

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 40, Pages 1171 - 1200

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

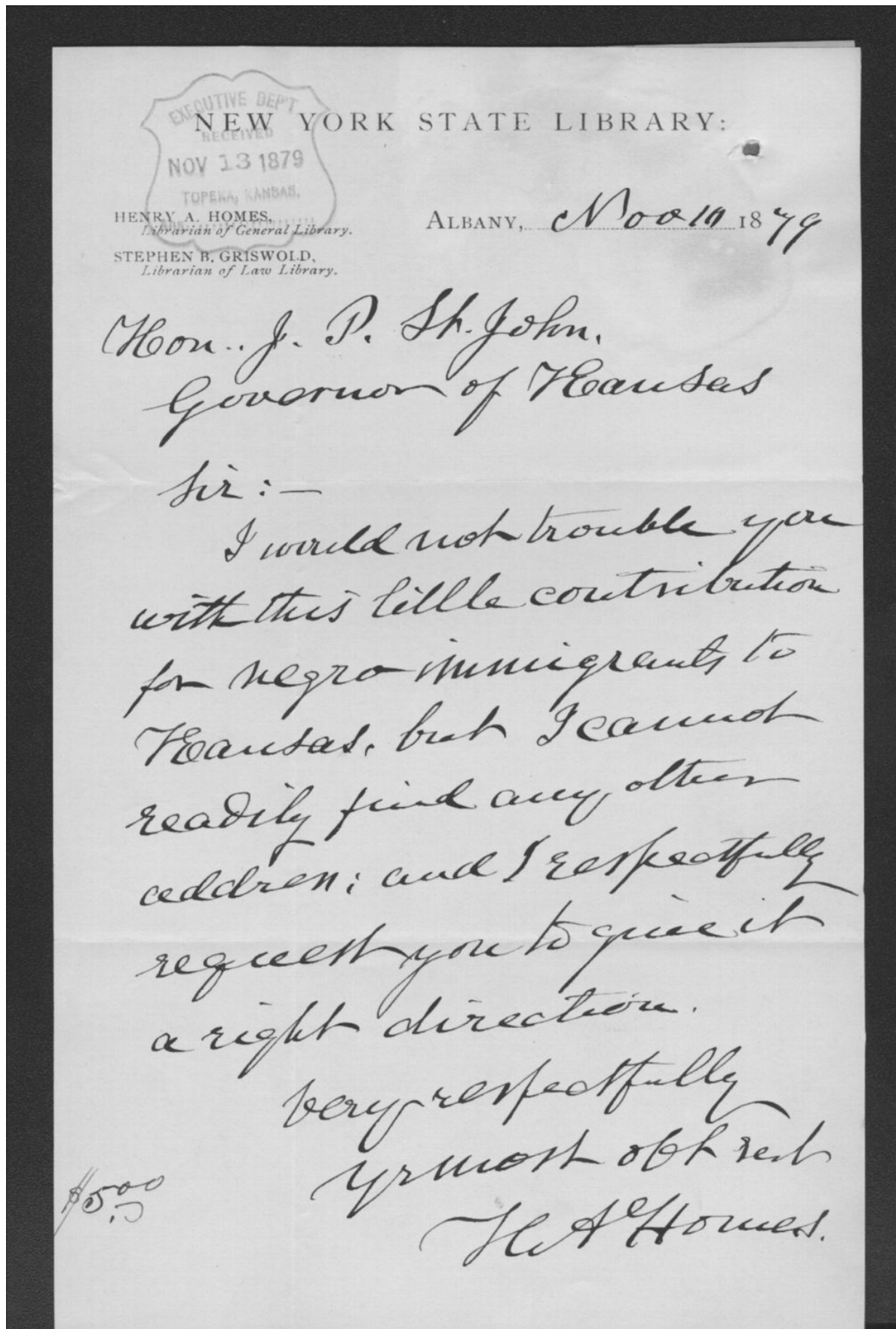
Turns &c Please tel me what promises that
you has give to the black to come to Kansas.
Mr Governor please tel me in your
Letter if it would be advisabel to leave
this state and go to Kansas.

how is my race geting a long that has
setel in your State. if the Climate, sues
them, what is your advise about it
That I might tel them, and maybe, I can
convert some of them, of Kansas & so to God
your Truly
Rev. H. J. Spencer

