

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 39, Pages 1141 - 1170

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

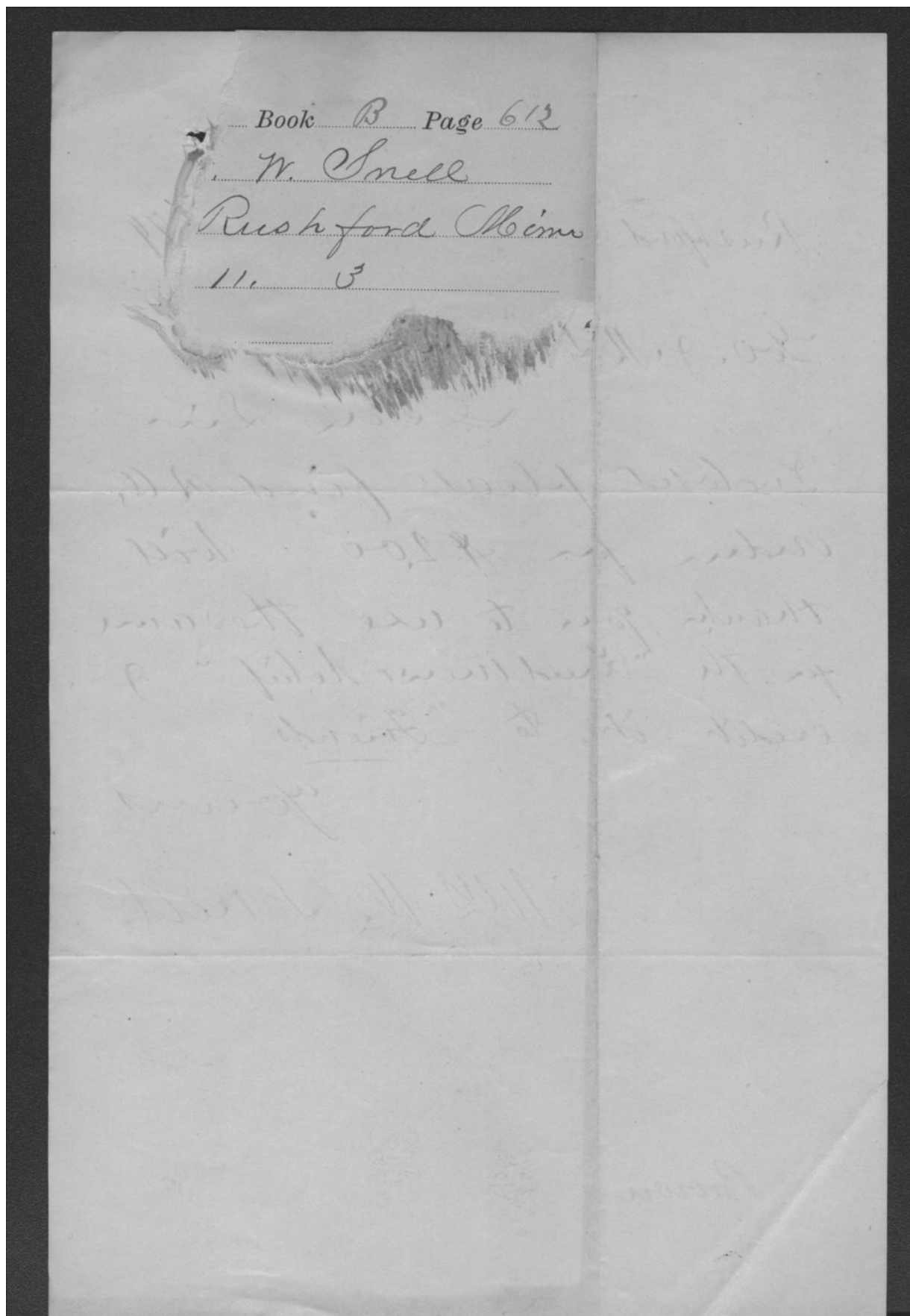
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

