Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 25, Pages 721 - 750

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

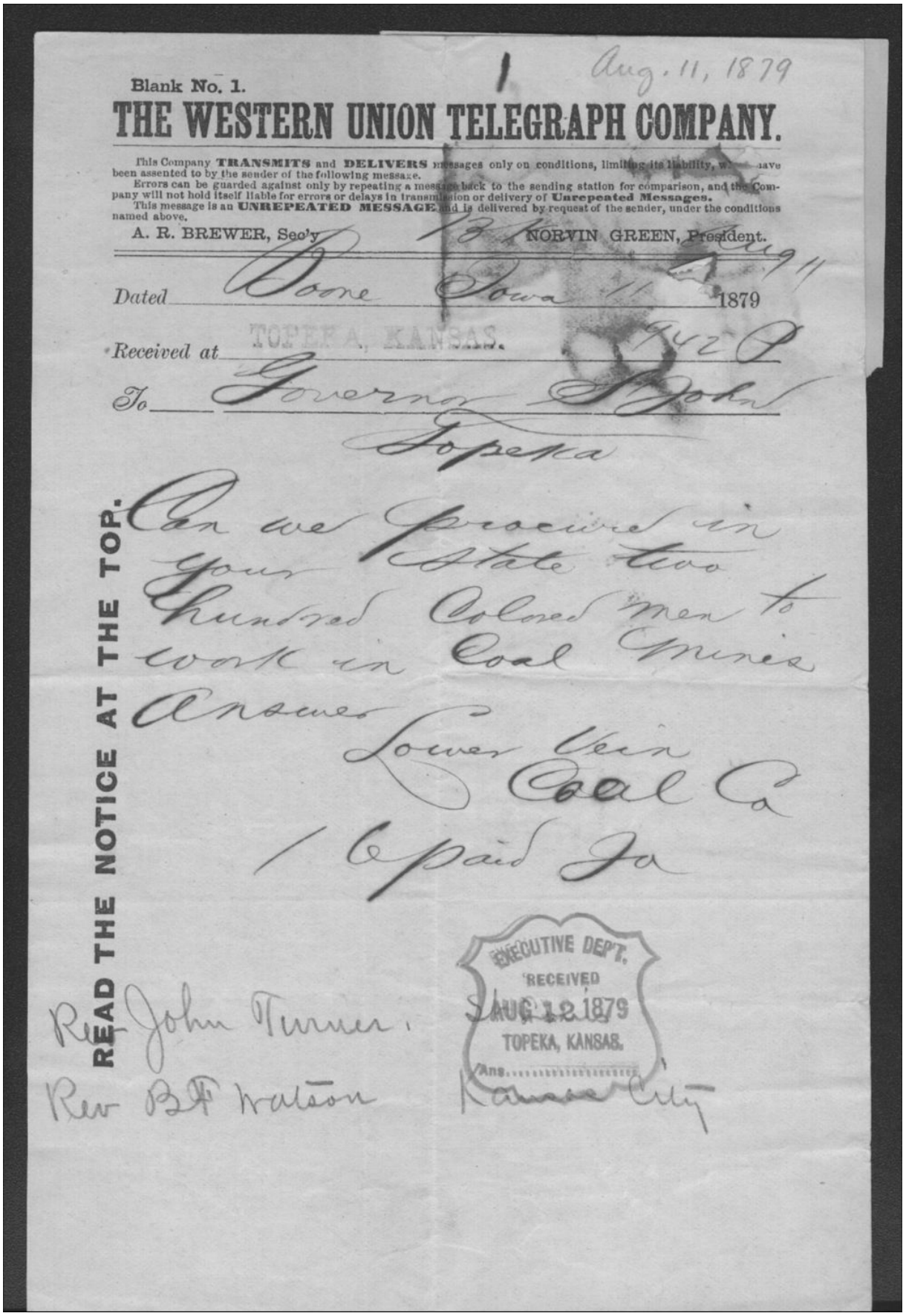
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

Item Identifier: 210296

www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Blank No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions, limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message.
Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages.**
This message is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

A. R. BREWER, Sec'y — NORVIN GREEN, President.

Aug. 11, 1879

Dated Boone Iowa 11 1879

Received at TOPEKA, KANSAS. 942 P

To Governor St John

Topeka

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

Can we procure in your State two Hundred Colored men to work in Coal Mines Answer

Lower Vein Coal Co

I Co paid Jo

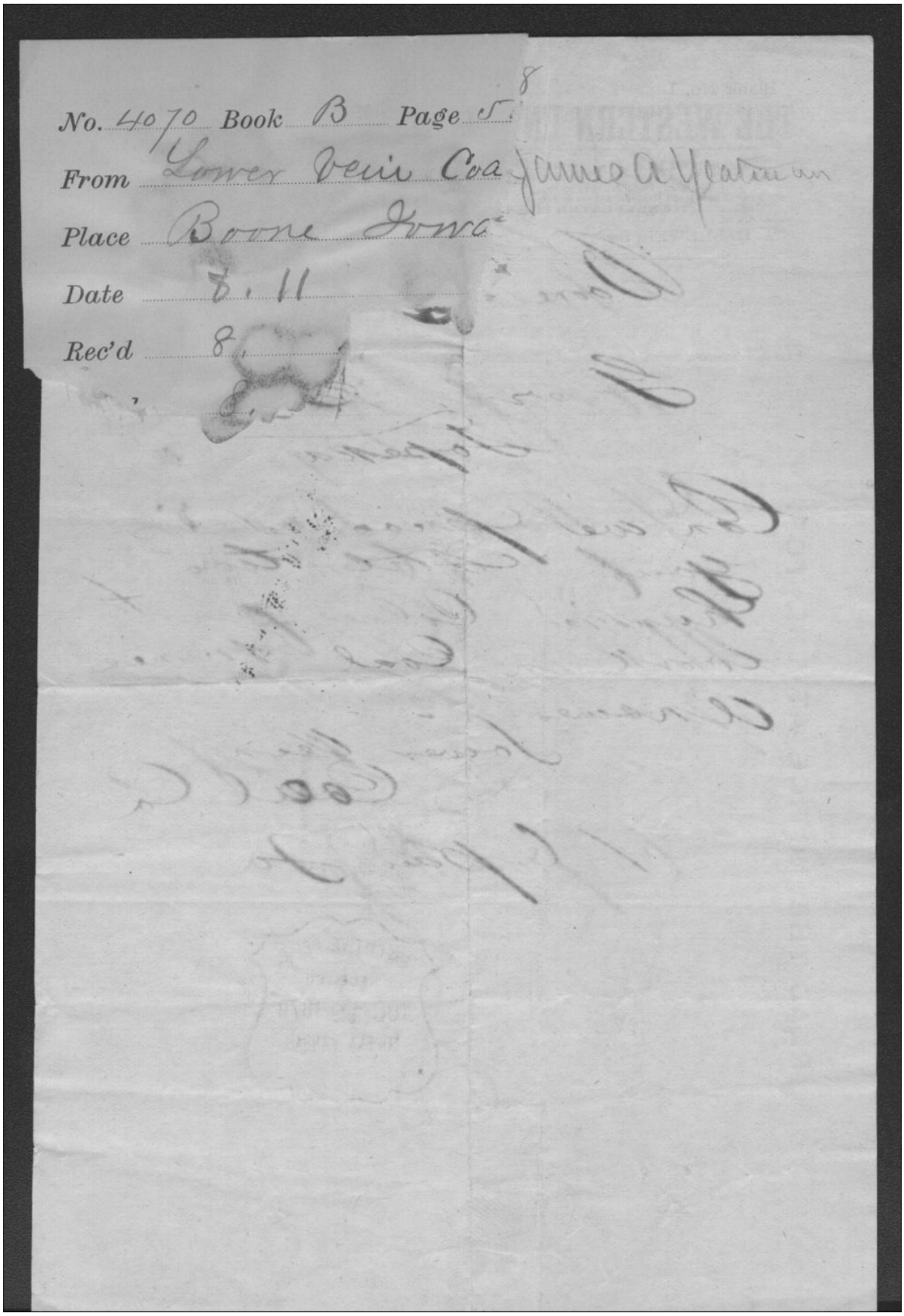
EXECUTIVE DEPT. RECEIVED AUG 12 1879 TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Ans. Kansas City

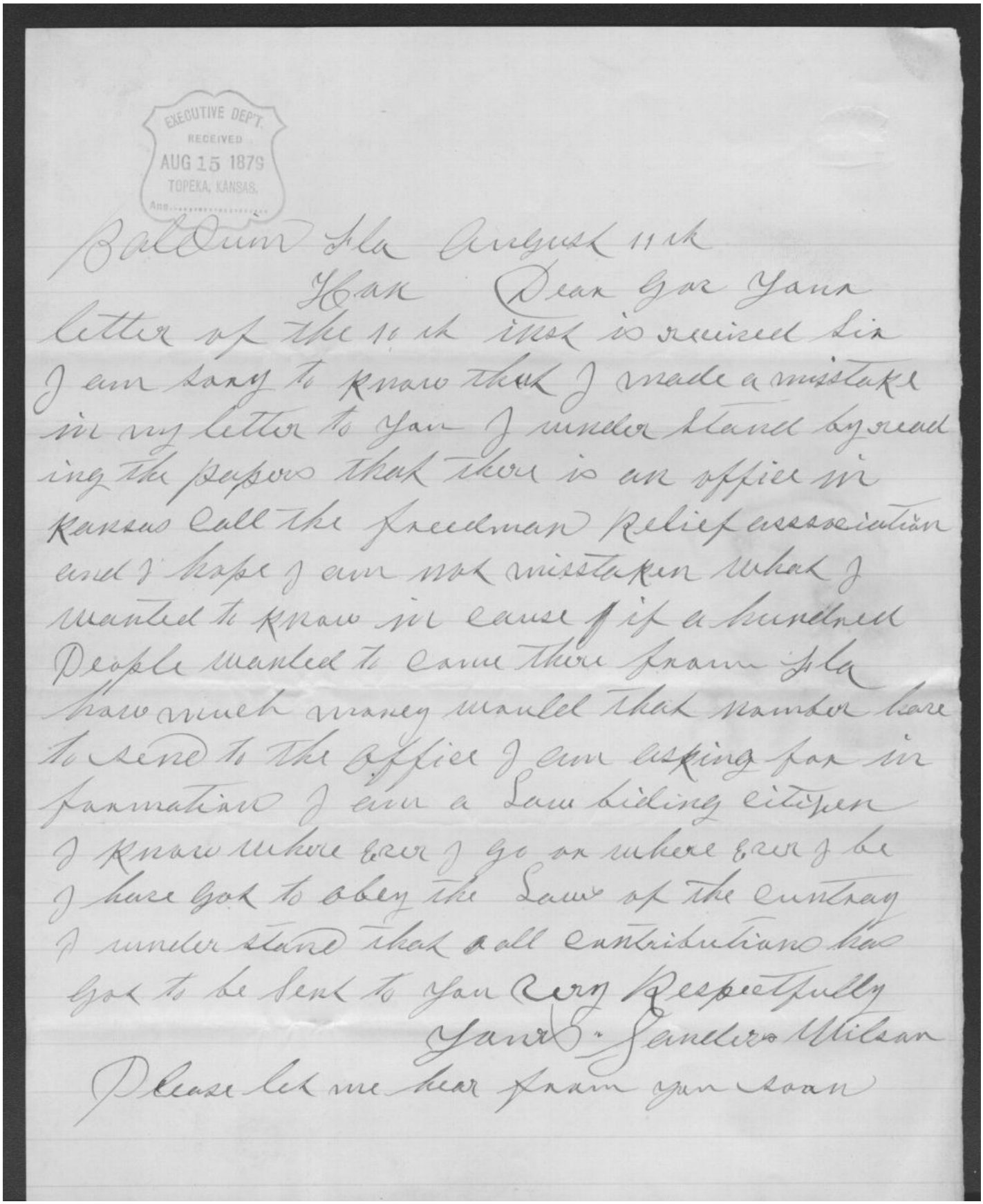
Rev John Turner.

