

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 43, Pages 1261 - 1290

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



Custom House, New York,

Collector's Office, December 12th, 1879.

Gov^r St John

Dear Sir

Please find inclosed
Five Dollars to aid our Colored brothers.

This redeems my pledge for August, Sept^r, Oct^r, Nov^r & Dec^r,
I wish I could do more, but as a working man with a family, I
feel I cannot afford it.

I hope you have many more contributions in this way, but I
fear the Exodus is not getting the support it deserves.

Please acknowledge receipt and oblige.

yours Respectfully

George S M Watters
Customhouse

221 Ext 18

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

<p>Custom House, Collector's Office, NEW YORK,</p> <p>. 187 .</p> <p>Collector.</p> <p>No. of Enclosures,</p>	<p>No. 134 Book C Page 17</p> <p>From G. S. McWaters</p> <p>Place New York City</p> <p>Date 12. 12</p> <p>Rec'd 12. 17</p> <p>Ans'd 12. 18 1879</p> <p>ABSTRACT.</p> <p>\$5.00 for freedmen,</p>	
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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
DEC 17 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Dec the 13 1879

Rabittson Co Sutton Tex
Governor Sant John I will
ask you How the black pep
el is standin the Col wat
her ther and what that is elon
for a Given we can Her that
tha is storring by the Hu
ndred and cling like Hogs
day by day but I dont cleve
a word of it we have seen
black men can back Her and
tell allfuel Tales about that st
at that is thousen of blackes
will seve this stat net spr
ing for that stat I woud like
to com now but iam not abel
to com yet And if you think it is
Good for us to com onn to that s
tat let me know and i can let my
pepel know what you sa all

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of the white people of the South
 today is coming up there
 next fall and bring back Hun-
 dred and Hundred Please spread
 this all over the state and tell
 them to act like men of sound
 wit to die in that state any-
 er soon And I will write to
 you often soon I will be
 close yours truly

Samuel Johnson

W

No. 132 Book C
 page 12
 From
 Samuel
 Johnson

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



"The St. James."

A. C. STEVENS, PROPRIETOR.

Only Commodious Hotel in Business Part of City.

South Front—with Large Rooms and an Excellent Table.

Parsons, Kansas, Dec 6 1879

Dear Governor:

What can be done
in way of transportation
—time for say two
or three persons to
Oklota in response
to recent letter?
There are colored men
here who would be
glad to go if they could
get transportation.
If things were possible
in Oklahoma they would
write back and money
would be furnished for
myself and surplus
here.

We have organized
a fund and I want to
congratulate the State Ind.

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(2) "The St. James."

A. C. STEVENS, PROPRIETOR.

Only Commodious Hotel in Business Part of City.

South Front—with Large Rooms and an Excellent Table.

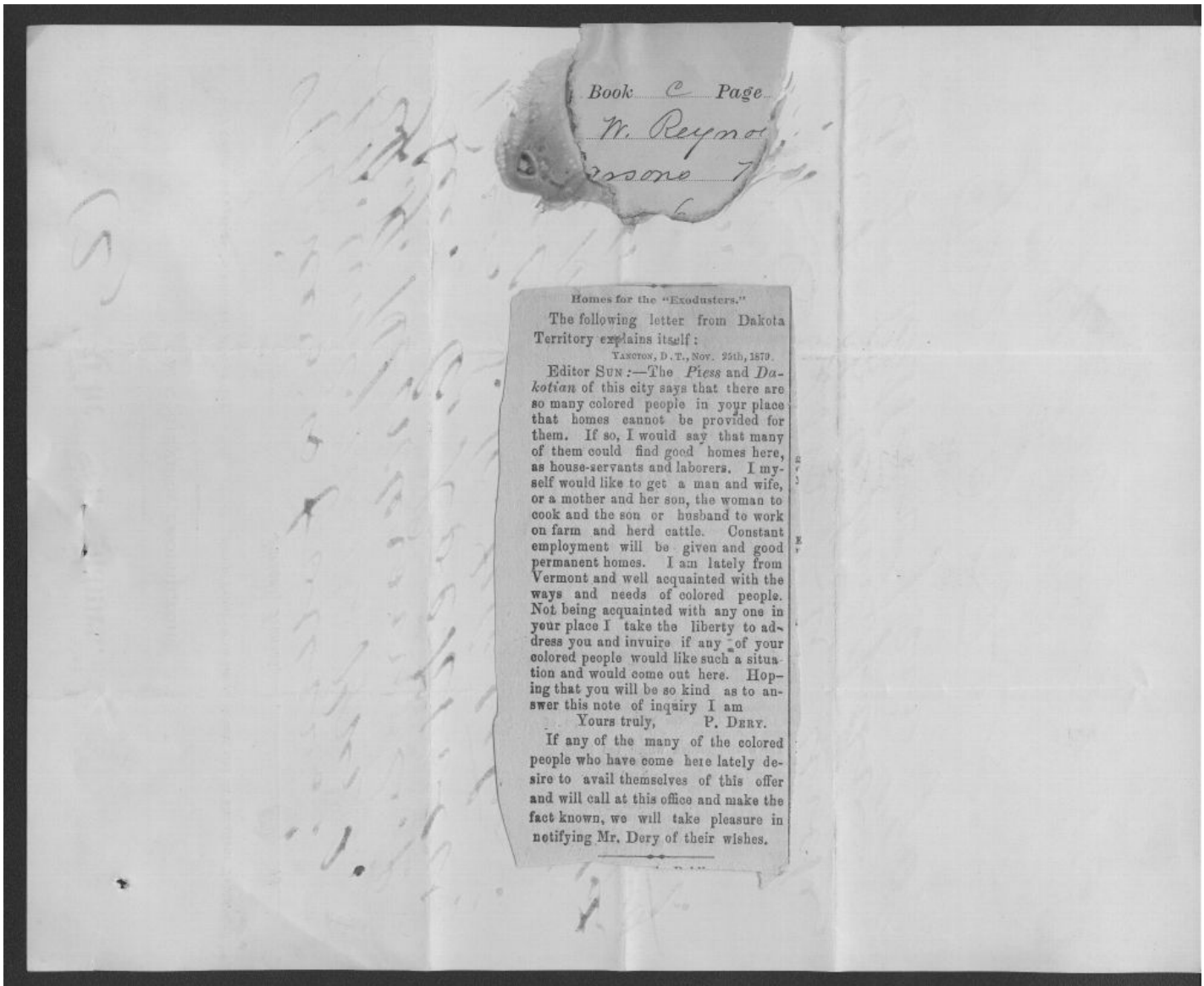
Parsons, Kansas, 18.....

