

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 6, Pages 151 - 180

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

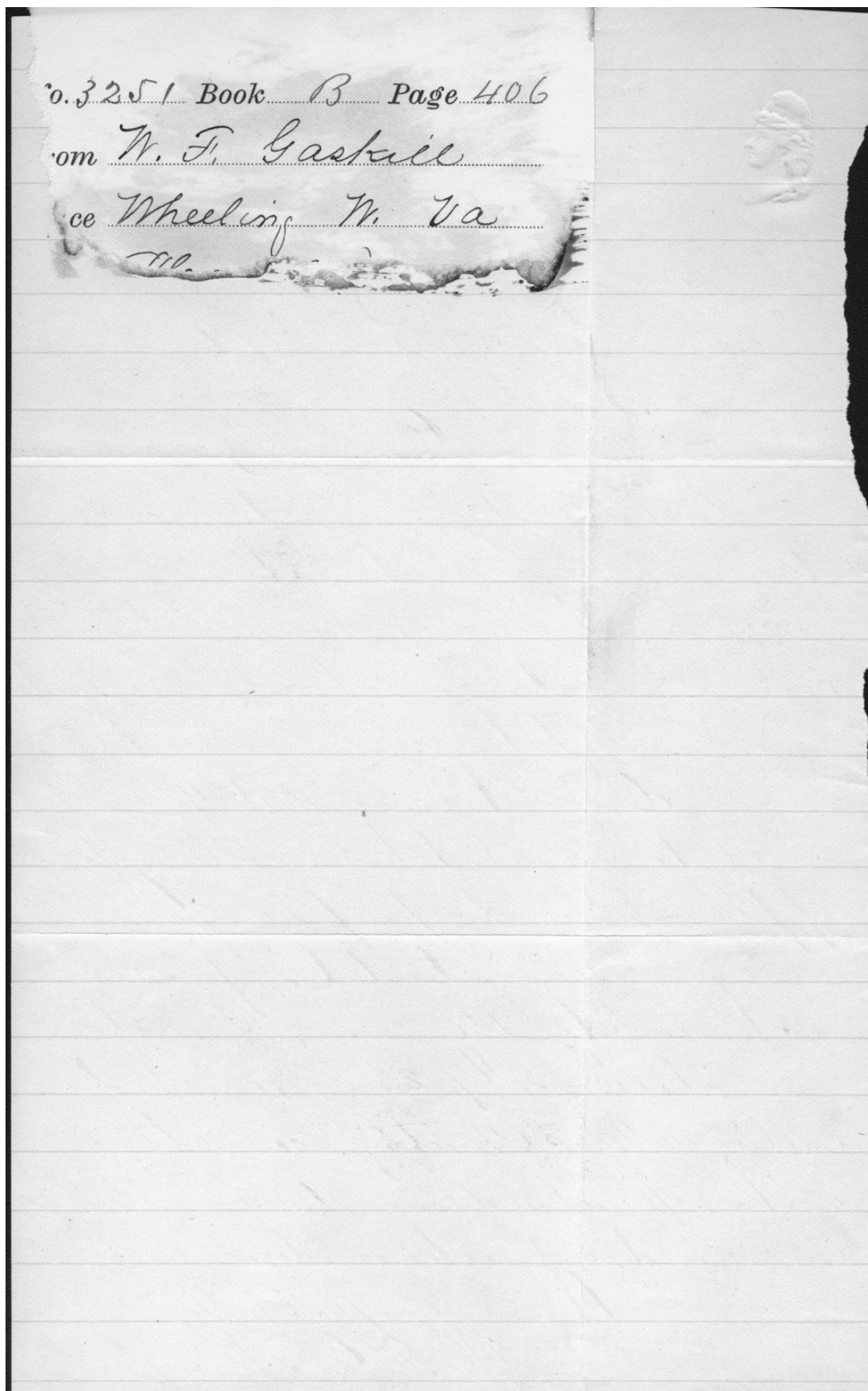
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