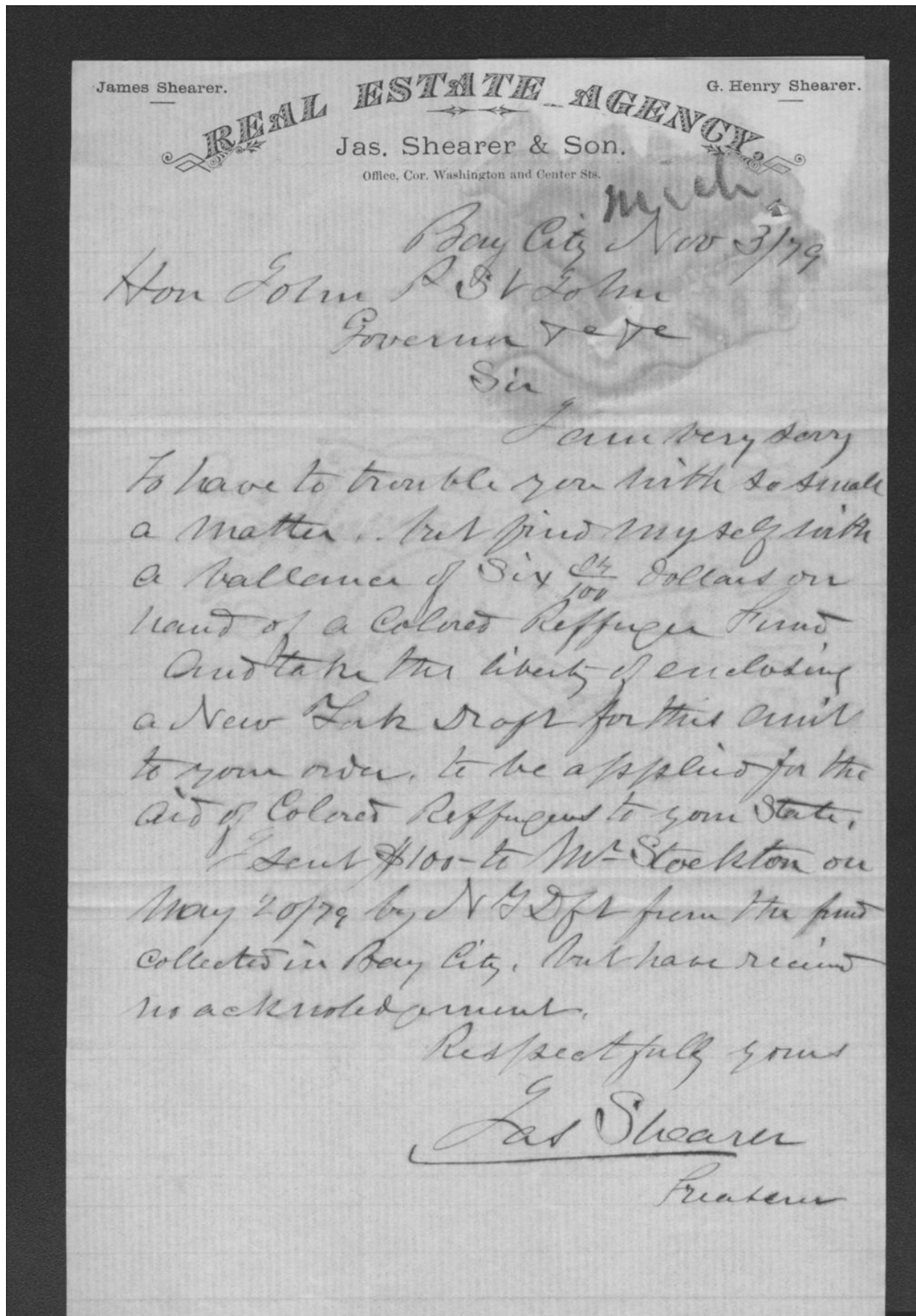
Item Identifier: 210296

www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296

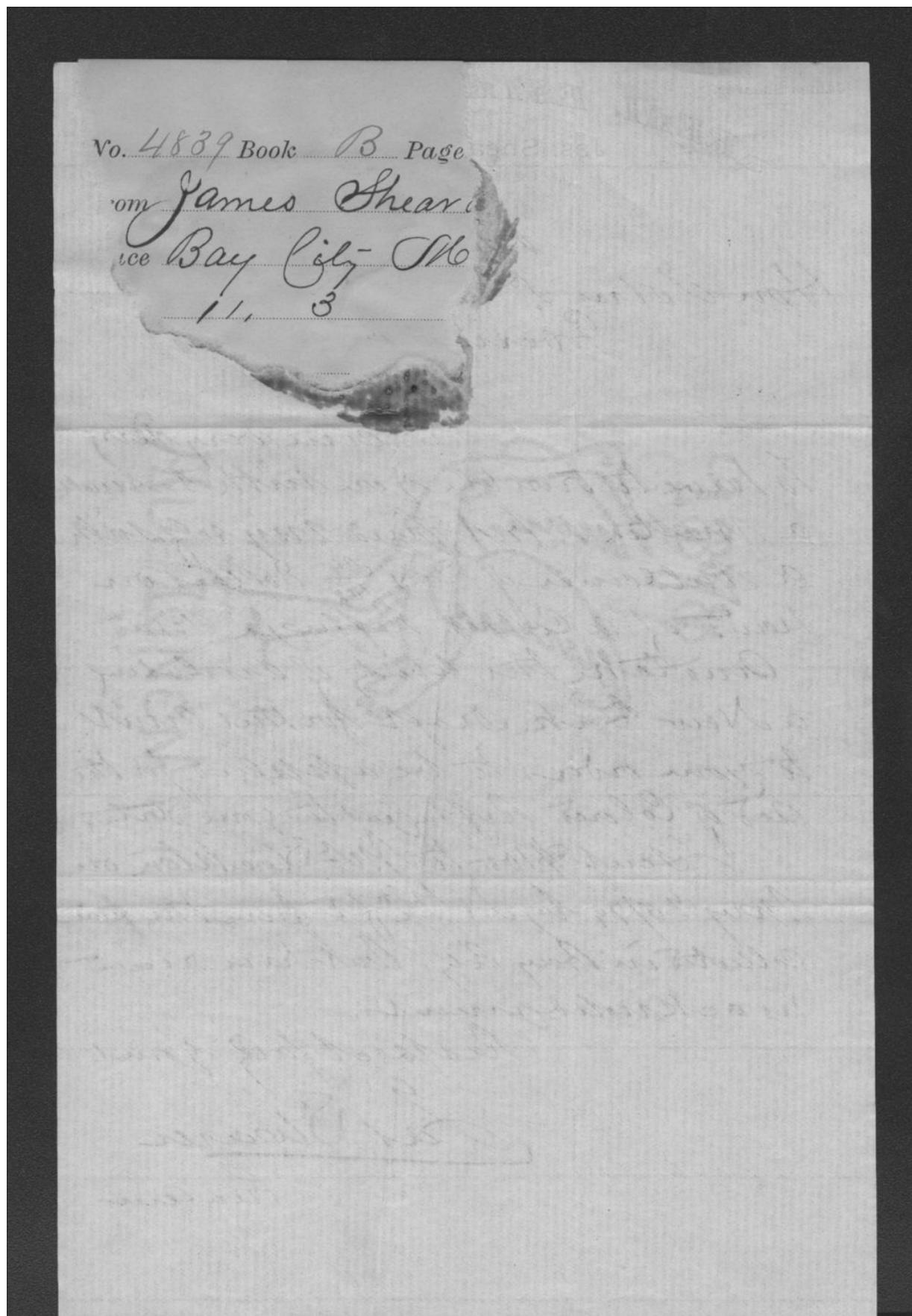
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Patron Texas Shelby County
Nov 3th 1879 Mr Governor

of Kansas Dear Sir we are
said people of Shelby County have this day
assembled our sets selves in to a organisation
to write unto you to find out some things
about our fairs after we reach home or
Whether you do desire in good faith for
us to come there or not now I ask you please
write all our needs & tell us all our ways to get
home Do you intend for all of us to come
there we would be glad to receive ^{the} truth from you
if we can borrow our stock horses and cattle
and Wagon if we can please write us &
What it will ^{cost} us to borrow each we hear to I
many difference tails while our community
is Town down with false Reports now fear
Sir we people in the South do earnestly claim
you to be our father tell us When to come
and how to come some of our people is stant
ing and some awaiting till Spring Write me
word how we may get our home stead land after
we get there and what you will furnish
us what is corn meat & flour worth
through god I write for of the truth
and with it Back your Honor
Jeff Goodwyn.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Direct your letter
Mr Governor Hamilton
To Cash Hamilton
Shelby county
Icos
Mr James Jeffers
Lon Goodwyn

