

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

### Section 18, Pages 511 - 540

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

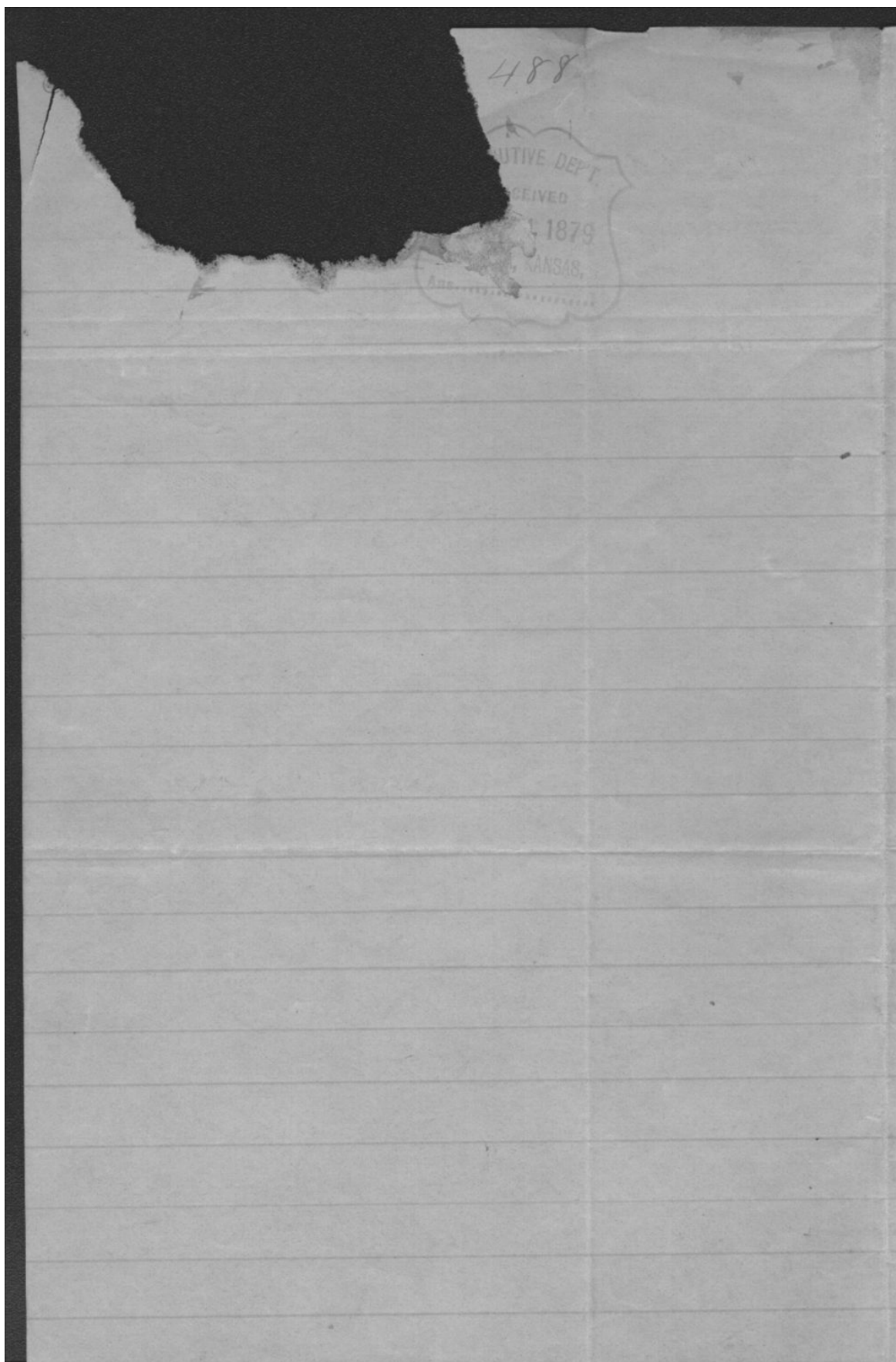
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

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Item Identifier: 210296

[www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296)

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Caldwell Sumner county  
Kansas July 14 1879

To his Excellency

John P. St. John Governor of Kansas

Dear Sir I hope you will not be offended  
if a stranger in a strange country  
addresses you a few lines.

This is to inform you that I am from  
Alabama one of the States from which I  
suppose a great many Refugees are now  
coming to this State I left there the first of  
March last the colored people were then  
just getting in the notion to emigrate but  
it was not known then that they were  
contemplating such a <sup>thing</sup> to any great extent  
but as I am no writer I will not attempt  
to dwell on this subject suffice it to say  
that your opinion in the matter is about  
correct though they are worse treated there  
than you have supposed or than they  
themselves are aware of but enough  
I will try to inform you in a few words  
as my awkward language will admit of.  
The cause of my being here





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It is well known that there are now and were when the rebellion broke out two parties in the South. The union party were in the majority when the war ended but they decreased while the Democrats or perhaps I should say Secession party increased. The cause of this is plain to me but I cannot explain it to you in the bounds of a letter, but the union men that are firm there yet are firm indeed. I left that country to endeavor to better my condition and the condition of my children. I could not reconcile myself to the political condition of that country. I came here too rather in the interest of others or they are at least looking to me for advice. I have made it a rule in life never to ask an accommodation of a person without first considering whether I would grant the same if circumstances were reversed. Now if it is in your power to put me in employment that is remunerative enough to help those people that are right back there and you will do so I am

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willing to turn my whole time in that direction except a bare support for for my family & I would like if it could be consistent to travel Backwards and forwards from here<sup>to</sup> there I would like for this to be settled up with people that are right in politics the people I wish to help here are Republicans But they are oppressed there so much so that they have quit voting I am speaking of white people altogether I have nothing to do with the colored people but am satisfied you are doing right in helping them There are many things I could tell you in regard to these things if I could see you in person that perhaps you would be surprised <sup>at</sup> I regret saying any thing that is not in praise of my native State But I am a genuine pupil of Clay and Webster and hope the <sup>people</sup> of Kansas will always be a refuge for such persons But if I should tell you the whole truth in regard to the political condition of that southern country I would then be darsan to travel in that country any more please remember this



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if you wish to know any more about  
me I can give you reference and think  
I can give as good as any person  
a few lines from you would be  
greatfully received  
your most abedient servant

adress

B. W. Sims  
Caldwell Kansas

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m B. W. Sims

since Caldwell Ks

7. 111

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Washington, D.C.,  
July 14, 1879.