Item Identifier: 210296

www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



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57779

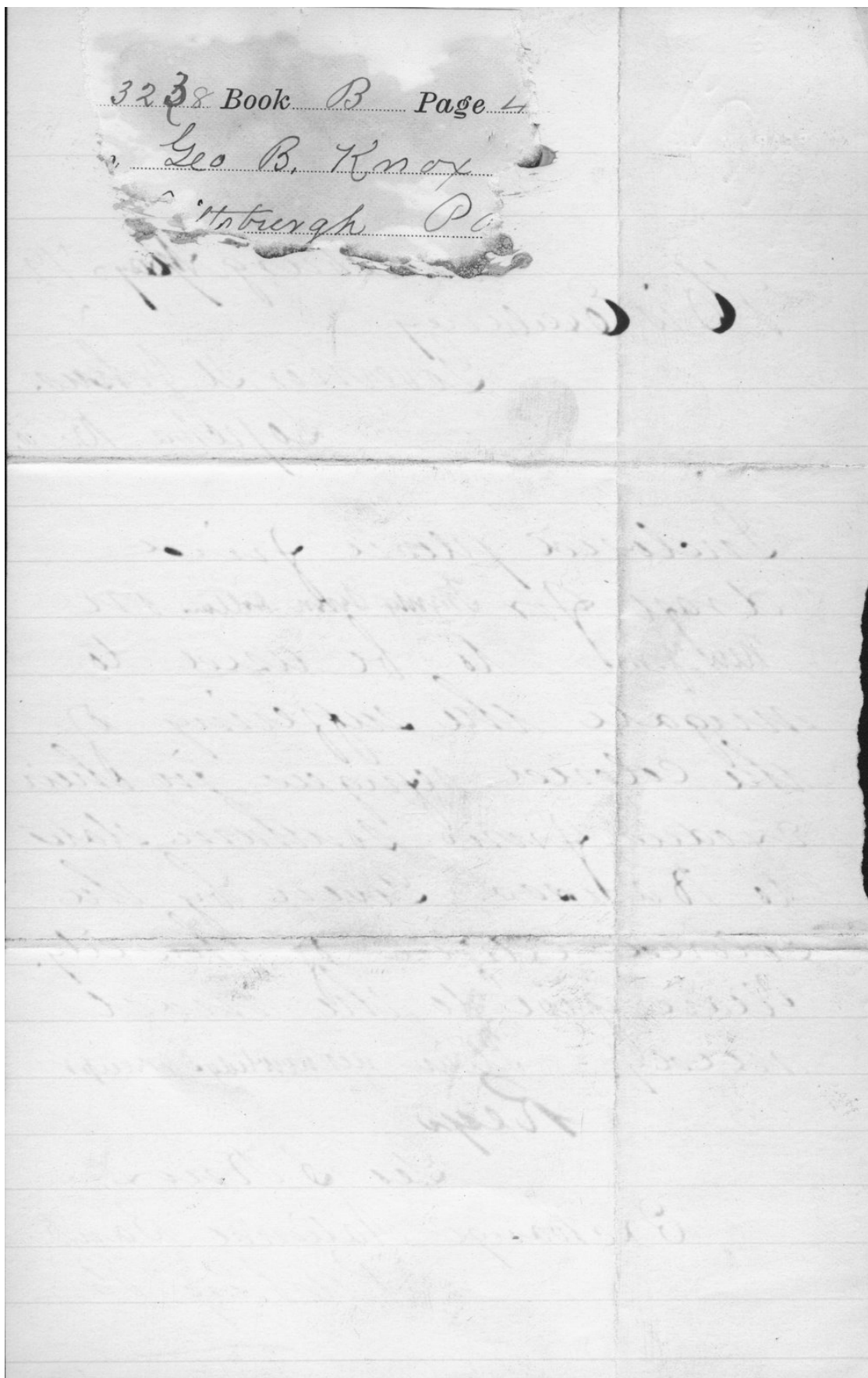
Pittsburg May 6 79.

His Excellency,
Governor St. John.
Topeka Kans.

Enclosed please find
draft for Twenty Seven Dollars on
New York to be used to
mitigate the suffering of
the colored refugees in their
exodus from Southern states
to Kansas. Given by the
colored citizens of this city.
Please give to the most
needy. Please acknowledge receipt.

Respectfully,
Geo. J. Knox,
Exchange National Bank
Pittsburg Pa

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

5/17/79

P.S. If you think I can be
of service in the matter
let me know at earliest
convenience L.S.

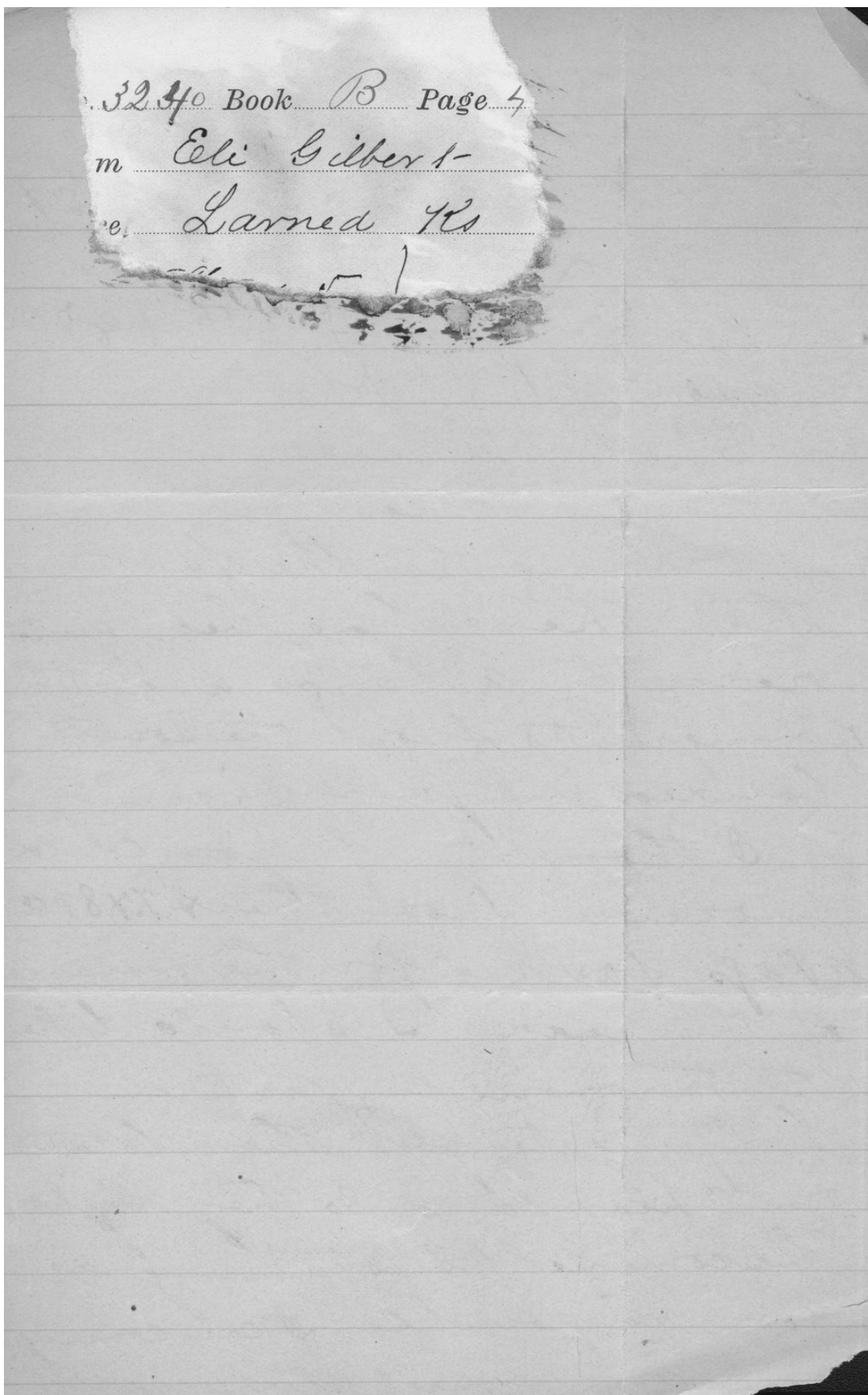
Larned Kansas
May 5th 1879
Gov J.P. St John
Topeka Kansas

