

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 37, Pages 1081 - 1110

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

found out that we
 want to emigrate
 & they has come
 to get & held meet-
 ings to never let
 the Colored man
 emigrate from
 the South they say
 that they will
 put them wayless
~~down~~ down & let
 give them some
 wayless as they
 let can live on
 & they will have
 not money to em-
 igrate & they can
 always keep the
 negro South say-
 that it will never

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due to let the negro
 leave this country
 for if the negroes
 leave here they will
 know the whole to
 carry they paint on
 the effect president
 election so we
 here in Kansas
 part of this country
 we are glad to let
 it be known that
 we want to leave
 this country ~~and~~
 if we let it be
 known we would
 be put to an iron
 death so we are
 nothing more than
 slaves here in this
 country & all things
 will be so long as
 we stay here

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I so here we are
as slave so we are
freeing your aid & as
sister so we are com to
this can be get that it
is better for us to
com west & from the
western white people
2 or 3 years then to
stay here in the
South & the stones
permanence so our service
is great here we are
on able to tell you
our journey here so
we as poor Brethren
as poor helples as
poor disea lated as poor
cried down our down
creatures has com to
the Brethren the to
help us away from here
Buy Eket Springs

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Mrs. Gallen
 If you will help
 us in our distresses
 we will be to
 your service in
 any form or fashion
 we will bind our
 selves to you in
 every way we can
 ever may be the
 best so we pray
 to the God that
 made us & that you
 that you & your
 countrymen
 about may full and
 beared & will come
 to us & help us in
 our distresses
 Yours truly
 Exoduster

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

So all pray that
you will come to
our calls if it is
in your power so
with love to all
with love in saying
I am your affection
ate friend Harry
Haskell
So I hope to hear
from you soon &
when you write
please send your letter
on the corner of
Franklin & Clearing
land about
Habib's place
Harry Haskell

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Oberlin Ohio

Oct. 20. 1879.

Gov. John St. John
Kan.

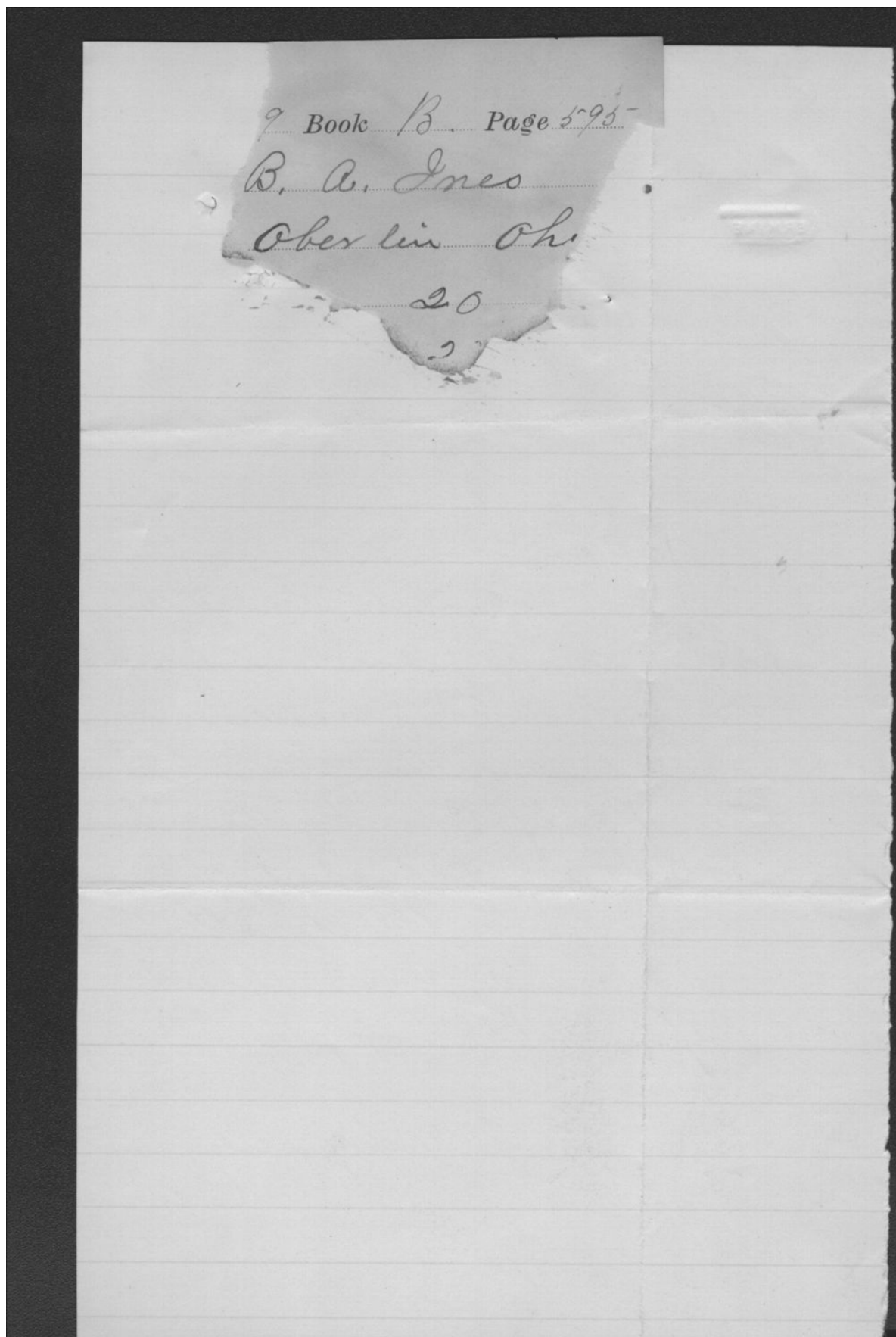
Dear Sir-

I send herewith
\$2.00 more from Mrs. Weeks
the lady who gave \$12.00
several months since, to
the Relief Committee, in
behalf of colored people
going from the South.
I received your kind
reply acknowledging the
same.