Rev B F Watson

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

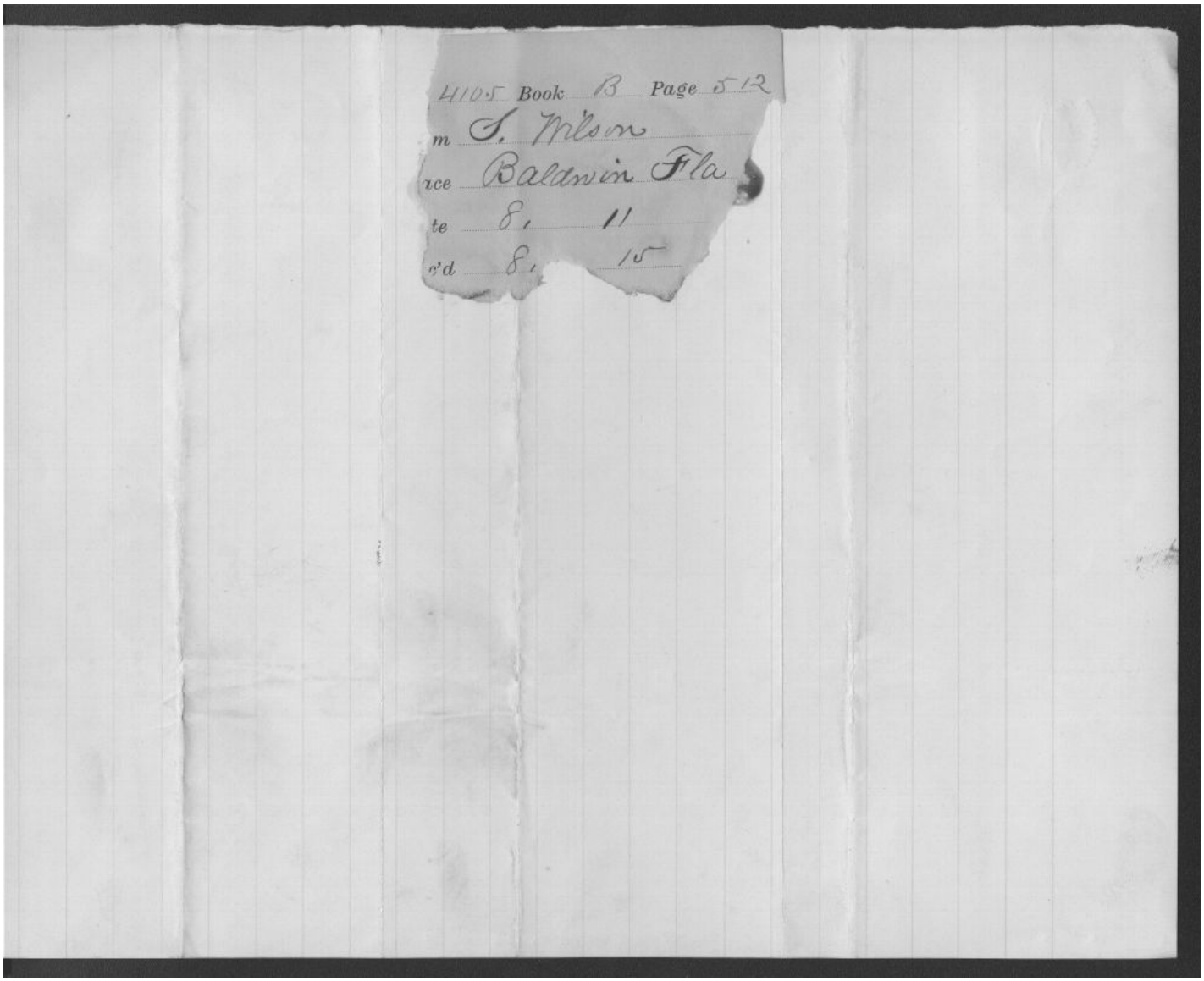


Baldwin Kan August 11th

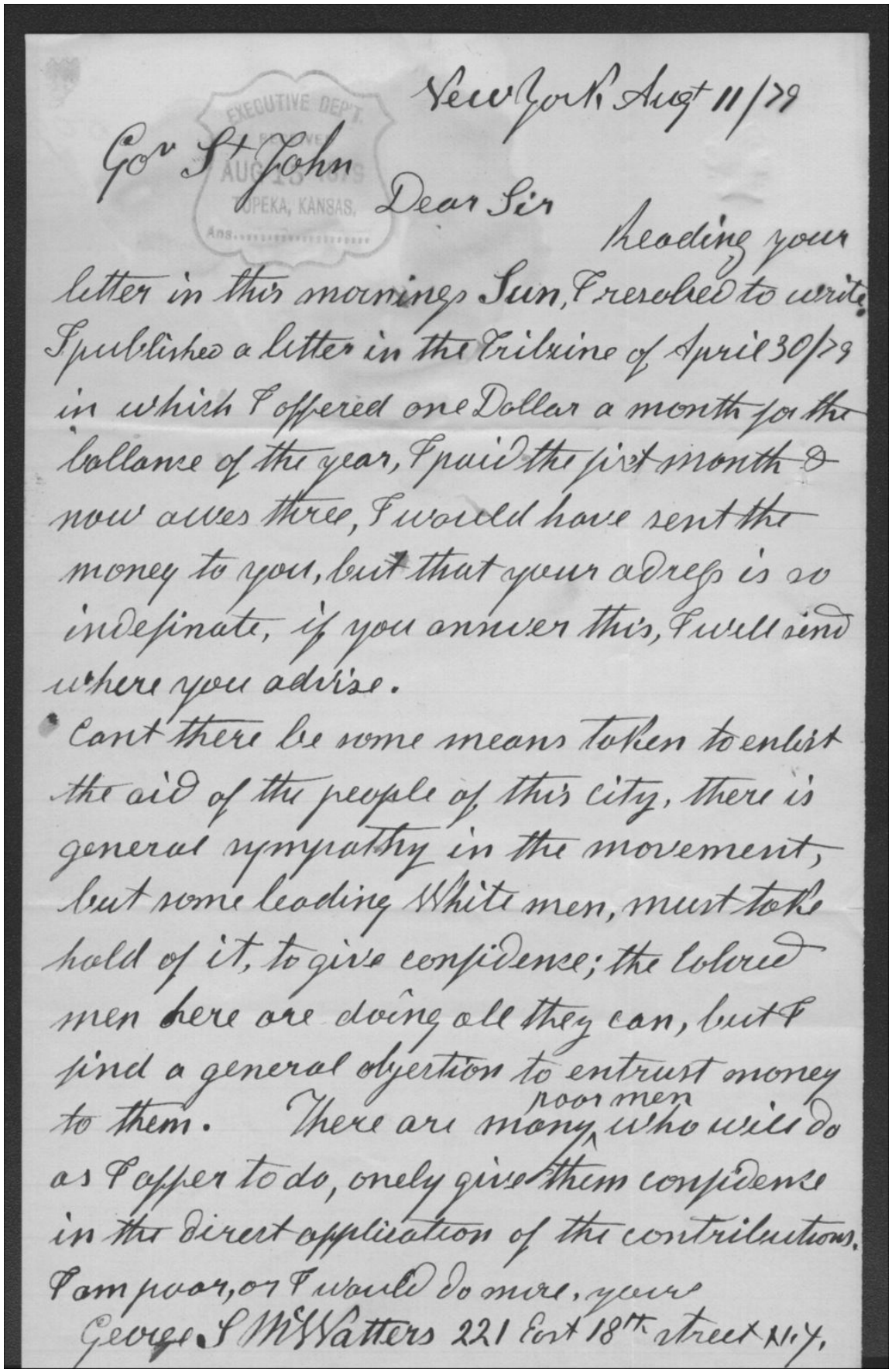
Hon Dear Sir Yours
letter of the 10th inst is received Sir
I am sorry to know that I made a mistake
in my letter to you I understand by read
ing the papers that there is an office in
Kansas call the Freedman Relief association
and I hope I am not misstaken what I
wanted to know in cause if a hundred
People wanted to come there from Kan
have much money wanted that number have
to send to the office I am asking for in
formation I am a Law biding citizen
I know where ever I go or where ever I be
I have got to obey the Laws of the country
I understand that all contributions has
got to be sent to you Very Respectfully
Yours Sanders Wilson

Please let me hear from you soon

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



New York Augt 11/79

Gov St John

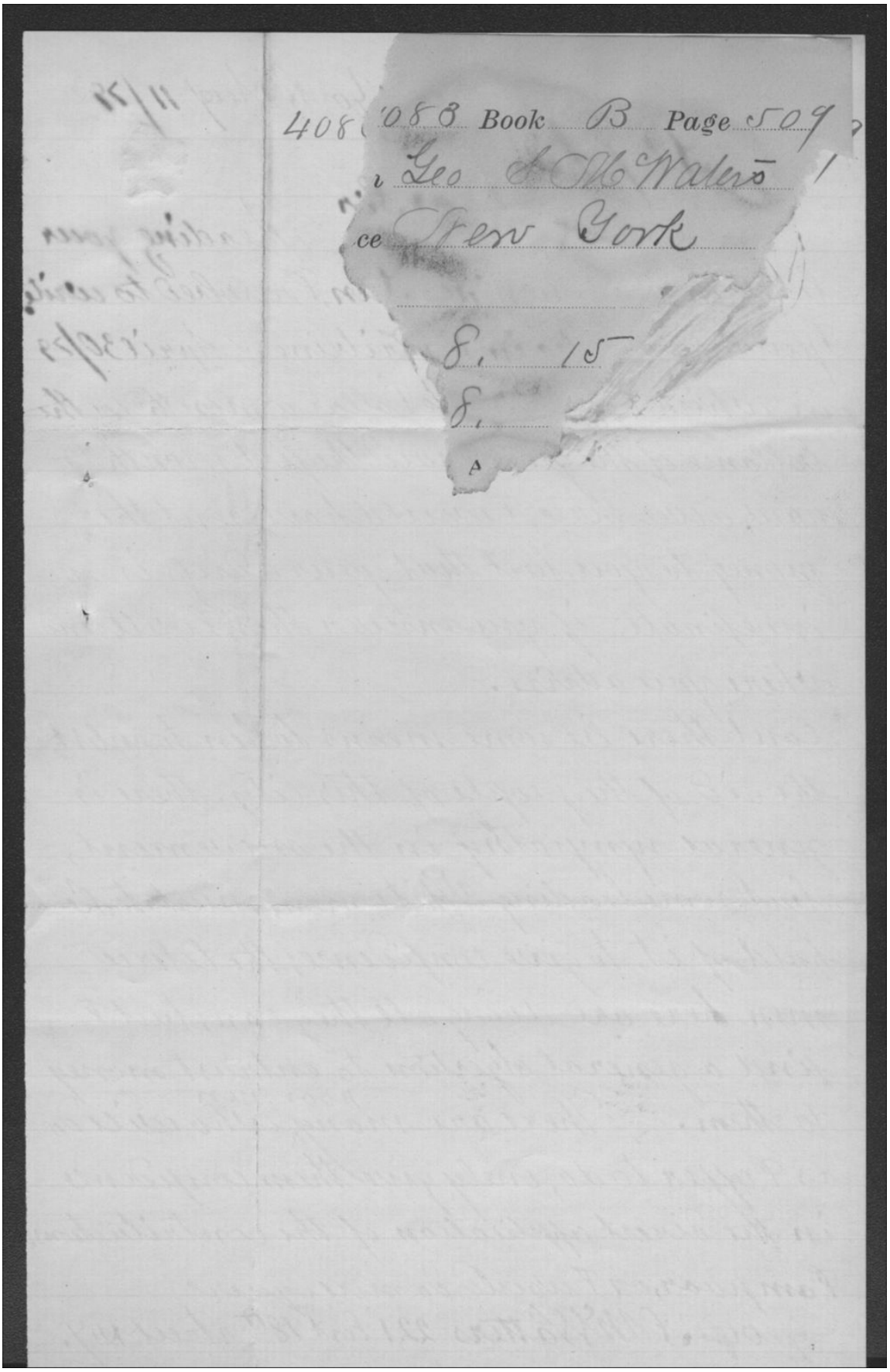
Dear Sir

Reading your letter in this morning Sun, I resolved to write. I published a letter in the Tribune of April 30/79 in which I offered one Dollar a month for the ballance of the year, I paid the first month & now owes three, I would have sent the money to you, but that your adress is so indefinate, if you answer this, I will send where you advise.