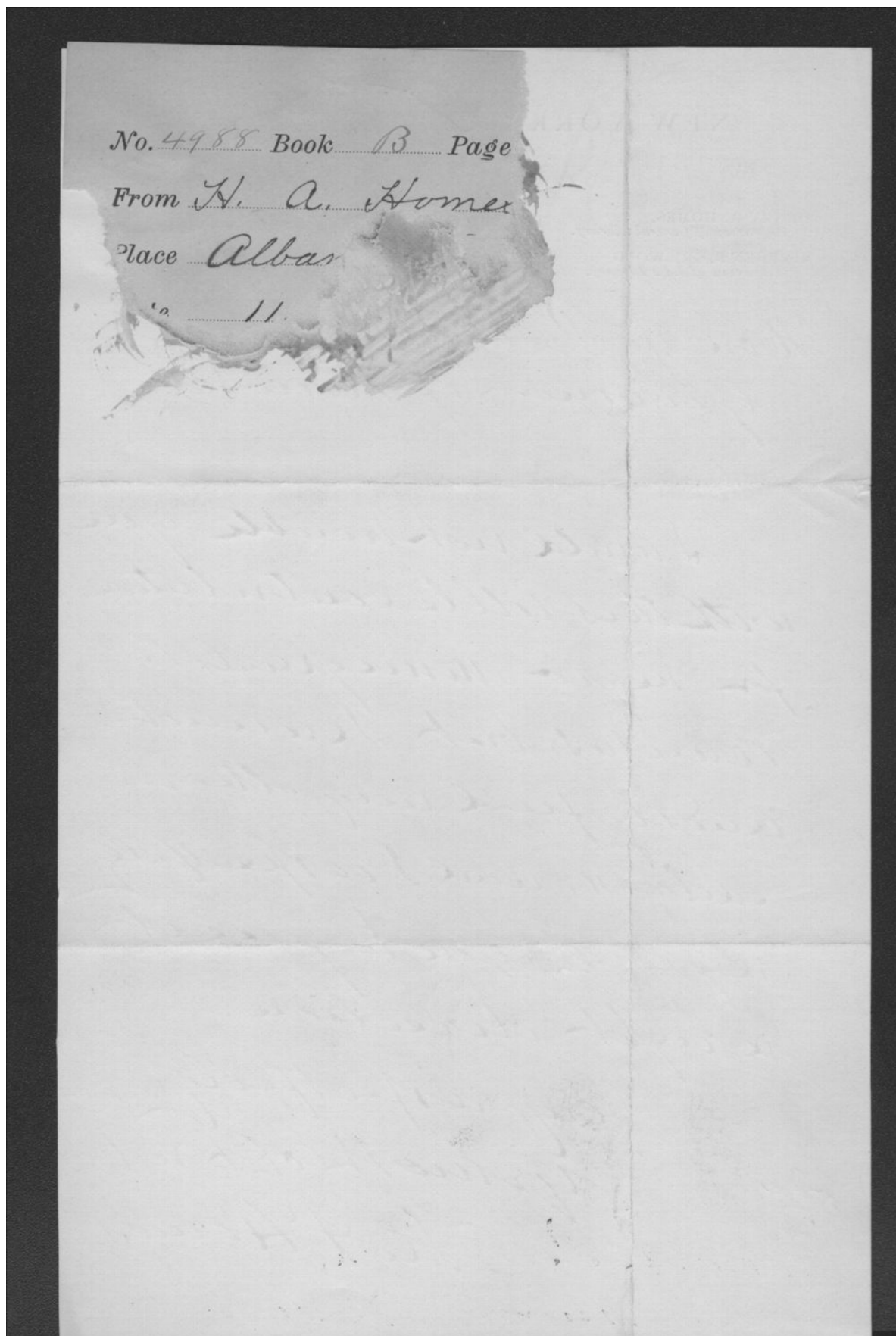
1. 4965 Book 12 Page 6

Rev. H. J. Spencer

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Washington La
Parish of St Landry
Nov 10th 1879

To His Excellency Gov J. P. St John
Dear Sir

Your letter with copy of
Report of Ag'l. received. I find it a
very complete work. the resources of your
State exceed my expectation as there
has been so much dissemination of
falschoods to counteract if possible the
Kansas Exodus that the air we breathe
is full of falschoods. the latest is to the
effect that the Gov of Kansas is
opposed to colored people as an addition
to the population of your State and to
the better class of that race it is having
its effect. If it is ^{not} incompatible with your
duty Could you not fill out a Commission
Appointing me an emigrant Agent for the

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State of Kansas with Headquarters
at Washington Dc at the same time
writing me a letter with the statement
of your approval for all good citizens to
make their home in Kansas regardless
of color or previous condition, with
such papers I can give the lie to all
deception that may be practiced on them
and give such an impulse to the move-
-ment they will leave here in large
numbers and all of some little means
at least sufficient to see them over the
first year, please let me hear from
you at as an early a day as possible
Very Respectfully
R. B. Hewitt M.D.

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R. B. Hewitt
Washington Dc
10

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Hartford Nov 10th 1879

Gov St. John

Dear Sir

The Ladies of the Hartford
Sewing Society forwarded from
Burghill Station a Box of
Supplies for the Freedmens
Relief Association Topeka
enclosed please find \$5.00
to pay the freight on same
and good cheer for the enterprise
we are given

Obedient Servants

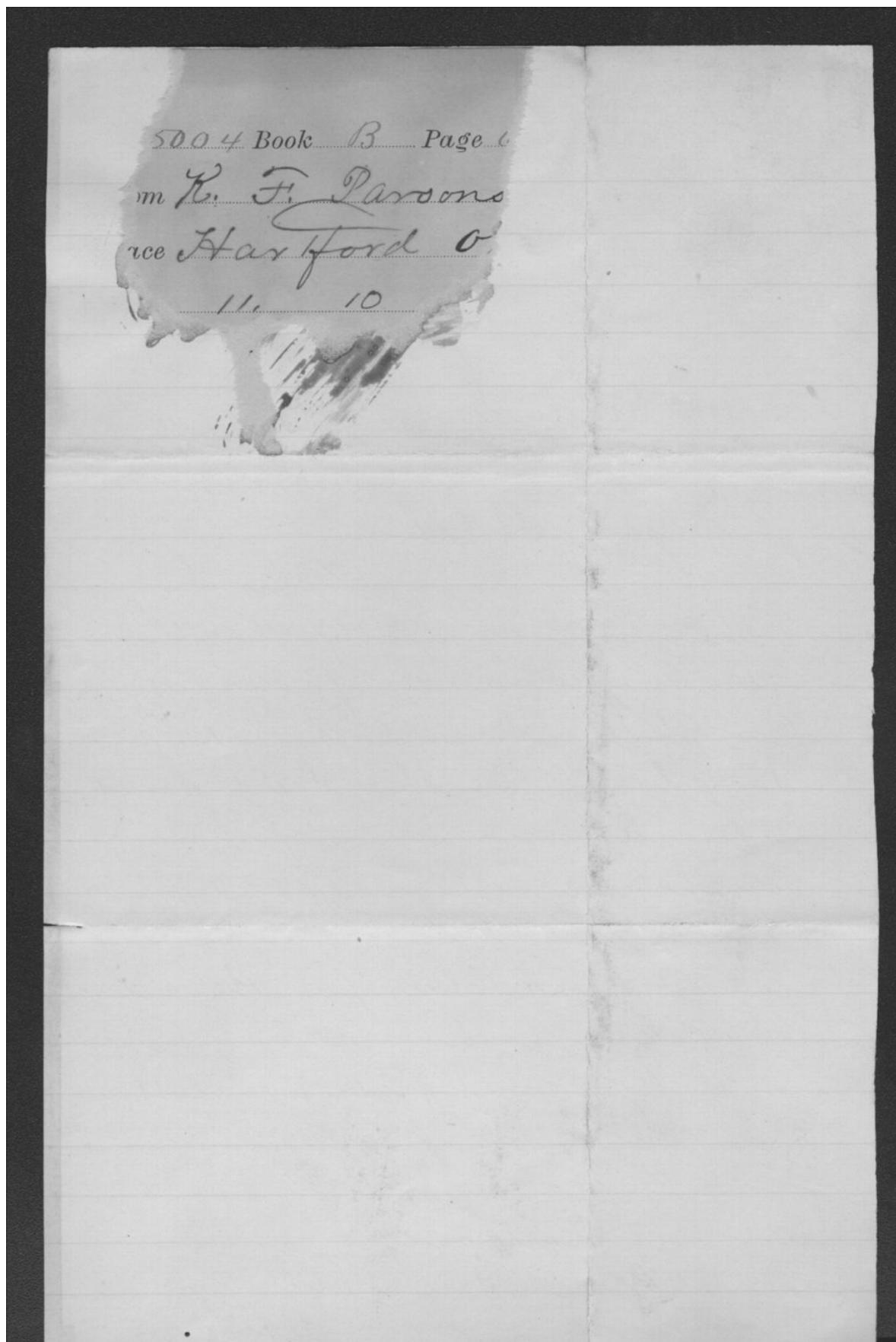
By order of society

W St Parsons

Hartford

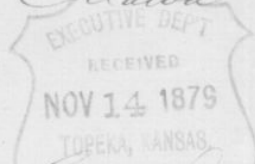
Ironville Co
Ohio

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Put in Bay Island Lake Erie,
Ottawa Co. Ohio, Nov. 11th 1879



Gov. John P. St. John
Topeka Kansas.