Very Respectfully
B. A. Innes

Theo. Seminary-

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EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
ATCHISON, TOPEKA & SANTA FÉ RAILROAD CO.
TOPEKA, KANSAS

A. T. & S. F.	479.58
LEASED LINES.	
K. C. T. & W.	66.32
P. H. & De S.	44.89
K. C. E. & S.	46.81
F. E. & W. V.	29.32
W. & S. W.	27.28
P. & A. V.	245.26
N. M. & S. P.	118.27
Total,	1048.73

P. O. Box 2746.

EQUITABLE BUILDING, ROOM 24,
No. 150 DEVONSHIRE STREET.

THOS. NICKERSON, PRES.
GEO. L. GOODWIN, ASS'T TREAS.

Boston, *October 22* 1879.

*Hon. John P. St John
Topeka
Kansas
Dear Sir,*

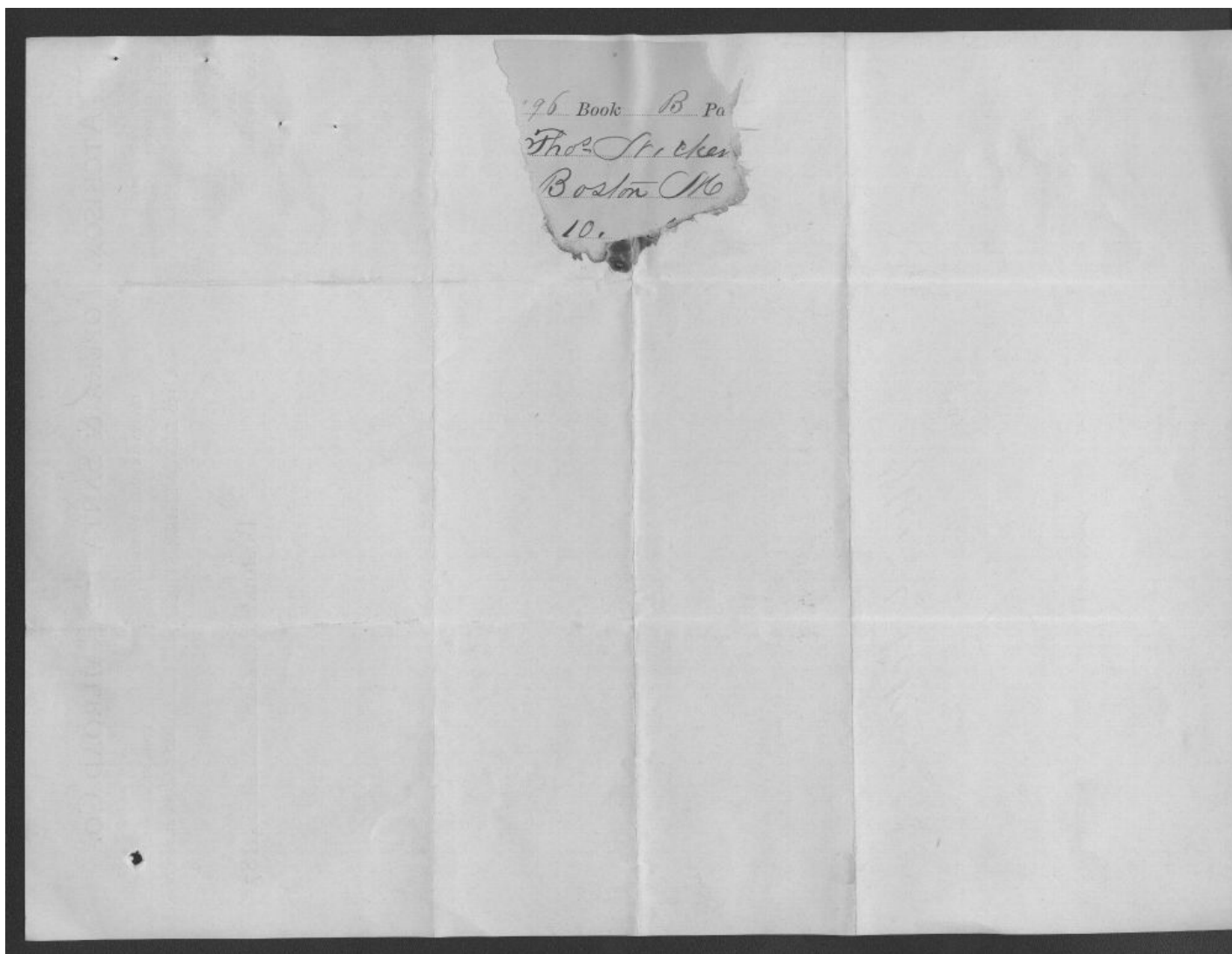
Your favor of

17th ult. was duly received and I have only to say that if the occasion should arise for more help for the colored people please drop me a line and I will try to help.

