

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

### Section 53, Pages 1561 - 1590

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

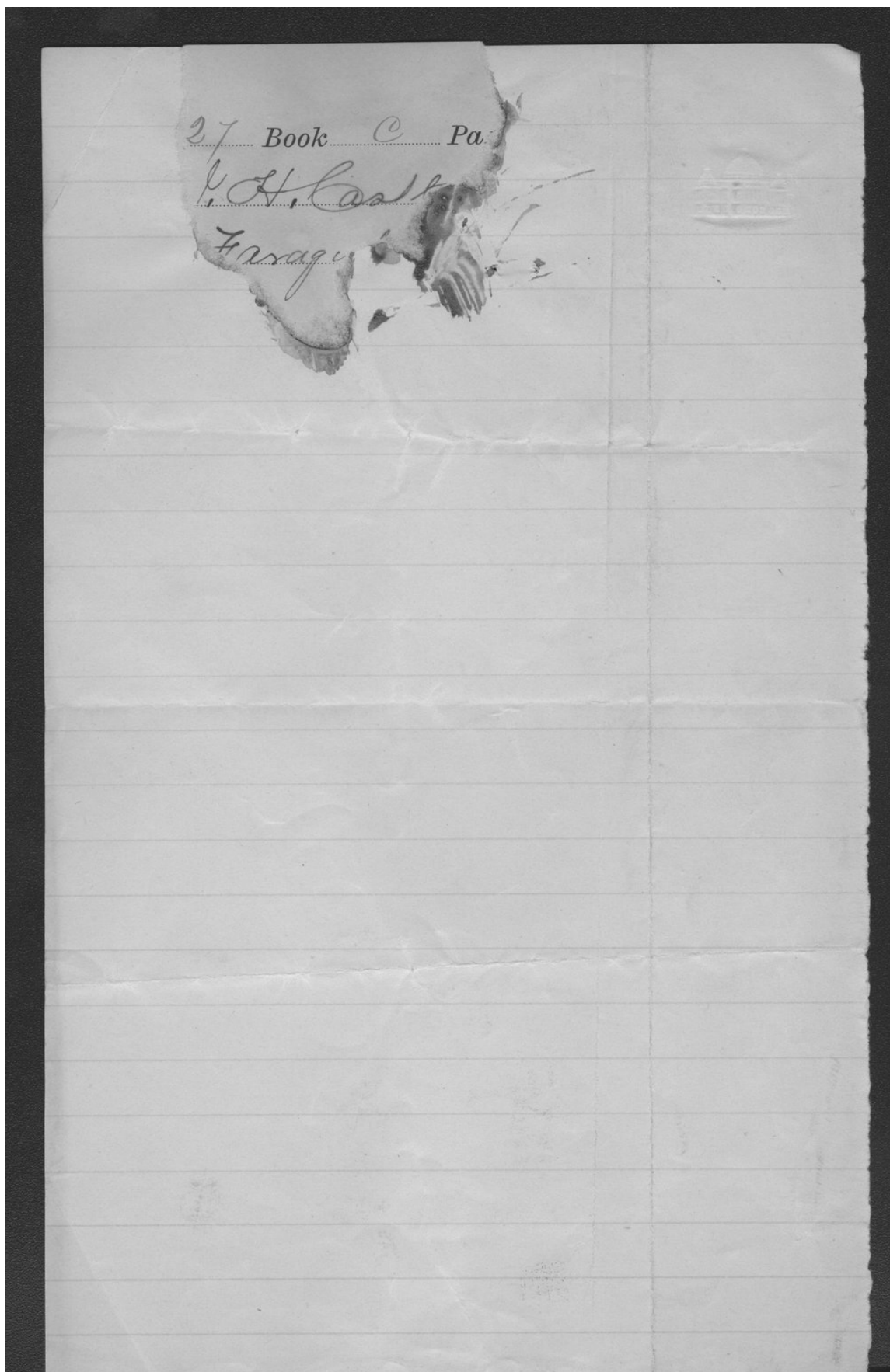
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

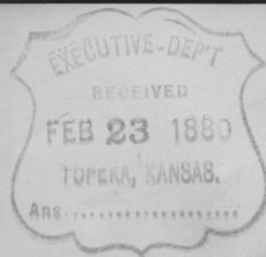
Item Identifier: 210296

[www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296)

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Cincinnati  
Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> 1880.

Gov St John

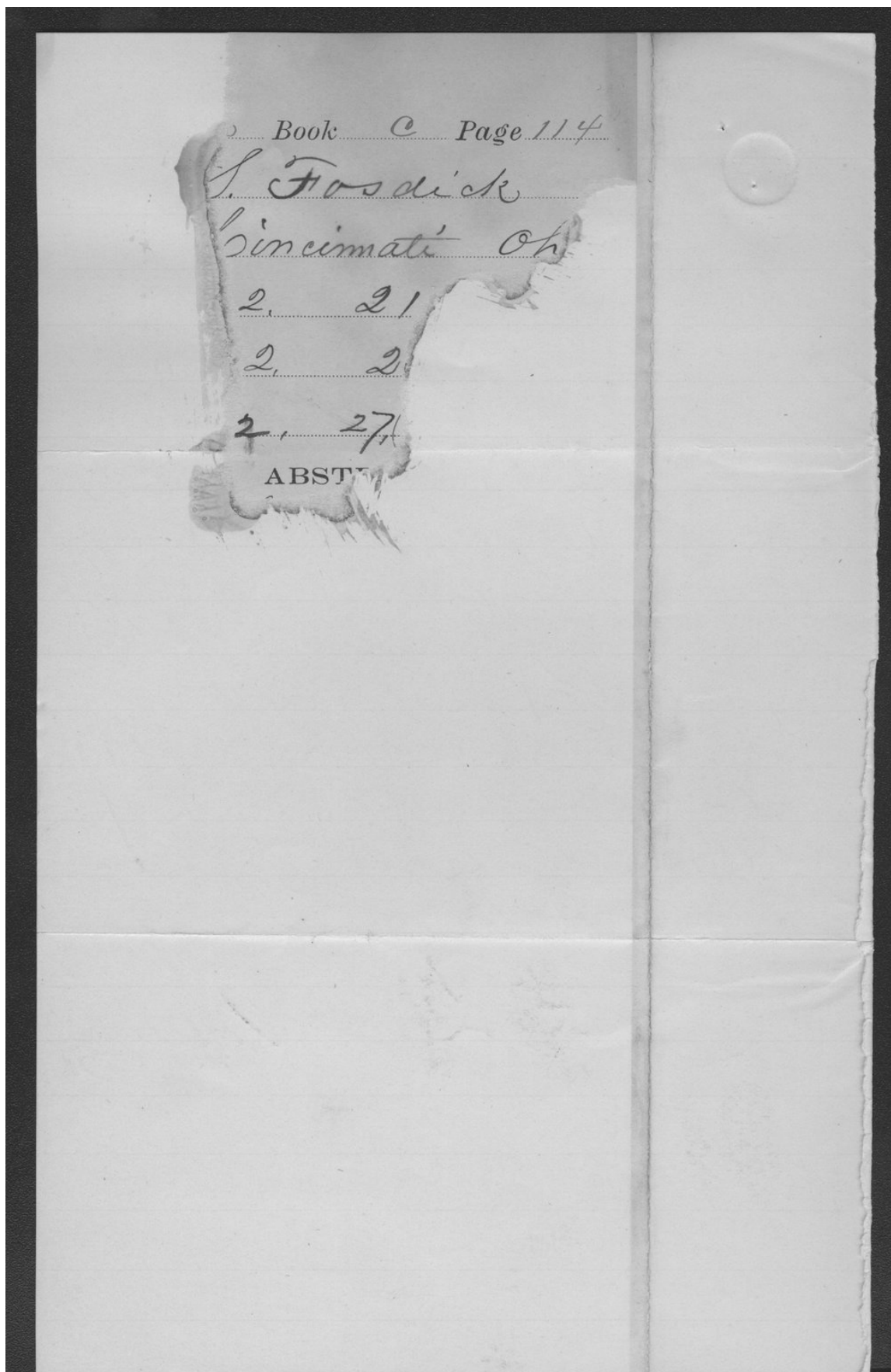
Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of  
enclosing herewith for  
your disposal check on  
Am. Exp. Bk N York for \$100.  
to aid in the relief of  
the colored refugees in  
your State.

