

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 36, Pages 1051 - 1080

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

ily pay two dollars per acre for these lands, if they were given three or five years to pay for the same, and not required to pay down any cash payment, but permitted to go upon these lands and use all of their small means in making improvements and living the first year. That is the reason why I have made such slow progress, because I was so poor myself, that I was bound to require all who bought lands of me, to make a small cash payment before I could permit them to move upon and settle lands etc. This generally striped them so closely of means that they could barely make or living the first and second years, because it requires one or two year to get the now fertile lands in a good state of cultivation. Now if you can induce any capitalists to aid me here, and if they will come quietly here and go with me into Southern Texas, and see and judge for themselves, I am certain they will soon be convinced that my Colonization enterprise, is one of the safest and best investments that can be made with capital. I send you by to-days mail a pamphlet circular, issued by my leading colonists, which I hope you will carefully read and consider. There are a few mistakes made by the printer in it, but as such mistakes do not materially injure the meaning and intent of the circular, you will readily excuse the blunders so made. I am now distributing and sending out these circulars.

I may not write to your Excellency again before my return in Nov or Dec, but hope you write me and inform me of anything of importance you may see proper to give me! as your letters will be forwarded to me, by persons passing between this city and my Colony.

Respectfully
S. A. Hackworth.

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Aglethorpe La.

October 9th 1849

Hon John St John }
Topeka Kansas }

My Dear Sir

Through the advice we
received from several leading men of
the North. that the relief Committee of
which you are President will give some
aid to persons that making efforts to
come to your State. we have got and
Organization. of which we have (36)
Members. and all are anxious to make
Kansas their homes. we have some
means and our means. and all we
fear is that we can not get them.
If any aid can be given us we
will be more than pleas to know.
we have been working here in this
every since Emancipation and we are
cheated every year out of our labor
and our right are not regarded
so we have resolved to leave with

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out delay if we can get any aid from
your Committee. or with the advice we
can get from you as to how we
can get transportation. and how cheap
we will be more than
glad to get a hearing from
your report this
matter. we are all able to work and
and are will to work.

Respectfully
We await your Reply
Truly
Yours

Warren. Rays. Curps. St. John.
Kansas. Clubs.

P.S. please give us some advice
about coming to your State.

No. 4671 Book 13
From Warren
Place Ogden
10. 1
10. 1

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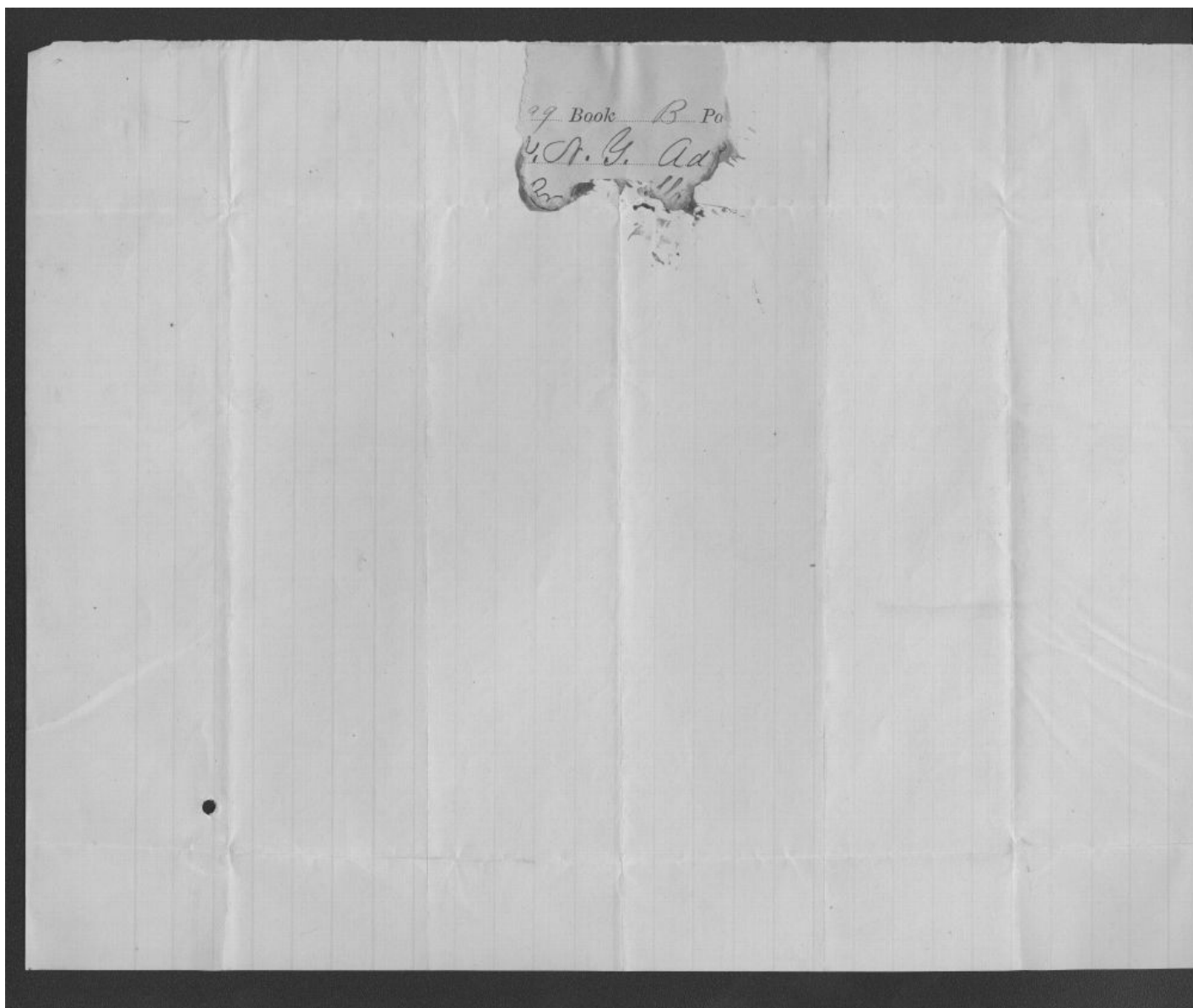


Bright Star Miller County Ark
Oct 12th 1879

To the governor off
Kandas Dear Sir We the People of Country
asking information about the colored
people coming to that State We have
here so much talk about it we want
the fact about it and all the particulars
we want to if the of Kansas giving
any land what time are we getting on
there is so much talk about it we want
please tell us all the particulars about
it there is at a thousand or more want
to come if they can get good understanding
about it we the people want to come to
the land of promise if we can
find out all the facts. God
know I will come and others too
if we can get to it we want to
know if there is any
a transportation to come to that
State

James N. Seaburns
J. M. Quimby

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Battle Creek Michigan Oct 12/79
my Dear Friend

being an old & one despised
& persecuted Abolitionist having fought that
Infamous Institution Slavery nearly 50 years
it is a great pleasure to see and know that we
have an Executive in one of our Western and
Loyal States who knows the Right & has the courage
Manhood & Humanity to Exercise those principles
that should pervade every Heart and Instinct
of Humanity. yes my Dear Governor your Efforts
in behalf of the poor fleeing fugitive from Southern
Butchery is to me of Inestimable value. your Deeds
of Charity your Labours on the Side of Suffering
Mortals will go down to posterity and when
your work is finished here you will meet with
Innumerable hosts in yonder Spirit Land who
will Bless you for your Kindness Sympathy
and aid that you are rendering to a people
who have Suffered & still Suffer that wrong
which seem to know no Bounds. from the most
Desperate Gangs of murderers ever known on Earth
— oh how my heart aches to see the wrongs that
is inflicted on those poor Colored People, and
how Cheering is it to know that you & your Friends
in Kansas has taken hold of this Work and are
providing Homes where Justice is meted out
to the poor Mortals who seek your care and
attention. if rightly informed your plan meets
my view in getting Homes of 20 to 40 acres of land
for each Family this can be mostly tilled by the
mothers. Children in such produce as needed
for Home Consumption while the men can seek
Work on Farmers Roads & RRs where wages is

