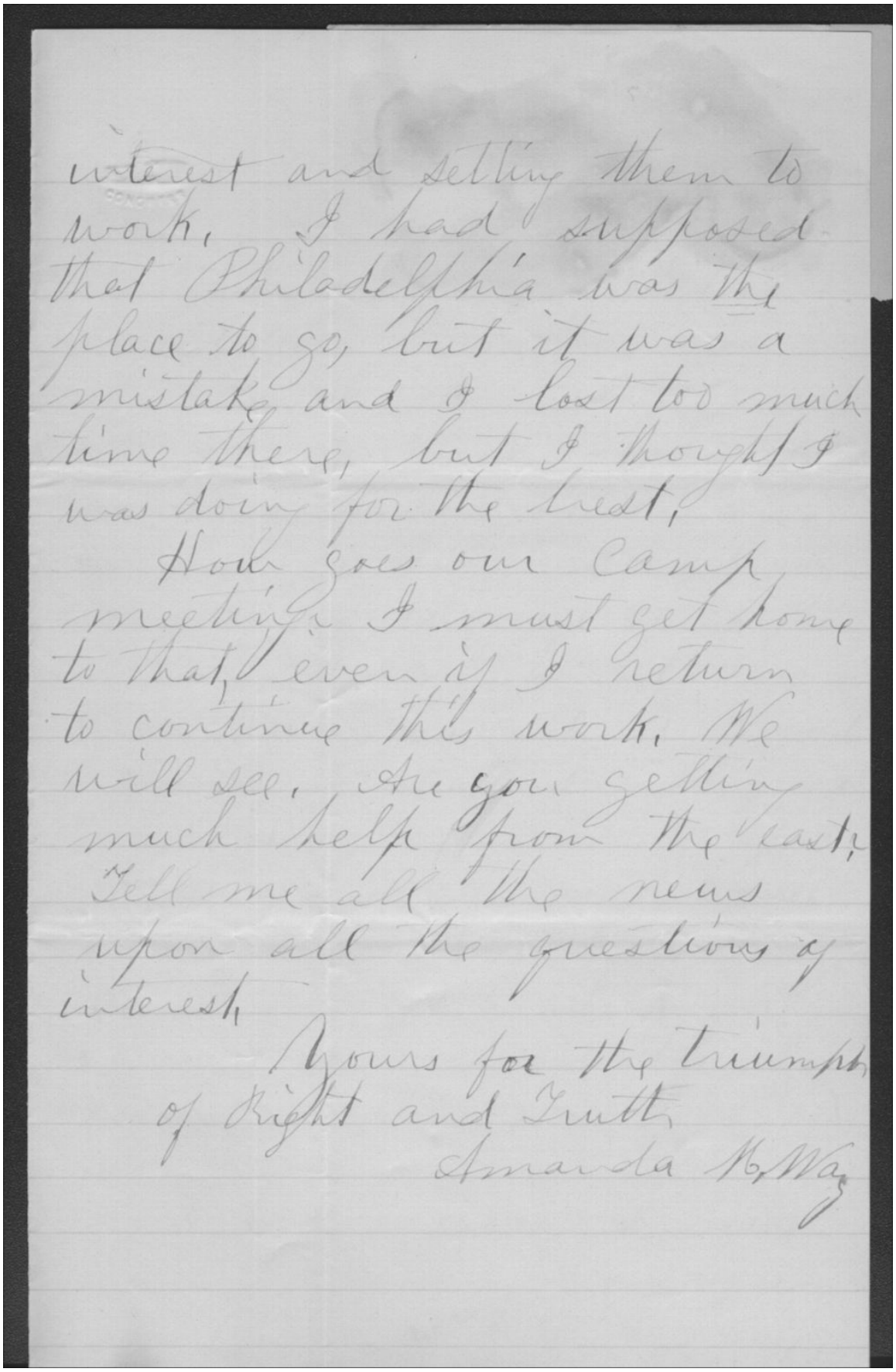
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



There is to be a good work done here I ask sure, the people are pretty radical and feel like helping the colored folks as a political measure. A committee was appointed of one from each church to continue this work, Mr. Wm Turner is Chairman, and if you would write to him and send him the papers that speak on this matter it would be a great stimulus to action. There will be one lady from each church that will act with this committee to gather clothing and send on this fall.

I am not succeeding very well collecting funds, but I believe that I succeed in arousing an

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



interest and setting them to work. I had supposed that Philadelphia was the place to go, but it was a mistake, and I lost too much time there, but I thought I was doing for the best.

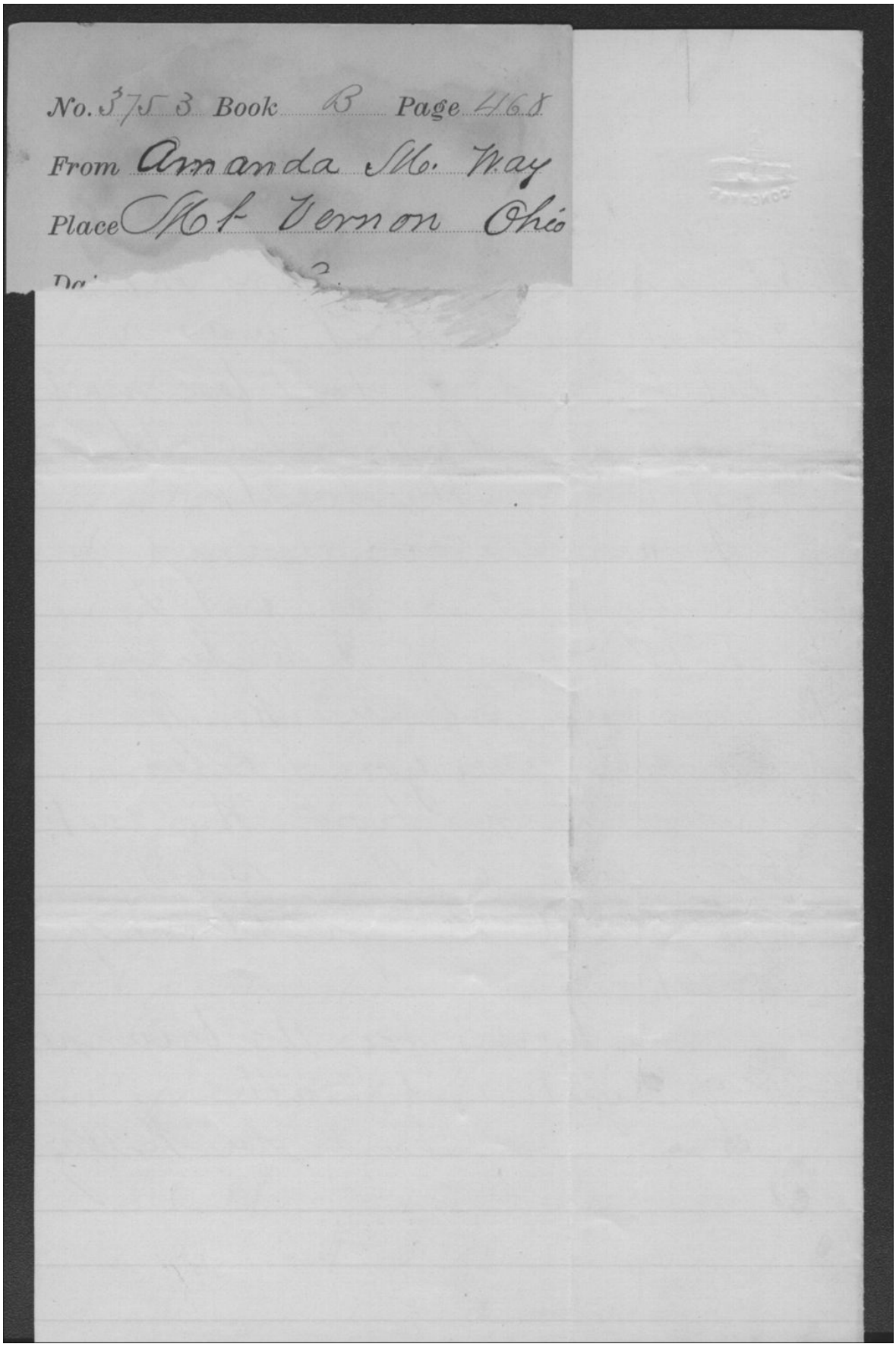
How goes our camp meeting? I must get home to that, even if I return to continue this work. We will see. Are you getting much help from the east?

Tell me all the news upon all the questions of interest.

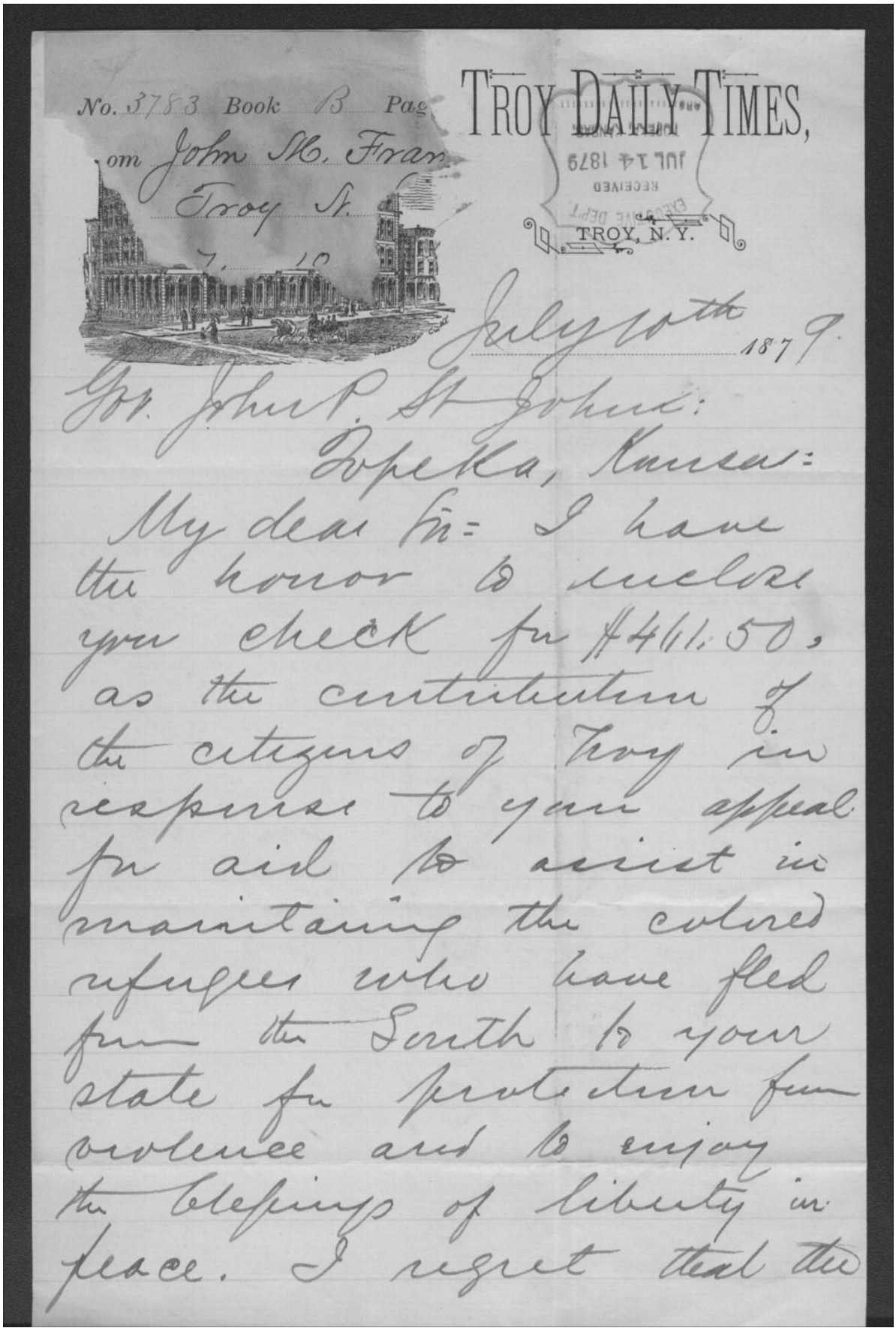
Yours for the triumph of right and truth

Amanda B. Way

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence


No. 3753 Book B Page 468
From Amanda Mc. May
Place Mt Vernon Ohio
Da

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



No. 3783 Book B Pag

om John M. Fran

Troy St.

7. 10

TROY DAILY TIMES,

RECEIVED JUL 14 1879 EXECUTIVE DEPT.

TROY, N.Y.