Officers as follows:
 Mr. Wm. Lyman, Pres.
 Chas. H. Henderson C. P.
 Sec. C. Roehrer.
 Mess. S. C. Fletcher.
 Directors Rev. Dr. Keys,
 J. J. Henderson, S. C. Fletcher
 Mr. Wm. Lyman, C. Roehrer
 E. M. French (entrance) Math.
 Thompson (entrance)

Subs. a week
 out. Letting in
 set. Letting in "go."

Yours
 Wm. Lyman

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





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Dec. 15, 1879

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 the message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for error or delay in transmission or delivery of Unrepeated Messages.
This message is an UNREPEATED MESSAGE and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above.

A. H. BREWER, Sec'y. *63 K* NORVIN GREEN, President.

Dated *New York 15 Dec* 1879

Received at *TOPEKA, KANSAS. 7 8 P*

To *The Governor*
Topeka

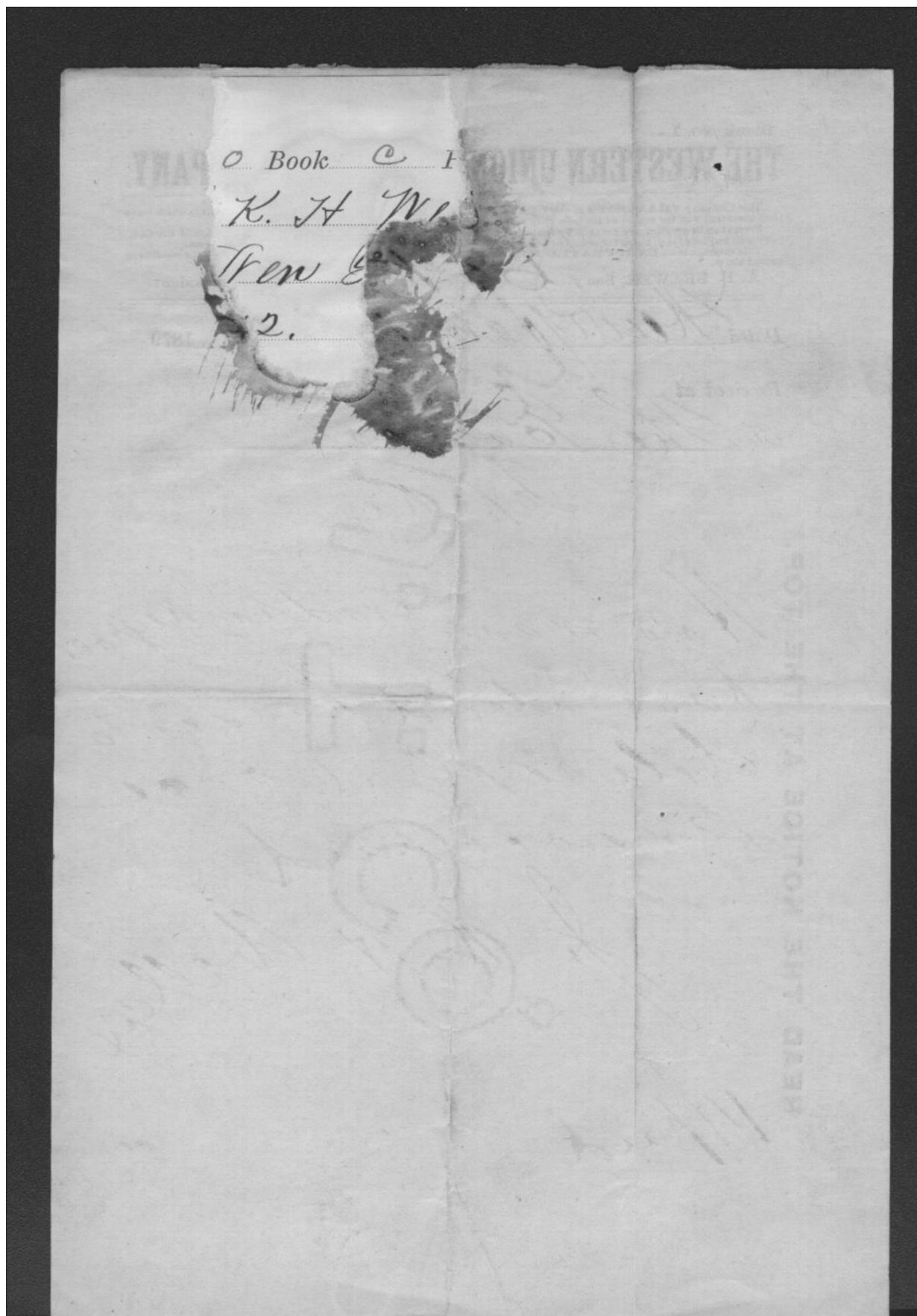
READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

