

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 47, Pages 1381 - 1410

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

Light House Ogle Co. Ill. Jan¹⁸⁸⁰ 23,

To Governor St John of
Kansas Dear sir enclosed
pleas find Post Office order for
\$15.00

the same is Money raised
by Rev W. A. Cross from the
congregation of Light House M. E.
Church. to aid the colored Ref-
ugees in Kansas,

Pleas receipt the same on
the enclosed card

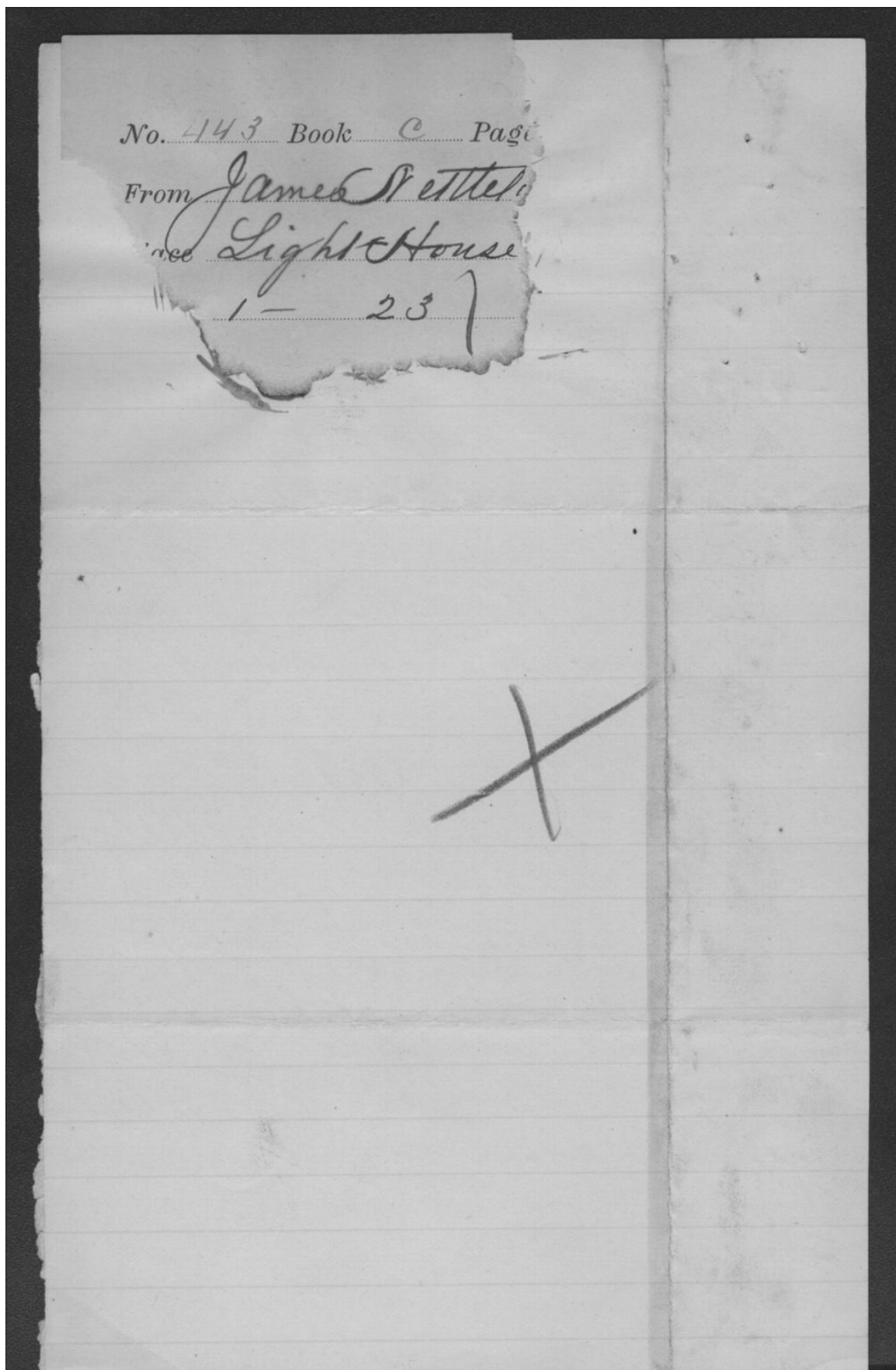
Yours Truly

James Pettleton

P.S. I send this to you for
I dont know how else to send it
and trust you will see that
it reaches the fund for which
it was raised J. P.



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OFFICE OF
J. H. GREEN & CO.,
DEALERS IN
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, WAGONS, PUMPS,
DRAIN TILE AND SEEDS OF ALL KINDS,

Oshaloosa, Iowa, Jan 24 1880

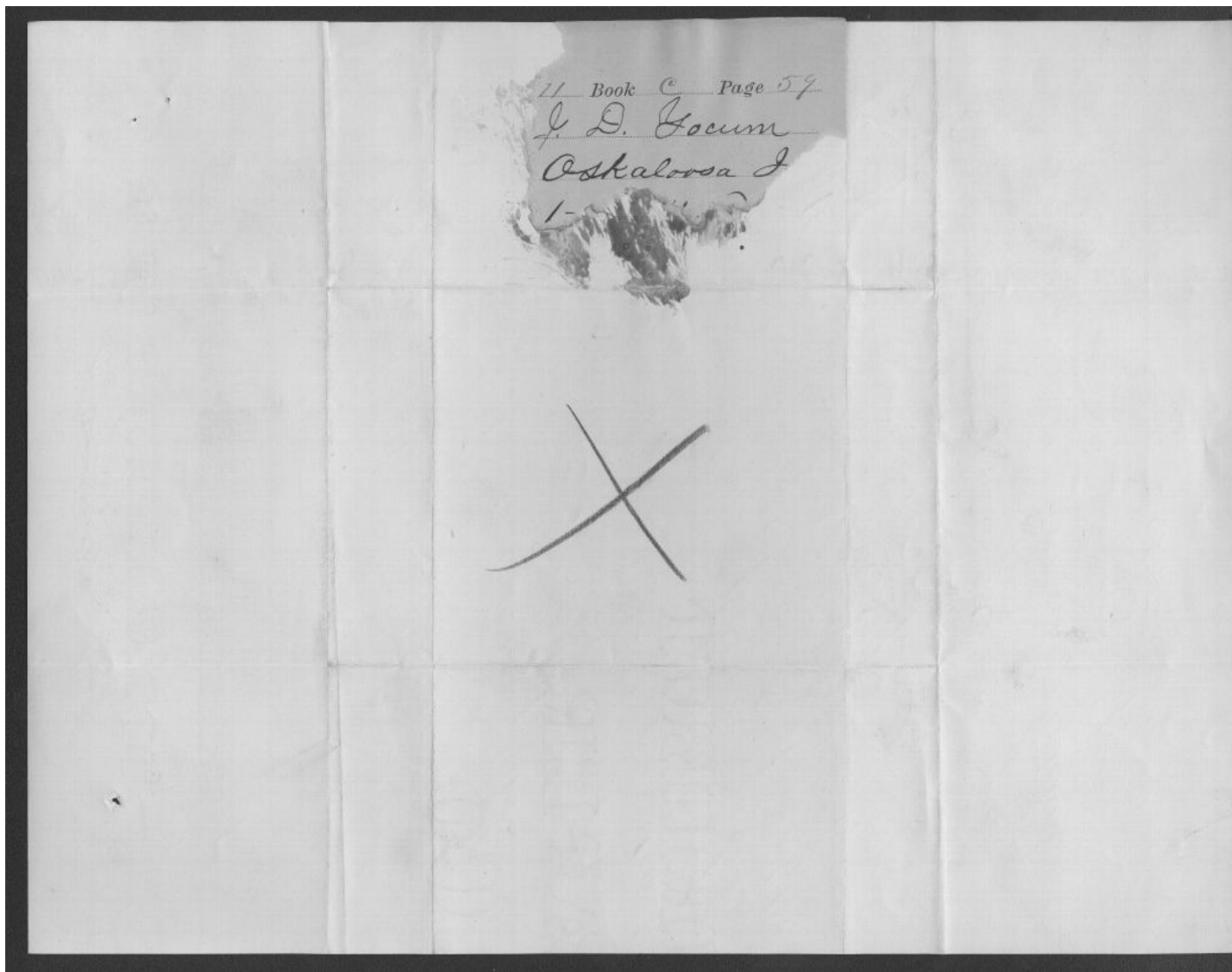
Gov St John Topeka Kansas:

I write you to advise of the
shipment of three barrels of
clothing for the benefit of colored
refugees. We send to you direct
because we thus get free transpor-
tation — also please find
inclosed a draft on Osh. Nat. Bk.
for \$16⁰⁰. You will please acknowl-
edge the receipt of all the above
~~at~~ ⁱⁿ on receipt of same

On behalf of Aid Comm.
of Oshaloosa Monthly Meeting
of Friends

J. D. Goeman

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(the 25th 1880)

Wakarusa,rego Co. Kansas (Jan. 25)
the Onerable

Governor John P. St. John Dear Sir
I. Now seat my self to in form
you a few lines to let you know
that I am suffering very much
for a little aide I try all I can
to take care of my self and
family I get a little worke to do
but not enough to baad my
self I came from Mississippi
last March 1879. and I did ~~not~~^{not}
~~not~~ but very little Morning when
I come here and I spent
that trying to make a ~~crop~~
but did not make any thing
becase it was so dry but if
I can get something to eat
to last me untill I can make
a crop I think I will be
able to take care of my self

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I am got old ground enough
to make a very good crop
if I can get seed to plant
it I would saw some wheat
this Spring if I could get some
but I have not no money to
buy wheat nor corn with but
if you will help me a little
and charge me so much per
cent I will pay it as soon
as I can ^{make} something. I lives in
Graham Co. Sec. 34. Township - 10. S.
Range 26. W. I am a laborer and
has 3 in family besides my
sister and she boards with me
too be corse here Clame is joining
mine I would not complane
to you but I can not make
any thing on my farm
if I work out from home
all the time and I ^{cannot} save not
a cent to buy my seed
with to plant I am a
Colord man and works in W. K. K. K.

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but cannot make any thing
the rich men do not know nor
care any thing for a poor
colored man in Wakarusa and if
I ask some one that will help
me I may starve for what they
care for they say that we black
people has no business here if

you will gave me a little to eat and
a little seed to plant about 20 acres
of old ground I can make out I
wants to plant about 15 acres in
wheat and the rest in corn

I toled you the last fourth
of july and I toled you that
I would stay in Kansas
if I make some thing to eat
and I am trying to do so
no more at present I will
close yours truly fren

William Louis Brown

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 497 Bo
From Mrs
Place
Date
Rec'd
Ans'd
Cphas

they says & here in Wakarusa that
they stands with open drandels and
willing harts to aul the poor but
I tride very hard last fall to get
some wheat to plant but I could
not get any after I had 16.

acres of land and ready to plant
but if you will please gave me
a little to eat so I may stay
at home and plant a crop
on my own land this year
I will be able to take care
of my self bu. I have no money to
buy not a seed to plant of any
kind and if you will gave me any
thing please send it by letter
that I may get it

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

G. H. BURRELL,

DEALER IN

DRUGS, MEDICINES

Paints and Oils, Choice Family Groceries,

PURE WINES AND LIQUORS FOR MEDICINAL USE.

Walnut, Ill., 26, January 1880

Dear Sir

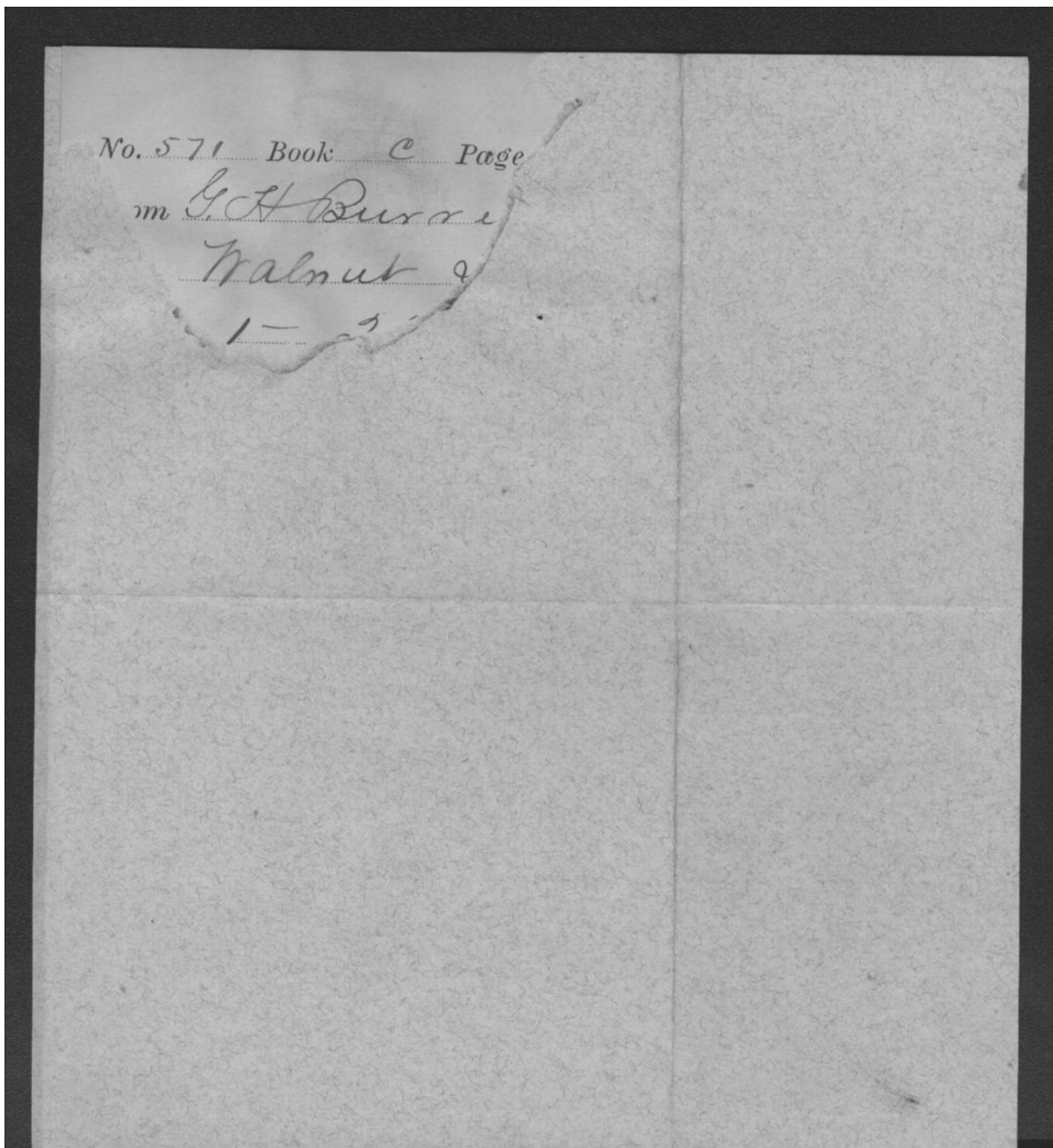
Enclosed find two
dollars that has been handed
in to send to the Refugee, please
dispose of it for the same.

