

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 27, Pages 781 - 810

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

2

how many willing doorkers can find
employment. -? what Character of work?
what price of wages? Cost of Living?
what Route from Ala the best?
probable Cost of transportation? is an
over land private conveyance route
practicable for able bodied men & women
with a few waggons & oxteams to
haul provisions & light baggage? is the
water line preferable to Rail for
women & children and old men?
Can contracts be closed with Reliable
Companies (to wit- RR Co.) or others for
a large number of laborers, to wit-
lots of one hundred to 10 hundred?
Can any assistance in the way of
transportation or necessary supplies
be obtained? the same to be returned
in labor or money when made?
is it best for the able bodied to go
ahead of the feeble and procure
subsistence or Can all move
together without the fear of great
suffering & privations?

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

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a brief Statement of our Condition
 here may not be out of place
 as Republicans we are completely
 hedged in. Socially, Politically, & financially
 the bitterness intensified against
 native whites who dare utter or
 entertain sentiments opposed to
 Bourbonism. the more helpless &
 Ignorant-Colored people who submit
 more readily to oppression and who
 aspire to nothing higher than Slavery
 find better, but the better class
 of colored people who have higher
 aspirations, find the South a hard
road to travel. The Criminal Code
 of our State is so framed that it-
 is a mere question of time when
 $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Colored people will be
 remanded to a condition worse
 than Slavery. these horrors
 Coupled with the fact that few

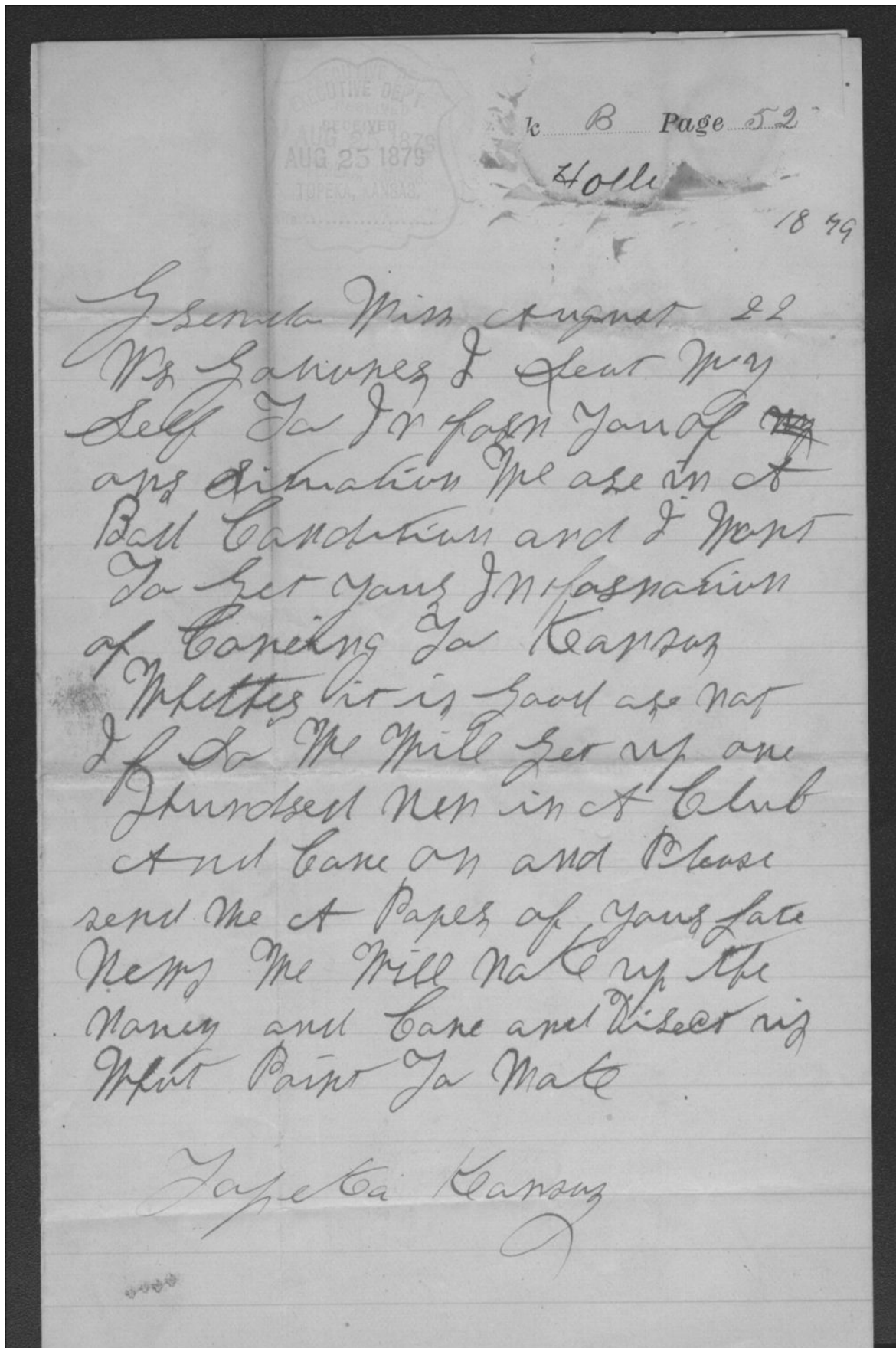
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 4170^d of the Working Thousand
are permitted to lay up a dollar
from his hard years toil (owing to the
down right Swindling of his landlors
& Master) has after years of suffering
and patient forbearance unsettled
and demoralized the average working
man of the South, and with charity
for all and Malice to none like
Isreal of old, he proposes to pull out
and try his fortunes in other
climes, even if it takes him through
the wilderness, and across the River
asking pardon for Trespassing so much
on your valuable time I am very respectful
your about Lot

B.R. Thomas

P.S. any information your friends
may be able to furnish us will
be sent to me, to the care of
John A Thomas, Rout-agent-
Ala & Gt Southern R.R Chattanooga
Tenn who will hand it to me without
risk to personal safety. B.R.T

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



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do not send me a paper of
news

Yours Respectfully

N J Hallis

Essex Miss



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Geneseo Henry Co Illinois
August 21 1879