His Excellency,  
Gov. St. John,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

As Secretary of the  
Emigrant Aid Society of this  
District, I addressed you  
a letter some time ago in  
regard to the colored exodus,  
and enquired more specially  
as to your present need of  
funds. We have a small  
amount - perhaps \$100- in  
the hands of our treasurer,  
but





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but the movement having partially subsided, and in view of the probability of immediate employment of emigrants in your harvest fields, we concluded to hold the amount on hand until Fall, when we apprehend assistance will be greatly needed.

We hope moreover to raise a considerable amount here when the demand again becomes pressing. We will at least do our best. I have numerous letters from various parts of the South. Their writers are unanimous in the



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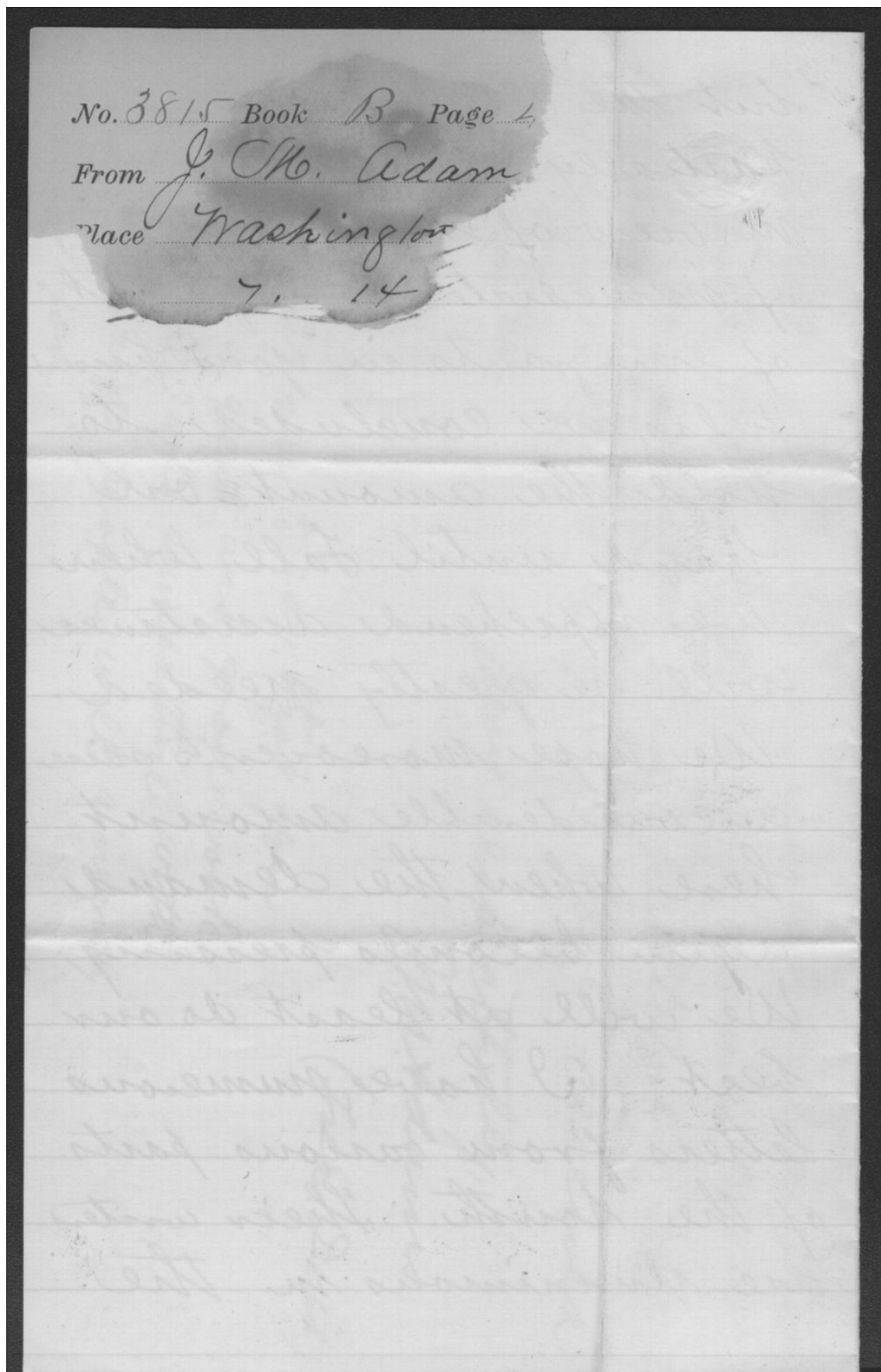
prediction that the movement will in the Fall and following Spring assume even greater proportions than heretofore. To my former letter to you I have received no answer.

Very respectfully,  
J. M. Adams.

(Treas. Dept.)

P. S. - Permit me to say that you have done a great and good work, for which all who sympathize with an oppressed people will sincerely thank you.

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J. H. V. ARNOLD,  
Attorney and Counsellor,  
7 BECKMAN STREET,  
NEW YORK CITY.  
Notary for the Ninth National Bank.

New York, July 14<sup>th</sup> 1879

Please to Take Notice, that a draft drawn  
by *Wm. Douglass* for *Am. Exchange Bk.*  
for *59<sup>75</sup>/<sub>100</sub>* Dollars,

dated *July 12<sup>th</sup> 1879*  
payable *at sight*

endorsed by you, having been this day presented to  
*the National Shoe & Leather*  
*Bank New York City*

for *payment* which was duly demanded, but  
refused is *PROTESTED* for non *payment*  
and that the holders look to you for the payment thereof.