My Dear Sir:-

I have the pleasure
of sending you herewith, Draft on
New York of \$102.⁸⁵/₁₀₀, for the
"Freedmen's Relief Association", or,
to be expended otherwise as you
may think best for the colored
refugees in your State.

"I notice by the last Report
of the "Relief Association", that the
\$55.⁰⁰ which I sent you in September
last, is credited to "Put in Bay Ohio",
instead of to me. I have given
my receipts for all funds that I
have collected for this cause; it

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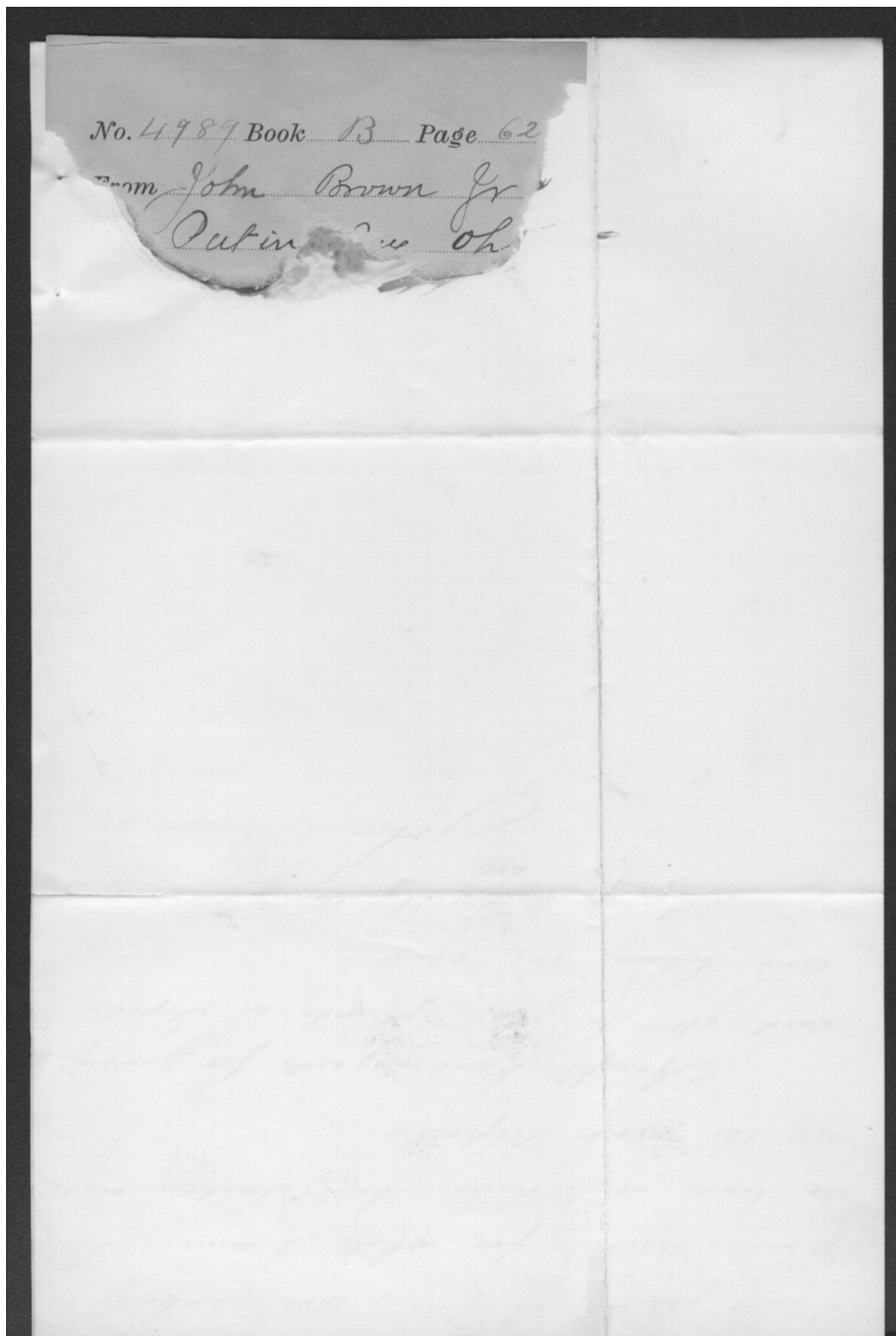
seems proper, therefore, that I should
receive credit for what I send. Be
so kind as to have the correction made
in the next Report.

Accept kind regards for yourself
and all the good friends in Topeka,
and believe me ever,