Book 13 Page 6

G. Hamilton

rest Hamilton

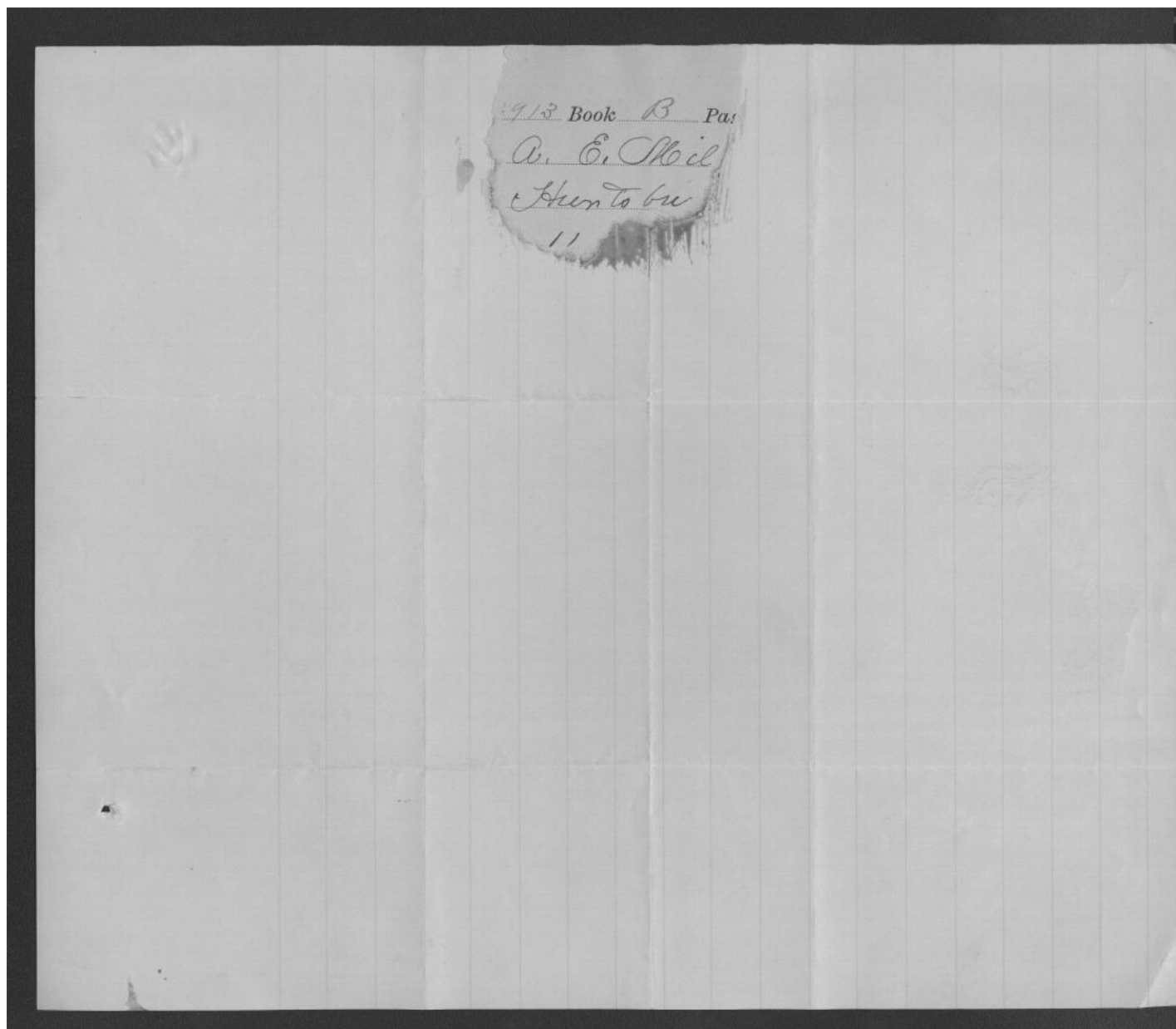
11

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Huntsburgh Grange Co, Ohio
November 4th 1879
Governor St. John Kans.
Dear Sir

Enclosed I
send Five Dollars for the
colored Exoduster Refugees.
We have mislaid the paper
giving directions as to sending
aid, & my wife & I have this
much we wish to send now
& so take the liberty to send it
to you. I will try & have our
Church & women people do some
thing after a little. Will you
drop me a card on recd. of
this? Respectfully
A. E. Millard

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Enclosed find 3 stamps

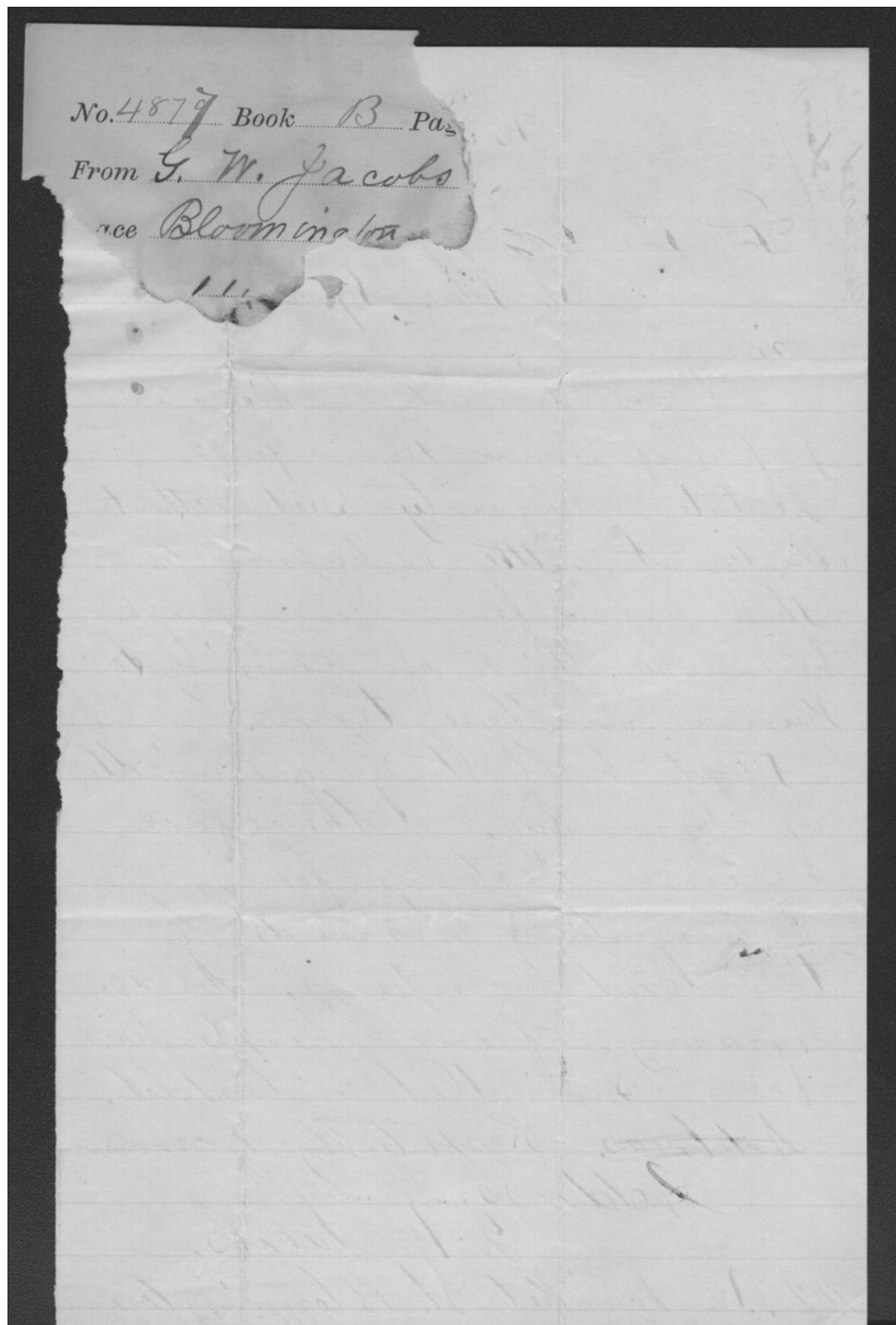
Bloomington Illinois
Nov 5th 1879.

To The Gov.
St. John, Topeka, Kansas.

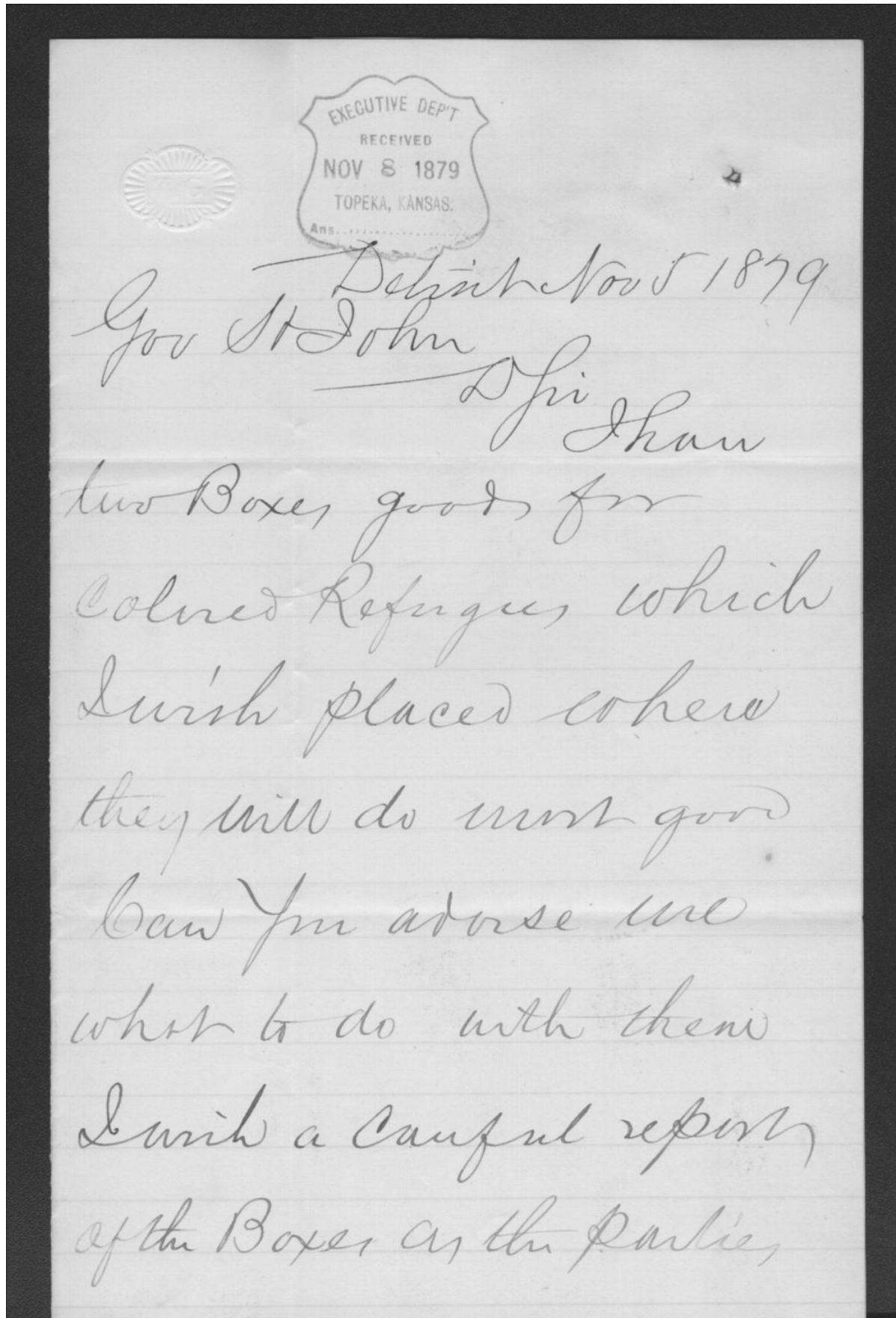
Sir.