The statements of the press are so contradictory that I find it hard to get at the truth.

*Yours truly
Thos Nickerson*

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Columbus, Ga.,
Oct 20th/79

To His Excellency, the Governor
of Kansas.

Dear Sir.

Having heard much relating to
the Kansas emigration, I am very
anxious to know from you, if it is
a wise move on the part of the Colored
people to emigrate to your state?
The people of my section are
anxious to learn all they can, about
Kansas before coming. There is some
talk of sending two, or three
delegates to your state, for the
purpose of viewing the general
situation of the country. If such
a delegation should be sent out,
what Counties in the state would you
advise them ^{to} visit? I further wish to
know what are the best conditions

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

upon which land can be bought, or
rented?

I now close, hoping to hear
from you at an early future.

Very Respectfully

Henry E. Jones

44815 Book 43
St. John
Exoduster

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EXECUTIVE DEPT
RECEIVED
OCT 23 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS

Oct The 24th 1879

Reynolds Taylor County Ga

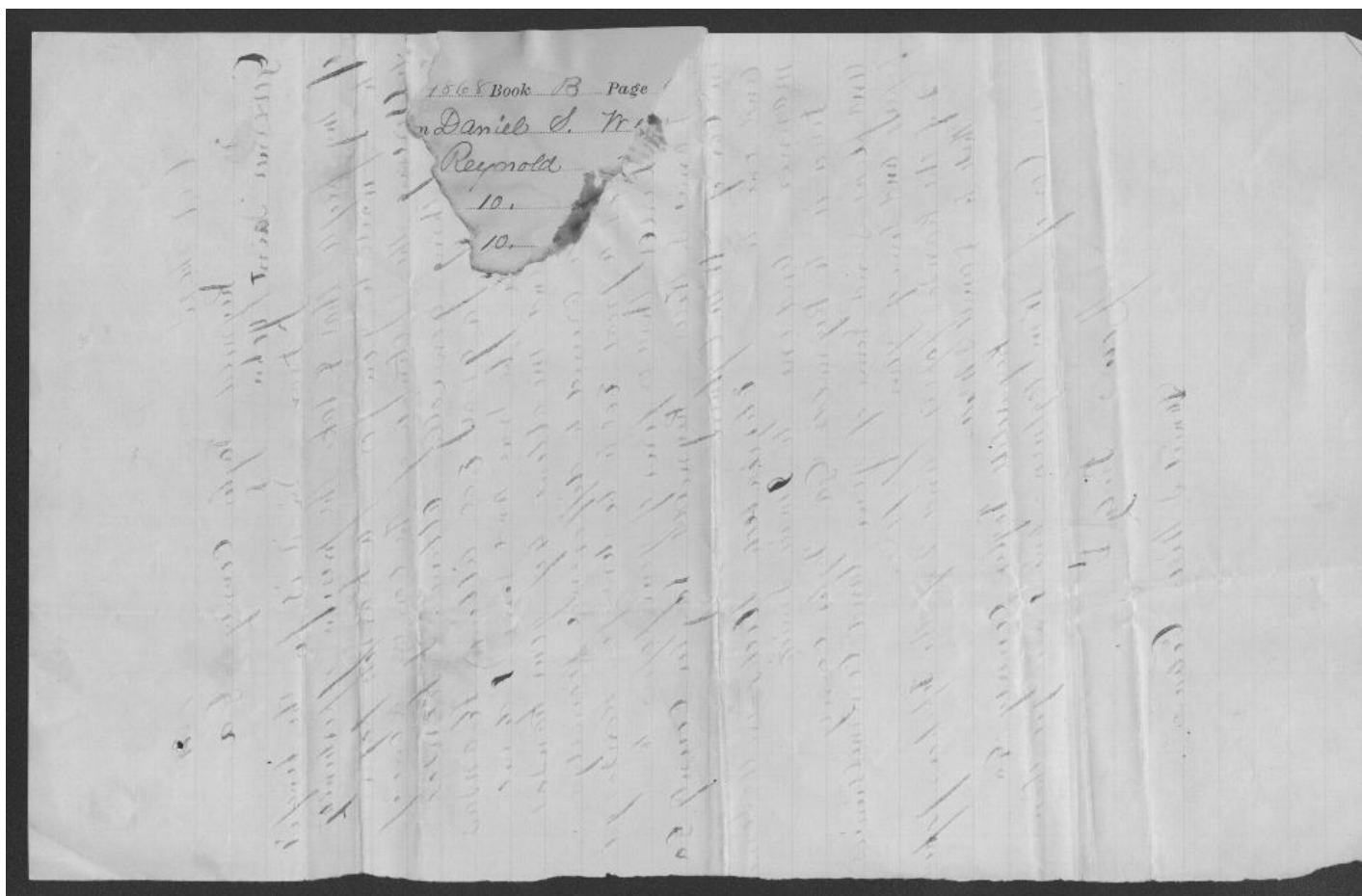
Governor Saint John

I Dear Sir it is for the benefit
of my people that I take the present opportunity
to write to you for a Kansas paper
asserting the climate of the country one of
Every thing generally about Kansas
we all hear a great deal about Kansas
Some I believe to be true and some I do not
believe please send me about 4 of your Kansas
papers to give around to different Vicinities
There is a great deal to be done for Kansas yet
Please direct three or four of your papers to
Daniel S. Wells Reynolds Taylor County Ga
in care of Wm. Ogburn
and one to Ediziea Beth Hicks in the same
manner and one to Imit Smith
Direct it to Reynolds Ga Taylor County
and please send some of your Land Commissioners
papers and some of your papers
2 of the Kansas papers and 2 of the Topeka papers
these to Daniel S. Wells
Reynolds Taylor County Ga
in care of Wm Ogburn and I will get them

