Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 29, Pages 841 - 870

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

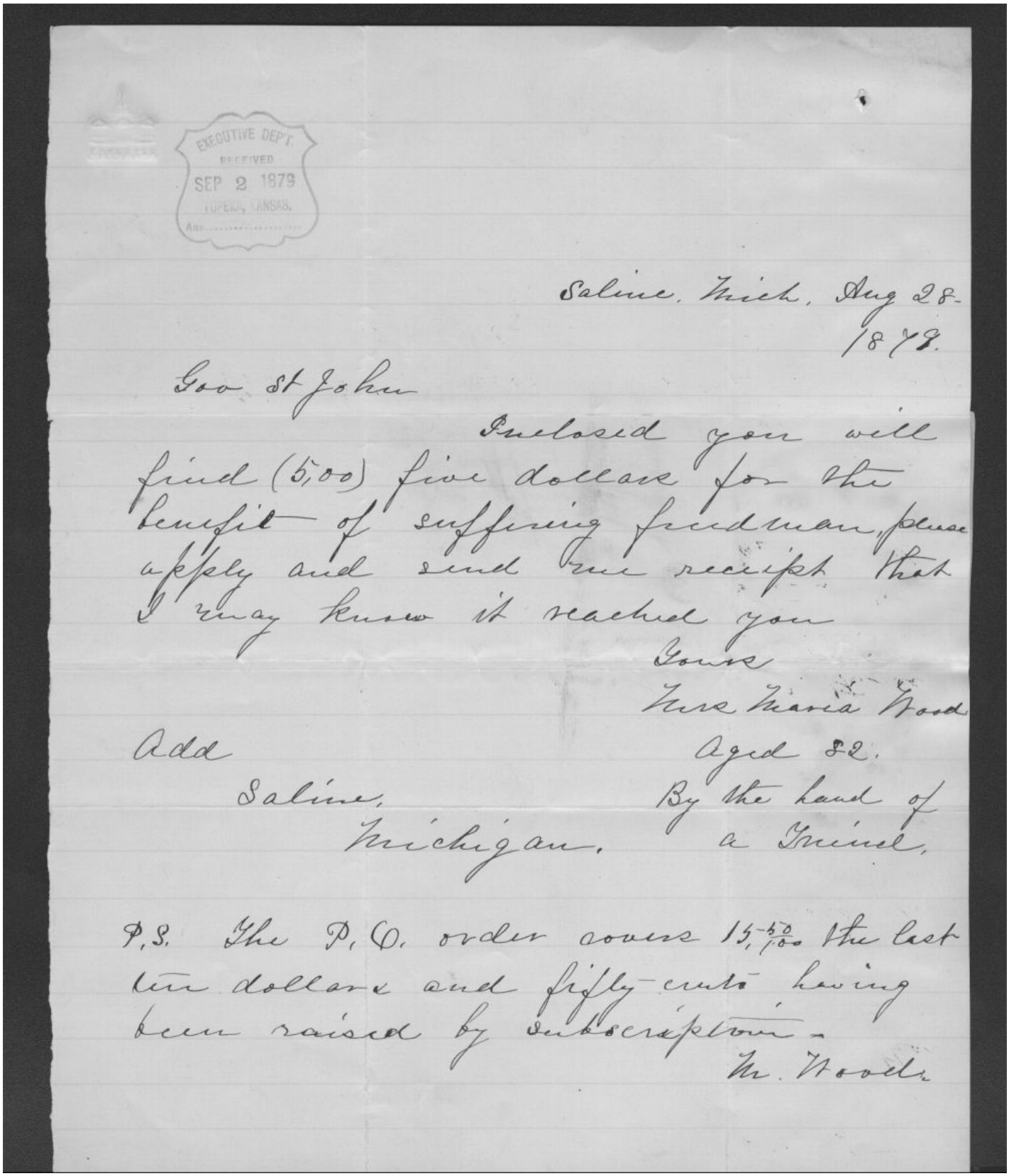
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

Item Identifier: 210296

www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



EXECUTIVE DEP'T.
RECEIVED
SEP 2 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Saline, Mich, Aug 28-
1879.

Gov St John

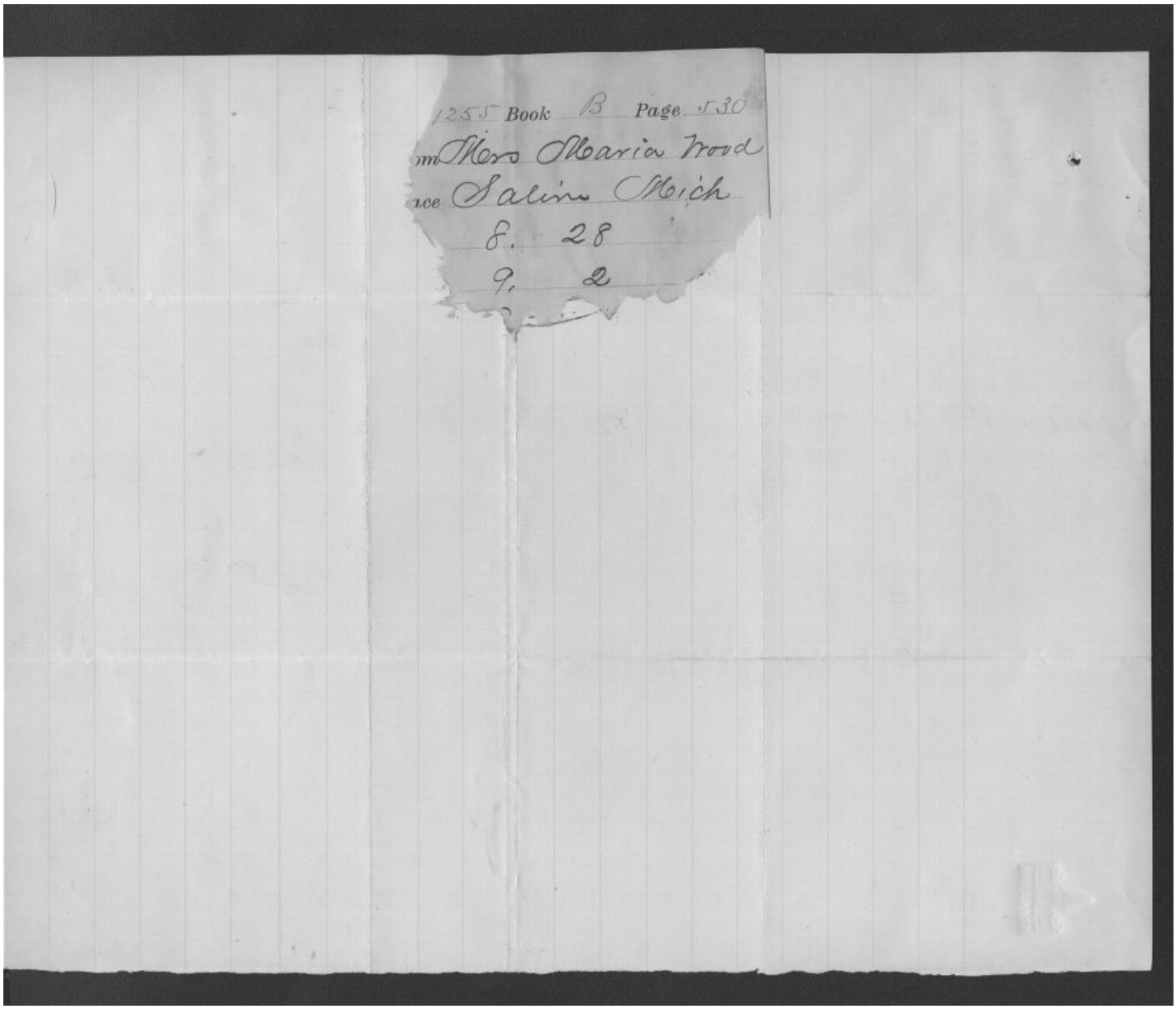
Inclosed you will find (5,00) five dollars for the benefit of suffering freedman, please apply and send me receipt that I may know it reached you

Yours
Mrs Maria Wood
Aged 82.
By the hand of
a Friend.

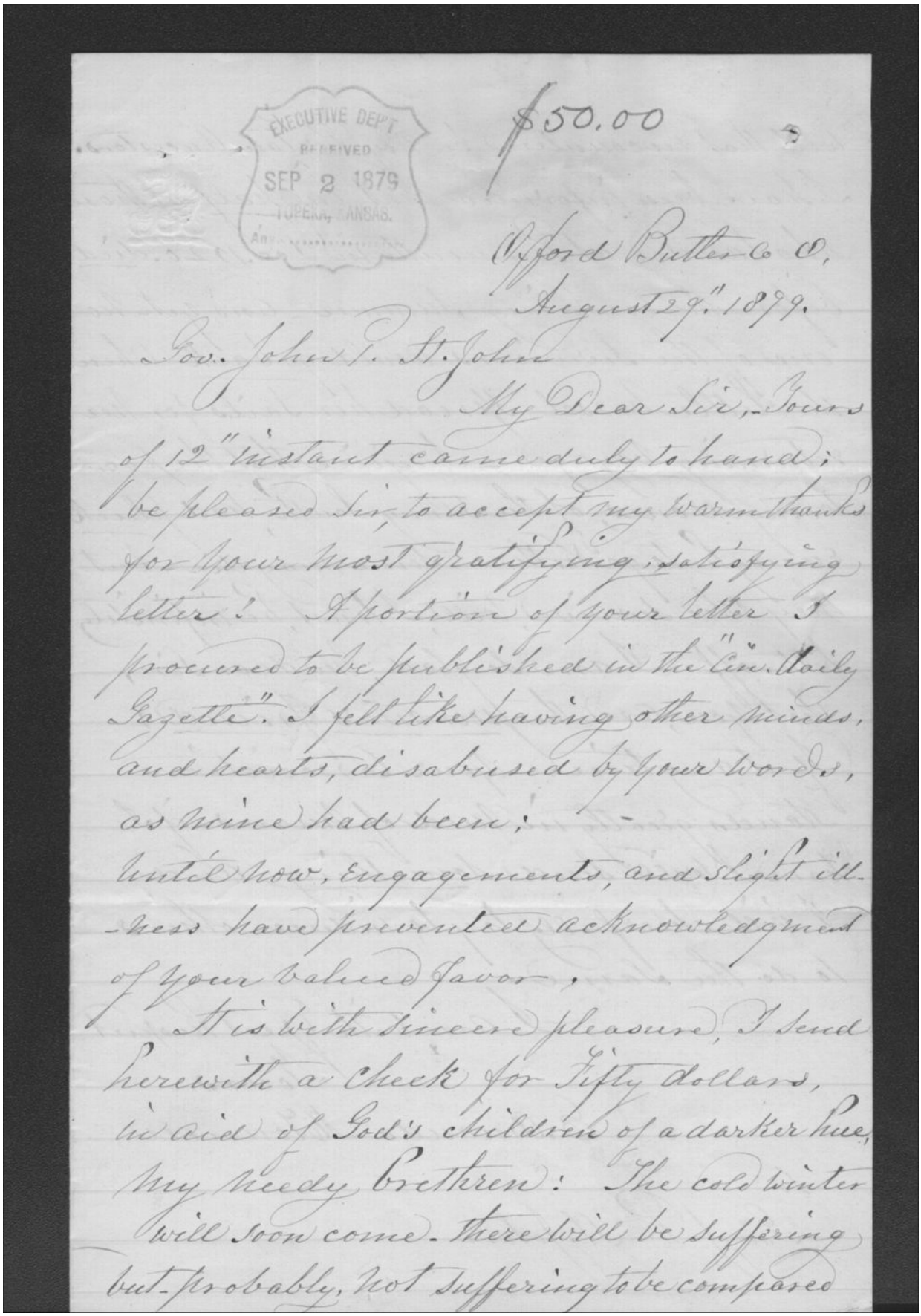
Add
Saline,
Michigan.

