

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 56, Pages 1651 - 1680

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

urge the necessity of
forwarding relief stores
That the suffering is
great and the relief
treasury depleted.
On the other hand, we just
now learn from Kansas
papers, or rather slips
sent to us, that at one
time this winter has the
treasury been without
funds & that there are
now about \$8,000 or \$10,000
on hand. That the refugees
are well provided for
and that only in very excep-
tional cases has there been
any suffering.
Now if it is
a fact that your pro-
ple need and ask more
help to carry the refugees

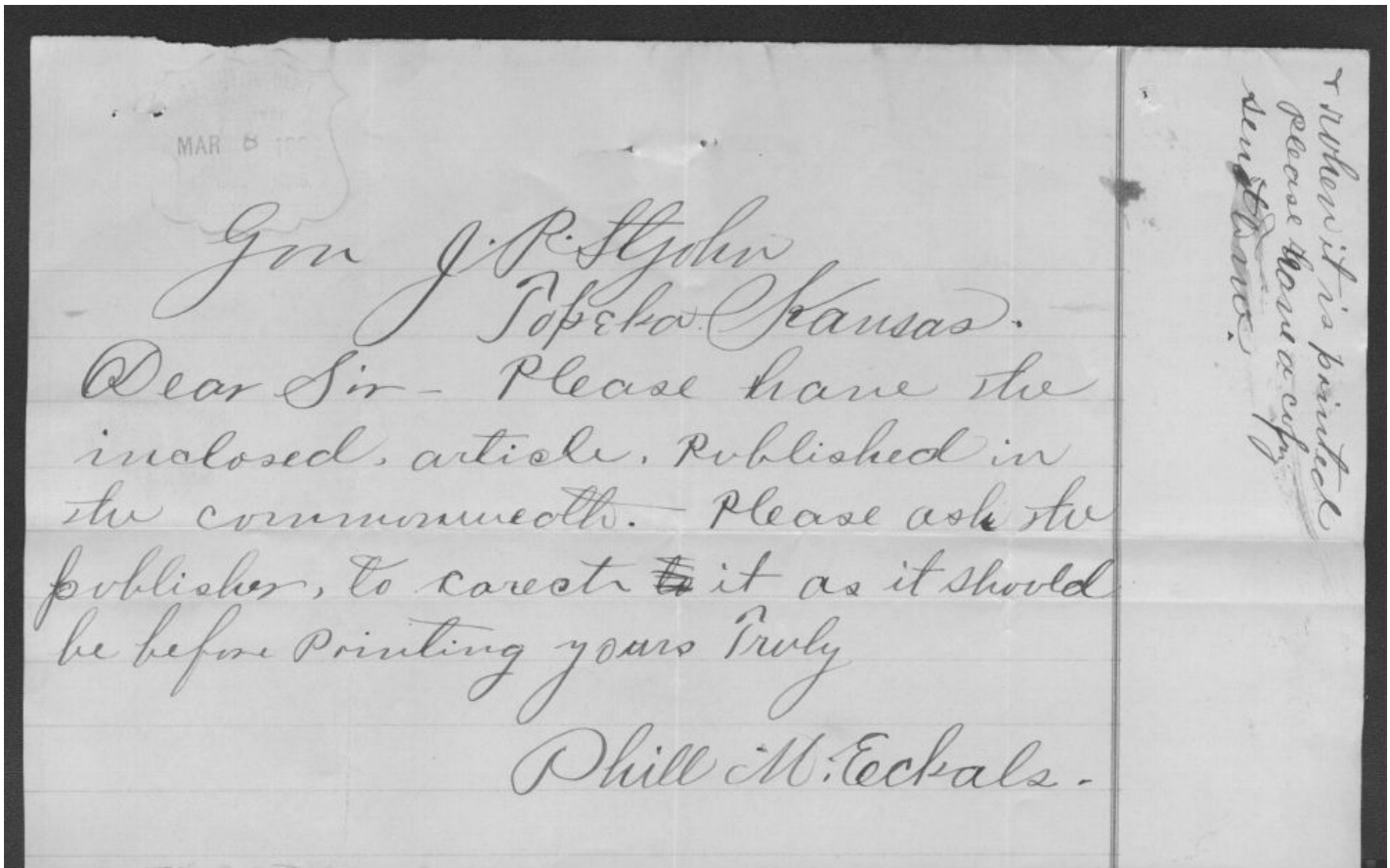
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

To a time when they
can be self supporting,
we, and no doubt thousands
of others, are ready to send
in our "mite." But if
you really need nothing
further. And as is strongly
hinted, funds are poorly
managed and possibly div-
erted from their legitimate
object, by agents we
would like to know it.
We are ready to help
relieve suffering anywhere
but we do not think it
best to send money to
Kansas to be spent by
agents in travelling &c.
If you need our little
please advise us to whom
to send it. We would
be glad indeed to

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

86 Book C Page 124
 W. C. Cope
 Please from you immediately with regard
 to the true state of
 affairs as you will
 see that if the agents
 are telling the truth money
 ought to be forwarded
 and if your papers tell
 the truth people ought
 not to be imposed on
 we will hold our funds
 until we hear from
 you
 Very Truly Yours
 Mch 4—
 W. M. Cope

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Oswego Kansas March 4th 1880.
 You J. B. St. John.