*How many Exodus Negroes
have Entered Kansas to
date reply at once
answer paid*

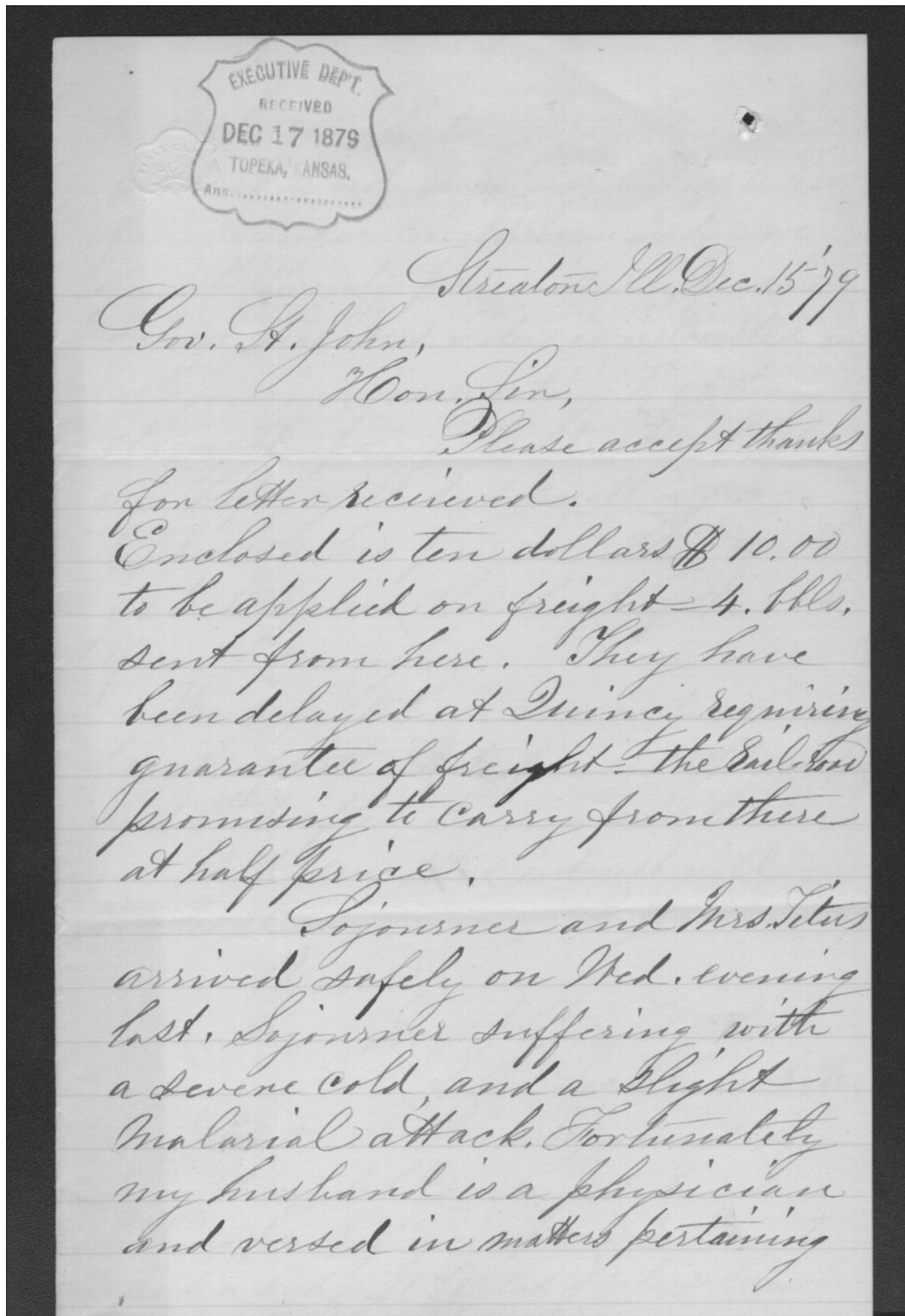
J. K. H. Bellax

14 paid

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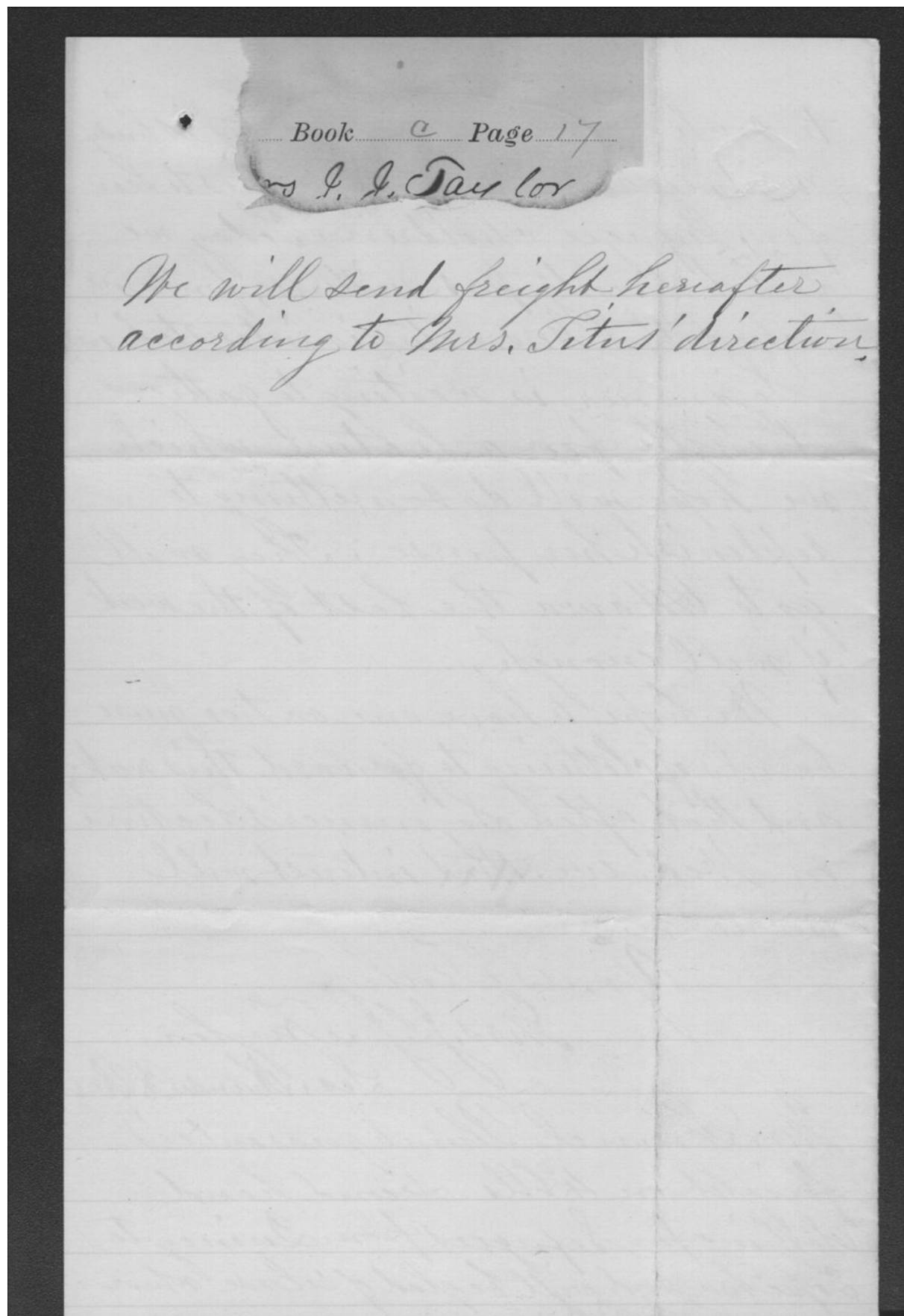
to such conflicts. Mrs. Titus is busy writing and meeting ladies to sew for Refugee children. Today we finish twenty prs. mittens, for some school that Mrs. Titus is interested in. Sojourner is waiting to gather strength for a lecture which we hope will do something to replenish her purse. They will go to Ottawa the last of the week if well enough.