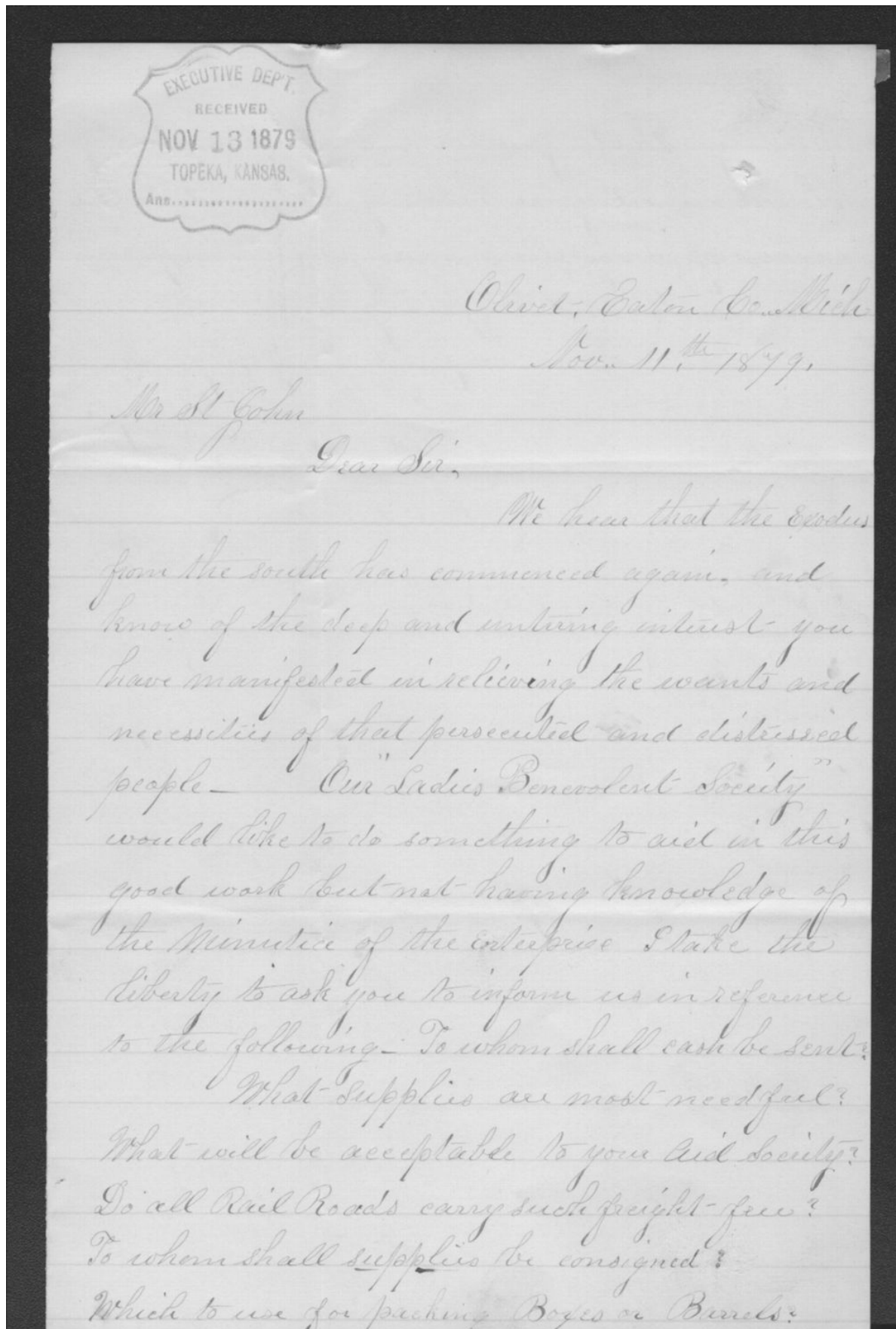
Faithfully yours,

John Brown.

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Trusting that you will be abundantly
blessed in all your labors of love, and be the
means of comforting many of those poor
disconsolate and suffering ones

I am very Respectfully

Mrs S. B. Drury.

Fred. L. B. Doe,

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



33 North Duke Street,
Lancaster, Pa.

Nov. 13th 1879.

Hon. Jno. P. St John

Dear Sir

Enclosed please find documents

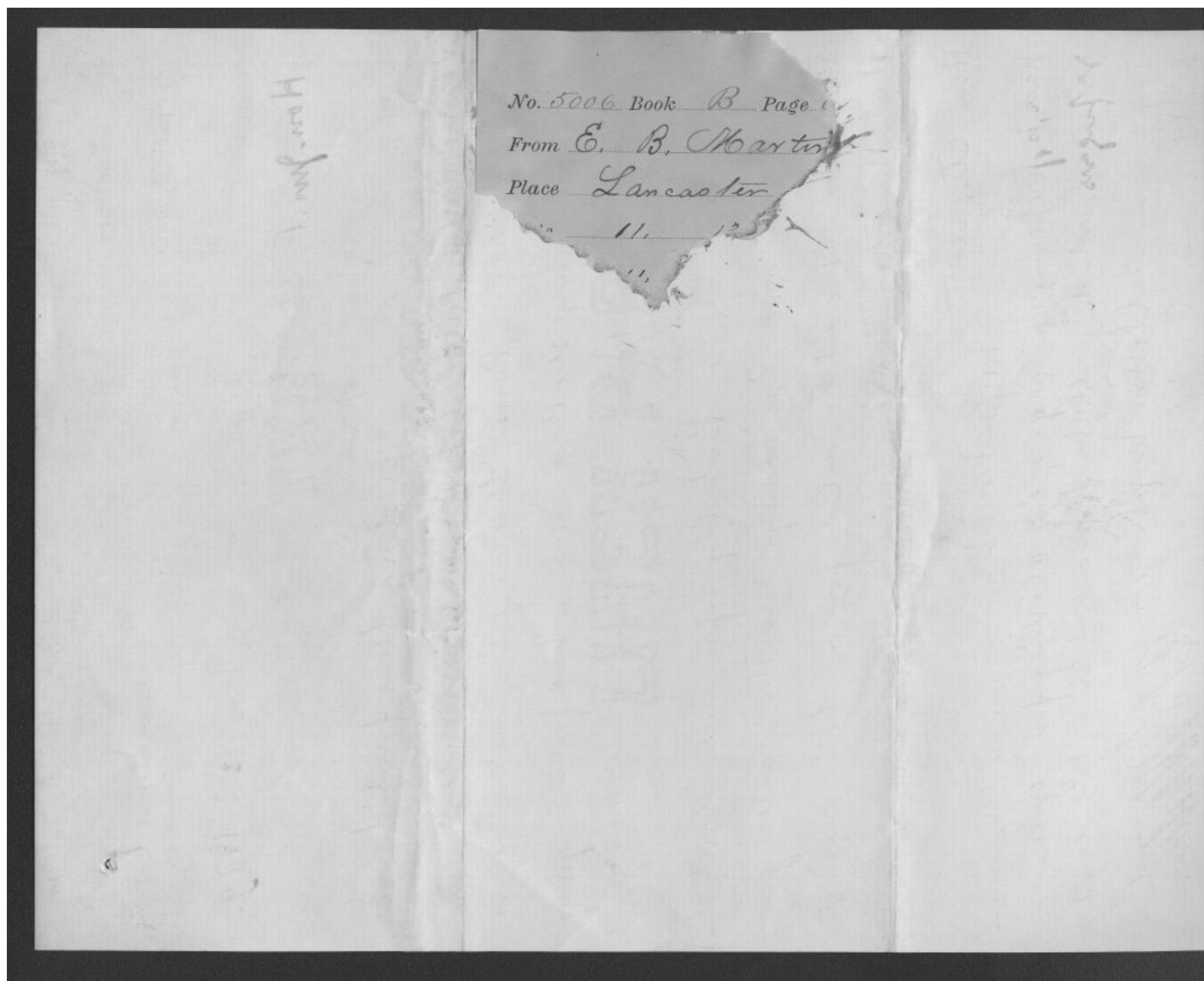
loaned me while in Topeka as correspondent of
The Philadelphia Press. Thanks for your courtesies,
I am sorry to say the Press acted in bad faith in giving
the name of a party in our instance which was against
my special request.

But my experience about
Newspaper work has always been that unless you
stand over the Editor or Composer he is sure to
do "the other thing". I hope no harm will come of
this stupidity.

Miss Wright, one of our noble women
here, is preparing a large box of clothing for your
refugees which will be forwarded in a few days

Yours very Resp
E. B. Martin.