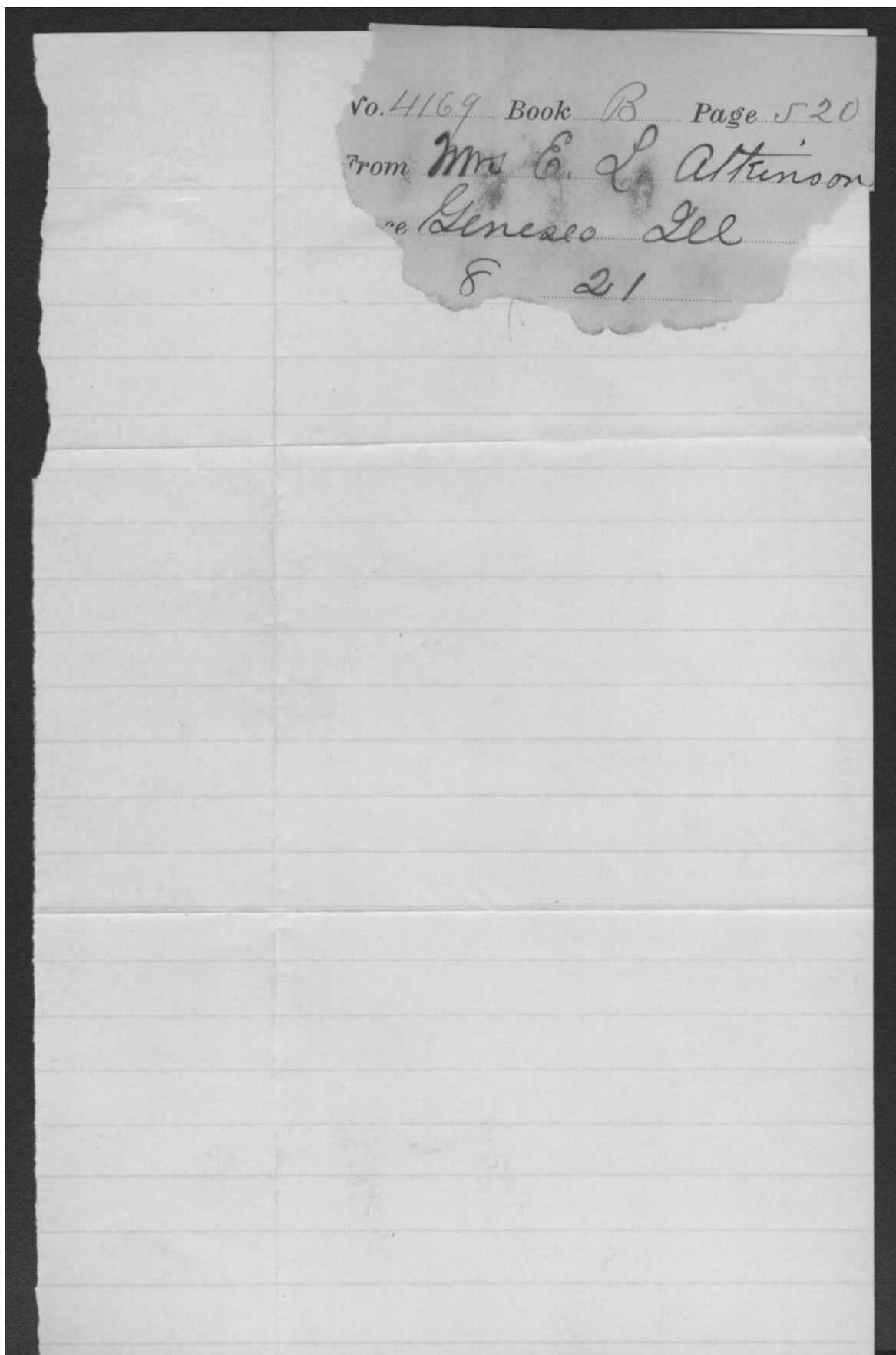
Mrs St. John

Dear Sir


Enclosed is a
draft for five dollars which
will you appropriate to
the wants of needy freedmen
as you see best - Will you
please acknowledge receipt -
that I may know you received
it. Respectfully Mrs E L Atkinson



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



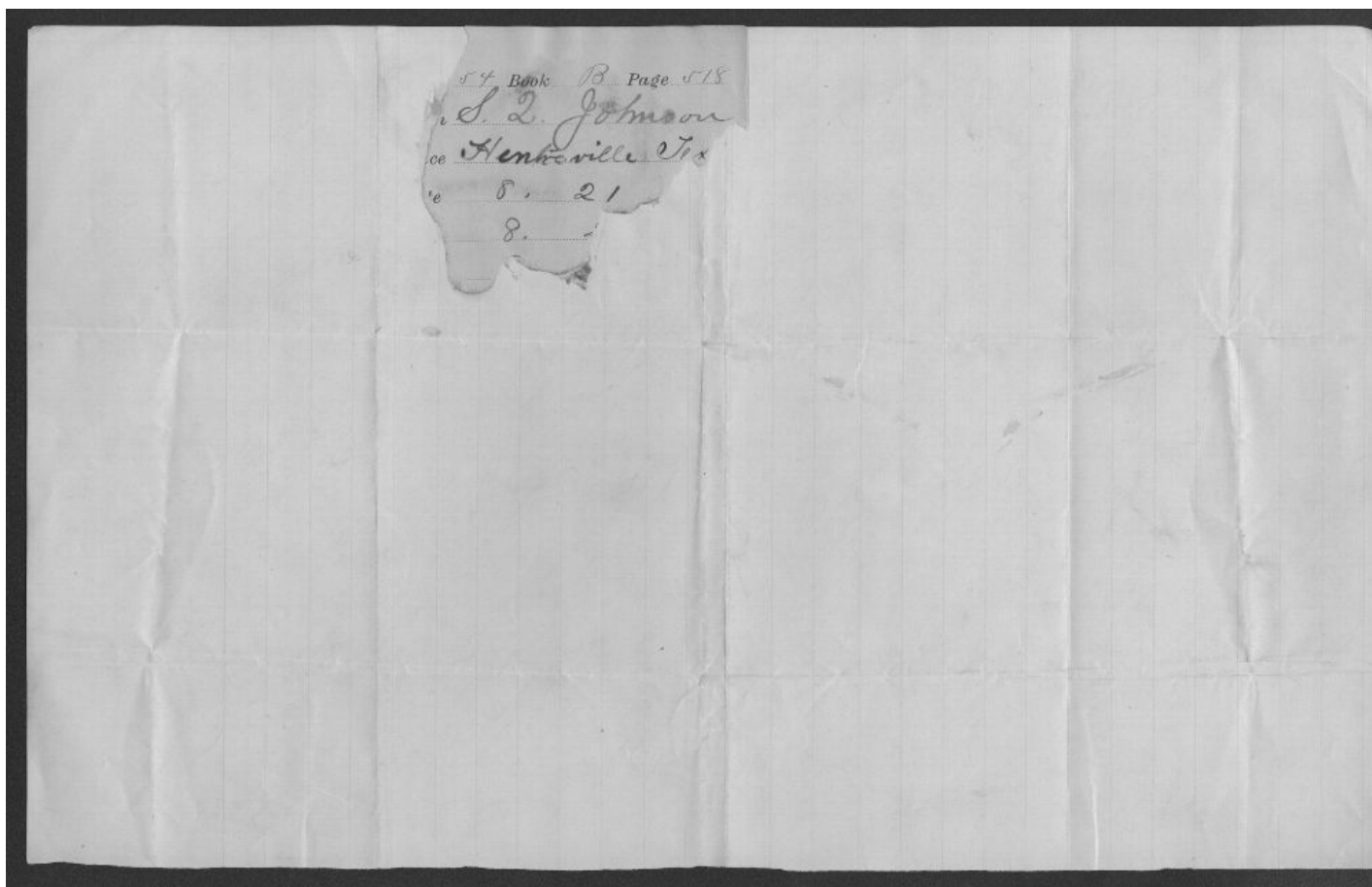
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Centreville, Leon Co. Texas
 August 21st. /79.
 Gov. St. John

Dear Sir,
 It affords me much pleasure
 to request your opinion about
 the climate of Your State.
 Please inform me whether or
 not you think it best for us,
 the colored people to immigrate
 to your State. We cannot enjoy
 our freedom down here in
 the South. We wish to emigrate
 to some place where we can better
 our condition. We have heard
 much of your State being a
 free Stateⁱⁿ which a colored man
 can enjoy his freedom.
 Can grain of all kind be raised
 in Kansas? What is land selling
 at? Can cotton etc be raised in
 Kansas? Is Kansas a good
 farming State? What is generally
 raised in your State?
 I will be glad to hear from you
 soon. And oblige
 S. L. Johnson.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
AUG 27 1879
TOPEKA, KAN.

Grand Bluff, Panola Co Texas Aug. 22, 1879

Gov. John P. St. John Topeka Kan.