P.S. The P. O. order covers 15-50/100 the last ten dollars and fifty cents having been raised by subscription -
M. Wood.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



$50.00

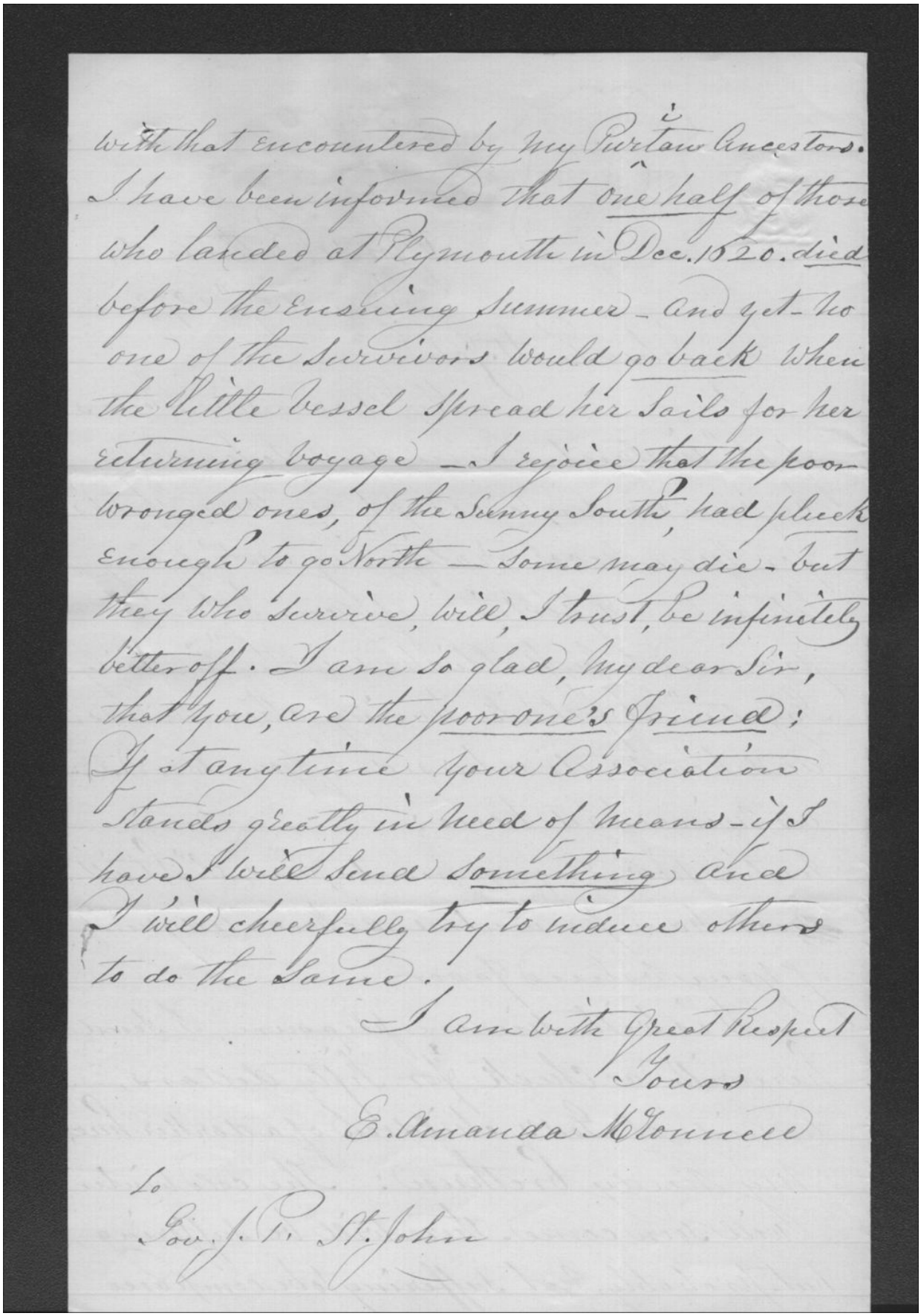
Offord Butler & Co,
August 29th 1879.

Gov. John P. St. John

My Dear Sir, - Yours of 12th instant came duly to hand; be pleased Sir, to accept my warm thanks for your most gratifying, satisfying letter! A portion of your letter I procured to be published in the Cin. Daily Gazette". I felt like having other minds, and hearts, disabused by your words, as mine had been;
until now, Engagements, and slight illness have prevented acknowledgment of your valued favor,

It is with sincere pleasure, I send herewith a check for Fifty dollars, in aid of God's children of a darker hue, my needy brethren: The cold winter will soon come. There will be suffering but probably, not suffering to be compared

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

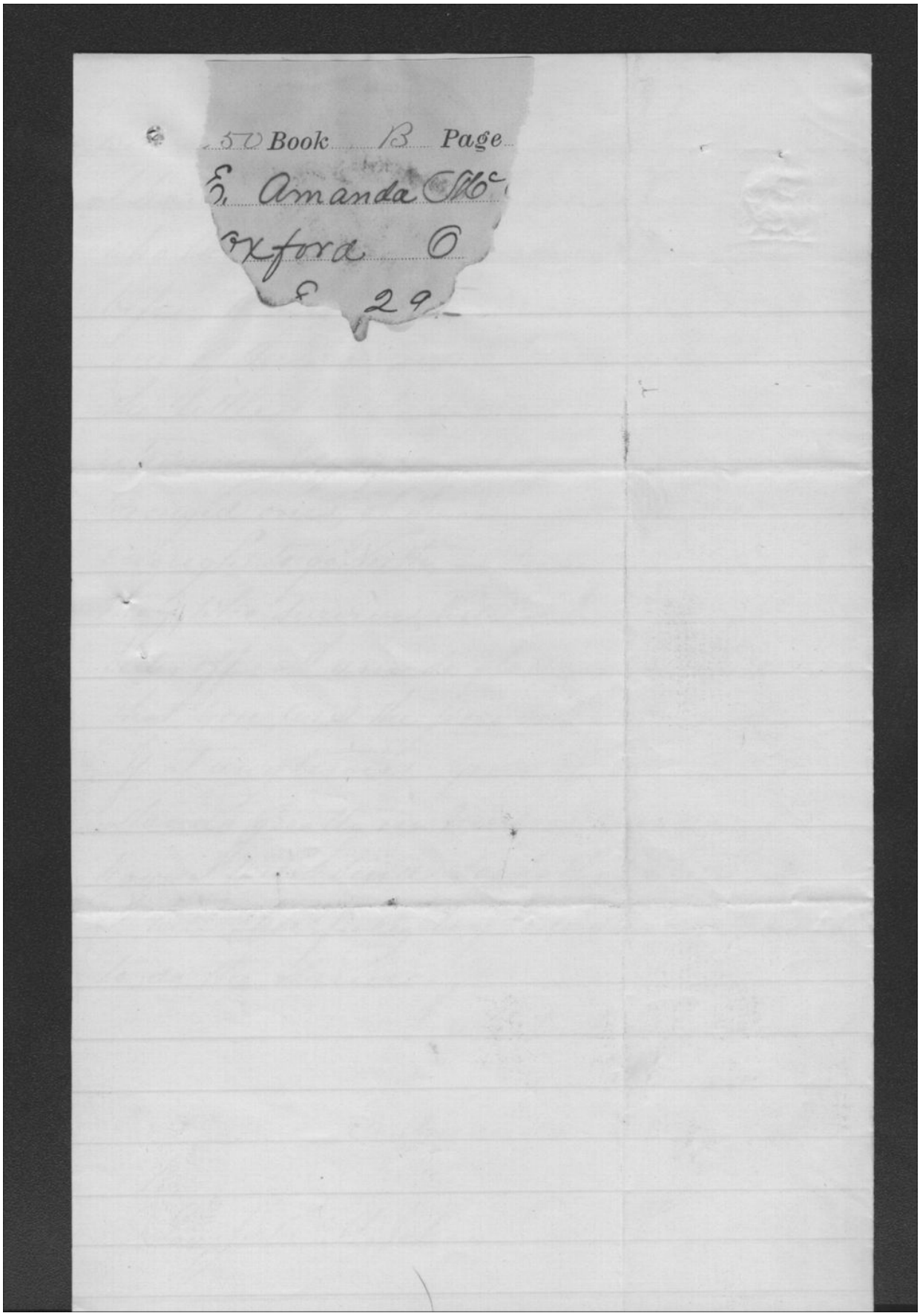


with that encountered by my Puritan Ancestors. I have been informed that one half of those who landed at Plymouth in Dec. 1620. died before the Ensuing Summer - and yet - no one of the Survivors would go back when the little Vessel Spread her Sails for her returning voyage - I rejoice that the poor wronged ones, of the Sunny South, had pluck enough to go North — Some may die - but they who Survive, will, I trust, be infinitely better off. I am so glad, my dear Sir, that you, are the poor one's Friend; If at any time your Association stands greatly in need of means - if I have I will Send Something and I will cheerfully try to induce others to do the Same.

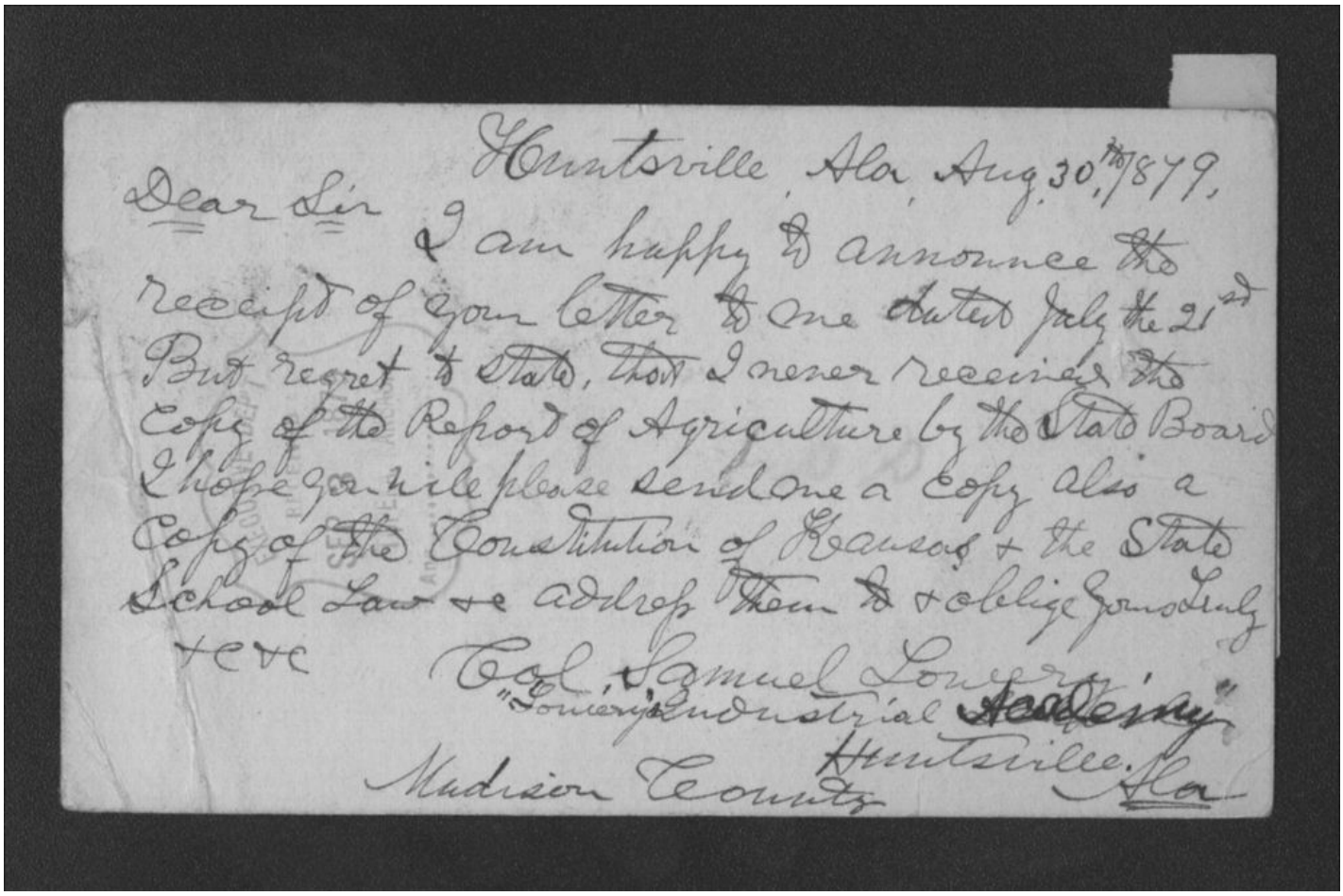
I am with Great Respect
Yours
E. Amanda McConnell

To
Gov. J. P. St. John

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

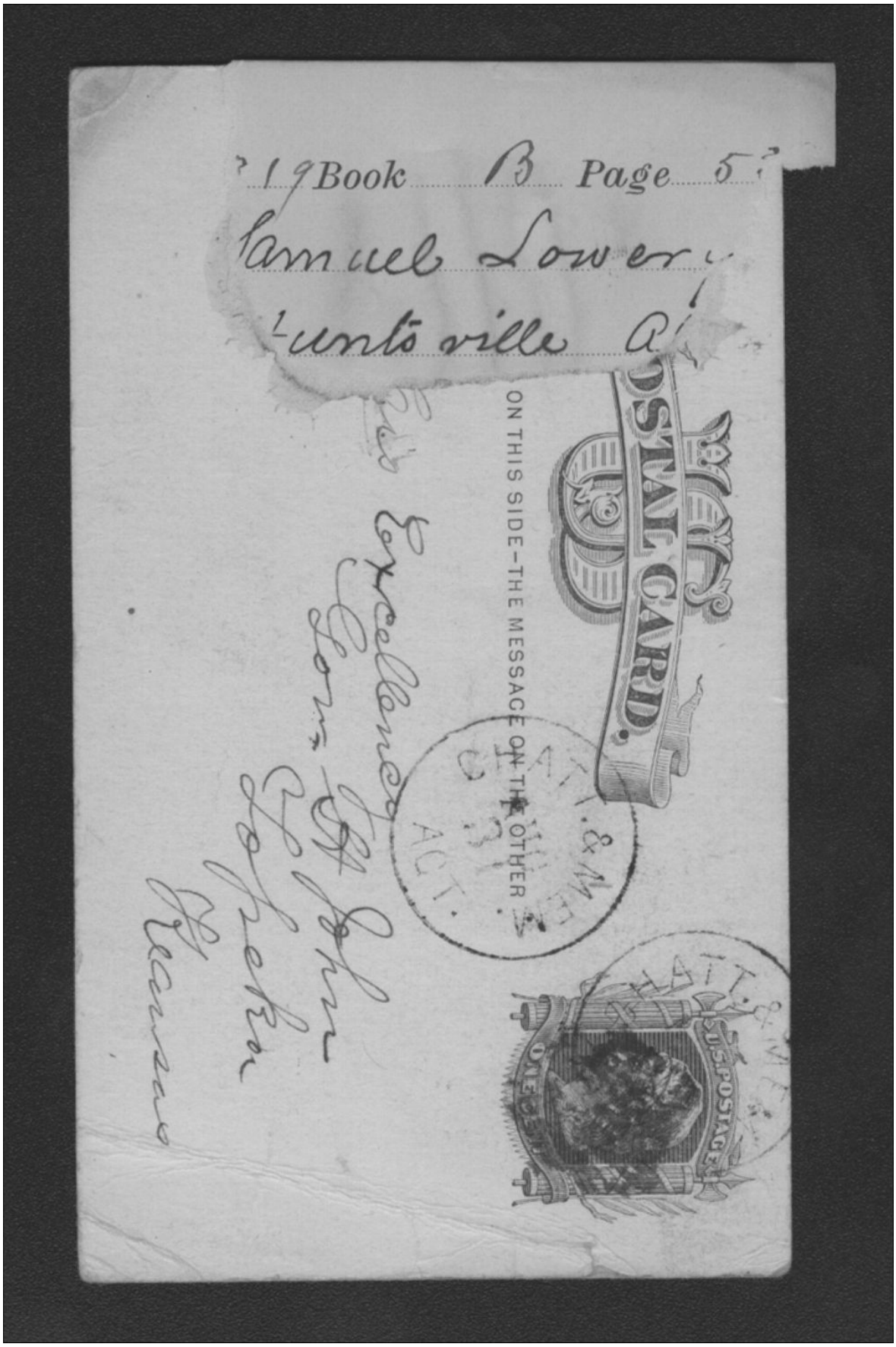


Huntsville Ala. Aug. 30th 1879.