Cant there be some means taken to enlist the aid of the people of this city, there is general sympathy in the movement, but some leading White men, must take hold of it, to give confidence; the colored men here are doing all they can, but I find a general objection to entrust money to them. There are many poor men who will do as I offer to do, only give them confidence in the direct application of the contributions. I am poor, or I would do more, yours

George S McWatters 221 East 18th street N.Y.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

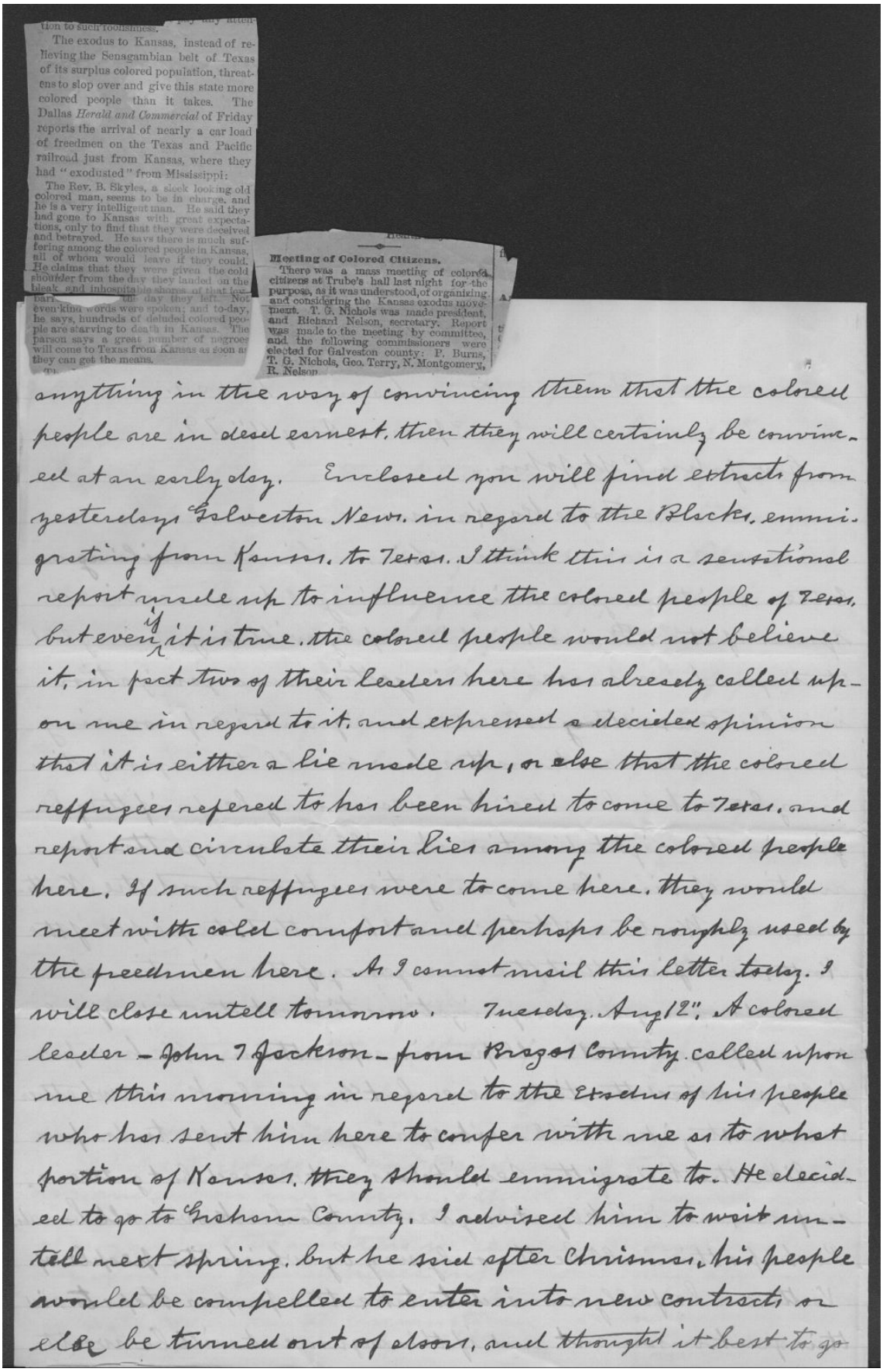
Brenham. Texas.
3 p m. Aug 11th 79.

Gov John P St John.

Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir. Since mailing a letter written you this morning. I have received yours of the 7th inst. and in reply will say. I am glad that you have succeeded in getting an organization in Ills. to assist ~~in~~ colored emmigrants in procuring homes. It does not matter how small the organization may be or how limited its means may be, for if they begin in the right direction it will encourage the formation of similar organizations throughout the Northern and Western States: and I know that the people of the North, will find that the emergency of the situation demands many such organizations to meet the tide of colored refugees that will pour in upon them. We have partially arrested the tide here, but God, only knows whether we can stay it entirely next Spring - as we hope to do - for unlike the tide of the Sea, it does not recede but gathers in force, and is likely at any moment to break over all bounds. Perhaps this will be the only way by which the people of North, can be fully aroused to take the proper steps to aid this great movement. and if this argument will be worth

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



tion to such foolishness.

The exodus to Kansas, instead of relieving the Senagambian belt of Texas of its surplus colored population, threatens to slop over and give this state more colored people than it takes. The Dallas *Herald and Commercial* of Friday reports the arrival of nearly a car load of freedmen on the Texas and Pacific railroad just from Kansas, where they had "exodusted" from Mississippi:

The Rev. B. Skyles, a sleek looking old colored man, seems to be in charge, and he is a very intelligent man. He said they had gone to Kansas with great expectations, only to find that they were deceived and betrayed. He says there is much suffering among the colored people in Kansas, all of whom would leave if they could. He claims that they were given the cold shoulder from the day they landed on the bleak and inhospitable shores of that [illegible] day they left. Not even kind words were spoken; and to-day, he says, hundreds of deluded colored people are starving to death in Kansas. The parson says a great number of negroes will come to Texas from Kansas as soon as they can get the means.

Meeting of Colored Citizens.

There was a mass meeting of colored citizens at Trube's hall last night for the purpose, as it was understood, of organizing and considering the Kansas exodus movement. T. G. Nichols was made president, and Richard Nelson, secretary. Report was made to the meeting by committee, and the following commissioners were elected for Galveston county: P. Burns, T. G. Nichols, Geo. Terry, N. Montgomery, R. Nelson.

anything in the way of convincing them that the colored people are in deed earnest, then they will certainly be convinced at an early day. Enclosed you will find extracts from yesterdays Galveston News, in regard to the Blacks, emmigrating from Kansas, to Texas. I think this is a sensational report made up to influence the colored people of Texas, but even if it is true, the colored people would not believe it, in fact two of their leaders here has already called upon me in regard to it, and expressed a decided opinion that it is either a lie made up, or else that the colored refugees refered to has been hired to come to Texas, and report and circulate their lies among the colored people here. If such refugees were to come here, they would meet with cold comfort and perhaps be roughly used by the freedmen here. As I cannot mail this letter today, I will close until tomorrow. Tuesday, Aug 12th. A colored leader - John T Jackson - from Bragos County, called upon me this morning in regard to the Exodus of his people who has sent him here to confer with me as to what portion of Kansas, they should emmigrate to. He decided to go to Graham County. I advised him to wait until next spring, but he said after Christmas, his people would be compelled to enter into new contracts or else be turned out of doors, and thought it best to go

now. He says there are one hundred families who have their own teams, waggons, milk cows, and means sufficient to carry them to Kansas, and to enable them to support themselves, and that they will start about the 5th to 11th of next month; besides this, he says there are 200 more colored families who will go by Rail. so you see the tide of the Exodus is begining to break loose in this state. Mr Hicks, informs me that the fifty colored families he has organized here, will all get off by the 25th inst. They are all good thrifty people. All the real friends of the colored people can do, should be done speedily to give this movement the proper direction. The first and second classes should be colonized together upon plans already suggested by me in my first letters, and the third classes hired out to thrifty Northern farmers, and Railroad and other large contractors. As Jackson, from Bryan County truly represents, if the colored people wait until next spring ~~fresh~~ difficulties will arise, because if they do not make new contracts with their landlords, they will be compelled to vacate their present habitations, and be thrown out of doors in the middle of the winter season, and if they were to make new contracts they would be compelled to remain another year, or else become involved in fresh complications with the large planters. This will generally

MISCEGENATION CASE.

OPINION OF JUDGE DUVAL.

Ex-Parte Emile

United

apply to the colored people throughout the South. and will doubtless cause large numbers of them to emigrate to the North, at the very season of the year when it will require more aid to keep them from real suffering than at any other season. Please call the attention of leading friends of your section to this matter, for it is worthy of serious consideration.

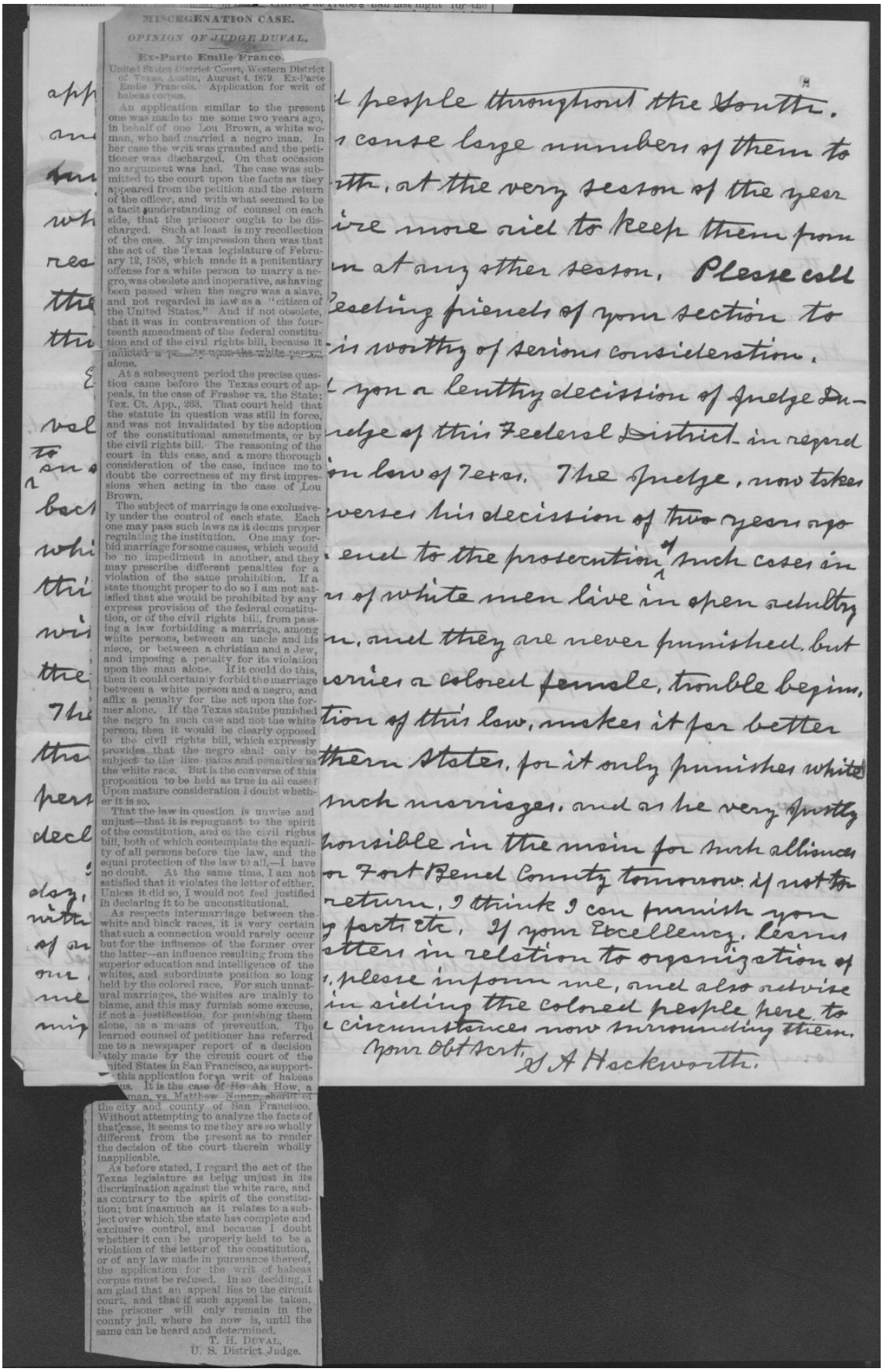
Enclosed I send you a lenthy decission of Judge Duval. U S District Judge of this Federal District in regard to an old miscegenation law of Texas. The Judge, now takes back water, and reverses his decission of two years ago which then put an end to the prosecution of such cases in this State. Numbers of white men live in open adultry with colored women, and they are never punished, but the moment one marries a colored female, trouble begins. The Judges construction of this law, makes it far better than in other Southern States, for it only punishes white persons who contract such marriages, and as he very justly declares, they are responsible in the main for such alliances

I hope to get off for Fort Bend County tomorrow if not to day, and upon my return, I think I can furnish you with many interesting facts etc. If your Excellency learns of any important matters in relation to organization of our Northern friends, please inform me, and also advise me how to proceed in aiding the colored people here, to emigrate best under the circumstances now surrounding them.

Your Obt Sert

D A Hackworth.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



MISCEGENATION CASE.

OPINION OF JUDGE DUVAL.

Ex-Parte Emile Franco.

United States District Court, Western District of Texas, Austin, August 4, 1879. Ex-Parte Emile Francois. Application for writ of habeas corpus.

An application similar to the present one was made to me some two years ago, in behalf of one Lou Brown, a white woman, who had married a negro man. In her case the writ was granted and the petitioner was discharged. On that occasion no argument was had. The case was submitted to the court upon the facts as they appeared from the petition and the return of the officer, and with what seemed to be a tacit understanding of counsel on each side, that the prisoner ought to be discharged. Such at least is my recollection of the case. My impression then was that the act of the Texas legislature of February 12, 1858, which made it a penitentiary offense for a white person to marry a negro, was obsolete and inoperative, as having been passed when the negro was a slave, and not regarded in law as a "citizen of the United States." And if not obsolete, that it was in contravention of the fourteenth amendment of the federal constitution and of the civil rights bill, because it inflicted a penalty upon the white person alone.

At a subsequent period the precise question came before the Texas court of appeals, in the case of Frasher vs. the State; Tex. Ct. App., 203. That court held that the statute in question was still in force, and was not invalidated by the adoption of the constitutional amendments, or by the civil rights bill. The reasoning of the court in this case, and a more thorough consideration of the case, induce me to doubt the correctness of my first impressions when acting in the case of Lou Brown.