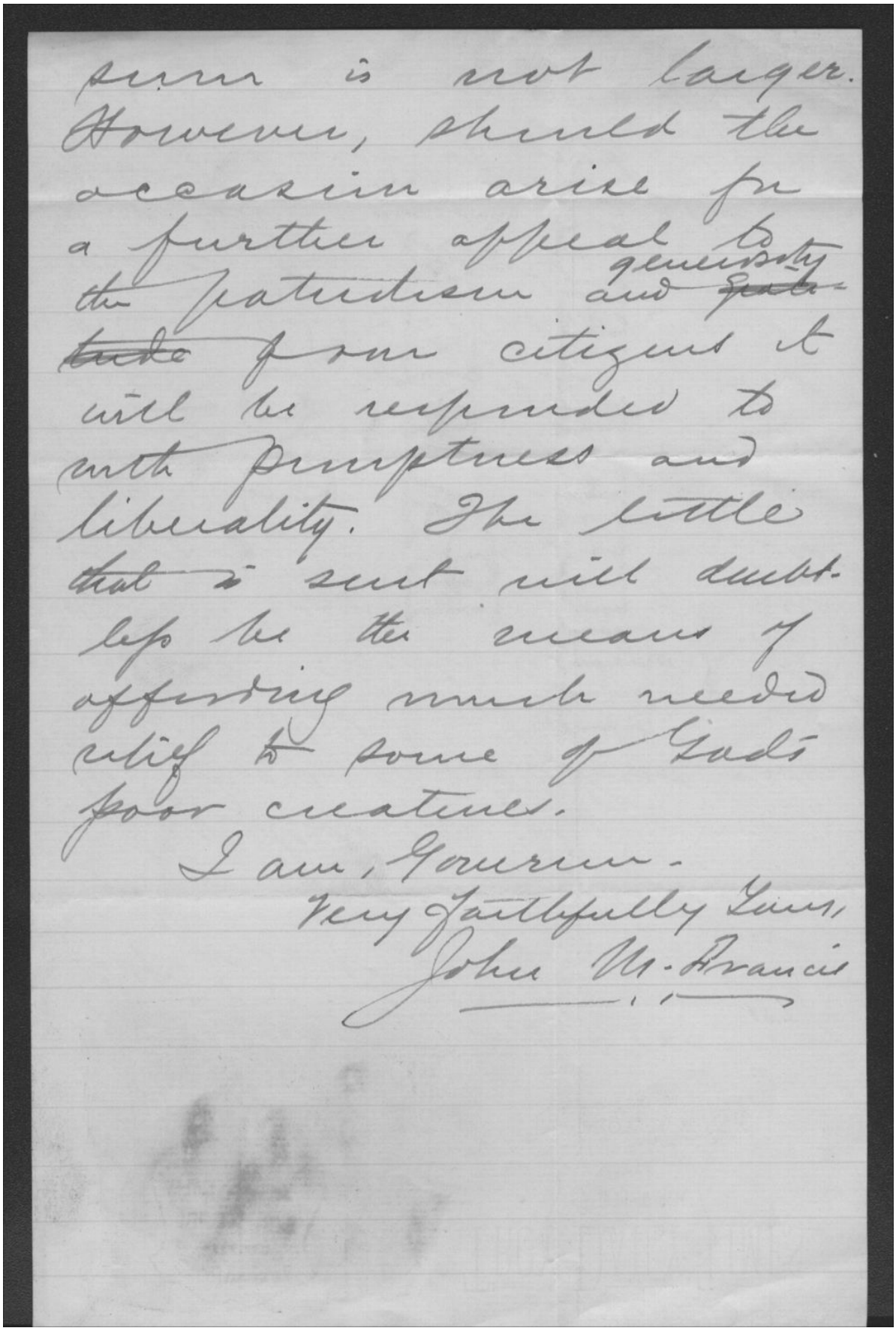
July 10th 1879.

Gov. John P. St. Johns:

Topeka, Kansas:

My dear Sir:- I have the honor to inclose you check for $461.50, as the contribution of the citizens of Troy in response to your appeal for aid to assist in maintaining the colored refugees who have fled from the South to your state for protection from violence and to enjoy the blessings of liberty in peace. I regret that the

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



sum is not larger. However, should the occasion arise for a further appeal to the patriotism and ~~gratitude~~ generosity of our citizens it will be responded to with promptness and liberality. The little that is sent will doubtless be the means of affording much needed relief to some of God's poor creatures.

I am, Governor.

Very faithfully Yours,

John M. Francis

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

THE STATE OF TEXAS

SENATE CHAMBER,

Austin, Texas, July 9th 1879

Hon S. A. Hackworth.
Brenham.

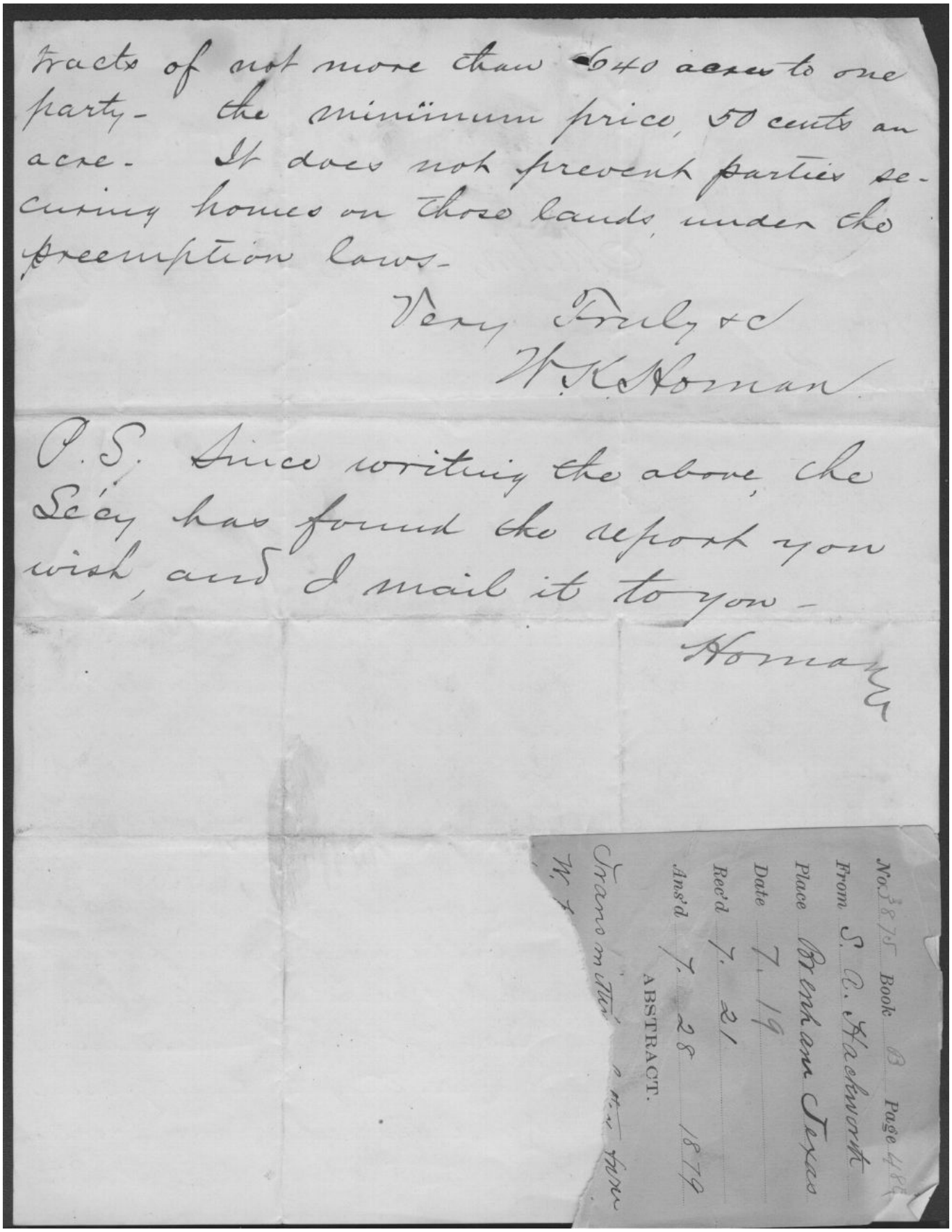
Dear Sir.

There has been no investigation by the legislature of convict killing at Mineola and no evidence taken. We had nothing before us but the dispatches you saw in the Galveston News.

I have also failed to find the pamphlet reports made to Gov. Coke. The Secy of State says there are none left that he can find. I could get copies (printed) of bills introduced for sale of lands, but they would give no correct idea of the bills as finally passed.

The bill passed provides that the public lands in most of the Counties in the pan handle amounting to twenty million acres shall be reserved from location for purposes of sale, and shall be sold in

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



tracts of not more than 640 acres to one party - the minimum price, 50 cents an acre - It does not prevent parties securing homes on those lands, under the preemption laws -

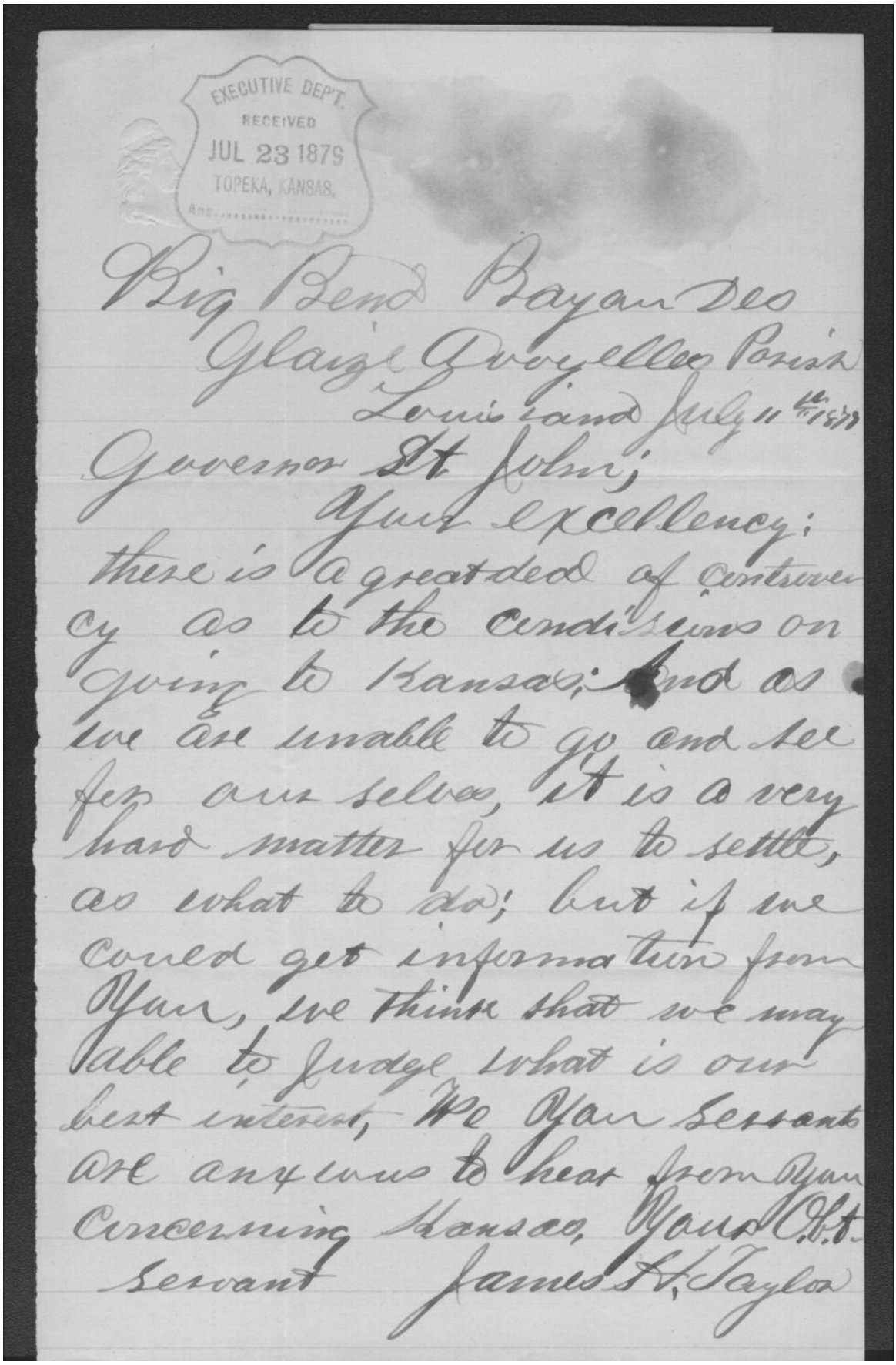
Very Truly &c
W. K. Homan

P. S. Since writing the above, the Secy has found the report you wish, and I mail it to you -

Homan

No. 3875 Book B Page 489
From S. C. Blackwell
Place Brenham Texas
Date 7. 19
Rec'd 7. 21
Ans'd 7. 28 1879
ABSTRACT.
Transmits report
W. K.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