yours truly

G. H. Burrell,

Walnut, Bureau Co,
Illinois,

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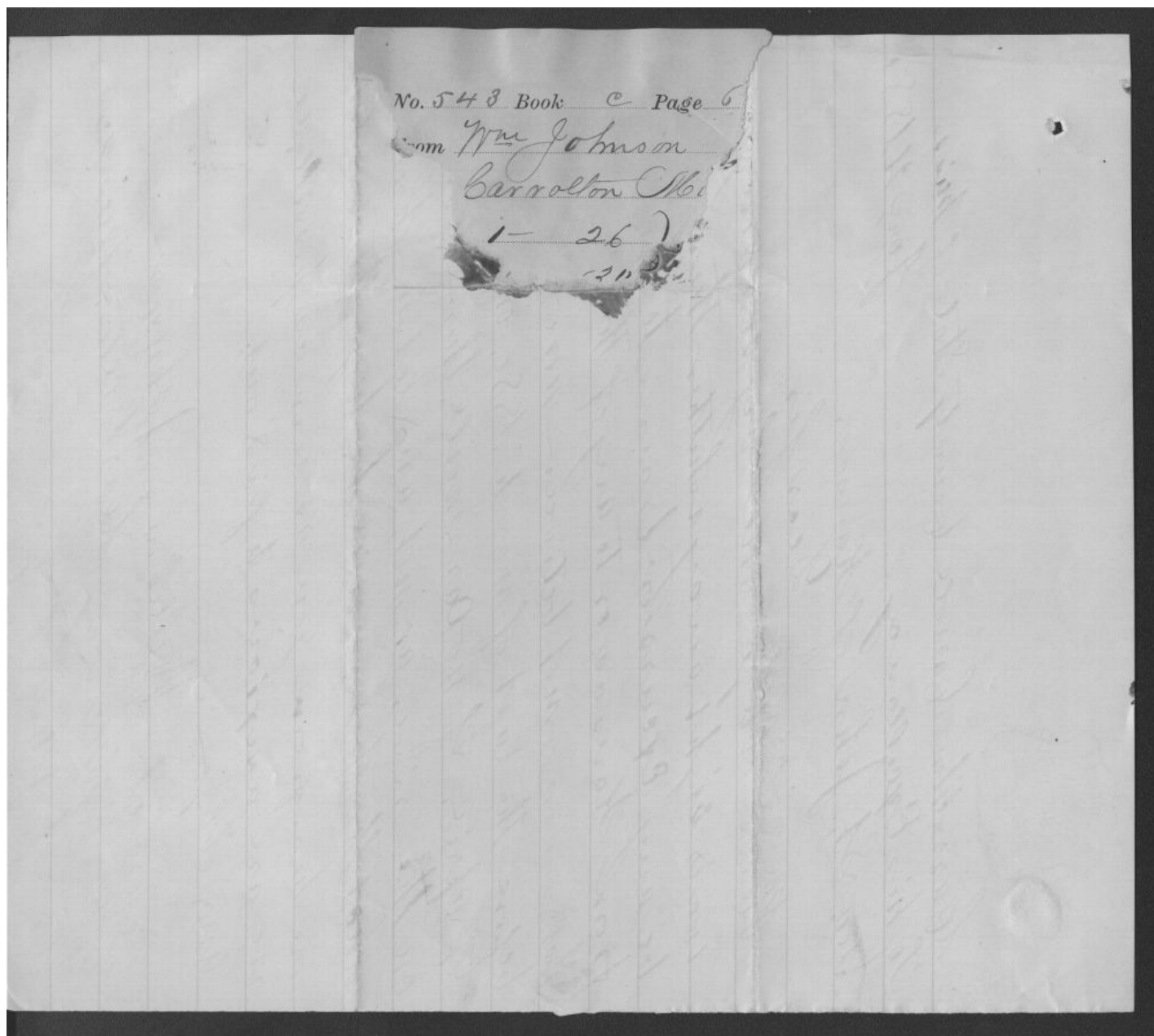


Carrollton Carroll County State of Miss
To his Excellency Jan 16, 1880
Gov. St. John of Kansas.
Dear Sir,

Please oblige me by sending me word, right away whether there will be any Excursion trains to Winona, Miss. from Kansas, or to any of the stations on that road or not between now or anytime before the last of March, 1880, or the first of April. If no cars, will there be any boats on the river or not, and let me know what the price will be to go. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible, as we are anxious to find out, and oblige.

William Johnson
Carrollton, Miss.

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Normal, Ill., Jan. 26-1888.
Gov. Jas. P. St. John,
Topeka, Kan.

Dear Sir;

Desiring some information, in the way of opinions of leading men on the "Negro Exodus" question, I address you, since you must be interested in the question as under your protection have the most of the refugees betaken themselves.

The question is the one proposed for the debate at the Annual ^{State} Inter Normal Contest, and those of us interested desire to get all the information possible. Do you think the migration will continue till any great number of the Negroes have left the South? What do you think to be the principal causes of the migration? What effect do you think

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the migration will have upon the South?

Any information you can give will be thankfully received, and if you have any printed matter, you will send us, all cost will be promptly met by us.