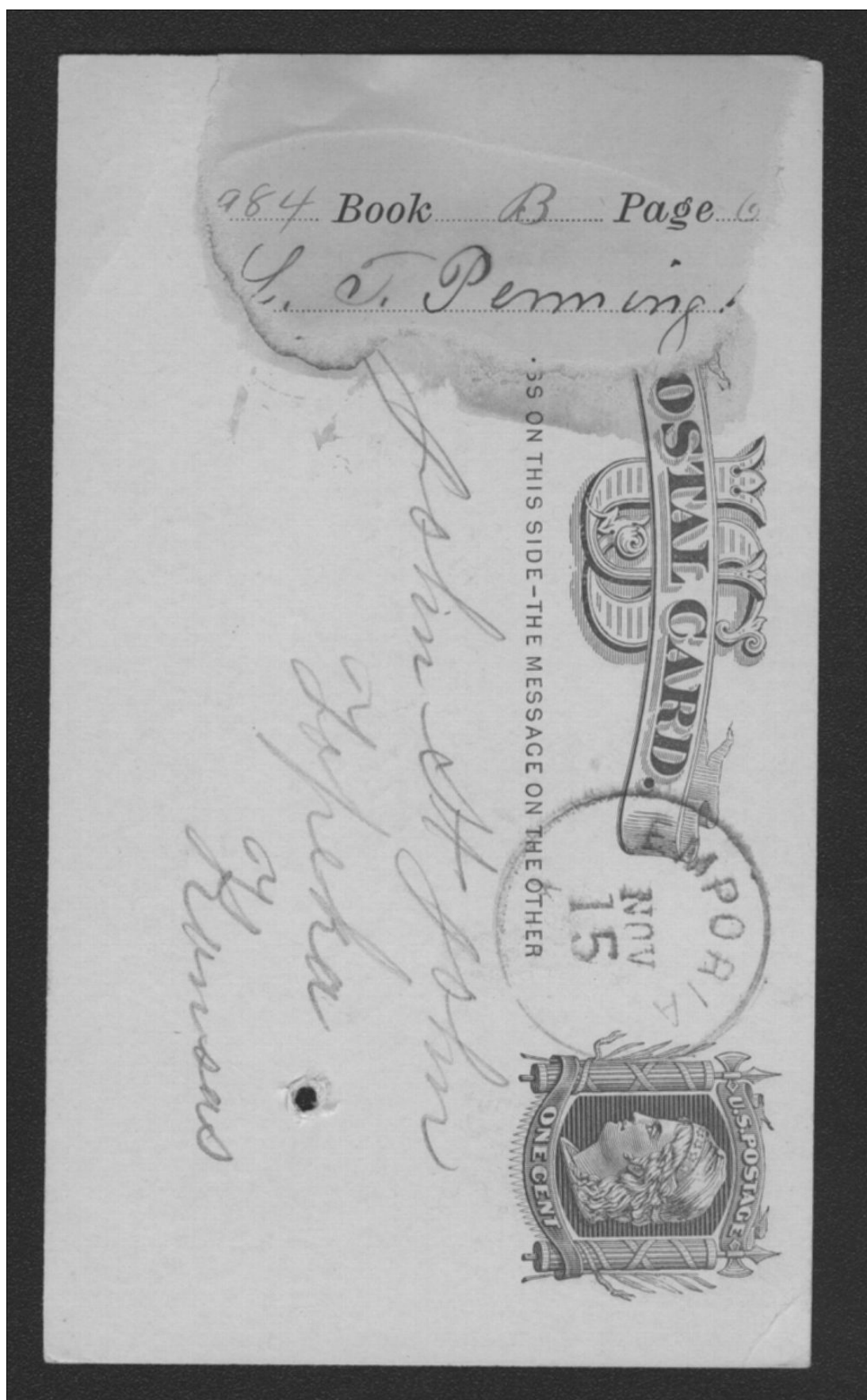
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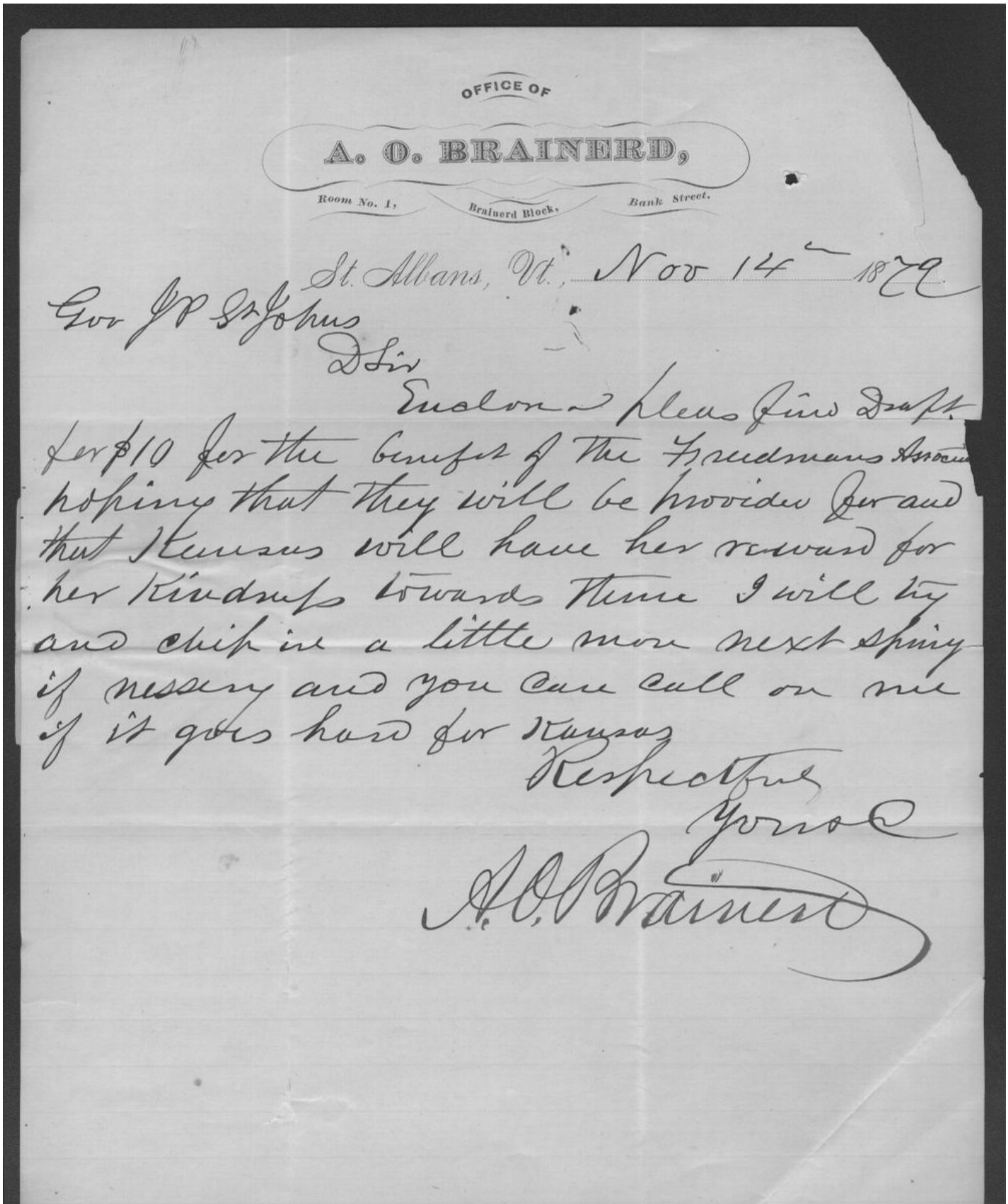
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Emporia 11-14 1879
John St John
Sir I have sixteen
Dollars sent from Friends of Gods
and to Elizabeth Comstock for
relief of coloured Emigrants have
written to her there but get no
answer please inform me by return
mail and oblige Levi T Pennington