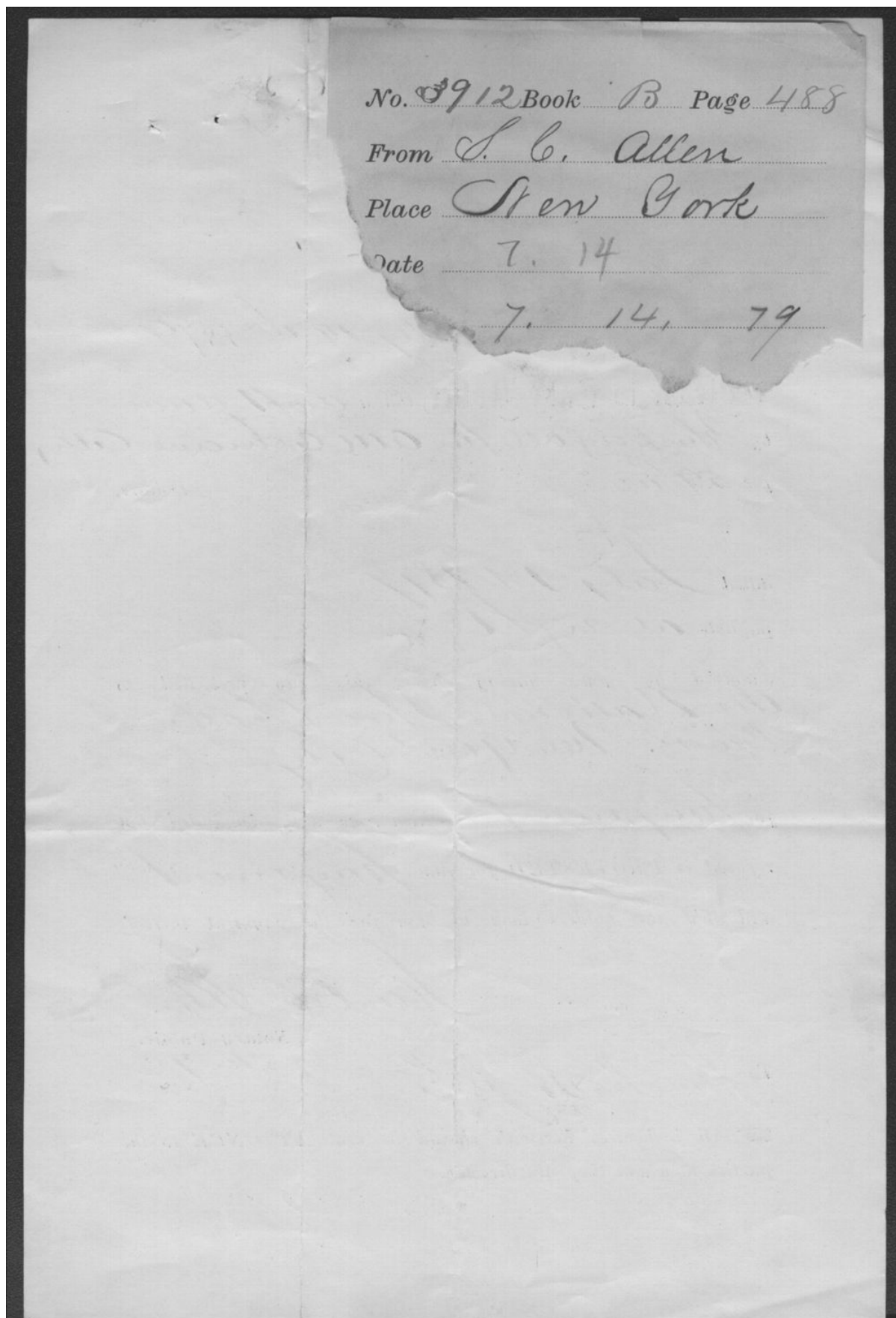
*Samuel Allen*  
Notary Public.

To *John St. John*

*All inclosures herewith should be sent AT ONCE to the parties to whom they are directed.*