The subject of marriage is one exclusively under the control of each state. Each one may pass such laws as it deems proper regulating the institution. One may forbid marriage for some causes, which would be no impediment in another, and they may prescribe different penalties for a violation of the same prohibition. If a state thought proper to do so I am not satisfied that she would be prohibited by any express provision of the federal constitution, or of the civil rights bill, from passing a law forbidding a marriage, among white persons, between an uncle and his niece, or between a christian and a Jew, and imposing a penalty for its violation upon the man alone. If it could do this, then it could certainly forbid the marriage between a white person and a negro, and affix a penalty for the act upon the former alone. If the Texas statute punished the negro in such case and not the white person, then it would be clearly opposed to the civil rights bill, which expressly provides that the negro shall only be subject to the like pains and penalties as the white race. But is the converse of this proposition to be held as true in all cases? Upon mature consideration I doubt whether it is so.

That the law in question is unwise and unjust—that it is repugnant to the spirit of the constitution, and of the civil rights bill, both of which contemplate the equality of all persons before the law, and the equal protection of the law to all,—I have no doubt. At the same time, I am not satisfied that it violates the letter of either. Unless it did so, I would not feel justified in declaring it to be unconstitutional.

As respects intermarriage between the white and black races, it is very certain that such a connection would rarely occur but for the influence of the former over the latter—an influence resulting from the superior education and intelligence of the whites, and subordinate position so long held by the colored race. For such unnatural marriages, the whites are mainly to blame, and this may furnish some excuse, if not a justification, for punishing them alone, as a means of prevention. The learned counsel of petitioner has referred me to a newspaper report of a decision lately made by the circuit court of the United States in San Francisco, as supporting this application for a writ of habeas corpus. It is the case of Ho Ah How, a Chinaman, vs. Matthew Nunan, sheriff of the city and county of San Francisco. Without attempting to analyze the facts of that case, it seems to me they are so wholly different from the present as to render the decision of the court therein wholly inapplicable.

As before stated, I regard the act of the Texas legislature as being unjust in its discrimination against the white race, and as contrary to the spirit of the constitution; but inasmuch as it relates to a subject over which the state has complete and exclusive control, and because I doubt whether it can be properly held to be a violation of the letter of the constitution, or of any law made in pursuance thereof, the application for the writ of habeas corpus must be refused. In so deciding, I am glad that an appeal lies to the circuit court, and that if such appeal be taken, the prisoner will only remain in the county jail, where he now is, until the same can be heard and determined.

T. H. DUVAL,
U. S. District Judge.

...d people throughout the South.
...cause large numbers of them to
...th, at the very season of the year
...are more apt to keep them from
...n at any other season. Please call
...esting friends of your section to
...is worthy of serious consideration.
...you a lenthy decission of Judge Du-
...lge of this Federal District in regard
...on law of Texas. The Judge, now takes
...verses his decission of two years ago
...ned to the prosecution of such cases in
...s of white men live in open adultry
...n, and they are never punished, but
...ries a colored female, trouble begins.
...tion of this law, makes it far better
...thern States, for it only punishes white
...such marriages, and as he very justly
...onsible in the main for such alliances
...Fort Bend County tomorrow. If not to
...return, I think I can punish you
...g particulars. If your Excellency, learns
...tters in relation to organization of
..., please inform me, and also advise
...in aiding the colored people here to
...e circumstances now surrounding them.

Your Obt Sert
W A Hackworth.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

EXECUTIVE DEPT. RECEIVED AUG 25 1879 TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Pacific Coast Immigration Bureau
No 3 New Montgomery St under Grand Hotel
San Francisco August 12th 1879

Gov St John
Pres Freedmans
Relief Assn of Kansas
Kansas City Mo

Dr Sir

As the agent of the above Bureau I beg leave to call your attention to our State California as one peculiarly adapted in regard to climate and productions for homes for the Colored people now leaving the South,

The question of labor is now of vital importance to our state, and as it is generally conceded that the Chinese must go. our citizens are looking around for labor to succeed them, our Bureau has been formed for the purpose of giving reliable information to the Immigrant who desires to make California his home, or if he prefers it the Sandwich Islands, where like California, the climate & productions are of a similar nature to the Southern States. we have made with the Central Pacific and its connections a through rate from New Orleans or any point on the Mississippi River above to San Francisco of $38.50 pr Capita and to Honolulu Sandwich Islands $60- from the same points. Can not some thing be done to turn this tide of Immigration from

2

Coast. we want reliable labor, and invite it here. the Immigrant want a home, and certainly will give that State the preference that compares favorably with the one he has been accustomed to all his life. The Colored Immigrant is not Calculated to stand the rigors of the Climate of the western states. neither has he been educated to provide subsistence for himself and family, as well as his stock, to carry him through a long winter.

I respectfully ask you to give the matter your earnest attention as we believe we will be able to provide homes for thousands as soon as we have perfected our arangements.

We propose to provide every man of family or single person with a home either for a portion of the Crop he makes, being provided with every thing necessary to raise such Crop, and he either pay in money or otherwise as agreed upon for such advances as have been made, or we will ensure him a certain amount of wages per month under a contract for one year, or we will provide those who are Calculated for it, situations in families as servants, so that they will know they have some employment at fair wages before they leave.

I merely wish to draw your attention to our plan and beg you will communicate with me at your convinience

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

3

In regard to the Sandwich Islands. the Planters of that locality are anxious to procure labor that have been accustomed to raise Sugar Rice and other productions of the southern States, they offer liberal inducements to Immigrants of that kind, viz -

To pay their passage from ports on the Mississippi River from New Orleans or above to Honolulu, to pay them $ 12.00 per month wages to work 10 hours per day, and pay them for any extra time pro rata, to pay them two months wages in advance $ 24.00 on their arrival in Honolulu, and provide suitable dwellings and food, and also to educate their children at the public schools, which latter is obligatory on them to do by the laws of the Islands, in fact the Colored laborer will enjoy all the privileges of citizenship there that he would be entitled to in the United States, I merely call your attention to these facts to show you that they need not become a burden upon any Community

with much respect

Jas A McKay

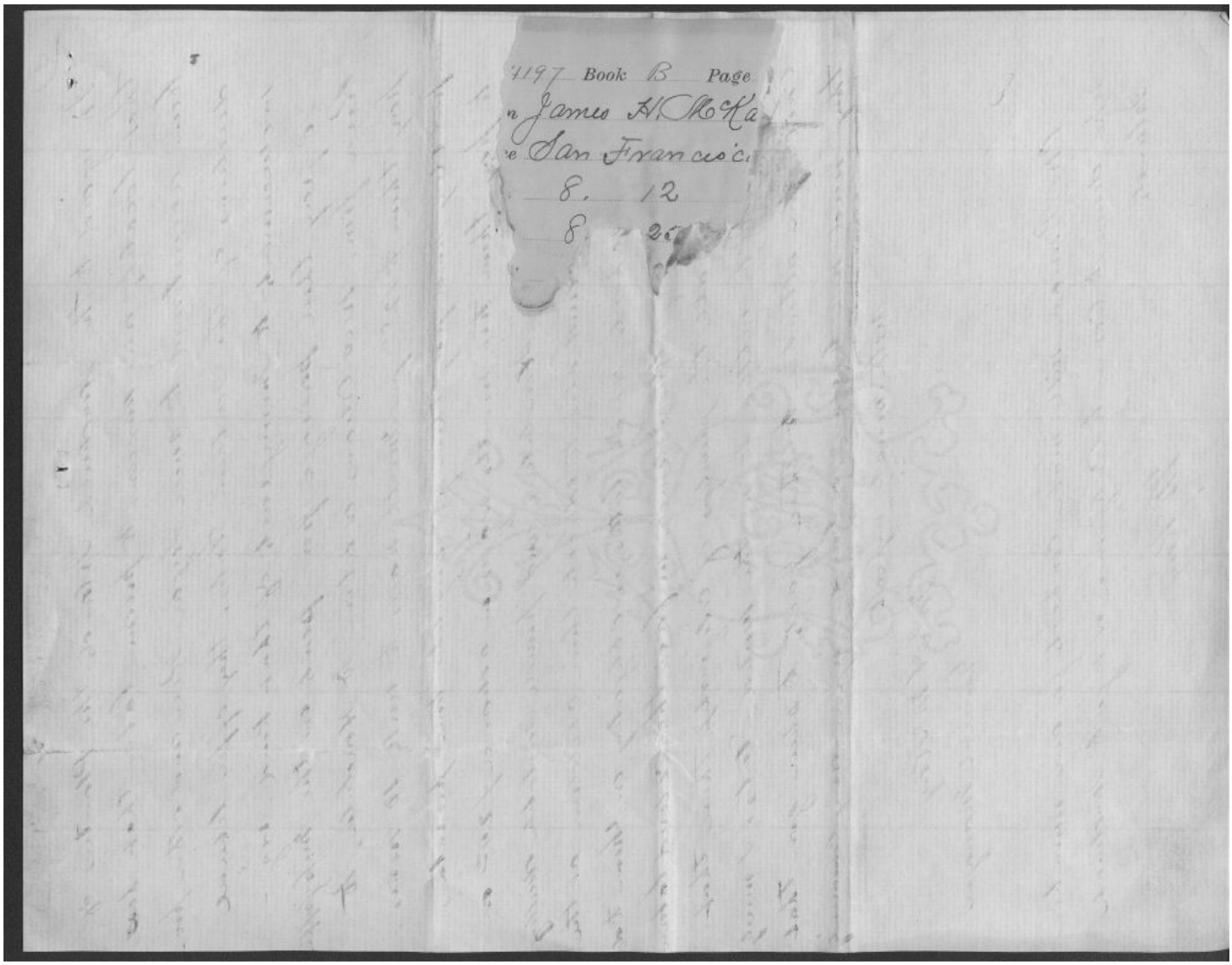
General Manager

P S

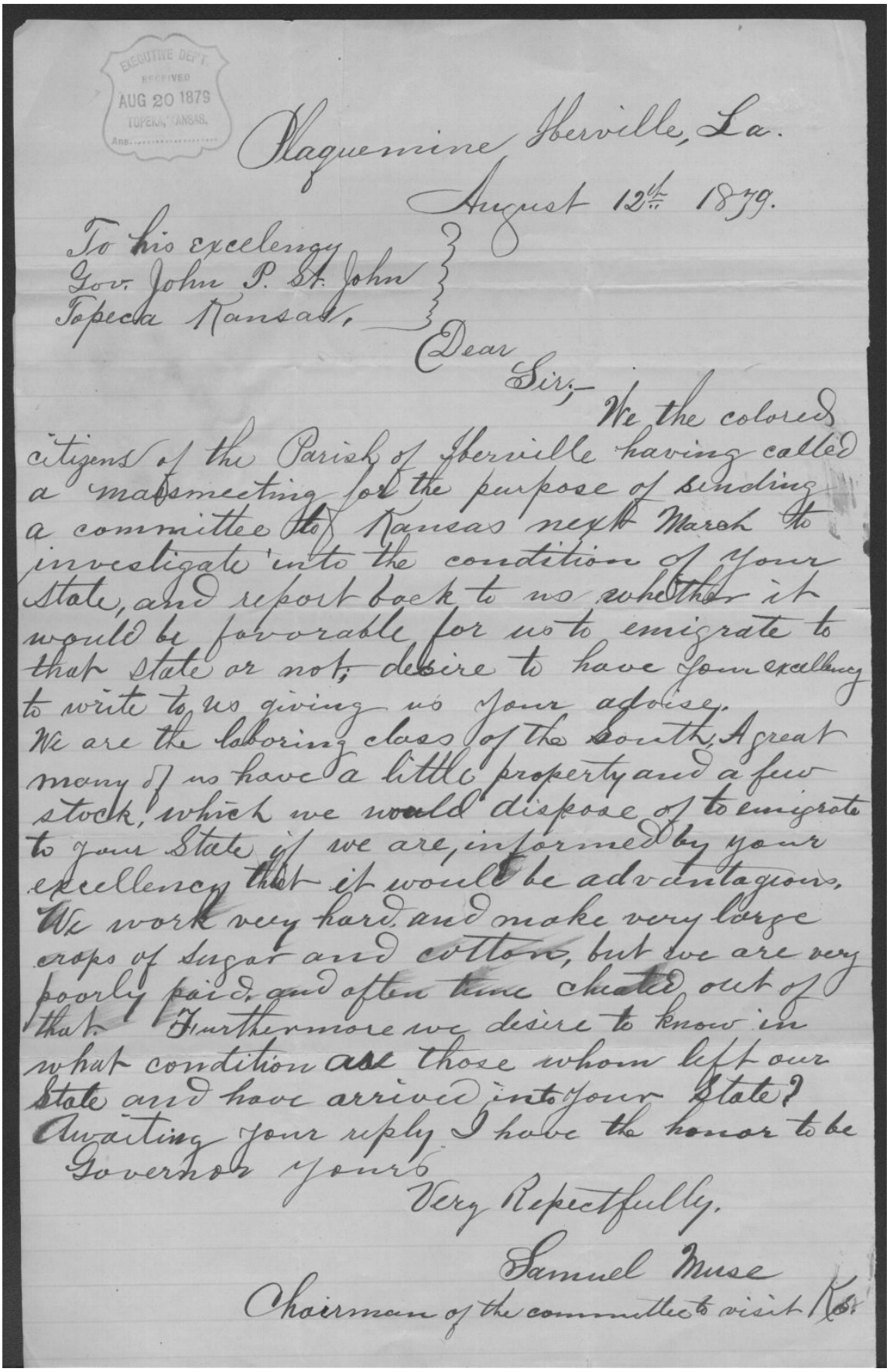
Our Bureau will make contracts for any number who desire to Come to California or to go to Sandwich Islands

JM Kay

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
AUG 20 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.
Ans.....