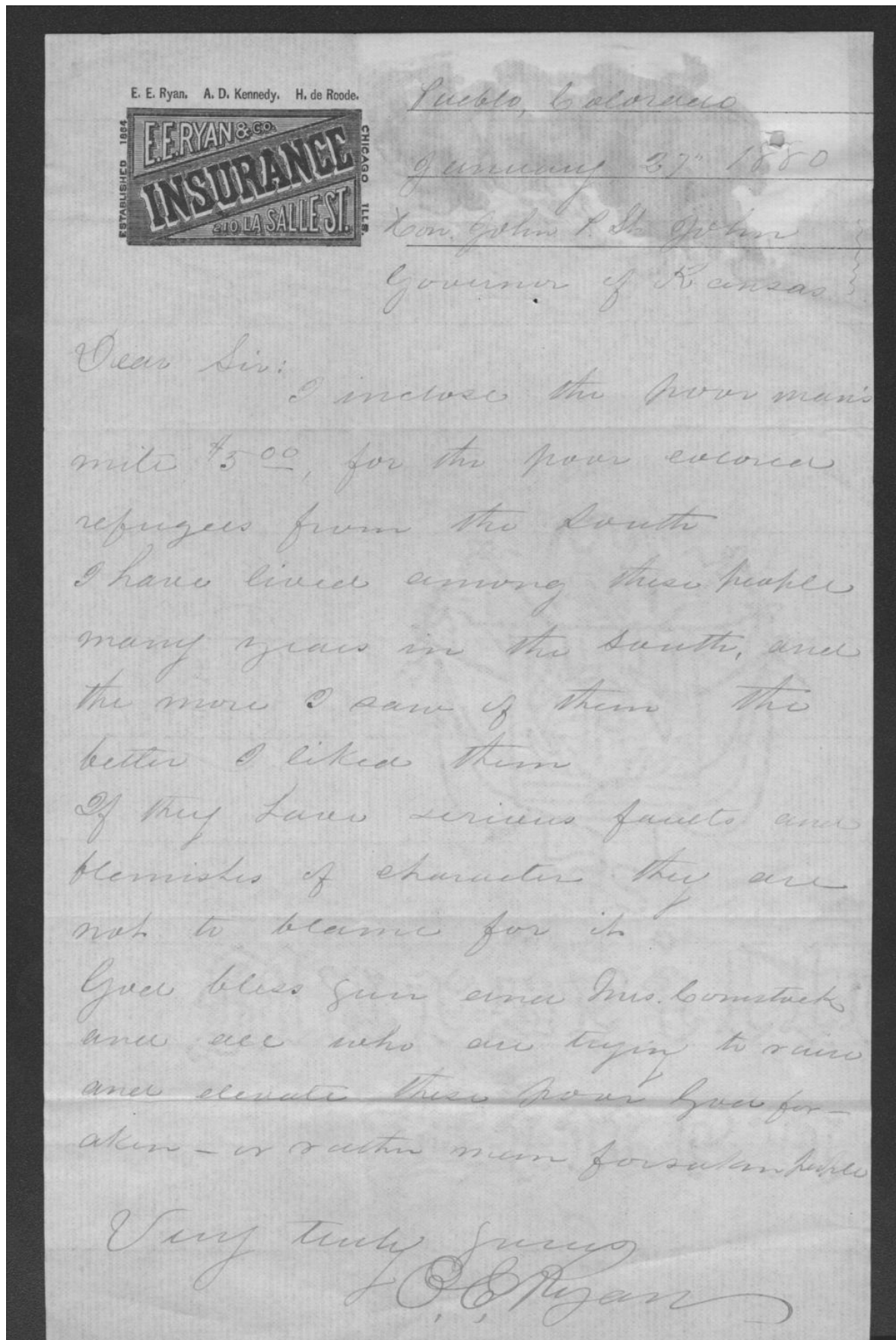
Hoping I am not intruding upon your time and patience, I am

Very Respectfully,

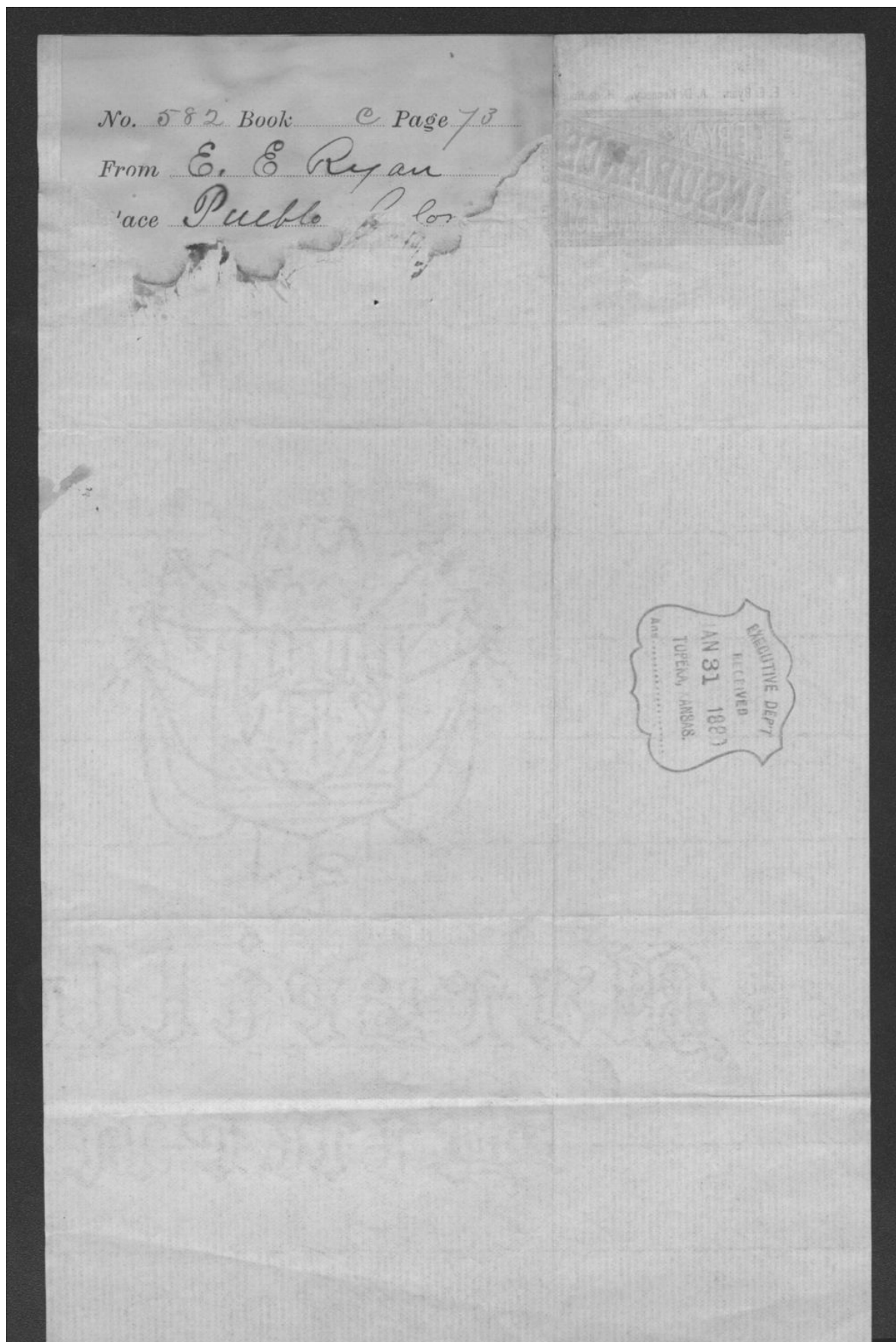
Geo. H. Bear

21 Book C Page 6
John St. John
Normal Ill
1-26
1-28

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H. BEIDLER,
President.

J. D. FOLLMER,
Sec'y and Treas.



OFFICE OF
BEIDLER MANUFACTURING CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF

LUMBER, LATH & PICKETS.

Muskegon, Mich. Jan'y 27th 1880
To the Hon Gov St John
Topeka
Kansas

Dear Sir: Enclosed please
find P O money order for Thirteen ⁵⁰/₁₀₀ Dollars the
amt contributed by the Sunday School of the
M.E. Church of this place for the benefit of
the Southern Negro Refugees.