We hope to have one or two more barrels of clothing to forward this week; and that after Sojourner's lecture on Wed. eve. ~~that~~ interest will increase.

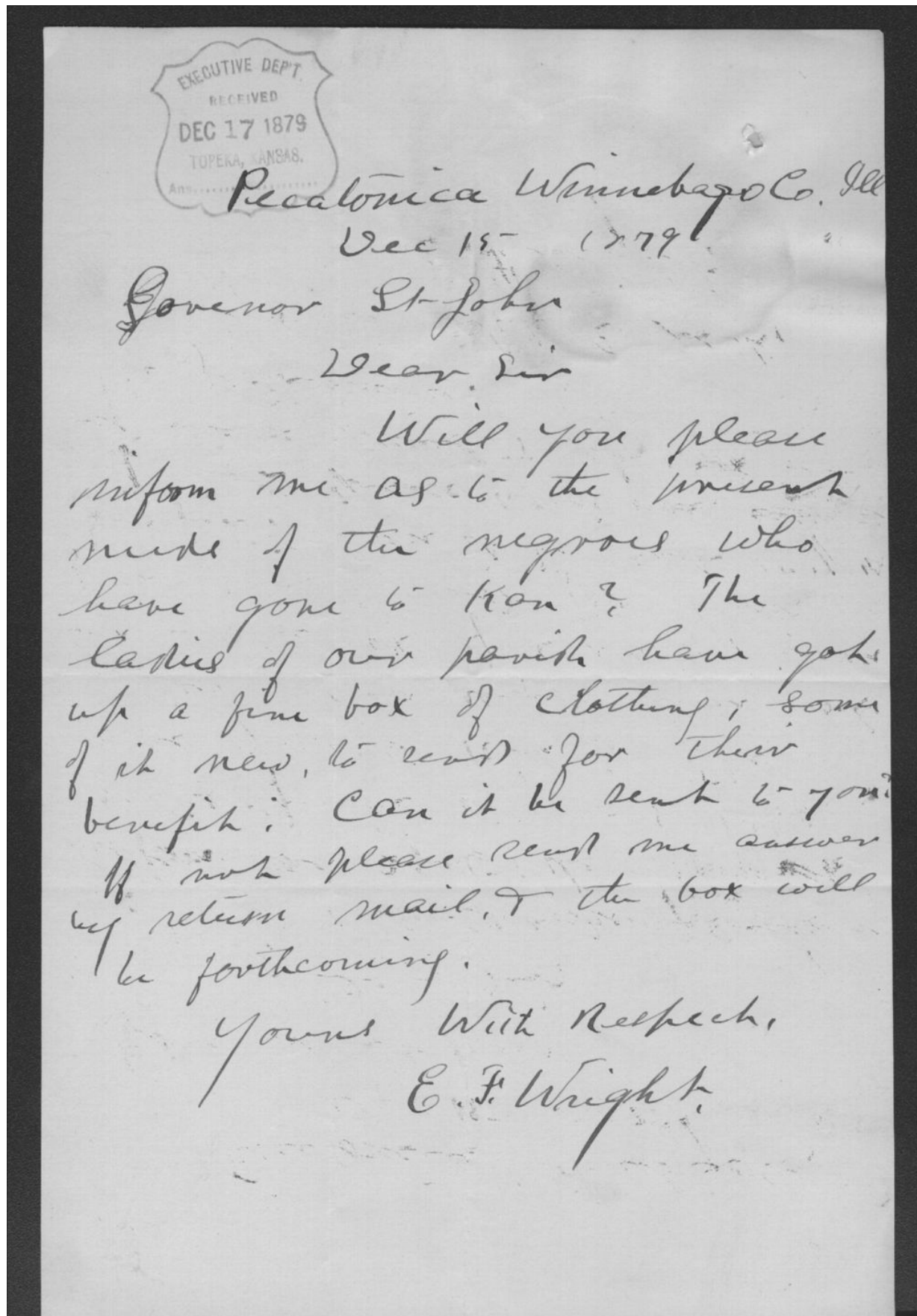
Yours Truly,
Mrs. J. J. Taylor.
Sec. Kansas R. R.

Mr. Samuel Plumb guarantees freight on 4 bbls. second hand clothing for refugees from Quincy to Topeka, and will be glad of release where paid.

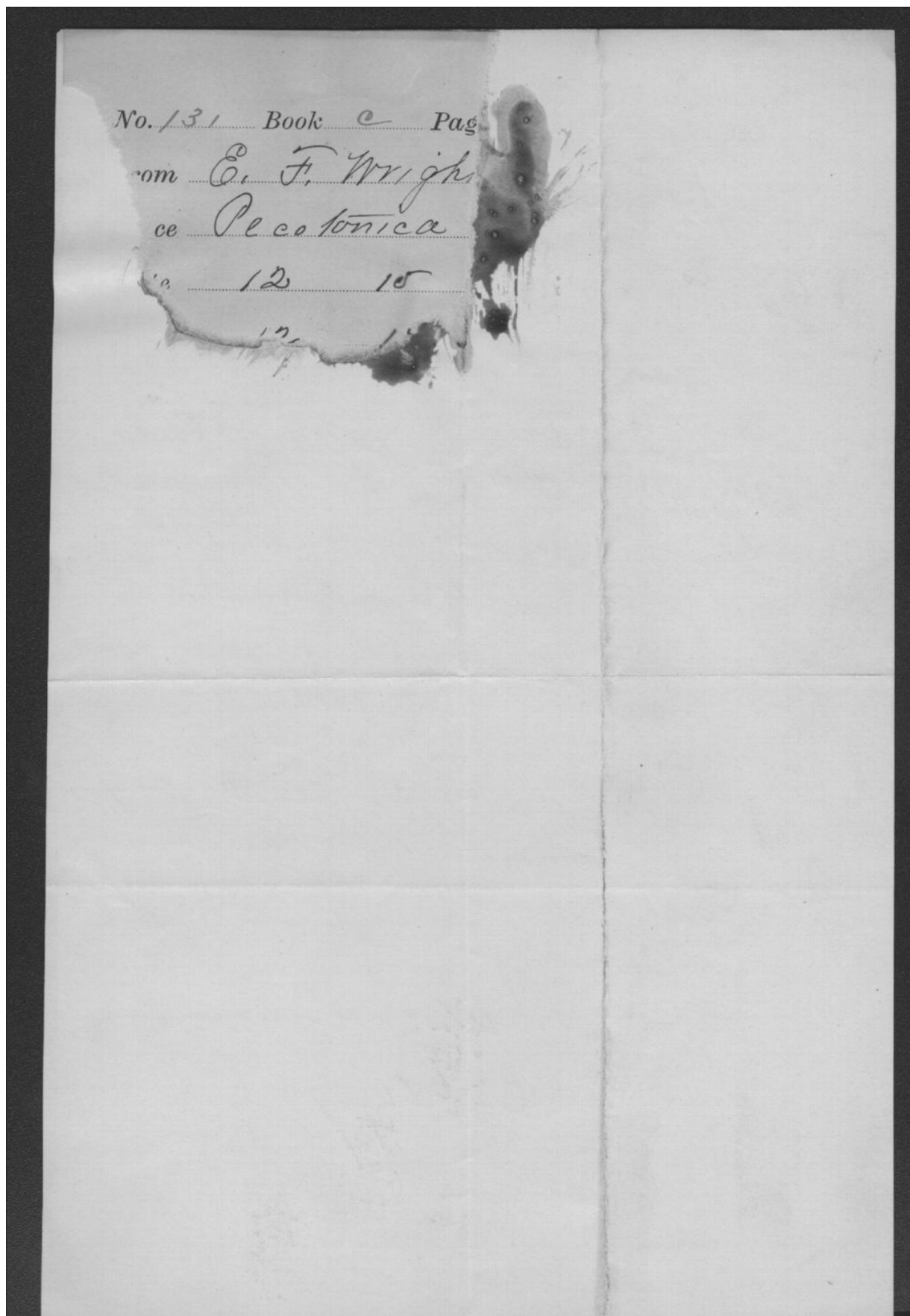
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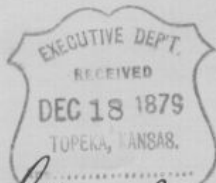