Dear Sir

owing to the fact
that there has been quite
recently a large quantity
of emigrants from the South
landed in your vicinity

I thought if you could
procure from the A.T. & S.F. Co
a Pass for me for the Balance
of this year I should like
to throw in my mite in
helping to get them located
on cheap land so they might
become self sustaining as
soon as possible; I can come up
as your & Eli Gilbert

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OFFICE OF THE

Colored Refugee Relief Board,

No. 903 MORGAN STREET,

St. Louis, Mo. May 8th 1879

To

His Excellency, the Governor of the state of Kansas
Topeka Kan.

Sir



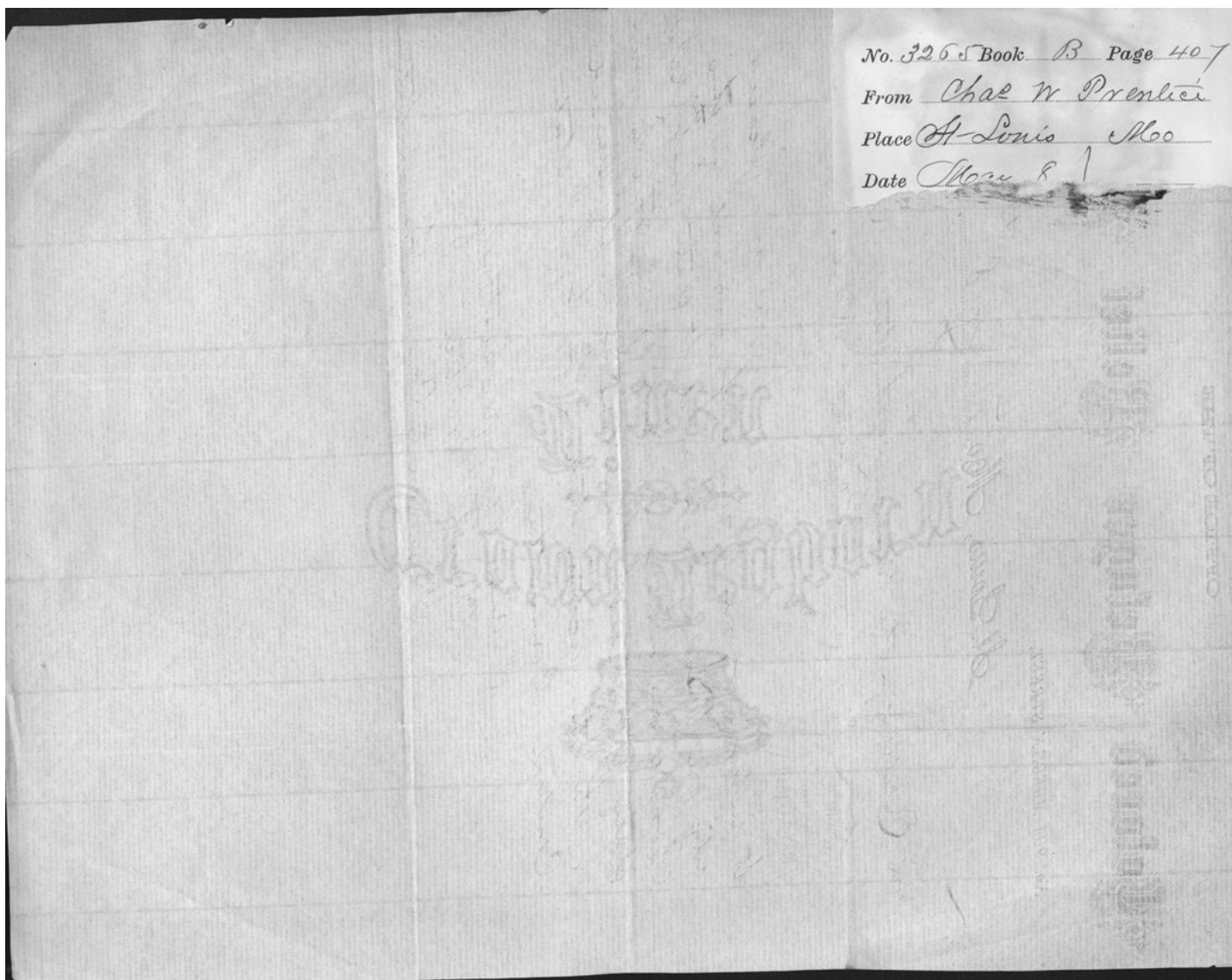
I am pleased to inform you of my safe arrival in this city on Tuesday last and to state that the Relief Board on hearing a report of my trip to your state expressed themselves as highly pleased with the action taken by your state Central Committee.