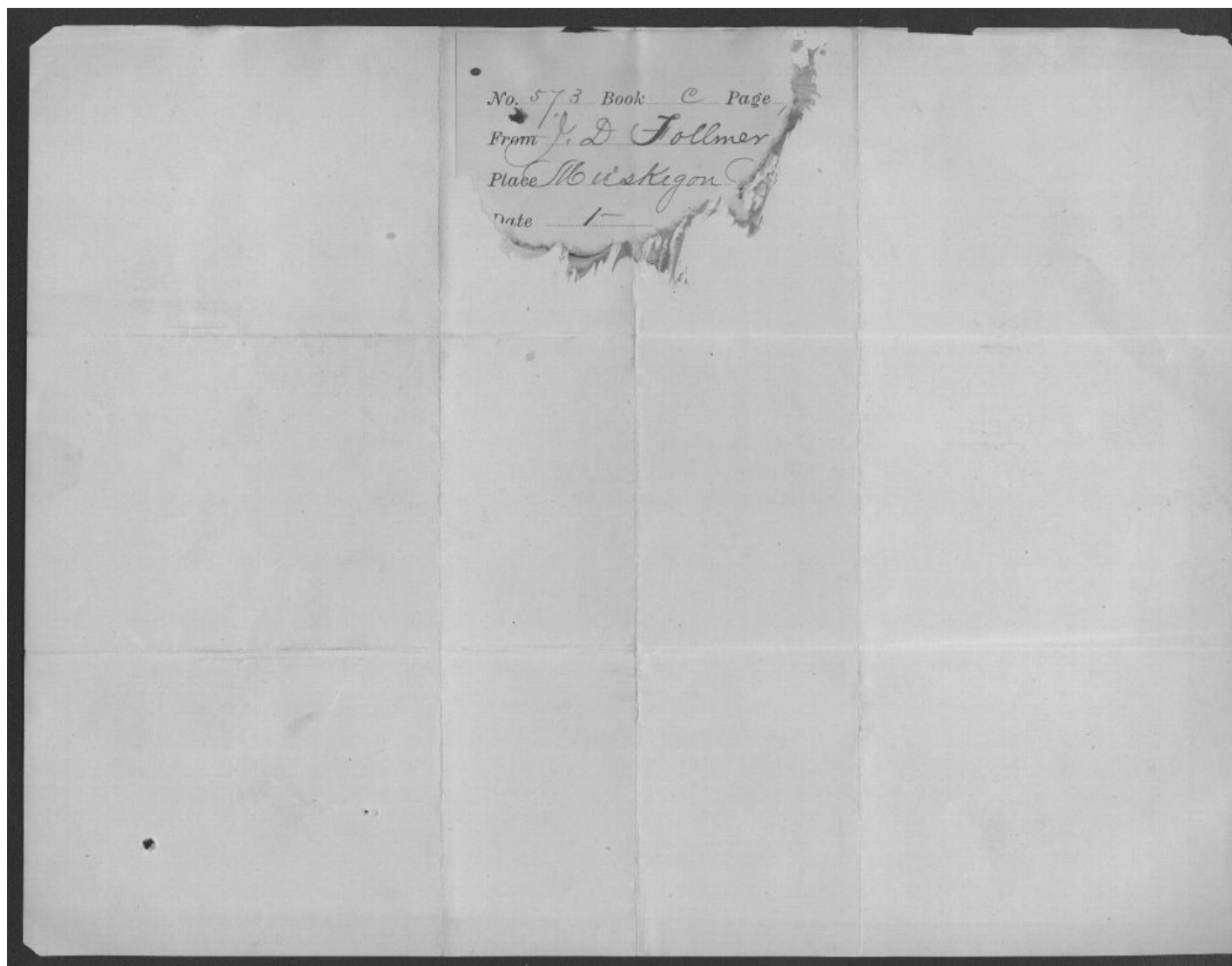
I send this to you, because I did not know
who else to send it to.