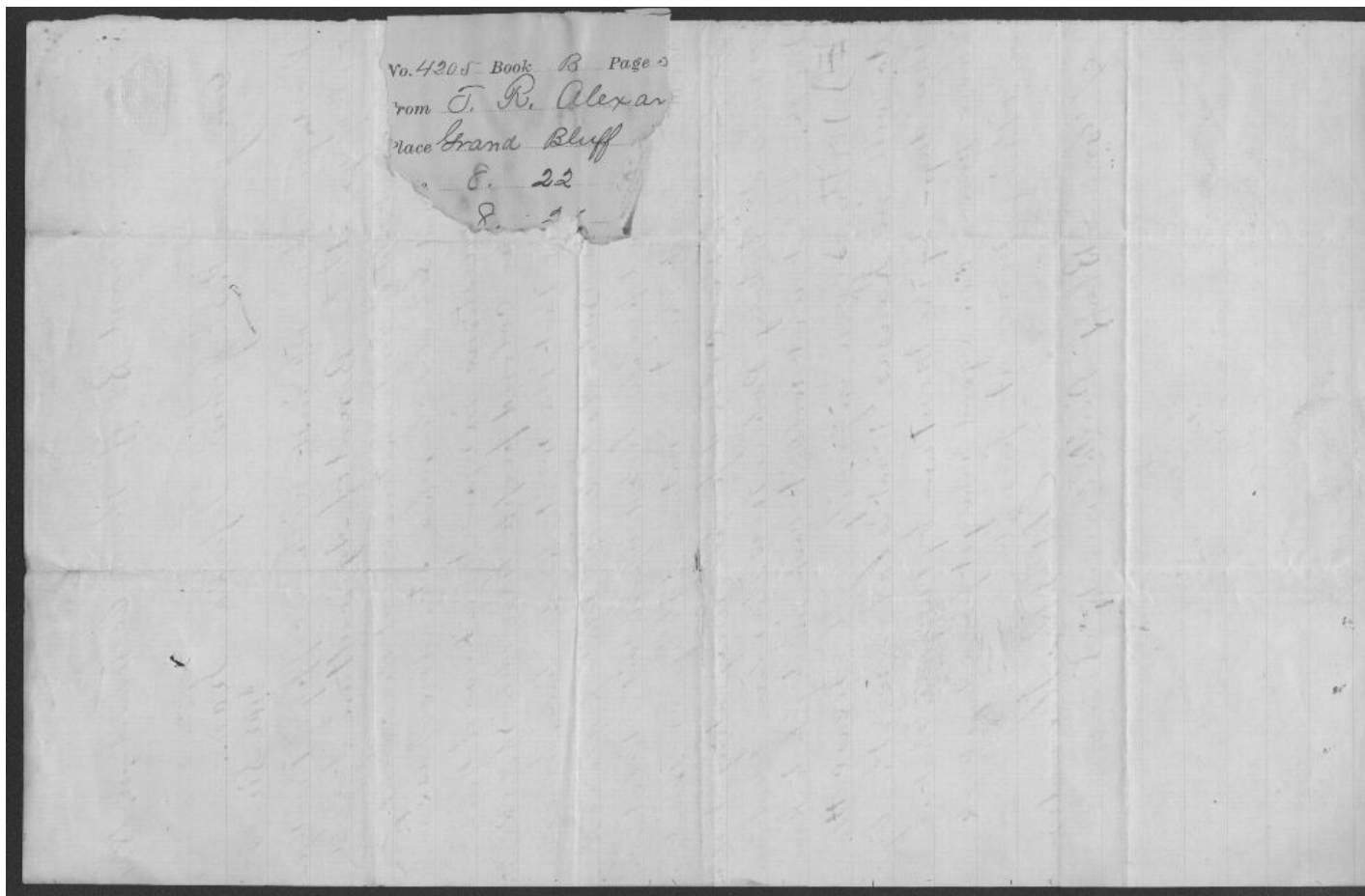
Dear Sir I

Reced. yours of the 4th inst. with a copy of the Report of yr State Board of Agriculture it affords me a great deal of information about the country products and School & churches etc. Now I ask a few more questions in regard to the Laws of your State. do the colored people have the same Rights before the Law that the white people have. have the colored people Schools like the white people in Kan. are the colored people looked upon with disdain and scorn. I want the true nature of things. are the North in favor of the colored people immigrating North. I am not taking papers now therefore I don't hear much. About what will it cost me to get to Kan. (th) With Seven in family will Texas cattle do well in Kansas. What is labor worth by the day, - by the month, - by the year that is how much can a good hand get for a days work Nothing more at present

Eld J. R. Alexander
of Grand Bluff Panola County Texas

P.S. please introduce me to some private individual so that I may not trouble you too much - that is if my constant writing to you is troublesome to you are there any colored men in Office in your State if so what Office do they hold Yrs obd. J. R. Alexander

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Hopkinst Copiah Co. Miss.
Aug 23rd 1879.

Gov. St. John.

How, Sir,

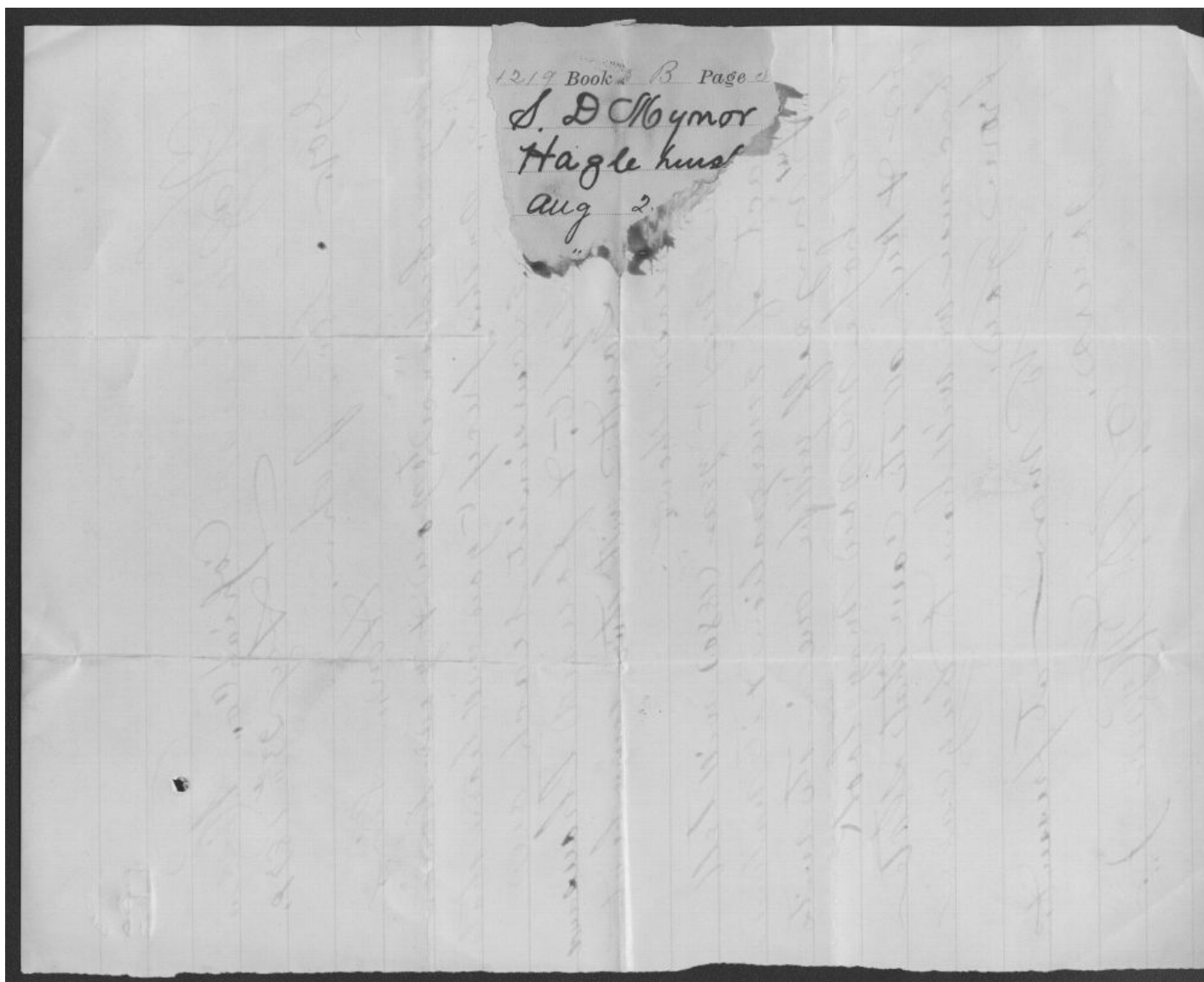
My obedience to you & your honor
Sir. On this receipt you will learn that
We as exodusters reach our
homes safe & found thousands
in the South with their cure bent
for Kansas show.