Yours Truly

Daniel S. Wells Colours

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Bryan Texas Oct 20 1879

To the Excellency of Gov John St John
Sir

We beg leave to ask of you the following
Questions in regards to Emigration to the State
of Kansas and Sir as We are down here
in what is call the Lone Star State We do
openly acknowledge that We are alone and
Defenders Condition and as men of interest
and feeling We ask you Sympathy With us
and answer those Questions as follows and at
as Early a Date as possible and Direct answer
to Mr. Rose gam a Carpenter Mr Banner is a barber
David Birdwell Carpenter H Calhoun Bartender
and H Coleman and a host of others all men of
Business are waiting answer from your Excellency
Question first What is your Land Worth and
Where is it Situated on What Terms can We buy it
Question Second

is there any Deduction on Emigration Ticket
and Where Shall We apply for information
and on What Condition can We get them

Question Third

Where are your agents on Emigration
to Whom Shall We Write to for Tickets

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

colonization is what we want to do it
we shall apply our money Time and Labor
We are coming from here to Texas on certain
Reasons that we want leave to Express now
But we will reveal in our time and if you can
and is satisfaction we do and your memory shall
ever be in the heart of a people struggling against
oppression & will close by direct your letter

to A W Ross Bryan Texas

At Ross Ch

Coleman

Birdwell

Calhoun

Banner

806 Book 18 Page 549
A. W. Ross
Bryan Tex

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



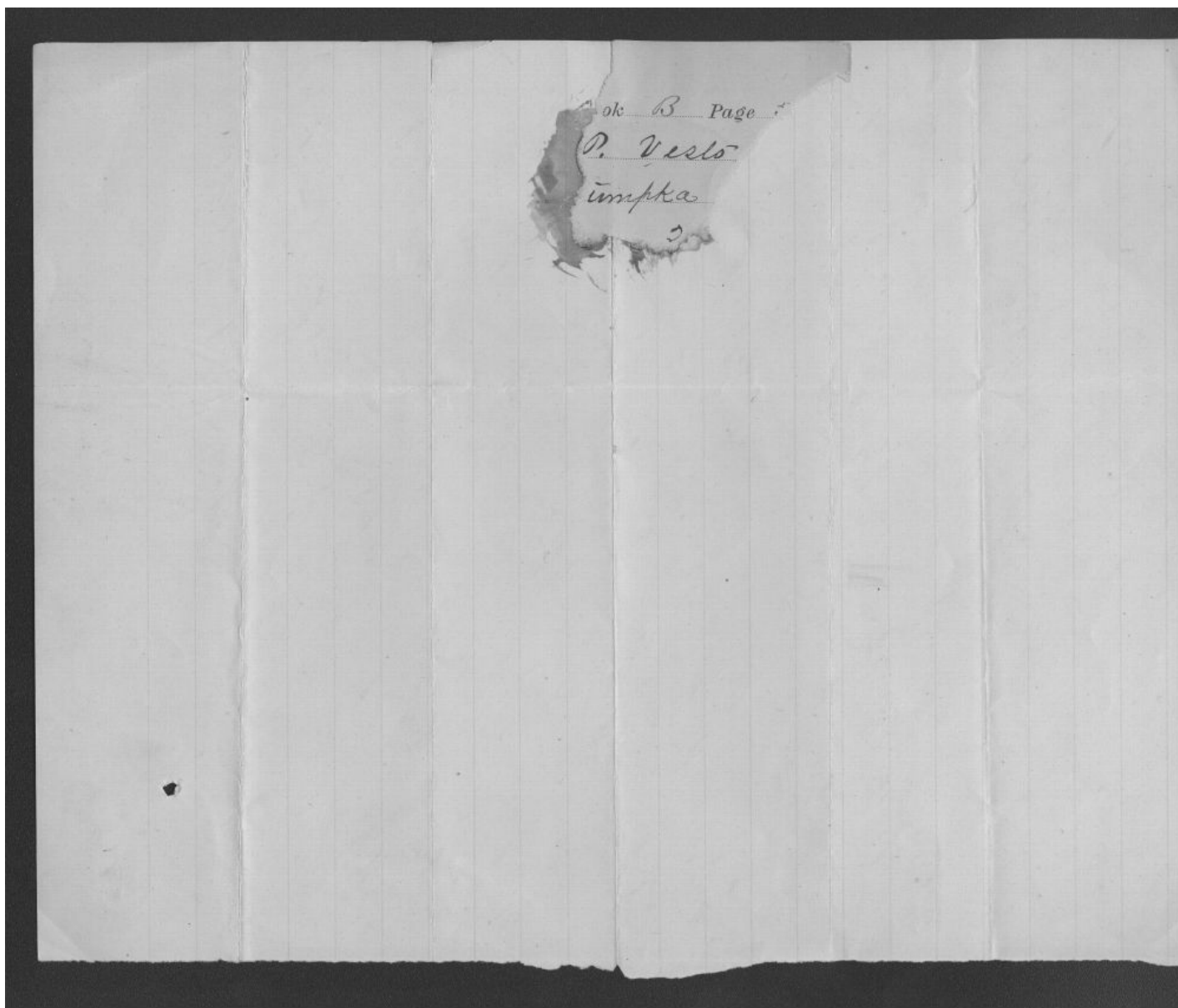
Wilmington Ala

Oct 22 1879

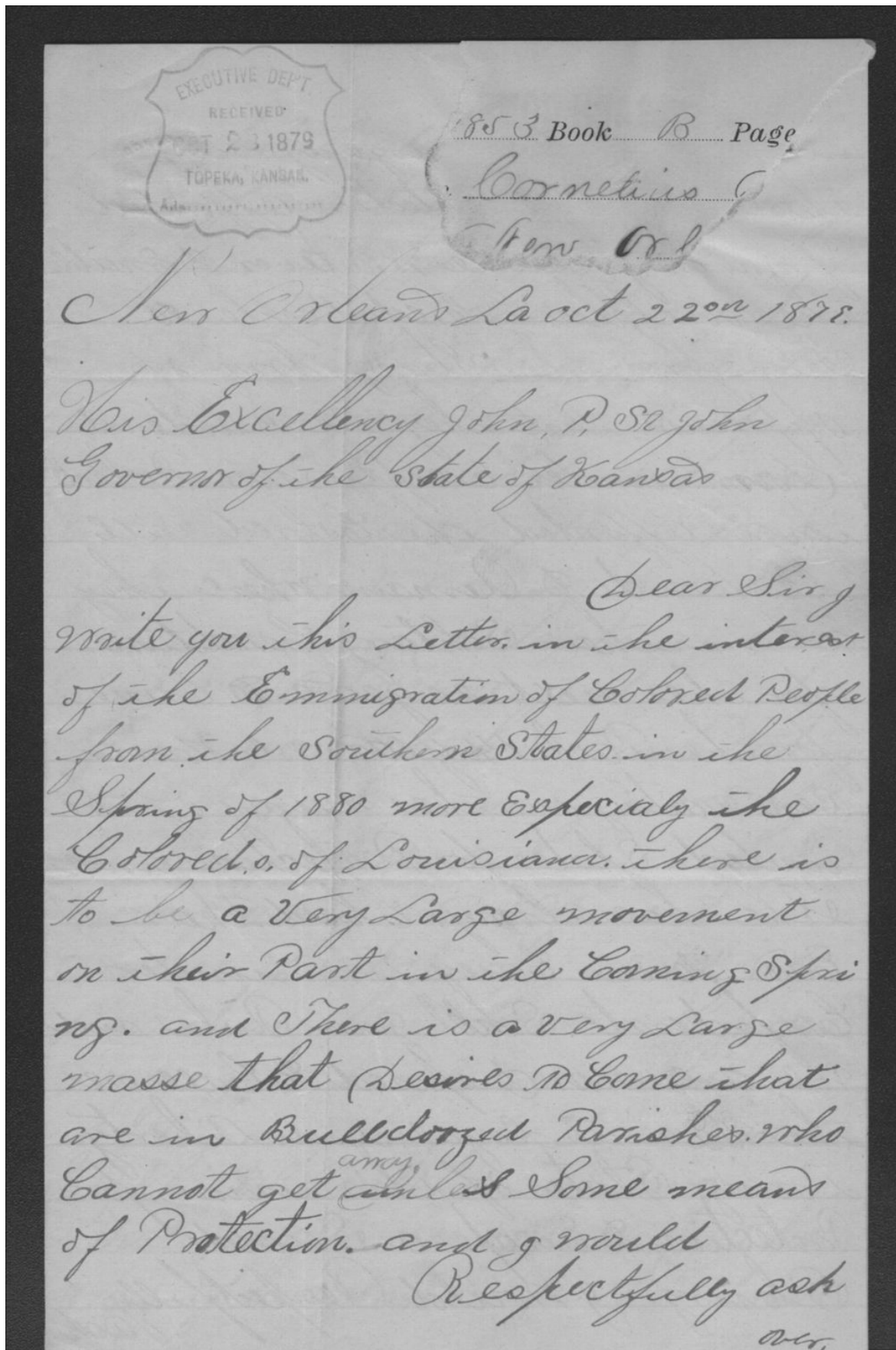
Gov St John

Alon Sir I think
If you would make an agent
for Kansas I could do a great
good for that country I am thinking
of coming myself and great many
others would come if they were
able. And several will come if they
can hear the Strait of the subject
please write to me all about it
and make me or some other man
agent for this country Kansas in
this country. This is Elmore county Ala
I will close your friend F. P. Deets
Direct your letter to
Kowaliga Post office Elmore county Ala

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in case of an Emergency will
there be any Protection afforded
from any Source whatever to enable
the Helpless Colored People to
Free from the Strong Arm of
oppression that they are Burdened
down under. Except Some Protect
ion is afforded the Colored will
be forced to Remain where they
are in their Solitary Condition
for the next 20 years to come
for the Past 14 years we have
Ben waiting on the mercy of the
United States for Protection and
She has always Closed their
Ears to our Cries from under
Confederate Shot gun Rule and
we are now disposed to Call on
the Various loyal and Liberty
Loving States of this Union for
Protection to Escape a Second
Slavery. I would Respectfully ask