Dear Sir, if it Please
 the Editor, Please Refere this remarks
 to the Commonwealth, to be published.

it seems that the Real, cause which
 inspired us to come so successfully,
 from the South, it is an oppression,
 that has been long induced. we felt
 that we are tired lining among
 People, who for a certain prejudice,
 that was intended, by the will, of
 the great, magnanimity, as he did,
 when he had heard, the cries, of the
 children of Israel, ~~clix~~ in Egypt.
 let our Friends in the north think
 of the Israelites, when they were down,
 in the land of Egypt, where Pharaoh
 was victorious, in Power, over that
 dominion. & we hope that whilst
 so ^{may} are asking, the question, what are the
 & negroes coming up here, for? I hope
 that the great God, will reveal
 it in the minds of our friends in the
 north, as the Israelites could not induce
 the unhumanable Practices, upon them
 & neither can we, stand the South, & are
 oblige, to take Refuge, to a land, where

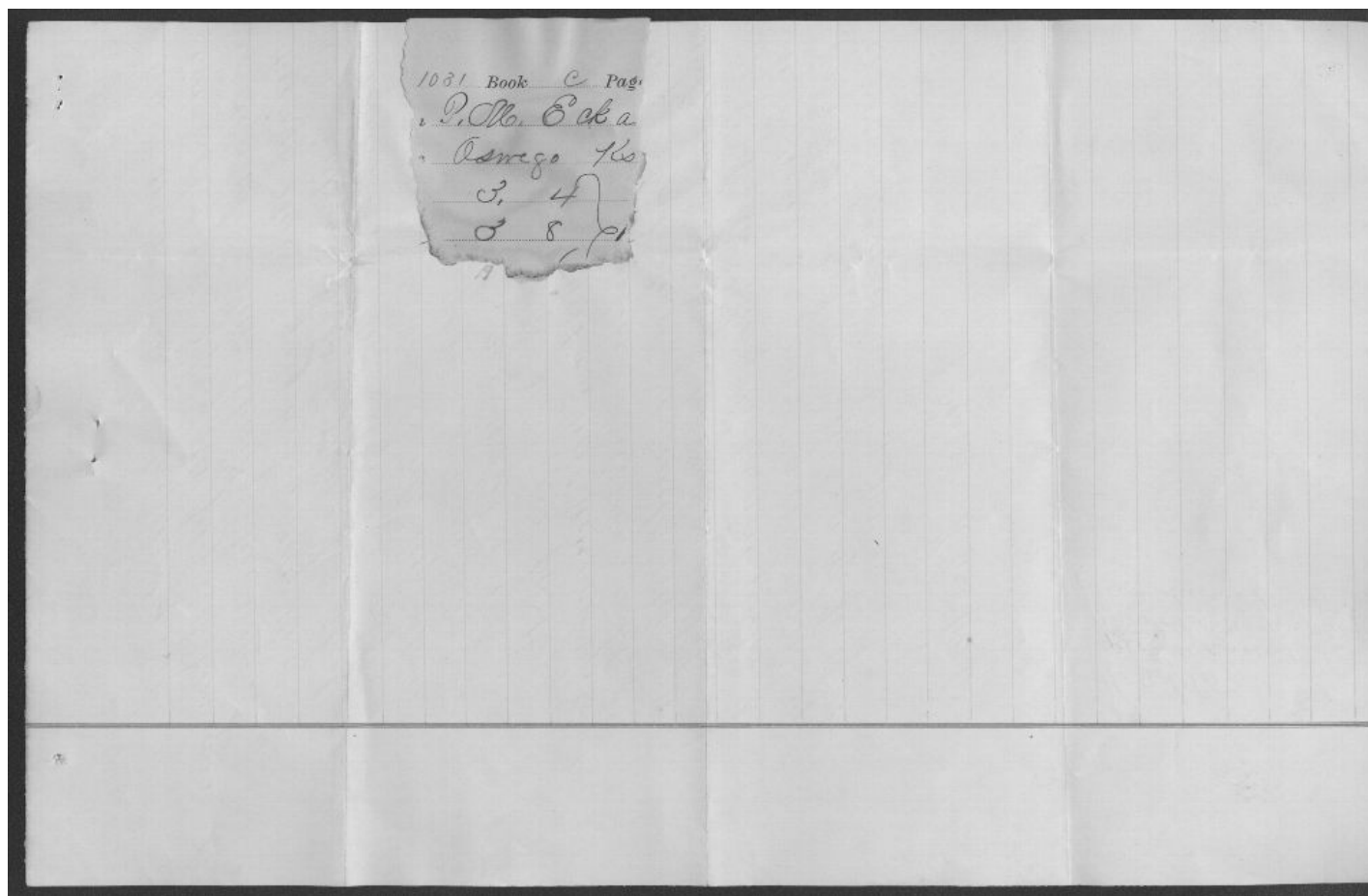
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

our rights will be perpetuated. we
did not come, upon the people of Kansas,
to depend on their charity, tho. some,
through their ignorance, may show it.
our intention is to make an effort,
relative, to the improving of our
race, which we find, impossible
for us to do in Texas, or any where,
in the South. we want to act, accord-
ing, with our will, as part of
the party-politics, harmoniously, and
without violence. violence. and I
hope that these remarks may gain
the sympathy, of the public sentiment.
that ~~it~~ they may not realize, such
a thing, as the negro coming
north to get a mole and forty ac-
res of land. Very truly


Phill M Eckels.

Mr. Editor -
Please direct to
Mr. Eckels as per above
kind regards, to me

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Richland Kan March 4⁴

Mr St John

Sir it is
 with regret that I have to write to you
 in regard to the colored people or the
 Exodis coming to this state now have
 you ever stop to think to bring them
 up here you know there is white
 men enough to do the work will
 you look at calafornia what the
 Chinese are a doing in that state
 now what is or what will be done
 in this state you go to the K.P. Depo
 when they come here and you find
 them a saying in the flower like
 Hays suppose that there was that many
 white men in there then the word
 transp would be used and they would
 be in the cooler and then on the stone
 pile would you take as ^{many} pains or show so
 much charity in go money white people
 I will answer no they come up and say they
 can not get there right do we as white
 people get justice done no I will say
 now you will say I am a democrat well I
 was 3 years in the S. mesovirga but went from

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Illinois was in 7 Battle from Fort Lincoln
promising Landung Richburg Rural ^{and sister} House and got
an honorable discharge now I think you
will take more interest in the white
people and let the coloured people
go for god sake. Let the niggers
go and help the white people.
I do not ask for help but
there is some that do the way
you are doing you are bringing
them up in Adams side think
of white and let the Black go
no name.