I am very respectfully

Chas W. Prentiss

Chairman of Com. on Transportation

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Ellis, Ellis County, Kansas.

May 9th 1879.

Dear Governor

I saw your brother-in-law Mr. Danson a few days ago, when here with the colored men from Miss, and talked with him about your project of colonization of them in Kansas.

He said there would be an agent here ^{necessary} to look after their interests, whereupon I suggested that I would serve you in any capacity, wherein my services would be made available. Have you filled his place in the Constitution?

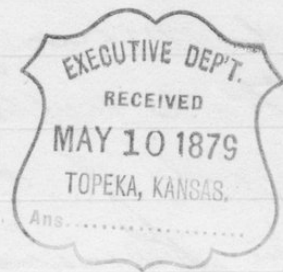
When you see Miss Jennie, then was, please give her my con-

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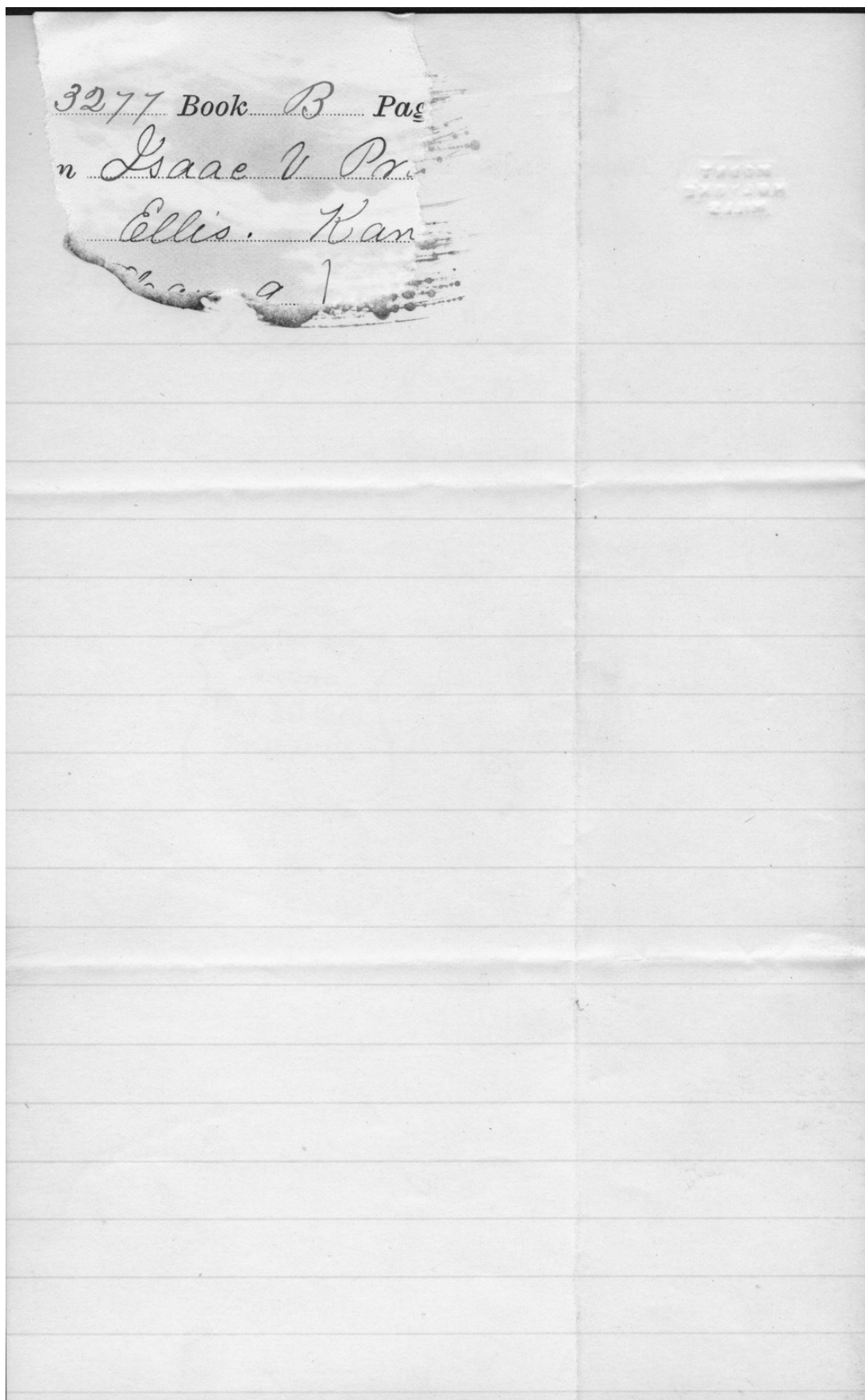
gratulations on the part of
her marriage, with my best
regards to your family -