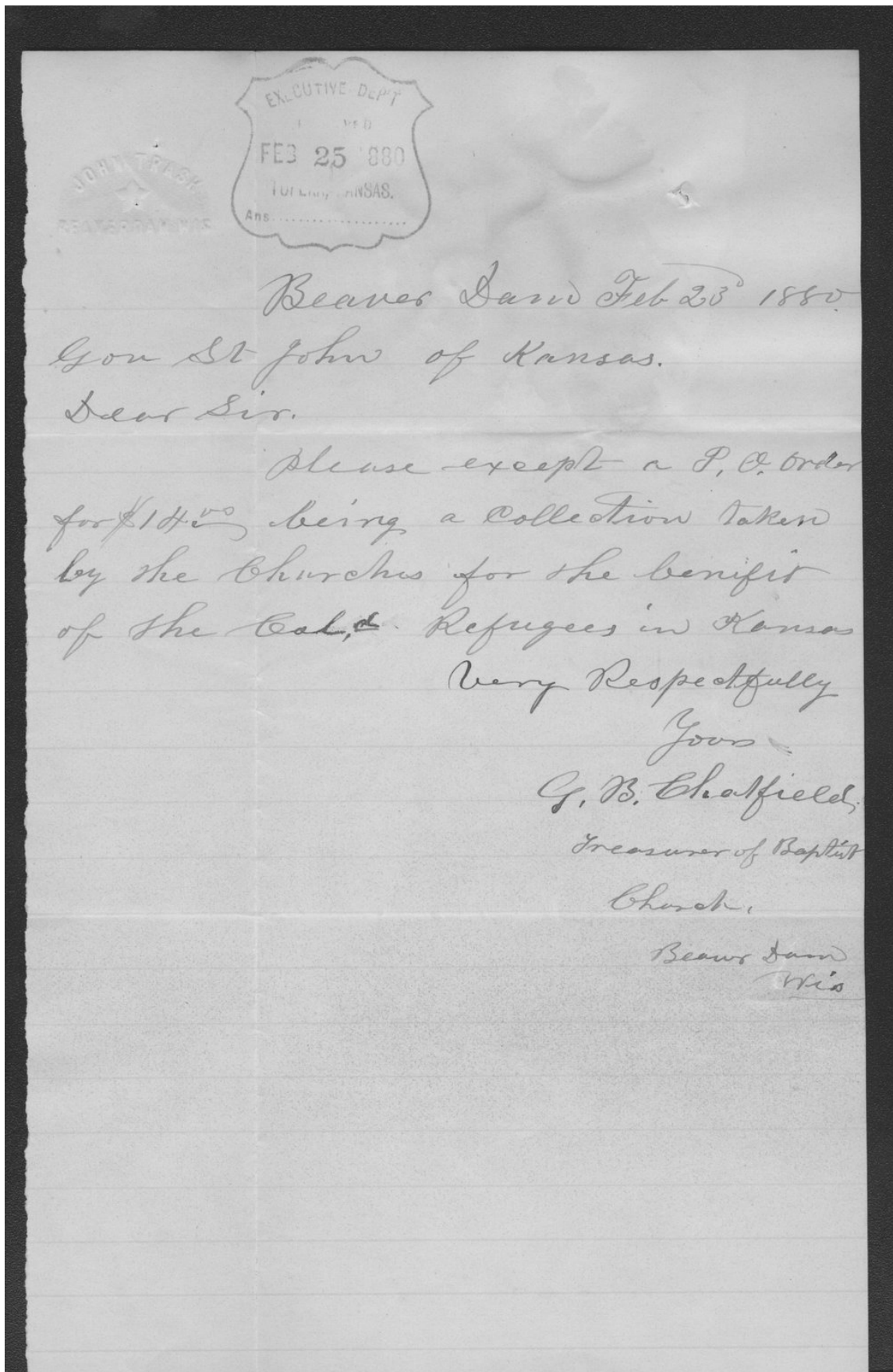
Respectfully Yours  
Saml. Boswick.



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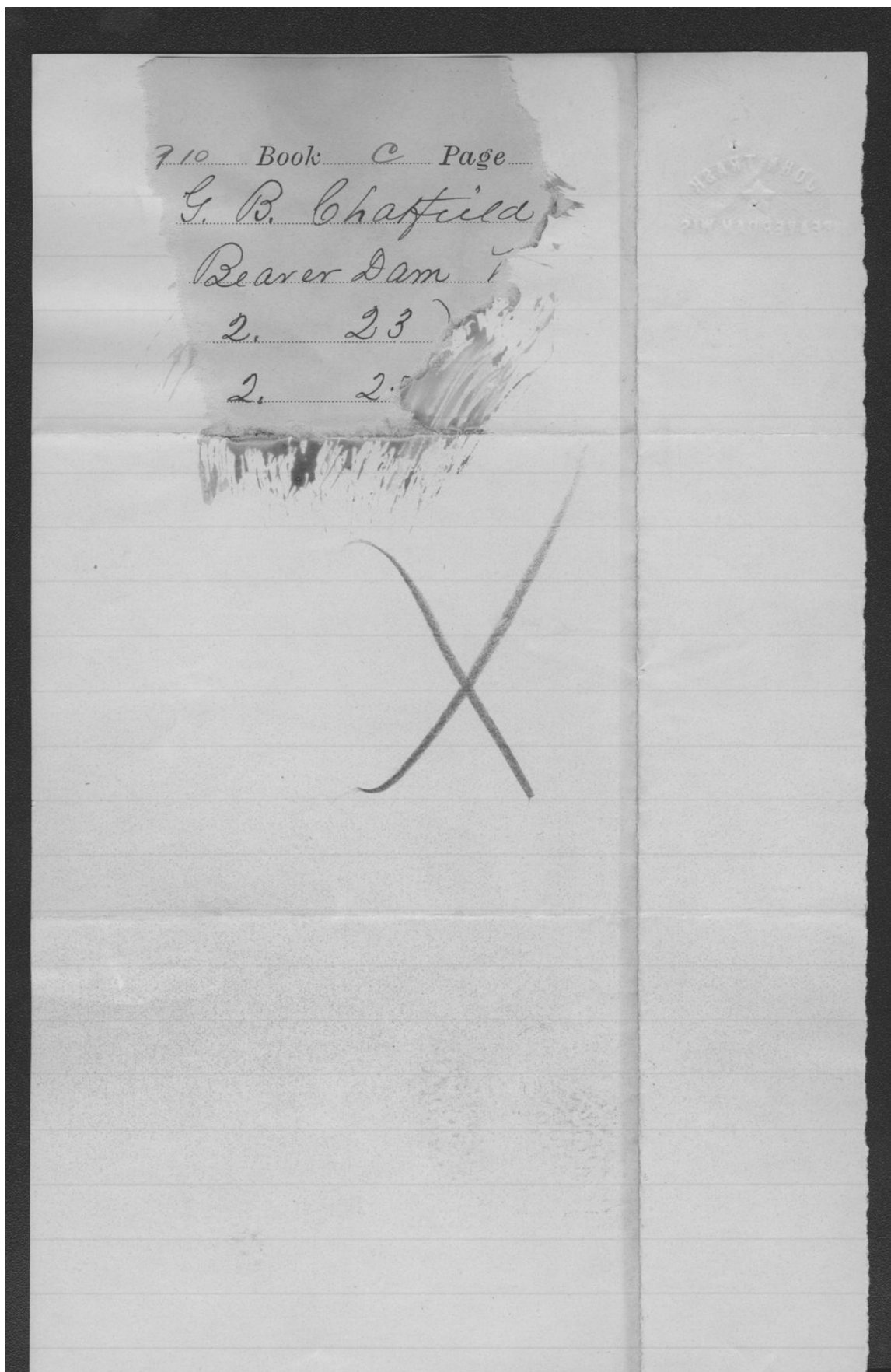


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EXECUTIVE DEPT.  
RECEIVED  
FEB 25 1880  
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Paw Paw Mich Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1880  
To His Excellency Gov. St. John

Dear Sir

I have watched with great interest the <sup>noble</sup> work that you are doing for the refugees and have felt like helping you - I did publish the appeal of your relief society in our County paper with an appeal also written by myself & urged the people to give but it met with no response - Had I not then been so tied down by other duties I would have made a personal effort to have raised means, I had hoped that some one that could would feel drawn out to this work but now have done it - Last Saturday I went to our County seat & consulted with some of our leading men about it - One man who was formerly our representative in our state legislature & is now an aspirant



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for gubernatorial honors from a granger  
stated point - seemed to be very ignorant  
that you needed help there reading regular-  
ly so papers he said. He insisted that  
unless you made a proclamation calling  
officially for help he could not consider  
that there was any cause for action.

I found other public men acknowledged  
the necessity of immediate action &  
promised help if it was called for.