Please acknowledge the rec'd

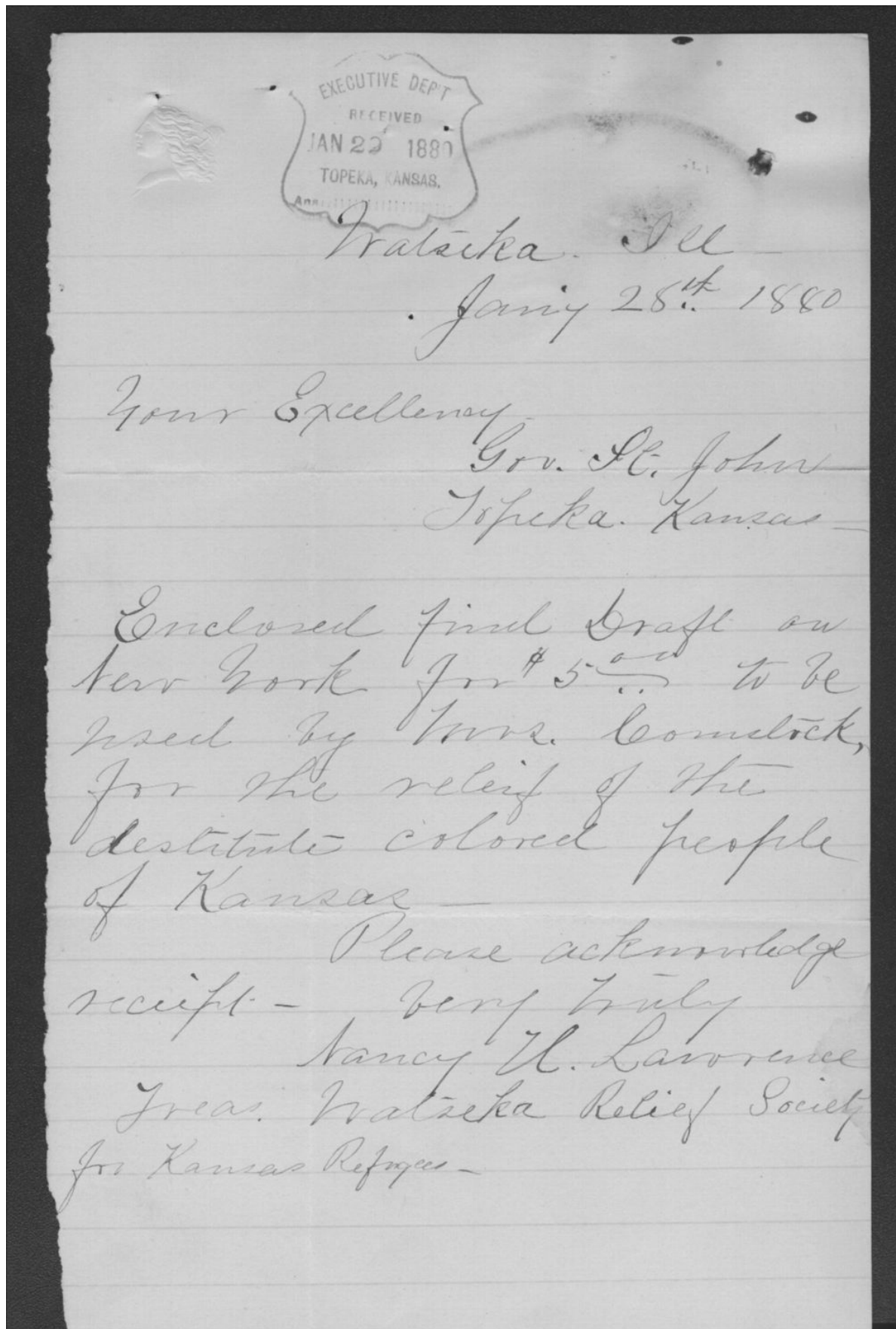
and oblige Yours truly

John D Follmer

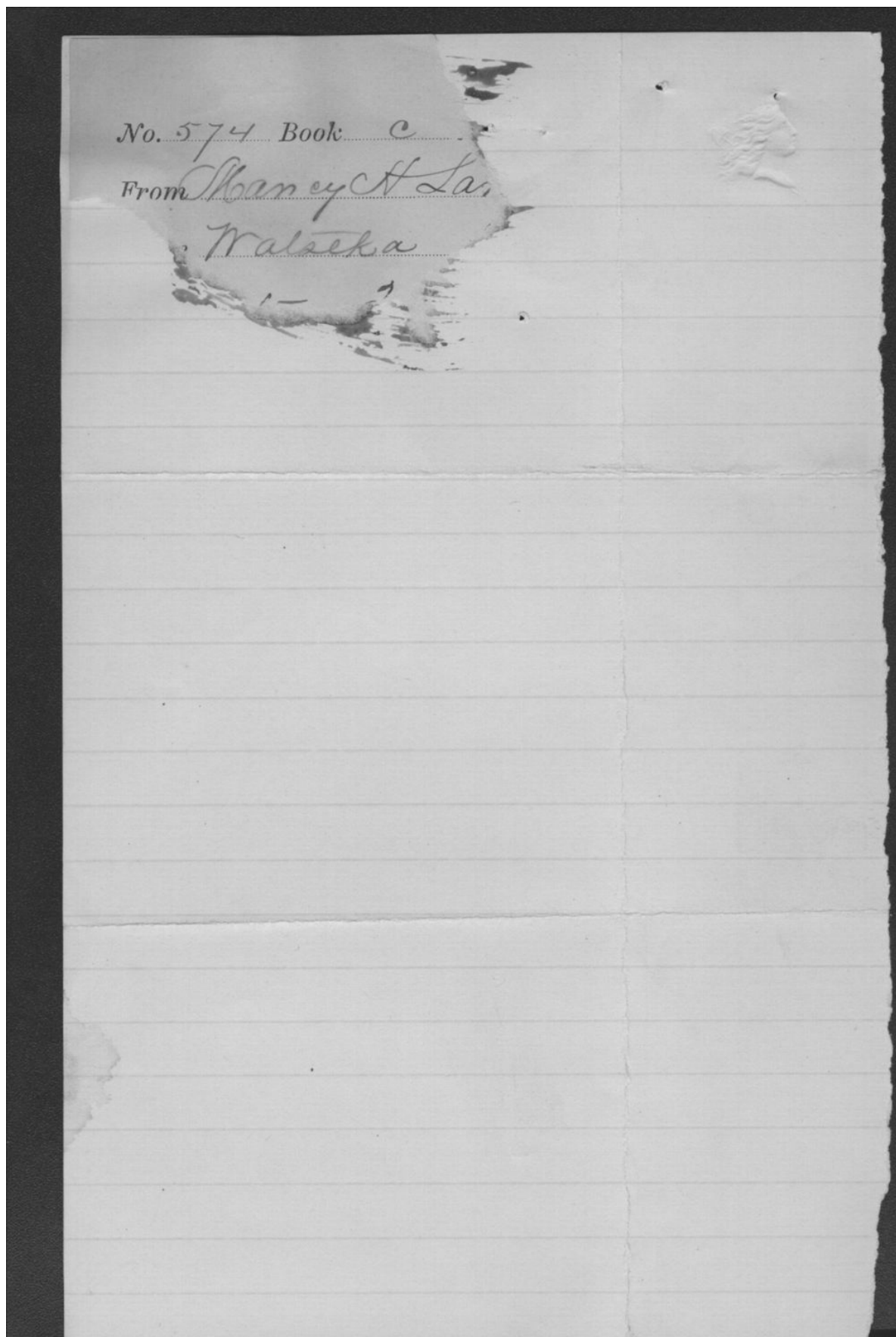
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Jan. 28, 1880

Texas
 Gause Station Milam Co
 To the Governor of Kansas
 kind sir with plesur I
 drop you these few lines to
 in quier of you the ephloca of
 emagrational of the collard to
~~Kansas~~ peple to Kansas also
 and the advantedg & disadvantedg
 our peple has been Striving to
 Every advantedg they cold here
 off to get up every Strive they
 fall 4 Steps Lower & as am I
 the precher among the they
 requier me to look for them & there
 fore i wish to here from you
 we here of so much in p difrance
 & contray Talk untill the
 collard peple of milam is a
 Loser & as believe you will give
 a correch methode of the matter

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

I drop you these few lines & kind
 Sir as soon as you get this answer
 we heard that ~~that~~ there was a procla-
 mation is hard for no more imagnan
 to come to Kansas & a gain
 heard that Kansas was all accomlish
 occupied & other degrading words in
 which give cold feeling pupils
 we are in a very disolated portion
 of the world & do not get the
 political facts as they are is heard
 then we wish to here from
 you the full & important
 facts of the matter tho we have
 ben back snated so often yet
 we are willing to give another
~~pull~~ pull at the hill all the
 hill is or appears ~~or~~ very steep
 & so we wish to know if
 that is the land that God has

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

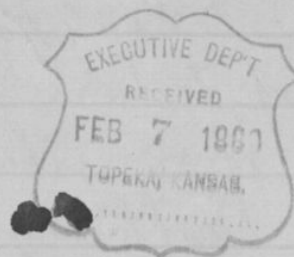
promises to them that
is a fair offer nothing
more at present