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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, D. C.,

Dec. 15th, 1879.

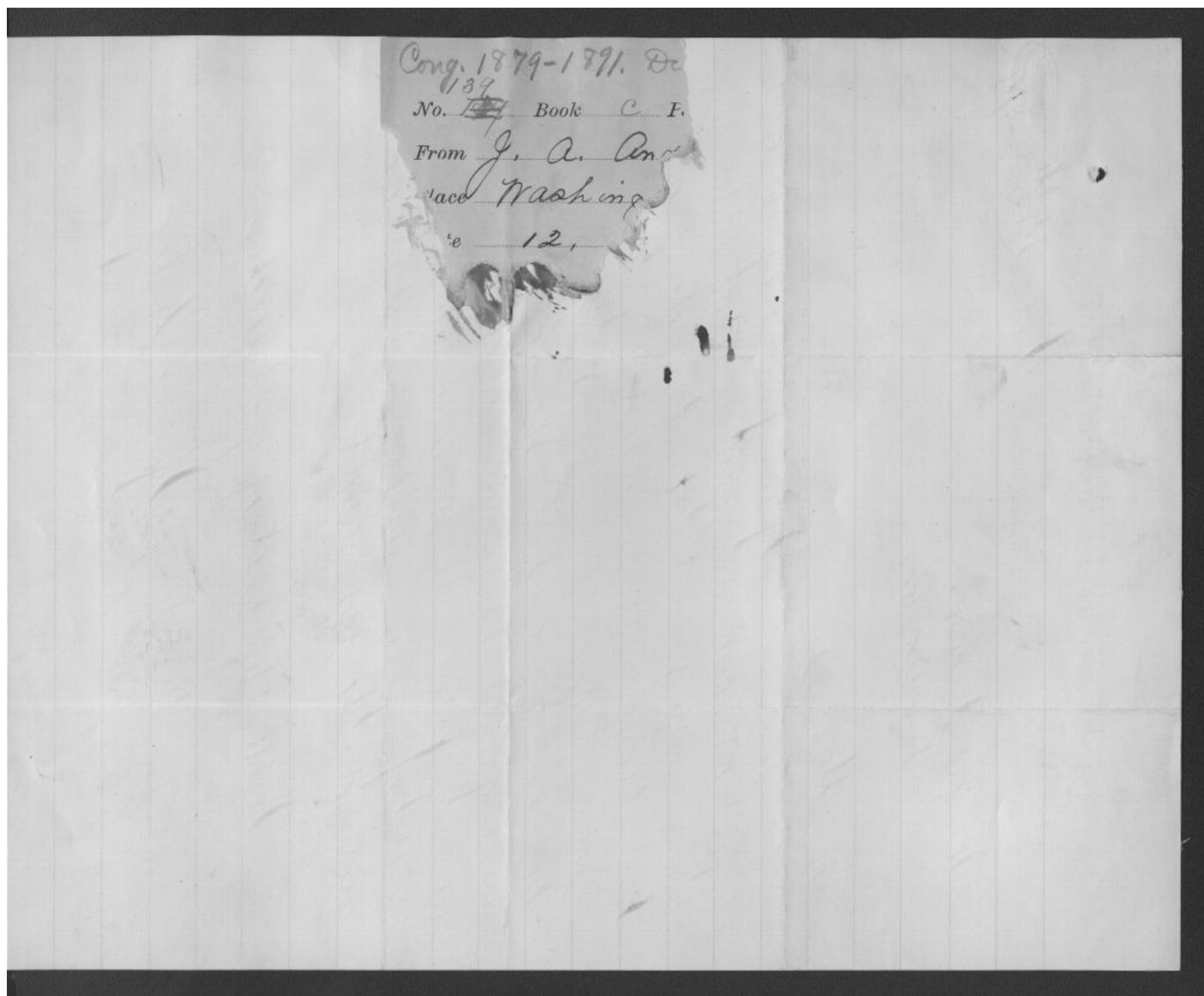
Gov. Jas. P. St. John.
Topeka, Kan.

My Dear Sir: Your favor of the 9th is just at hand suggesting that the Government permit the building at Fort Harker to be used by the refugees. I will at once see the Secretary of War and also Genl. Sherman and will take great pleasure in doing all in my power to secure the fulfillment of your wishes. I will advise you as to the result.