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said.. this plan in such portions of Kansas South
in New Mexico where climate is mild will enable
Thousands to produce cotton and by being in
communities so closely united they will be able to
protect themselves from murderous raids that
would be set on foot by the infernal Bull
Doggers of those damnable murderous States
who gave aid in former times to make Kansas
the Home of Blood Hounds and Hunting Ground
for the Slave Driver white Legars. I have long
hoped that Congress would of passed Col Scott's
I D R R Bill that he would open that vast
Domain by planting millions of those poor
Blacks on that Tropical Soil where he could
sell all of their Lands & take pay in their run
on his R R in this way hundreds of miles could
be easily settled while his R R would carry
them there free of expenses & afford all protec
tion as they could so easily unite in self defense
their cotton sugar Rice Fruits such as oranges lemons
dates figs grapes Apples would find a ready market
in all our Northern States. then we could send
millions of our manufactured goods. implements
for hammers &c in this plan government would soon
save millions annually that is now spent in Indian
Wars. for its a well known fact that with R Rs the
Emigrant always protect themselves from Indian
Depredations.. and more the vast rich mines even
of Mexico would find an outlet in the north
for the rich Mettles as well as the mines of our
own Domain.. but of all the free happy homes
of the Blacks, who have toiled for 200 years in

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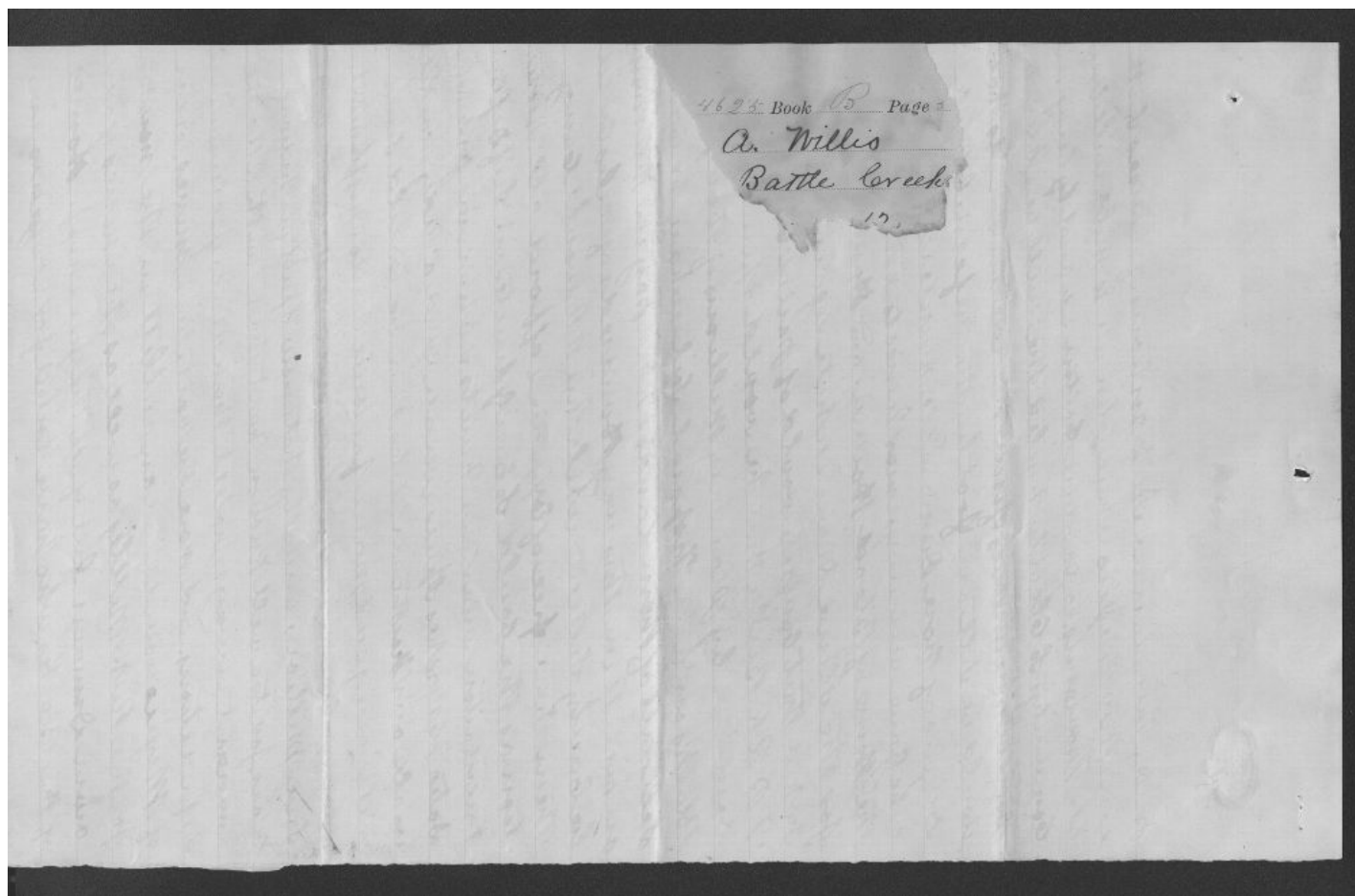
Bondage the most cruel the World has ever been
 Disgraced with in bleeding up Every State South
 of Mason & Dickson's line. I say now let them
 have Domain to bleed up & make Slaves for them
 selves their perjury a Covenant with Death and
 Agreement with Hell was the ultimatum of
 our Government under Democratic Southern
 Rule - one of the greatest Speeches I have ever
 Read by ^{Genl} Geo A Sherman in Chicago I enclose it & Garrison
 last letter ever wrote on this momentous Subject
 the latter you will please Return to me as I prize
 as a Memento of my Brother Labourer in the Cause
 of Human Freedom in Baltimore thousands
 yes tens of thousands have I seen driven on the wharves
 and for the Southern Market from 1805 down
 to 1816. I also witnessed the whipping under the
 old Court House on the wheel turned by
 one man while the Cat & tail was played on the
 naked backs of the men women Boys & girls
 at 10 Cents a stroke. Blood & flesh would spatter
 for yards around. Those friends have I seen
 in Methodist Clap prayer meetings leading
 the Clares & this too before Garrison was born
 seen Governor Dardon this small & perhaps on
 your time. I am an old man of Hannuworth
 of your City is the only man I know there. So your
 Duty as you no doubt will & your Future will
 be onward upward into that Realm where
 Justice & Humanity will be Rewarded and
 Peace & Happiness ever be yours
 To Geo St. John Truly your friend At. Willis
 over