I remain & truly yours

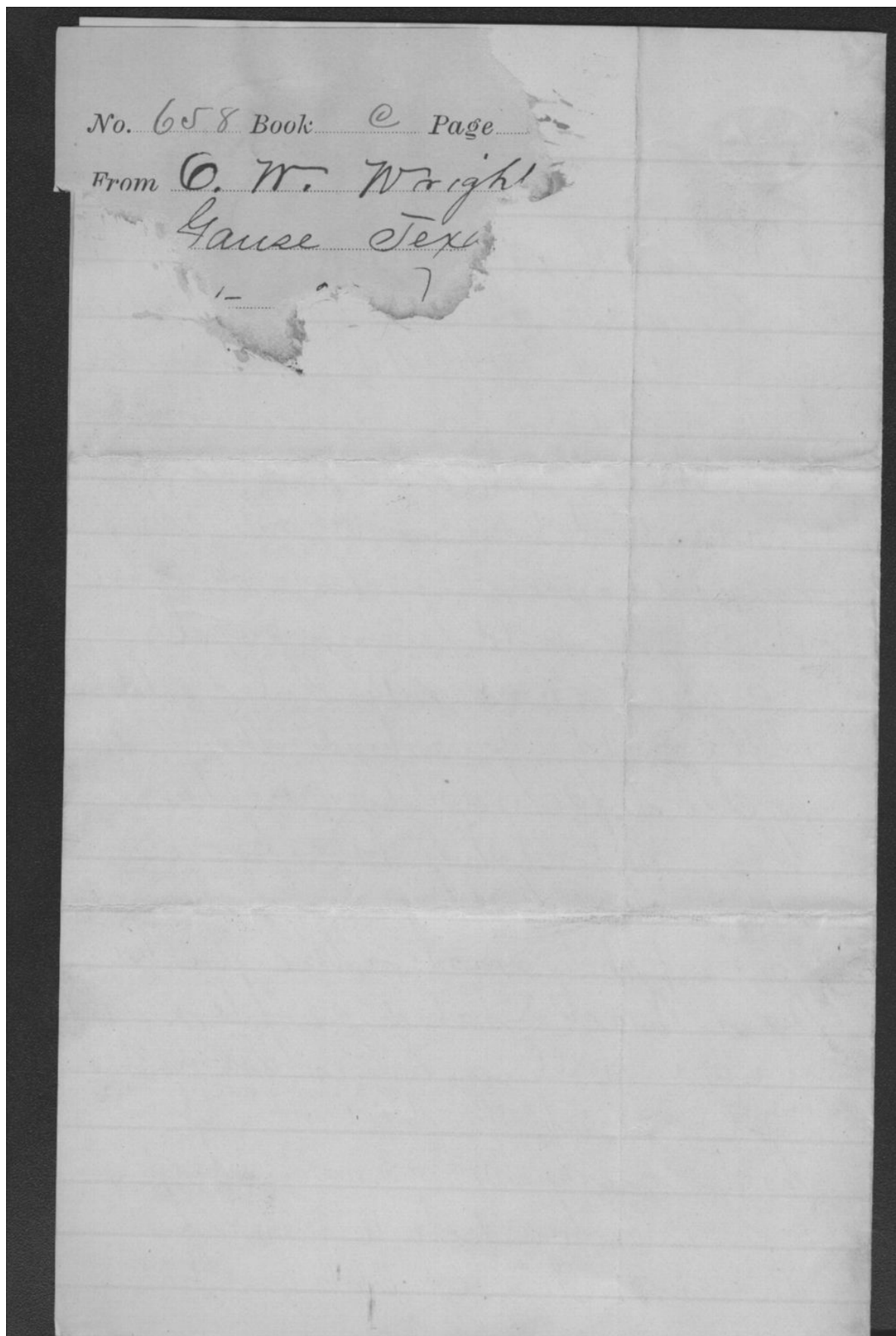
Q. R.