1014 Book C
Anonymous
Richland



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

JOHN CROW,
Attorney and Counselor at Law,
89 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE,

Newark, N. J. March 5 1880

Gov^t John S. St. John
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir

Enclosed

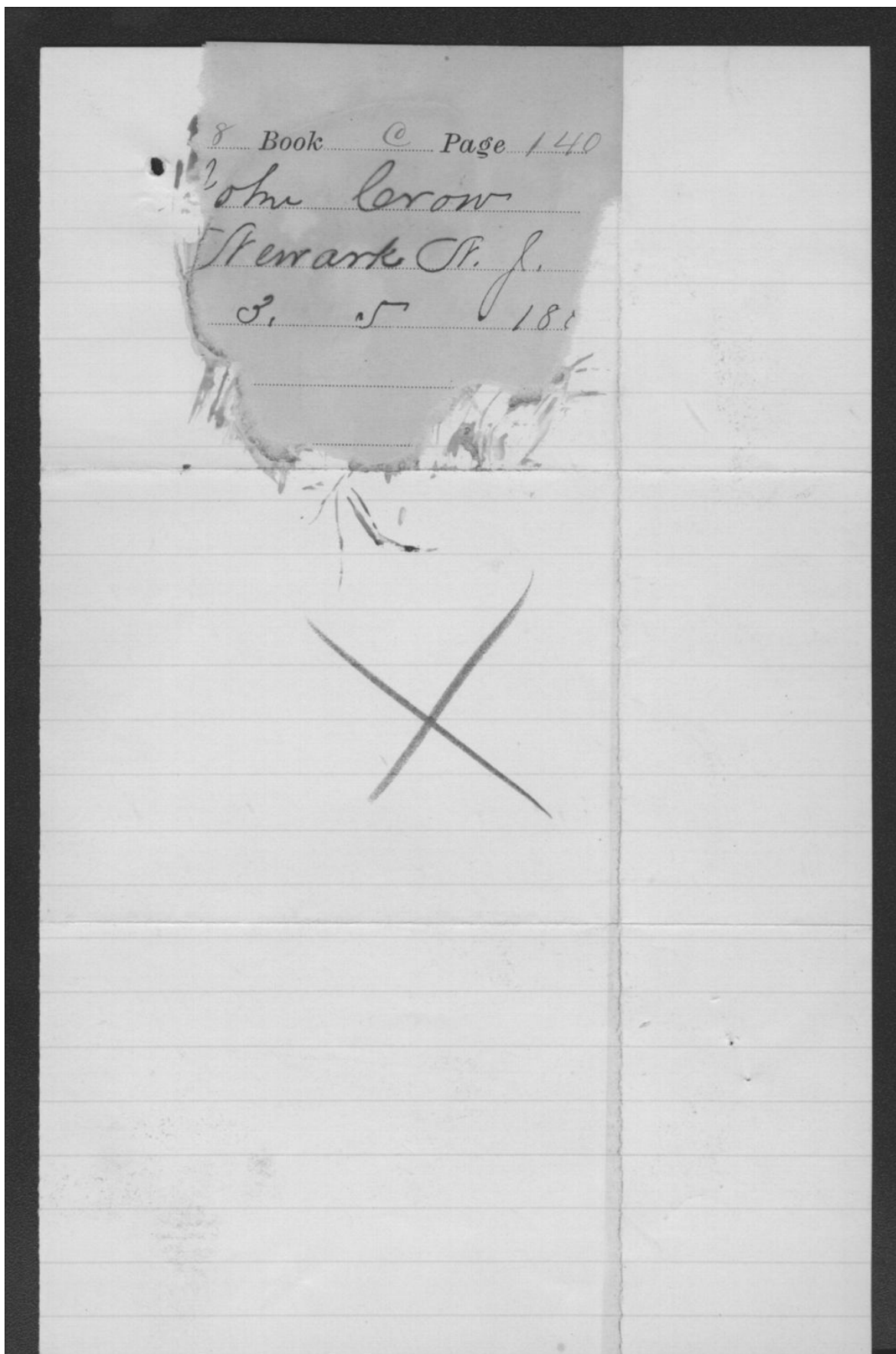
please find postal order for ten
dollars in aid of the colored ref-
ugees.

Will you please
send me any circular which you
think of interest in relation to
the ~~matter~~ subject, and oblige

Yours truly

John Crow

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Newport R.I. March 5th 1880

Gov. Geo. P. St. John

Dear Sir

Enclosed

please find check on New York
for one hundred and forty nine
dollars and sixty two cents. This
money is forwarded by a commit-
tee on the exodus appointed by
citizens of Newport. to obtain aid
for refugees. The same committee have
also sent (via Philadelphia in care of
Joshua L. Bailey of 210 Chestnut St) nine
barrels and two boxes of clothing directed
to yourself, they were shipped by Clyde
Linn Wednesday last. They were sent in
the above mentioned way because