So the next year (1880) will tell
my act of emigration & its nature
I myself will be one in the units
so I hope the you may look
for & keep all the care that state
because we will have to buy care
from you.

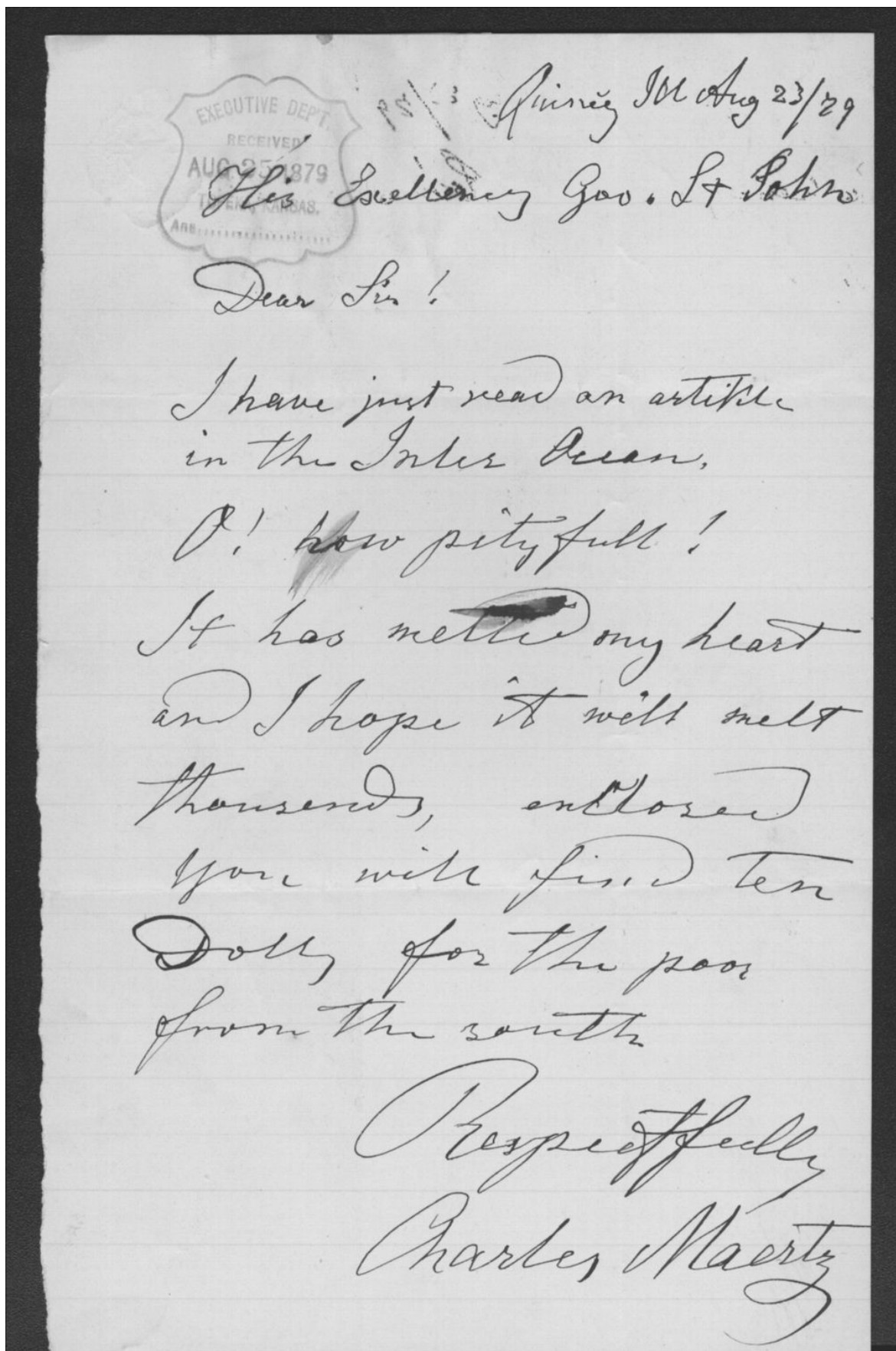
No more at present,
yours.

A. D. Mynor Jr.

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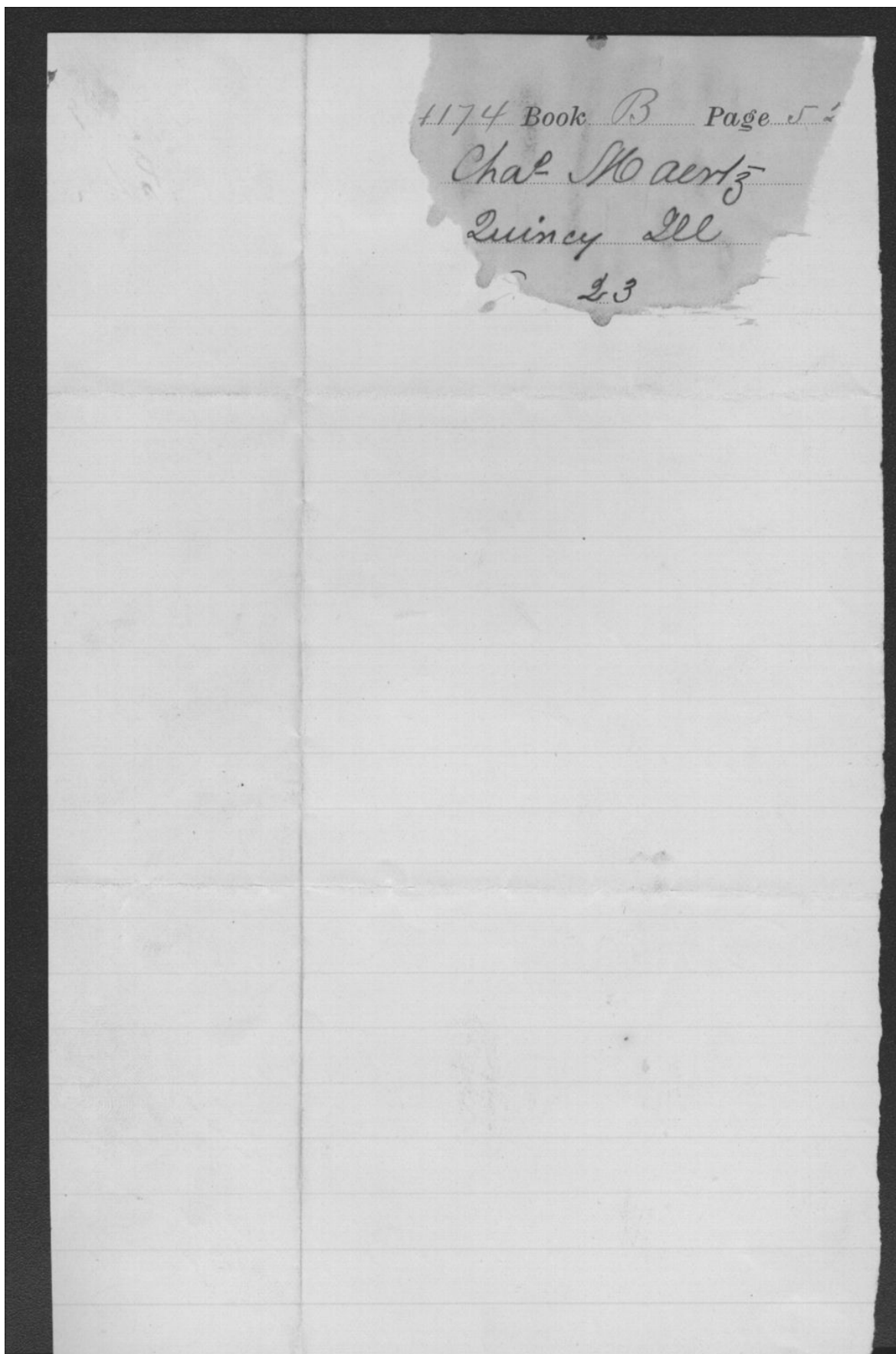