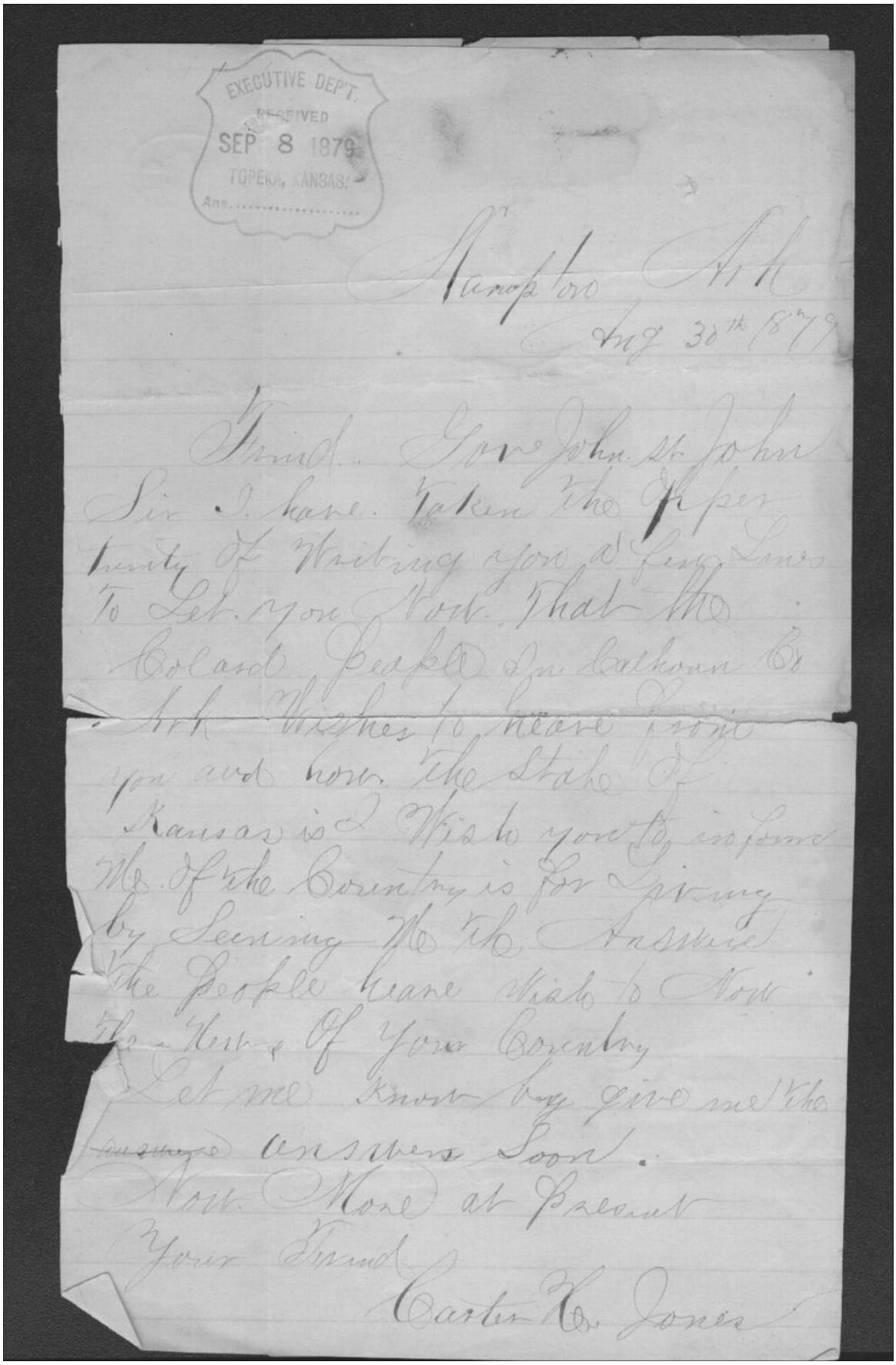
Dear Sir I am happy to announce the receipt of your letter to me dated July the 21st But regret to state, that I never received the copy of the Report of Agriculture by the State Board I hope you will please send one a copy also a copy of the Constitution of Kansas & the State School Law &c address them to & oblige Yours truly &c &c

Col. Samuel Lowery
"Lowery Industrial Academy"
Huntsville Ala
Madison County

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



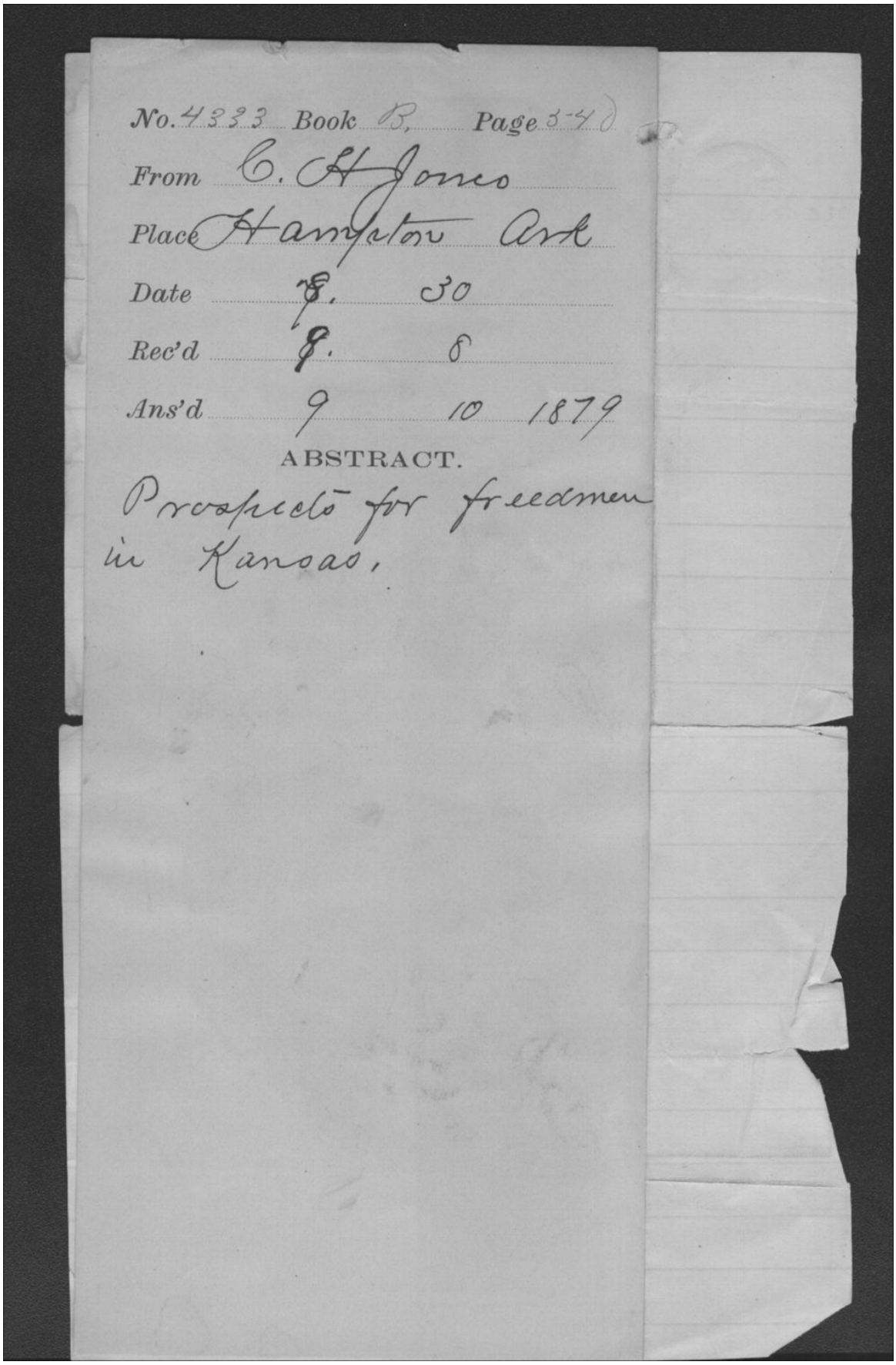
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Kenapton Ark
Aug 30th 1879

Friend Gov John St. John
Sir I have taken the Proper
unity of Writing you a few Lines
To Let you Know That the
Colard People in Calhoun Co
Ark Wishes to Heare from
you and how the State of
Kansas is I Wish you to inform
Me of the Country is for Living
by Seening Me the Answer
the People Heare Wish to Know
the Nex of your Country
Let me Know by Give me the
answer Answers Soon.
Now More at Present
Your Friend
Carter K. Jones

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



No. 4333 Book B, Page 3-4

From C. H. Jones

Place Hampton Ark

Date 8. 30

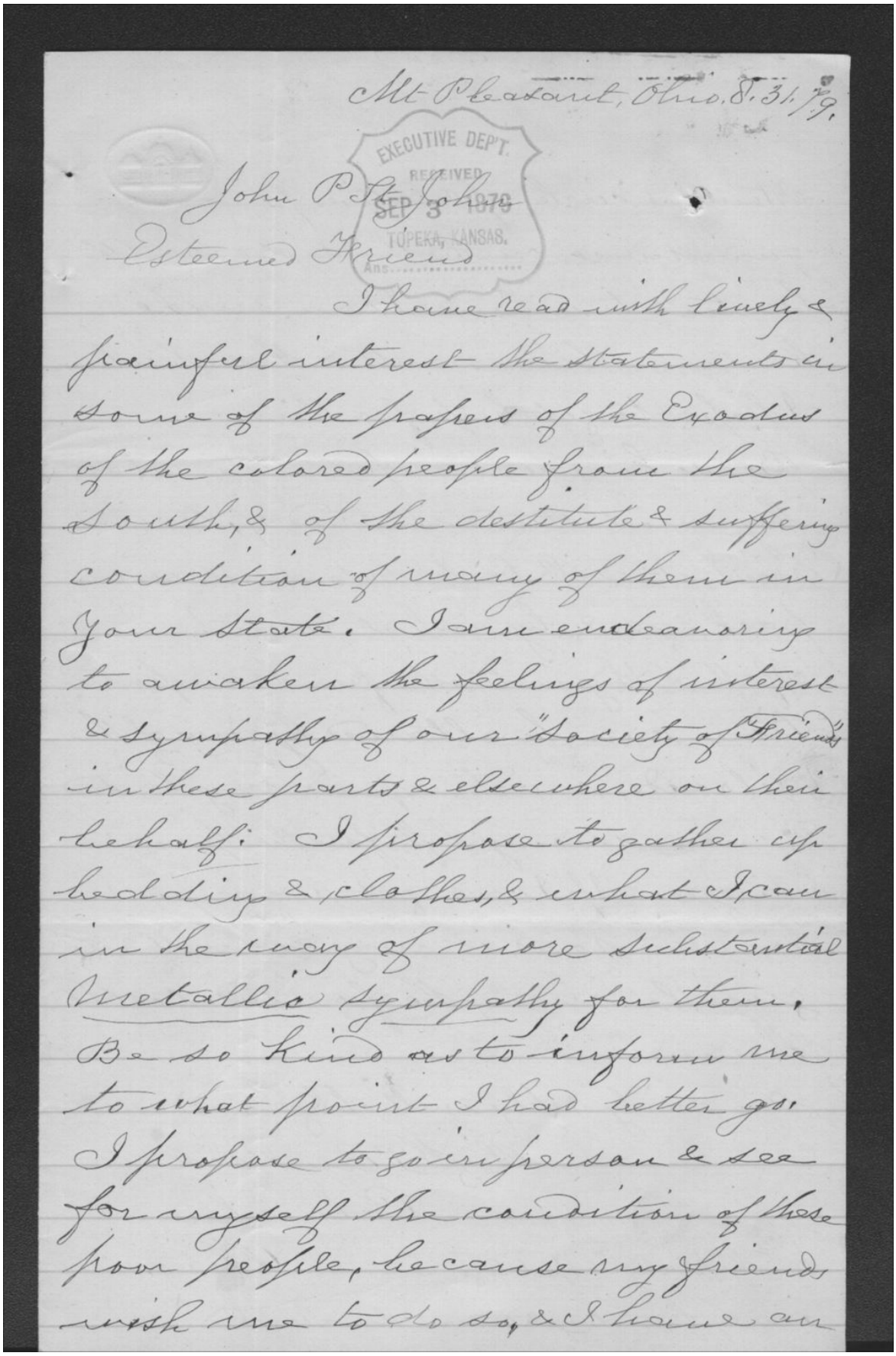
Rec'd 9. 8

Ans'd 9 10 1879

ABSTRACT.