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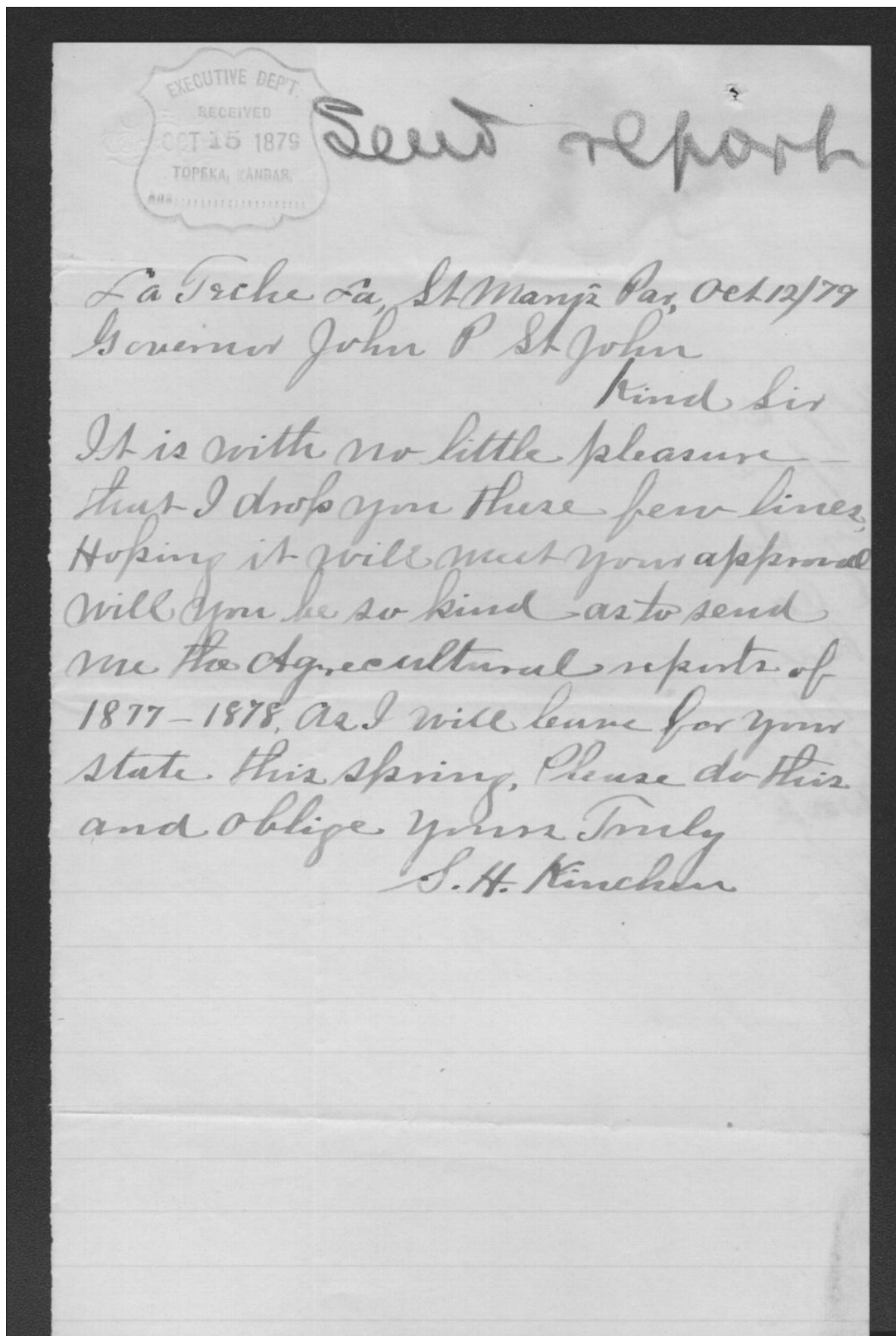
I I am now making an Effort to have
our Citizens Rais Clothing Bedding etc to
send on for those poor Dertitute people
shall I direct such to be shipped to you
and know then the will be applied in
right direction please answer soon

Garretts Letter I find is with Mrs Titus
who is in or on her way to Kansas with
old Sijamot Ruth the Mayhall are
you if she will show you the letter

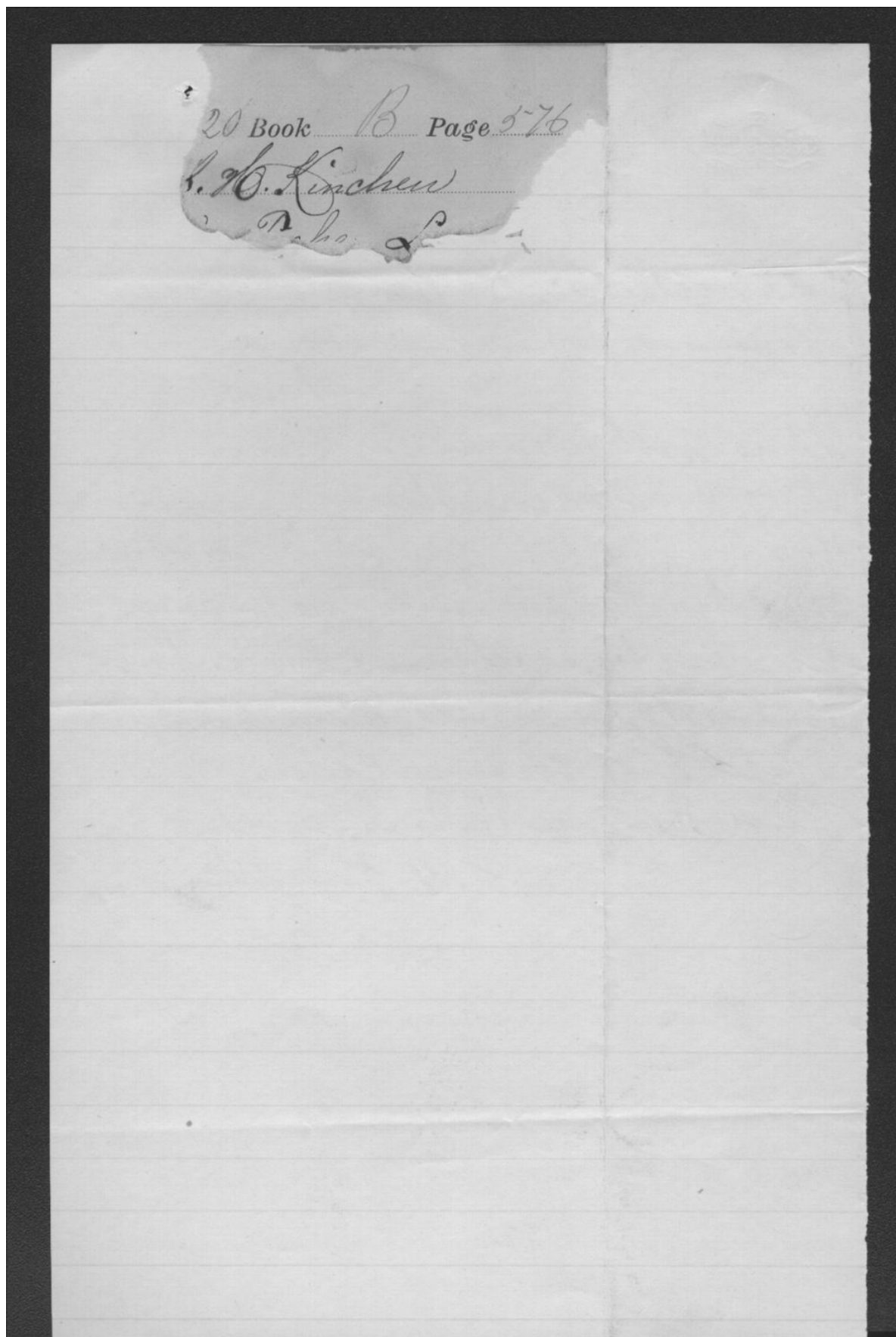
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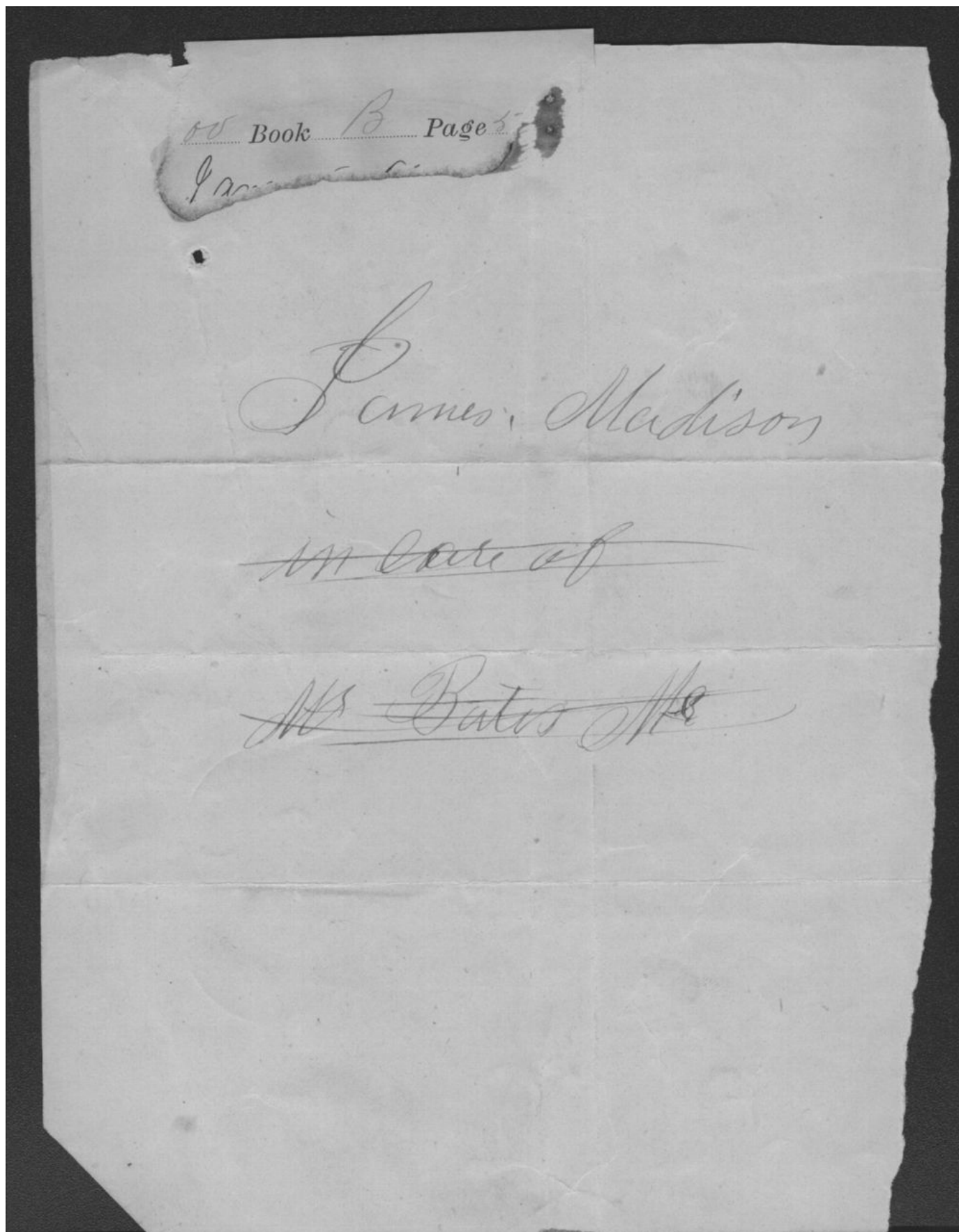
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 Texas. Oct. 17. 78
 John St. John
 I seat my self to inform you
 about him I Wanted to see if I
 could sell my place to you you
 I Want come to Kansas and I
 haunt Got new money to come to
 to Kansas. and and if you cant
 Do that Want you send me ~~after~~
 After transportation to come Kansas
 I haunt Got now mother. and
 No, Father, and Now I
 a relation in Texas as I know of
 and you Will Do som for I
 cant make a living in Texas
 yours Truly
 J. St. John