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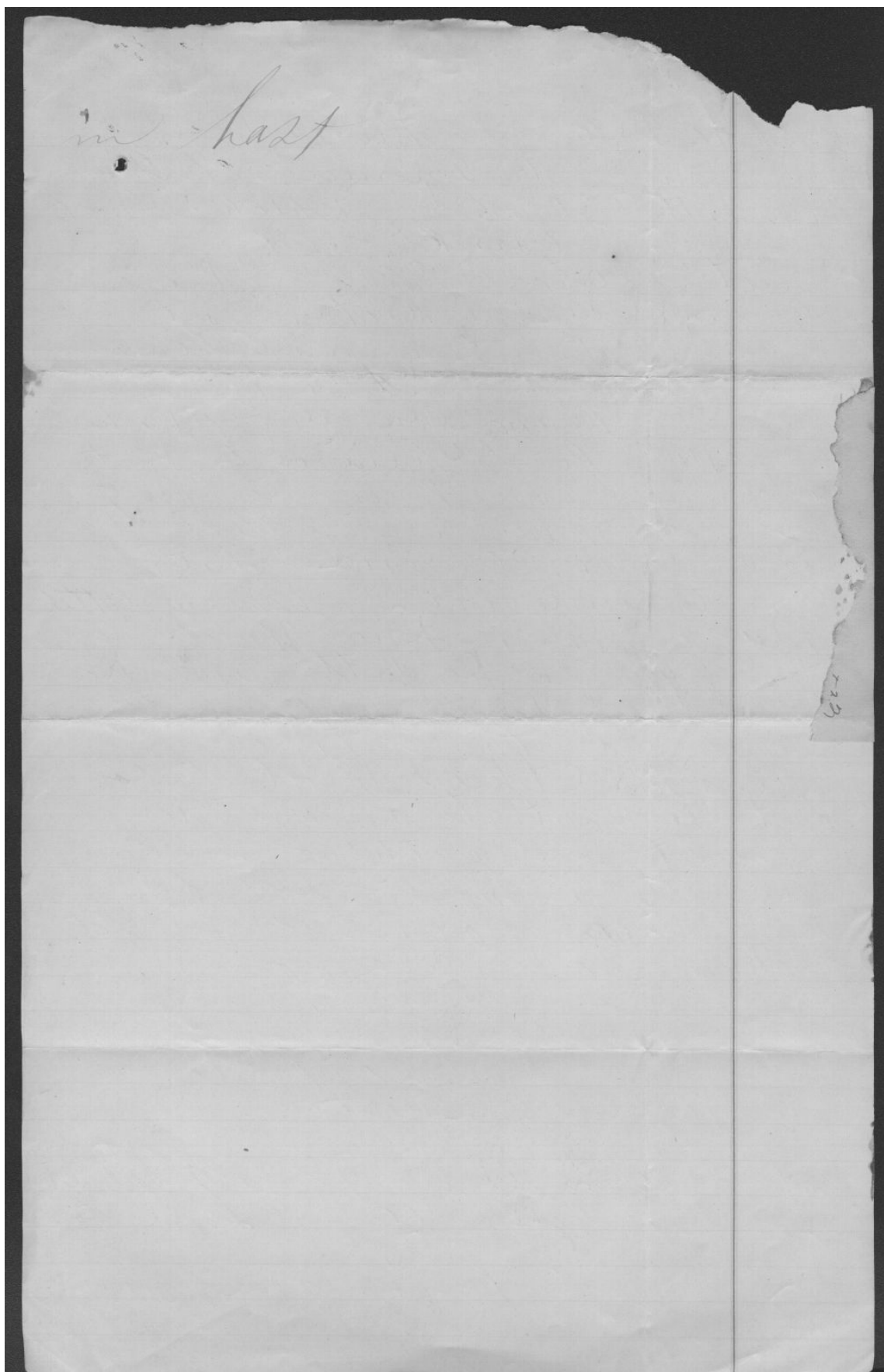
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Nashville Tenn aug, The 23 1879

Dear Sir Mr Governor St John
herewith I hand you which I trust
it will be correct and
satisfactory Will you please
to send me the fact a bout
Kansas I has heard so much a
bout Kans I thought I would
Brake up and com out I hope
you will be so please to write
and tell me when to come
and when is the best time
come I how to come what
place to come in I have a littel
place and I dont want to
Brake up to do better and do
Worse I want to know the
time & the state
me and other want to come
but we want to know the
best and I think you can
tell us we will look for
an ad as soon as you get
this so write soon
yours
Respectfully
Wallace Parter

My address is 398 Bass Street
South Nashville I hope to
hear from you soon

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SENATE CHAMBER,

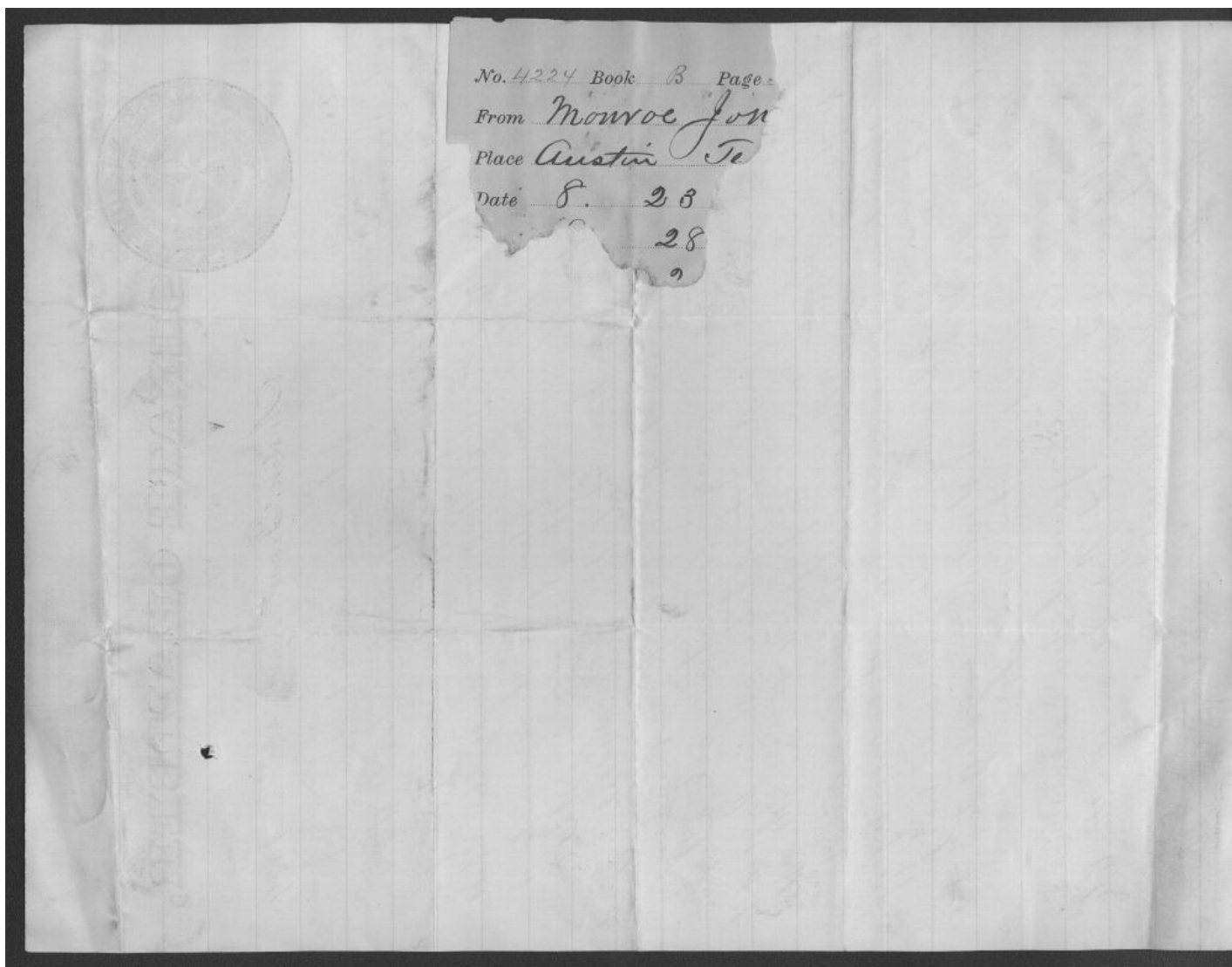
RECEIVED
AUG 28 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Austin, Texas, August 23rd 1879.