I am your

Obt. Servant
Isaac V. Prall



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HOME INSURANCE COMPANY
EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
MAY 12 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Agency at Oskalooza

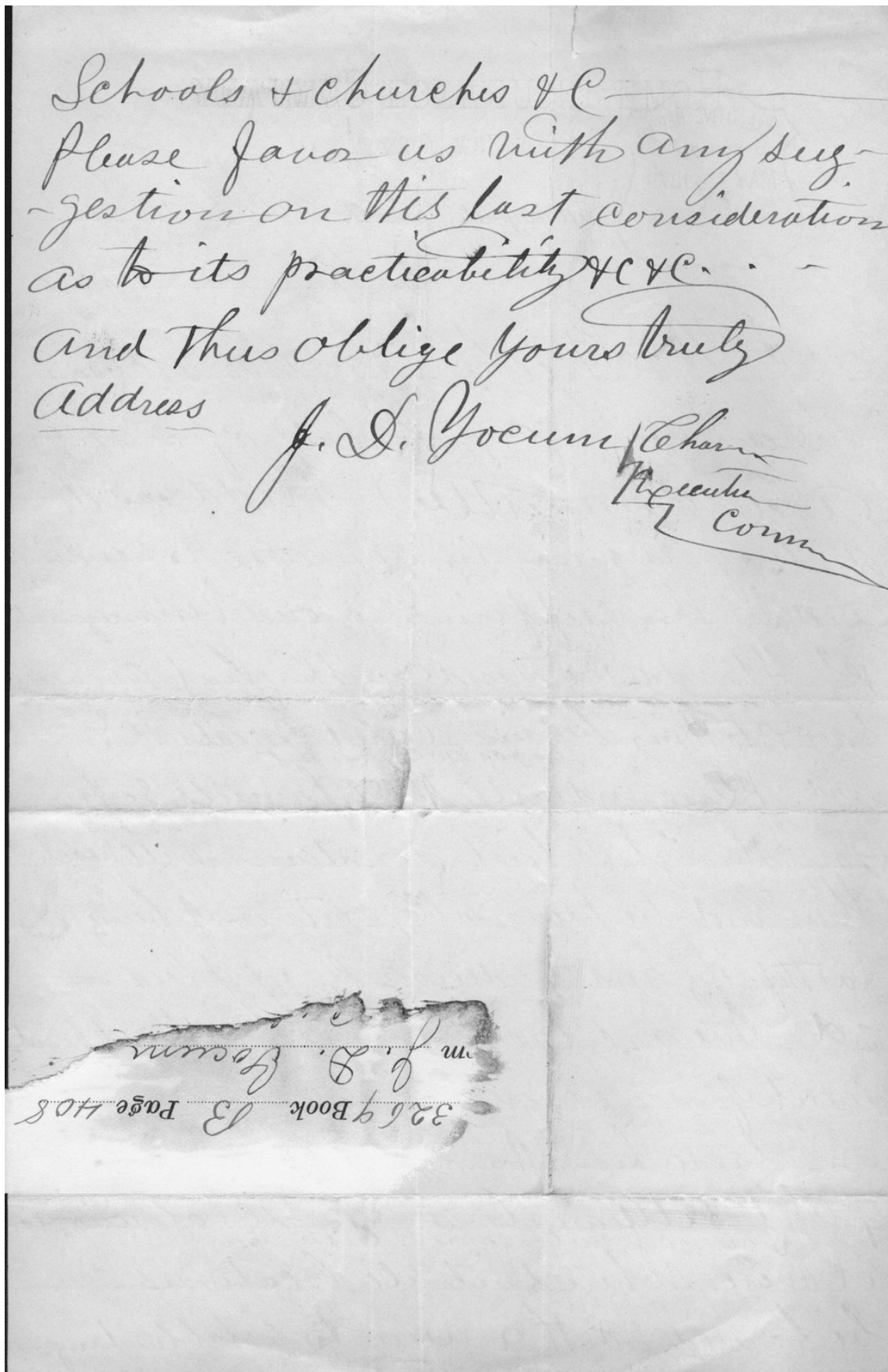
May 7 1879

J. W. St. John Esq. Gov Kansas

Dear Sir: On behalf of our
Aid Committee I address this
note of inquiry in reference to sending
aid to the suffering Colored immigrants
1st Should we send anything but money
say clothing bedding cured meats &c?
2nd please indicate ^{so far as convenient} the channels ~~so far~~
through which donations will reach
them and be reasonably certain of being
faithfully and judiciously applied
3d We are looking toward the appoint-
ment of an agent to go to Kansas
or elsewhere to select locations and
plant settlements or small colonies, as
say 100 families more or less in each.
it were, where suitable locations can
be found with a view to establishing