Now I propose if it is necessary to give  
some of my time to this matter by holding  
meetings in different parts of the county  
& inviting the people to give. If I had  
your personal statement of your  
present need it would be of great service.

It looks as though you would not  
be able to provide work there for all  
that need it. I presume many could  
get employment in Michigan if  
they were here, but as to the wisdom  
of their coming here upon the question  
I am not able to determine.



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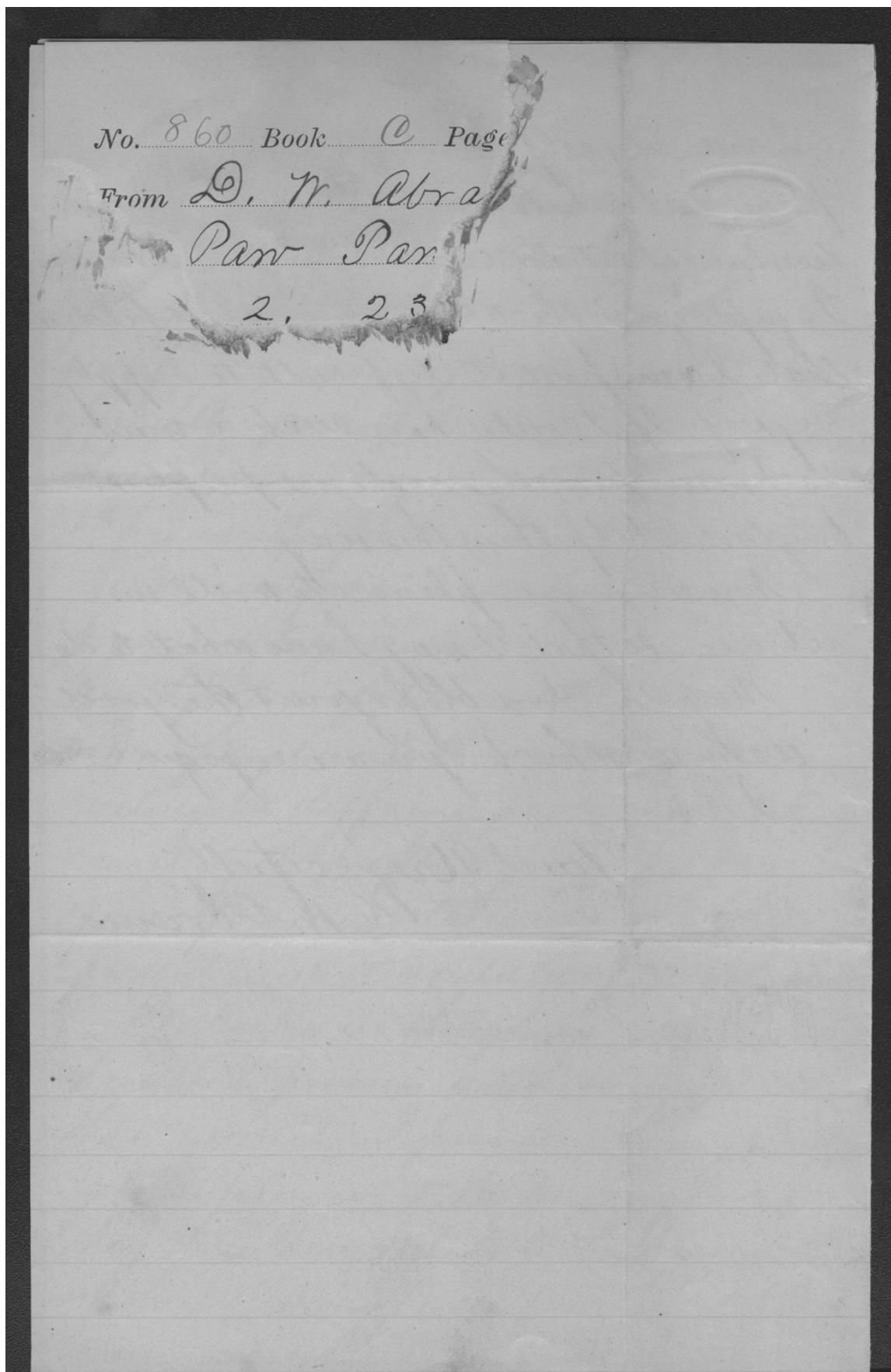
I am myself in need of a good farm hand but I ~~am~~ have to be so particular about the character of the man I employ on the account of my children that I ~~am~~ find it difficult to supply myself. If I could have such a man as I need from these colored people should be glad to help them this way -

Now will you please to write me at once so that I may know what to do  
May the Lord bless you & the good work in which you are engaged  
I am

Yours Respectfully  
E. W. Abrams

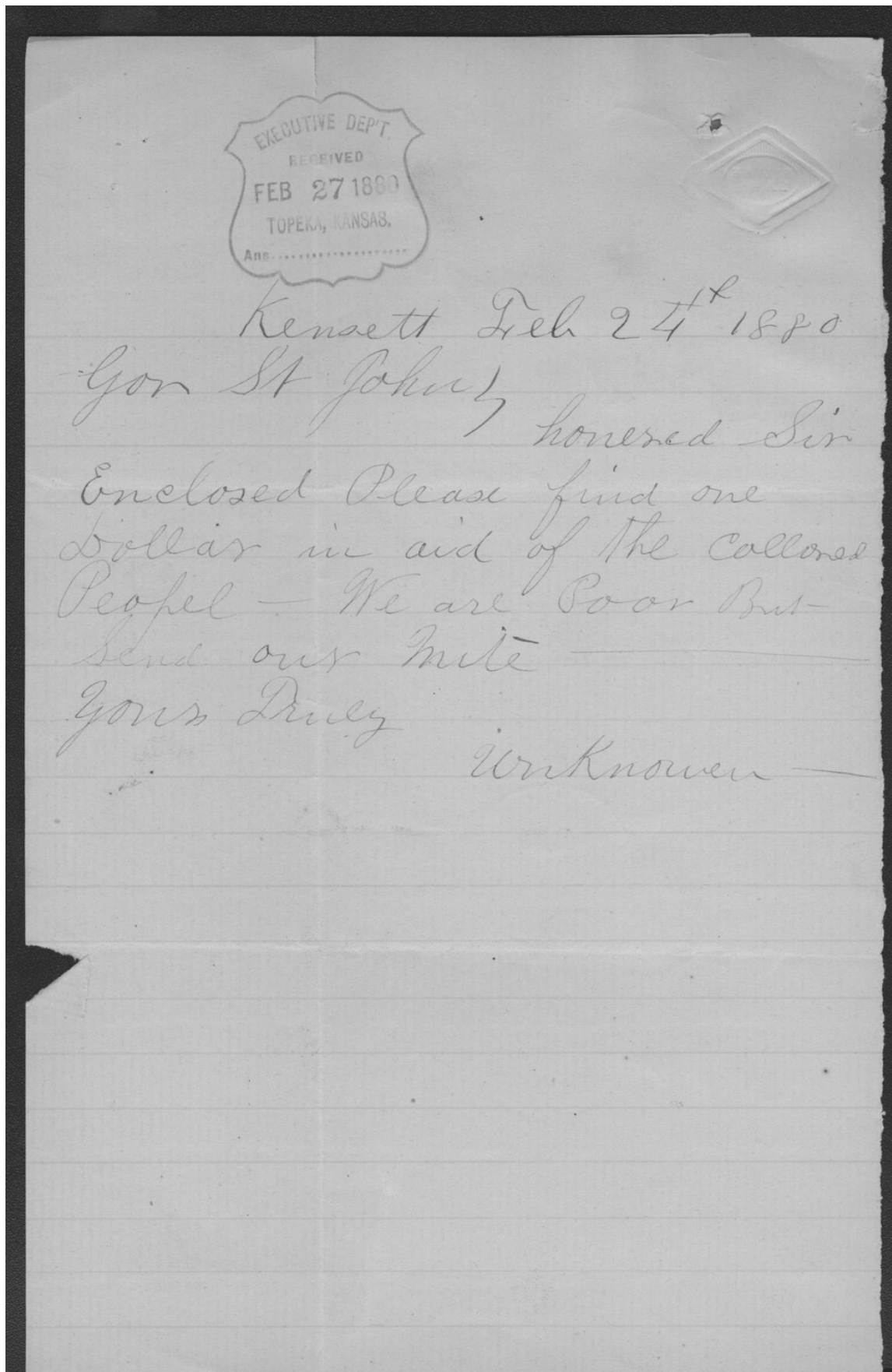
P.S. Please name what is needed most  
E. W. Abrams