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

you what could be done in the way of assistance ~~after~~ arriving in your State. for Persons Desirous of Farming. Could there be any assistance in the way of Teams Lands or Provisions furnished on terms as there is a very Large Part of Emigrants coming direct from farming districts and would need some aid in the first year of their undertaking and a great many are self sustaining here but in order to come away will have to dispose of what they have at less than half price or come away and leave all without getting anything for it we would like to confirm any bargain that might be offered in the way of assistance for the first

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

just so that we can live
 you would also favor me
 with an Agricultural Report
 of your State. also any books
 or maps. if you cannot Concur
 in the above you will please
 give Reference to Parties
 that can do so as we are
 Preparing to come and are
 desirous of closing a good
 Bargain with Responsible Parties
 Before the People Emigrate
 Hoping to hear an
 Answering

I remain Very Respectfully
 your obt svt

Cornelius Smith

Address no 373 1/2

~~no 323 1/2~~ Poydras Street
 New Orleans
 Louisiana



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

N.Y. Association to Aid Southern Refugees.

~~Travelling Savings Bank~~

New York,

Oct 23rd

1879

To Hon J. P. St John Governor of State
Dear Sir

I have this day deposited in the Putnam & Drows Bank of this City the Sum of \$165.77⁰⁰ payable to your order, for the Relief of those Colored People. Emigrating to the West from the South according to Resolutions passed at our Meeting the 13th inst. When the President Rev. Mr. F. Dickinson, Saml. N. Smiths Clerk of Auditing Committee, and myself were appointed a committee to disburse said funds. Since the commencement of the work the Committee has undertaken ^{in April} we have collected from all sources the Sum of \$534.08. Expended for Printing. Advertising Public Meetings & Shipment of Clothing. the Sum of \$103.13 forwarded to Messrs Northrup & Sons Wyandotte Kansas May 2 \$240.00 to the St Louis Relief Fund. \$50.00 and the balance to you. and we propose to continue the work of receiving Contributions for those needy People of which your State. has so nobly cared for. please acknowledge the Receipt of this Draft. & oblige

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per of
 Rep Am F. Dickerson President
 Samuel H. Smith Comm of Auditing
 Committee
 Am E. Gross Secty. Care of Borway
 Savings Bank 130 Borway St.
 P.S. I will send you the report as printed in The
 Press, on Saturday when issued.

4 Book 13 Page 595
 Per Am Dickerson
 Sam H. Smith

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Huntsville Texas

Walper County

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Oct 23 1879

My Dear Governor I sent my self to
write you A few Lines We are poor
creature here and we want to come
to Kansas But we have not got
the means to come on we have
now a little treasure an a society
started and we want to try to
gain an information to come on and
we would like to get some aid an
assistance from you to come on
if it is in power to do so and we
want to know some of us have a few ac-
res of land here but not enough to
make a support and we are not able to
buy any more and want to know what to
do with it we are almost on a
starvation here have no money no way
to make any and we don't know what to
do we are trying hard to come to
Kansas



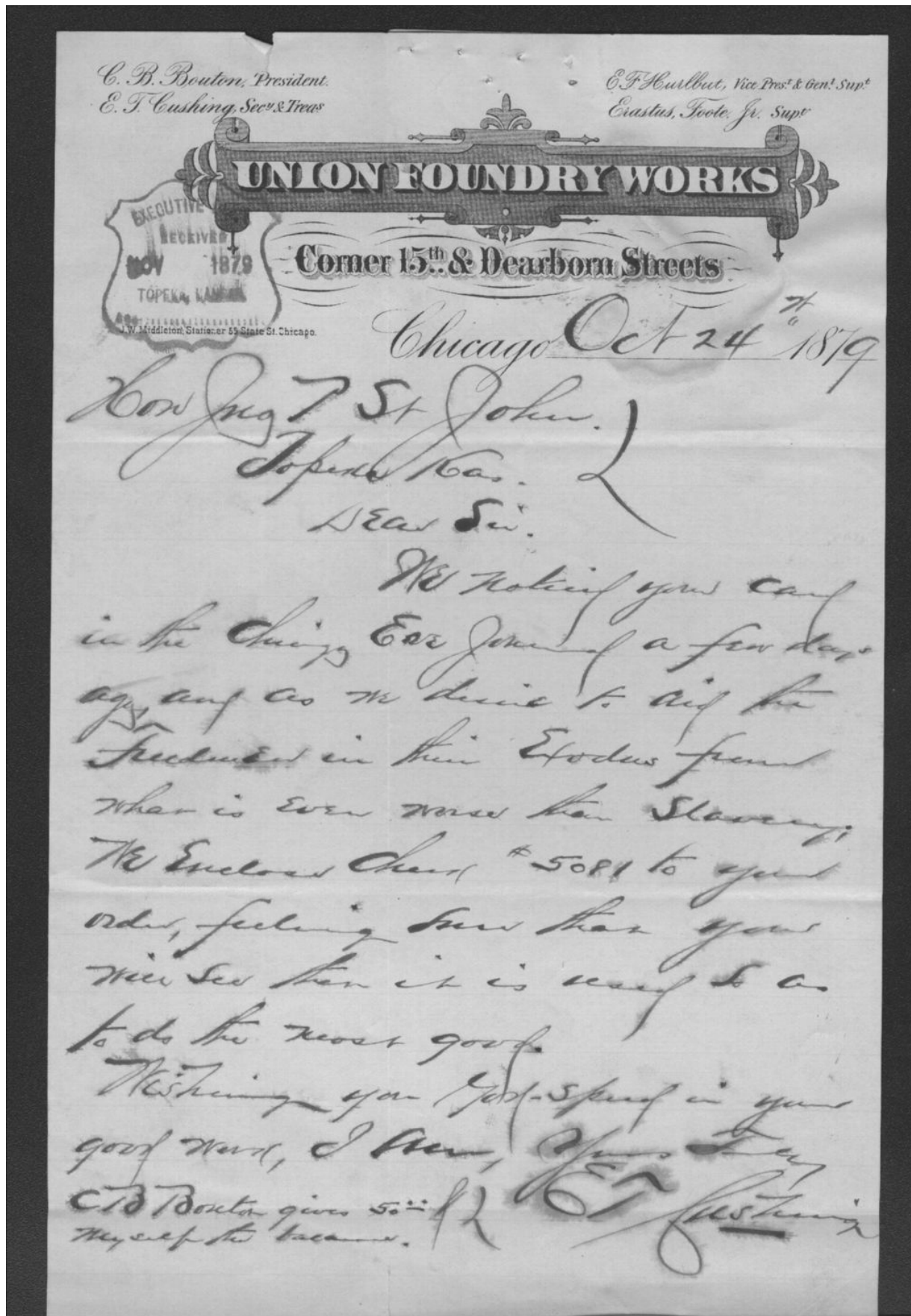
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please to return me and
answer so we will be able to
depend on your truly friends