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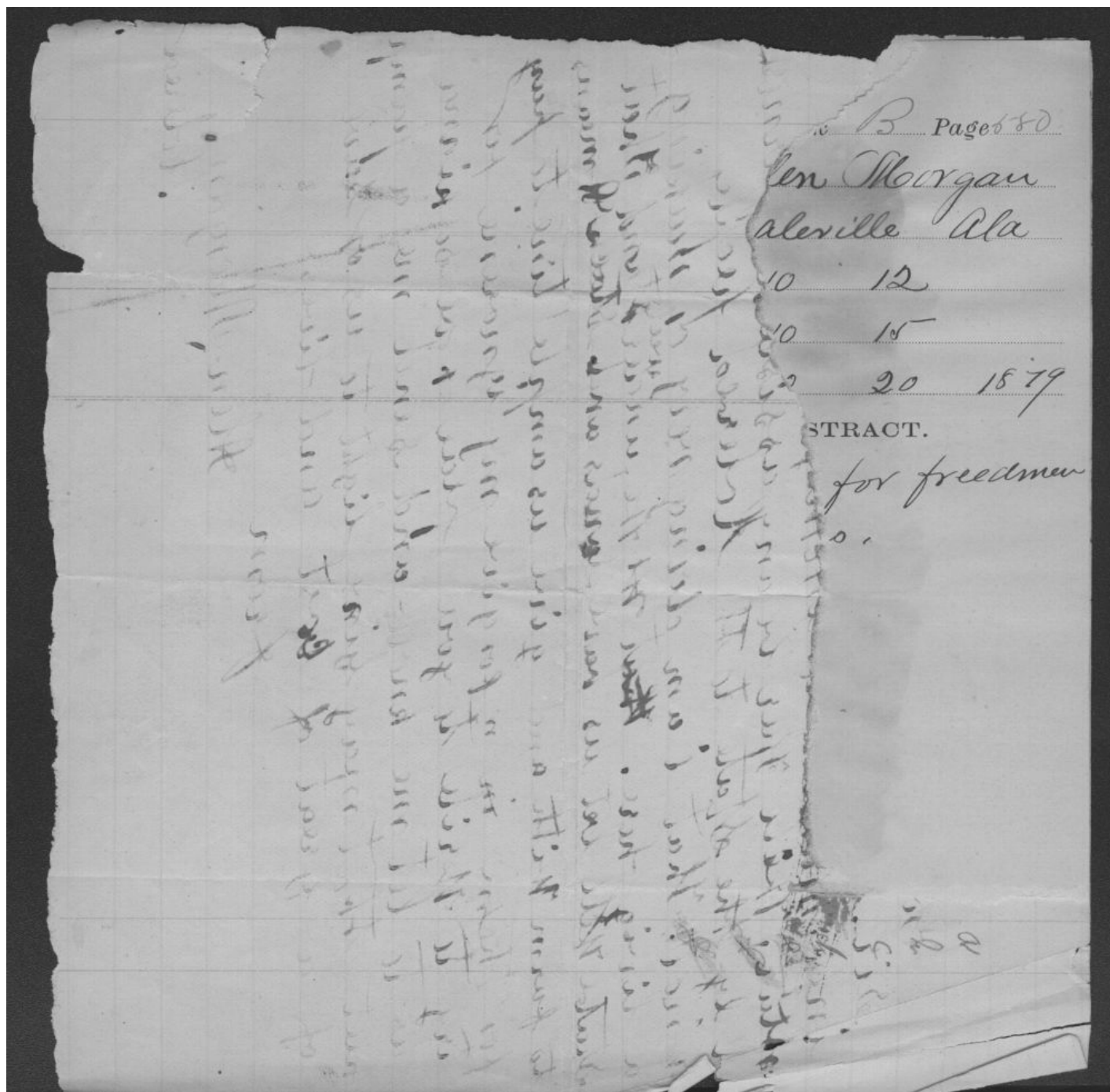


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Paderville Tullahoma, Tenn
Oct the 12. 1879.