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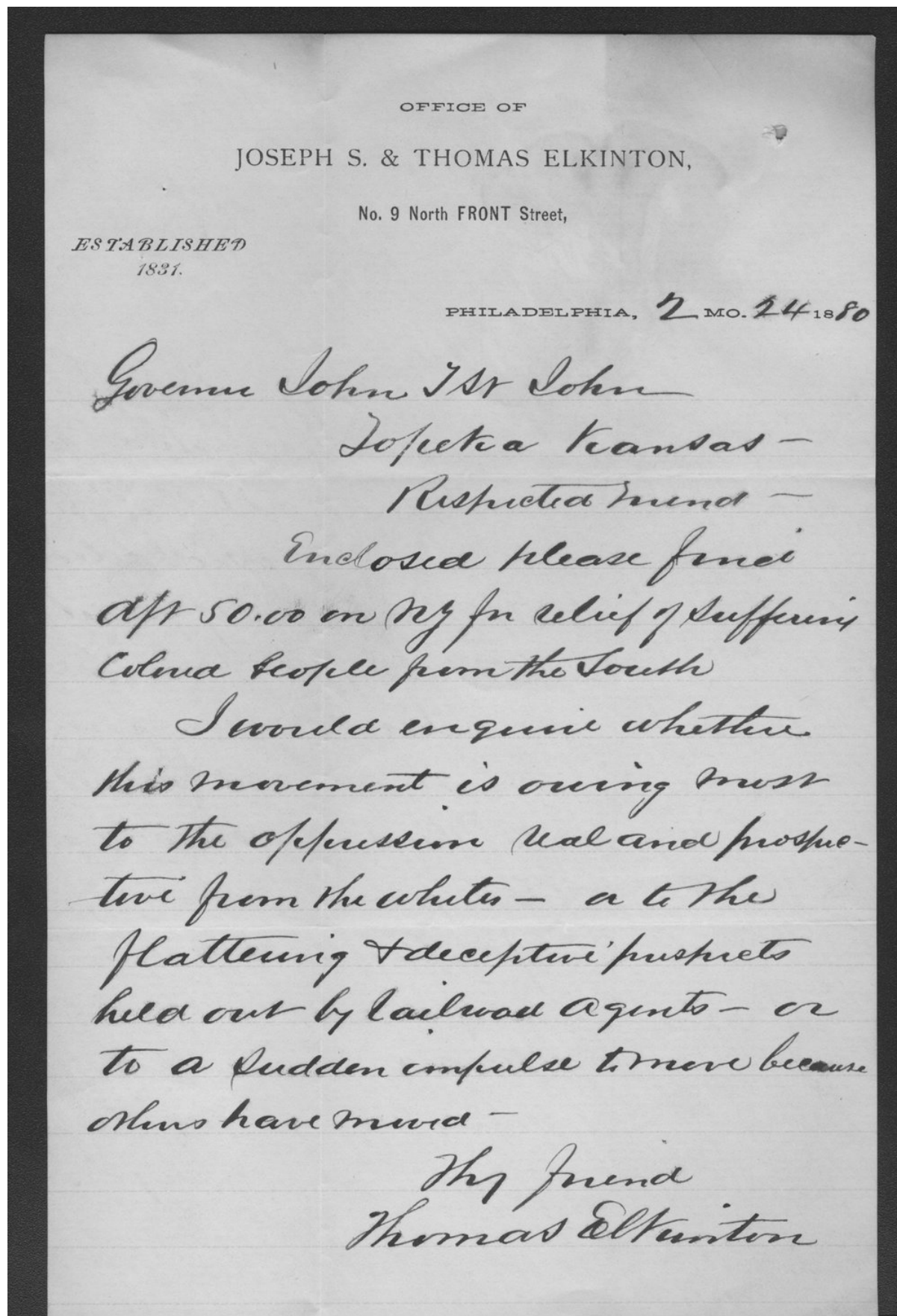




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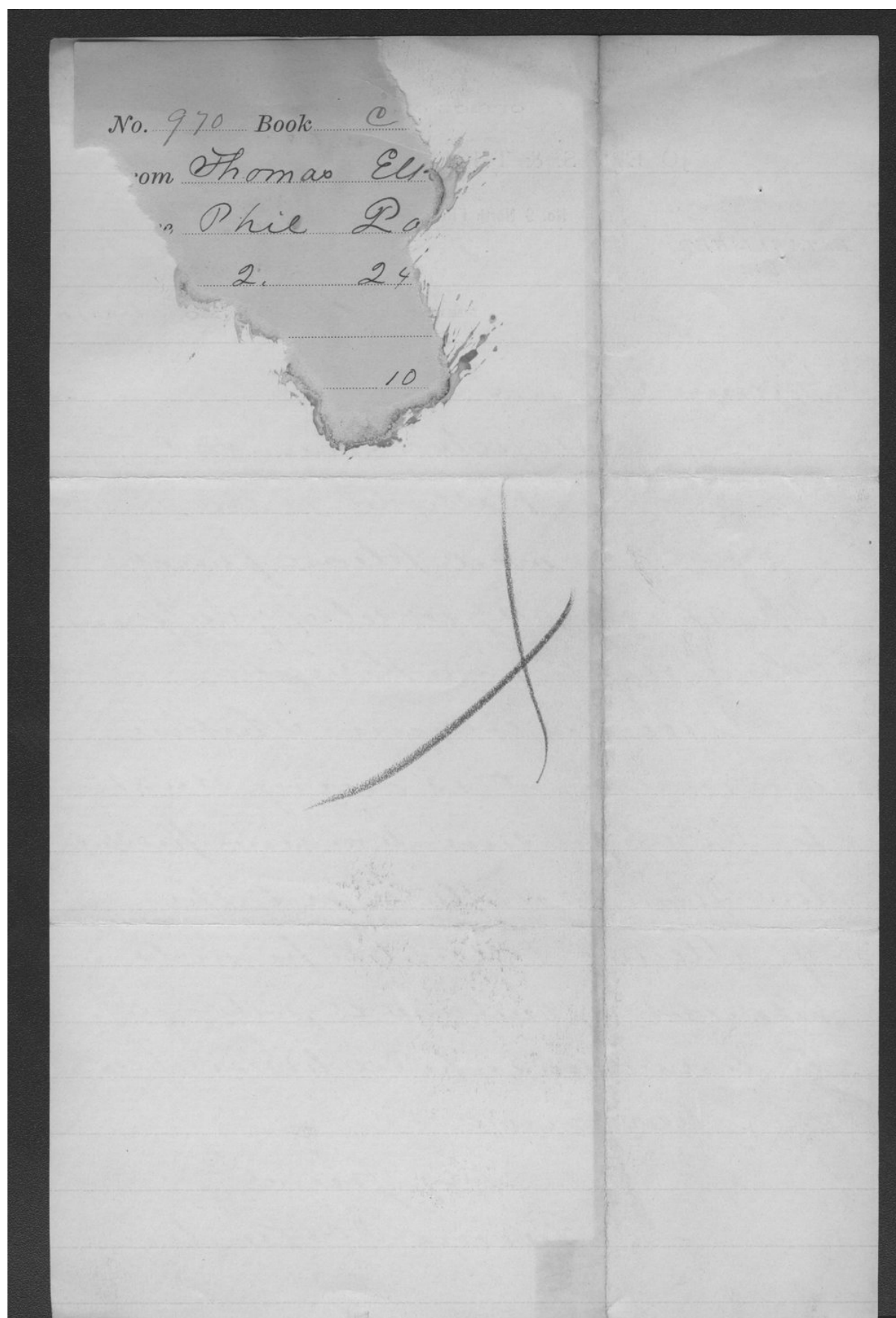