Prospects for freedmen in Kansas.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



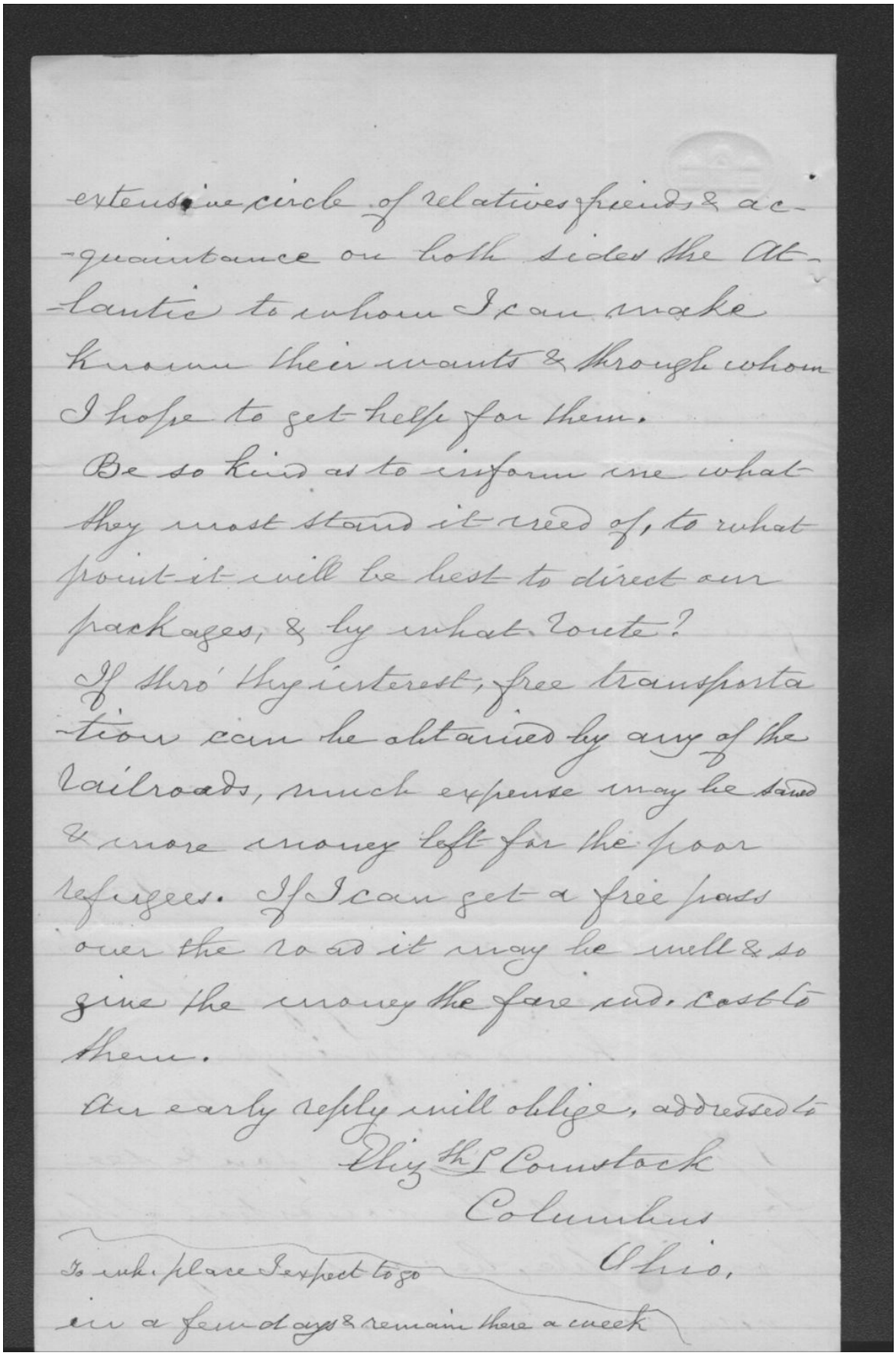
Mt Pleasant, Ohio. 8. 31. 79.

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
SEP 3 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.
Ans.

John P. St. John
Esteemed Friend

I have read with lively & painful interest the statements in some of the papers of the Exodus of the colored people from the South, & of the destitute & suffering condition of many of them in your State. I am endeavoring to awaken the feelings of interest & sympathy of our "Society of Friends" in these parts & elsewhere on their behalf. I propose to gather up beddings & clothes, & what I can in the way of more substantial (metallic) sympathy for them. Be so kind as to inform me to what point I had better go. I propose to go in person & see for myself the condition of these poor people, because my friends wish me to do so, & I have an

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



extensive circle of relatives friends & acquaintance on both sides the Atlantic to whom I can make known their wants & through whom I hope to get help for them.

Be so kind as to inform me what they must stand in need of, to what point it will be best to direct our packages, & by what route?

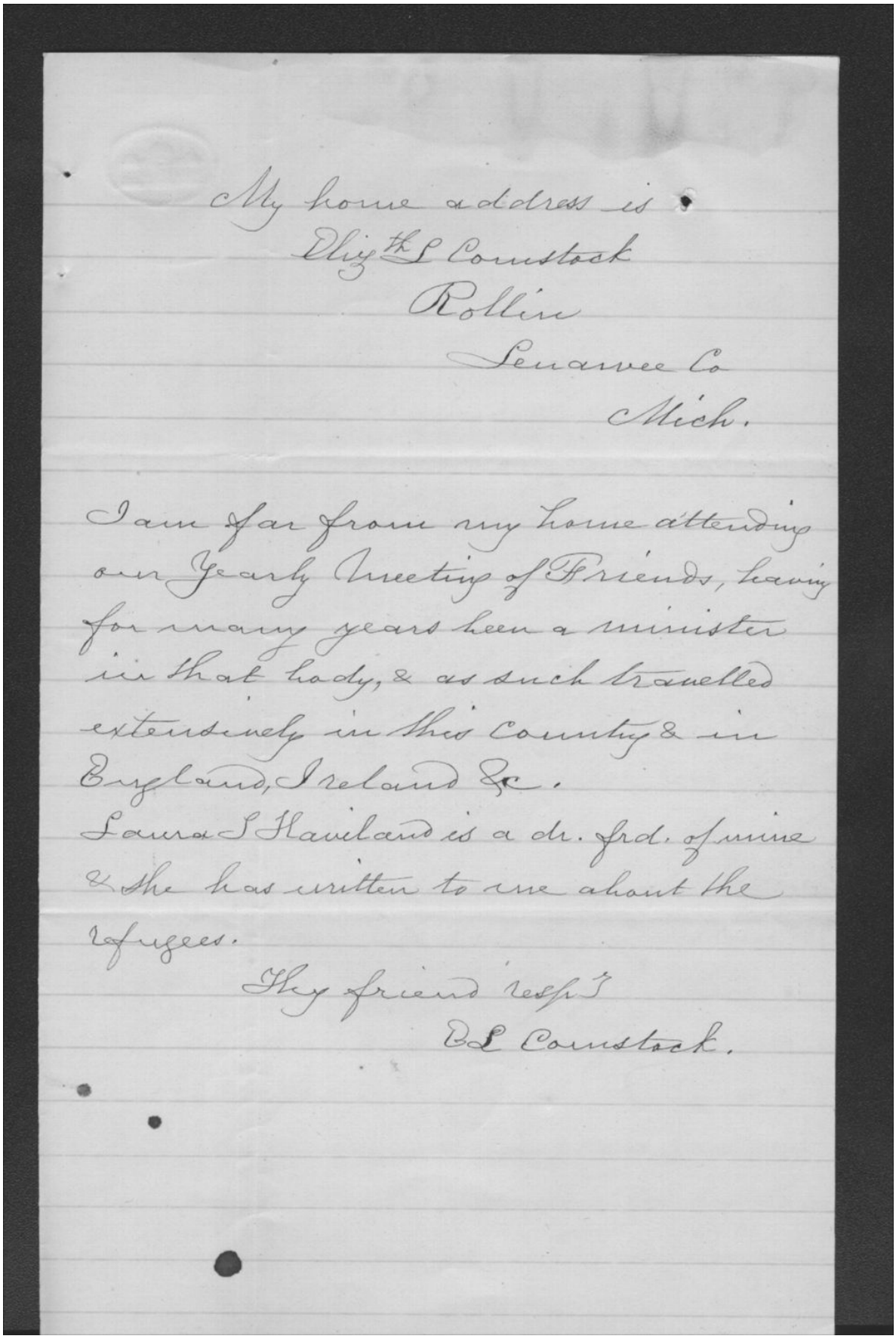
If thro' thy interest, free transportation can be obtained by any of the railroads, much expense may be saved & more money left for the poor refugees. If I can get a free pass over the road it may be well & so give the money the fare would cost to them.

An early reply will oblige, addressed to

Eliz^th I Comstock
Columbus
Ohio.

To wh. place I expect to go
in a few days & remain there a week

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

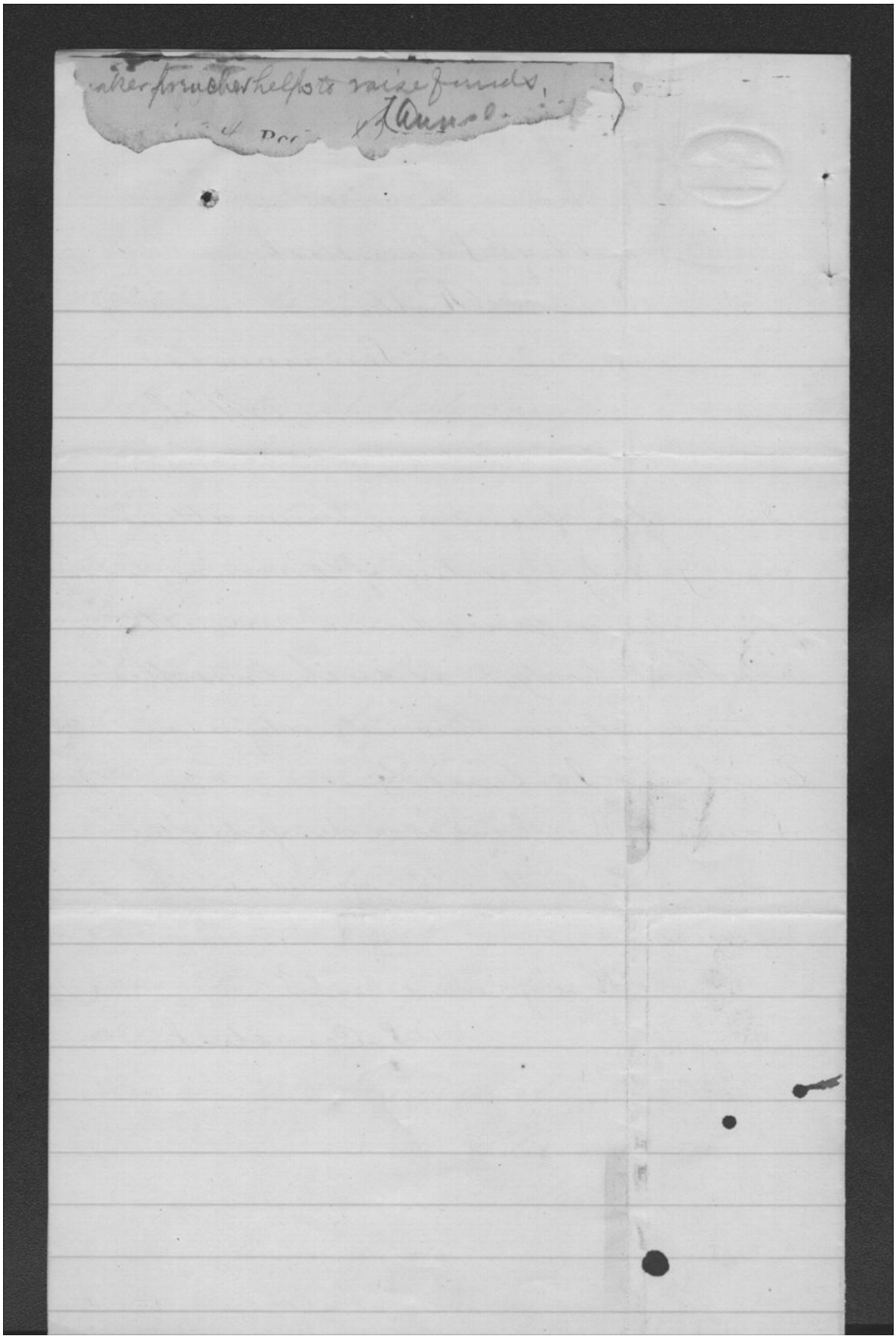


My home address is
Eliz^th L Comstock
Rollin
Lenawee Co
Mich.