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OFFICE OF THE



Colored Refugee Relief Board,

No. 903 MORGAN STREET,

St. Louis, Mo. May 9th 1879

To his Excellency Jno. P. St. John,

Governor of Kansas,

Dear Sir

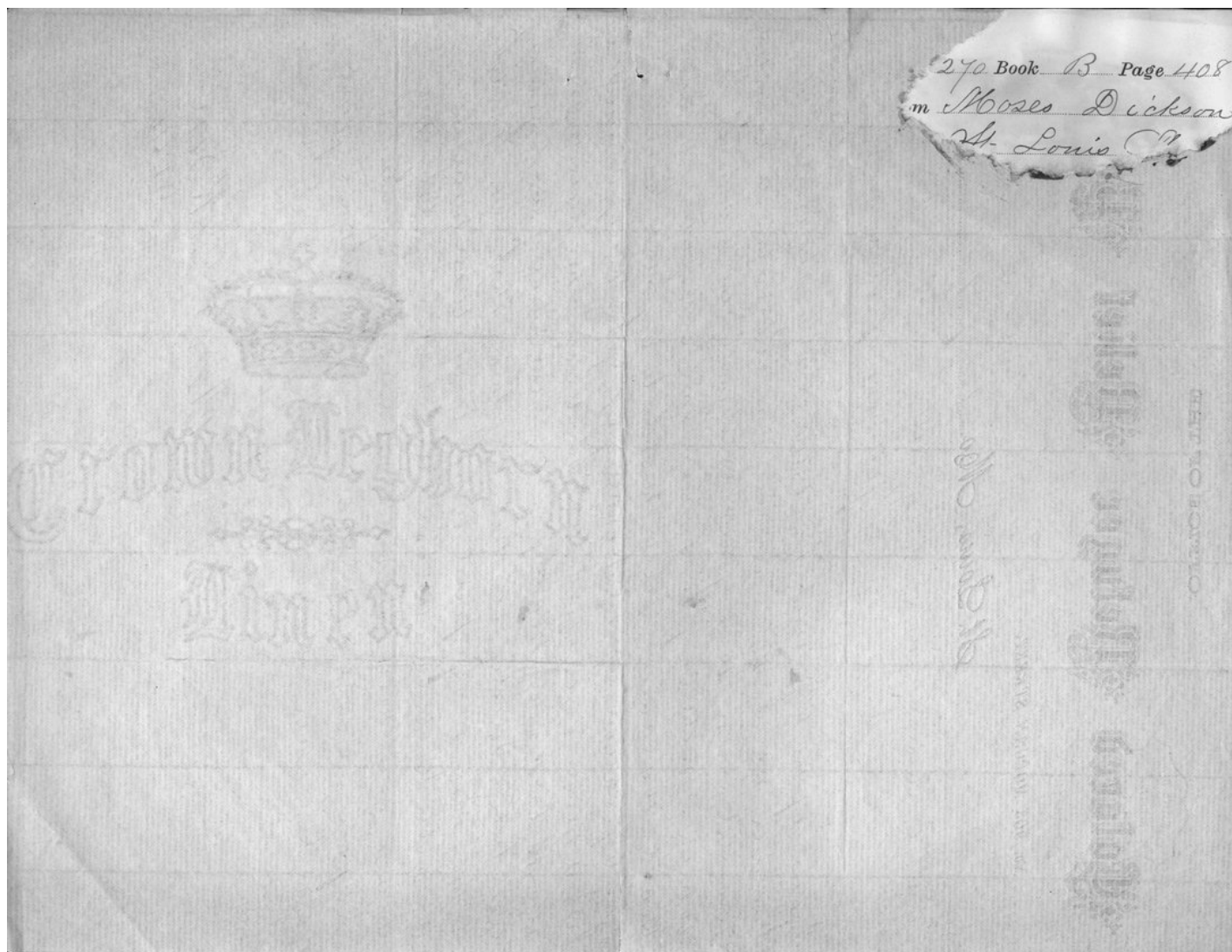
Yours of the 6th inst has been duly received, and
 content noted. Mr. Prentiss has returned a reported
 his interview with your excellency and others,
 which I will say was more than satisfactory to this
 Board. We cannot find words to express our
 gratification at the working of your Relief Committee
 and their endeavors to assist us in this laudable
 work. To know that you are receiving and giving
 aid to the needy, & distributing them through the state
 where they may find work to sustain themselves,
 we will continue to send them to Kansas City, Mo.
 or any other River Point that you may designate.
 Hoping Sir that our work may result in great
 good. I remain

Respectfully Yours

Moses Dickson

President

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

W. G. DESHLER, Pres't.
W. A. PLATT, Vice Pres't.

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
MAY 12 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