Governor of the Stat of Kansas
Sir. Will you be ^{kind} so good to give me
information to emmigration to that
stat. Will ther be any assistance furnis
ed by the state to the Colored people
or not. That i am doing very well making
a living here. ~~that~~ ^{well} ~~we~~ understand that
state will let us have lands and stock & means
to farm with and give us ample time to pay
for them in or forgive my ignorance for
try to write to you please to be so kind
as to let me know and send me a pamph
let. that may give light to us or save
of a great of cost and lives
from
Allen Morgan.
Colored

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Warda Fayette County Texas Oct 15th 1879
 Great number with sincerity thank of your
 friend. Mr. J. D. Johnson I seat my self to
 inform ^{you} that the colored people of Fayette
 county desire of Me to appropation a few line
 to you in regard off getting sume in Emfermation
 of you. by as you to ad a grafy use by sending
 some use a Book also to show unto
 that this race of colord that it is your desire
 to see all off the colord Emnagrate in to Kansas
 free Kansas for a pertection for my dear
 friend we have not got any here. Now I
 call your retention to a larning fact we wish
 to Emnagrate in to free Kansas if all they
 hel doth are true. now the white People off
 the South are contener killing up or race
 and it is our desire to we just seen a tip of Kansas
 and it is our desire of Emnagrate in to that state
 if we can get there on any agreeble turn and if
 we can you will not fail to inform it in your
 Reply. and sure not forget to inform Me what
 to say to my colorder here that is under a ~~bone~~
 Bone in regard of get to free home. for I will admit
 that we are cont of they purry seat & delte with
 unlandful. we are site in the wilness of igney

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And we never will Regrade as long as we stay
in this state among these White Tartanance and we
Desire of gett out forme among them if You all
assist use in geting out if You will give me a chare
Now You most rectly all meretake & excuse had
written. Also I close by saying answer
Soon To Yours Truly friend a Brother off
The N.B.F. in

Mr. S. T. Johns

G. W. Jackson

Mr. Briscoe Baker

Mr. Armored Finman

A. J. Denman

Mr. Collins William

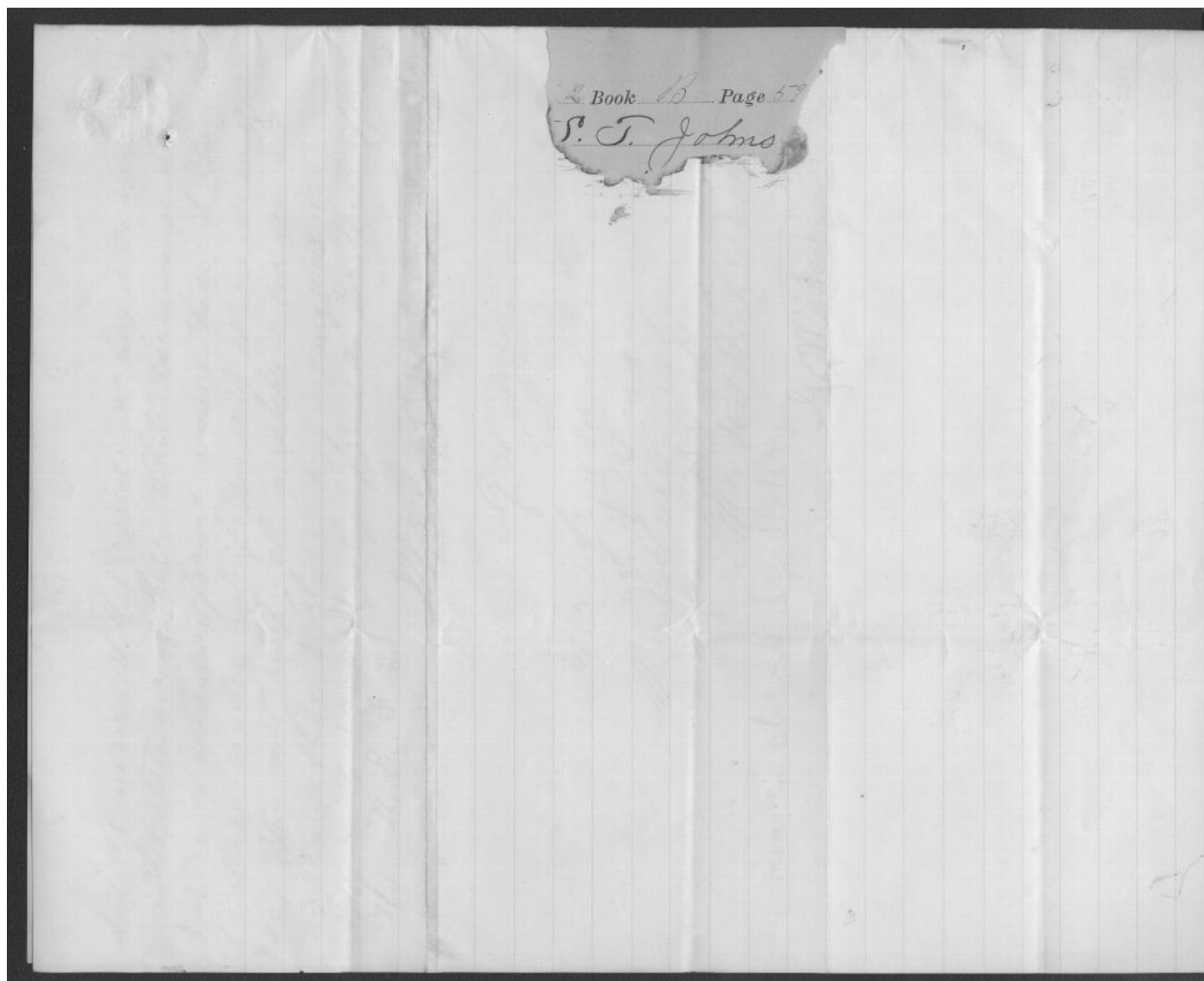
Mr. S. J. Stoken

Mr. Rich. & Pair

name in closed by sectary

G. W. Jackson

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Oct. 16, 1879

420

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. **Unrepeated Messages.**
This message is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE** and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