I saw advertised in Chicago Daily
papers of Kansas Homes for \$2.
Absolute warranty Deed without
obligation to settle or improve etc.
There are a few colored people
here who think of coming to
Kansas on these terms.
That is if it be no swindle
or humbug. I therefore
enclose 3 stamps for
information in regards to
this land company. As so
many of our people have
been swindled in land lots.
~~Settlers~~ Respectfully Yours,
Address,
G. W. Jacobs.
702, W. Market St. Bloomington
Illinois

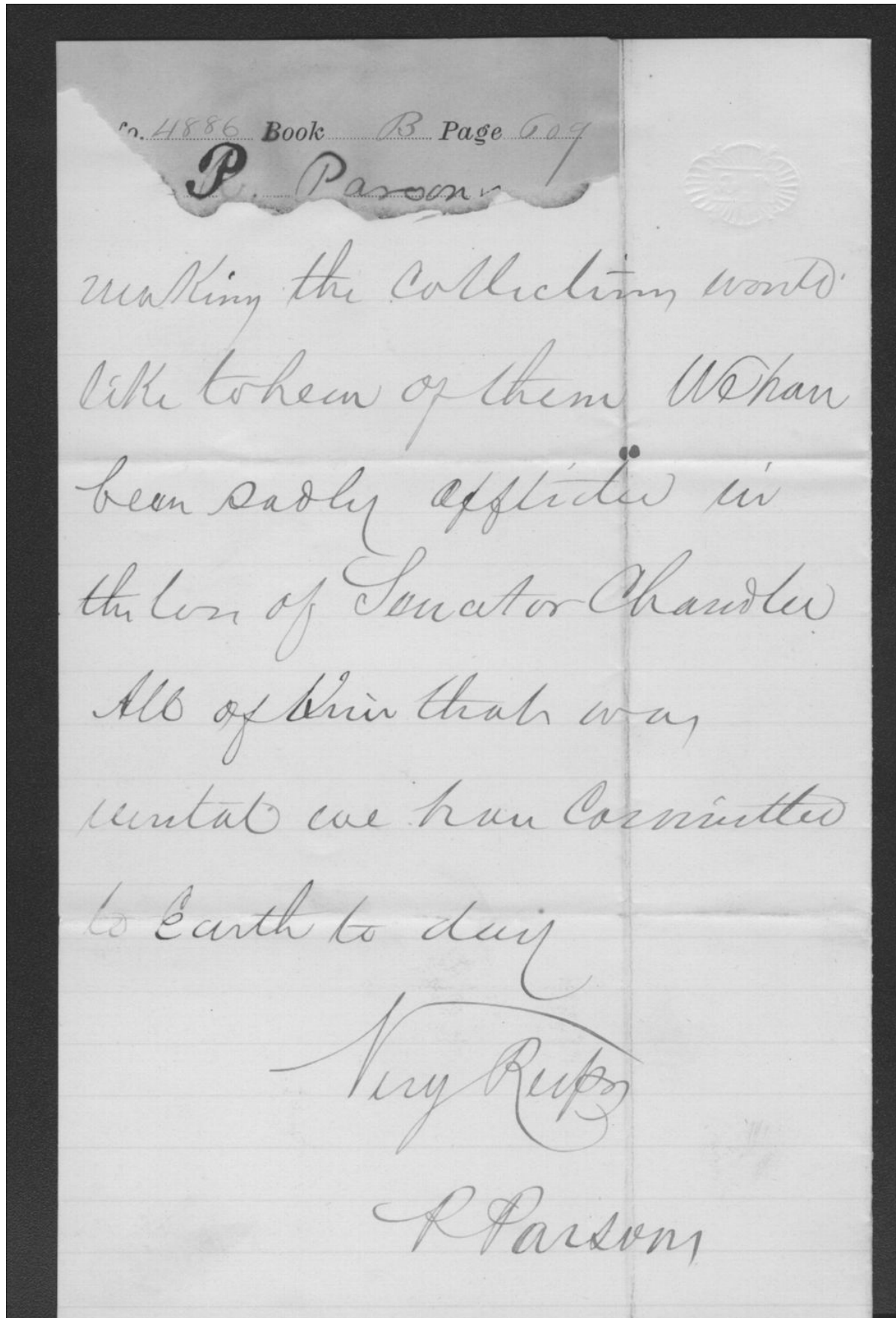
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Congregational Church,

Columbus, O.; Nov. 5. 1879.

Gov. John P. St. John.

My Dear Sir:

That I may have something definite, which will carry weight with our Community, I venture to ask you for some statement concerning the Colored Refugees in Kansas, over your own signature. Such statement I shall be glad to lay before our Citizens Relief Com. & publish in our papers.

We should be glad to know the approximate number of those who have settled in Kan. & what is their present condition & what their future prospects; also what number are now coming to Kan. from the South, & what are the prospects concerning the Exodus this fall & winter, also what amt. & forms of aid

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

if in deem requisite - & to what address
aid should be sent.

I trouble you with this matter only
because the information you may
give us will be regarded as utterly
reliable & will thus prove effective
as the foundation for an appeal.

We all rejoice in the noble atti-
tude you have taken concerning
these poor blacks.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Robt. G. Huntington,
Chairman Citizens Relief Com.