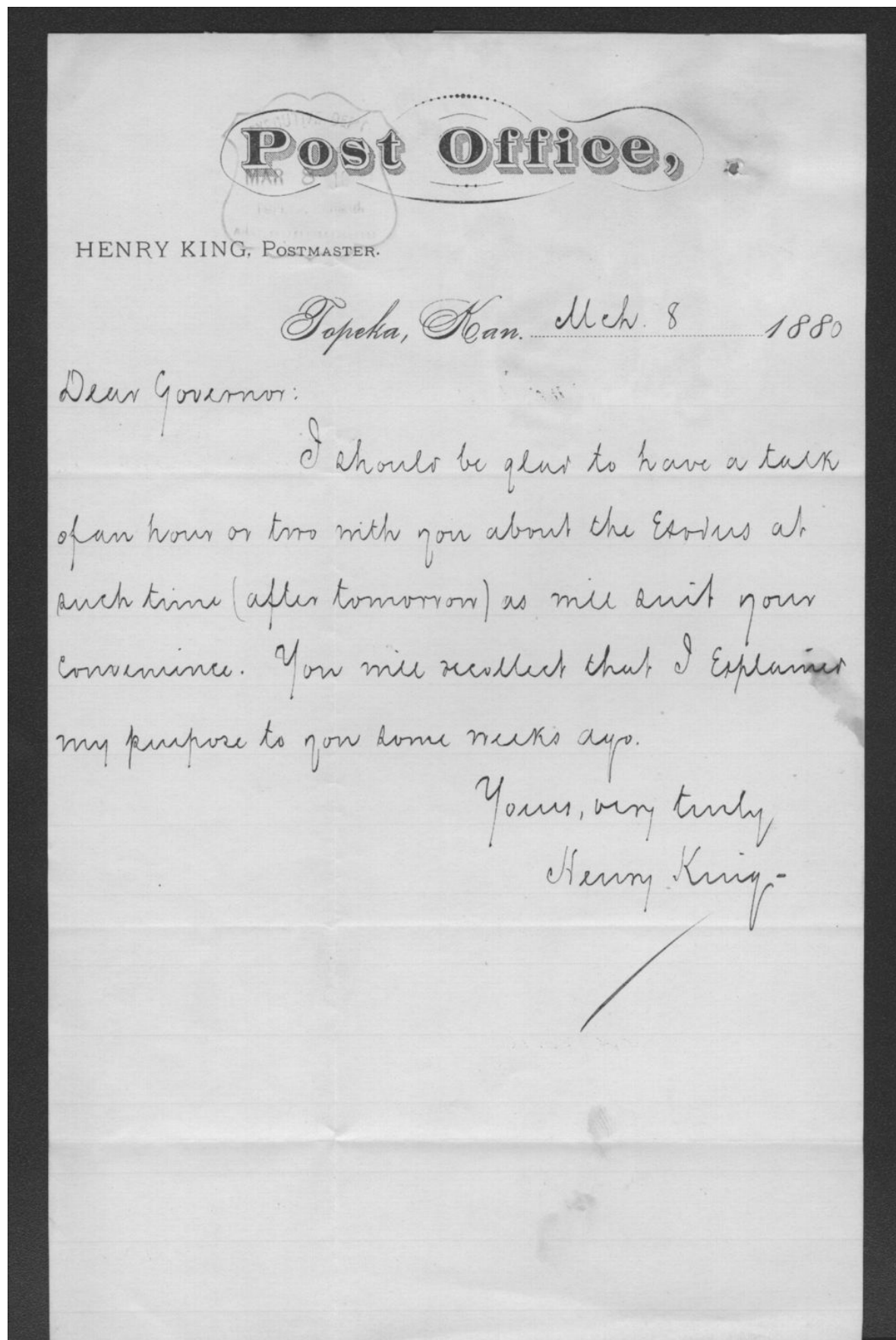
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

they would go free of expense.
Please acknowledge the receipt of
the goods and the check. We should
like to hear from the parties who
direct the distribution. That we
may use the facts if more
help is needed. The people in
New England are in full sym-
pathy with your praiseworthy
efforts in looking out for these
needy people.