his Excellency St John Governor of Kansas sir
be please to Give me some information about the
colored people that have migrate to Kansas thire 700
hundred here that is well to Do and cond fine well
after thay get to Kansas pleas give the number of
an colored people who is there so that St will
be incouragen to them that here one is well prepad
to live after there get thire have his Excellency
and boad to give an smey information all about
the government send the state sark in prepad to
Publica send theare well prepad to live when we
get thire if his Excellency will give on a direct
answere from his self the heere that colored peopple
was Driven away from Kansas and could not
get any protection and wood not ~~be~~ alosh to note
please give on all information possible

I am Dear sir yours obedien Servant
Moncal Jones A Republican of the 6th
District adress Moncal Jones Austin Texas
700 hundred a voting of his Excellency ans there

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Longmont, Boulder Co. Colorado
Aug. 25th 1879.

Governor John P. St. John,
Topeka, Kansas.

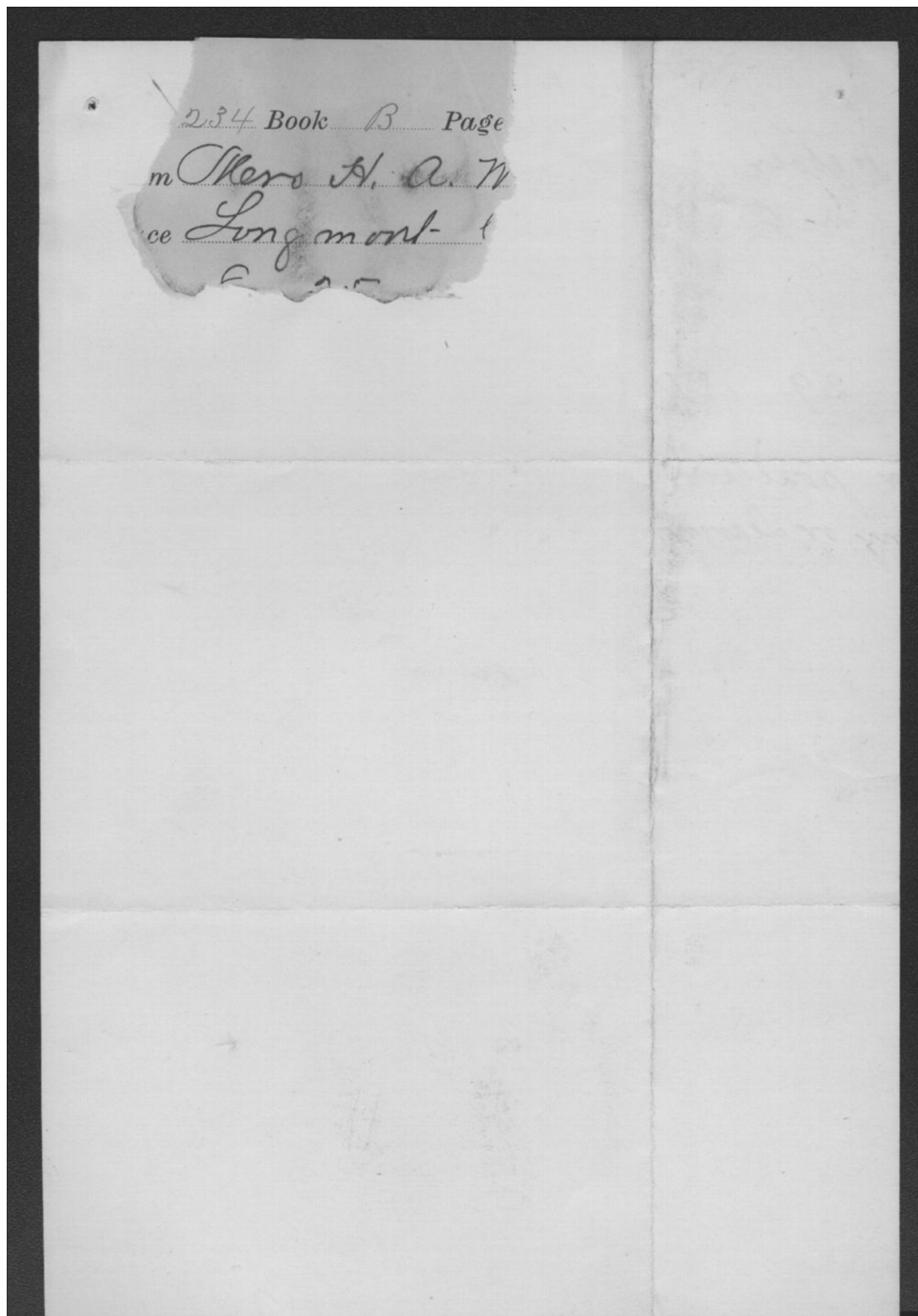
Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will ^{find} P.O. order
for ^{\$2.75} ~~one~~ dollar, for the poor colored people
of your state. I heartily sympathize
with them in their suffering and wish
I was able to send you much more.
But I pray the Lord to bless this
my "mite"