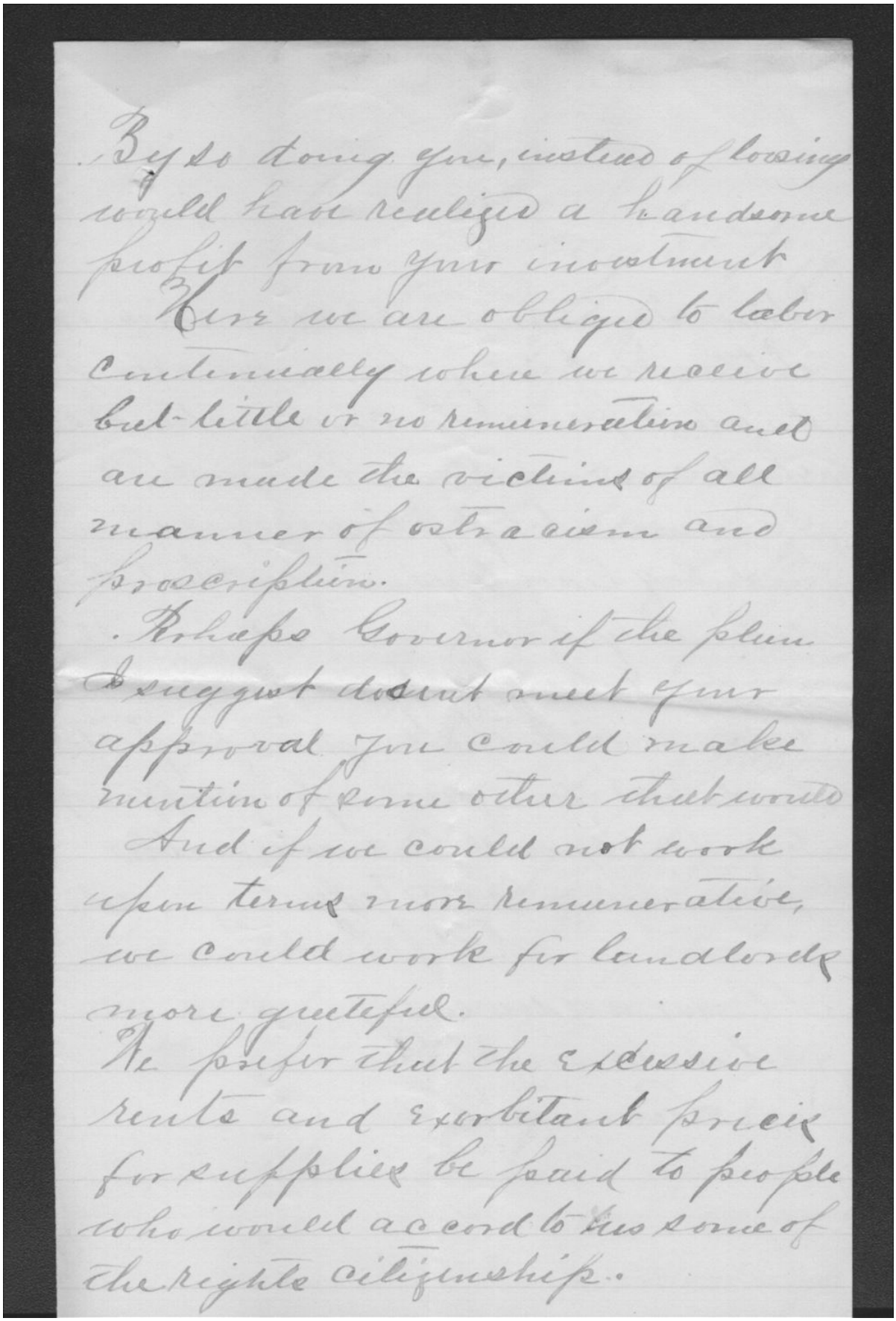
I am far from my home attending
our Yearly Meeting of Friends, having
for many years been a minister
in that body, & as such travelled
extensively in this Country & in
England, Ireland &c.
Laura S Haviland is a dr. frd. of mine
& she has written to me about the
refugees.

Thy friend resp^y
D L Comstock.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



By so doing you, instead of losing would have realized a handsome profit from your investment

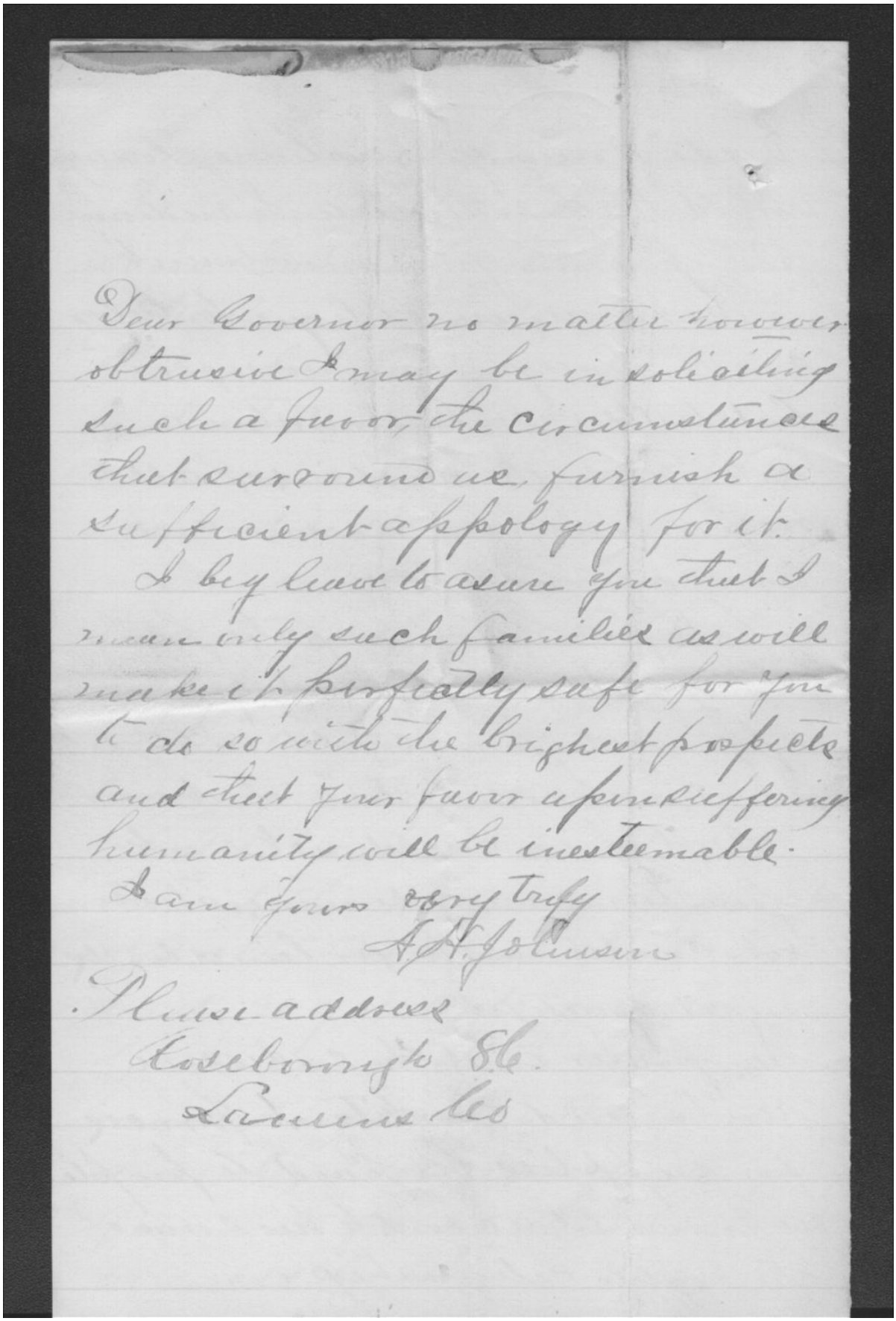
Here we are obliged to labor continually when we receive but little or no remuneration and are made the victims of all manner of ostracism and proscription.

Perhaps Governor if the plan I suggest does not meet your approval you could make mention of some other that would

And if we could not work upon terms more remunerative, we could work for landlords more grateful.

We prefer that the excessive rents and exorbitant prices for supplies be paid to people who would accord to us some of the rights citizenship.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



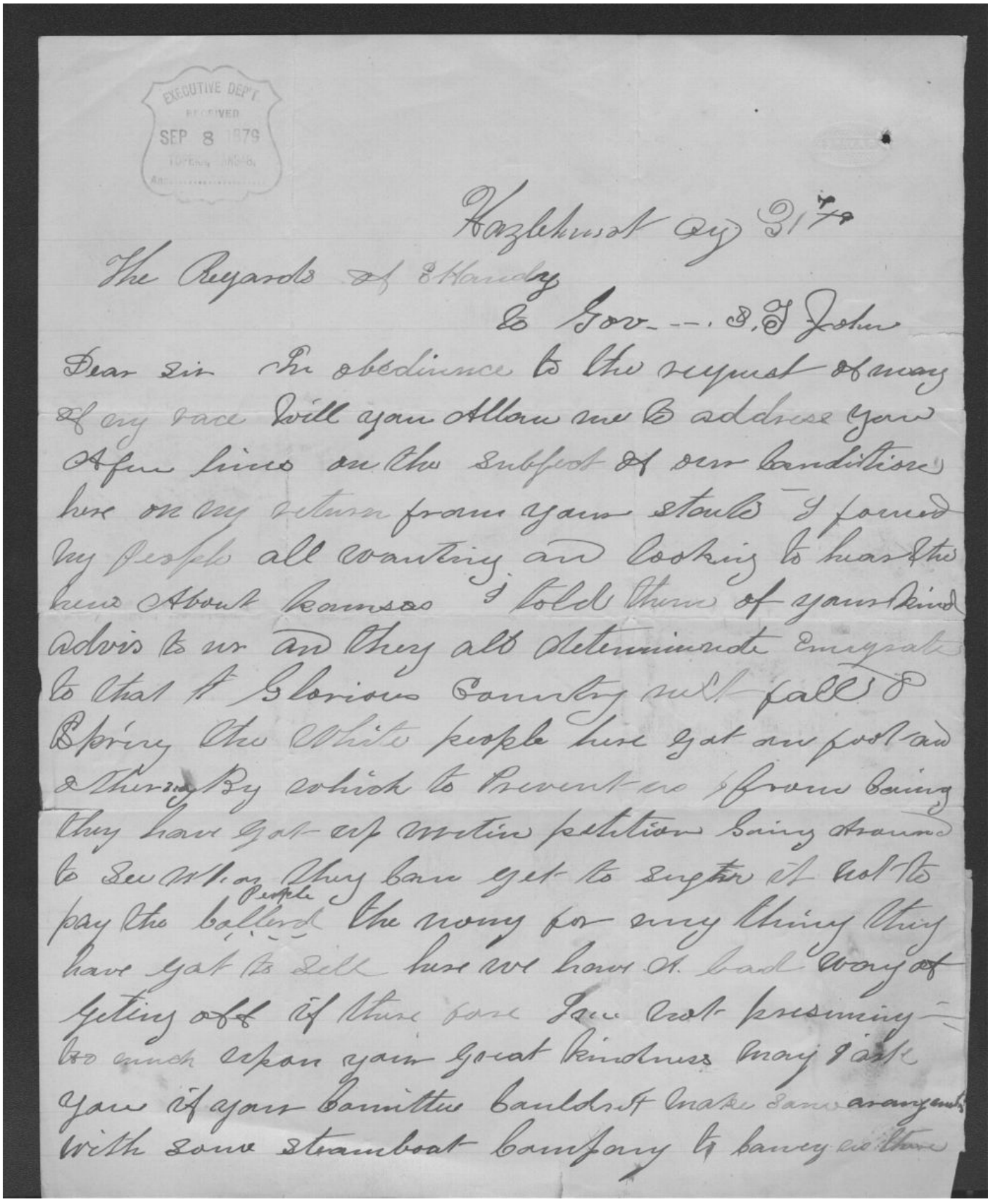
Dear Governor no matter however obtrusive I may be in soliciting such a favor, the circumstances that surround me, furnish a sufficient apology for it.

I beg leave to assure you that I mean only such families as will make it perfectly safe for you to do so with the brightest prospects and that your favor upon suffering humanity, will be inestimable.