With the best of good wishes

Yours Truly
J. A. Anderson

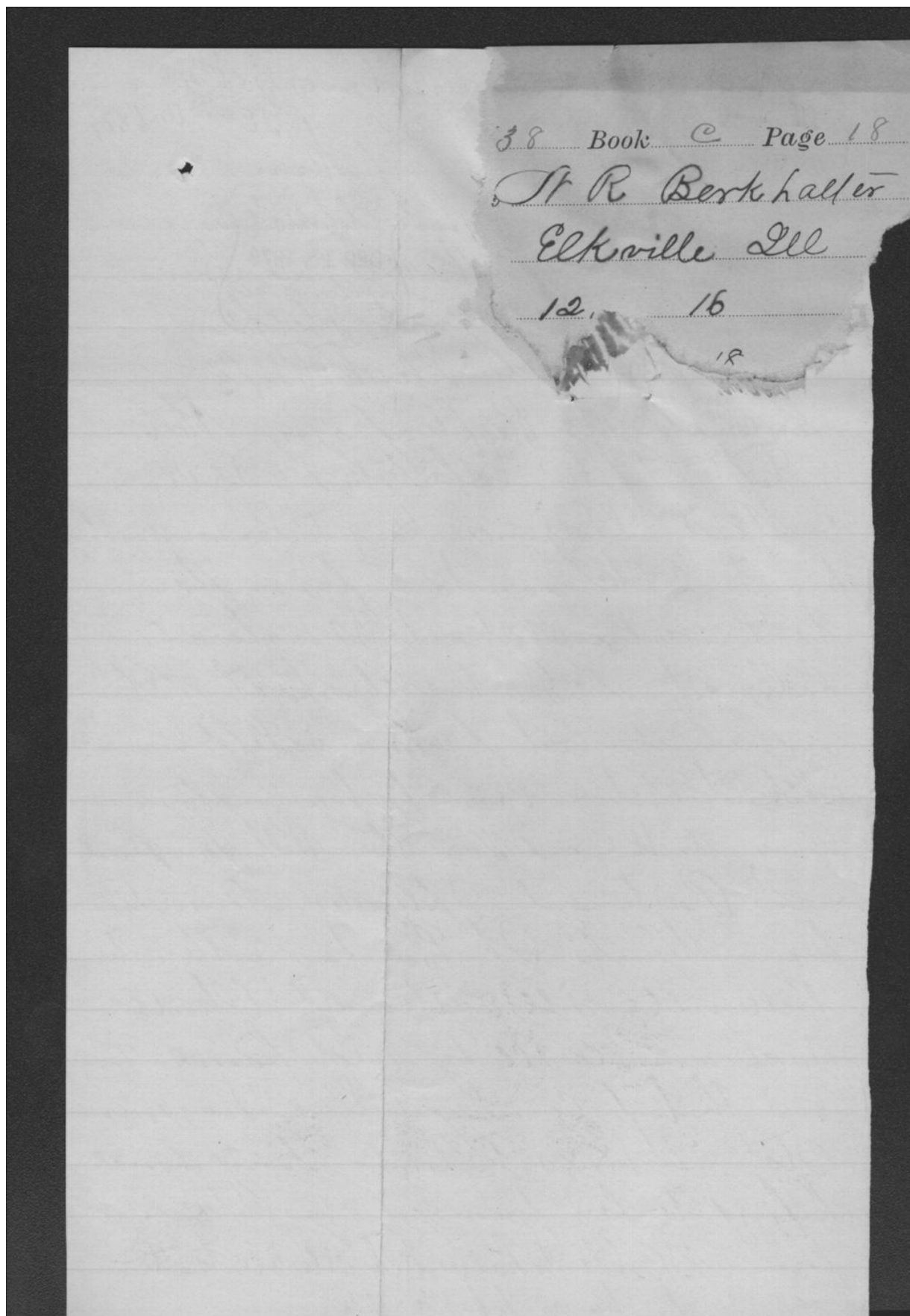
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Sidney Clarke,
Speaker.
Wirt W. Walton,
Chief Clerk.

Legislative Department.

State of Kansas.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Topeka, Ekville jell 1879.
Dec. the 16

Is gone of pastor Hanning -
Left your Note for a while -
and Hoping to Hear from
you and your Note is Write
to you in the first Place I Would
Like to Hear from the Colored -
Instituta that was installed Last
Winter of St John gausch.
I Man wrote to Mr Wesley Bufard.
the Captain But no answer yet
some three or four times Please Let me
Hear from you & How your people -
are getting on Long in the Hold.
State and I would as soon a
number of the Band of men called
at St of St John gausch -

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and I would like to hear something of
them and how they are getting along
& tell me please something of the thousands
of black men that come in this year
in your State, & how will they live
this winter. Pray tell me Sir you of Kon