DESIGNATED DEPOSITARY OF THE UNITED STATES

591

C. J. HARDY, Cashier.
W. K. DESHLER, Ass't Cash'r.

The National Exchange Bank,

Gov. John St. John ^{Columbus,} May 10 1879

Dear Sir. Enclosed please find Cl in N.Y. - \$250 = being bal. of appropriation of \$500. Made by our Committee, for relief of the Colored Exodusters. to pass through your hands =

and published in State Journal. It will have a good effect =

Some of our Com propose to send \$300 to St. Louis - but I prefer to send to you - as the Phk people will not see them starve en route - while your Com has the ultimate disposition of the refugees = Please advise each of above - and would be glad if you can give us any new items for publication

W. G. Deshler

Report all Collections by number

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3272 Book B Page 408
From Wm. L. Deshler Jr.
Place Columbus Ohio
Date May 10
Rec'd } 1879
Ans'd May 12
ABSTRACT.
Transmitting draft for \$250.
to aid freedmen.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Atlanta Ga May 10th 1879

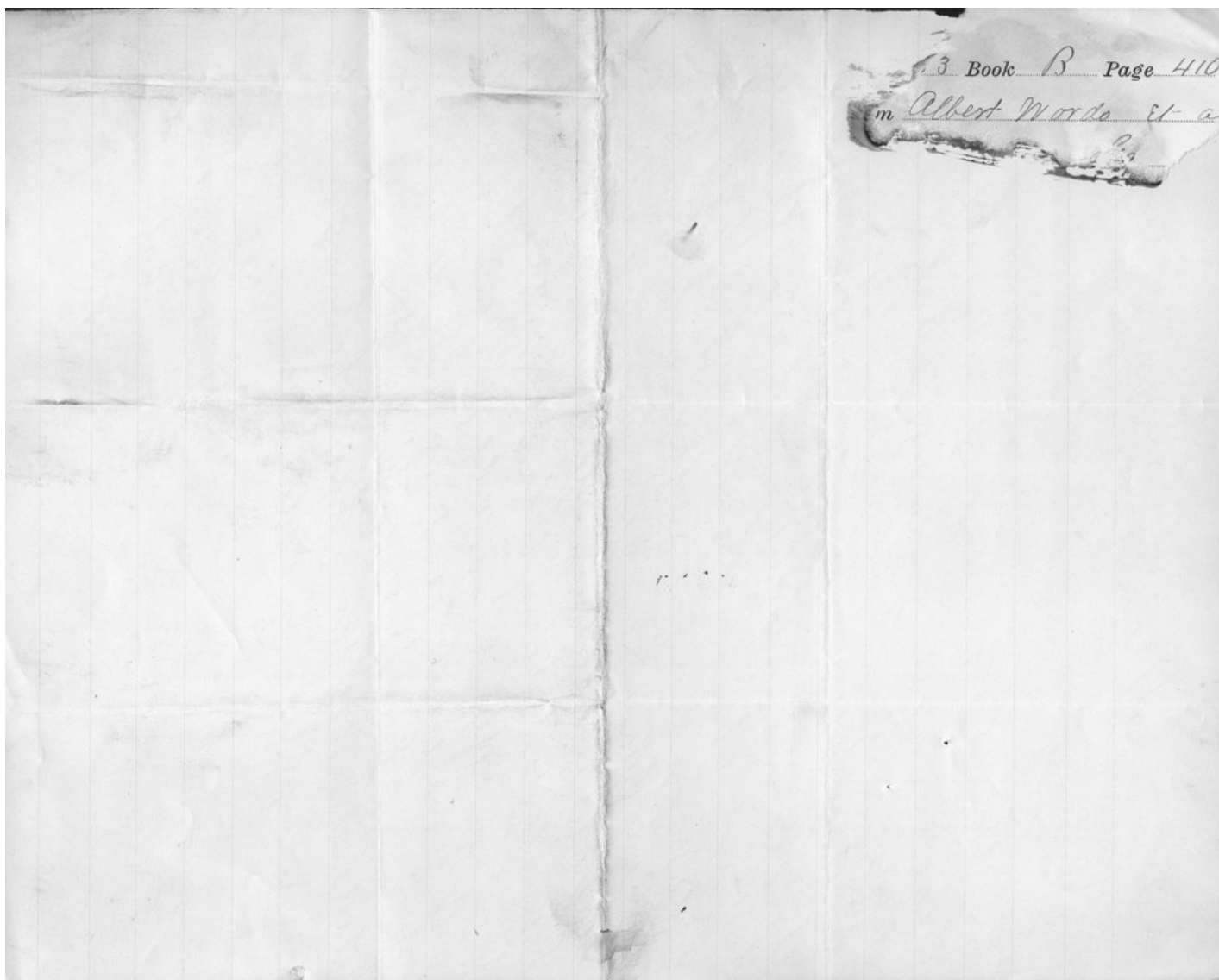
To The Governor of Kansas

Dear Sir We the undersigned ask information of you in regard to Emigrating to your State. Can you help us any from Atlanta Ga there is many that wants to come to your State but not able some is just able to get there. and some can get as far as St. Louis and some to Nashville Tenn. there many fixing to leave the Southern States at this time. hoping to get away this fall. can you help the poor refugees and will you and how much? and from what point on what railroad? the agent here says he thinks we can get some deduction of fare to those who Emigrate to Kansas. please to address me.