Plaquemine Iberville, La.
August 12th 1879.

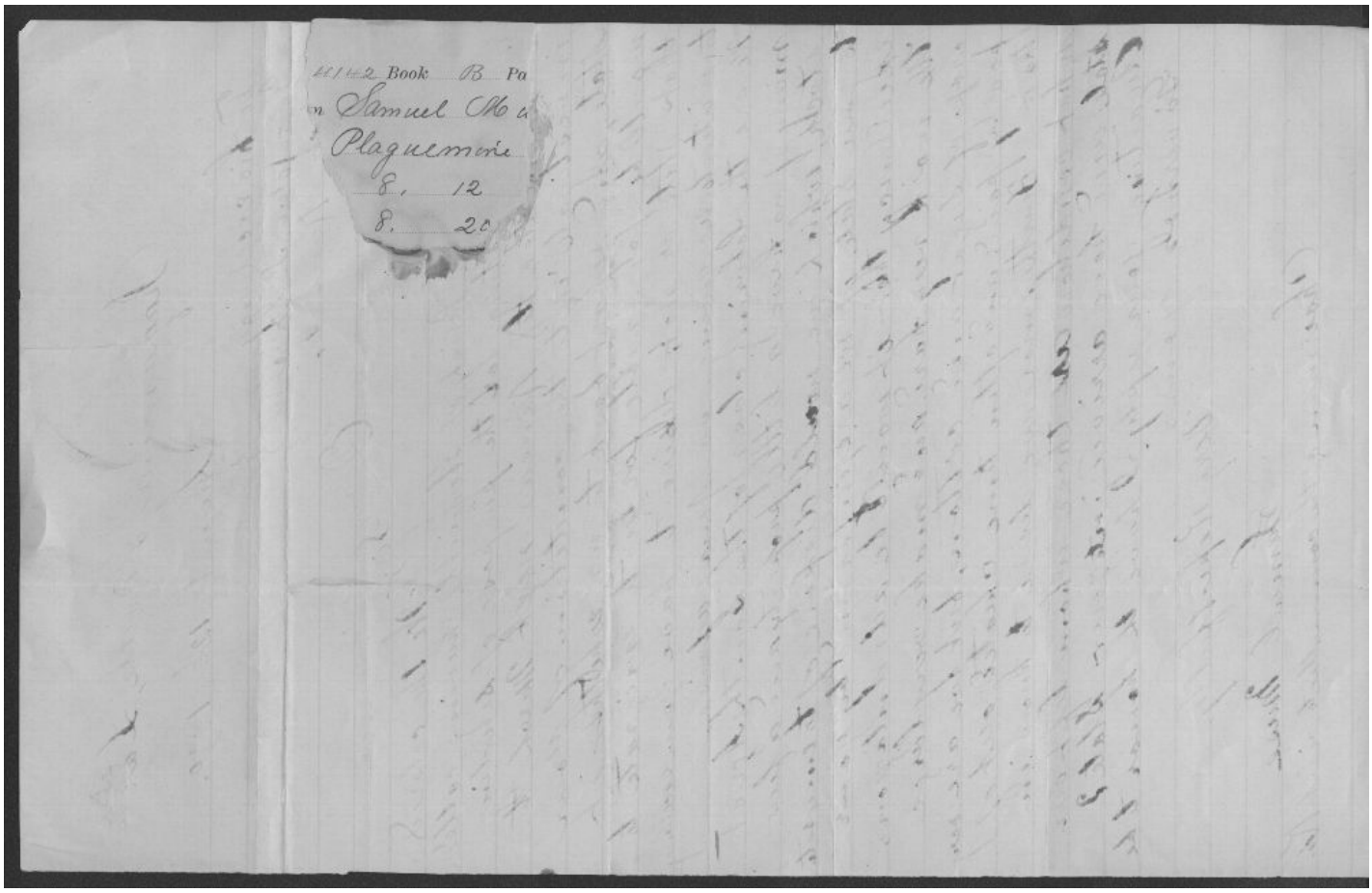
To his excelency
Gov. John P. St. John
Topecka Kansas.

Dear Sir,

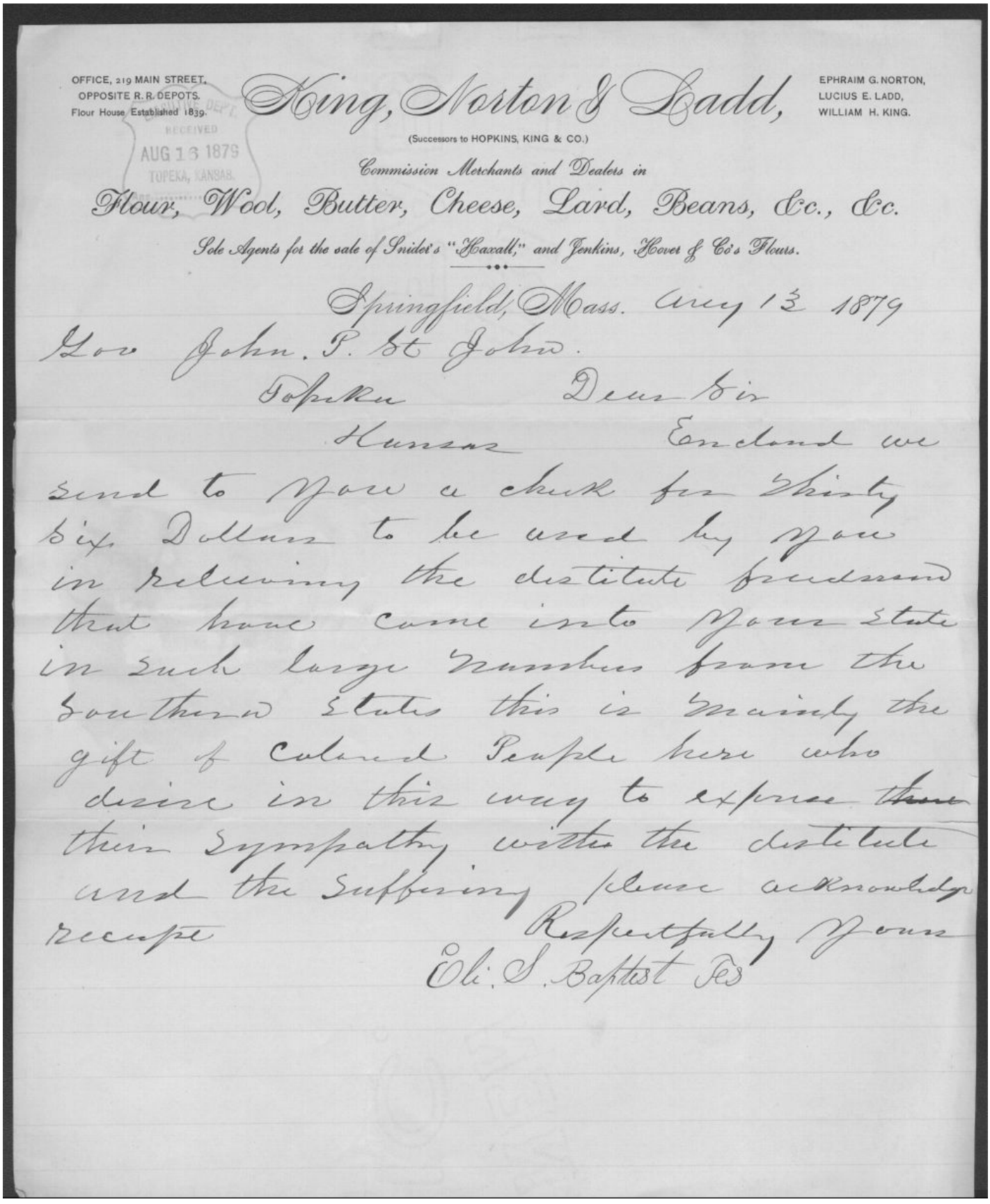
We the colored citizens of the Parish of Iberville having called a massmeeting for the purpose of sending a committee to Kansas next March to investigate into the condition of your State, and report back to us whether it would be favorable for us to emigrate to that State or not, desire to have Your excellency to write to us giving us your adoise.
We are the laboring class of the South, A great many of us have a little property and a few stock, which we would dispose of to emigrate to your State if we are informed by your excellency that it would be advantagious.
We work very hard and make very large crops of sugar and cotton, but we are very poorly paid, and often time cheated out of that. Furthermore we desire to know in what condition are those whom left our State and have arrived into your State?
Awaiting your reply I have the honor to be
Governor yours
Very Repectfully.

Samuel Muse
Chairman of the committee to visit Ks.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



OFFICE, 219 MAIN STREET,
OPPOSITE R. R. DEPOTS.
Flour House, Established 1839.

King, Norton & Ladd,

(Successors to HOPKINS, KING & CO.)

EPHRAIM G. NORTON,
LUCIUS E. LADD,
WILLIAM H. KING.

Commission Merchants and Dealers in

Flour, Wool, Butter, Cheese, Lard, Beans, &c., &c.

Sole Agents for the sale of Snider's "Haxall," and Jenkins, Hover & Co's Flours.

RECEIVED
AUG 13 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Springfield, Mass. Aug 13 1879

Gov John. P. St John.

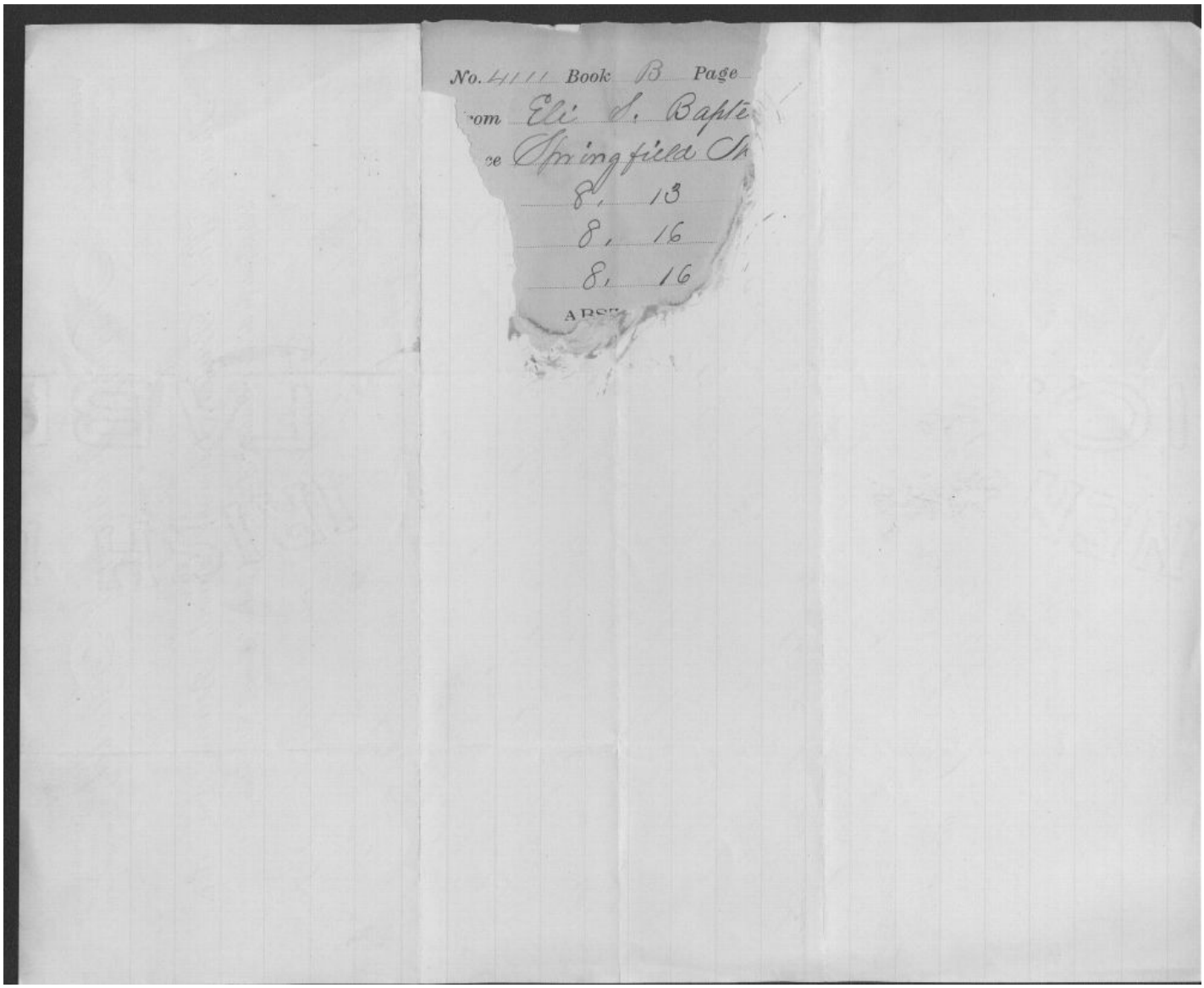
Topeka Dear Sir

Kansas Enclosed we send to you a check for Thirty Six Dollars to be used by you in relieving the distitute freedmen that have come into your State in such large Numbers from the Southern States this is mainly the gift of Colored People here who desire in this way to express their sympathy with the distitute and the suffering please acknowledge receipt