I am Yours very truly
A. H. Johnson

Please address
Rosebonigh P.O.
Lawrence Co

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



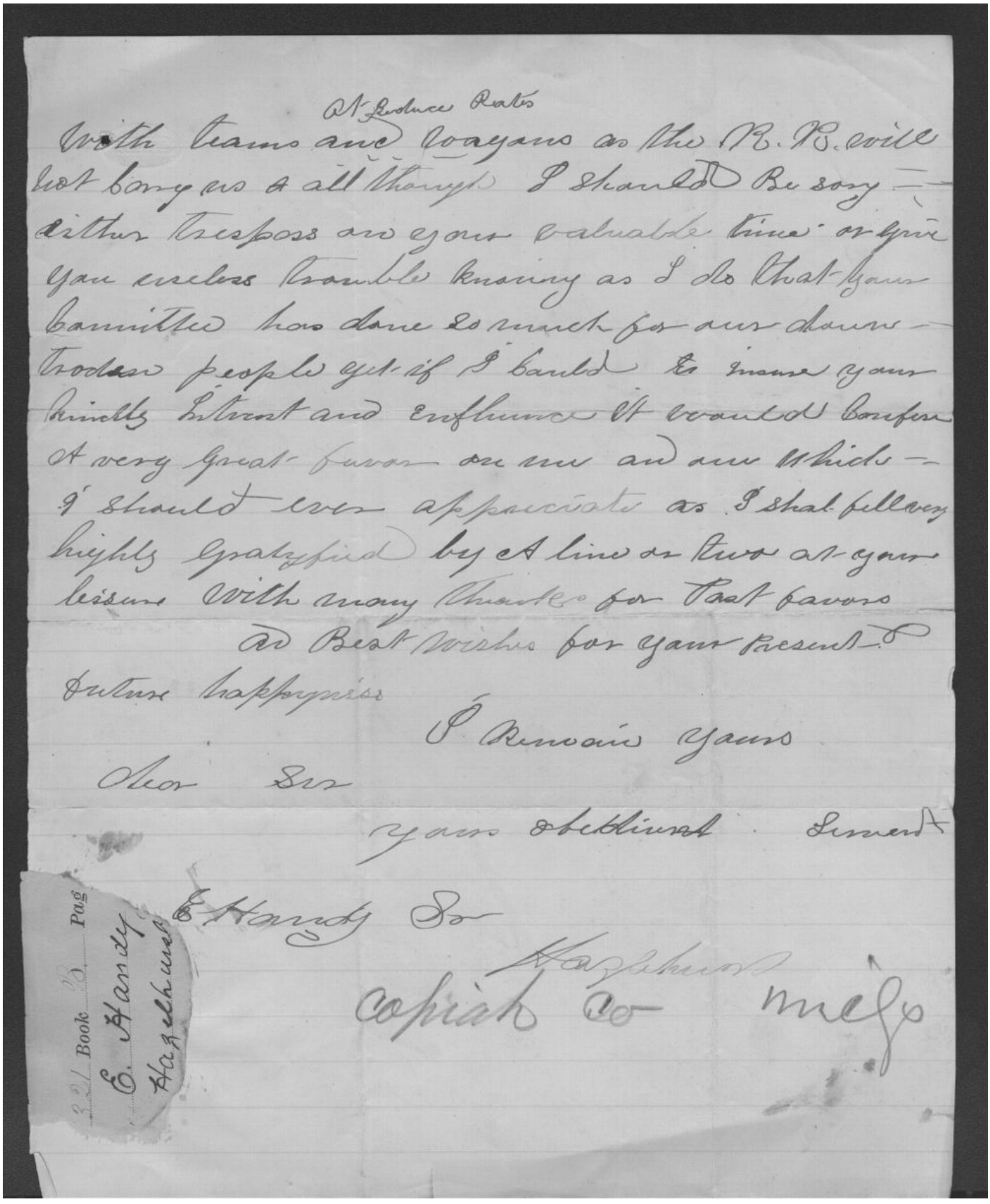
Kazlehurst Ky 9 1 79

The Regards of 8 Hundred

to Gov--- J. J. John

Dear Sir In obedience to the request of many of my race will you Allow me to address you A few lines on the Subject of our condition here on my return from your state I found my people all wanting and looking to hear the news About Kansas I told them of your kind advis to us and they all determined to emigrate to that A Glorious Country next fall & Spring the White people here got an post and therein By which to Prevent us from going they have got up a petition going around to see what they can get to Enjoin it not to pay the balleard the money for any thing they have got to sell here we have A bad way of geting off if there fore I do not presume too much upon your Great kindness may I ask you if your Committee could not make some arangements with some steamboat Company to convey us there

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



At Reduced Rates

With teams and conveyans as the R. R. will not convey us & all though I should Be sory — either Trespass on your valuable time or give you useless trouble knowing as I do that your committee has done so much for our down Trodden people yet if I could to insure your kindly interest and influence it would confer A very great favor on me and one which — I should ever appreciate as I shal fellow highly Gratyfied by A line or two at your leisure with many thanks for Past favors

& Best Wishes for your present & future happyness

I Remain Yours

Dear Sir

your obedient Servent

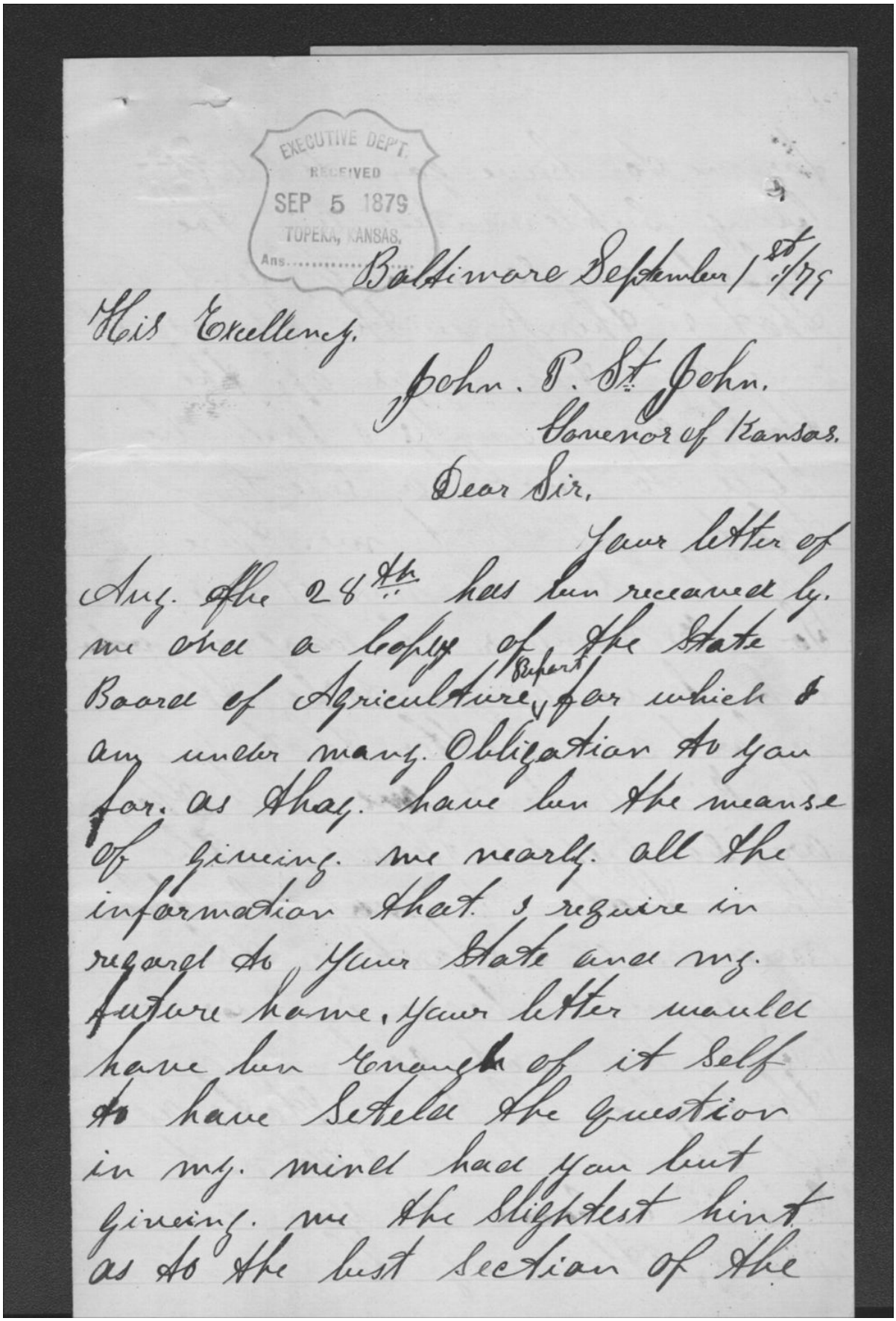
E Handy Sr

Kansas

Copied to me

Book 20 Page 221
E. Handy
Hackney

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Baltimore September 1st 1879

His Excellency.

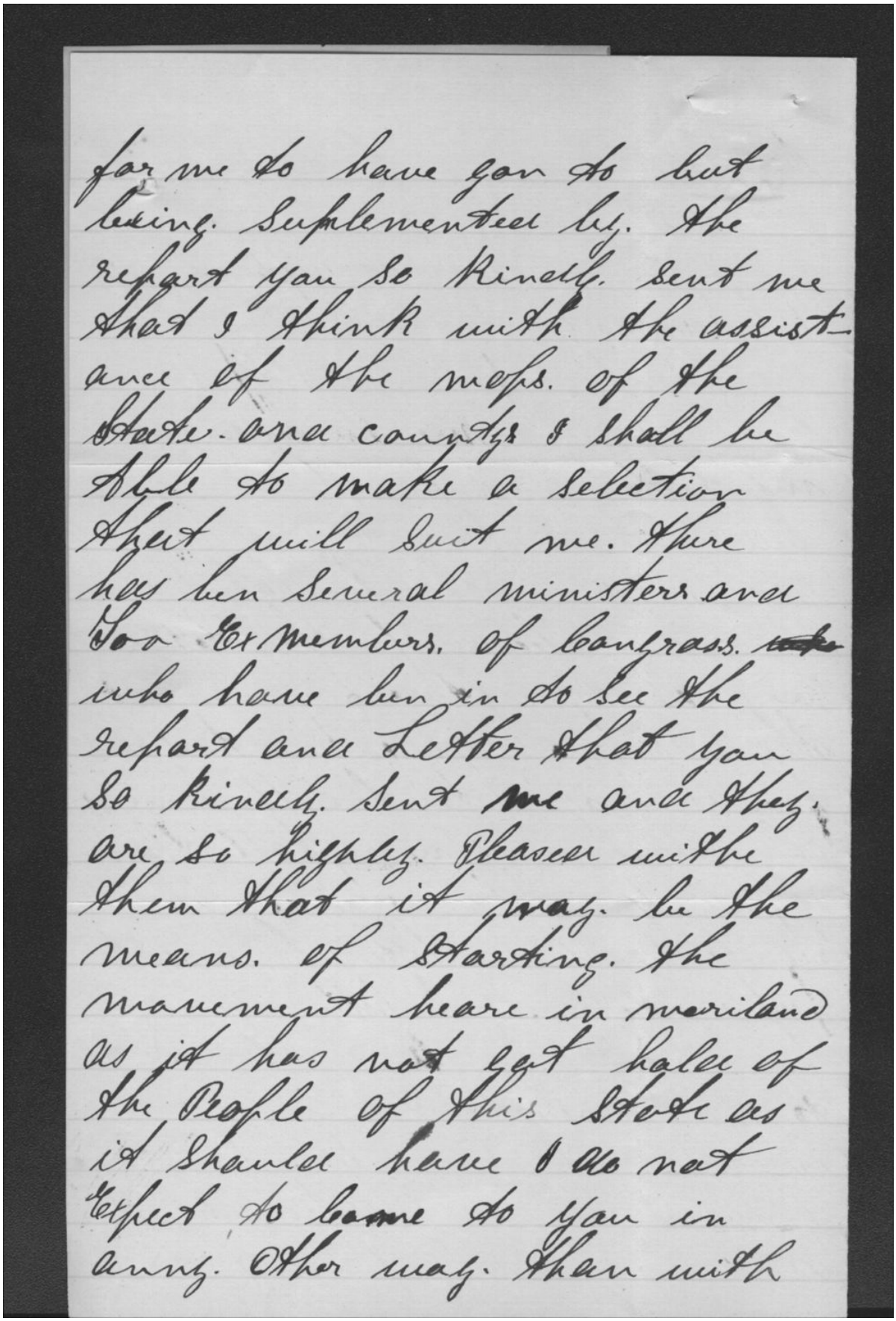
John. P. St John.

Governor of Kansas.

Dear Sir.