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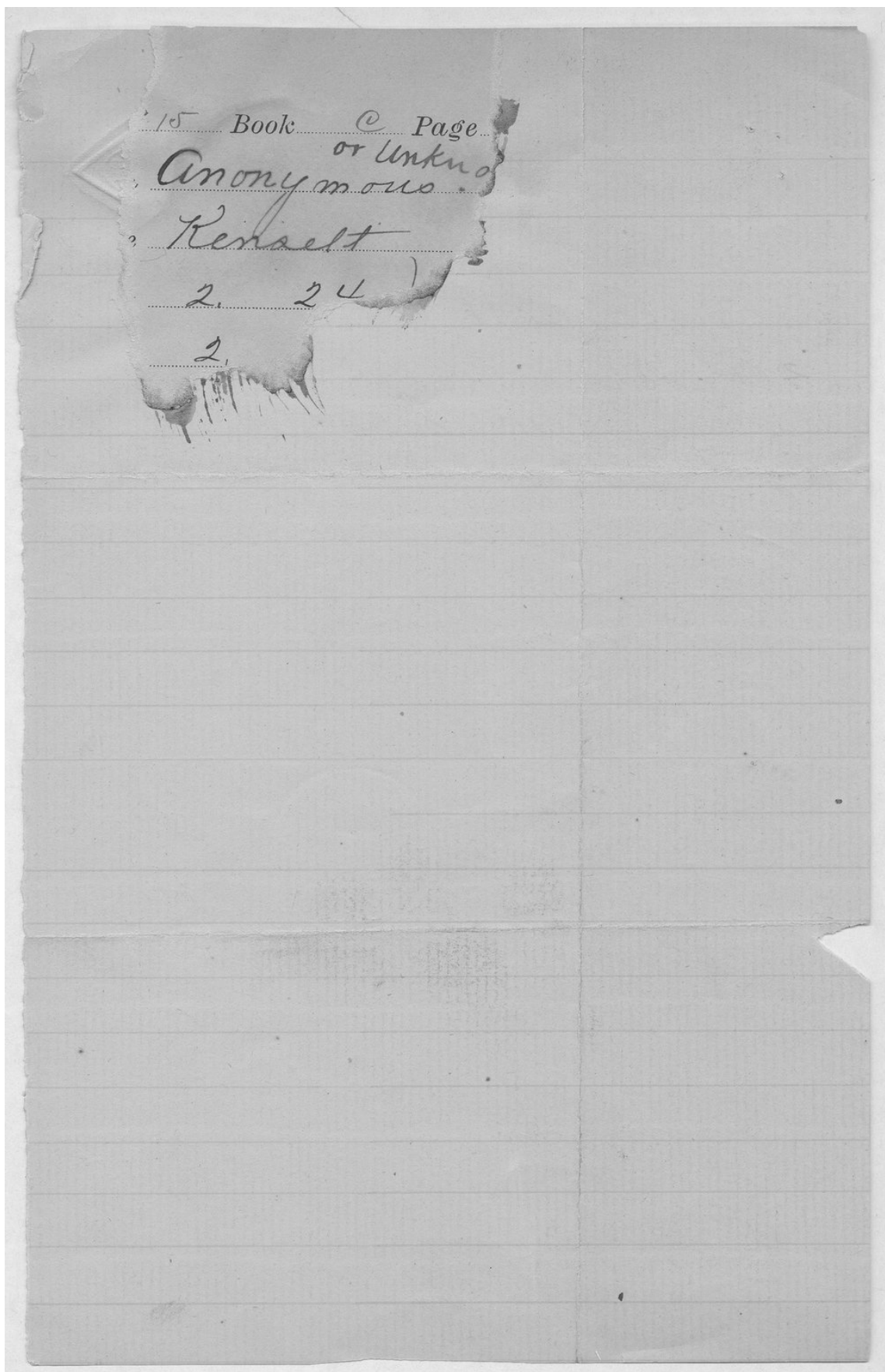




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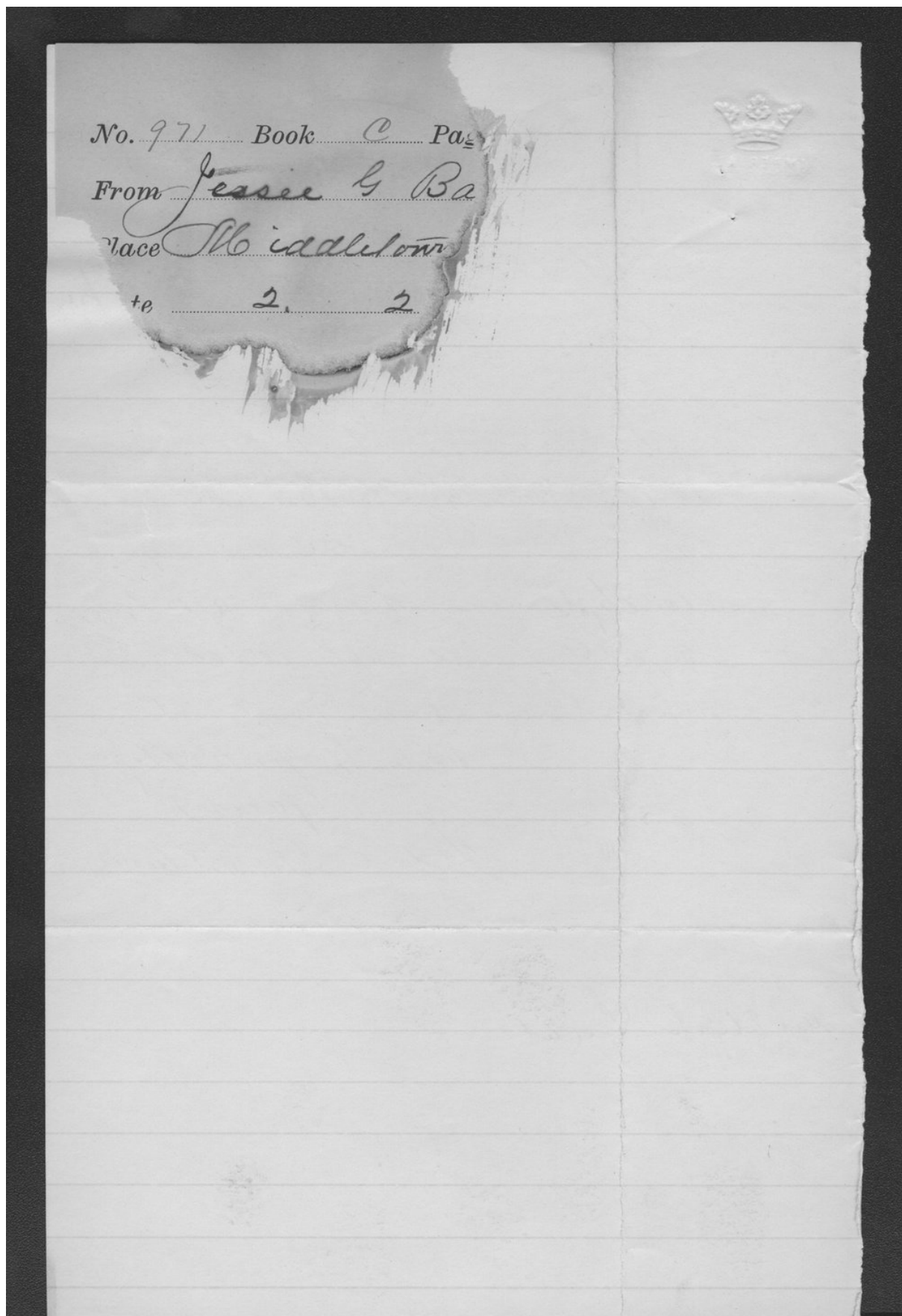
Mi'ddletown Conn Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 70  
 Gov. St John. Kansas  
 Dear Sir

I Enclose Drft to your  
Order, Twenty dollar <sup>7 Colrs Emigrants</sup> to Aid the.  
\$10. of which is contributed by  
Mrs Eliz Lucas of this city and \$10. by  
myself Please apply it as  
proposed and send me receipt

Very Respectfully,  
Yours  
Jesse G. Baldwin

Mrs Elijah Lucas

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
RECEIVED  
FEB 28 1880  
TOPEKA, KANSAS

**THE Virginia Star,**  
Organ of the Colored People.  
211 AND 213 NORTH SIXTH STREET.  
STEWART, WOOLFOLK & CO., PROPRIETORS.  
TERMS: Payable in advance, \$1 per 6 months, or \$1.50 per year.  
Book and job printing of every description a specialty.

Richmond, Va., Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 1880

To His Excellency Gov. St. John.