A. R. BREWER, Secy. 48Ks NORVIN GREEN, Pres.

Dated Phila Pa 16 1879

Received at TOPEKA, KANSAS. 204P

To Gov St John

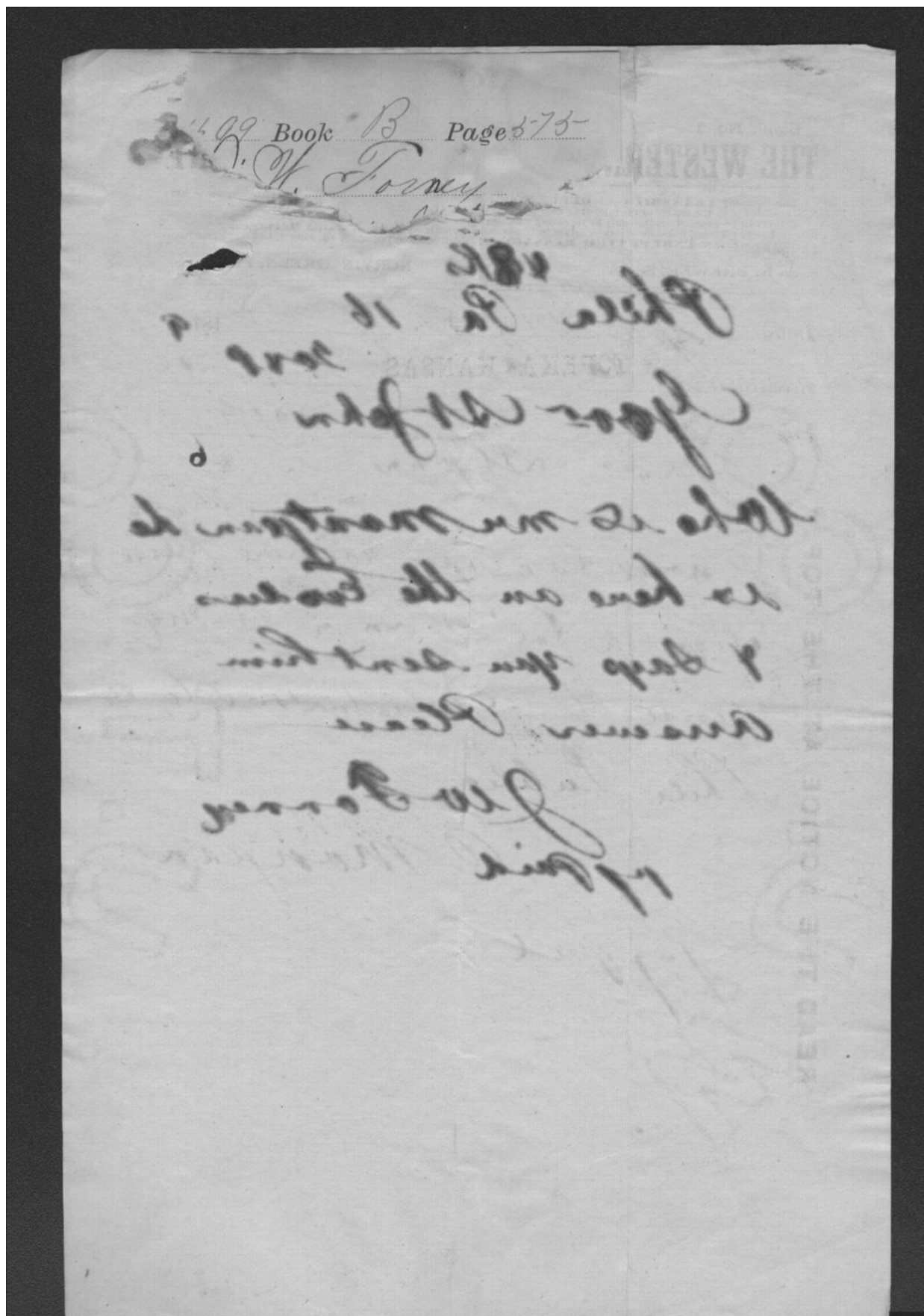
EXECUTIVE DEPT
RECEIVED
OCT 16 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS

*Who is Mr Montjean he
is here on the Exoduster
& says you sent him
answer. Please*