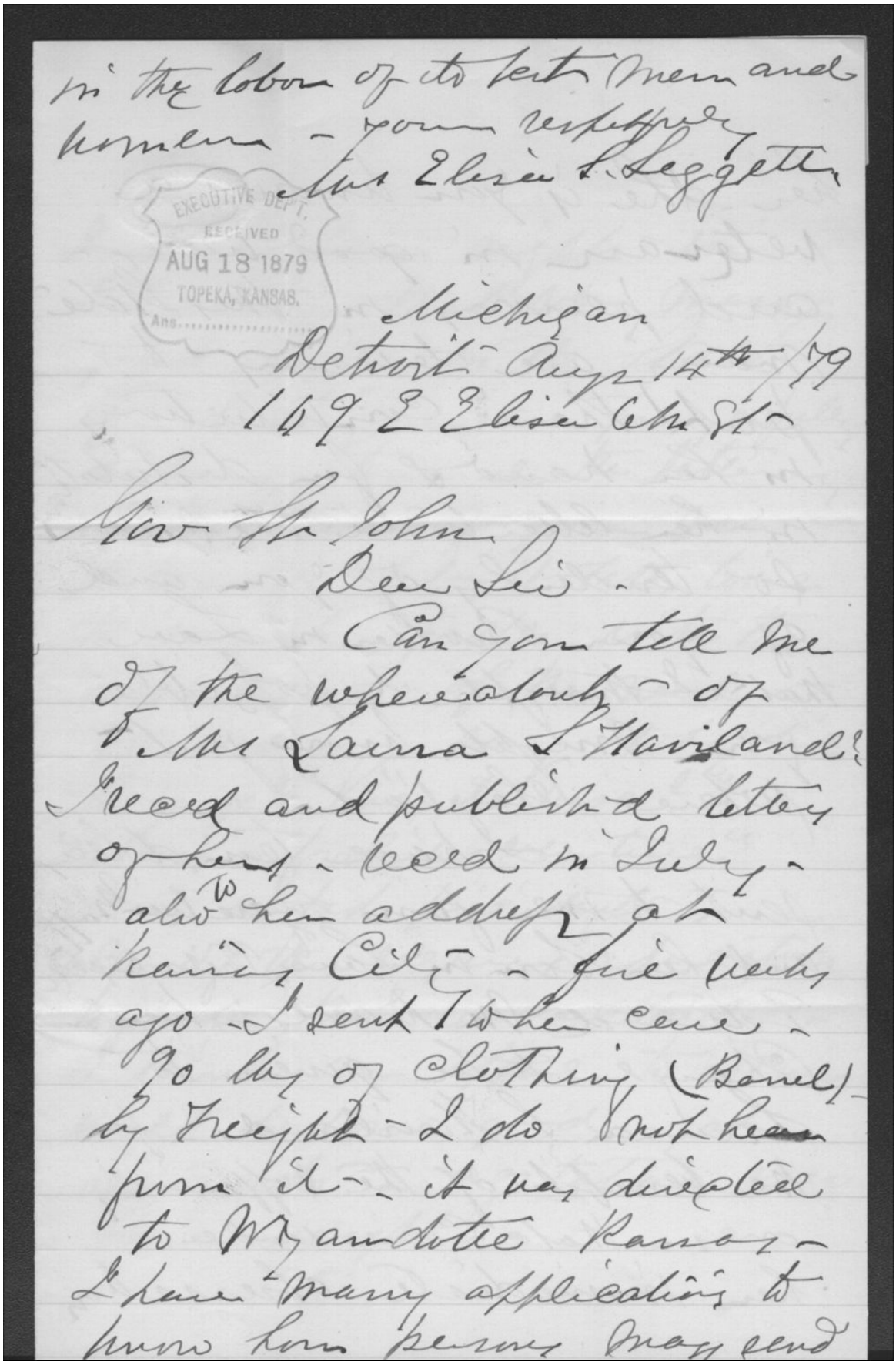
Respectfully Yours

Eli. S. Baptist Ch

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



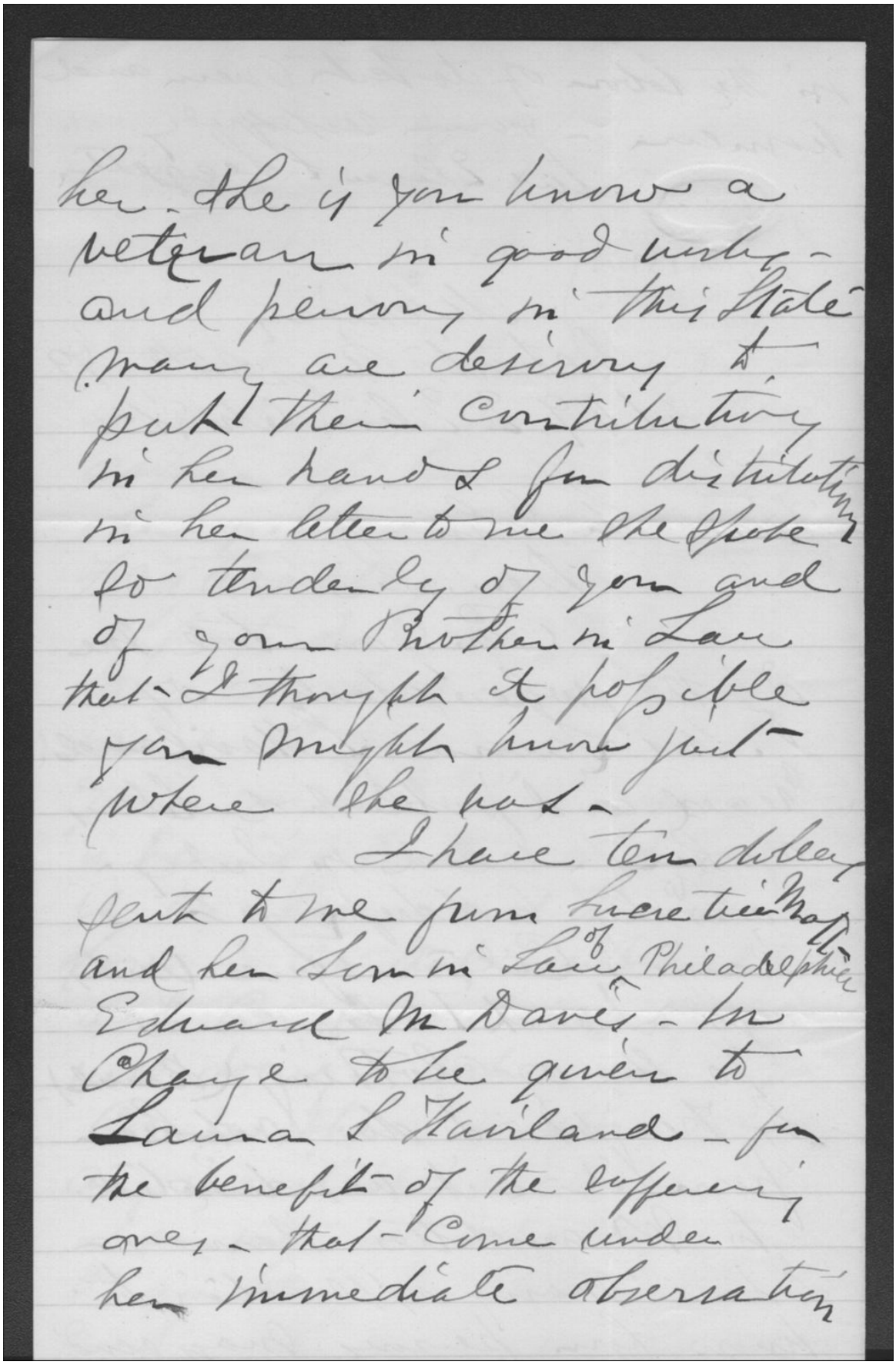
in the labors of its best men and women - Yours respectfully
Mrs Eliza L. Leggett

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
AUG 18 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.
Ans.....

Michigan
Detroit Aug 14th /79
169 E Elizabeth St

Gov St John
Dear Sir -
Can you tell me
if the whereabouts of
Mrs Laura S Haviland
I read and published letters
of hers - lived in Lucy -
also her address at
Kansas City - Some weeks
ago - I sent to her care -
90 lbs of clothing (Barrel)
by Freight - I do not hear
from it - It was directed
to Wyandotte Kansas -
I have many applications to
know how persons may send

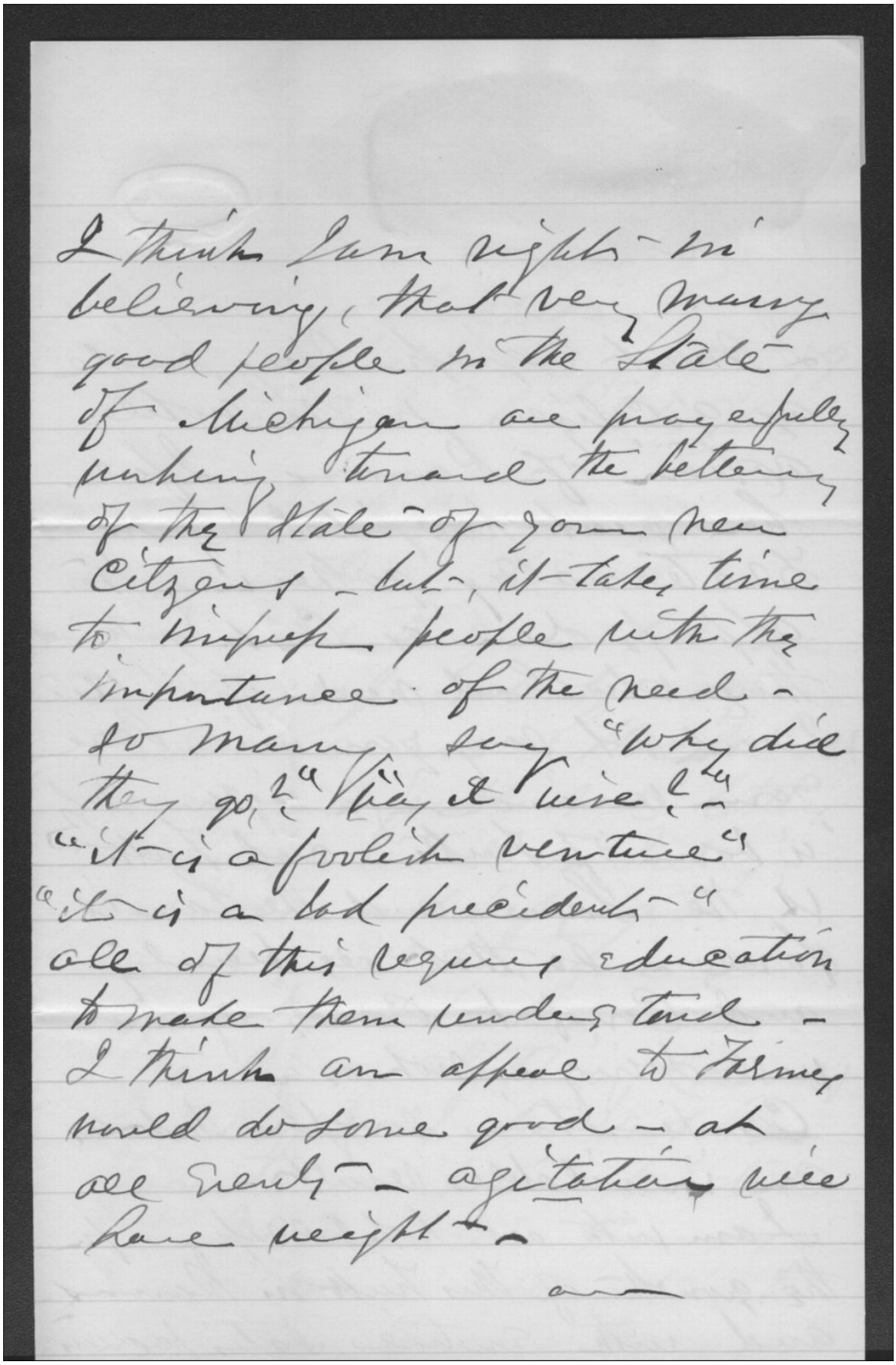
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



her. She if you know a veteran in good unity - and penury in this State many are desiring to put them contributions in her hand & for distribution in her letter to me she spoke so tenderly of you and of your Brother in Law that - I thought it possible you might know just where she was -