Dear Sir

As a spirit of inquiry has been aroused in our community in reference to the condition of the colored people who have left the South for Kansas and as the press from time to time contain terrible descriptions of the suffering and destitution of the colored emigrants to your State we a committee appointed by a large and influential gathering of the colored people of this city to inquire into the truth or falsity of the alleged suffering endured by these emigrants most humbly take the liberty to correspond with you on the subject. We would be deeply indebted

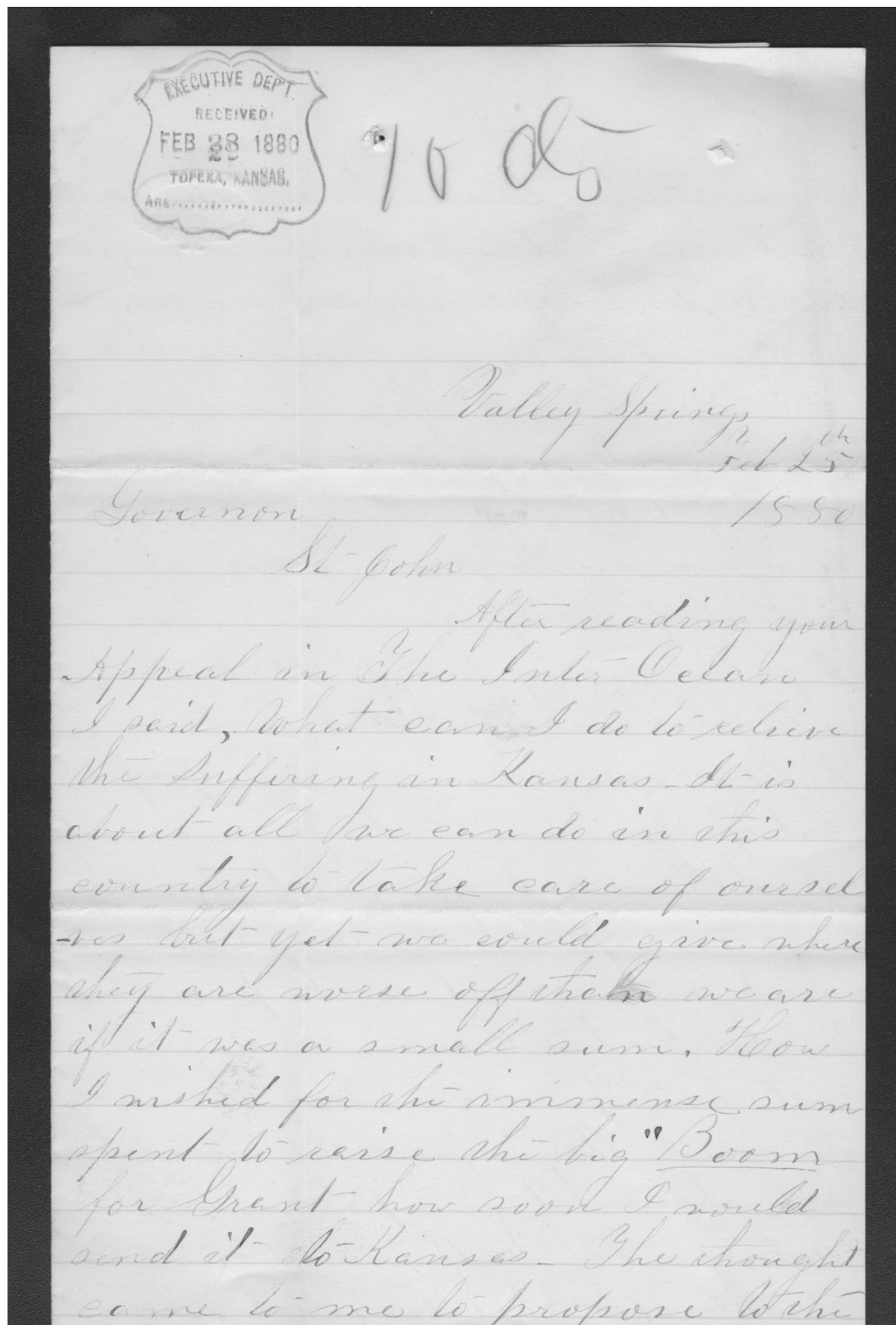
## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

89. J. Book: C

to your Excellency for any information  
you could forward us on the subject.  
Your Excellency may rest assured that  
a feeling of deep interest and sym-  
pathy exists among the colored people of  
Richmond as to the condition of their  
brethren in Kansas. By transmitting  
an early reply & as may be convenient  
your Excellency would confer upon us  
a great favor. We beg leave to sub-  
scribe ourselves most respectfully  
Your Obedient Servants  
R. J. Chiles Chairman  
J. J. Foster  
S. W. Robinson  
P. H. Woolfolk  
B. F. Turner.  
Direct R. J. Chiles care Virginia  
Star Richmond, Va.



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Leading readers of the Inter Ocean  
that we send lin. ets. in stamps  
to you, to benefit the colored people  
as you saw fit, you may laugh  
at this & think it a small  
affair, but if they all respond  
to my call, you will think it  
quite a sum. you know the  
circulation is very large &  
I feel in my heart that this  
will be a success. I do not care  
to have our names in the paper  
but if you would keep an account  
of what is sent you, & at the exp-  
-iration of two or three weeks  
send the amount to be published  
in the Inter Ocean then we  
will know <sup>if</sup> we have done them any  
service. My sympathy was always  
with them it is a part of my  
nature. My Father was one of  
the first Abolitionists. we



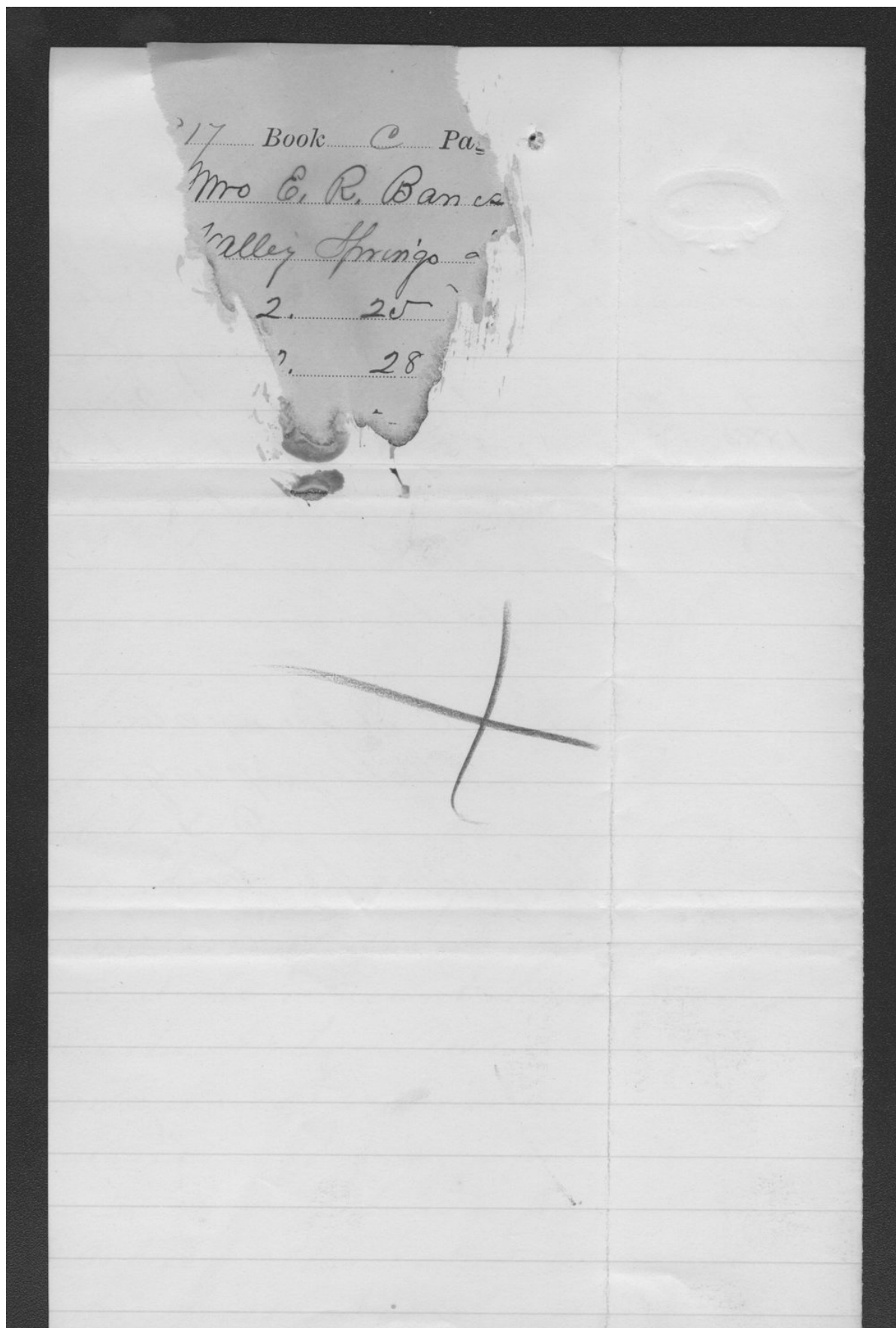
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lived near James G Barney  
& Garret Smith he was personally  
acquainted with them. I think  
Father is the only one living of  
that little band of seven, Barney  
& Smith as leaders. I won't intrude  
any further. you will find my  
little note inclosed

Respectfully

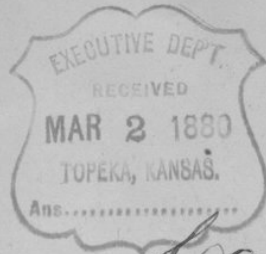
Mrs E R Bannister  
Valley Springs  
D G  
Minnehaha Co

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N.Y.  
Caroline Center

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 1880

To Pres Emigrant aid Society  
of Kansas

Dear Sir thinking that  
you might desire a piece  
of land for the purpose of  
settling some of the many  
Emigrants now flocking to  
your state. I write you  
I have a Quarter Section  
about 12 miles north of Topeka  
in Jackson Co. a good  
piece of Prairie land in  
a good locality and I would  
like to dispose of it if I can  
reasonably

I write to you thinking  
that possibly you might  
find it desirable to locate

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Some of the emigrants on  
it advantageously.