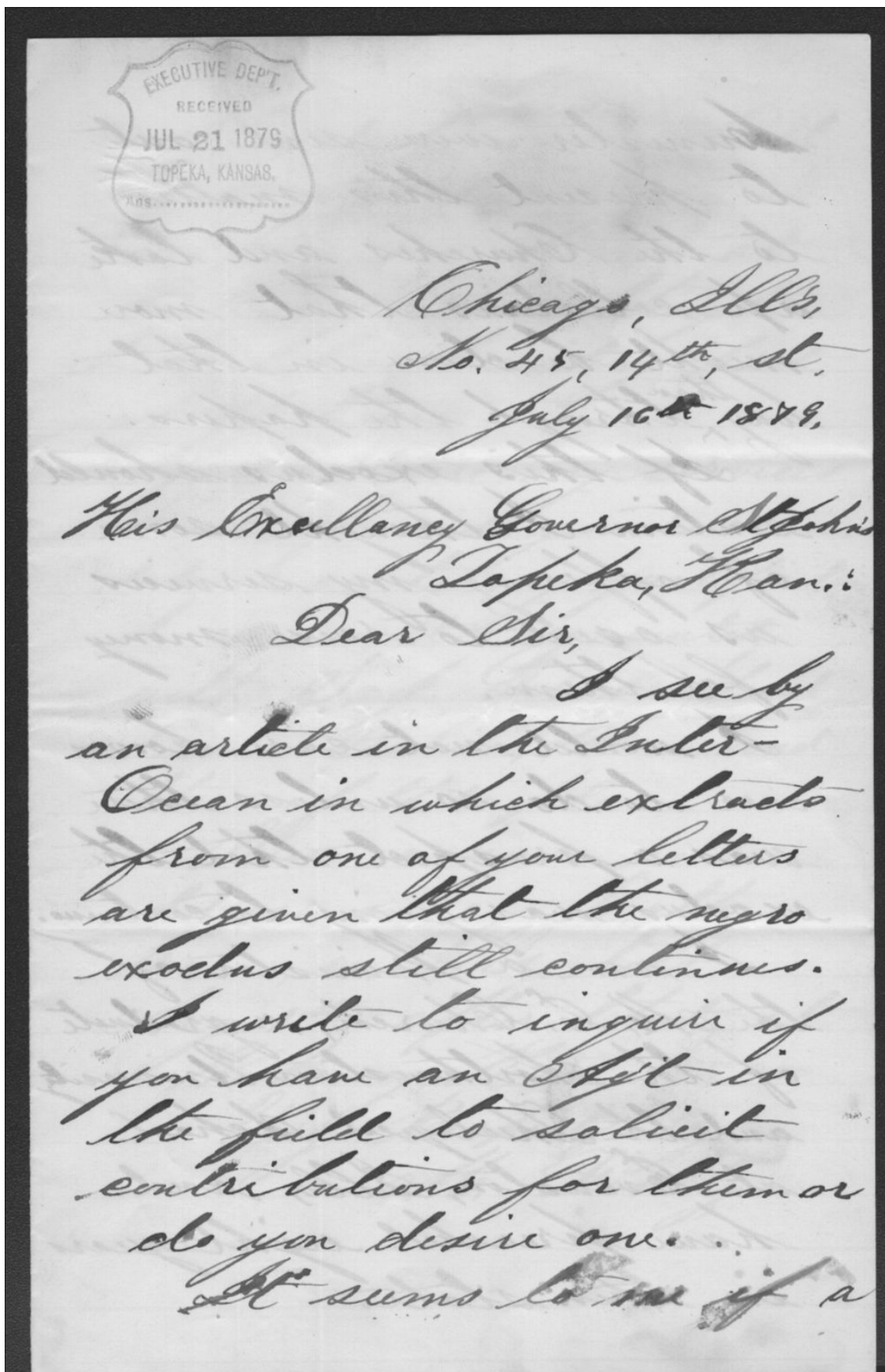


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Minister were sent out  
to present this matter  
to the Churches and take  
up collections that more  
might be done in that  
way <sup>than</sup> through the papers.

If this exodus should  
continue I thought some  
of offering my services  
as agent to raise money  
for them.

I would not care how-  
ever to do so unless there  
was a prospect that the  
exodus was going to continue.

I am a Minister of  
the M. C. Church, a graduate  
of the Northwestern University  
and the Theological School  
at Evanston, Ill., and  
have preached eight years  
in this state.



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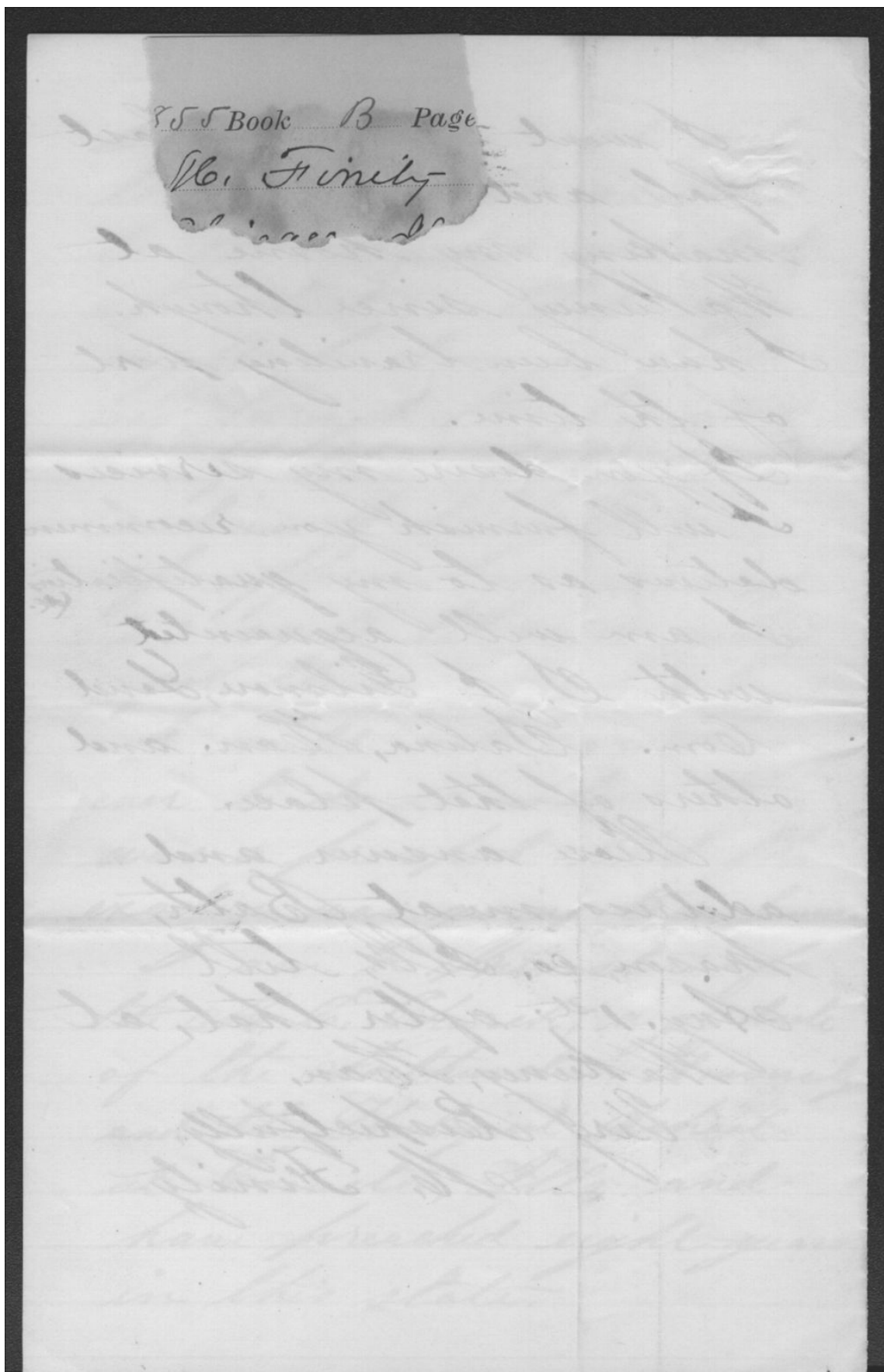
I went to Kan. last fall and have been making my home at Wakarusa since though I have been traveling part of the time.

If you desire my services I will furnish you recommendations as to my qualifications. I am well acquainted with D. J. Gilmore, Land Com. Salina, Kan. and others of that place.

Please answer and address me at Bath, Mason, co. Ill. till Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>. after that, at Wakarusa, Kan.