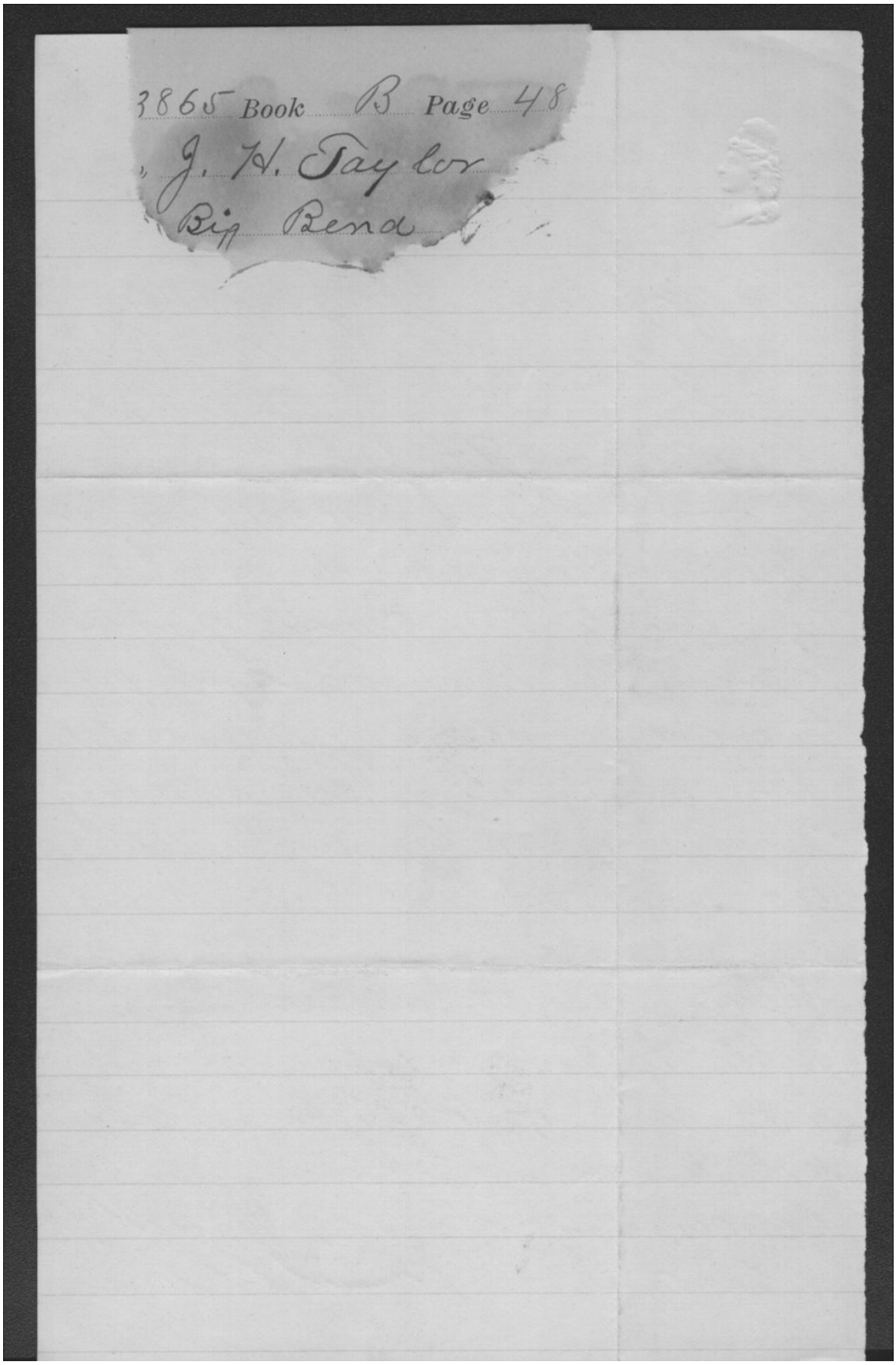


Big Bend Bayan Des
Glaize Avoyelles Parish
Louisiana July 11th 1879

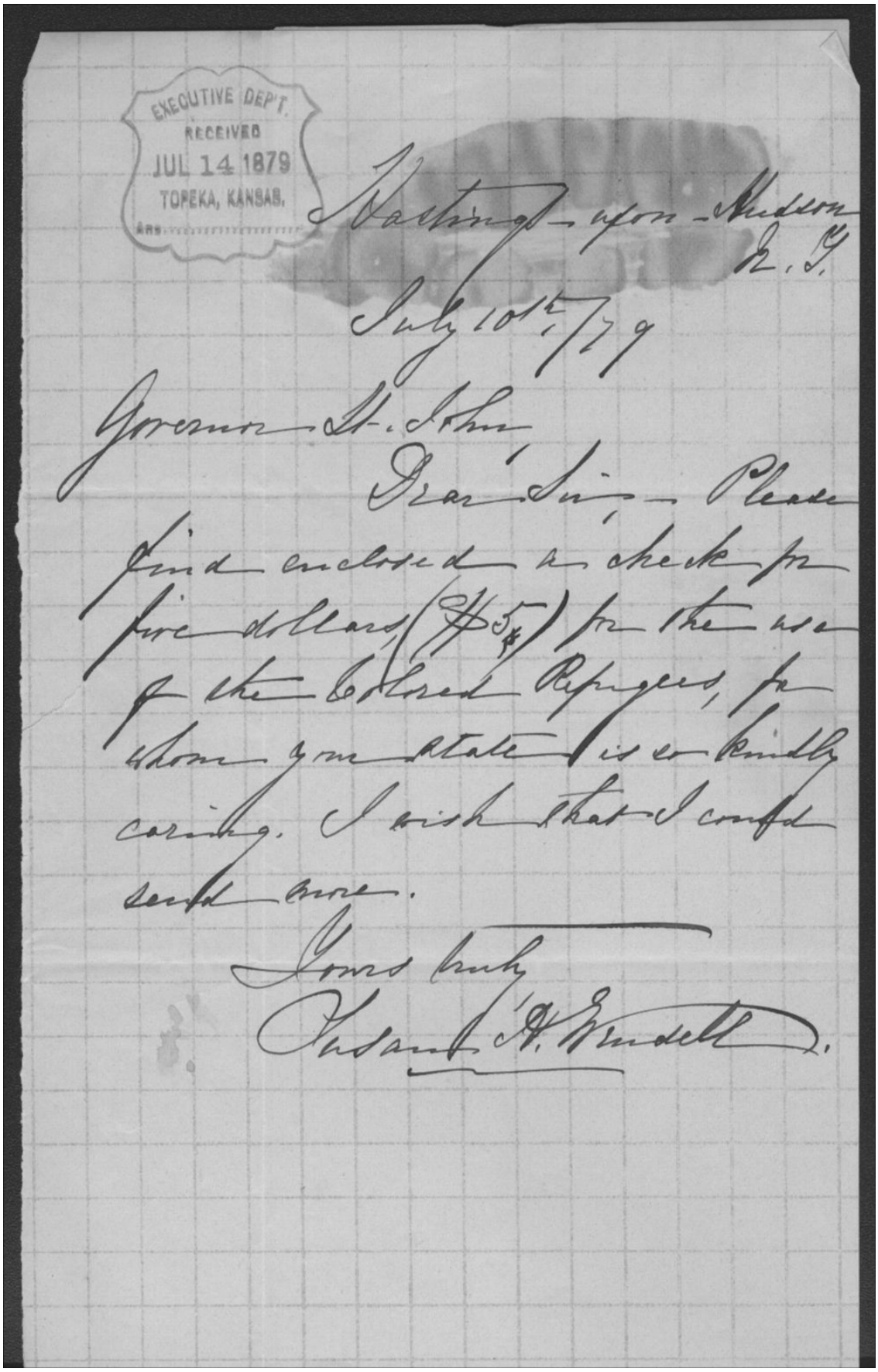
Governor St. John;

Your excellency;
there is a great deal of controversy as to the conditions on going to Kansas; and as we are unable to go and see for our selves, it is a very hard matter for us to settle, as what to do; but if we could get information from Your, we think that we may able to judge what is our best interest, We Your Servants are anxious to hear from Your Concerning Kansas. Your O.B.
Servant James H. Taylor

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



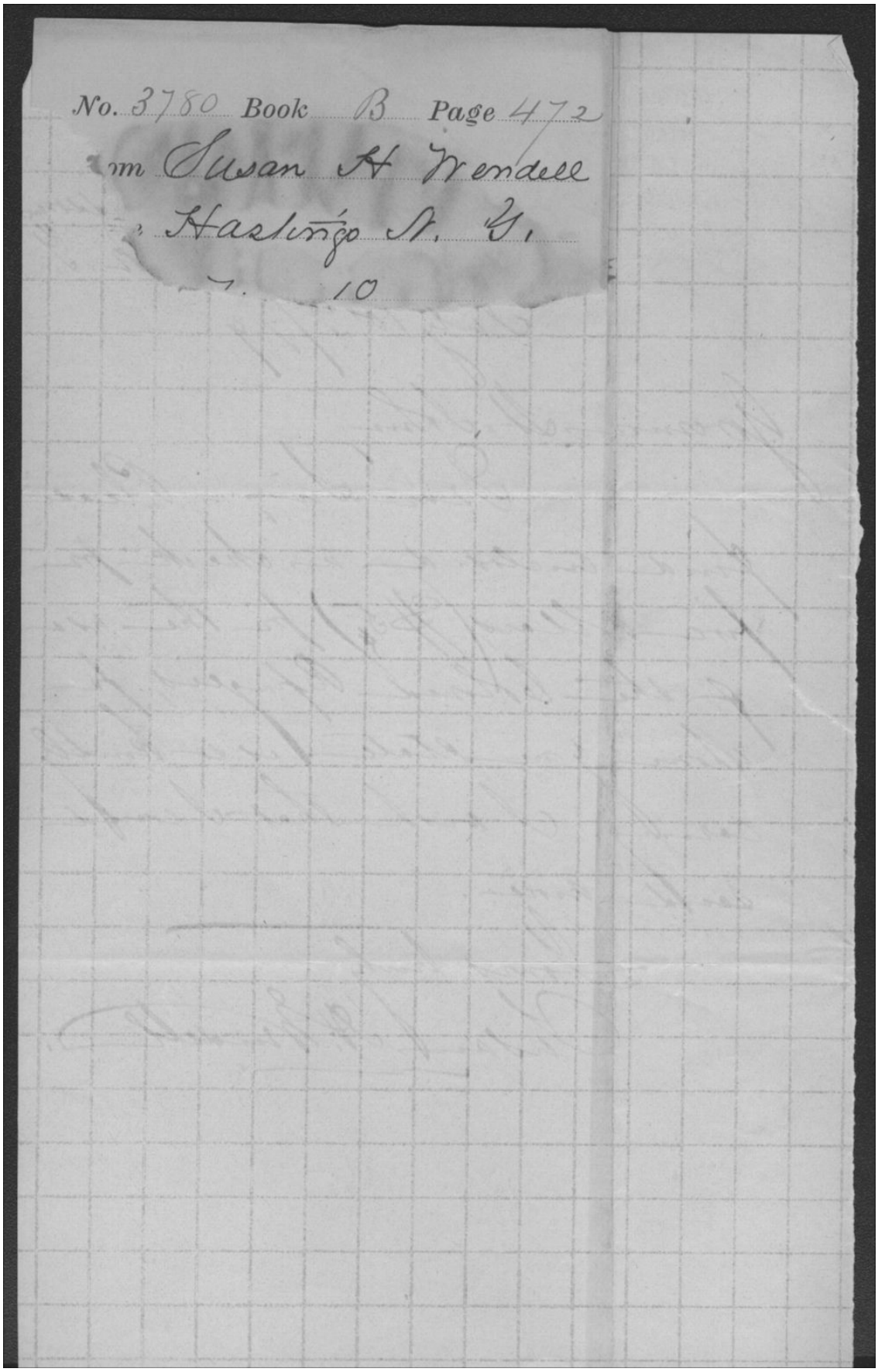
Hastings upon Hudson
N. Y.
July 10th, 79

Governor St. John

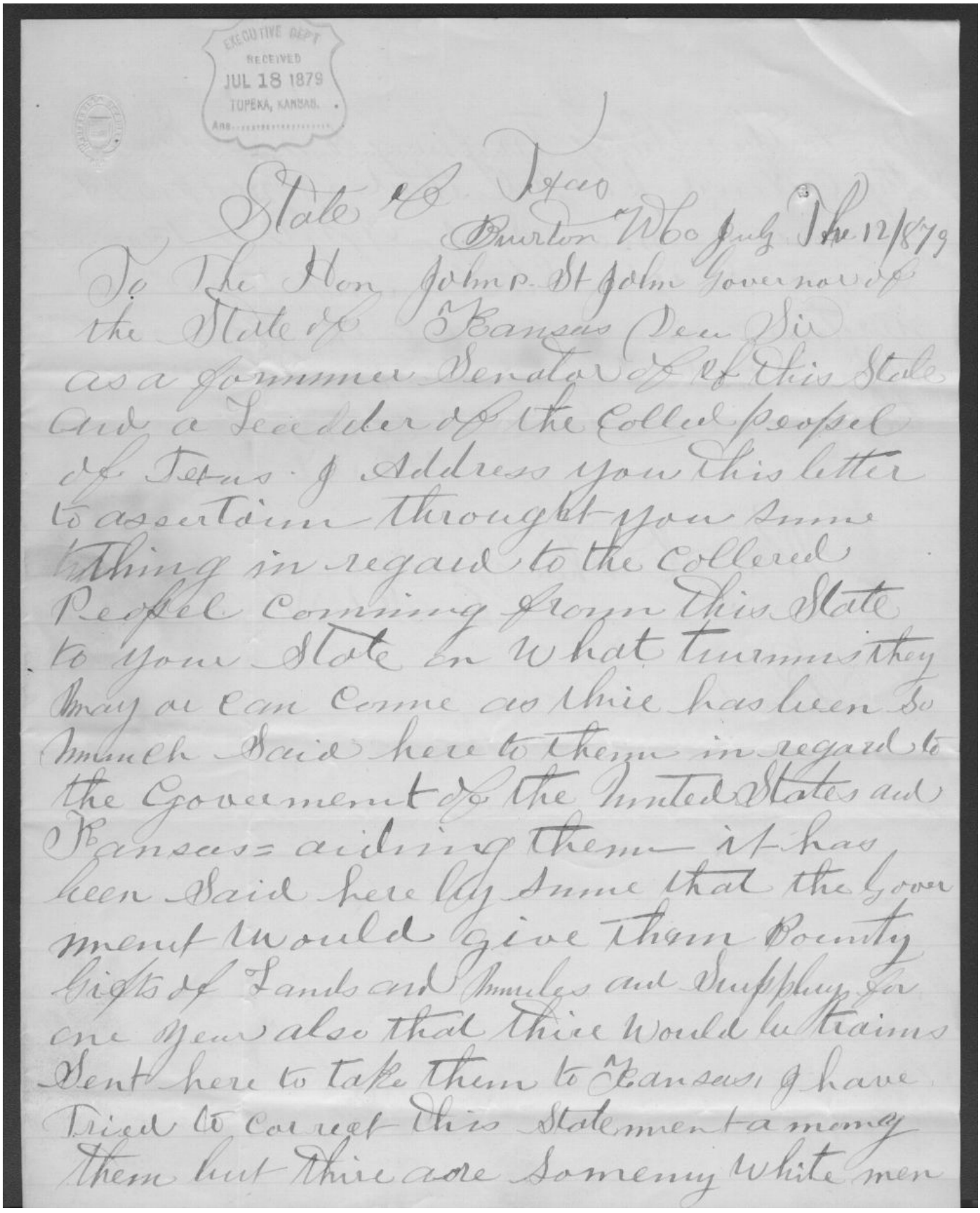
Dear Sir, Please find enclosed a check for five dollars ($5) for the use of the Colored Refugees, for whom your State is so kindly caring. I wish that I could send more.