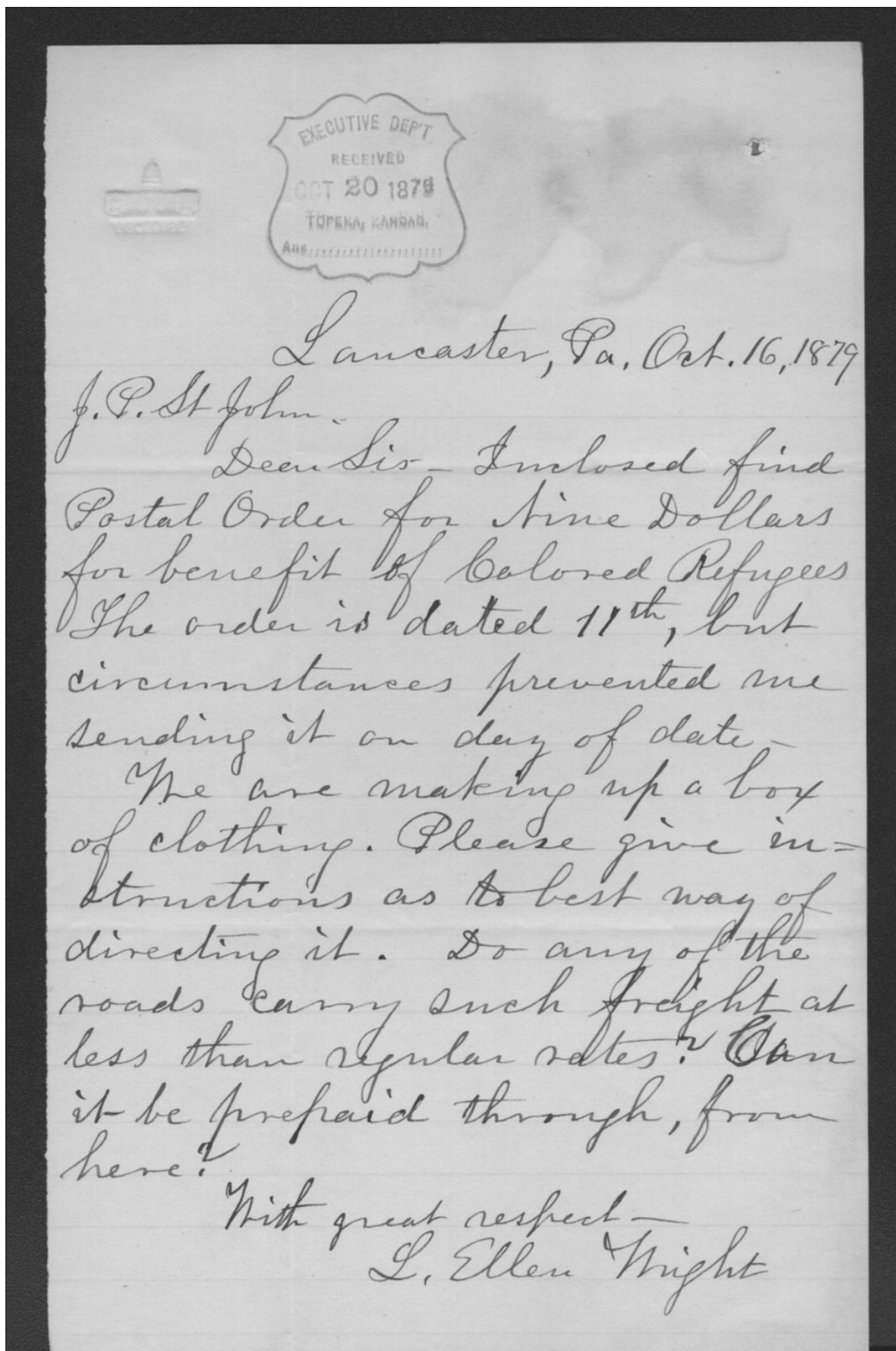
J W Forney
17 Paid

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

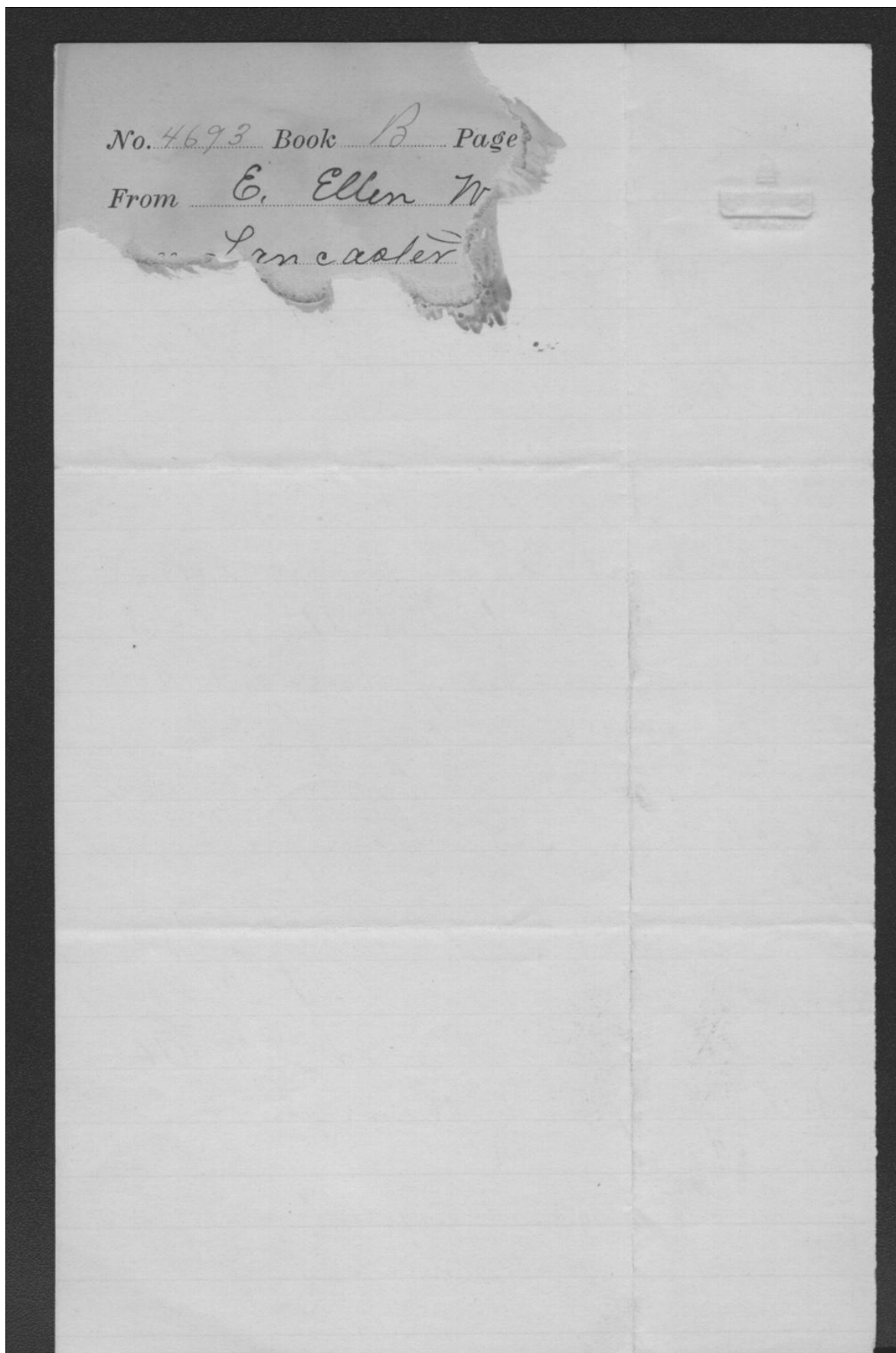
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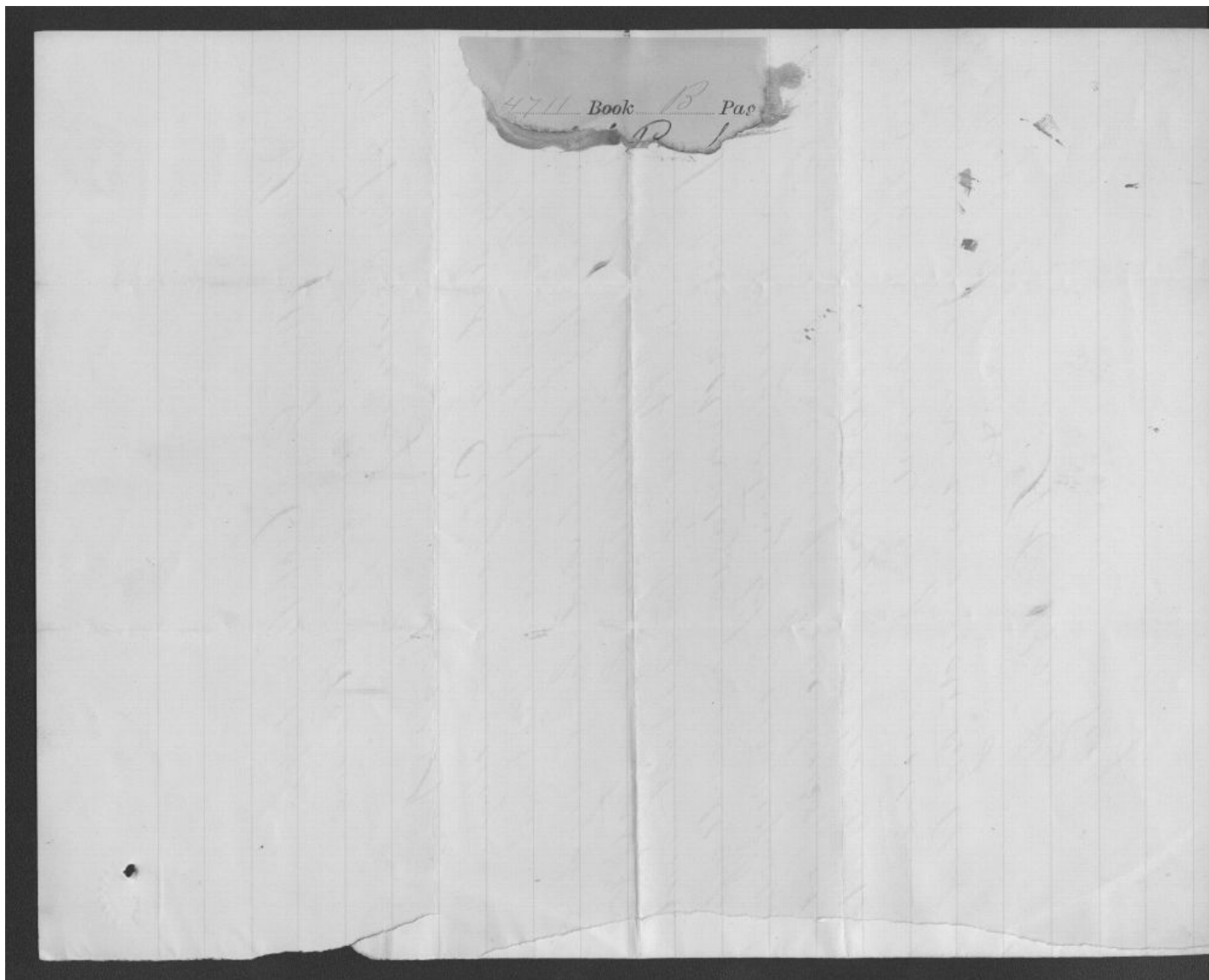
Farroth Ga, Oct 16th 1879
Governor of Kansas
To His Excellency

Dear Sir

Having had a Citizens meeting of
this County (now) we have
thoroughly concluded to emigrate
to some of Western Countries &
beg your Honor to assist and
see what advantages you will offer
us in emigrating to your respective
State We can not live here at
our presents wages, Please let
us hear some information
from you immediately And
oblige yours &c

A. C. Banks
Secy

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Lockhart Colored Aid Society