No. 4865 Book 13 Page 609

From Robt G. Huntington

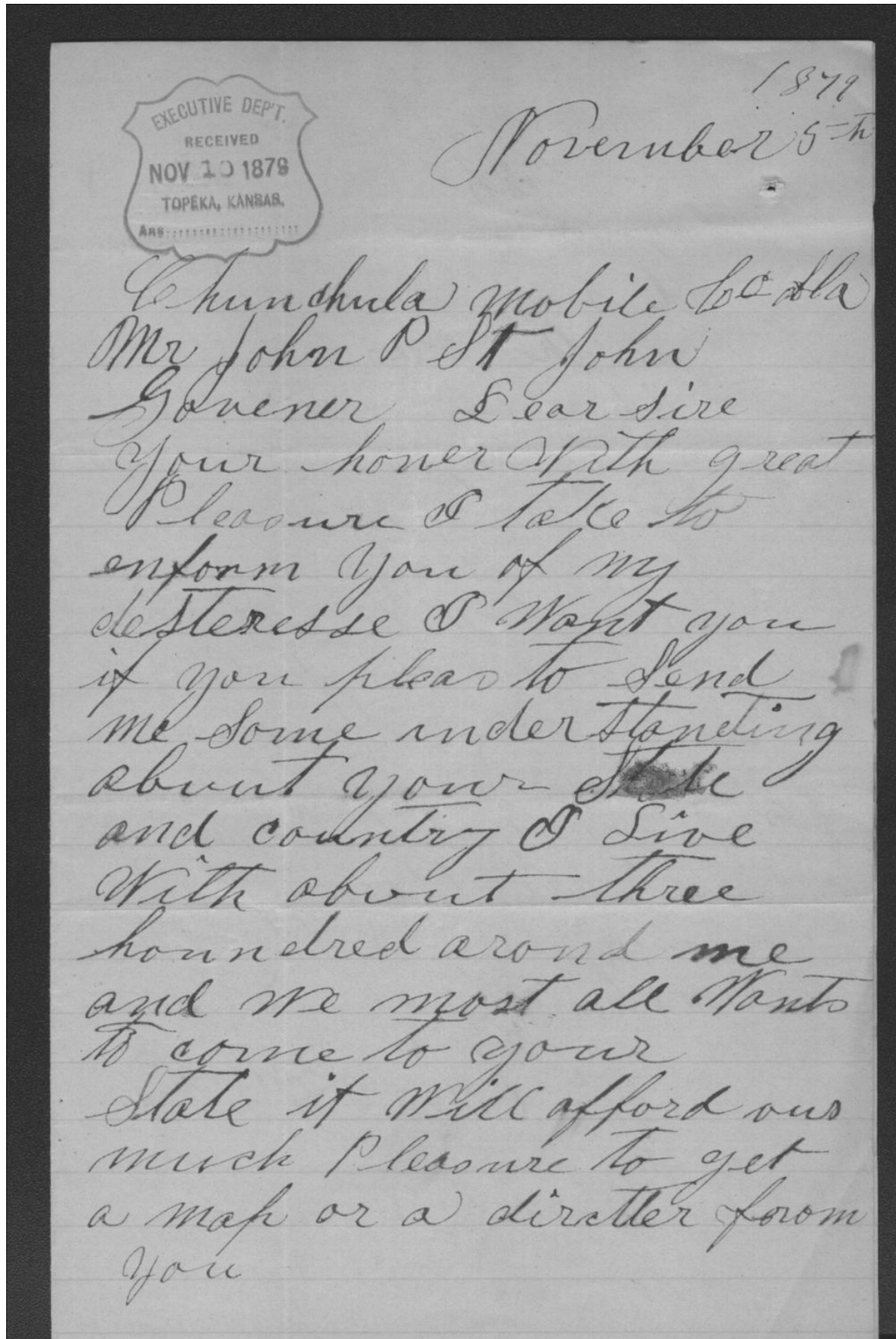
Place Colium

te 11

11



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

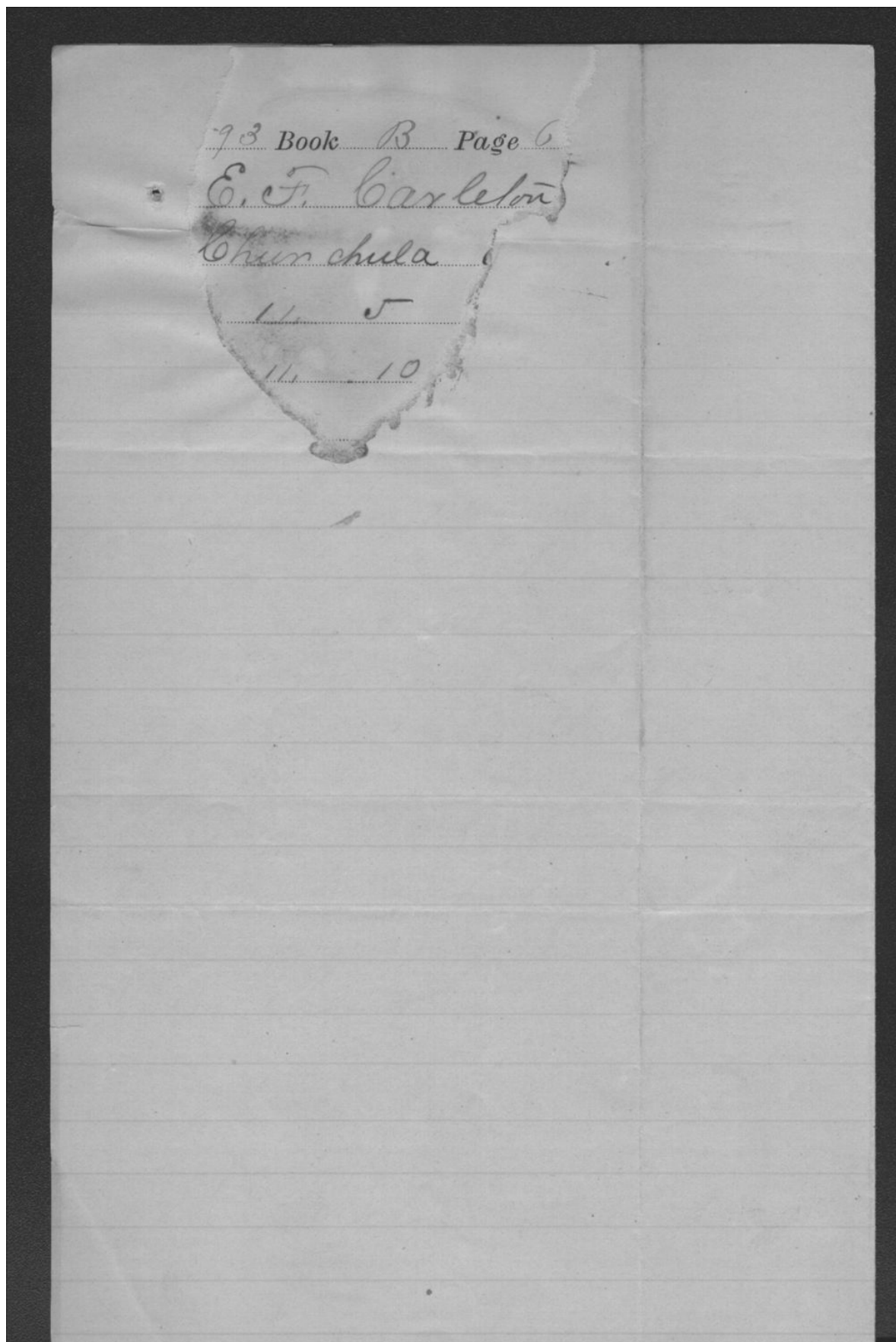


Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

if I can get something
to my people i believe
that I can bring a
great many With me
I am the Pastor of
the church and have
over a hundred that
Wants information
I believe that next
Spring I will be able
to come and if I get
good understanding
from you will
Bring a great many
With me Please
answer my Letter to
church

Elder ~~St. John~~
J. Carlton

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Kansas
 City RECEIVED
 EXECUTIVE DEPT
 NOV 8 1879
 TOPEKA, KANSAS.
 Friday Nov 7 1879
 Governor St John
 I now address you these few lines to
 inform you that I understand that
 you are the governor I now ask you to
 aid me poor colored people from the
 I am from the city of New Orleans I
 came here Friday July 18th and we had
 a little money when we got here and
 had no where to go and the committee
 of Amigration told us they could
 do nothing for us and told us to go
 out and get houses and do the best
 we could so consequently we took what
 little we had and went out on the Coral
 river which is in Kansas city Kansas
 bought us houses
 and now we have and have now fixed
 them up very good for the winter
 and now Mr C. D. Daggett Atty. at
 Law comes and says that