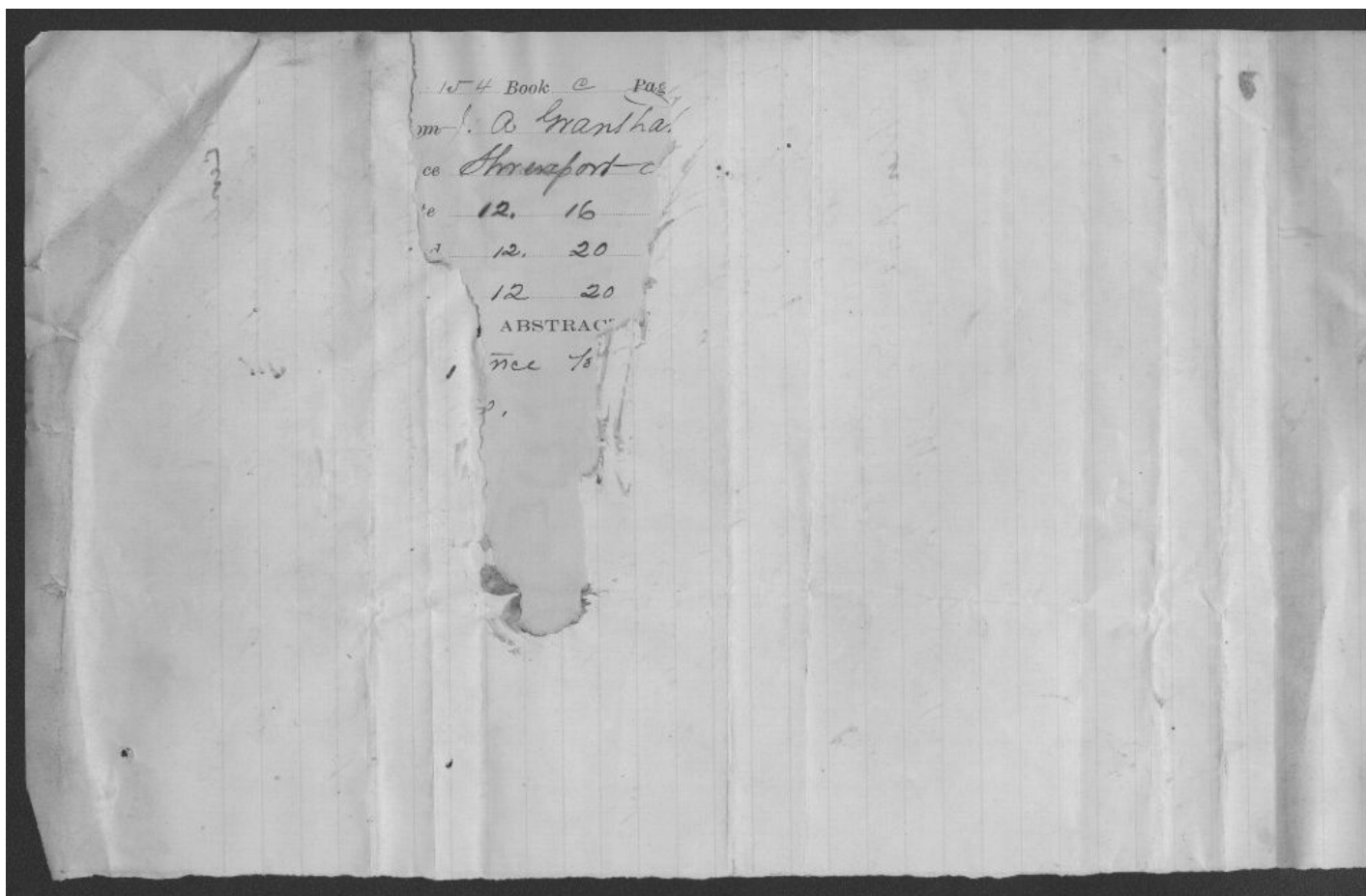
and another thing I would like to ask you.
Do I ever take on water when
they are raining without stopping in
any part of the State of Kon as any
other State I ever told this is a
fact and the Atchison to Peka and
Santa Fe R.R. Sir St John you
of Kon as none other man please
tell me if these things are or not

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EXECUTIVE DEPT
RECEIVED
DEC 20 1879
TO THE GOV. - KANSAS

December 16 1879 Shreveport La
Governor St John at Law dear sir
a few lines i wil inform you &
for information in the regards of
helpem me in the state of Kansas
and i want to find out when you
wil help a Compy to Come in your
County i wish you wd tel me how
is time out ther for a Collud
Opel i wrote you a few lines sometime
a go. But i hav never recived a anser
and i want to find out when a Compy
of Collud pelle Land Come in your
County please gover give me
sum information about Coming in your
County and if you cane do any thing
for me pleas sen me word
I wil come to a close
Shreveport La
Wm J Graham

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Theo. Seminary
Oberlin Ohio
Dec. 17. '89

Hon. Jno. P. St. John
Topeka Kansas

Dear Sir

Enclosed to your care
\$2.00 from Mrs. Phebe Weeks of
Oberlin for use of Freedmen's
Relief Ass'n.

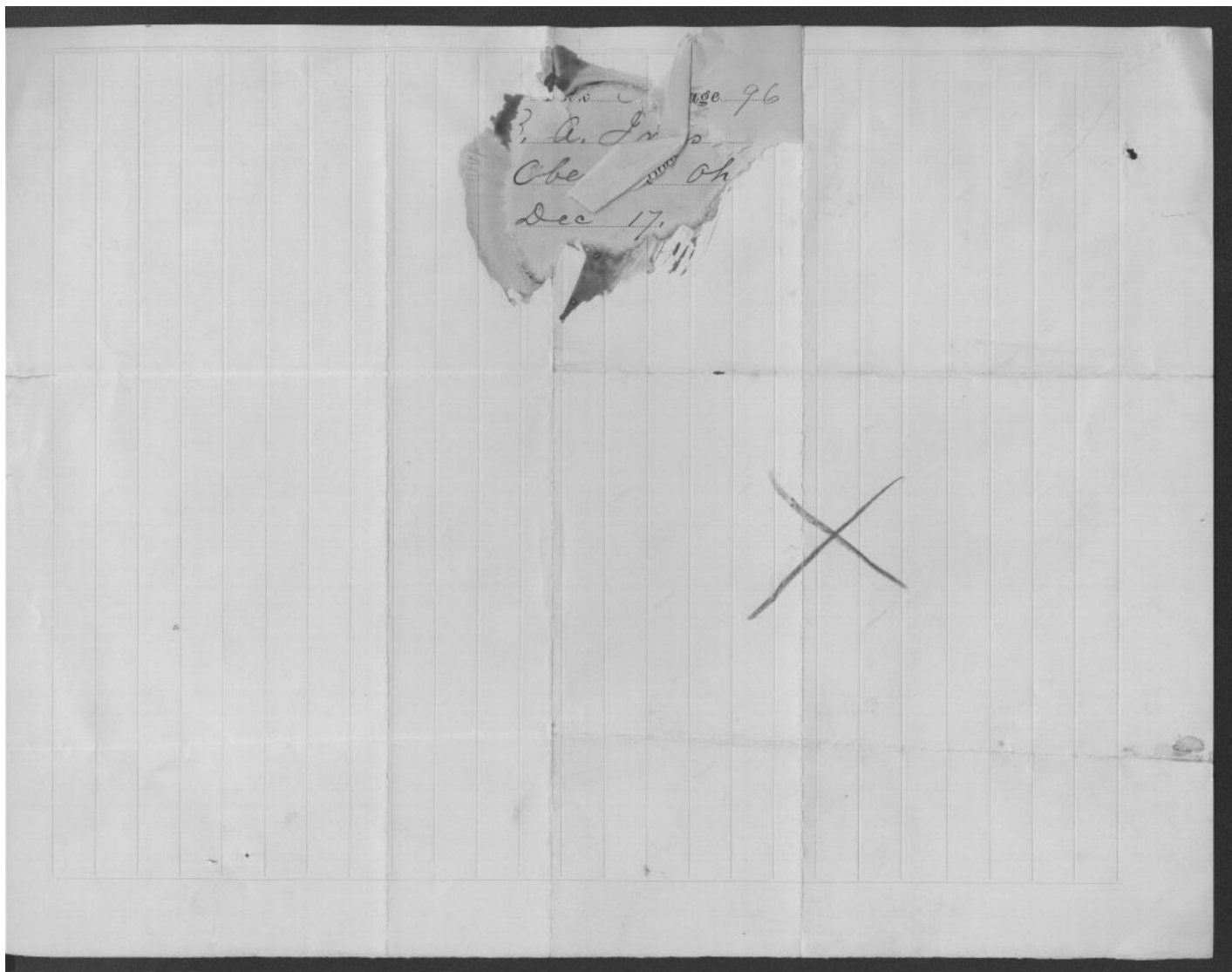
Very Respectfully
B. A. Jones

(not Jones)