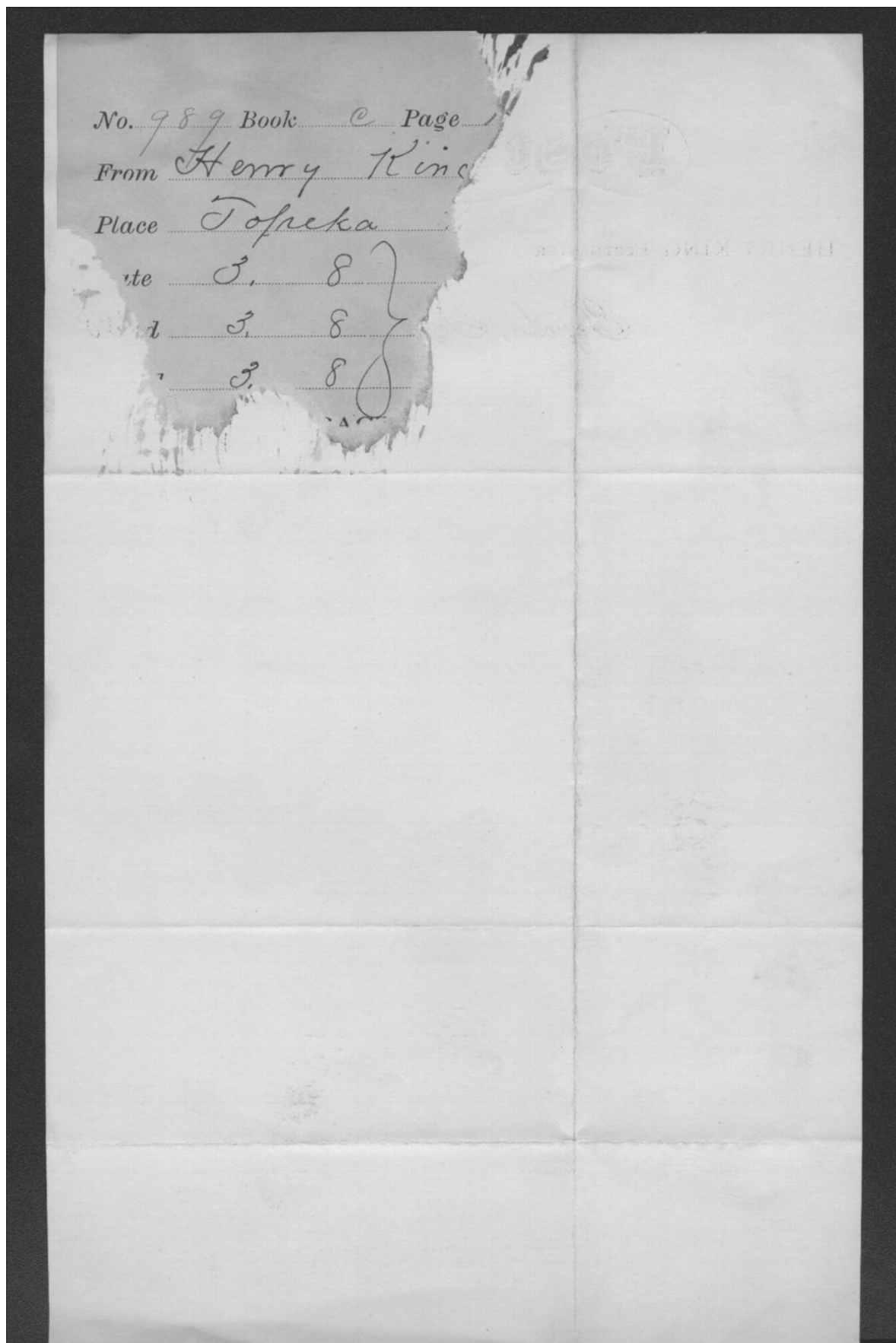
Very Respectfully Yrs.
M. Van Horn, Pastor of the
Union Congregational Church.
Newport R.I.
To Gov. John St. John Topeka
Kansas.

Page 140
Van Horn
R.I.
6, 1888

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

HON. A. B. JETMORE, President.
LAURA S. HAVILAND, Secretary.
J. M. BROWN, General Superintendent.

ELIZABETH L. COMSTOCK,
CORRESPONDENT.

G. W. CAREY,
Rev. J. E. GILBERT, } Vice Presidents.
JOHN D. KNOX, Treasurer.

THE KANSAS FREEDMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

—Incorporated May 8, 1879.—

The purpose for which this corporation is formed is to relieve, as far as possible, the wants and necessities of destitute freedmen, refugees and immigrants coming to this State; to provide necessary food, shelter and clothing for them when unable to provide for themselves; to succor the aged, the feeble and the sick; to aid and assist them in procuring work, and in finding homes, either in families, or when they wish to locate on Government or other lands; and to do and perform such other acts of charity and benevolence as the necessities of such freedmen, refugees and immigrants may require, and humanity suggest.

Rollins, Mich.
Topeka, Kansas, June 8. 1880

Gov St John

My dear Friend

A little home business made it necessary for me to leave Topeka for a short time. I had intended returning tomorrow but Horatio W Rust, Wm P Nixon, of the Inter ocean, & others have made an earnest request that I stay over in Chicago next Sabbath & have an Exodus Meeting.

They have long desired a visit from thee & they very much wish thou wouldst address them on this subject. Canst thou not meet me there & make a speech? The Chicago people will be delighted to hear thee! I do not feel at all able to do the subject justice. The meeting is probably appointed for the evening of the 14th Inst.

I wish thou & Mrs. St John cd. be there! If thou canst not be present, be so kind as to favor me with a letter, with any suggestions thou mayst have, for me to bring before the people & a message from thyself to them.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 99 & Book C Page
From Mrs. E. St. John
Place Collins Dr
date 3/11/91

Laura S. Hamilton met me in Chicago last week, she is looking better, expecting to return to Topeka in about 3 weeks. She sends kind messages of love to thee & thy wife & family. I find an open door for refugees in many places in Mich. Every where, I hear Gov. St. John spoken of highly, "What a blessing to Kansas to have such a Governor" said one. "I wish he might be the next President of the U. S. States!" said another. Praise the Lord for such a Governor, said a 3rd. Probably there is enough on the other side, to prevent thy being exalted above measure, sufficient for thee to escape the war, "Hoe unto you when all men speak well of you!"

With kindest love to Mrs. St. John & daughter
Thy sincere friend
Elizth S. Comstock.

Address
% Joseph Jones
1000 Indiana Ave
Chicago
Ill.



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

1

Salem 3 mo 9th 1880

John P. St. John

Respected Friend

Although
we have no personal acquaintance,
I take the liberty of addressing thee as
a friend, as I want to claim as a friend
any one who has done so much for the
good of a race, ~~escaping~~ from a condition
in some respects ^{worse} and in many cases, invol-
ving more actual suffering than the
dreadful and wicked institution of sla-
very could inflict - I am impelled to
address thee now, by having had one of
your local papers "The Daily Capital" of
February 28th, handed me by the editor
of our "Salem Register", containing insin-
uations and open charges of misstatements
of facts by our friend E. L. Comstock in re-
lation to the exodus, and the exodusters them

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

selves. We have received from E. L. C. very often the same information in the various circulars she has ^{distributed} circulated, not only in this country, but also in England as we are informed by a letter from a friend in that country received by us a few days ago. Her word was enough for us, but we were glad see her endorsed by herself, for the benefit of those who did not know her as well as we did.