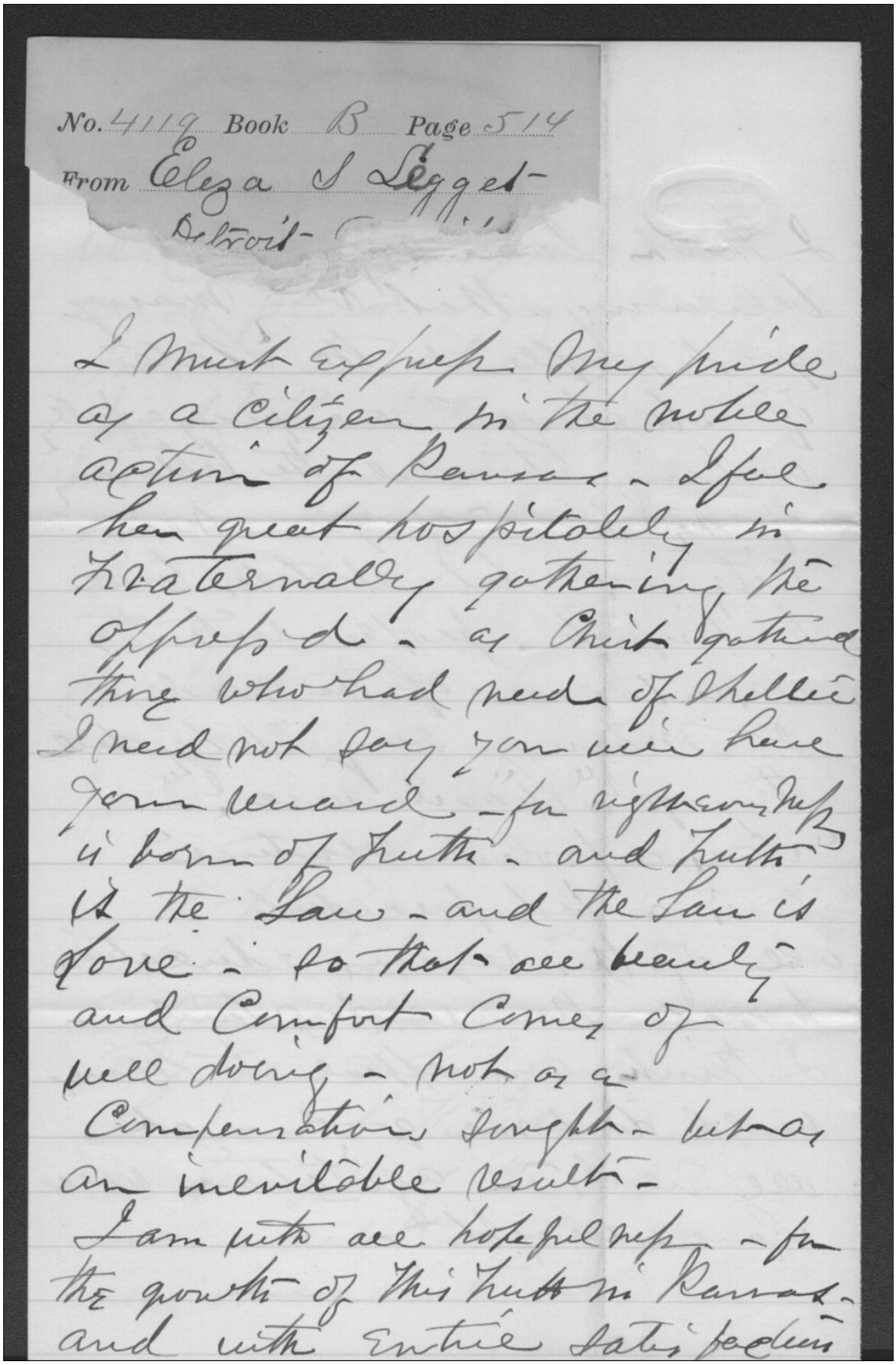
I have ten dollars sent to me from Lucretia Mott and her Son in Law Philadelphia Edward M Davis - in Charge to be given to Laura L Haviland - for the benefit of the suffering ones - that - Come under her immediate observation

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



I think I am right in believing that very many good people in the State of Michigan are prayerfully pushing forward the settling of the State of your new citizens - but it takes time to impress people with the importance of the need - so many say "why did they go?" "Was it wise?" "It is a foolish venture" "It is a bad precedent" all of this requires education to make them understand - I think an appeal to Farmers would do some good - ah all ready - agitation will have weight -

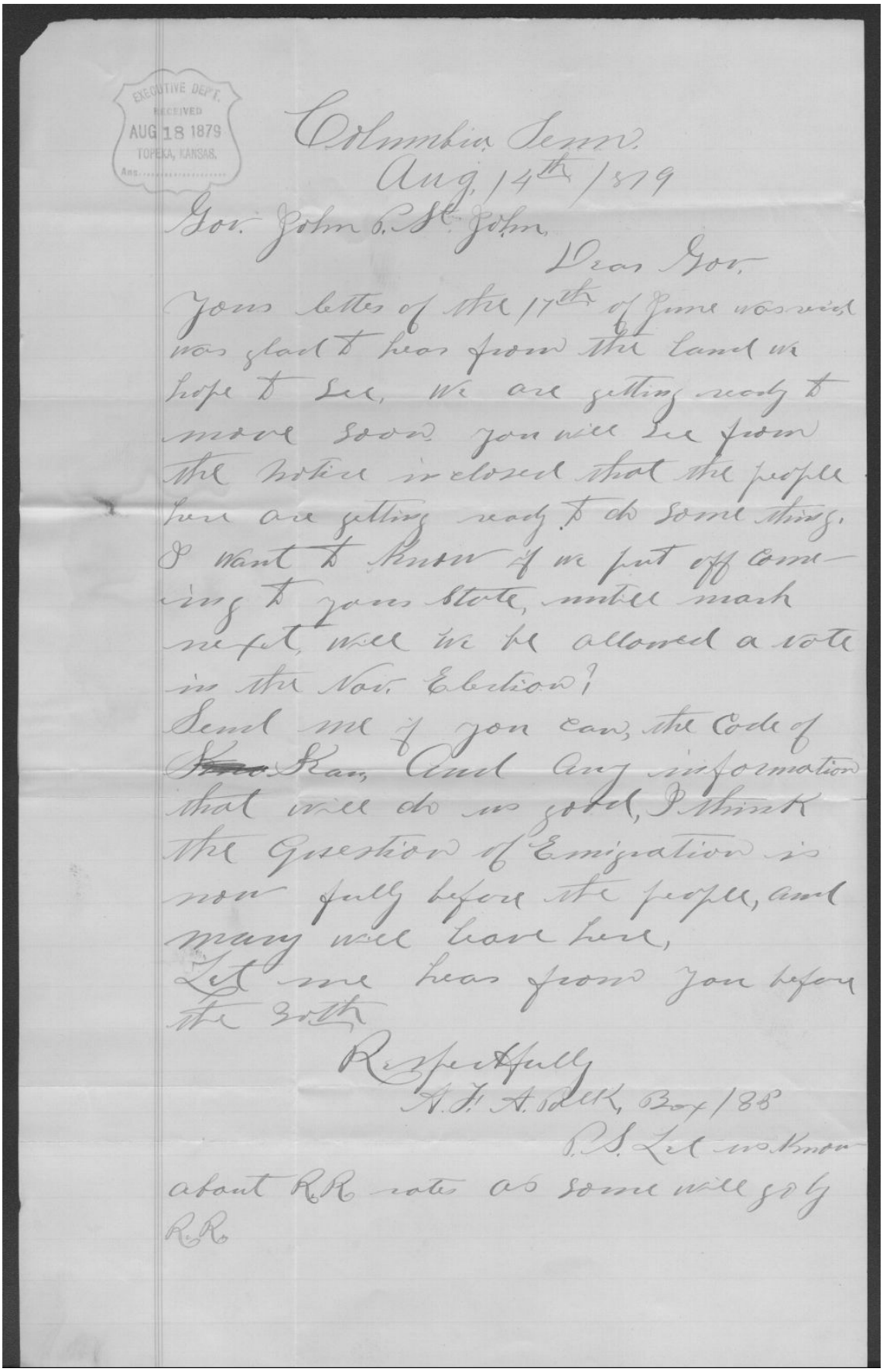
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



No. 4119 Book B Page 514
From Eliza S Leggett
Detroit

I must express my pride
as a Citizen in the noble
action of Kansas - I feel
her great hospitality in
Fraternally gathering the
Oppressed - as Christ gathered
those who had need of shelter
I need not say you will have
your reward - for righteousness
is born of Truth - and Truth
is the Law - and the Law is
Love - so that - see beauty
and Comfort Comes of
well doing - not as a
Compensation sought - but as
an inevitable result -
I am with all hopeful hope - for
the growth of this Truth in Kansas -
and with Entire Satisfaction

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
AUG 18 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.
Ans.

Columbia Tenn.
Aug. 14th 1879

Gov. John P. St. John,

Dear Gov.

Your letter of the 17th of June was rec'd was glad to hear from the land we hope to see. We are getting ready to move soon you will see from the notice inclosed that the people here are getting ready to do some thing. I want to know if we put off coming to your State, until March next, will we be allowed a vote in the Nov. Election?

Send me if you can, the Code of ~~Kans~~ Kan, And any information that will do us good, I think the Question of Emigration is now fully before the people, and many will leave here,