Yours truly
Susan A. Wendell.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

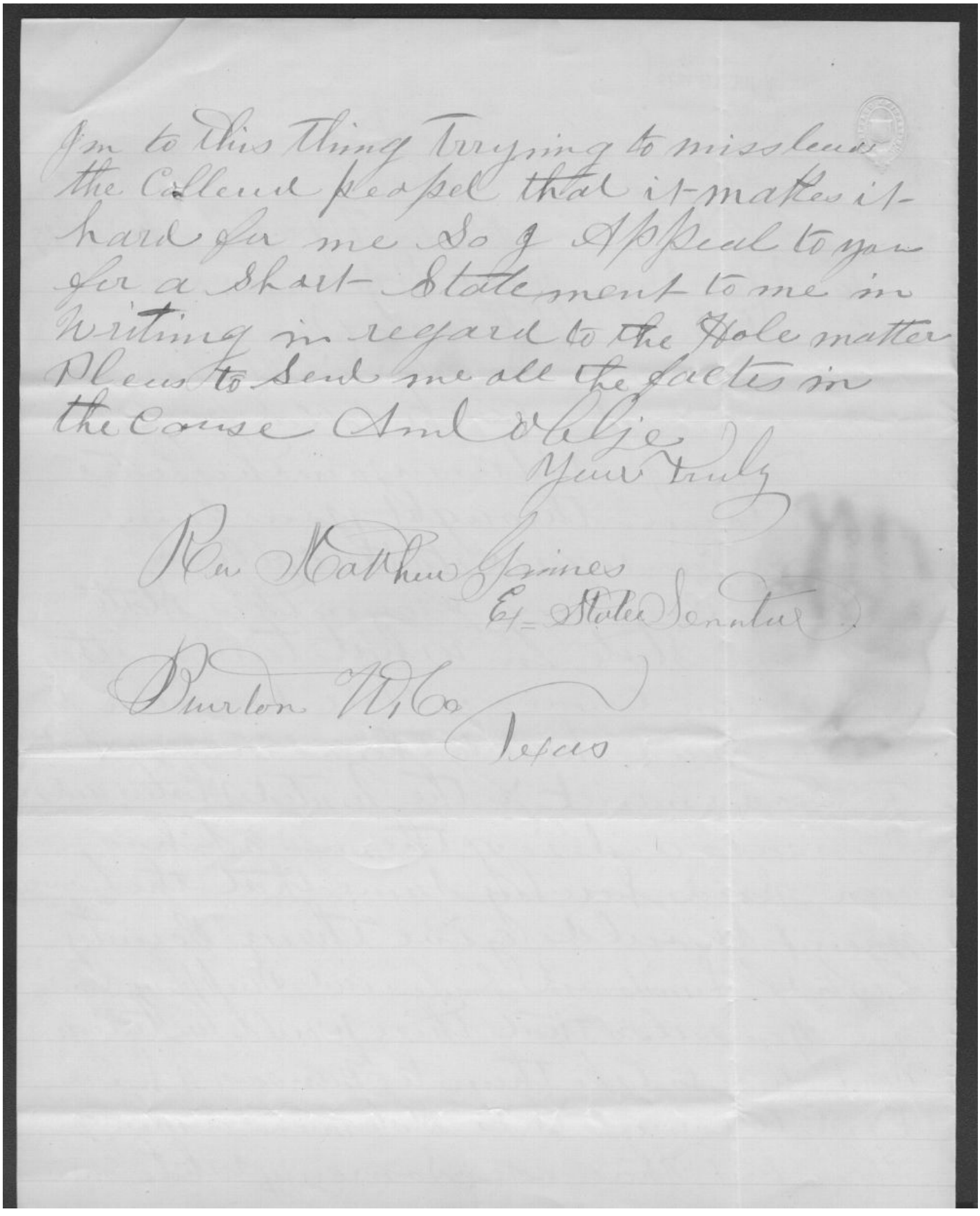


Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



State of Texas
Burton Wo July the 12/879
To The Hon John P. St John Governor of
the State of Kansas Dear Sir
as a former Senator of of this State
and a Leader of the Colled people
of Texas. I Address you this letter
to ascertain thought your Imme
diating in regard to the Colored
People Comming from this State
to your State in What turnmes they
may or can Come as there has been So
much Said here to them in regard to
the Goverment of the United States and
Kansas = aiding them it has
been Said here by Some that the Gover
ment would give them Bounty
Lights of Lands and Mules and Supplys for
one Year also that there would be trains
Sent here to take them to Kansas I have
Tried to Correct this Statement a mong
them but there are Some my White men

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



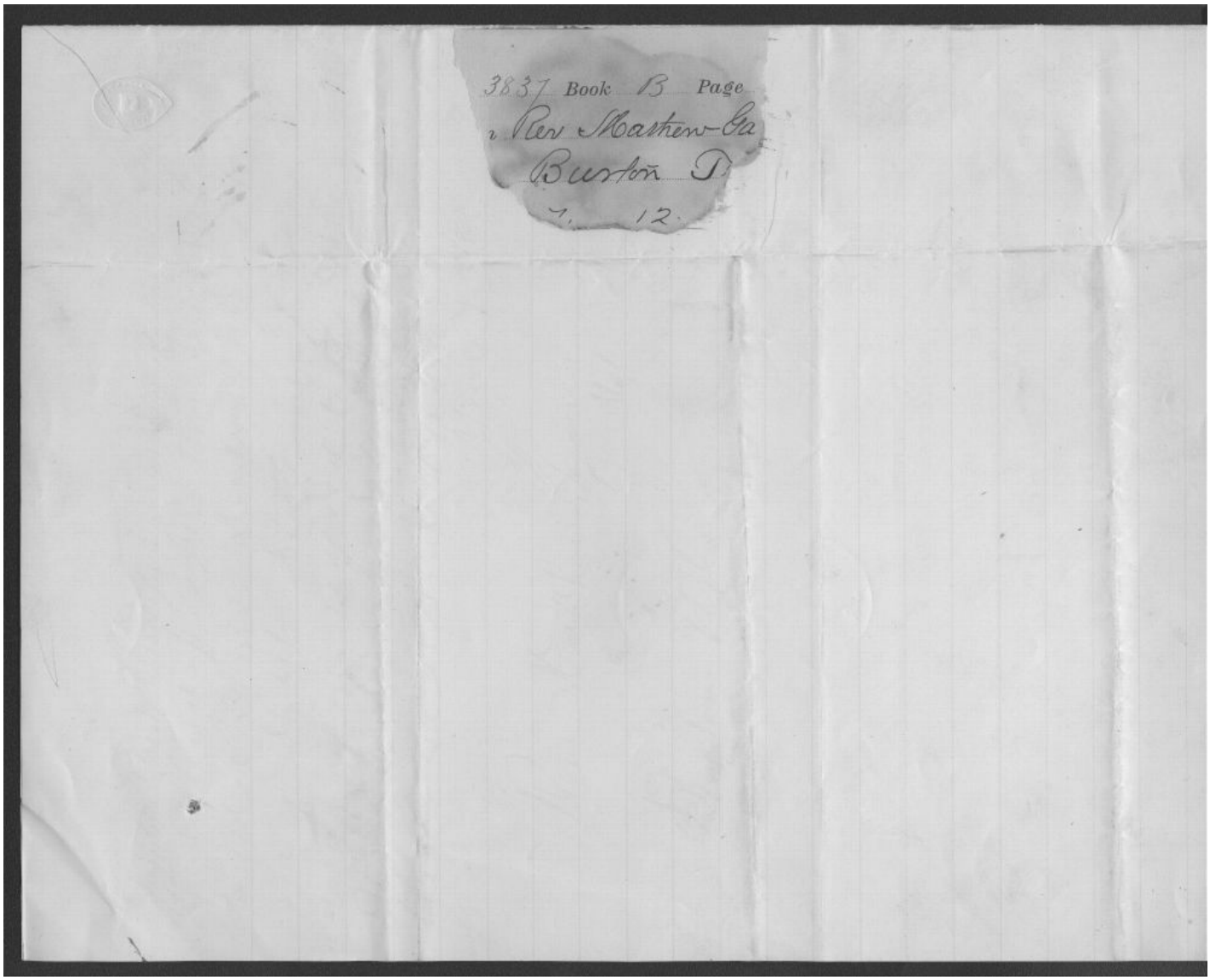
Jm to this thing Trying to misslead the Colleud people that it makes it hard for me So I Appeal to you for a Short Statement to me in Writing in regard to the Hole matter Plees to Send me all the facts in the Cause And Oblige

Your Truly

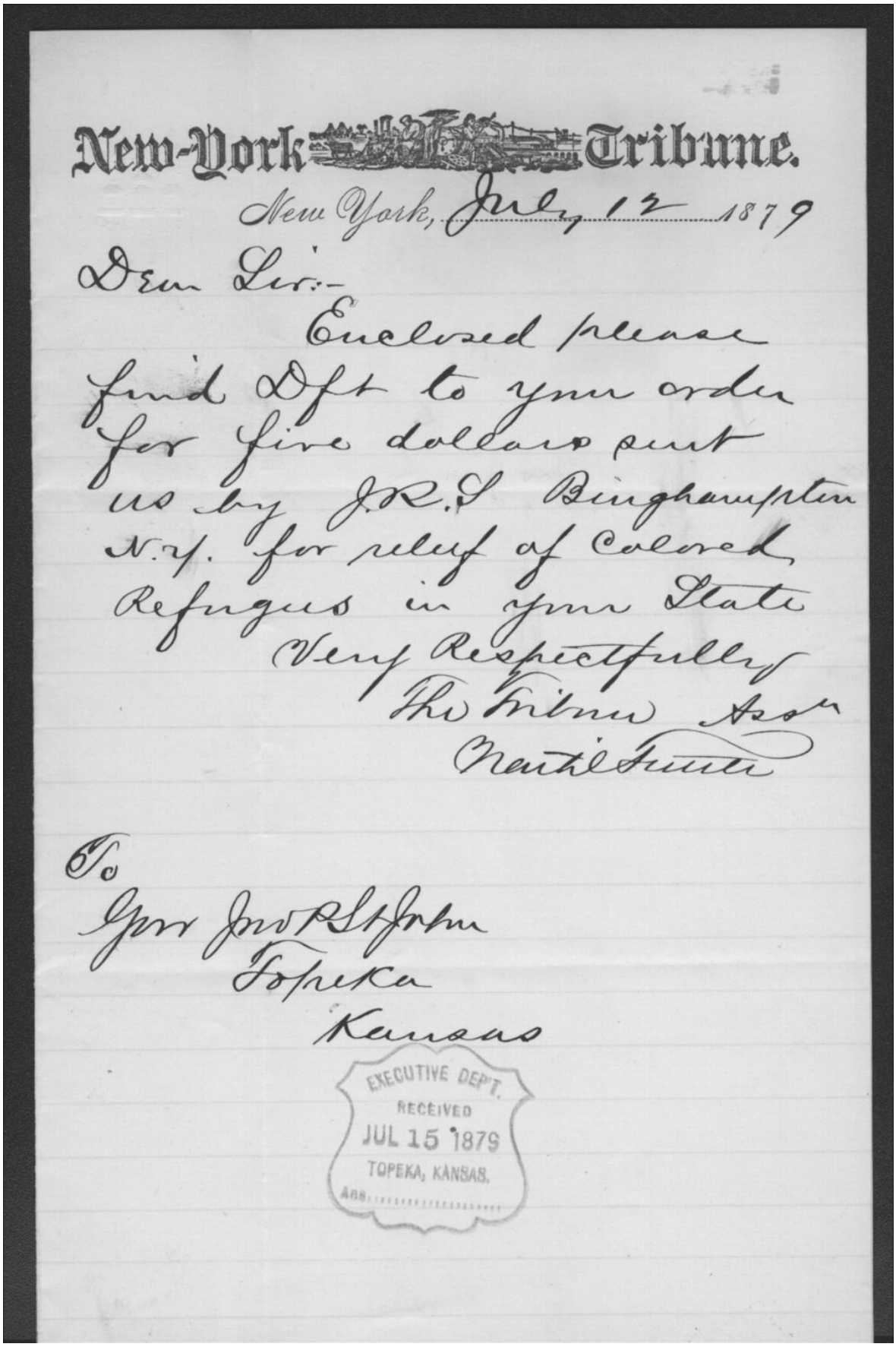
Rev Matthew Grimes
Ex-State Senator

Burlon W. Co
Texas

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



New-York Tribune.