Seeing her earnest appeals, we had them inserted in our local papers, and very soon they met a cordial and generous response from our own citizens, and our neighbours in adjacent towns, and I have had the great satisfaction of packing with my own hands twenty three large sugar barrels, and six flour barrels well filled with good clothing, new and old, boots, shoes, hats, stockings, mittens, gloves etc - very often as we pressed these good warm garments as closely as possible into these

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

barrels, my dear wife and son who were often present to assist, would with tears of gratitude to God for putting it into the hearts of the noble donors, often exclaim on inspecting some warm coat, blanket, comforter or some thing else ~~exclaim~~, Oh how this will help some poor freezing fellow, or auntie of little one, and the talk has become not only a light but a pleasant one -

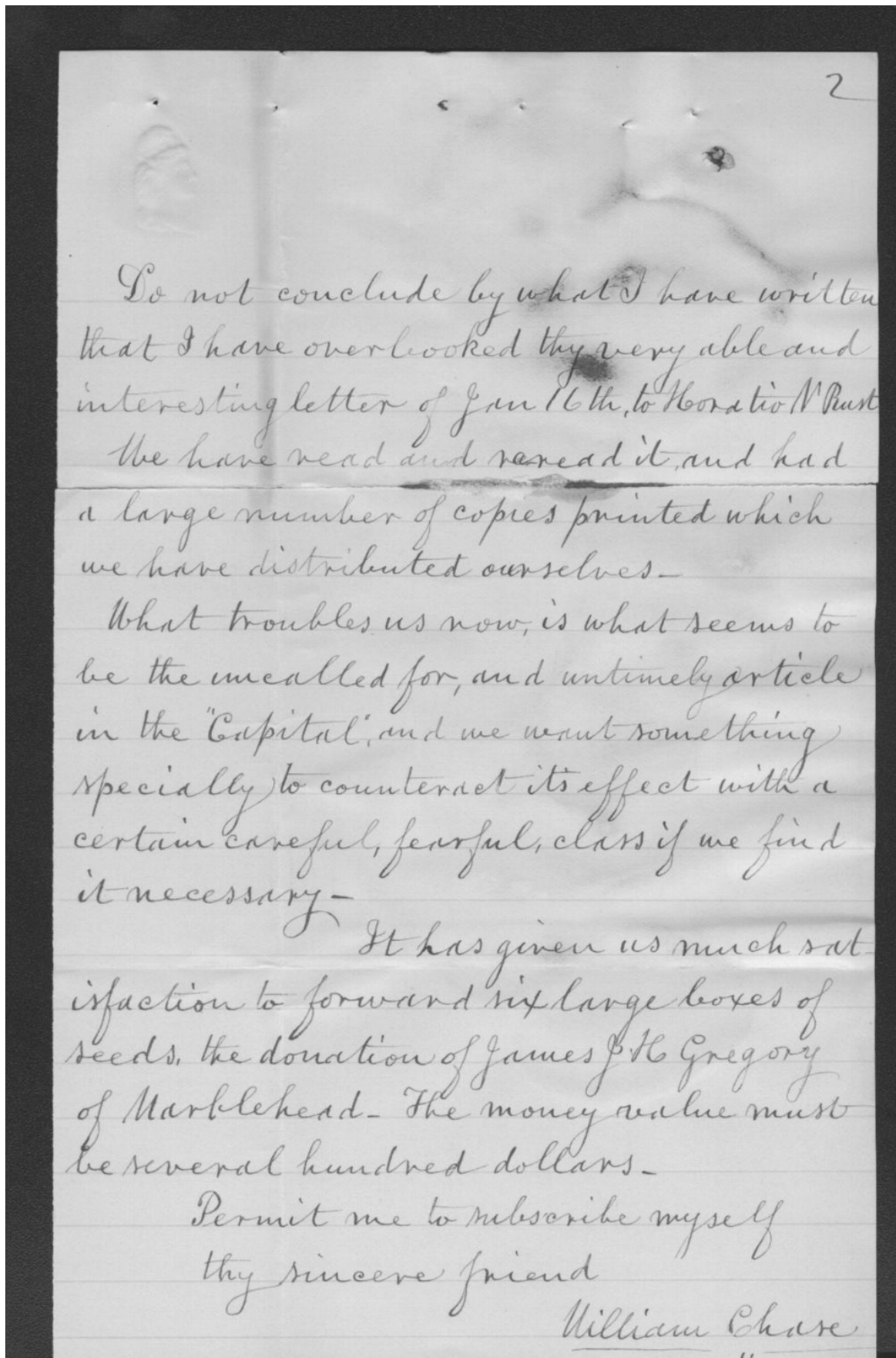
Now if we are to believe the "Capital", this work was all unnecessary, the hearts of our christian friends and neighbours have been stirred in vain, the warm clothing is not needed but lays unopened, and E L C on being called on to explain, has left, saying she would return in about ten days - This sounds to us like a heartless and cruel return for the self-sacrificing, arduous and Christlike work of months -

The article in the "Capital" has not found its way into any of our papers that I have seen, but there are some papers, many of

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

fear in Massachusetts, that would much more cheerfully copy such an article, than the real facts in the case, and the true causes of the exodus. Now one motive I have in writing thee at this time, is that if thou can find time to give us even but a few lines, that we can show to any who may feel that their charity has been in any degree misplaced, should the statements contained in the "Capital" or any thing like them get currency here. In addition to the clothing &c, we have sent direct by mail Four Hundred & Thirty Four Dollars. not a large sum to be sure, but contributed mostly by persons of moderate means, and in some cases it has been like the widow's mite. Now according to the statement in the Capital, this has been sent to an already overflowing treasury, instead of one almost empty, we want to be able to show to any who ask us for our account of our stewardship, that every dollar was needed, and much more will be, and will be, carefully, honestly and faithfully distributed.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 1033 Book 2 Page 120