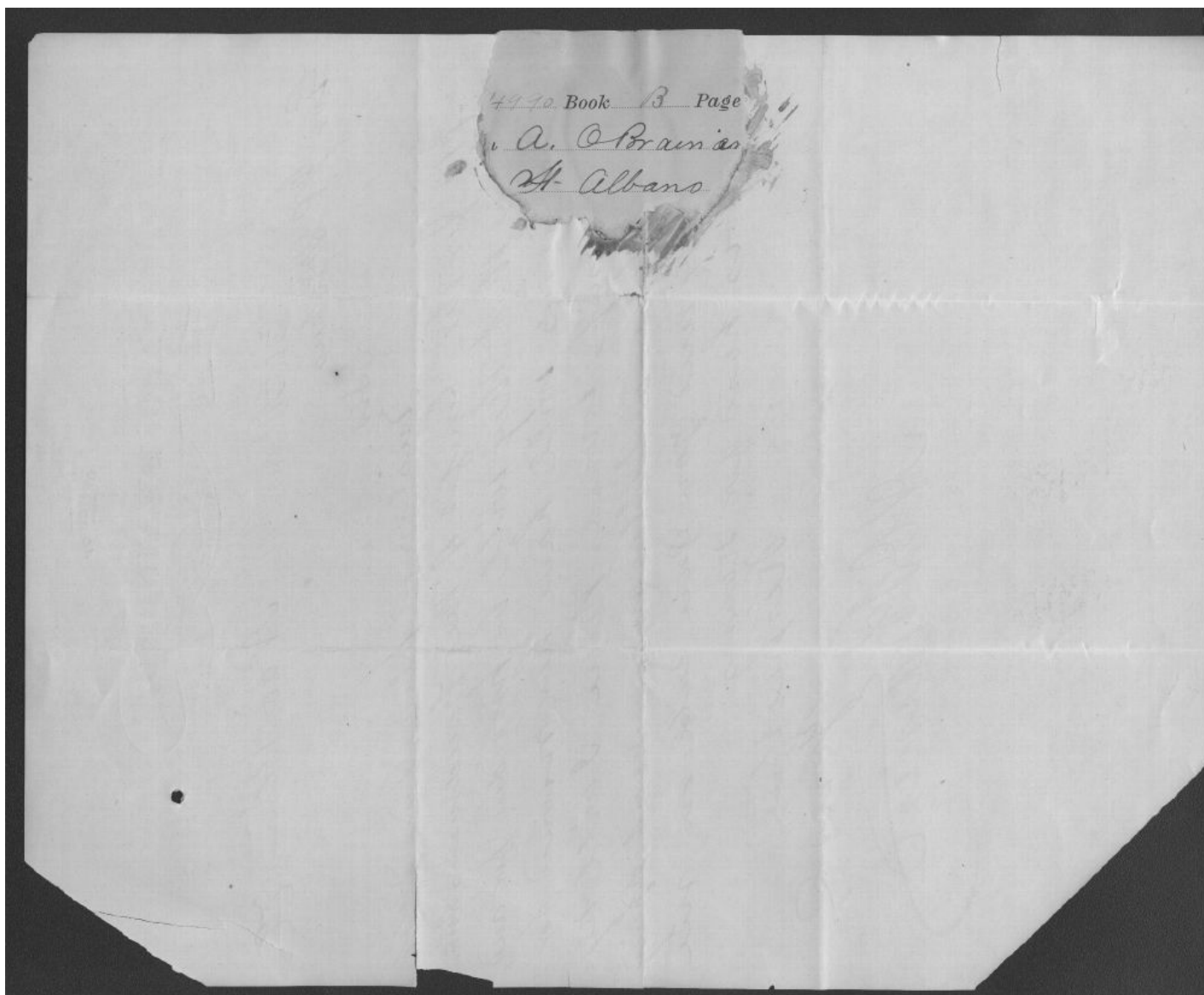
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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Holly Springs Miss. Nov. 17 78.
 To His Excellency Gov. St. John.
 Sir
 I wrote you some time since that
 there was about 500 Wagon &
 teams preparing to leave this (Marshall
 County for Kan. I find by looking over
 the Map that we should cross the
 Miss. River at Memphis Tenn. which is
 only 80 Miles from here. Thence we go
 Northwest & cross White River in Ark. at
 Jacksonport so 80 Miles from Memphis.
 Or if we can not cross at Jacksonport
 we will go farther North and cross in
 the vicinity of Batesville Ark. We find that
 it is 140 Miles from Jacksonport to Batesville
 Ark. I find then that we cross Big Sandy or
 Bank Mt. & thence to Vinita, some 60 Miles
 from Batesville Ark. I find then that the
 next place is Wichita Kan. some 30 Miles
 from Vinita Ind. I. Making in all on an
 Air line from Memphis Tenn. some 310 Miles
 or from this place some 300 Miles. to Wichita
 Kan. I find that Wichita is the terminus of some
 branch R.R. I find farther up this road
 is New Kan. and thence westward on the
 Pacific is Hutchinson. What I desire to know

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

is ~~what~~ which of these Villages would
it be best for Emigrants going from the south
with Teams ~~would it be best to stop at~~
or near ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~would~~ like to stop South
of the Ark River if we could have Convent
Access to the Naie Road, from the south side.
Would or would it not be wise to go further
West than Huteshensyn. We expect to leave
~~here~~ here with Stock & Means enough to
live on until we can make a crop and
only desire to find a plenty of Corn,
flour, & wheat, to buy to from by which
to make our crops.

By Addressing the Rev.
J. G. Johnson of this State you can
learn who I am. Hoping that your
Experience may extend to ~~the~~ the few
Interrogatives here in Advance, I remain
Your Obedient Servant
B. F. Phillips.

208 Book B Page 62
B. F. Phillips
Holy Springs
11 15 10

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Longmont, Boulder Co. Colorado.
Nov. 15. 1879.