No Answer

JH,

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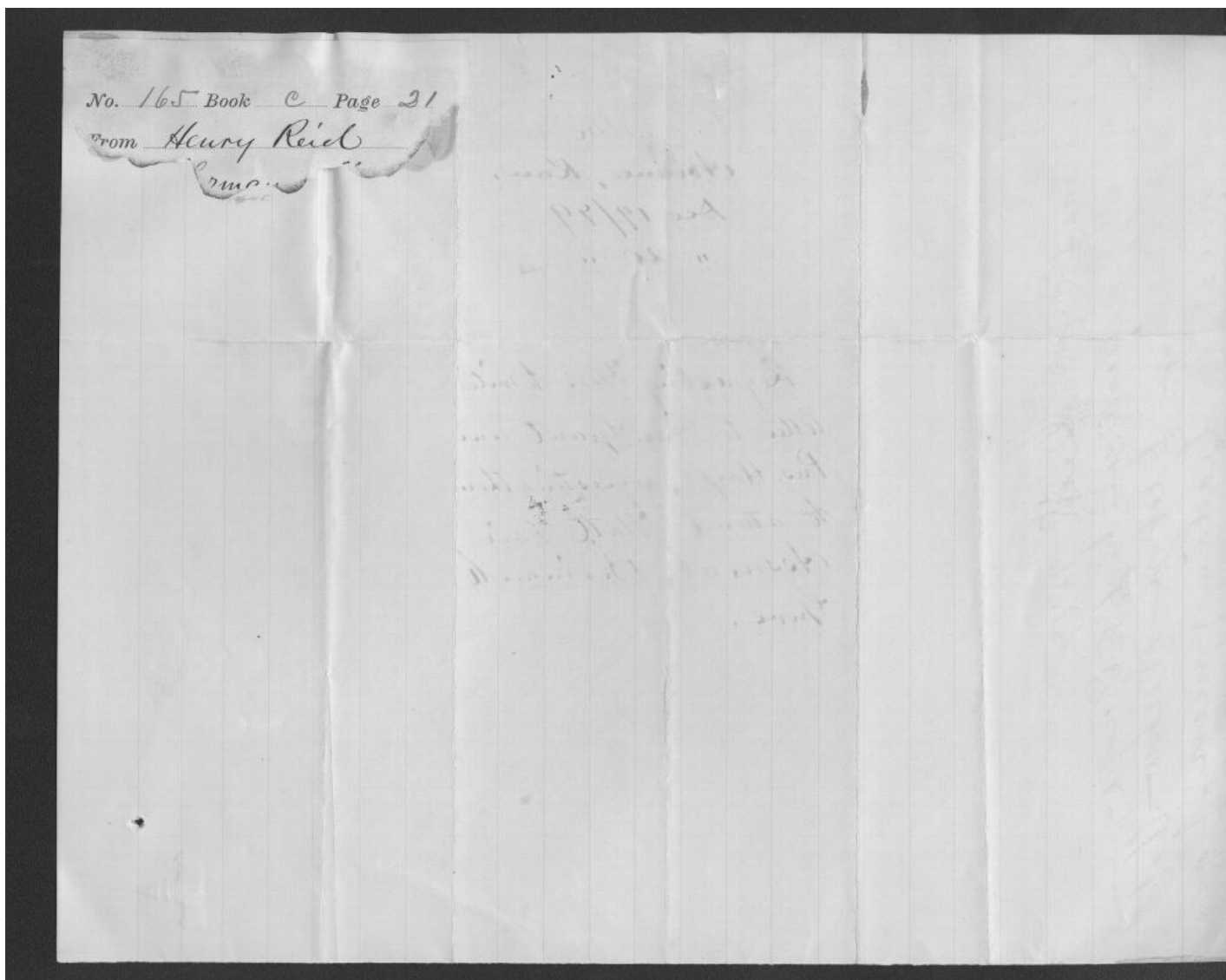
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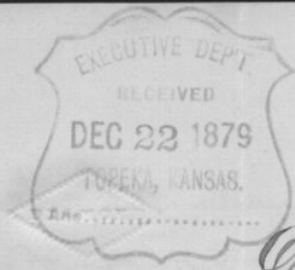
Sherman Dec¹⁵ 1879
 Dear sir I asten you high to I hope you
 a few line to you to let you know that
 I am one of the leading men of my
 people and here they are and want to know
 from you do you think it best for them
 to stay here because they ant got no
 maney to go where and if you think it
 best please write to me at sherman
 and I can do good by leten me know
 soon for here is mud and women and
 children here water to here and got no
 maney and sir please let me here soon
 your Henry Reid

Presiding Elder
 of the colored
 people Methodist church

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Damascoville. Columbiana Co.

Ohio 12. 19. 79

Friend Governor

Perhaps this is an undue liberty, but my interest in the Refugees & the Mission of my friend E. L. Comstock & a desire to know the truth will perhaps be sufficient apology. I have heard frequent reports adverse to the appeals that E. L. C. has made in reference to the Refugees. It has been currently circulated that they were not near so needy as has been represented. That they were indifferent to caring for themselves & the assistance they are getting is fostering that disposition. That the good & responsible people of Kansas were not looking favourable upon the Mission of E. L. C. & wished Friends would

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cease or at least largely abate
their labors. That the colored
people refused largely, (or could
scarcely be induced) to go into
the country to find work but
would congregate in the cities and
villages and pilage largely for their
living. My object in writing is
to learn from thy pen thy own
thoughts upon these phases of the
subject. Do the wise & good people
of Kansas who have the management
and interests of the state at heart
regard the colored Refugees in an
unfavorable light for the interests
of the state & are you glad to
have them come. And be that
as it may do you regard the effort
that Friends are making to assist
them as really beneficial for them
& the state, &c. &c. please answer

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this with thy own hand
I give any information that
thou may think will throw
light upon this subject
and oblige thy stranger friend
William Ballell

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