If this is desirable for that  
purpose, please write to me  
what it will bring if dis-  
posed of for that purpose.

Truly yours

R. Higgins

Caroline Center

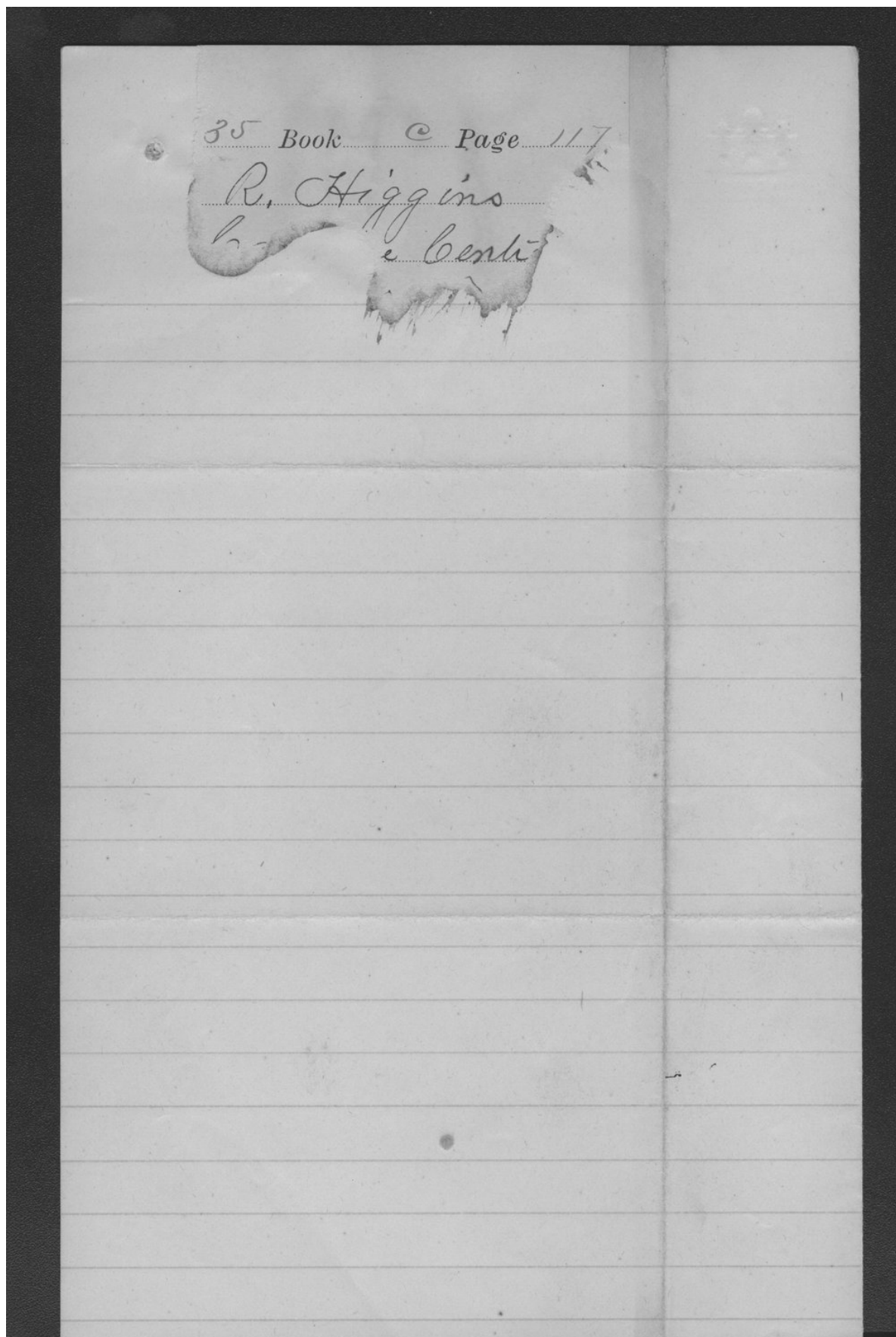
Tompkins Co

N.Y.

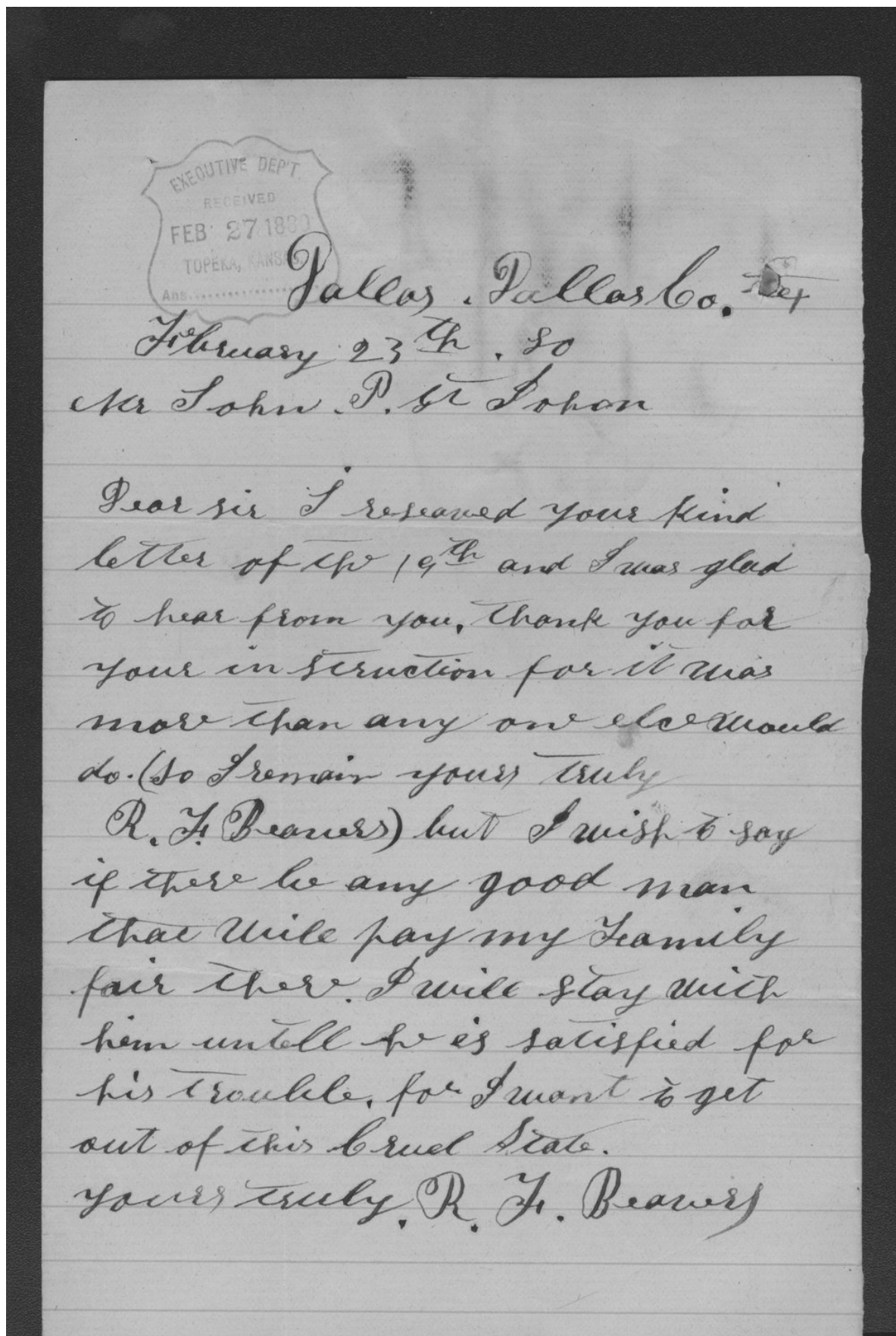
Description, Sec 21 Town 9 Range  
16 Jackson Co nearly due  
north from Topeka about 12  
miles away



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Beavers, R. F.