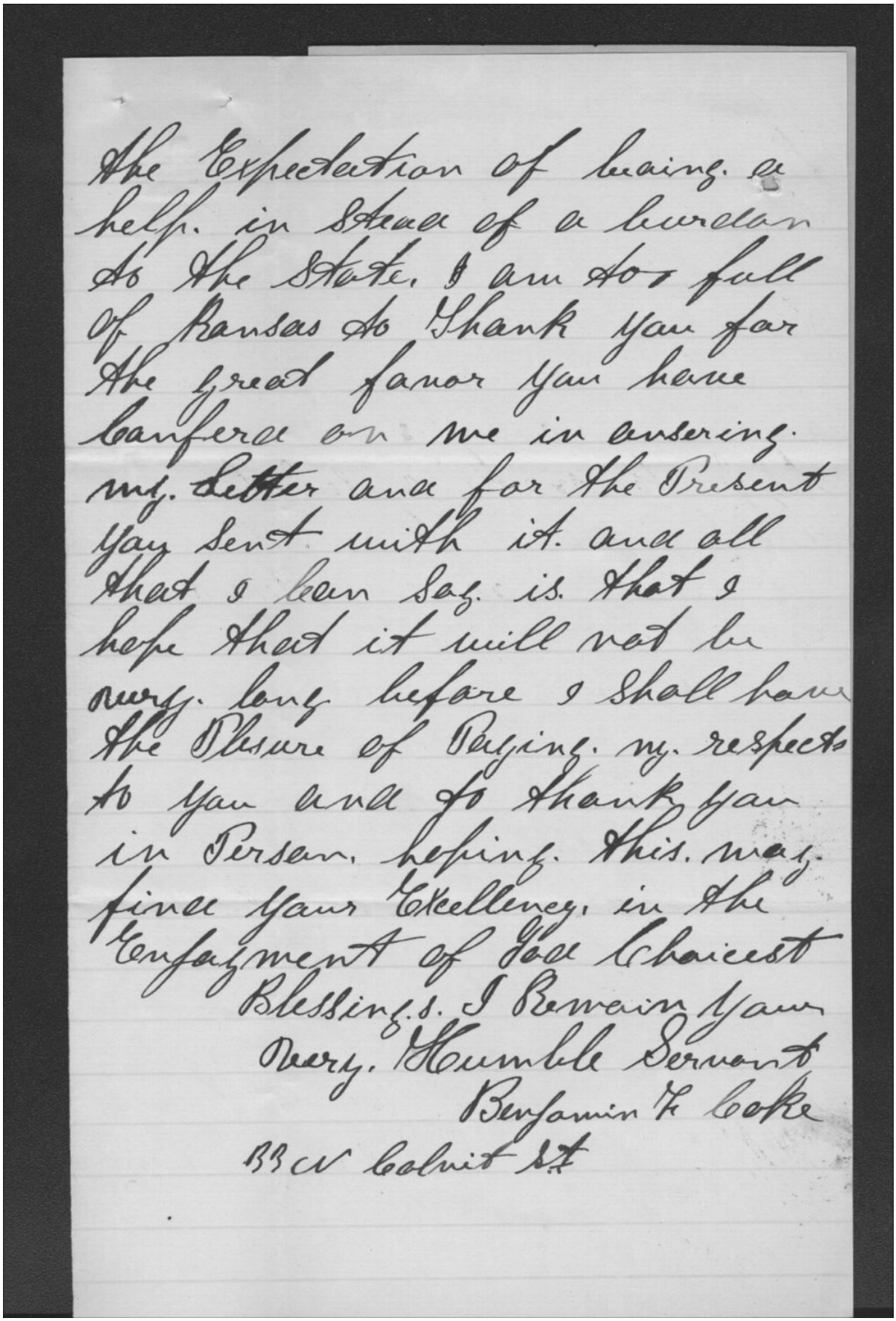
Your letter of Aug. the 28th has been received by. me over a copy of the State Report Board of Agriculture, for which & any under many. Obligation to you for. as that. have been the meanse of giveing. me nearly. all the information that. I require in regard to Your State and my. future home. Your letter would have been Enough of it Self to have Settled the Question in my. mind had you but giveing. me the Slightest hint as to the best Section of the

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



for me to have you to last
Evening. Supplemented by. the
report you so Kindly. sent me
that I think with the assist-
ance of the reps. of the
State. and countys I shall be
able to make a selection
that will suit me. there
has ben Several ministers and
Soo Ex members. of Congress. ~~who~~
who have ben in to See the
report and Letter that you
so kindly. sent me and they
are so highly. Pleased with the
them that it may. be the
means. of Starting. the
movement heare in maryland
as it has not got hold of
the People of this State as
it Should heare I do not
Expect to come to you in
any. Other way. than with

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

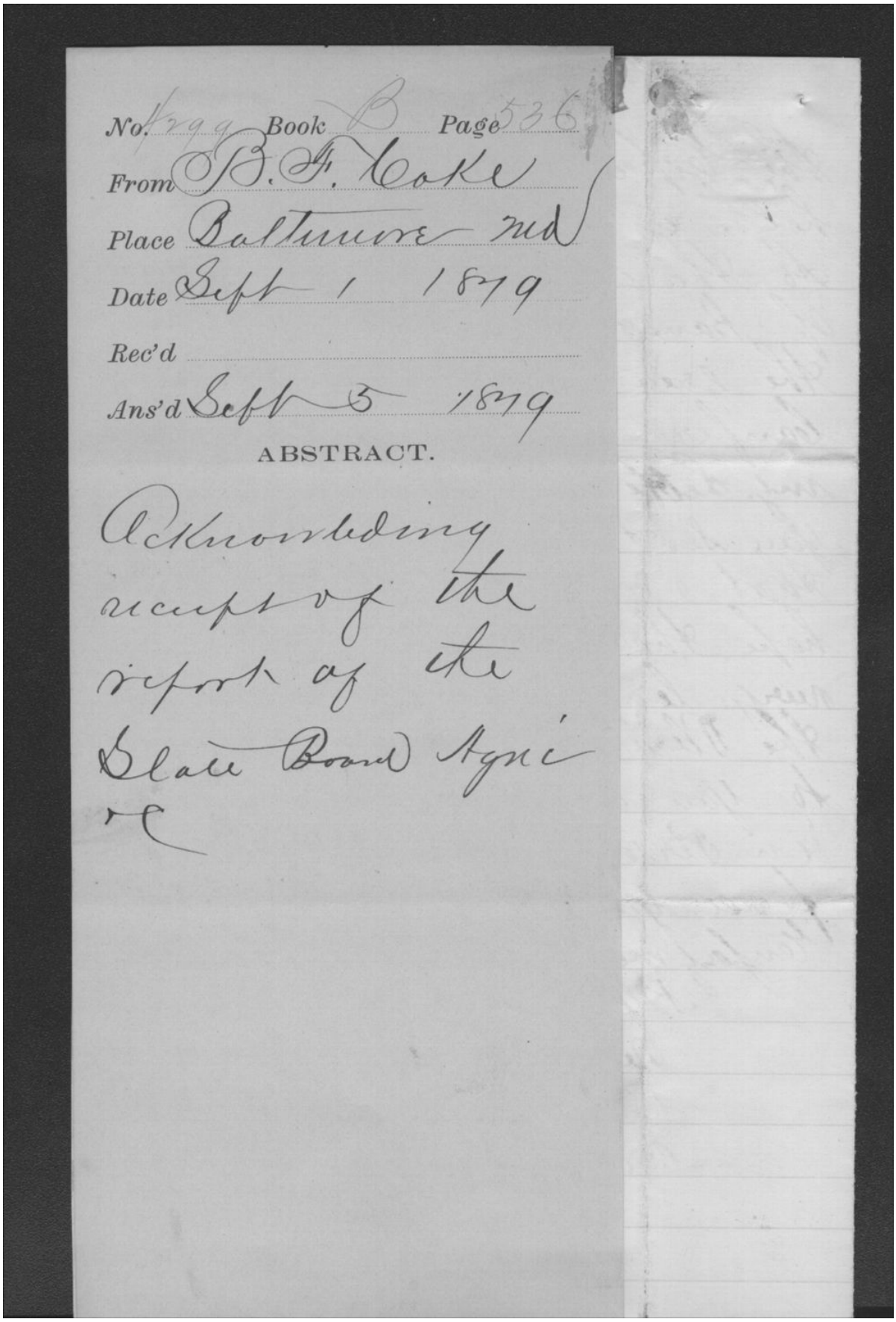


The Expectation of being of help in Stead of a burden to the State. I am too full of Kansas to Thank you for the great favor you have conferred on me in answering my Letter and for the Present you sent with it. and all that I can say is that I hope that it will not be very long before I shall have the Pleasure of Paying my respects to you and to thank you in Person. hoping this may find your Excellency in the Enjoyment of Gods Choicest Blessings. I Remain Your Very Humble Servant

Benjamin F Coke

333 Colvit St

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

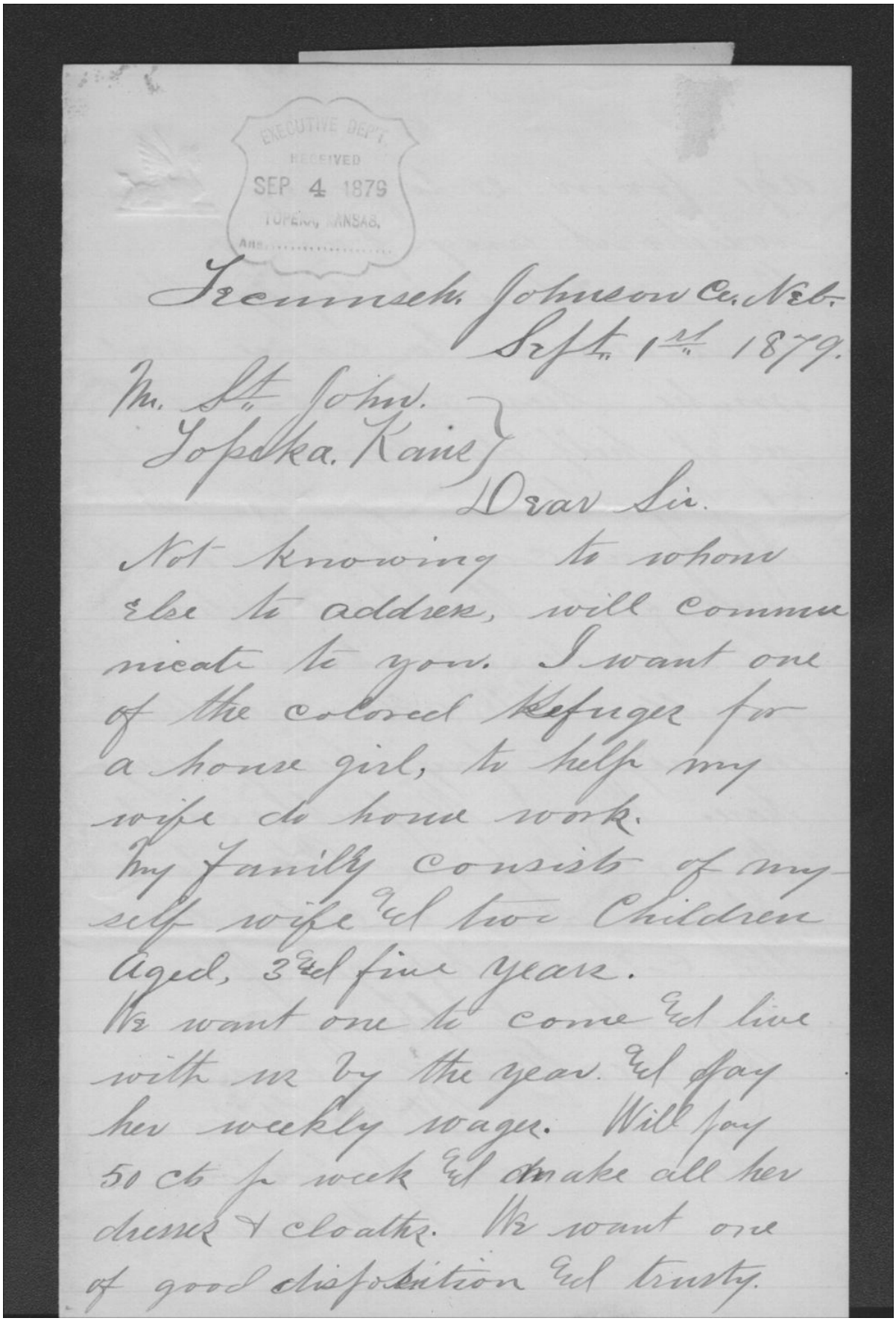


No. 299 Book B Page 536
From B. F. Cake
Place Baltimore Md
Date Sept 1 1879
Rec'd
Ans'd Sept 3 1879

ABSTRACT.

Acknowledging
receipt of the
report of the
State Board Agri
re

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Tecumseh Johnson Co. Neb.
Sept 1st 1879.

Hon. St. John.
Topeka. Kans.