Lockhart Caldwell Co. Texas

Oct. 16th 1879

Gov. St. John of Kansas

Dear sir

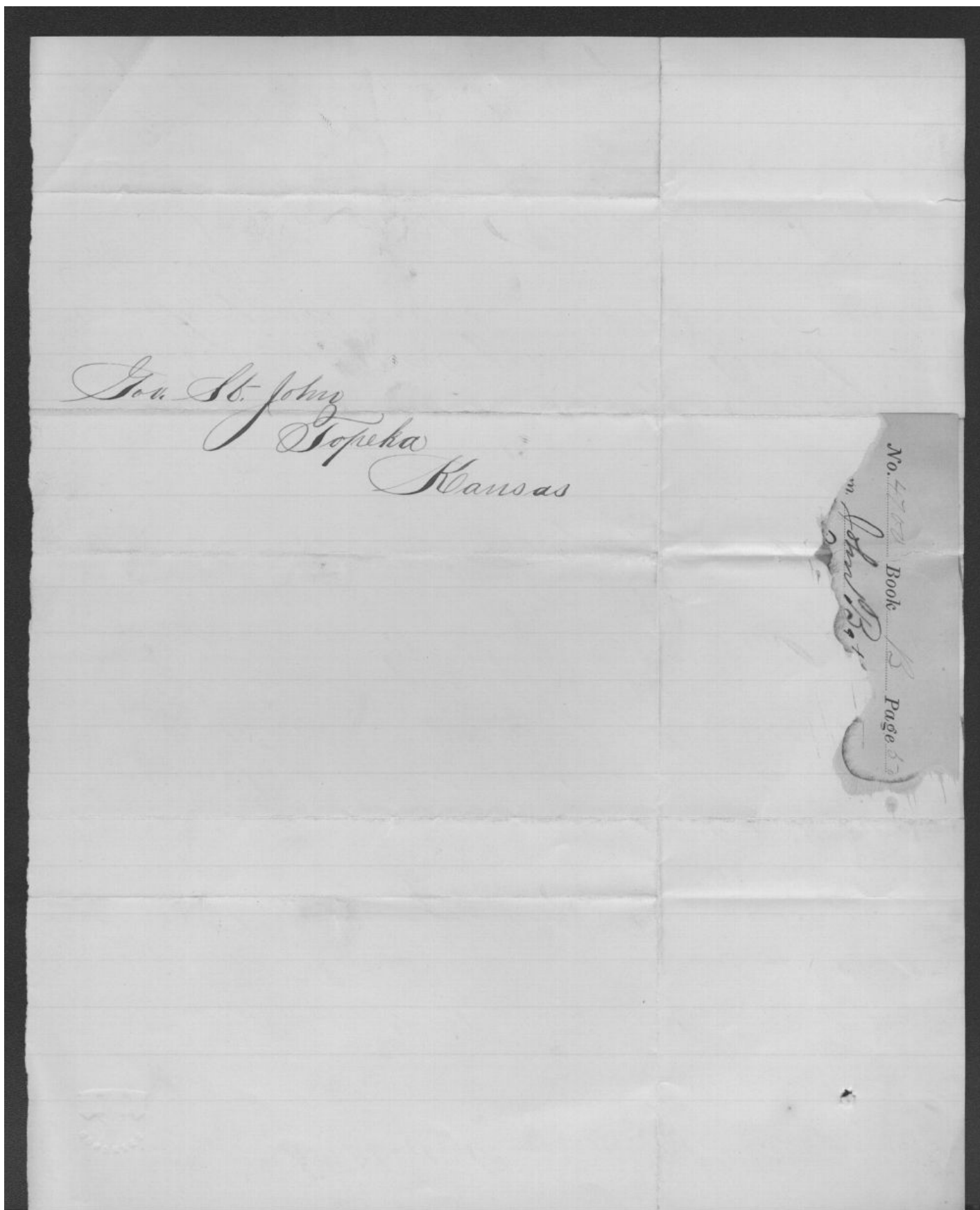
this Society has formed a Club called
Lockhart Colored Aid Society and
wants to know what paper will be the
best to send for for this Society write
us word and we will send for it
we want Instructions from you
and which is the best paper to use
the Christian Advocate or a paper
from that town we want you
to send us the best paper This is
nothing more at present but send
us the particulars all about that
Country

Lockhart Colored Aid Society

Lockhart Caldwell Co.
Tex

Mr John Bettus Secretary

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Western Park Kans
Oct 17th 1879

Gov St John

Dr fr

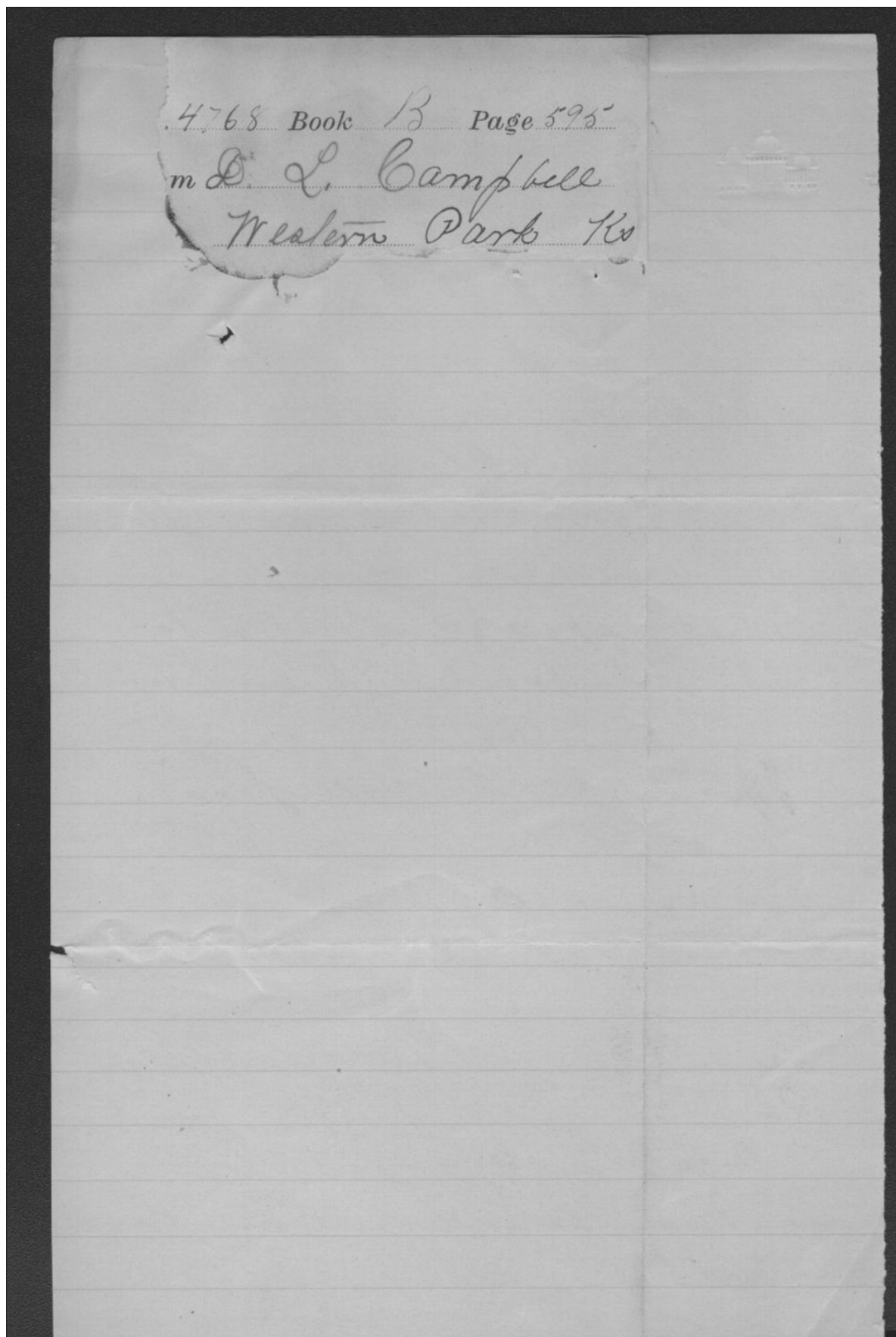
Enclose please find
Six⁸⁰ Dollars which
was collected in this
neighborhood for the Colored
Refugees from the South
You may not be the proper
person to whom it should be
sent but you will please
receipt for it & place it
to their credit

Yours Respectfully

(D L Campbell
Western Park
Colo Co
Kans

D L
To Make Change &
Send \$7.00

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Oct. 20, 1879
4814 Book B Page 61 1879
Dear Sir
Mobile Ala
Call annex. Saint
John Dear Sir I
that my self
to write you a
few lines to let
you know that
we are poor
helpless Exodusters
we are here in the
south & we hear of
country that we
can be free
people & we want
to emmigrate
to that country But
Governor we are
helpless & unable to
emmigrate. Because
the white south has