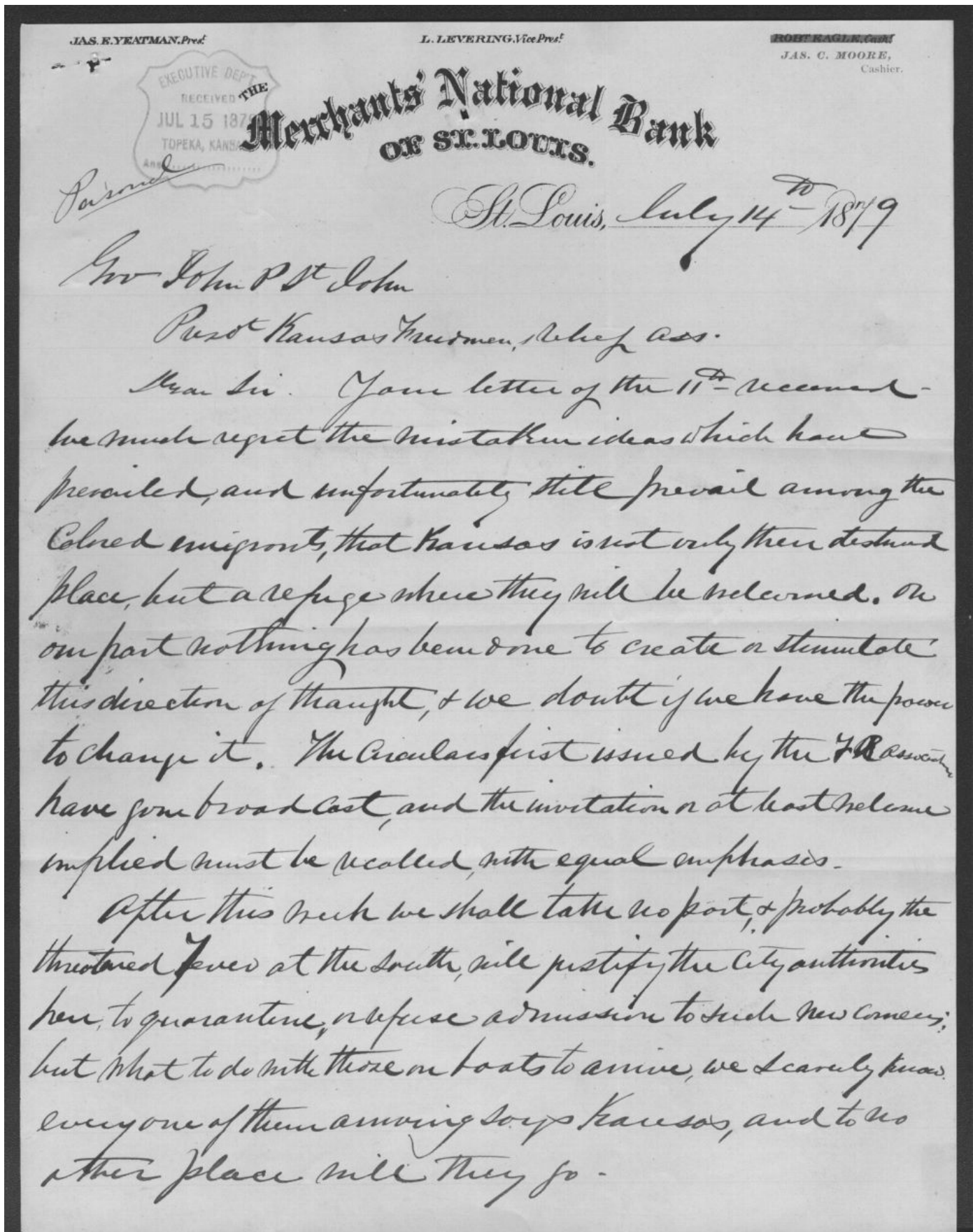
Very Respectfully,  
M. F. Finty.

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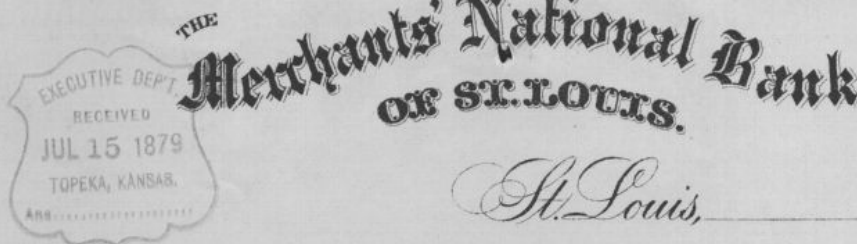
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JAS. E. YEATMAN, Pres.

L. LEVERING, Vice Pres.

ROBT. EAGLE, Cash.

JAS. C. MOORE,  
Cashier.



St. Louis, \_\_\_\_\_ 1879

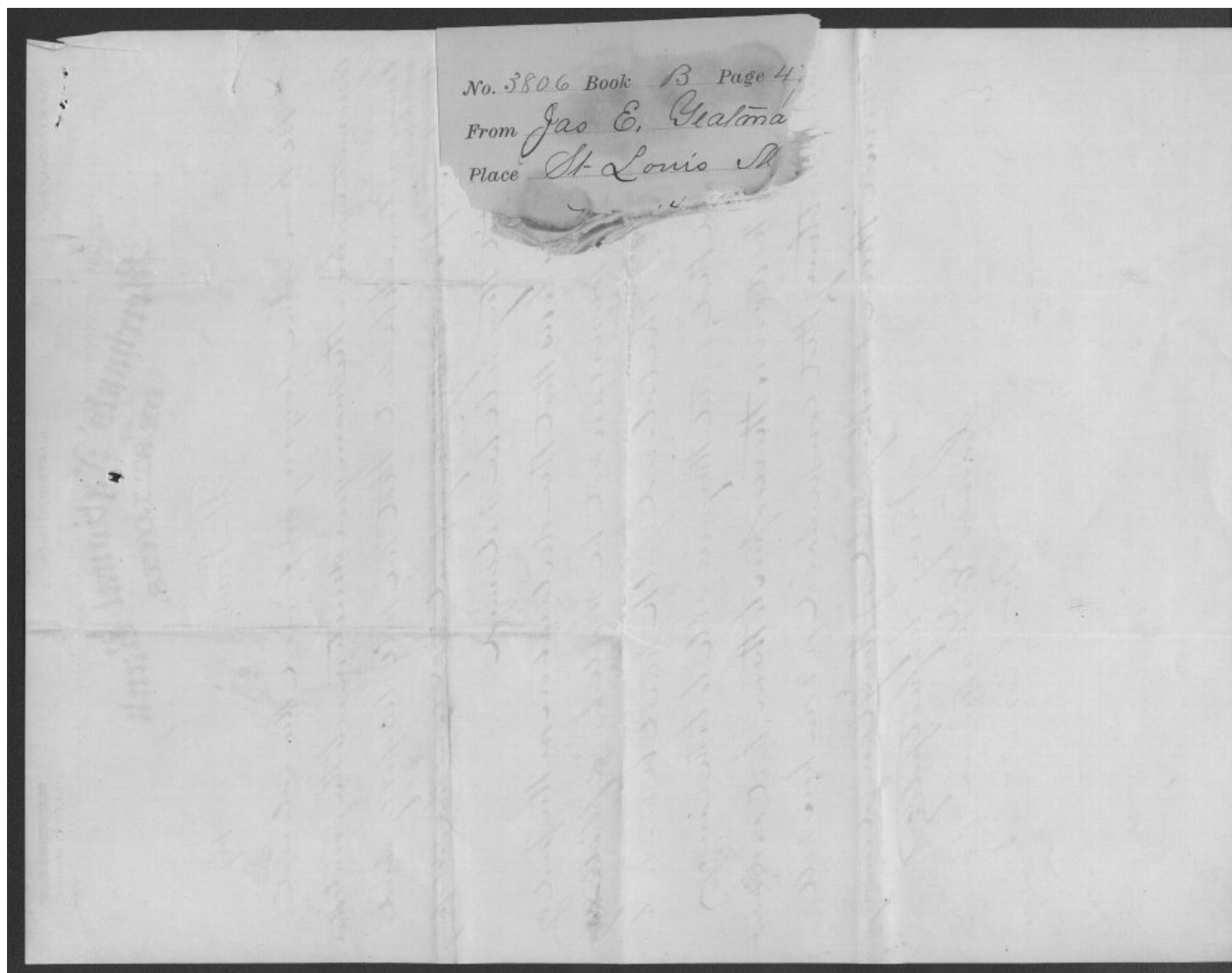
We have some days ago, informed the colored Committee, who in the main give directions as to the points that colored emigrants are to be sent - that we will cheerfully send them to such places as they may direct and can show satisfactory evidence that they will be welcomed.