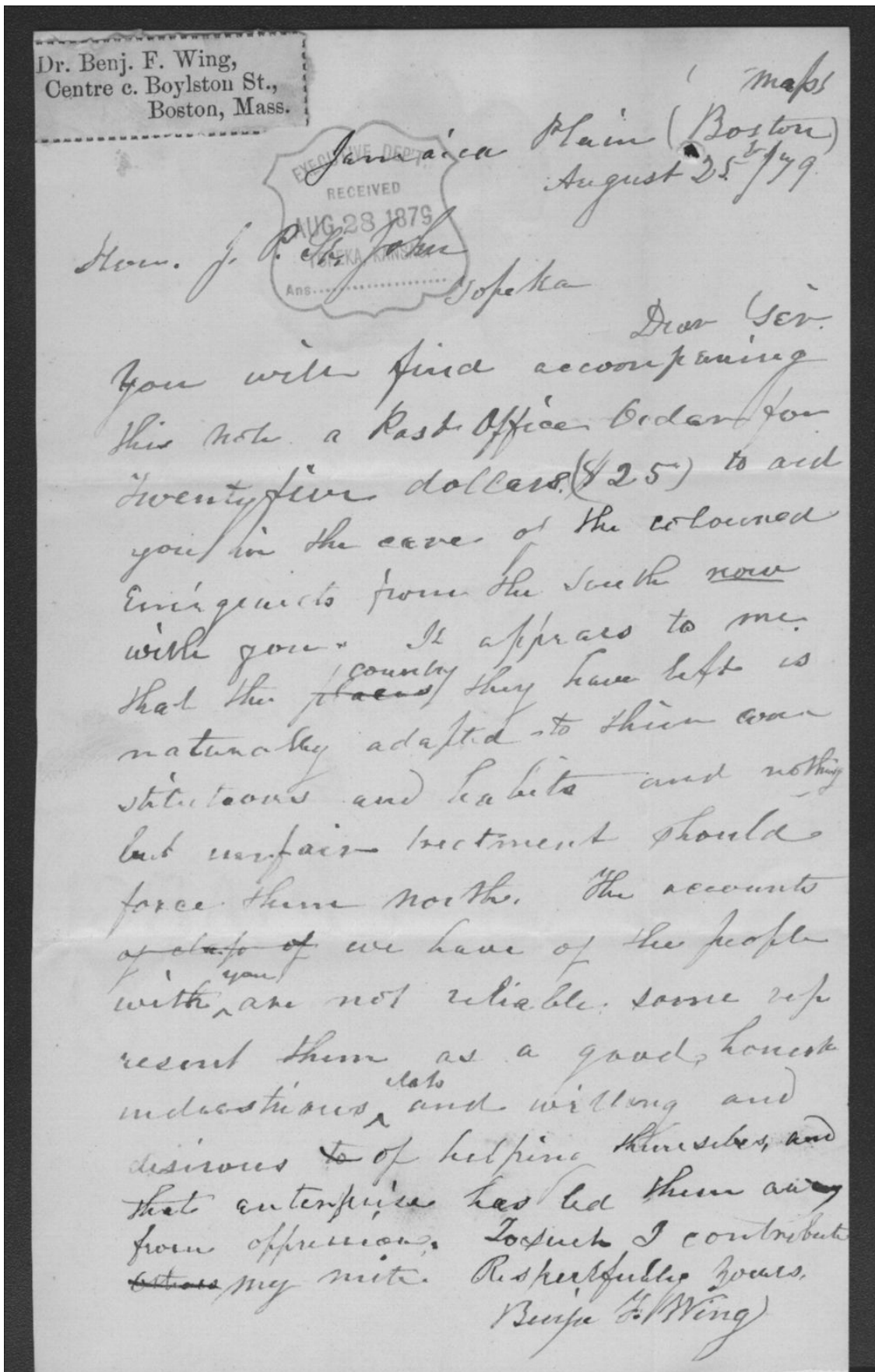
Very Respectfully

Mrs. Harriet A. Weston

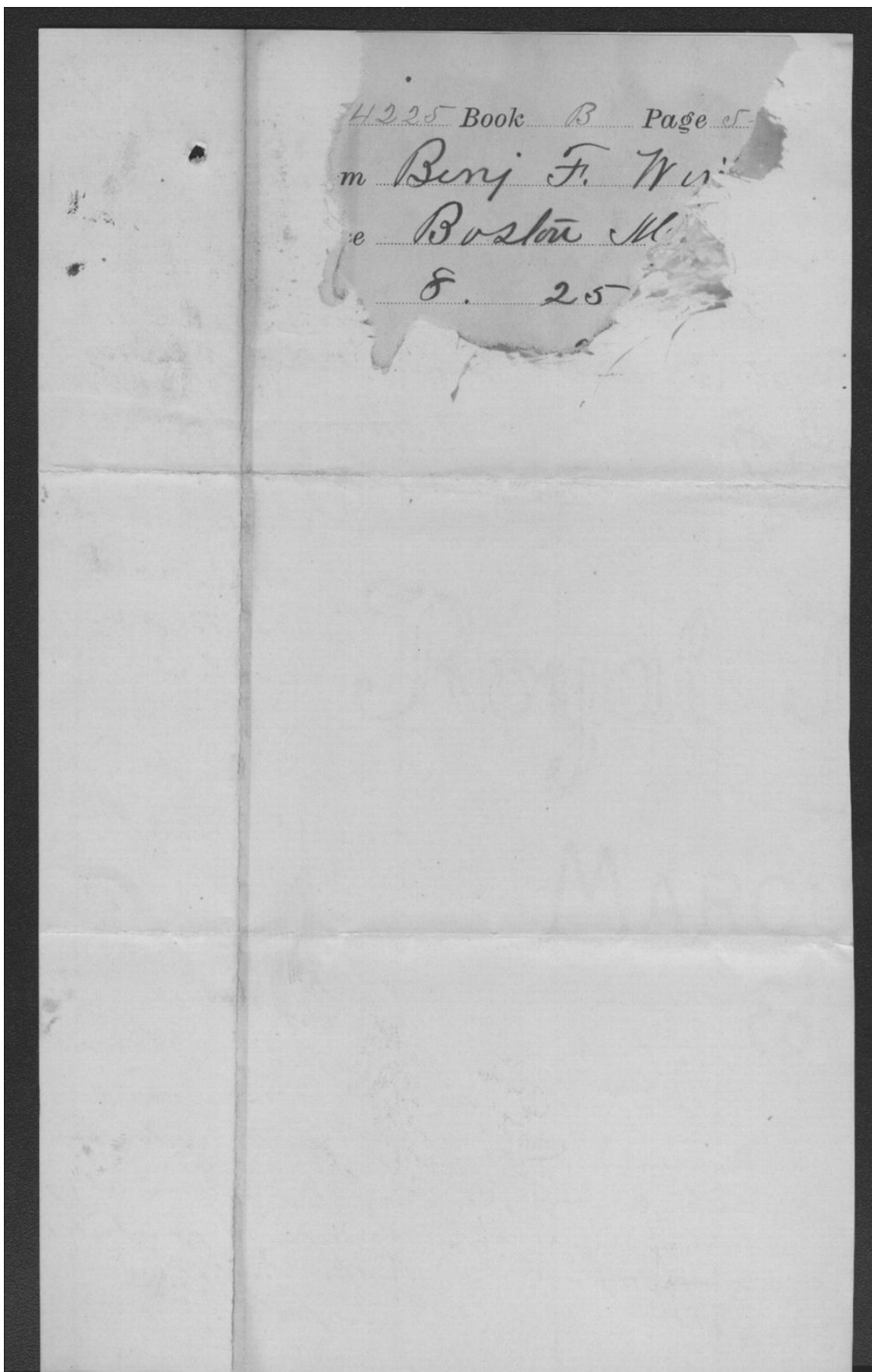
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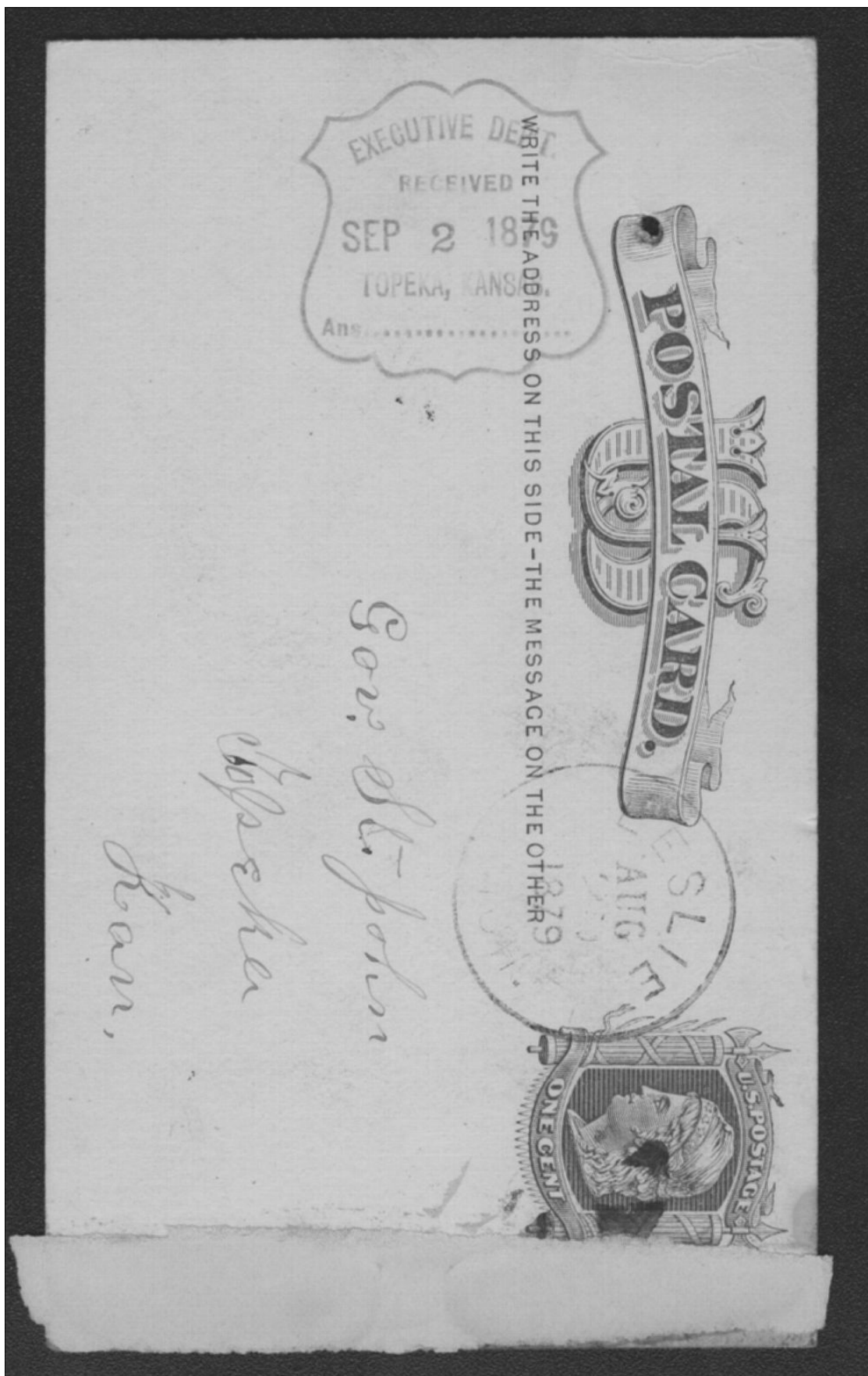
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Gov. St. John
Dear Sir — I'm reading about the exodus
to pitiable condition of these refugees & thought
perhaps we might help some in the way of
clothing for winter. We have a Young Ladies soci-
ety here that wants to work & to give them a
chance to develop their desire to help humanity
in any way that is right — in the right of our Maker
who is the Father of the Black man as well as white
I would write you as request you to write me a
letter so they might have it to read it — probably
would enthrall their hearts more than reading
any thing from you through the papers. Of course we
shall all help but we want the young to be educated.
Please write us their greatest needs & we will help
what we can tell us where to send the things
Yours. &c Mrs. C. S. Pierce Leslie Michigan