New York, July 12 1879

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find Dft to your order for five dollars sent us by J.R.S Binghampton N.Y. for relief of Colored Refugees in your State

Very Respectfully

The Tribune Asst

Manl Irwin

To

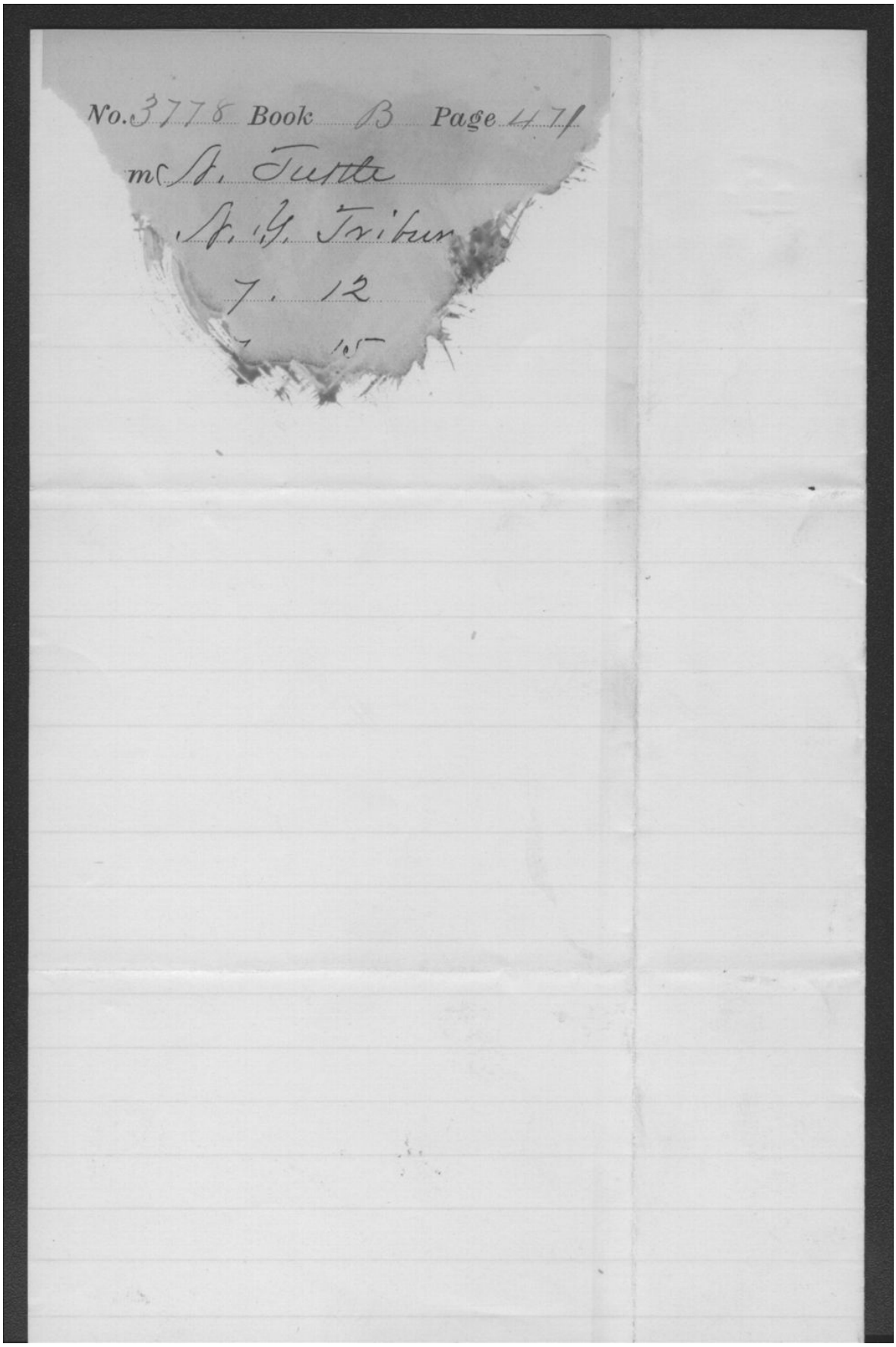
Gov John P St John

Topeka

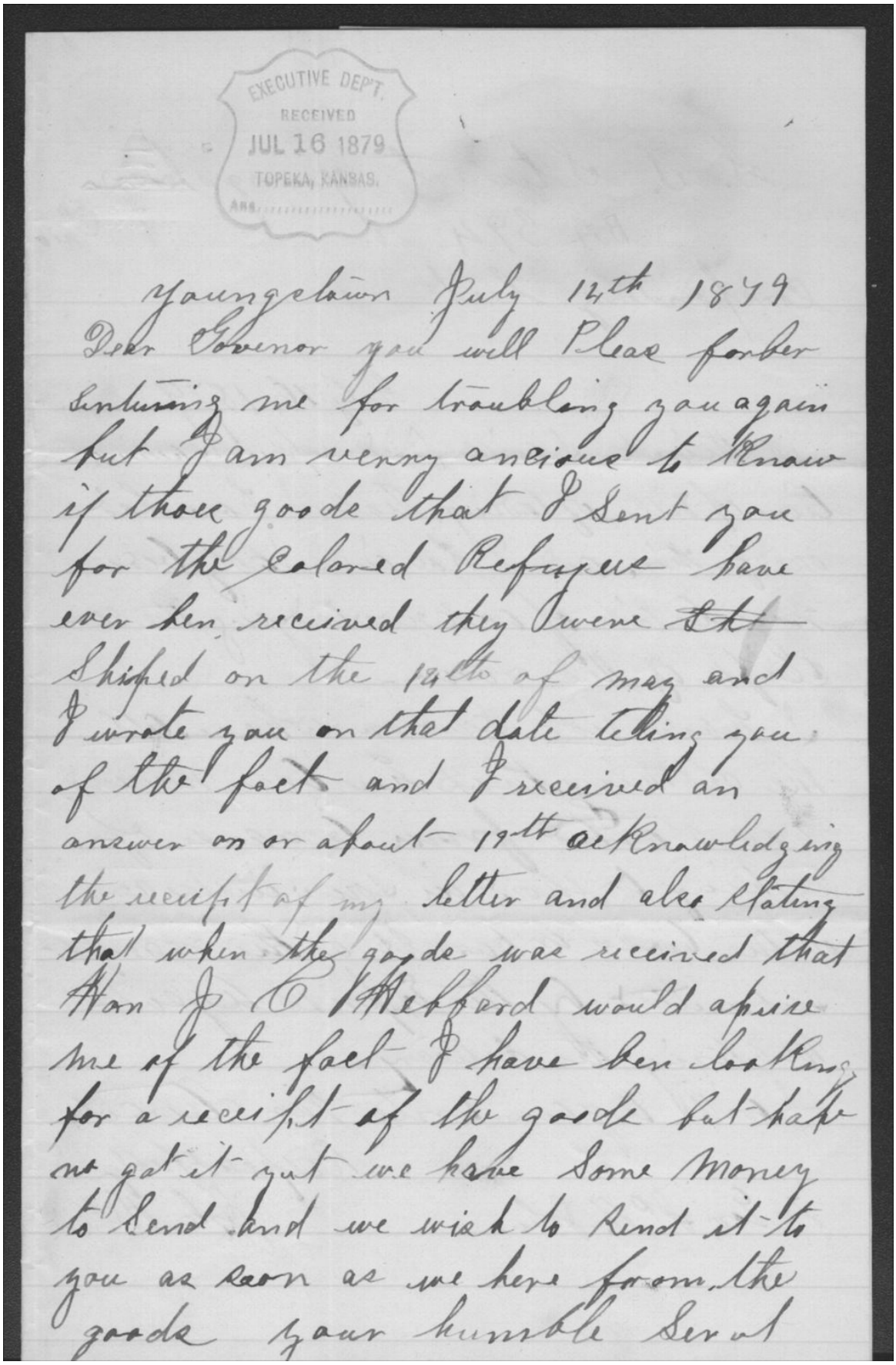
Kansas

EXECUTIVE DEP'T.
RECEIVED
JUL 15 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.
Ans.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

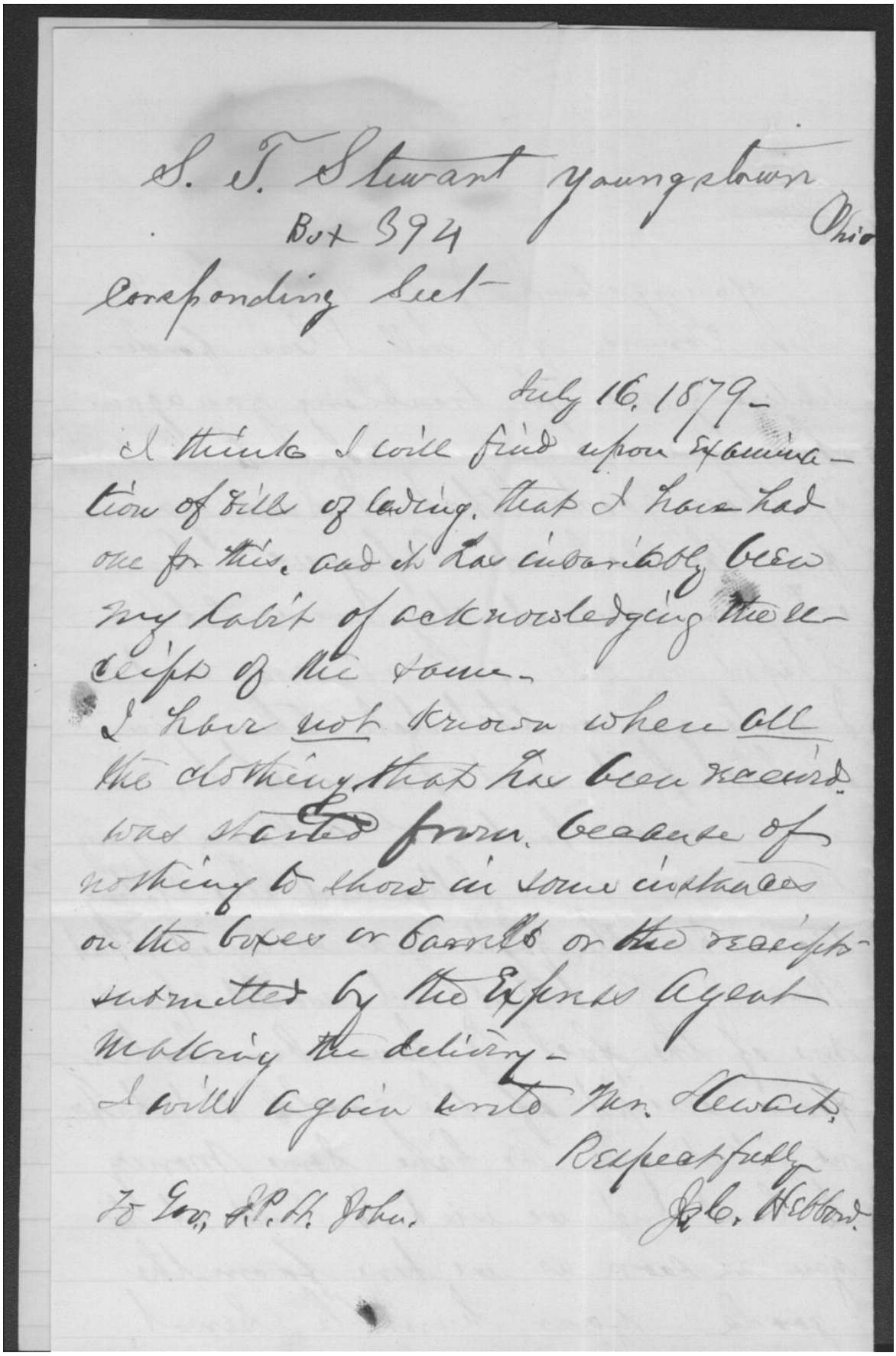


Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Youngstown July 14th 1879
Dear Governor you will Plase forber
Sentuning me for troubling you again
but I am verry ancious to Know
if those goods that I Sent you
for the Colored Refugees have
ever ben received they were
Shiped on the 14th of may and
I wrote you on that date telling you
of the fact and I received an
answer on or about 19th acknowledging
the receipt of my letter and also stating
that when the goods was received that
Hon J C Stebford would apprise
me of the fact I have ben looking
for a receipt of the goods but have
not got it yet we have Some Money
to Send and we wish to Send it to
you as soon as we here from the
goods Your humble Servt

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



S. T. Stewart Youngstown Ohio
Box 394
Corresponding Sect

July 16. 1879.