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

that we must pull our houses down
and we are strangers here and do
not know what way to go and we
are determined not to return to the
South if we can find any protection
here and we even offered to lease from
the gentlemen and he said that he
did not want to lease to the colored
people and we have showed him the
money and every one that is on that
river offered to pay him leased and he
has refused to except any salary from us
and now me and a lady friend
with came with me and the crowd
that come when I did thought that it
would be wisdom to drop these few lines
to you to let you know that we are
in a great distress we are about to be
thruwn out of door and now the
winter has begone and I am the
Mother of three small children and
none able to help the other and it is
so with the most of the people out

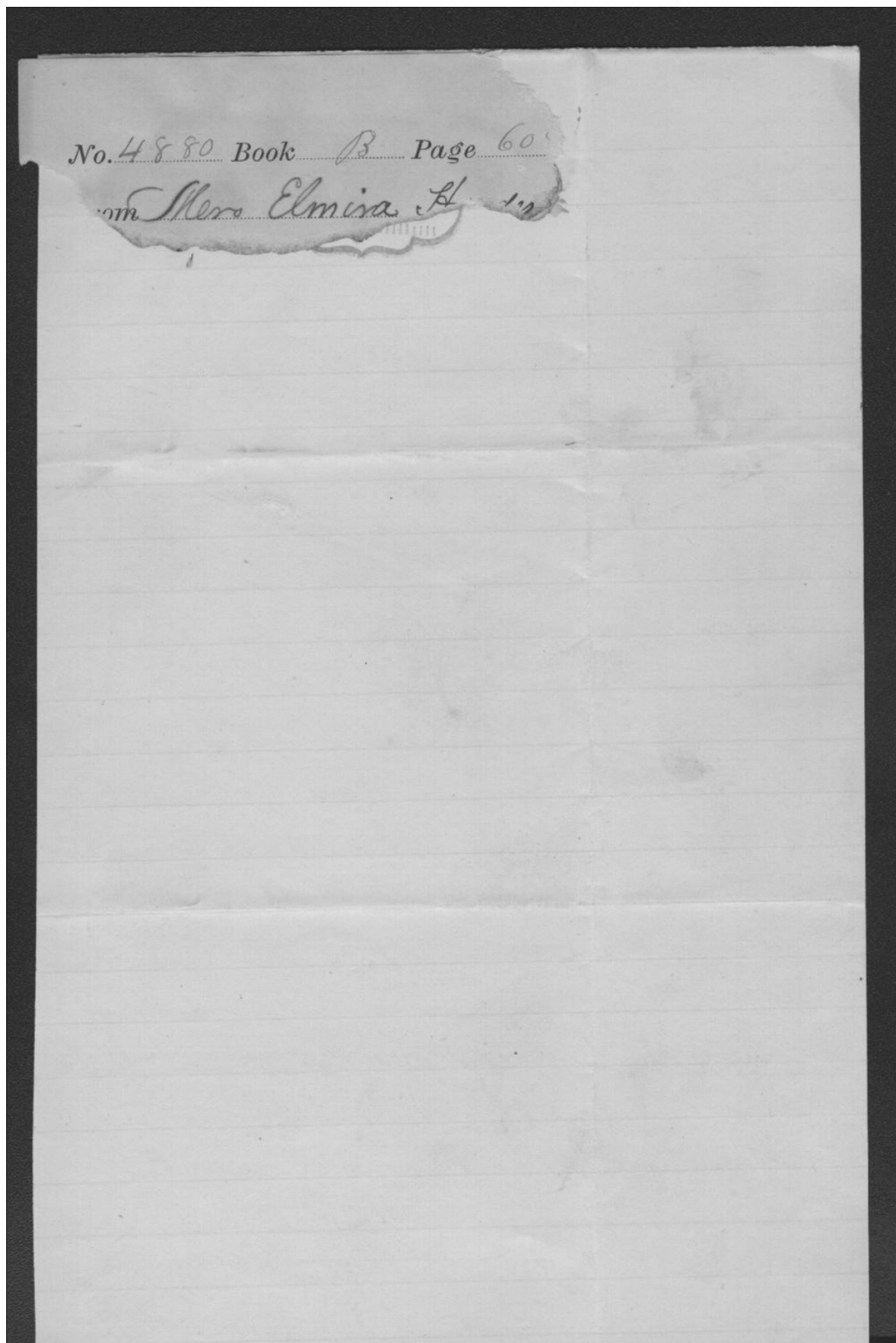
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

on that since my Father is an
very old man age 83 years of age
and Governor you must not be
any was offended at me for writing
you the few lines hoping you will
answer soon and let me know
what you thin think that I can do
for I expect to be put out door in
a few days

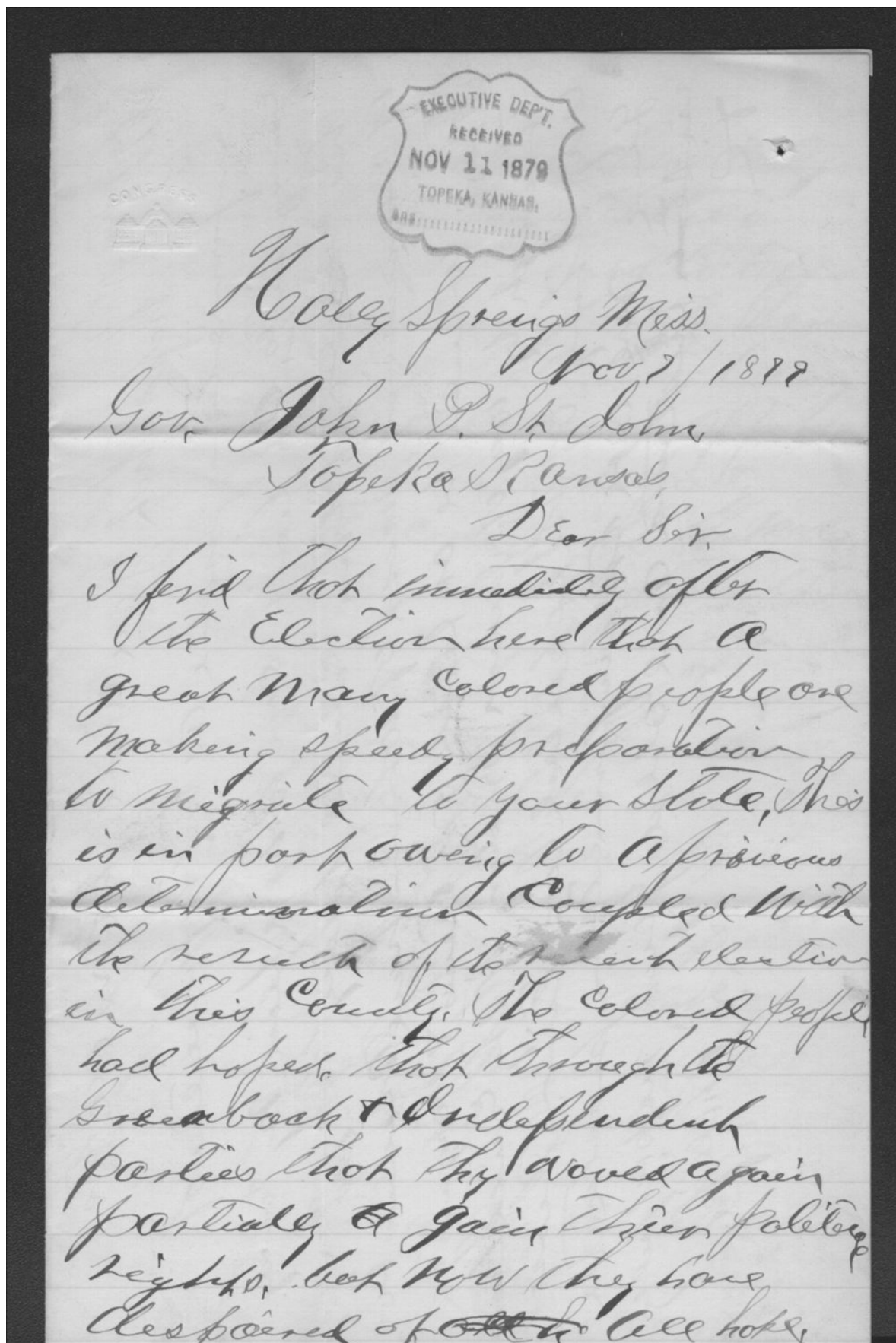
so I have no more to say at present
I will close my few lines with
good bye from yours Respectfully