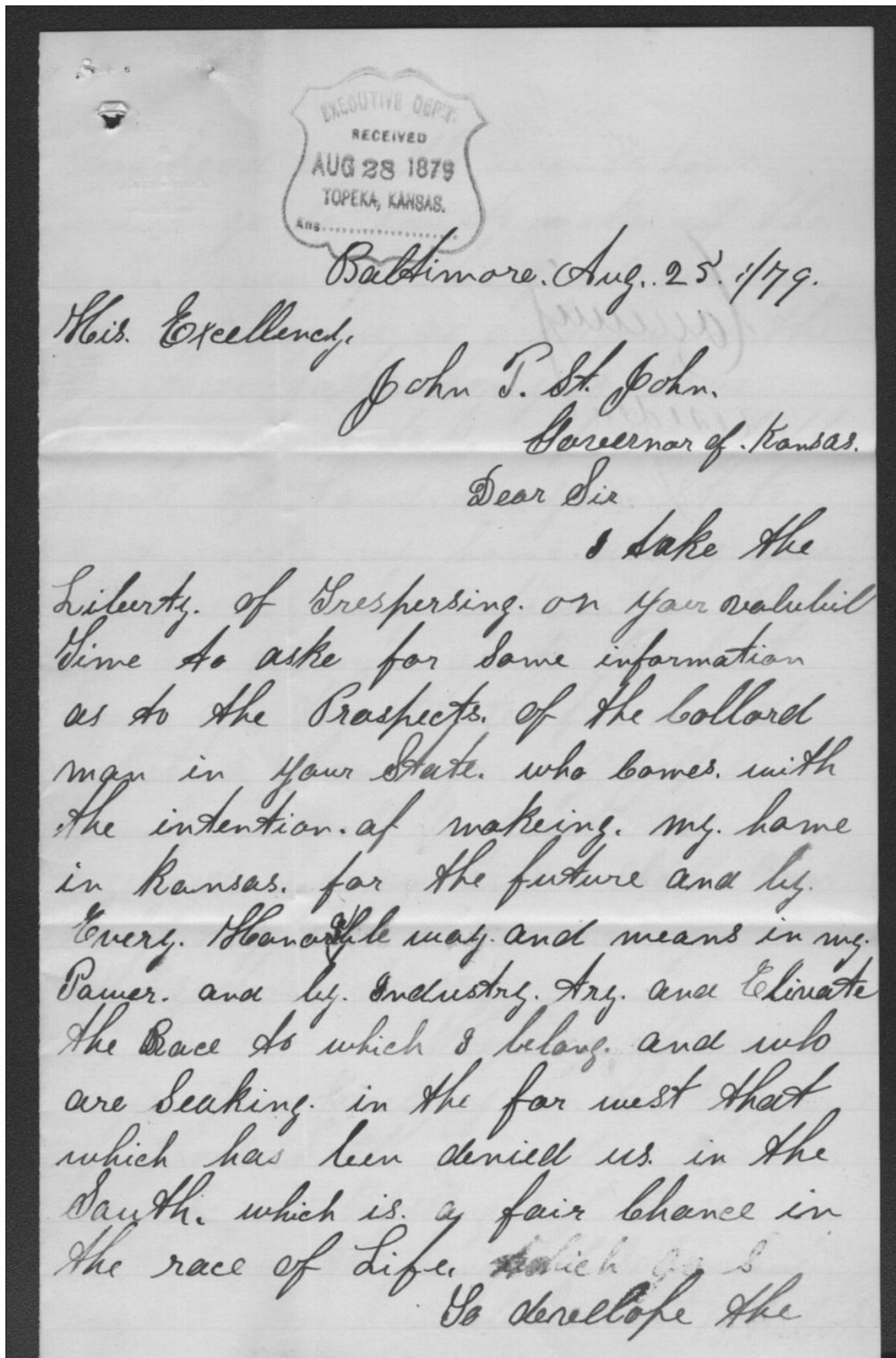
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Aug. 25, 1879 / 839 + 10 25-
San Augustine County Texas August
SEP 4 1879
Mr. St. John Governor Deane
I will take it upon my self to write
you & lined to know of you what about
Kansas I hear so much talk about it - I want
to know from your land is it place sought
& side for the colored people or no we know
that you know and sir if please send me some
satisfactory about - 2000. family are ready and
waiting and if is not we poor people want
to know if you please to send us to do us good
because we are in the East-Part of Texas where it
'look like we cannot have anything some
of us have got good and they are paid for
but if we hold homes in all of us poor colored
people I think that we would do better
sir if place is a lot side for we poor
poor people send us some good word as soon
as you can we want know if we will be taken
free to Kansas or no so long your truly
W.C. Johnson post Box 32

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Manhood and the womanhood
which go so far to make up the
Bene. Sinners of this great Nation,
having served as a Soldier in the
United States Army. I have
Determined to take up one of the
Tracts of Land in your State
and make my home among you.
if there is any information that
you can give me as to the best
Part of the State for me to
select a home for my self and
family it will be gratefully
received by me and I shall ever
hold my self under many
Obligations to you

Hoping this may
find your Excellency in the enjoyment
of good health and your State
the choicest Blessings of God.

I have the honor of subscribing
my self your humble servant B. H. Coke

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Your Excellency. must Pardon me for
the liberty. I take in thanking you
for the noble words. that your
letter to the christian Advocate
contained in reference to the Exodus
I thank you in the name of my.
Race, and may. God in his Providence
Spirer you to see that through this
movement. you may. become the great
Man that you Deserve to be and
your State become the Empire
of the great west. if your
Excellency. can find time to answer this.
You will greatly. Oblige me by.
Directing. your answer to 33 North
Colinet St Baltimore. m.d.

Benjamin H. Coke



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