I think I will find upon examination of bills of lading that I have had one for this, and it has invariably been my habit of acknowledging the receipt of the same.

I have not known when all the clothing that has been received was started from, because of nothing to show in some instances on the boxes or barrels or the receipts submitted by the Express Agent making the delivery.

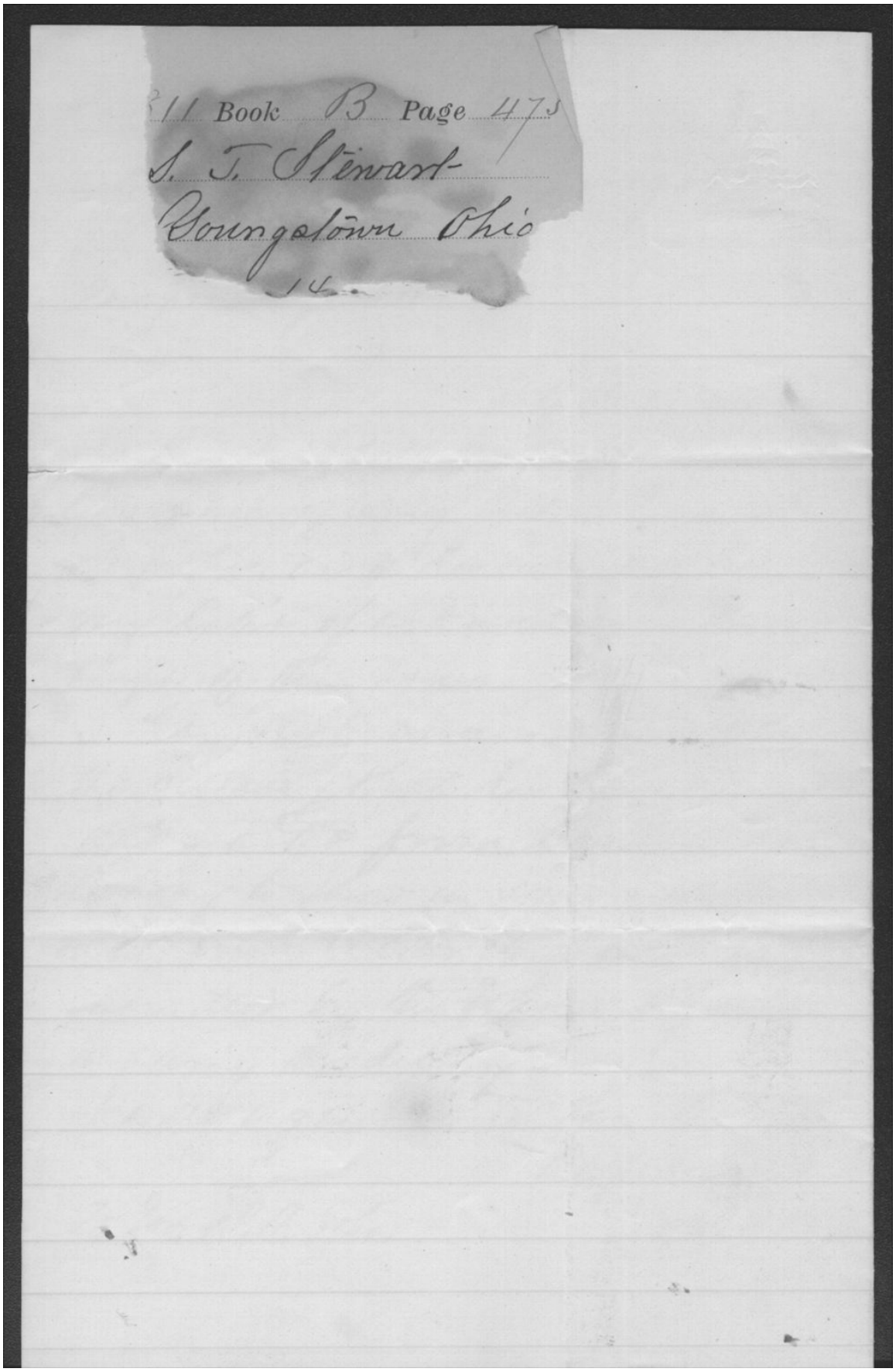
I will again write Mr. Stewart.

Respectfully

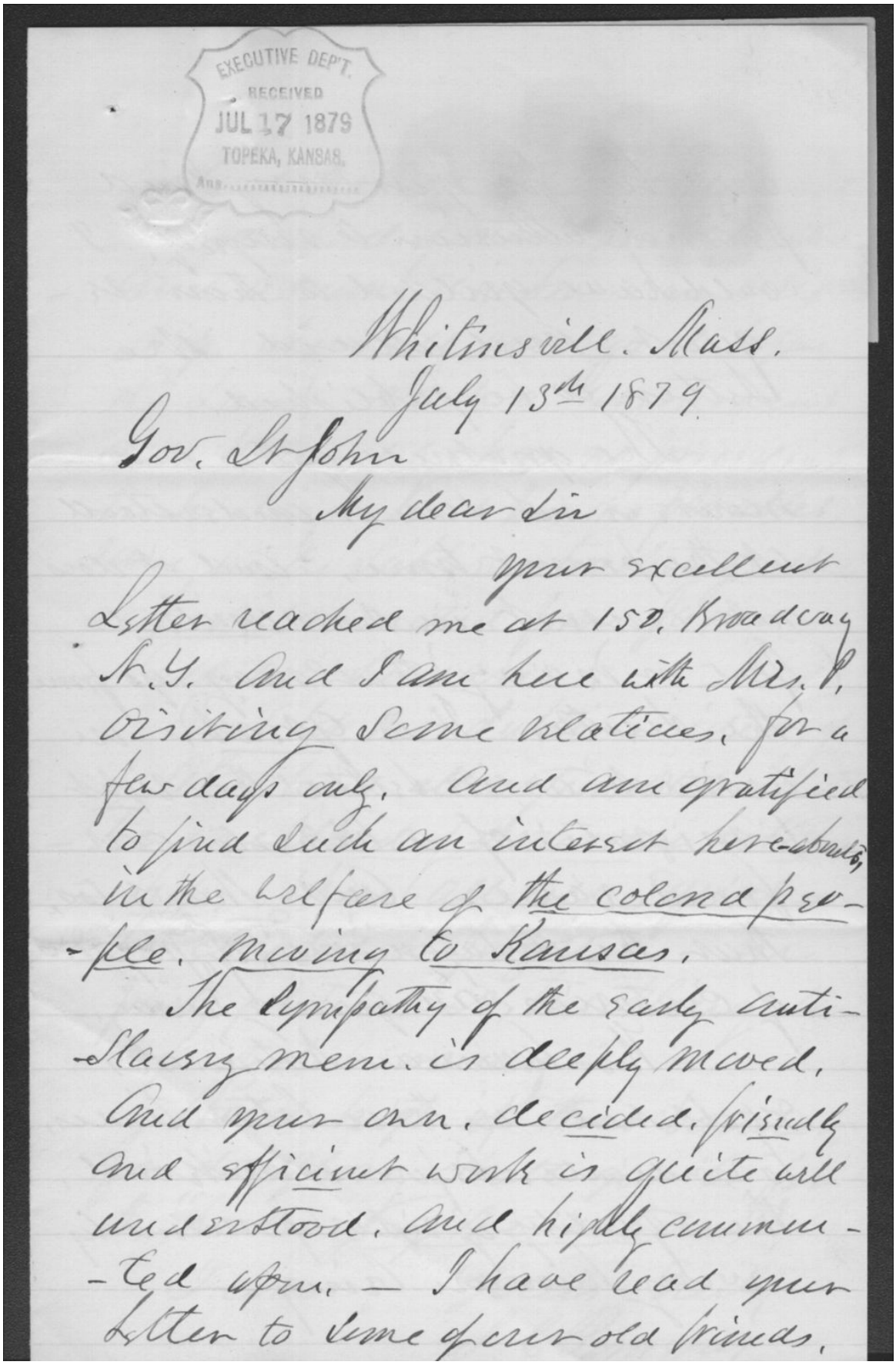
J. C. Hebbard

To Gov. J. P. H. John.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Whitinsville. Mass.
July 13th 1879

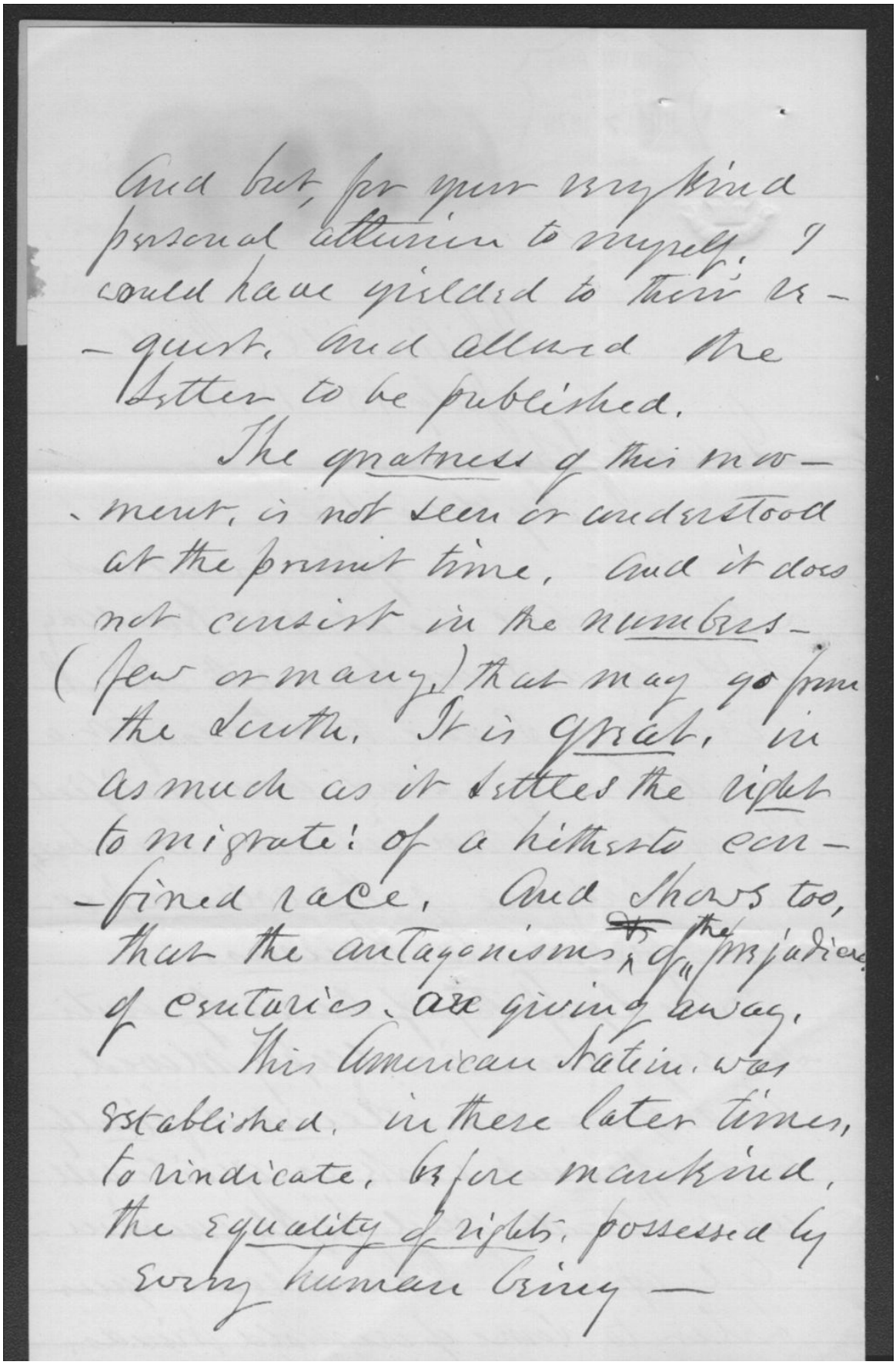
Gov. St John

My dear Sir

Your excellent Letter reached me at 150. Broadway N.Y. and I am here with Mrs. P. visiting some relatives. for a few days only. And am gratified to find such an interest here-about, in the welfare of the colored people. moving to Kansas.