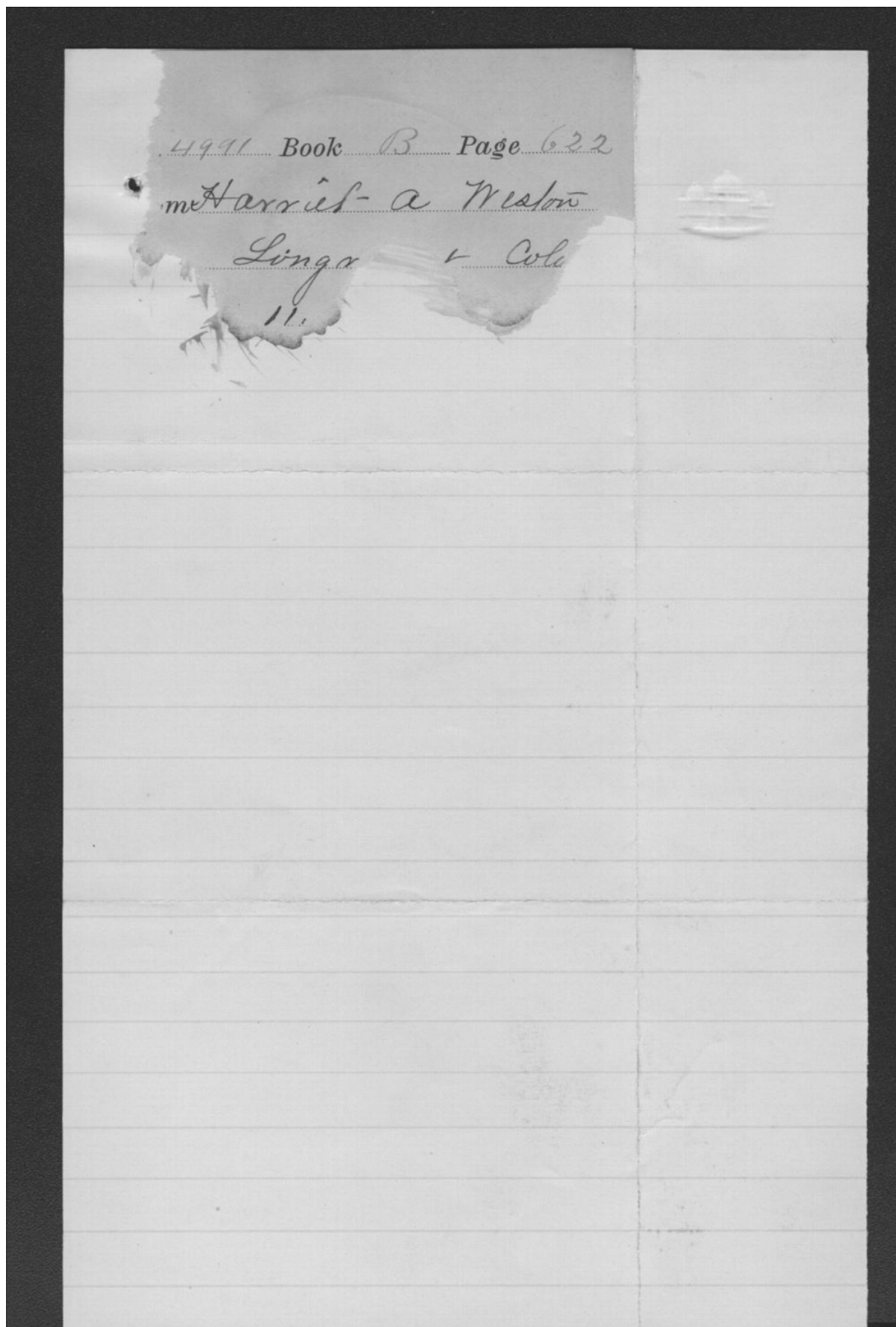
Gov. J. St. John.
Topeka Kansas.

Dear Sir,

I received the "Appeal"
of your committee or relief associa-
tion for the Freedmen. I thought
I had done all in my contribution
in Aug. which I could afford to do -
but the Lord impressed it upon my
mind that they were His poor and I
must send you five dollars and
solicit some more to send with it.
I enclose P.O. order for \$13.25 feeling
sure it will be judiciously applied for
their needs.

Very Respectfully - Mrs. Harriet A. Weston.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

STUDY OF

ADDRESS
Rev. T. W. Henderson,
ST. PAULS CHAPEL
11th & Christy Ave.,
ST. LOUIS, MO.

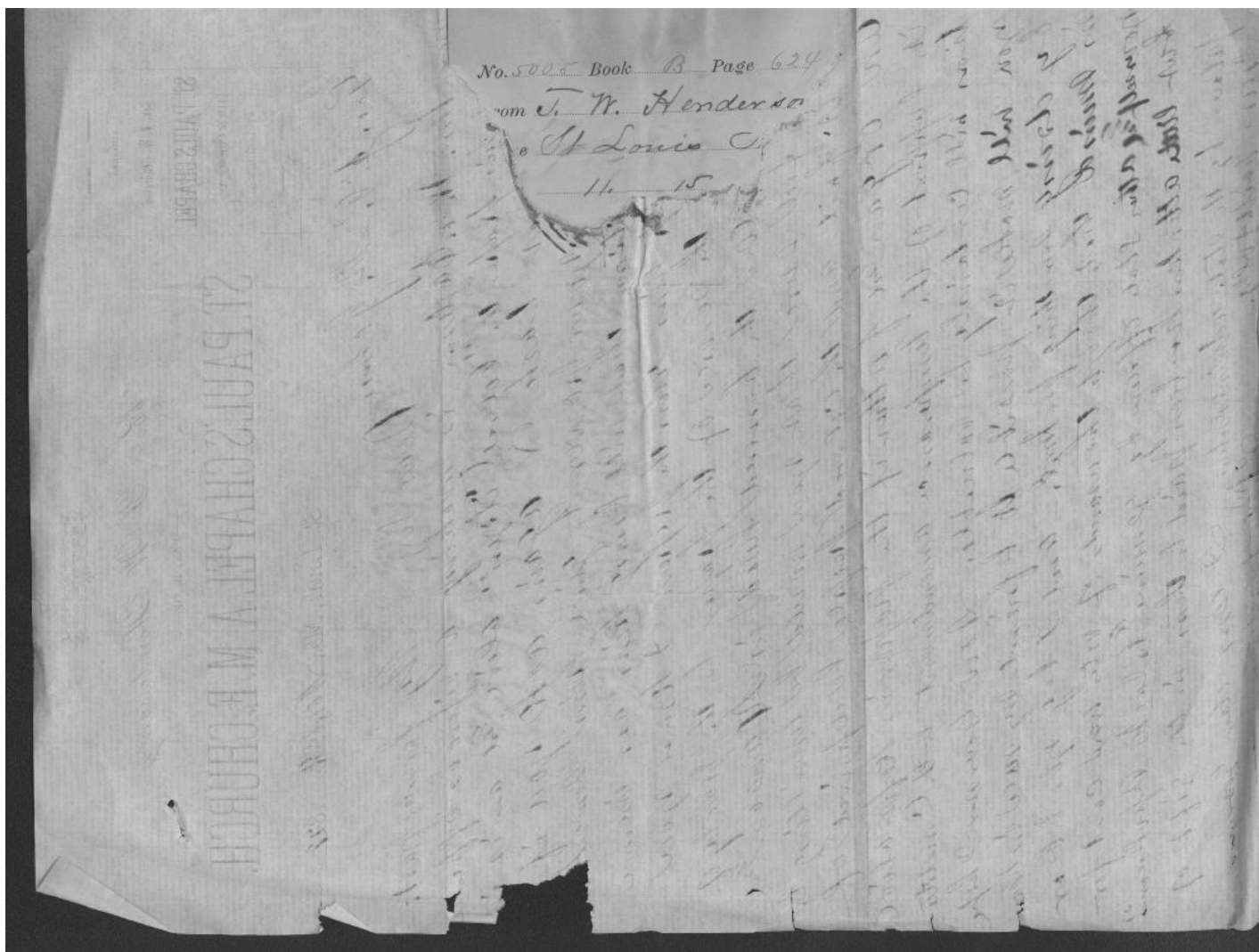
Rev. T. W. Henderson,
—PASTOR OF—
ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL A. M. E. CHURCH.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 18th 1877

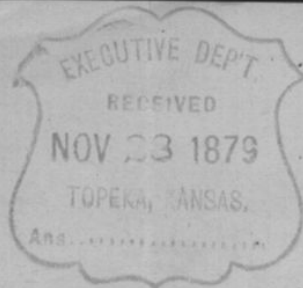
Gov. J. P. St. John.