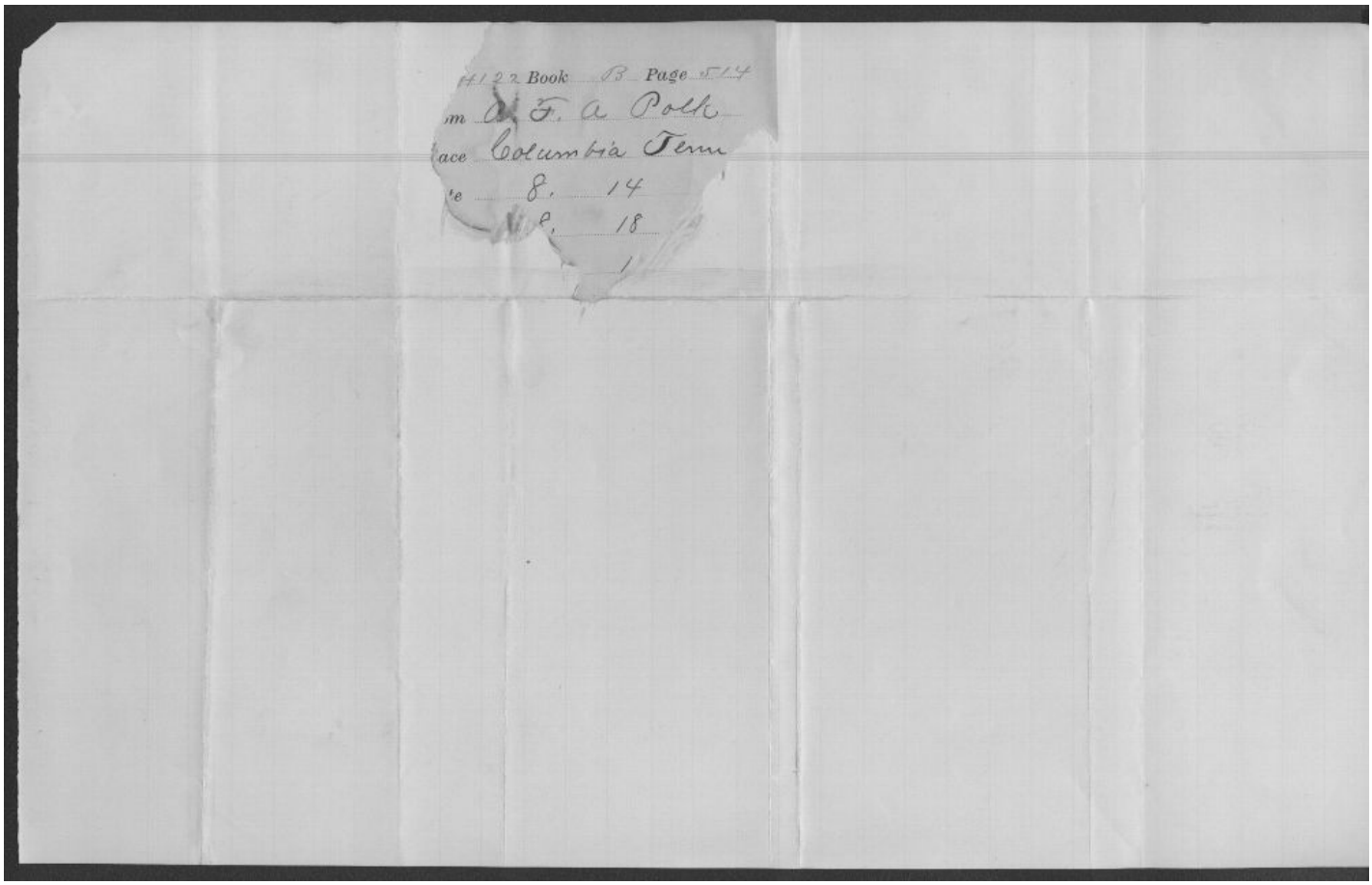
Let me hear from you before the 30th

Respectfully

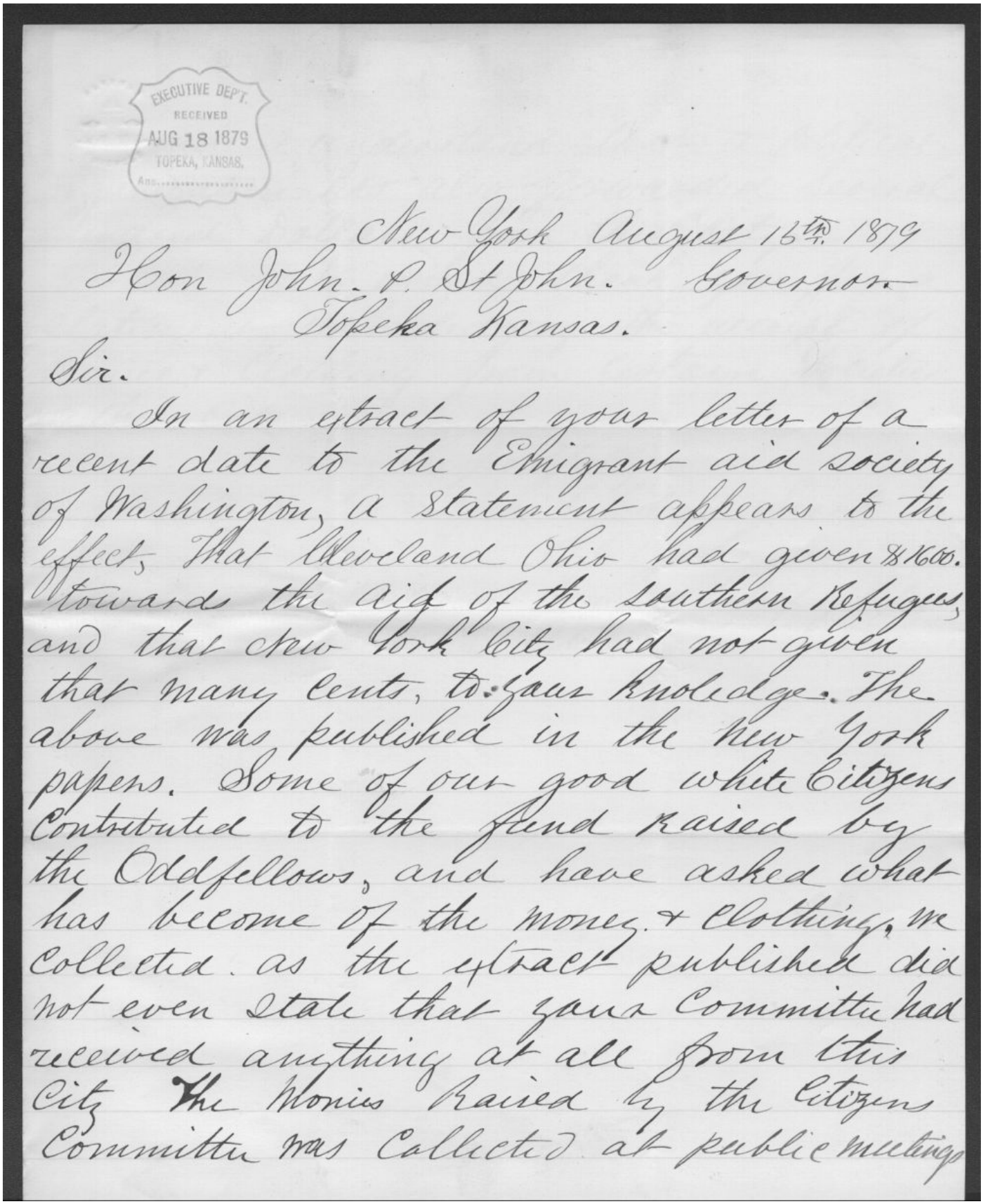
A. J. A. Dick, Box 188

P.S. Let us know about R.R. rates as some will go by R.R.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



New York August 16th 1879

Hon John. P. St John. Governor.
Topeka Kansas.

Sir.

In an extract of your letter of a recent date to the Emigrant aid Society of Washington, a Statement appears to the effect, That Cleveland Ohio had given $1600. towards the aid of the Southern Refugees, and that New York City had not given that many cents, to your knowledge. The above was published in the New York papers. Some of our good white Citizens Contributed to the fund raised by the Oddfellows, and have asked what has become of the money & Clothing, so collected. as the extract published did not even State that your Committe had received anything at all from this City The Monies Raised by the Citizens Committe was Collected at public meetings

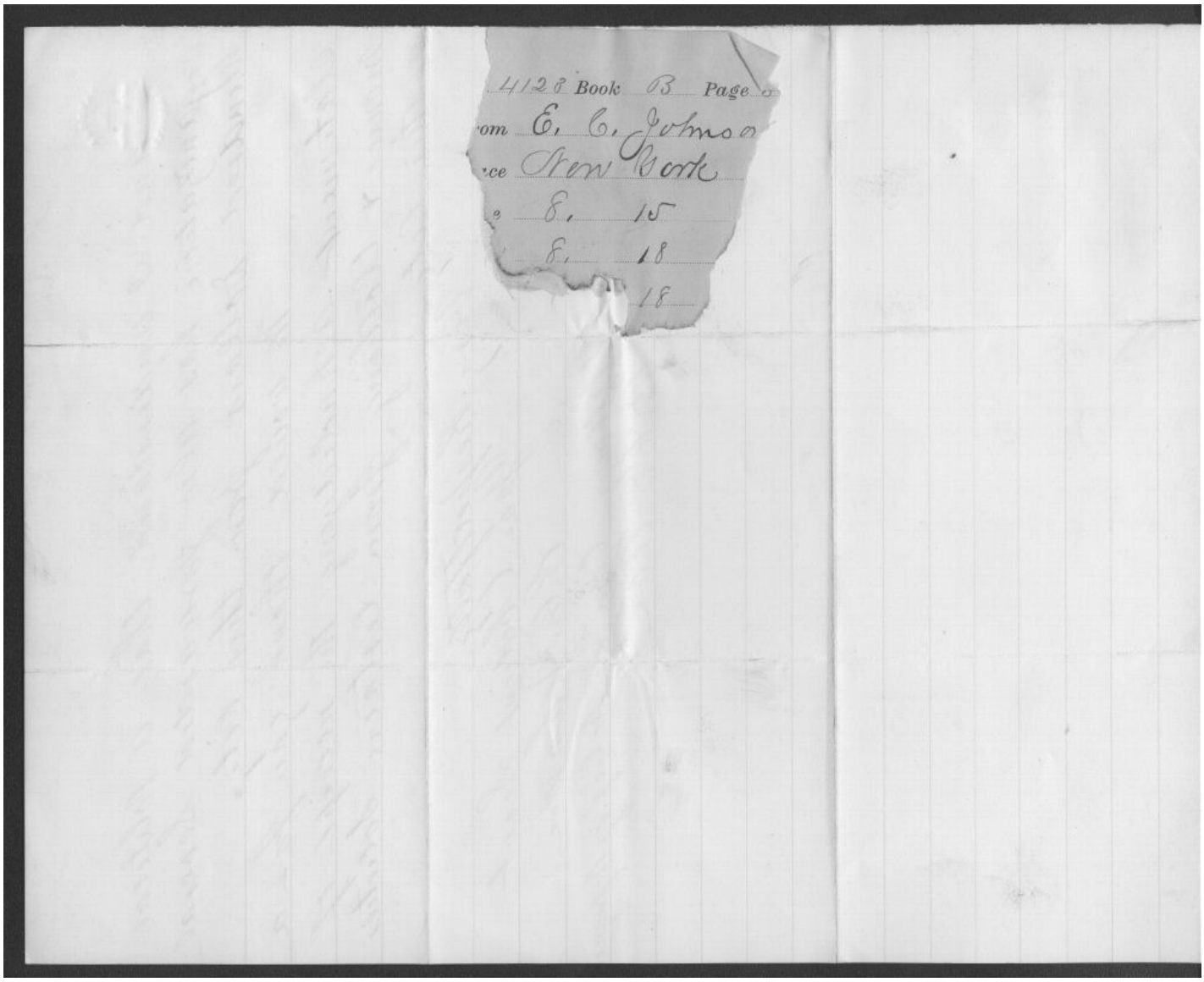
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

and I understand that a political organization has also forwarded Several hundred dollars from this city.

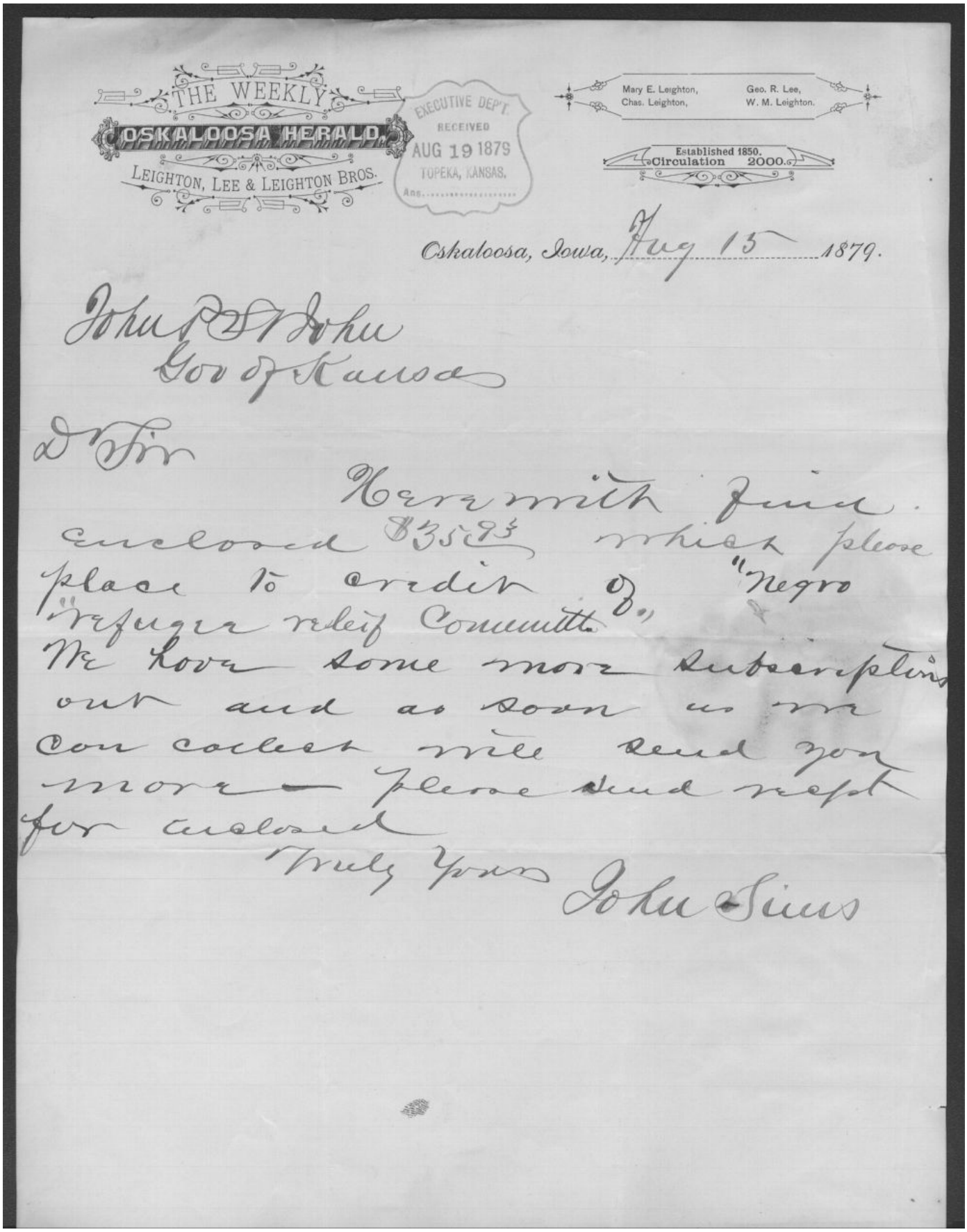
We would thank you for a statement acknoledging the receipt of monies & Clothing from Certain Societies of this City

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servt
E. C. Johnson
Chairman Oddfellows Com of Relief of Refugees
65. 6th Ave

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



THE WEEKLY
OSKALOOSA HERALD.
LEIGHTON, LEE & LEIGHTON BROS.

EXECUTIVE DEP'T.
RECEIVED
AUG 19 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.
Ans.....

Mary E. Leighton, Geo. R. Lee,
Chas. Leighton, W. M. Leighton.

Established 1850.
Circulation 2000.

Oskaloosa, Iowa, Aug 15 1879.

John P St John
Gov of Kansas

Dr Sir

Herewith I inclose $3.50 which please place to credit of "Negro Refugee relief Committee".
We have some more subscriptions out and as soon as we can collect will send you more — Please send receipt for enclosed

Truly Yours
John Sims

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