From Wm Chase

Place Salem Mass

Date 3 9

Rec'd 1880

Ans'd 3 12

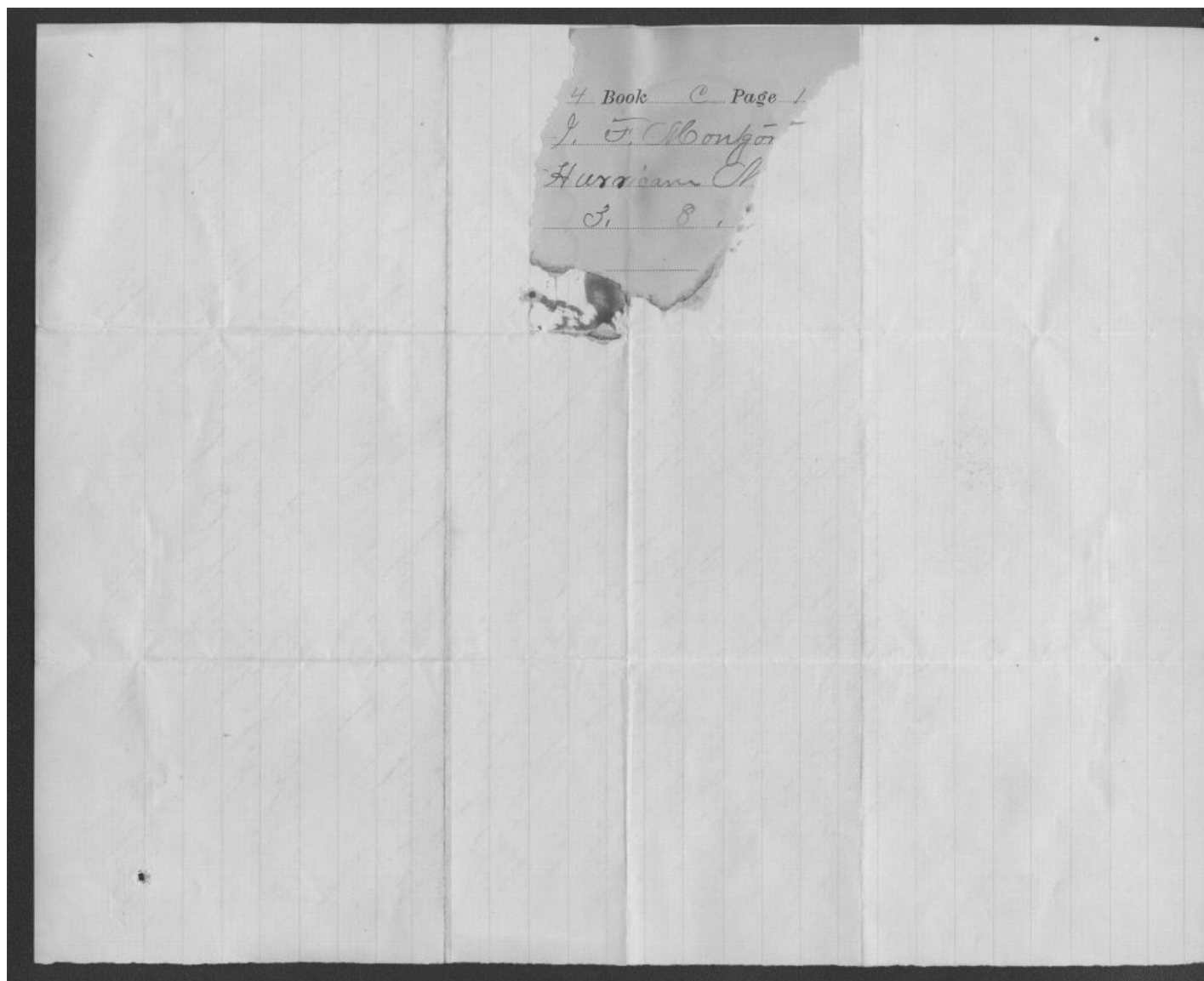
ABSTRACT.

Enquiries in regard to
Charge against Mr
E. L Comstock's
Management of the
Freedmens int're

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Hurrican Missell Mar 8th 1880
 Govr. John St John
 of the Commonwealth of Kansas
 at Topeka Kansas
 Dear Sir
 This will introduce to you
 Mr J. M. Donald, a personal friend of
 mine, who has been for a number of years
 in the United States Service as Route Agent
 on the Mississippi River mail packets from
 New Orleans La to Vicksburg Miss. He visits
 your State for the purpose of inspecting
 Land, with the view of purchasing, please
 be kind enough to impart to him any in-
 formation that you think would be service-
 able, also introduce him to Judge Dawson.
 Any favors conferred on Mr D will be duly
 appreciated, by Yrs Respectfully
 Isaiah T. Montgomery

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Southern Refugee Relief Association,

ORGANIZED FEB. 9TH., 1880,

FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELIEVING THE GREAT WANT
GROWING OUT OF THE NEGRO EXODUS.

President.
EX-GOV. JOHN L. HEVERIDGE.
Vice Presidents.
LT. GOV. ANDREW SHUMAN.
REV. J. L. L. JONES.
DR. H. W. THOMAS.
GEN. C. H. HOWARD.
W. H. BRADLEY.
DR. R. M. HATFIELD.
W. C. GRAY.
H. Z. COLVER.
DR. W. H. RYDER.
BISHOP SAMUEL FALLOWS.