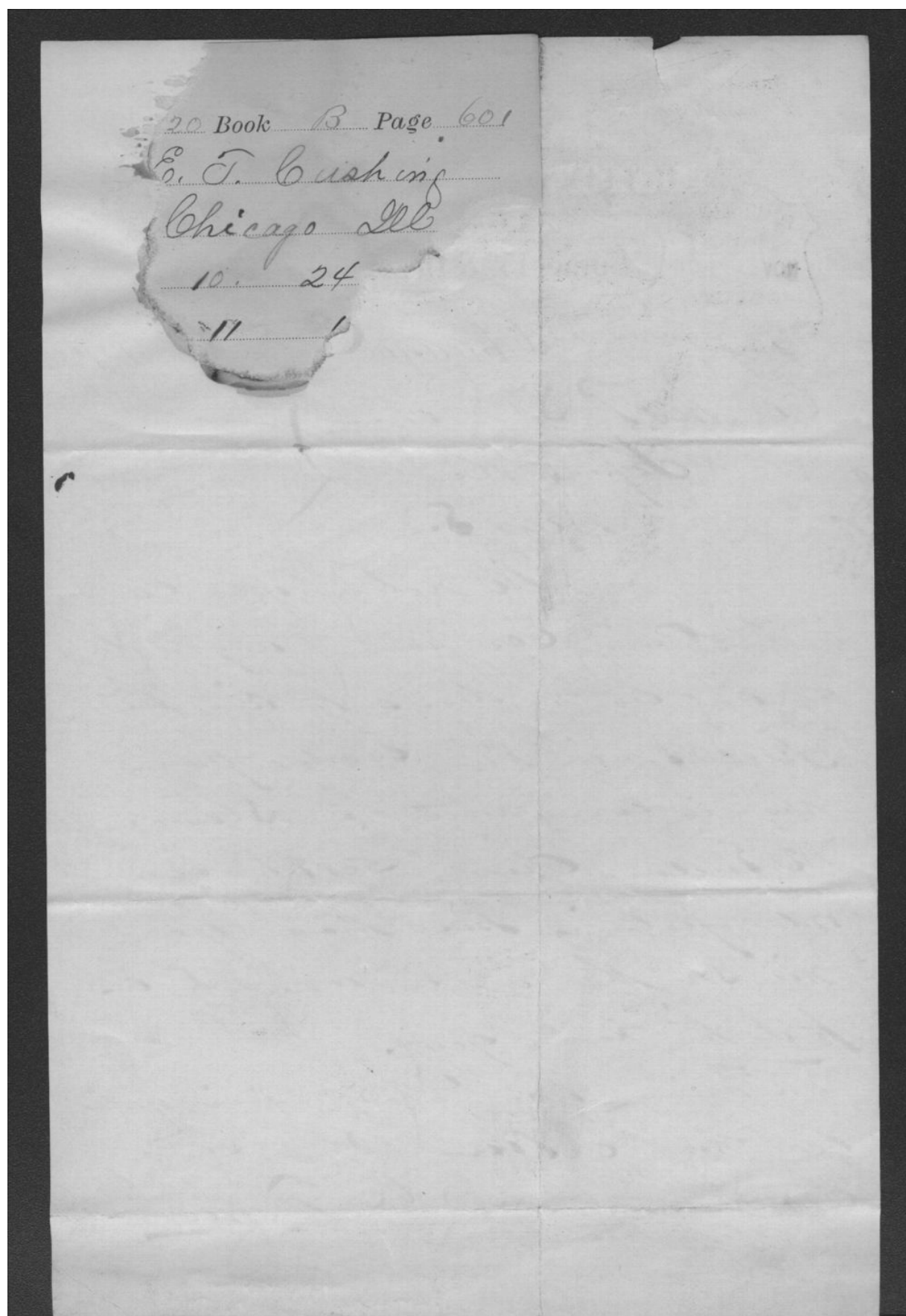
James Jackson

Book 18 Page 544
James Jackson
Huntville, T.