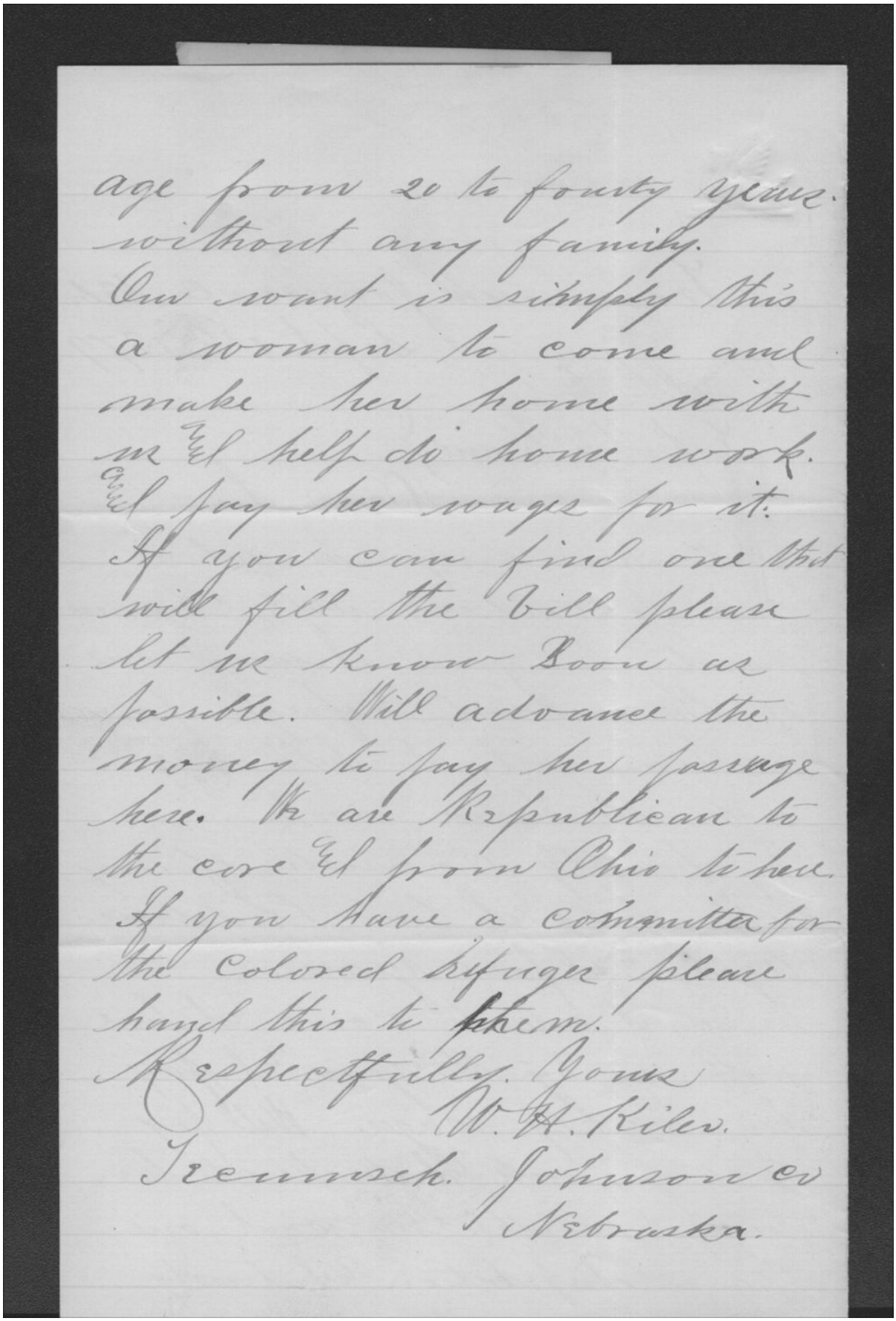
Dear Sir.

Not knowing to whom else to address, will communicate to you. I want one of the colored Refuger for a home girl, to help my wife do house work.

My family consists of myself wife and two Children aged, 3 and five year.

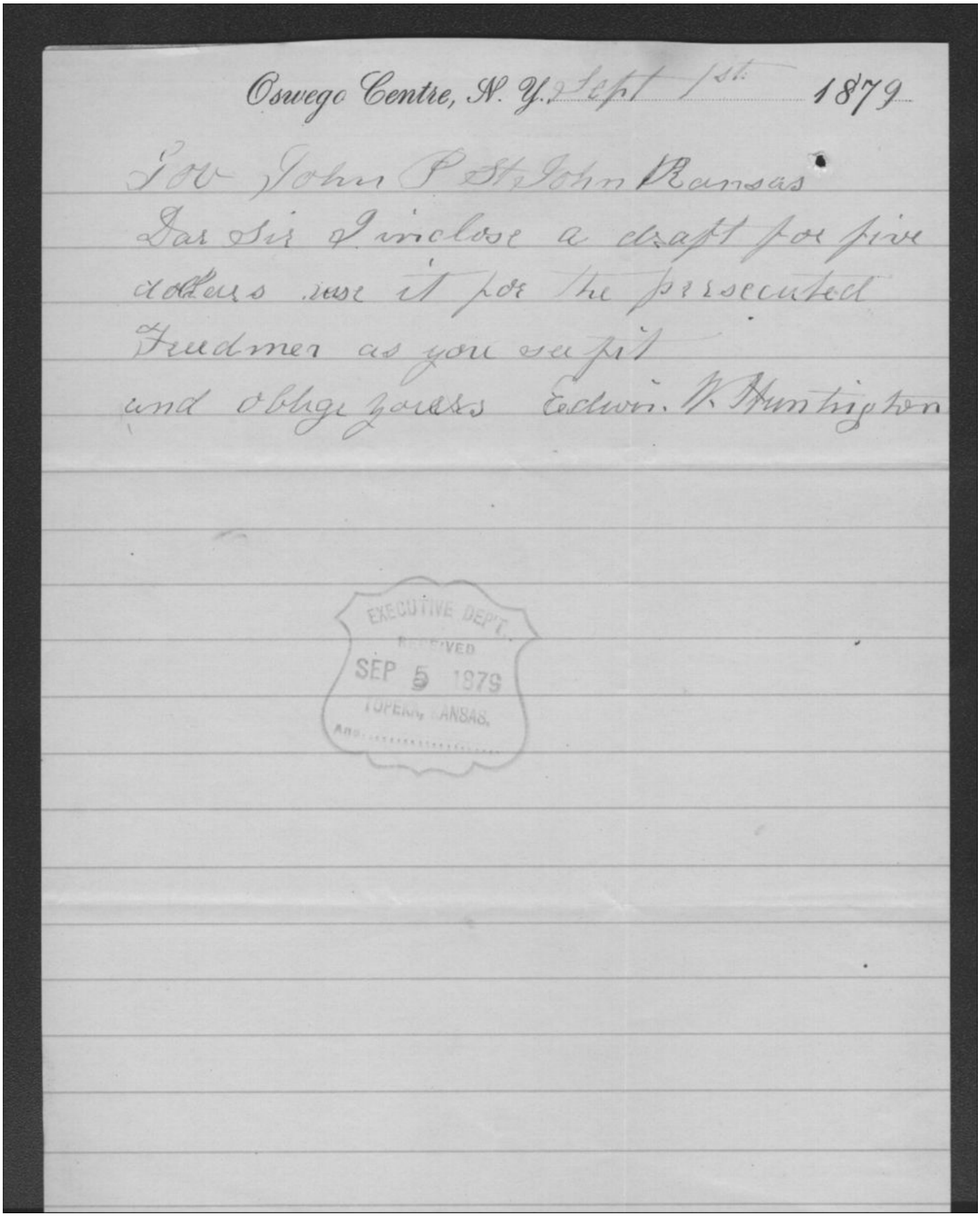
We want one to come and live with us by the year. and pay her weekly wages. Will pay 50 cts p week and make all her dress & cloaths. We want one of good disposition and trusty.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



age from 20 to fourty years.
without any family.
Our want is simply this
a woman to come and
make her home with
us & help do home work.
& pay her wages for it.
If you can find one that
will fill the bill please
let us know soon as
possible. Will advance the
money to pay her passage
here. We are Republican to
the core & from Ohio to here.
If you have a committee for
the Colored Refuges please
hand this to them.
Respectfully Yours
W. H. Kiler.
Trenmech. Johnson Co
Nebraska.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Oswego Centre, N. Y. Sept 1st 1879

Gov John P St John Kansas

Dar Sir I inclose a draft for five dollars use it for the persecuted Freedmen as you see fit

and oblige yours Edwin K Huntington

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
SEP 5 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.
Ans.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
SEP 5 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS

OFFICE OF

THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION,

FOR THE RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYED,

Chas. E. Buell, Sec'y.

New Haven, Conn. Sept 1st 1879

His Excellency
John P. St John - Governor
Topeka
Kansas!

Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of date of Aug 29th and accompanying report of Your State Board of Agriculture - for which please accept my sincere thanks -

Your statement regarding evidences of industry and economy of the lately arrived negroes is most gratifying - whatever may be said against their capabilities they cannot make a greater blunder than their former masters did in wasting the accumulations of their labor for a century in an unjustifiable war.

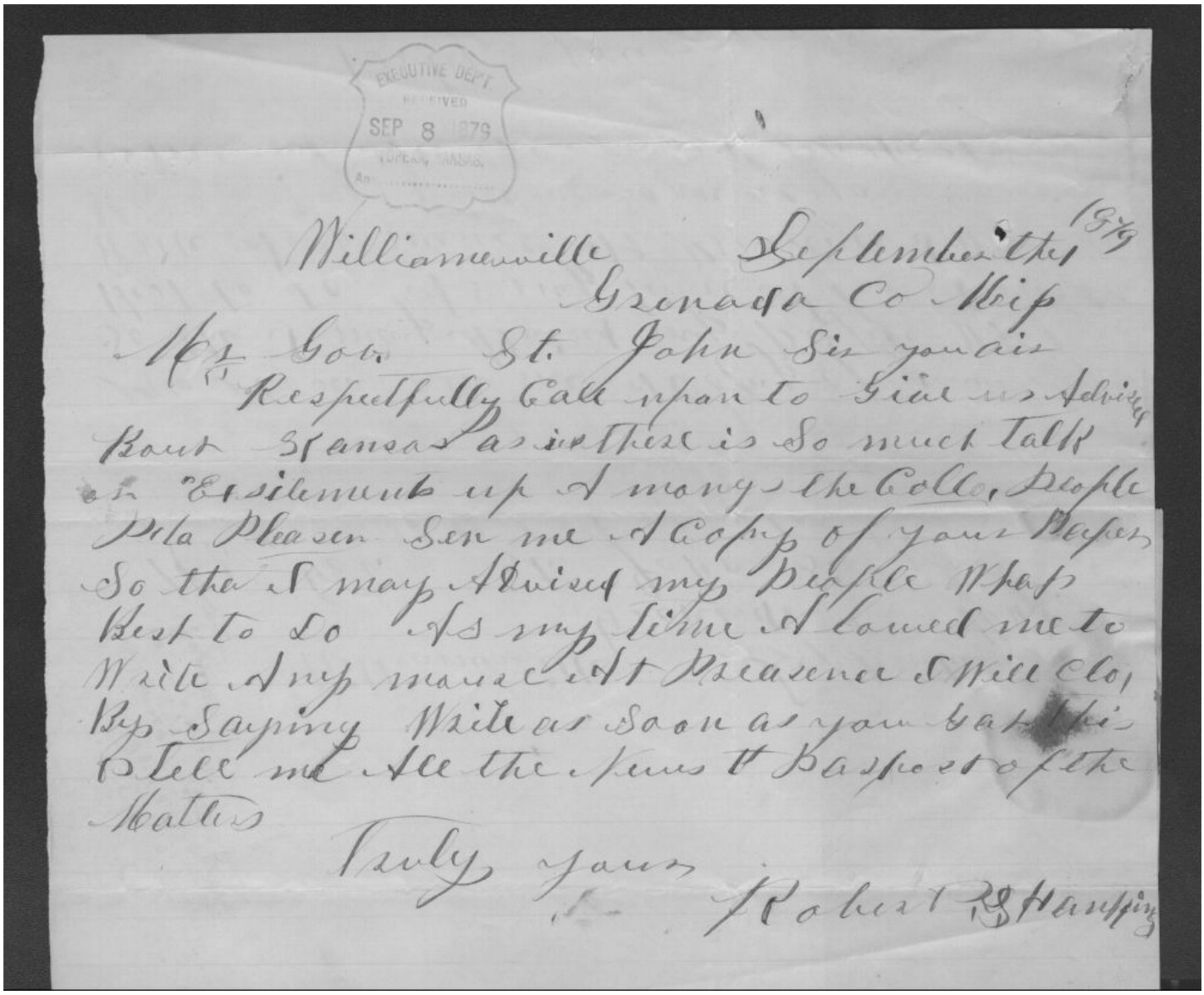
Efforts will be made to raise money for the relief of these deserving people by friends here -

Next to caring for those who arrive, that their going may not be a failure - and a calamity. The cultivation of public sentiment in favor of their going is important

This mass of negro labor has established the rate of wages, and cost of production at the East, both before and since the war, and; it would seem, that; if the attention of the public was called to the fact that they were held in competition in production, while they contribute little, if any, to the purchase of manufactured goods; That their removal from the lowest wage class to a class of self employed producers, and purchasers of any article of manufacture, would not only give Employment to others, to fill their places at the South, but would give Employment to Manufacturers in supplying both them, and whoever might take their places. If these facts were properly presented a strong sentiment would prevail among a class who are otherwise opposed to assisting their removal.

It seems possible by urging the necessity and Expediency of their removal, to rob their going of its alleged political bearing, and render it easy to assist the removal of sufficient numbers to bring such concessions to those remaining as will be equivalent to their removal, and make them literally free, by assuring them of their being possessed of a choice of two modes of life. - One at the South and One at the West. Hoping to be able to acquire something for them I have the honor to remain - Very Truly Charles E. Russell

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Williamsville September 6th 1879
Grenada Co Miss

Hon Gov St. John Sir you are
Respectfully Call upon to Give us Advice
Bout Kansas as there is So much Talk
on Exilement up A mong the Colle People
Pls Please Sen me A Copy of your Paper
So the I may Advise my People What
Best to Do As my time A lowed me to
Write Any more At Present I Will Clo,
By Saying Write as Soon as you Get this
Tell me All the News & Purport of the
Matter

Truly yours
Robert B Hamlin

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