H. N. RUST, Secretary.
WM. PENN. NIXON, Treasurer.
Executive Committee.
HORATIO N. RUST.
C. B. NELSON. J. B. CARTER.
J. W. PLUMMER. W. H. SHARP.



Chicago,

1880.

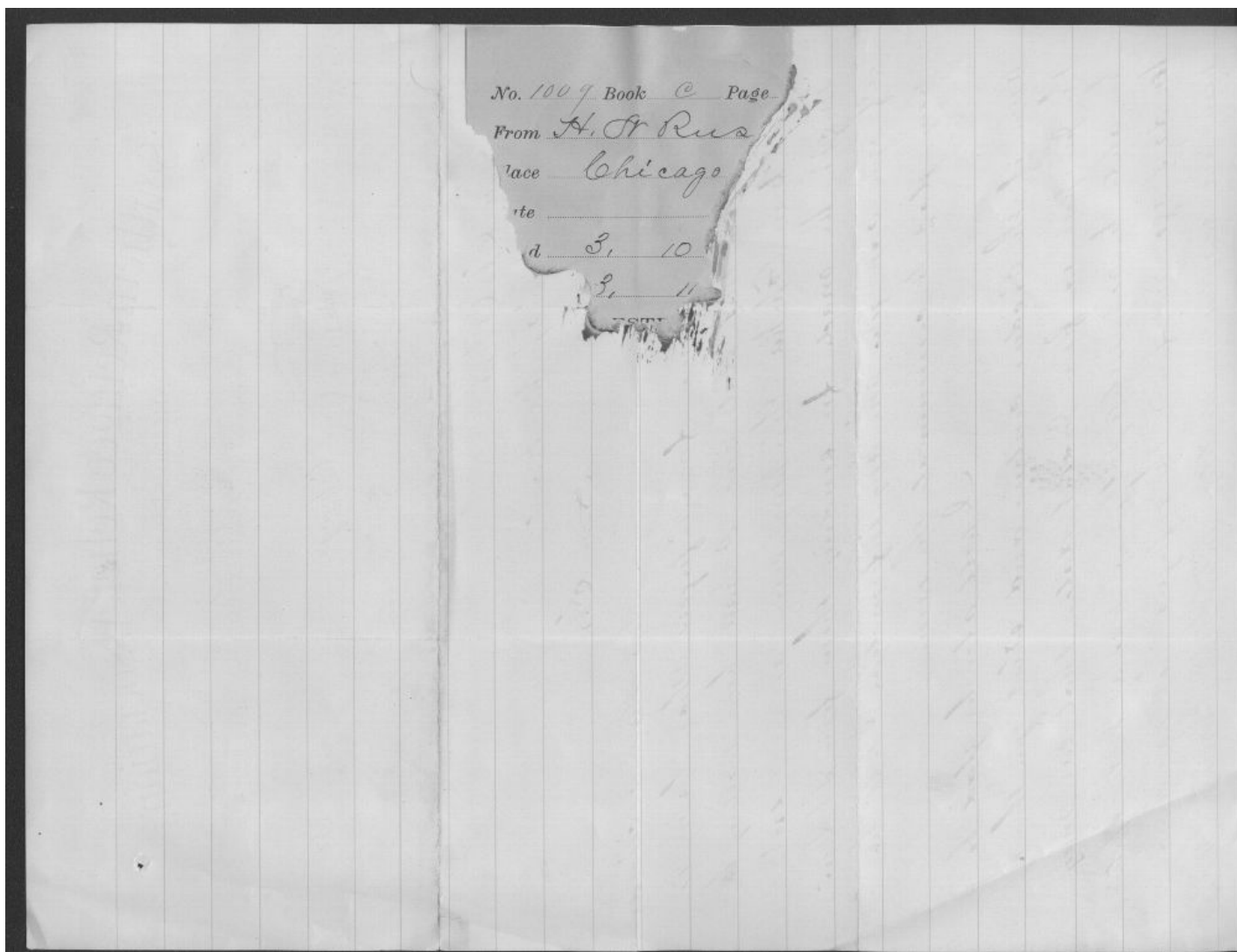
Gov St John
Topeka Kan

Hon Sir

We have received several enquiries for Refugees whose labor is wanted in this state and I have been waiting to hear from Topeka thinking some arrangement might be made for sending them from St Louis. If you can give me any information I will be very glad to communicate the same.

I will also be glad to know if the Exodus continues and what you think the prospect is for present date. That we may be able to act intelligently. I was at Indianapolis ten days ago and found the refugees that had come were all wanted immediately. Truly Yours Horatio N. Rust

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Salem 3 mo 10th 1880.
Hon John P. St. John.

Esteemed Friend. After sending my letter yesterday, it occurred to me that I omitted to name the State of Massachusetts in the direction -

As there are Salmes in many states, I did not know but there might be some confusion about it.

I enclose circulars, and cuttings from our local papers, which we have been circulating here -

An early reply to my letter if ever so brief, will greatly oblige me and many of my friends. The only copy of the "Daily Capital" we have seen, was sent directly to the editor of our Salem Register, and was a great surprise. He was informed yes

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

terday that I had written thee, and
is anxious to have this apparent mystery
solved -

Once more I take pleasure in
signing myself thy sincere friend
Wm Chase
"

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

New York March 11/80

Dear Gov^r

Enclosed please find
Two Dollars, my monthly subscription
for Young & Ruben, I wish I could afford
more.

There ought to be some steps taken to
prevent the necessity of such notices as
the one enclosed, I think a note from
you to the Editors of the New York papers,
would do good.

With my best wishes

Remain yours truly

Geo. S. M. Watters

221 East 18th St