D. W. Wright
answer hence a way
immediately

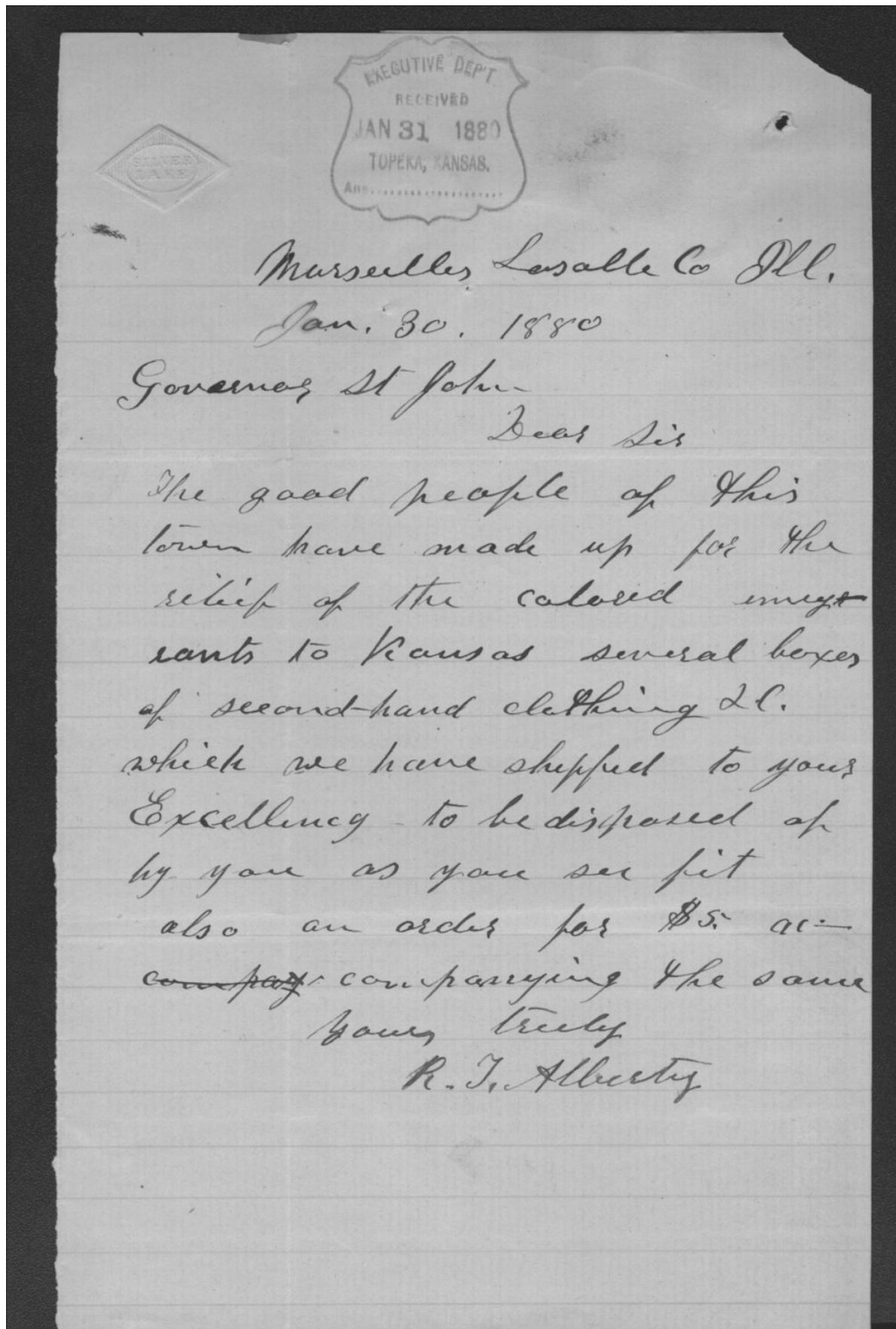
Jan 28 1880
Jan 28



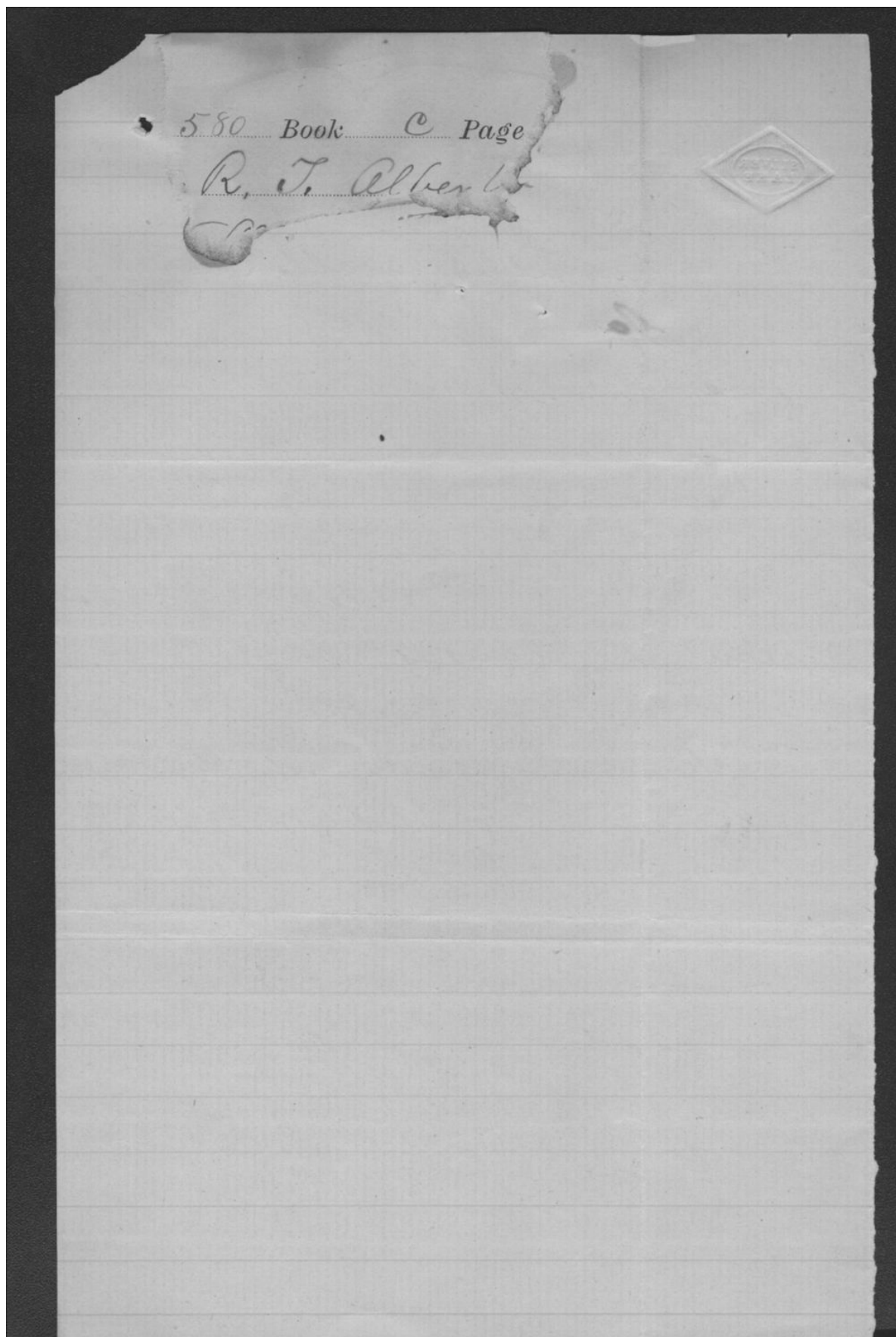
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Southern Illinois Normal University,

Carbondale, Jackson Co., Ill., Jan. 30th 1880.

To Gov. St. John.
Topeka, Kansas.

Your Excellency,

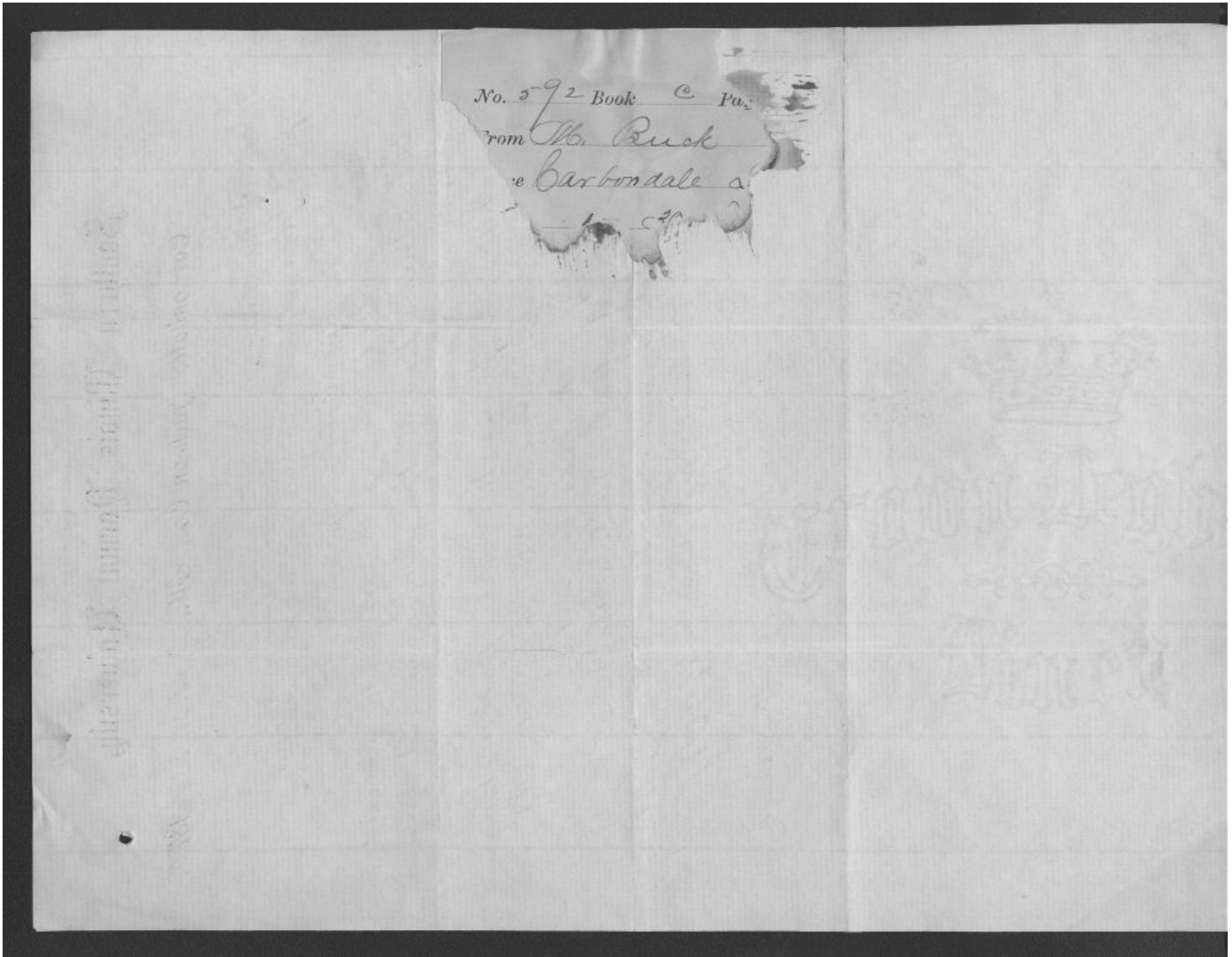
Please find enclosed
ten dollars toward the relief of colored immi-
grants.

Will you please tell me whether they are
likely to make valuable citizens, and add to
the prosperity of Kansas or not?

Our students debate with those of the
Northern State Normal on the exodus question,
next month. This is my excuse for appending
a question to my gift.

Yours, M. Buck.

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Dear Sir. Will you please inform
to whom letters containing money
for the "Negroes of the Exodue" should
be addressed. We can not send much,
but we want it to go ^{to} the proper person,
Shell Rock. W. F. Moyer 31 1880.
Butler Co. Iowa,