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

STATE OF IOWA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Des Moines, Oct. 24, 1879

His Excellency John P. St. John,
Governor of the State of Kansas:
Sir:

The Governor of Iowa would esteem it a favor if you would communicate to him, at your earliest convenience, your views as to the practical results of your immigration bureau's work. The Governor desires to make use of the information in preparing his message to the approaching session of the General Assembly.

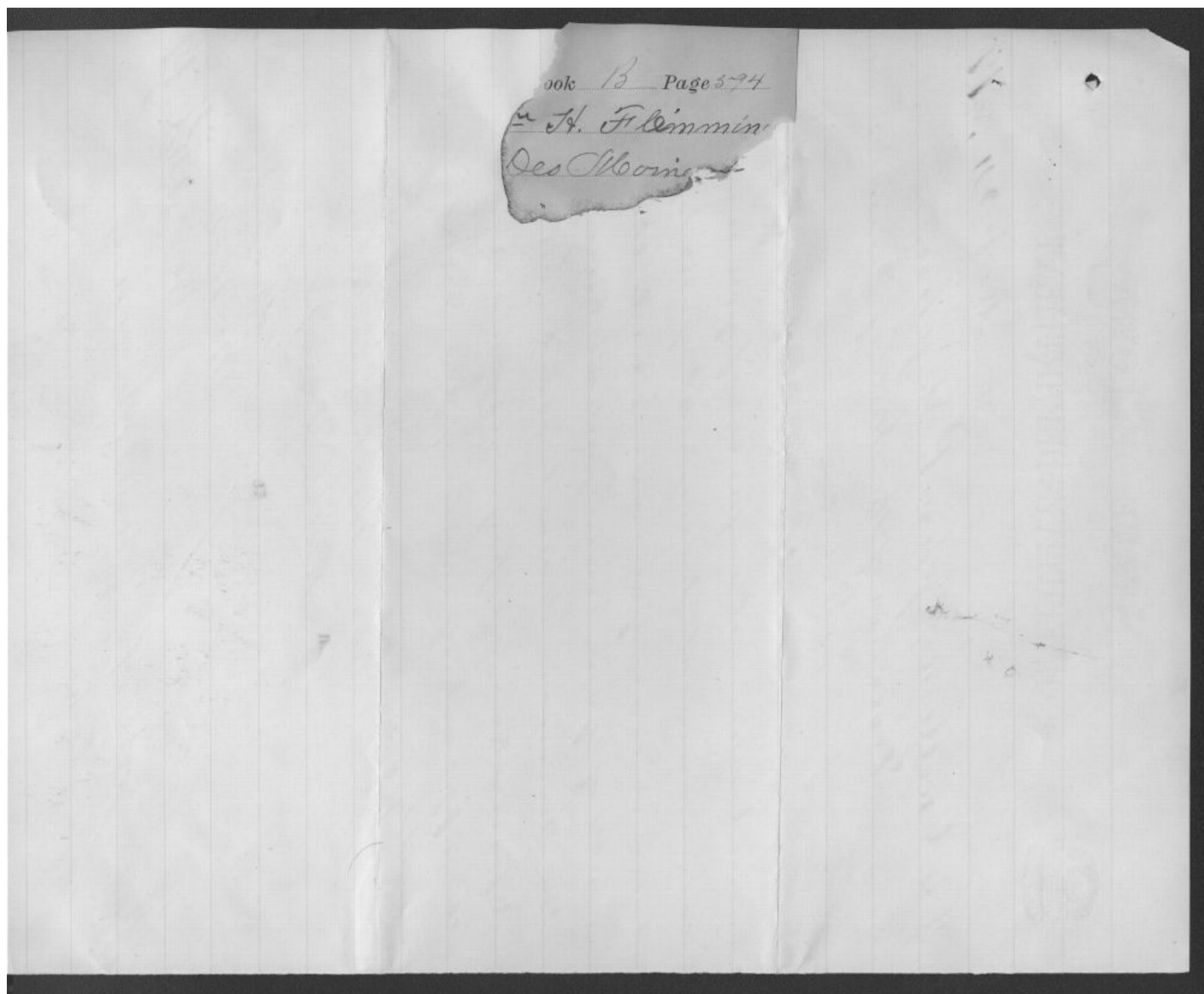
I have the honor to be,

With high respect,

Your obt. servt.,

Wm. H. Fleming,
Private Secy.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

October the 25 of 1879
 Lock hart Texas Caldwell County
 Mr St. John. Gov. St. John Topeka Kansas
 I seat mi self to Right Rite a few line to let
 you know that we have signed our selves in
 to An meeting to An grant to a free land
 where we ma have a right to a free Balit. But
 please a low me to take the to send me all the
 information you can About Kansas and all
 the State then northing States and what terms we
 could get their on State About what you
 think it Would. Cost a family to get there
 We aske these Questions Becose we have not been
 signed longe and wish to know all About
 them please tell us that we ma know
 what to do Lock hart Caldwell County
 please when you get this letter Rite to me
 to Lock hart Caldwell County Texas Good Ridge
 to Simon Roberts Sectary of our meeting