The sympathy of the early anti-Slavery men. is deeply moved. And your own. decided. friendly and efficient work is quite well understood. and highly commended upon. — I have read your Letter to some of our old friends.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

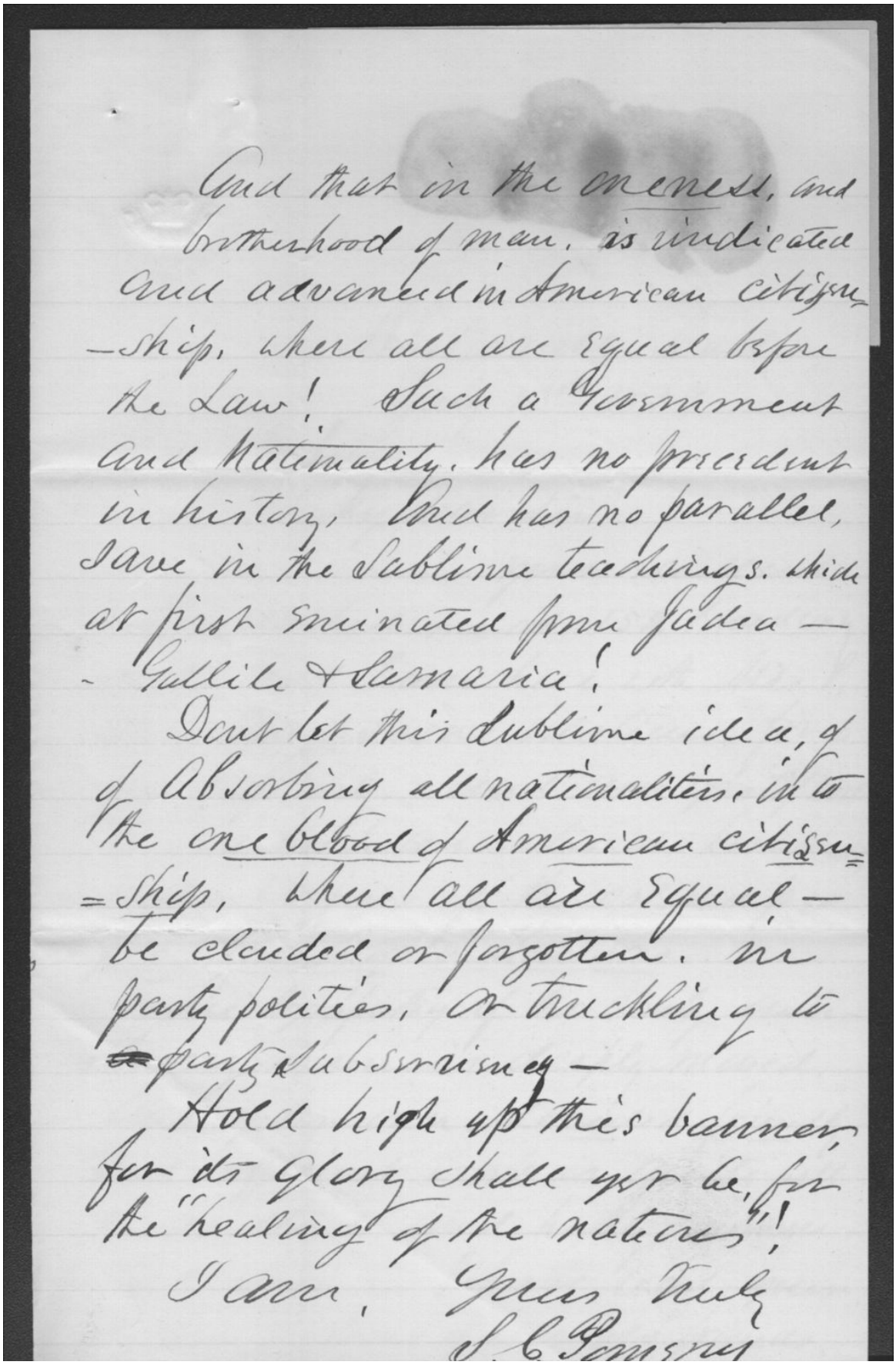


And but for your very kind personal attention to myself, I could have yielded to their request, and allowed the letter to be published.

The greatness of this movement, is not seen or understood at the present time. And it does not consist in the numbers (few or many) that may go from the South. It is great, in as much as it settles the right to migrate: of a hitherto confined race. And shows too, that the antagonisms of the prejudices of centuries, are giving away.

This American Nation was established, in these later times, to vindicate, before mankind, the equality of rights, possessed by every human being —

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



And that in the oneness, and brotherhood of man, is vindicated and advanced in American citizen-ship, where all are Equal before the Law! Such a Government and Nationality, has no precedent in history, and has no parallel, save in the Sublime teachings, which at first emminated from Judea — Gallilee & Samaria!

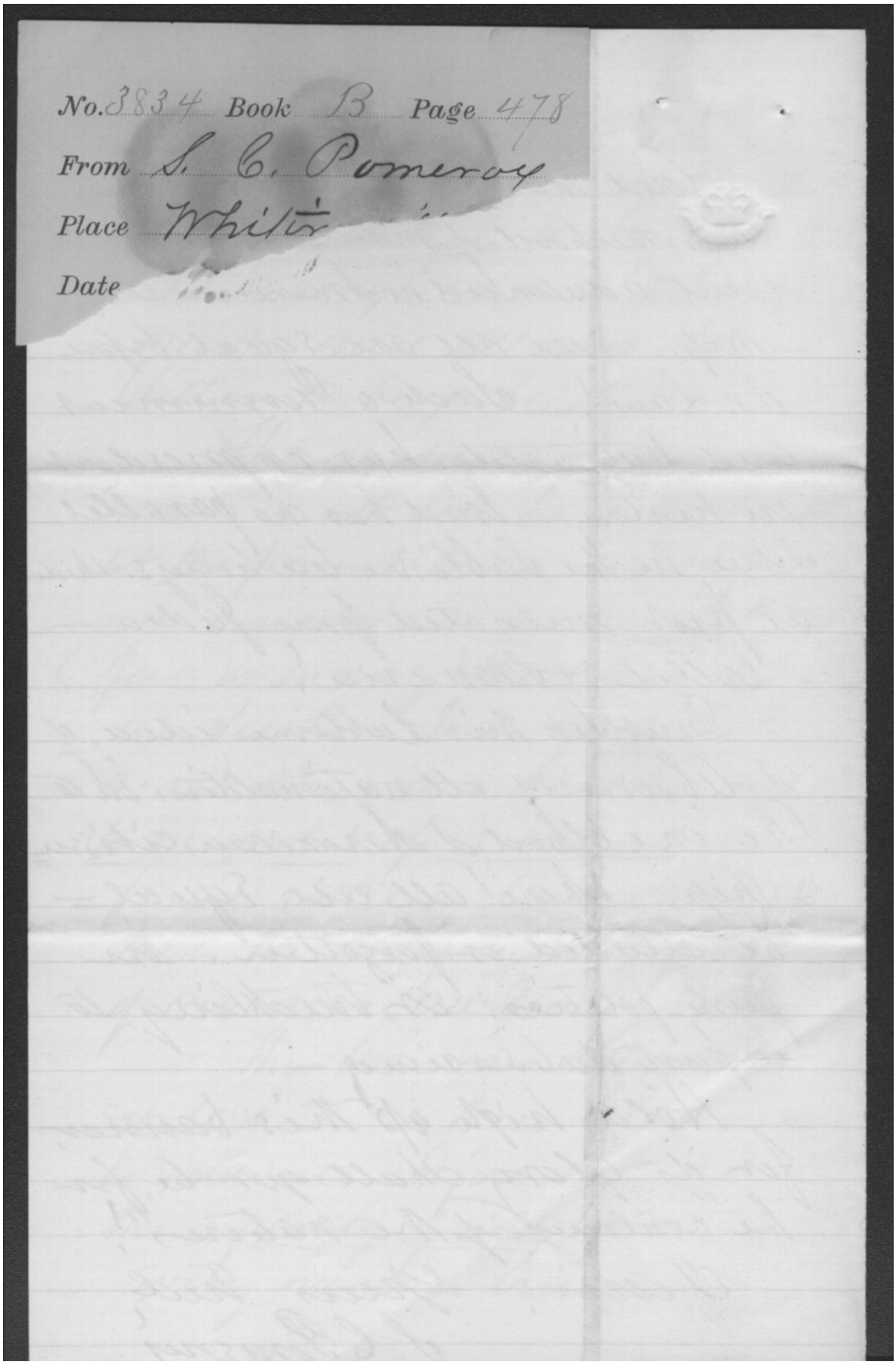
Dont let this Sublime idea, of of Absorbing all nationalities, into the one blood of American citizen-ship, where all are Equal — be clouded or forgotten, in party politics, or truckling to ~~to~~ party subserviency —

Hold high up this banner, for its Glory shall yet be, for the "healing of the nations"!