It seems to us, that the declaration on the part of your State & Towns, can not be made too emphatically or too soon. The colored folk, must be made to understand that, until they are able to take care of themselves, no door is there open to them; but as it now stands, nothing that can be said or done here will convince them, & so they will if they can get away.

Very Respectfully  
James E. Yeatman Pres.  
W. S. Crow



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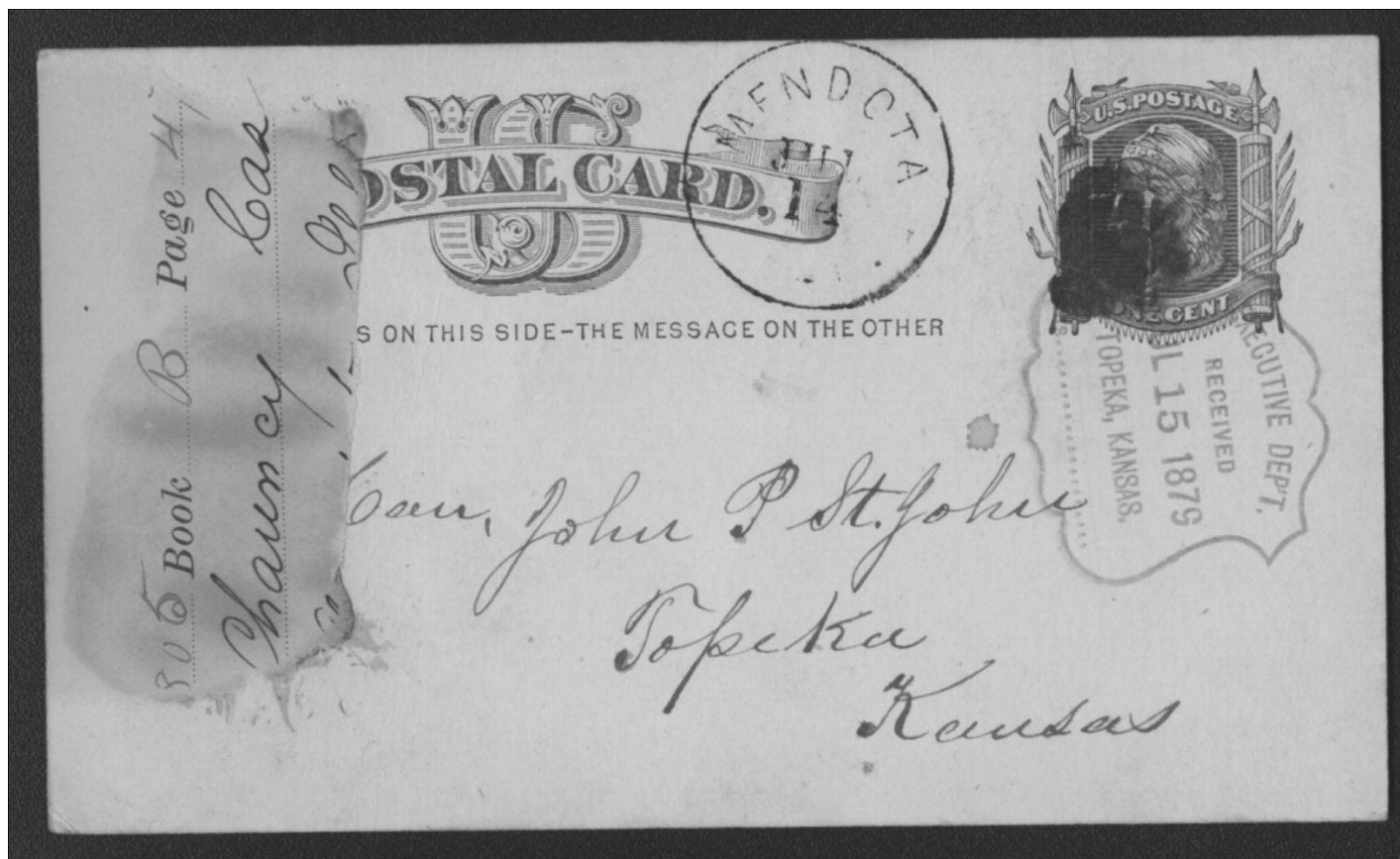


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Meridota Mo. July 14<sup>th</sup> 1879  
Hon. Sir  
I am trying to obtain subscriptions in money and clothing for the negroes lately emigrated to your State Please inform me by return mail who the Committee are to whom such aid can be safely sent and oblige Yours Truly  
Chauncy Carr