Dear Sir: My former part-
ner, Mr. W. L. Carlson is making a vigorous effort
to keep his paper the "Colored Citizen" alive and as it is
a very great task I again ask you if
it is not in your power to give him something
of a position that will bring him an income
that will keep him run the paper. I know you
appreciate the service of the paper to the party of
which you are the honored head in Kansas and
I also feel sure that you would be unwilling to
see it fail and the colored people be deprived of
an organ and further if the paper is kept alive
its support of the temperance amendment to the Constitu-
tion will certainly be valuable. Now Governor I hope
you will make it possible to befriend my race in Kansas
by doing something for me. — and I beg you to bear
in mind that, though thousands of votes were cast for
yourself and other state officers by genuine "Black Republicans"
but little attention has been paid to them in the gift of
places by the state administration. I am dear Governor
Yours faithfully,
T. W. Henderson,

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Bitonelle. Ala. Nov. 17th 1879-

Dear Sir

Mr. John. P. St. John
I take the greatest opportunity
of writing you a few lines
stating my health to you
that I am well. at the time
present - although I have
been waiting to receive

Answer from my last
letter that I wrote you
for your kind favor and
also I would be more than
glad to receive a letter
from you telling me that
they would be acknaw for

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

You to get something from
to do with them this spring
dear Sir I am your humble
servant at any time. we
will be with them this spring
me and my wife and little
daughter - I am in hopes to
be able to get another answer
in a few days. I hope this letter
will find you in good
Blessing - I will say to you
that the more emigrants you
have come to the State of
Kansas will make you
that much stronger so if
you can get anything from
to do please let me know
in answer to this letter.
I mean if you can secure

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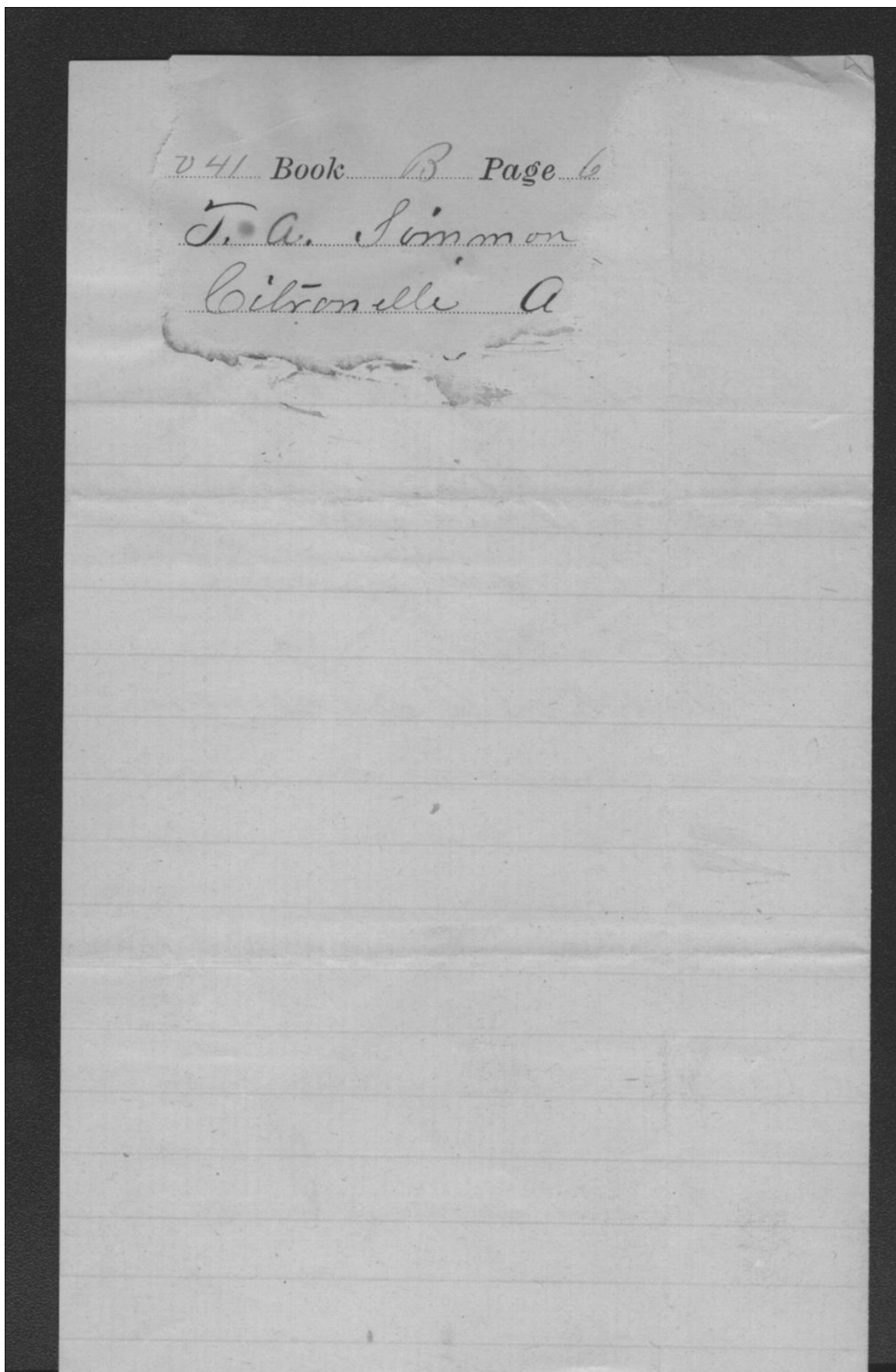
me a place by next Spring
if so please let me know
so nothing more - best and
to hear from you in a few
days.

Your Most Humble
Servant

Thomas A. Simmins



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
NOV 14 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Medicine Miss Nov 17 1879
~~Mr St John~~
 My dear Sir
 please see how the ^{how} colored
 people are get along over there
 they good many want come there
 this winter but they have not
 got the ^{money} to come over They
 want to know it take carry
 them there please the ^{send} informa-
 tion about I want know they
 are about. So I want to go there
 they good many got to take them
 seems don't publish is because
 a might be danger of get kill
 please write immediately
 your affectionate
 Medicine W R Rhodes
 Fairdale County Miss

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