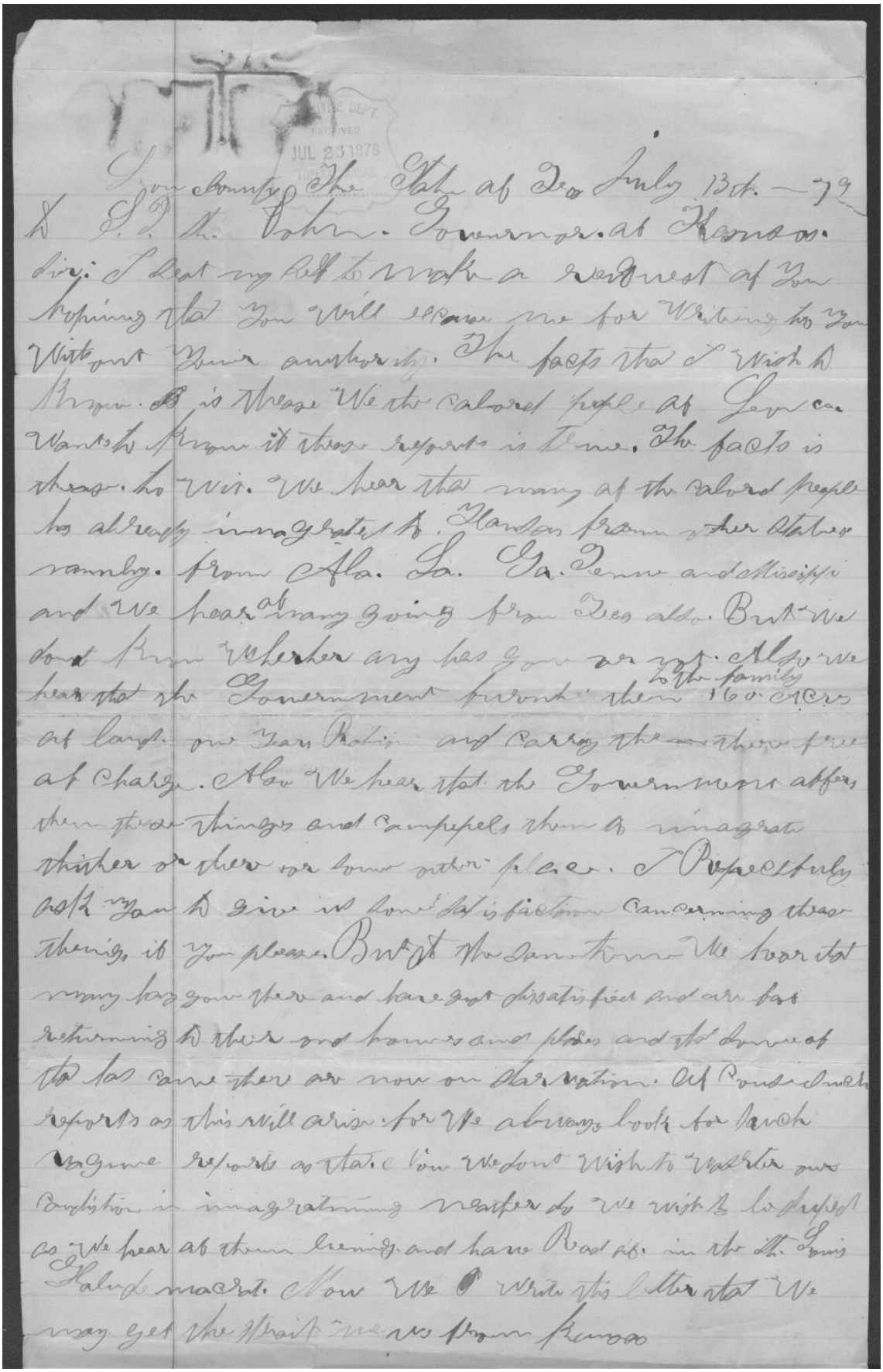
I am, Yours Truly

J. P. Sonsny

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

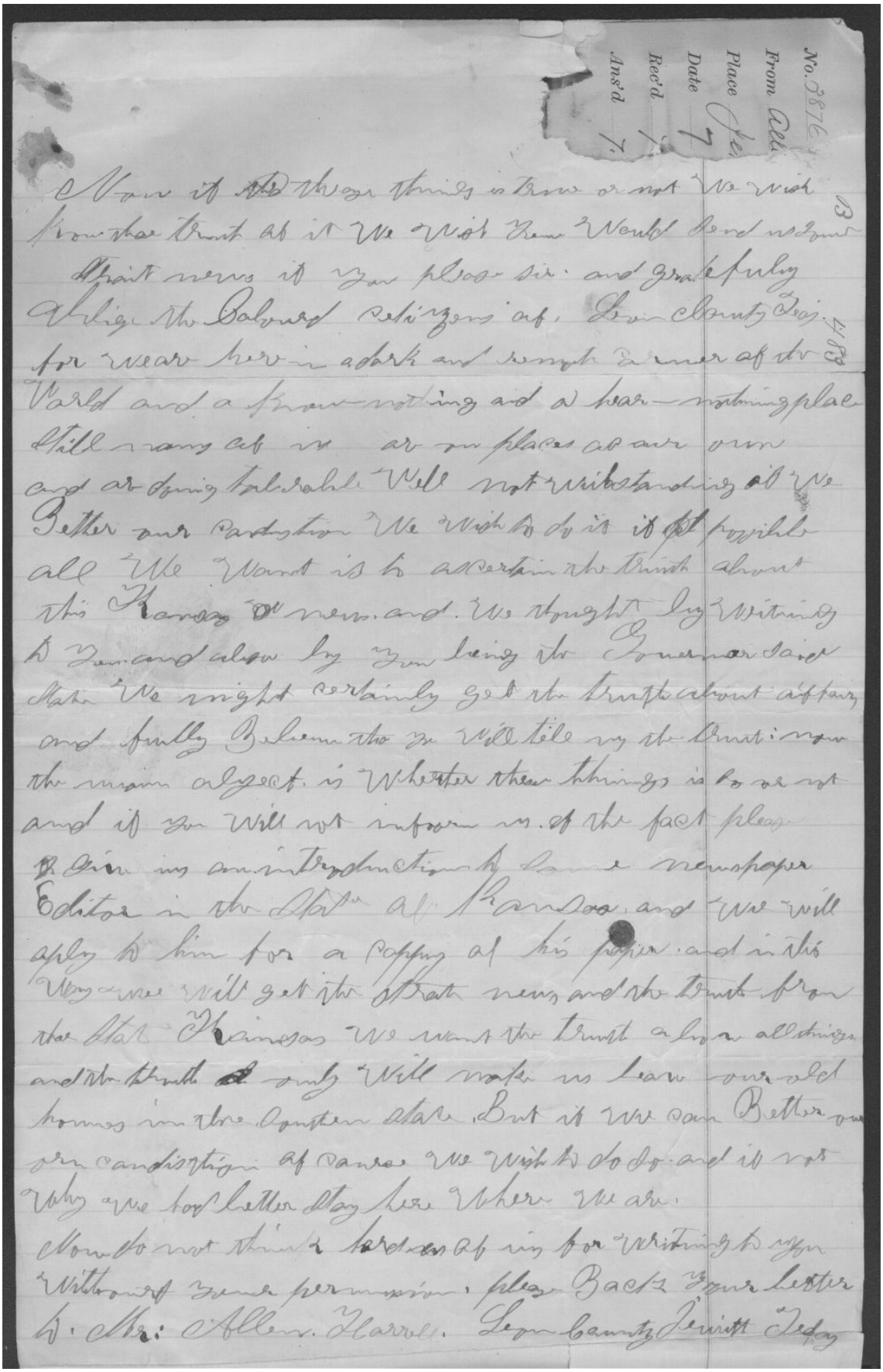


Jon County The State of Tex July 13th — 79

H. S. St. John. Governor. of Kansas.

Sir: I beat my self to write a request of You hoping that You will excuse me for Writing to You Without Your authority. The facts that I Wish to know. is these We the Colored people of Texas Wants to know if these reports is true. The facts is these. to Wit. We hear that many of the Colored people has already immagrated to Kansas from other States namely. from Ala. La. Ga. Tenn and Missippi and We hear of many going from Tex also. But We dont know Whether any has gone or not. Also We hear that the Government furnish them with 160 Acres of land. one Years Ration and Carry them there free of Charge. Now We hear that the Government offers them these things and Compeles them to immagrate thither or there or home other place. I Respectfully ask You to give us some satisfaction Concerning these things, if You please. But at the same time We hear that many has gone there and have got dissatisfied and are fast returning to their old homes and places and the Some of the has Come there are now on Starvation. Of Course such reports as this will arise for We always look for such Grave reports as that. Now We dont Wish to Weaken our Condition in immagrating matter do We Wish to be Posted as We hear of them Evening and have Read it. in the St. Louis Colored Magazine. Now We do Write this letter that We may get the Right Information from Kansas

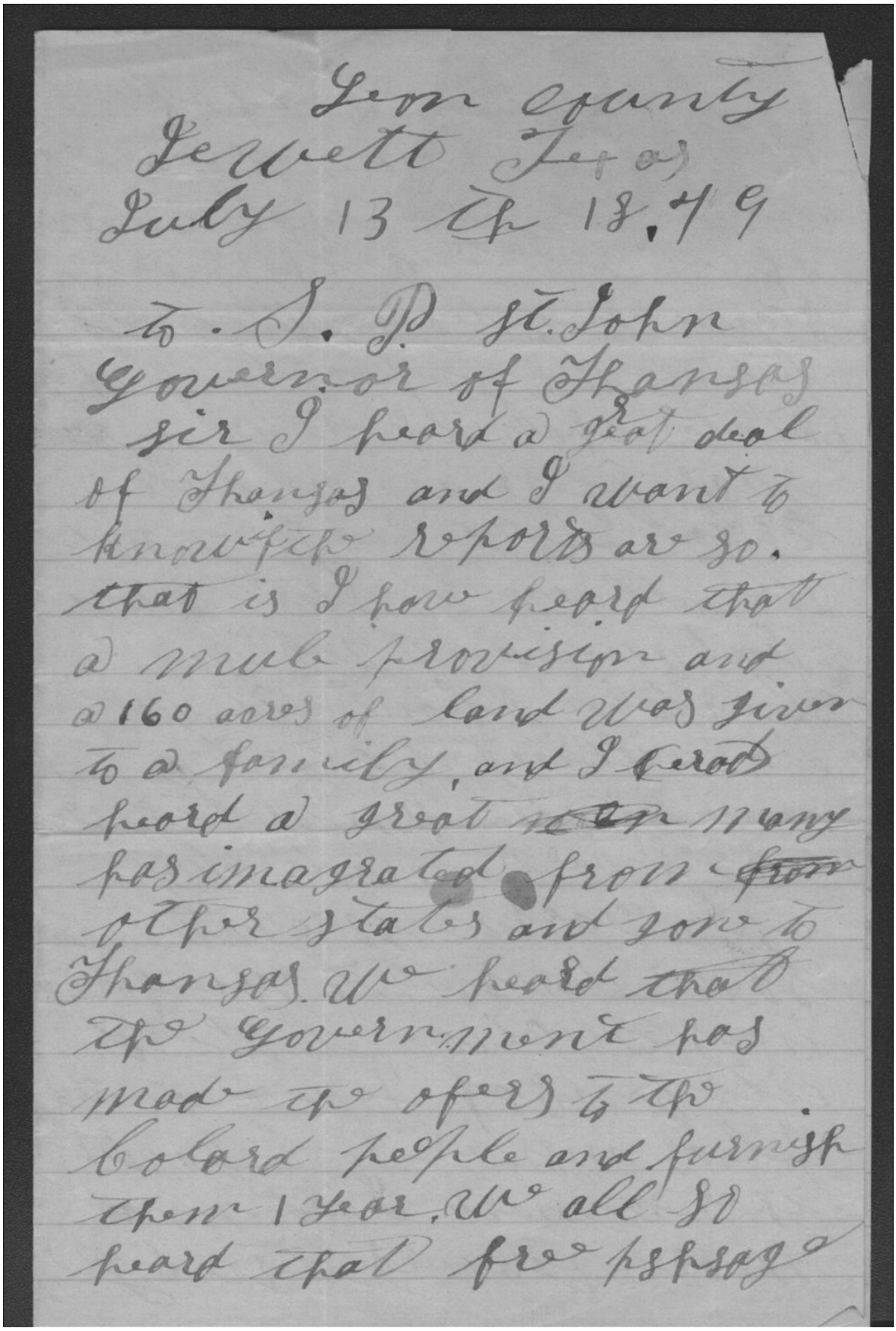
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



No. 3876
From Allen
Place Ken
Date 7
Rec'd 1
Ans'd 7.

Now if the these things is true or not We wish
from the best as it We Wish them Would send us word
Strait news if You please sir. and gratefuly
oblige the Colored Citizens of Linn County Kans.
for We are here in a dark and lonely Corner of the
World and a strange nothing and a bear nothing place
Still many of us are in places as are ours
and are doing tolerable Well notwithstanding all We
Better our Condition We Wish to do it if possible
all We Want is to ascertain the truth about
this Kansas news. and We thought by Writing
to You and also by You being the Governor said
State We might certainly get the truth about affairs
and fully Believe that you Will tell us the truth now
the main object is Whether these things is so or not
and if you Will not inform us of the fact please
Direct us an interduction to some newspaper
Editor in the State of Kansas. and We will
apply to him for a Copy of his paper. and in this
Way We will get the Strait news and the truth from
the State Kansas We want the truth above all things
and the truth only Will make us leave our old
homes in the Southern state But if We can Better our
pecuniary condition as Kansas We Wish to do so and if not
Why We had better stay here Where We are.
Now do not think hard of us for Writing to you
Without your permission please Back your letter
to Mr. Allen Harrell. Linn County Jewett Tp.

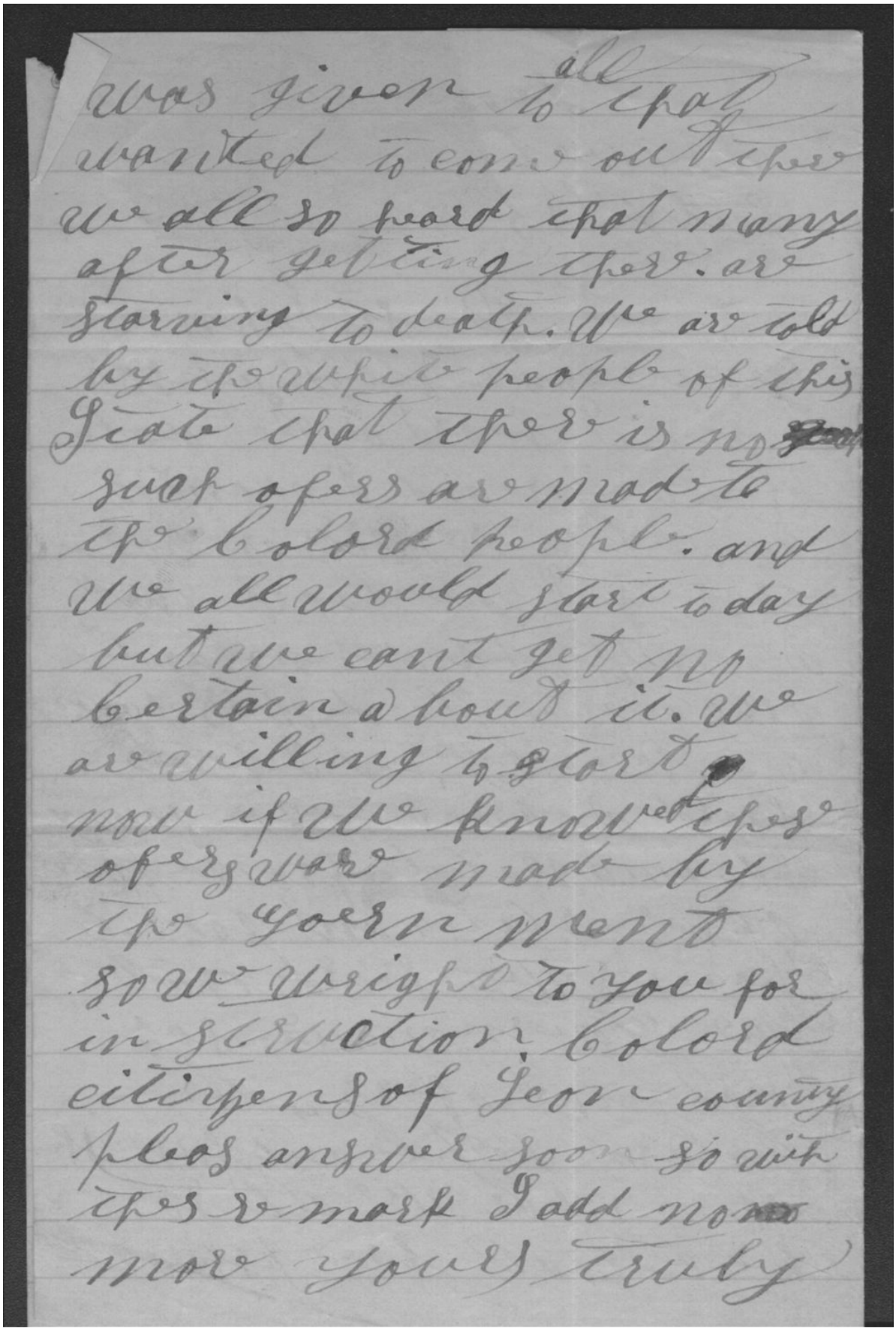
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Jem County
Jewett Texas
July 13 th 18.79

to. S. P. St. John
Governor of Kansas
sir I heard a great deal
of Kansas and I want to
know if the reports are so.
that is I have heard that
a mule provision and
a 160 acres of land was given
to a family, and I ~~herd~~
heard a great many
has imagrated from ~~from~~
other states and gone to
Kansas. We heard that
the Government has
made the offers to the
colard people and furnish
them 1 year. We all so
heard that free passage

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



was given all to that
wanted to come out there
we all so hard that many
after getting there are
starving to death. We are told
by the white people of this
State that there is no
such offers are made to
the colord people. and
we all would start to day
but we cant get no
certain about it. We
are willing to start
now if we knowed those
offers ware made by
the goverment
so we wright to you for
instruction. colord
citizens of Jeo county
pleas answer soon so with
this remark I add no
more yours truly

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