Mrs Elmira Henderson
and Mrs Ellen Owens
answer soon as possible
you ~~may~~ may direct your letters
in Mrs Henderson name to the
Wyandott Kansas Post Office
office
answer soon as possible

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

In Over State the Gov. Atty.
General & Secretary of State
Constitute the board to appoint
the Registrars for the various
Counties of the State. They being
Democrats all want to appoint
Registrars to suit the party
purpose. According to the mode
of registering in this State there
can be as many names erased
as the Registrars may think
necessary for party purposes
and the votes are made of
showing to the Registrar.
Registrars appoint judges &
Clerks of Elections also. The
Democrats of Box always
appoint good judges on all
sides. A large Republican box
four should Democrats two as
judges & two as Clerks. And the
most illiterate colored man
they can find & all way a-

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

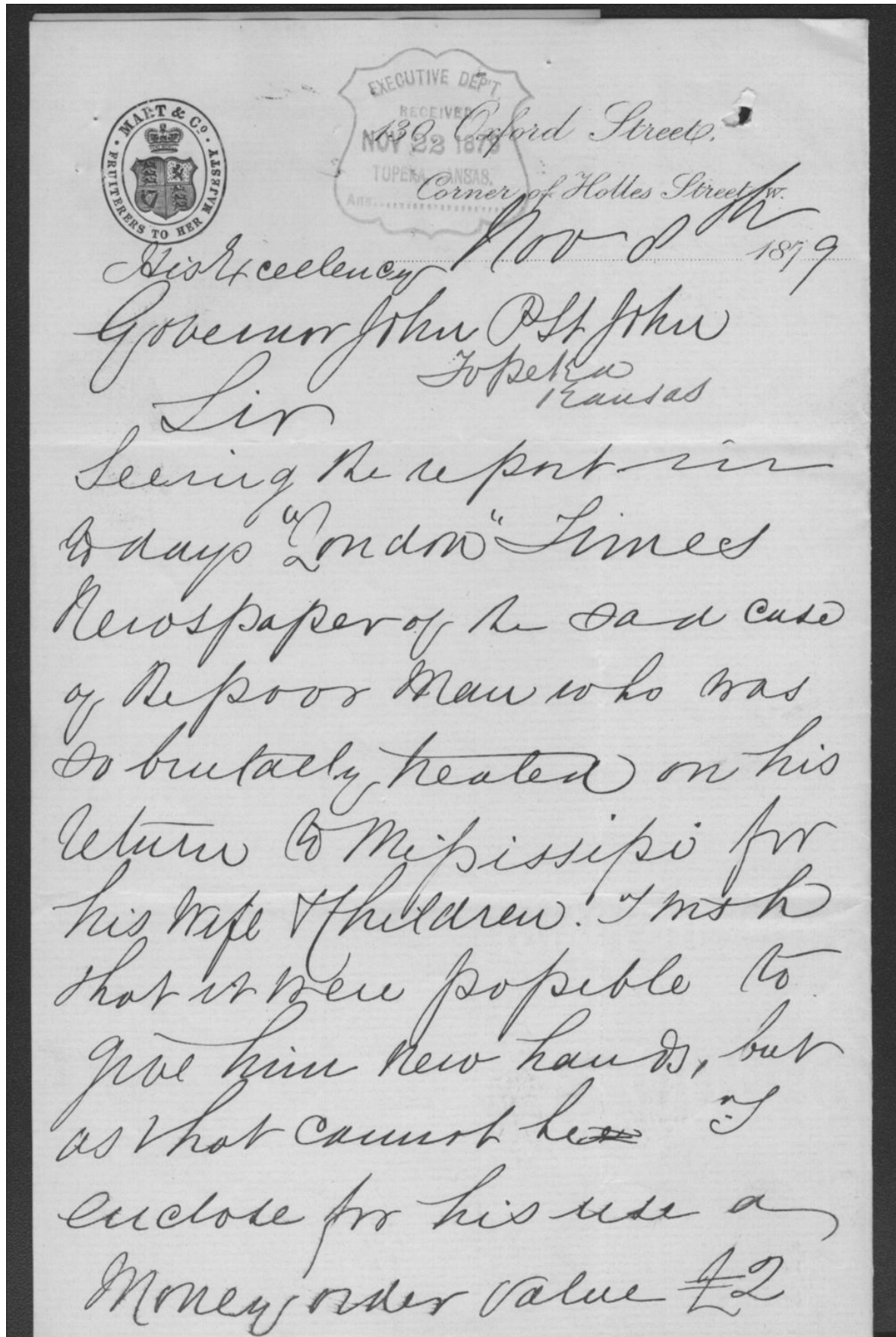
1983 Book B Page
P. F. Phillips

drunkard, The Clerks are
postal all ways, and when
the judges call the tickets, the
Colored man not being able to
to one from an other, the Clerks
give the Democratic Candidates
credit for all their votes
and one third fourth or
fifth of the Republican votes
by which means they all
ways succeed in carrying an
election in the late election
they give the Democratic Candidates
about 1/3 of our the Republican
votes, the Colored people see that
in this and their rights before
the law that they will never
have a fair showing in this country
& therefore want to leave as soon
as possible. Yours &c B. F. Phillips,

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

P.S. I hope that you will give me all the
information possible as to the facilities of
emigrants, at least 5000 will leave my county
this winter if there could be any thing in way
of securing most of whom have means too.
There would be at least 500 teams & wagons go
through by way of Indian Territory if they could obtain
any thing of the expected location. Please
give me all the information practicable
instantly and oblige yours respectfully
B. H. Phillips