No. 886 Book C Page 1

From R. F. Beavers

Place Dallas Tex

Date 2. 23

Rec'd 2. 27

2. 27



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Feb. 25, 1880

No. 44.

### HALF RATE MESSAGES.

### THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions, limiting its liability, which have been presented to by the sender of the following message.  
Errors can be guarded against only by repeating message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company is not held liable for errors or delays 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. R. BREWER, Sec'y. NORVIN GREEN, President.

Dated New York 23 1880

Received TOPEKA, KANSAS 8:30 PM

To John St John

Draw on the  
merchants salt  
Bank for one  
thousand dollars

Beng B Sherman  
Pres  
J. W. Allen  
Colored Relief fund

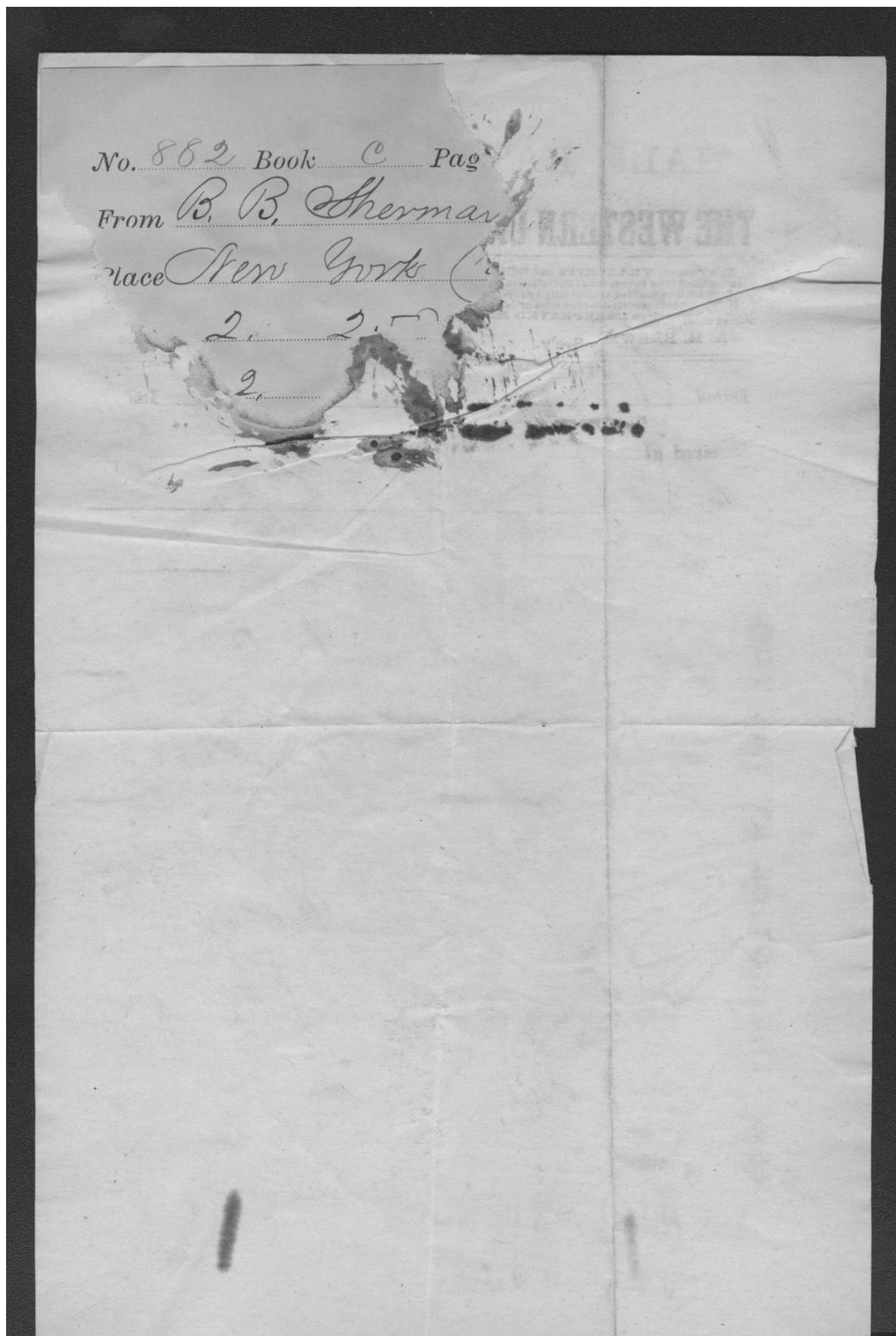
15 College St  
4 Ex 100

EXECUTIVE DEPT.  
RECEIVED  
FEB 23 1880  
TOPEKA, KANSAS.  
Ans. ....

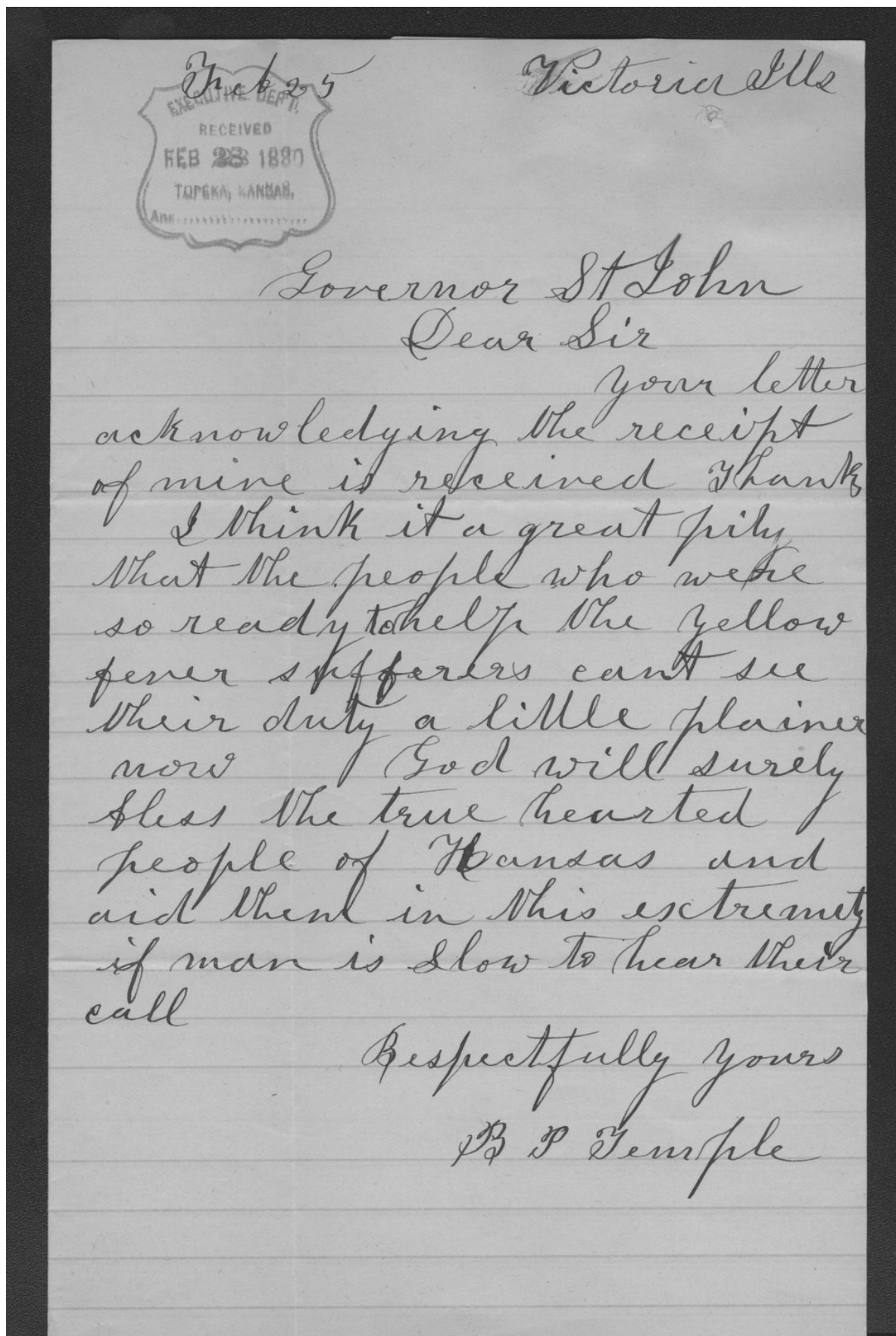
READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.



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