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 Washington Co. Texas.  
 Brenham, July 16<sup>th</sup> 1879.  
 Gov John P St John.  
 Topeka, Kansas.  
 Dear Governor, Your favor of the  
 10<sup>th</sup> inst received, and I infer from its contents that  
 you did not make your contemplated visit to the East,  
 and that up to the present time no organization of the  
 leading Republicans and other friends of the North  
 and West has yet been effected. I am not only ready  
 but anxious to devote all my time and attention to  
 this movement, and if an ample opportunity is given  
 me, I believe I can do much good and greatly aid you  
 in this matter. If your Excellency can appoint me  
 an Immigration Agent for your State, I will guarantee  
 to select from one thousand to five thousand colored  
 families who will have their own stock, wagons,  
 farming implements and other means to enable  
 them to preempt public land, and begin coloniz-  
 ation upon their own account without expense  
 to others. Between now and next March I could  
 organize them thoroughly, and take them overland  
 to Kansas, in time to prepare lands and make crops  
 next year. I could also supply Mining Companies



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Railroad, and other contractors, with thousands of good reliable laborers. I could also supply Northern and Western farmers, with good labor. These laborers if fairly treated, and paid a fair compensation would be as good labor as could be had in the Union, and they would not engage in "strikes" etc. I know that I can do these things, because the colored people throughout this State know me, and have confidence in me, for I am the only white Republican, who has ever made any efforts to colonize them here or elsewhere. I do not personally know any of the leading Republicans of the North and West, and consequently I cannot do much towards effecting any organization among them, and have already done all that I could do in that direction, by devoting much of my time, in carefully explaining to your Excellency, Senator Windom, and <sup>other</sup> influential friends of the Exodust, the real condition of the colored people of the South, the necessity of their Exodust to, and their colonization in the North West, and suggesting plans in regard to attaining successful results, from such colonization. So I conclude that whatever is done in effecting an organization by calling a con-



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ference of leading white friends of the North and West, will be done by themselves, but of course I will be glad to do whatever I can to help, and if invited to attend a conference of the kind will gladly do so. I do not advise a public convention or conference of the kind, because plans will be necessarily adopted which should not be made known to the enemies of "the Exodust." All I ask, is a fair opportunity to prove by hard active work, my faith and sincerity in this movement. All that I have done so far, has been done without money, and without price, and from an earnest desire that the condition of the colored people here, might be properly understood and appreciated; but I cannot do the real work so necessary to be done in aid of the Exodust, without a just compensation for my labor, for I am not a wealthy man. So if it is possible for your Excellency to appoint me as an Emigration Agent for your State, or to aid me in obtaining some position in the movement whereby I can devote all my time and services in aiding "the Exodust." I will cheerfully obey and carry out all instructions etc. Please let me hear from you at an early date. Your obt. servt.  
J. A. H. Schwartz.





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No. 3840 Book B Page 479  
From S. A. Hackworth  
Place Brenham Texas  
Date 7. 16  
Rec'd 7. 10  
Ans'd

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STATE OF IOWA  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Des Moines,

July 16<sup>th</sup> 1879.

His Excellency  
Hon John St John,  
Topeka, Kansas,  
Dear Governor:

I inclose you draft for \$9<sup>00</sup>  
for the benefit of Colored refugees, the same  
having been contributed by the Associated Con-  
gregations of Pleasant Divide, Monona County,  
Iowa,