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

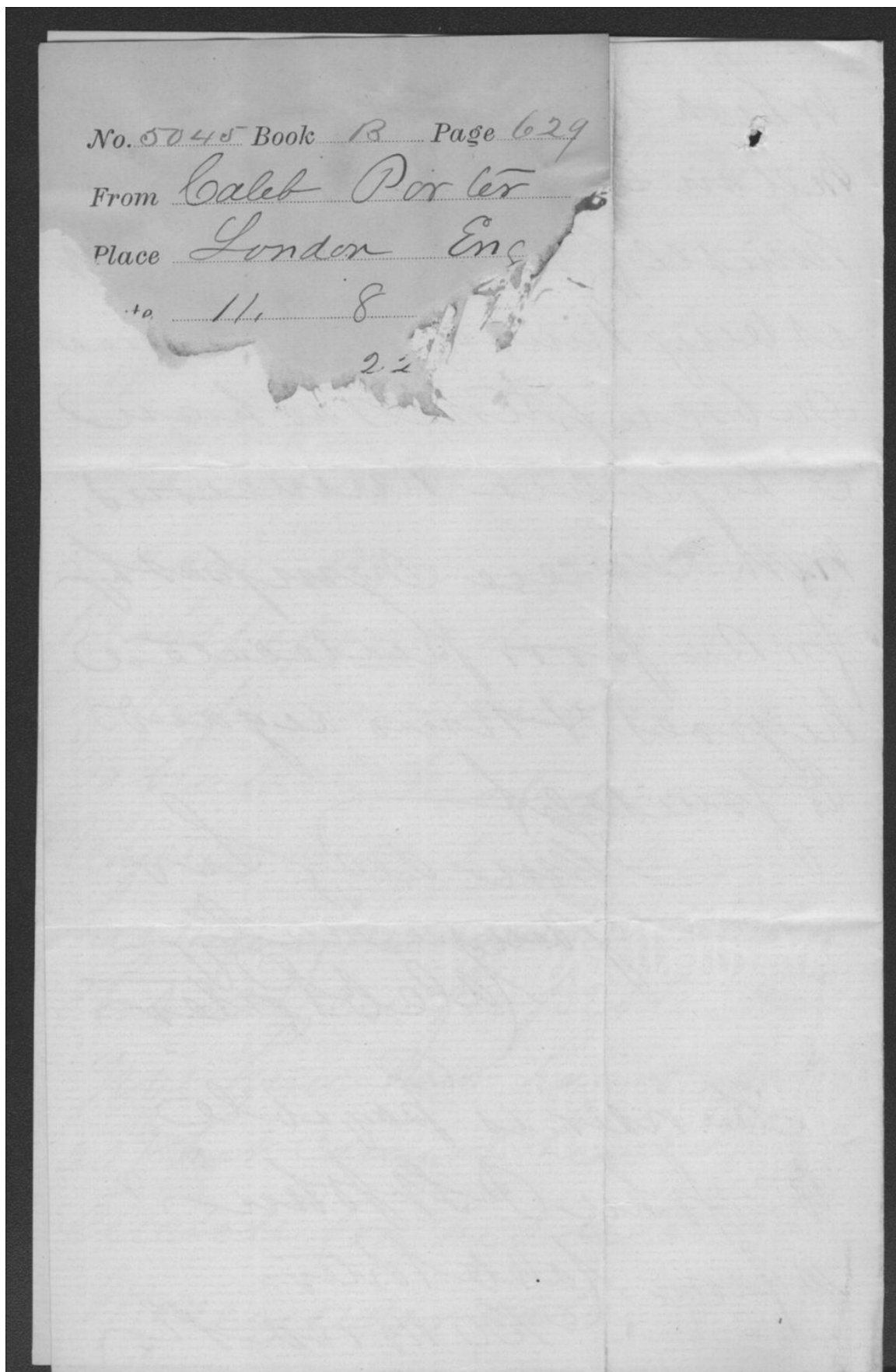
Which tho a small sum
will in some measure keep
himself & his family, it
is very kind of you to receive
subscriptions which
I hope are numerous,
With sincere sympathy
for the poor persecuted
Negroes & kind regards
to yourself

Yours truly
Jesse Porter

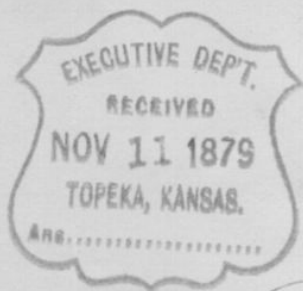
The order is payable
to John St John &
as from Jesse Porter
1/30 Hrd



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

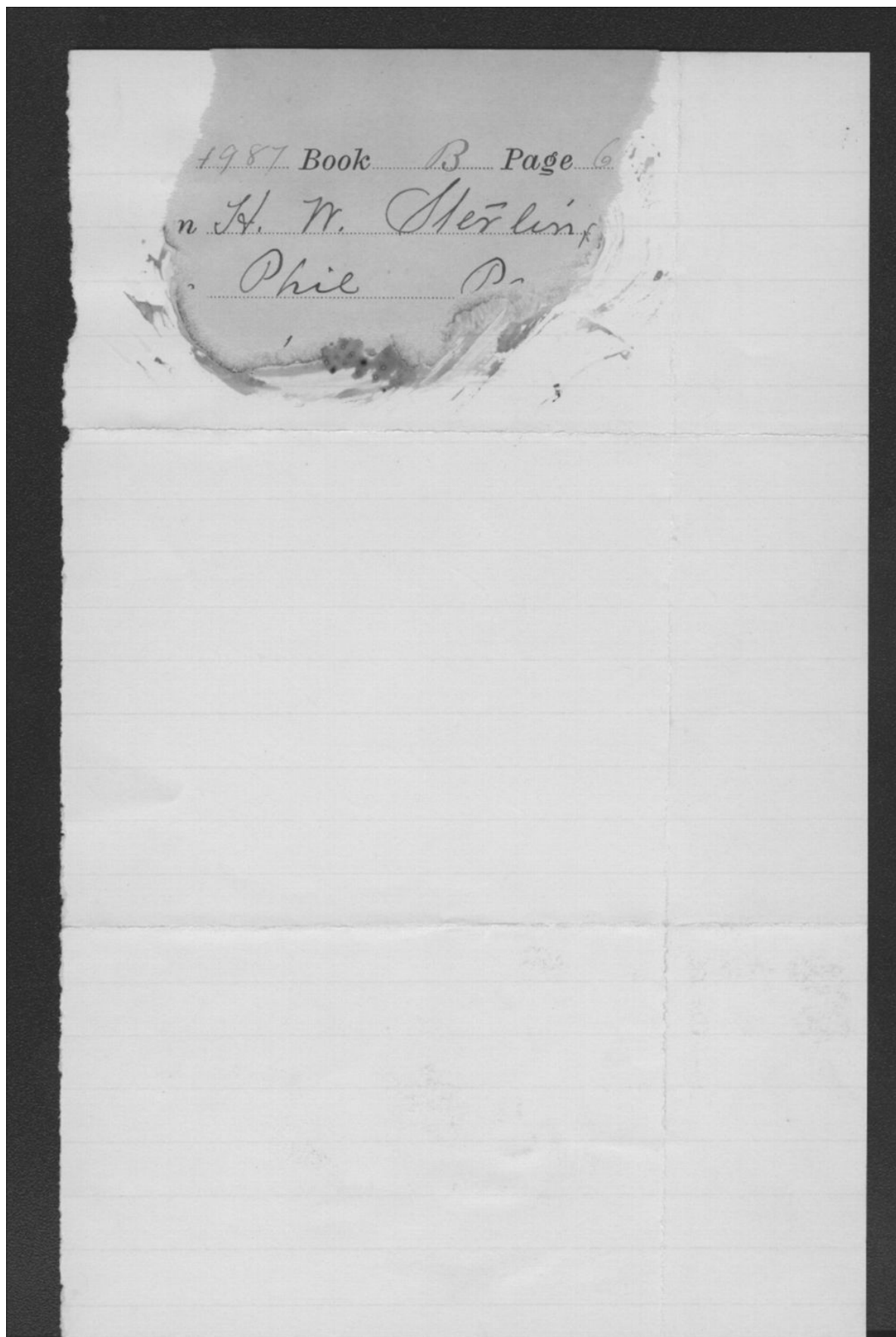


Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Philad^a 7/18/79
To Governor St John
of Kansas—
Please find enclosed
a money order from
Philda. P.O. for ten
dollars— to be used
for the benefit of
the colored Refugees.
H. W. Sterling—

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Weldon Houston County Texas Novth 8/1879

Mr. Governor Dear Sir, I seat myself to
write right you a few lines hoping that you
will answer it if you please.

Sir I has bin preaching for 10 or 11 years and
has not converted as many, as your state has
in one year. about Kansas, will you be kind
and tel me if any one can get land without
paying for it. &c. if you will give them
surplus one year for nothing. please tel me
if the laws in your state is any better than
the state of Texas for the blacks. or no. some
tels me that it is a beter place for the blacks
& that your state has set apart land for the
colord race. Sir will you be please to give me
the address of some colord preacher in your
community that I might open consporns with him
will you pay my way out there or not. &c what will it
cost one to come. Please tel me what land is
worth &c what turn it can be bought on. &c stock
of all kind horses mules Oxen &c. under what