I have the honor to be

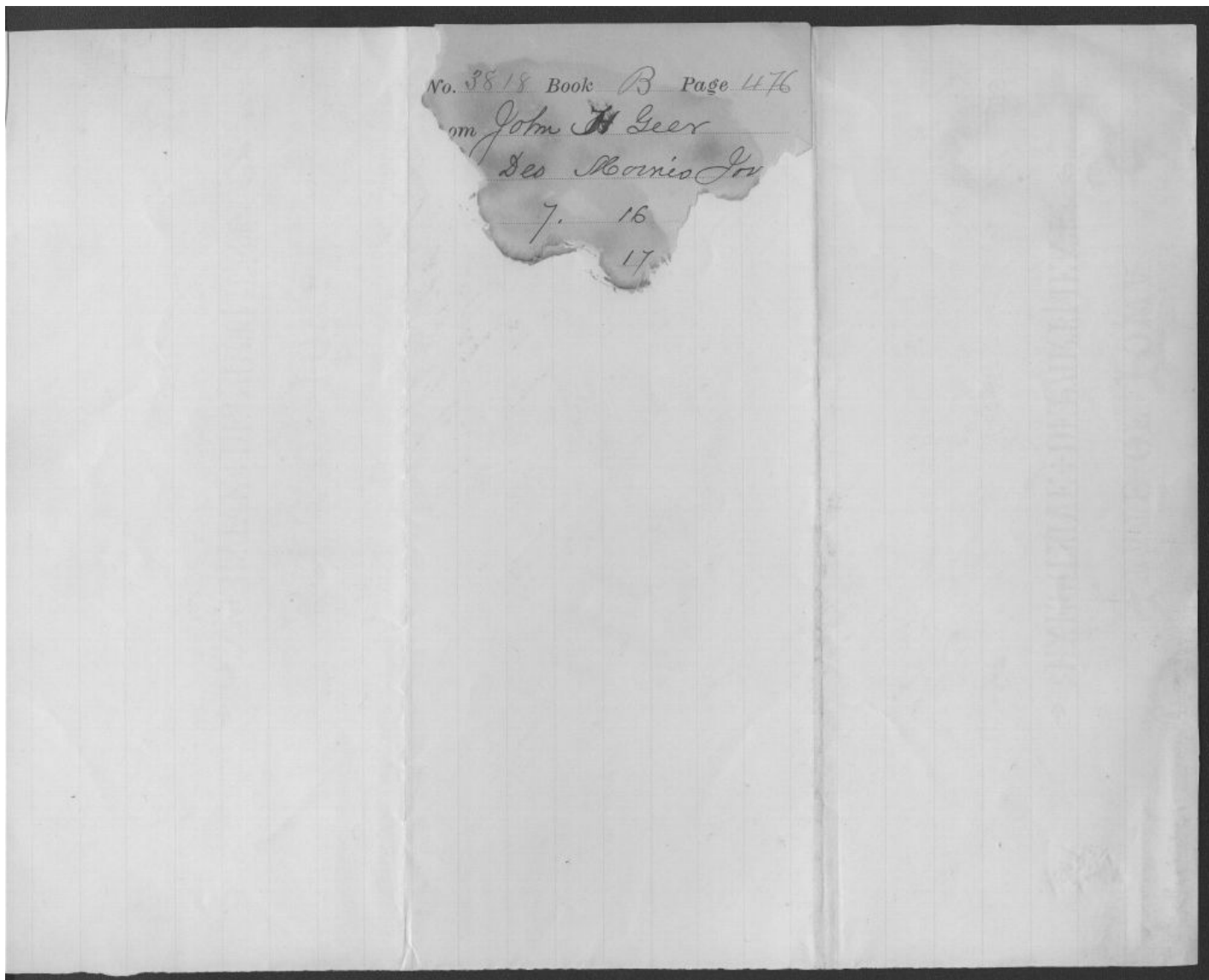
Yours truly

J. W. St. John

Governor



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Treasury Dept



washington Dc

July 17 1879

My Dear Sir

From all I can learn from  
Miss & Louisiana I apprehend  
you must be in need of  
funds to assist in helping  
my unfortunate people who  
are seeking homes in your  
State Kansas, as I am a member  
of National Immigration and Solidity  
here, would state, we have on  
hand about \$150,000 if you  
need it, will try to have it sent  
at once as soon as we hear from  
you, I would state <sup>that</sup> preparations  
are in progress now in Miss  
& La for a Grand Move of a large



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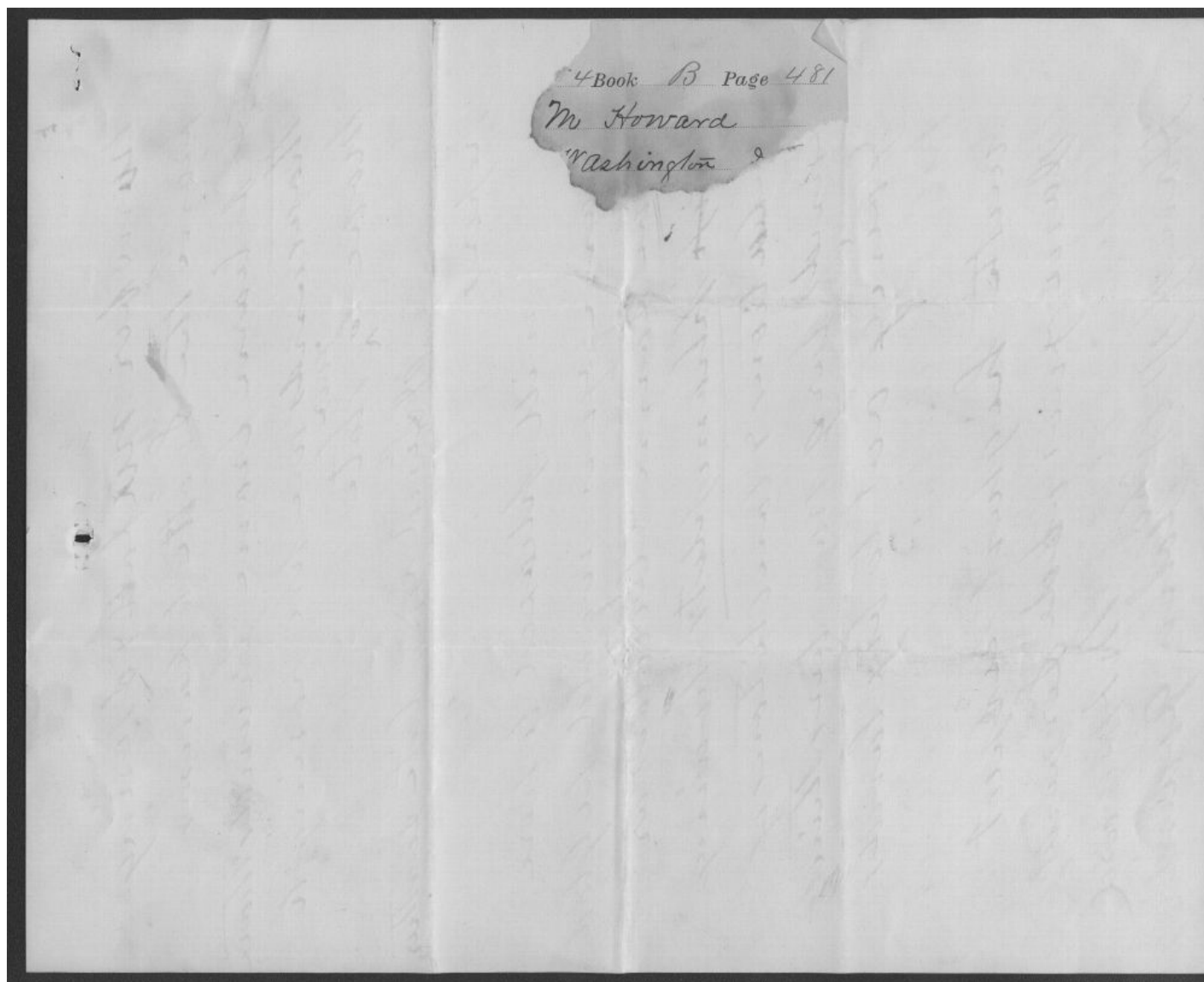
Number next full & spring  
from the South to Kansas  
So I learn from friends there  
Thousands are preparing to  
move to <sup>your</sup> State

I send you late Southern  
papers

will please to hear  
from you would be glad  
to have some Sir Closs or  
~~some~~ plans plots showing  
Locations & conditions of  
lands large numbers think  
going out to buy lands

with highest respect  
I am your obedt servant  
Edward  
Hon J St John Governor

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Laura S. H.

Kansas City July 17<sup>th</sup> 1879

Hon. John S. St. John, Gov. State Kas.

Highly Esteemed Friend and  
Br. Received yesterday (16<sup>th</sup>) First Biennial  
Report of the State Board of  
Agriculture Kansas. containing  
valuable maps—statistics etc, which  
I highly prize; and tender to thee  
grateful thanks for the same, together  
with the blank note book so convenient  
for wayside pencillings.

Spent last Sabbath very pleasantly  
in attending the meeting of the  
Friend Quakers at Lawrence. And  
made the pleasant acquaintance of Dr  
Nicholson who is looking, I think,  
for farther advice from thee. As he seemed  
rather surprised at my report of a necessity  
of farther, and immediate aid.