Yours obt^d

Albert Thoms
Fate Harper
Green Chandler

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



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 Oskaloosa Iowa May 11, 79.
 John P. St. John
 Dear Sir
 Your letter of May 7 came to hand & contents noted your first letter in answer to my first was not received so now I hasten to answer this one you may expect this week one hundred dollars (\$100.00) more or less from this point on the receipt of which we would ask you to inform us here so that we can give satisfaction to the parties interested & we also have a lot of clothing which we will send at the earliest convenience & we will continue to send as long as we can get any thing to send our committees are diligently at work any information that you can furnish us along as to how these people are getting along & also coming in will be gladly received & we will take interest in having it published in our papers here as anything sent to us from you will have an influence on our people & the community in general hoping that the Exoduster aid will attend in this enterprise I remain
 Yours truly
 John Sims
 chairman of Relief Com-

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3287 Book B Page 410
From John Sims
Place Atkalosa Ks
Date May 11
Rec'd

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



THE CINCINNATI COMMERCIAL.

M. HALSTEAD & CO., Proprietors.

N. E. Corner Fourth and Race Streets.

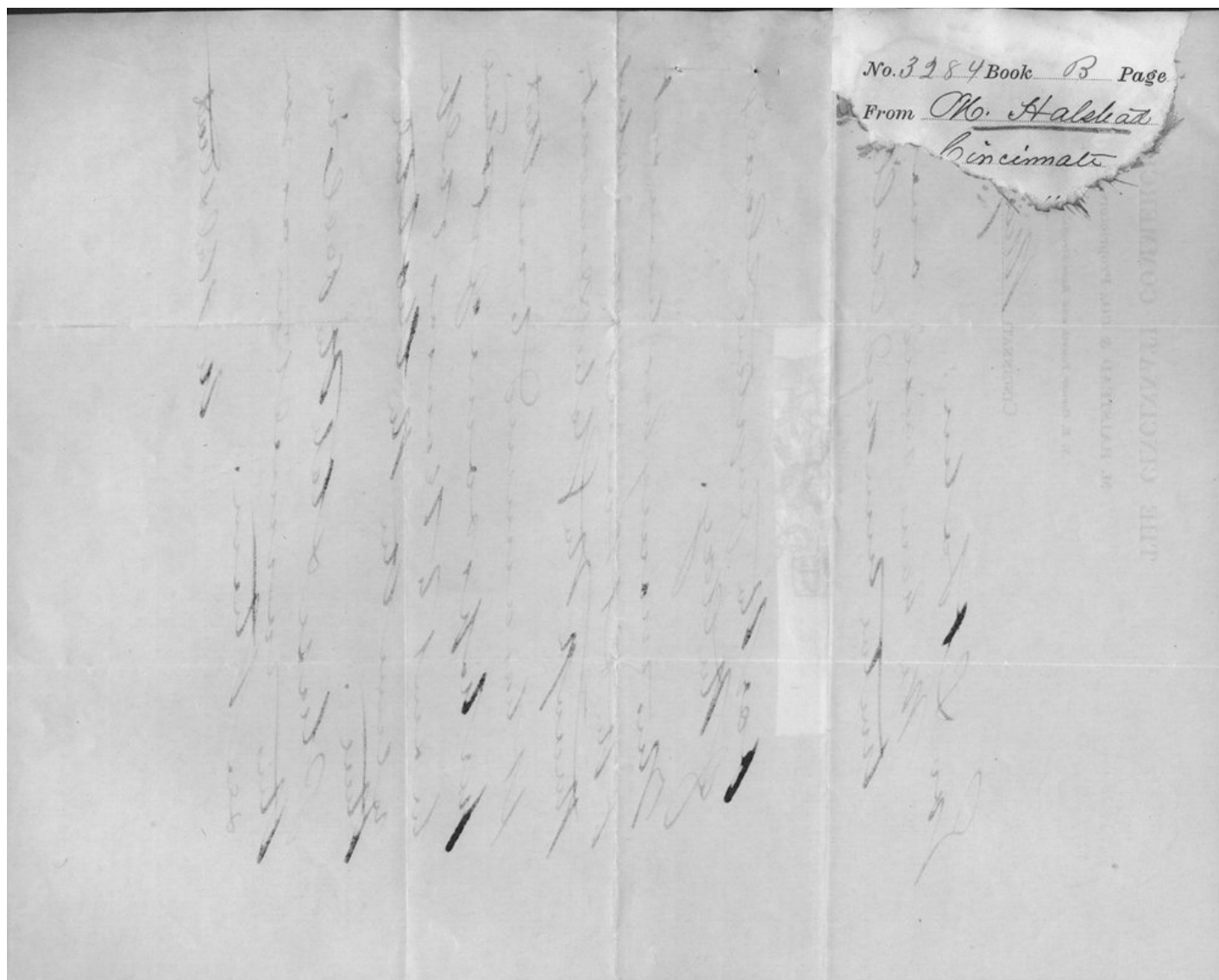
CINCINNATI *May 11* 187*9*

Gov St John:
We have raised over
twenty hundred dollars

Colored Emigrant Fund.	
Heretofore acknowledged.....	\$1,239 11
Wilmington, O.....	57 20
Total.....	\$1,296 31

for the fugitive slaves
of the day.
This money has been sent
to the St Louis churches
through the Globe Democrat.
It has amused to me that
perhaps some of it should
be sent to Kansas & will
relieve the the best state
there.
Please state the facts in
this connection as you
see them.
M. Halstead

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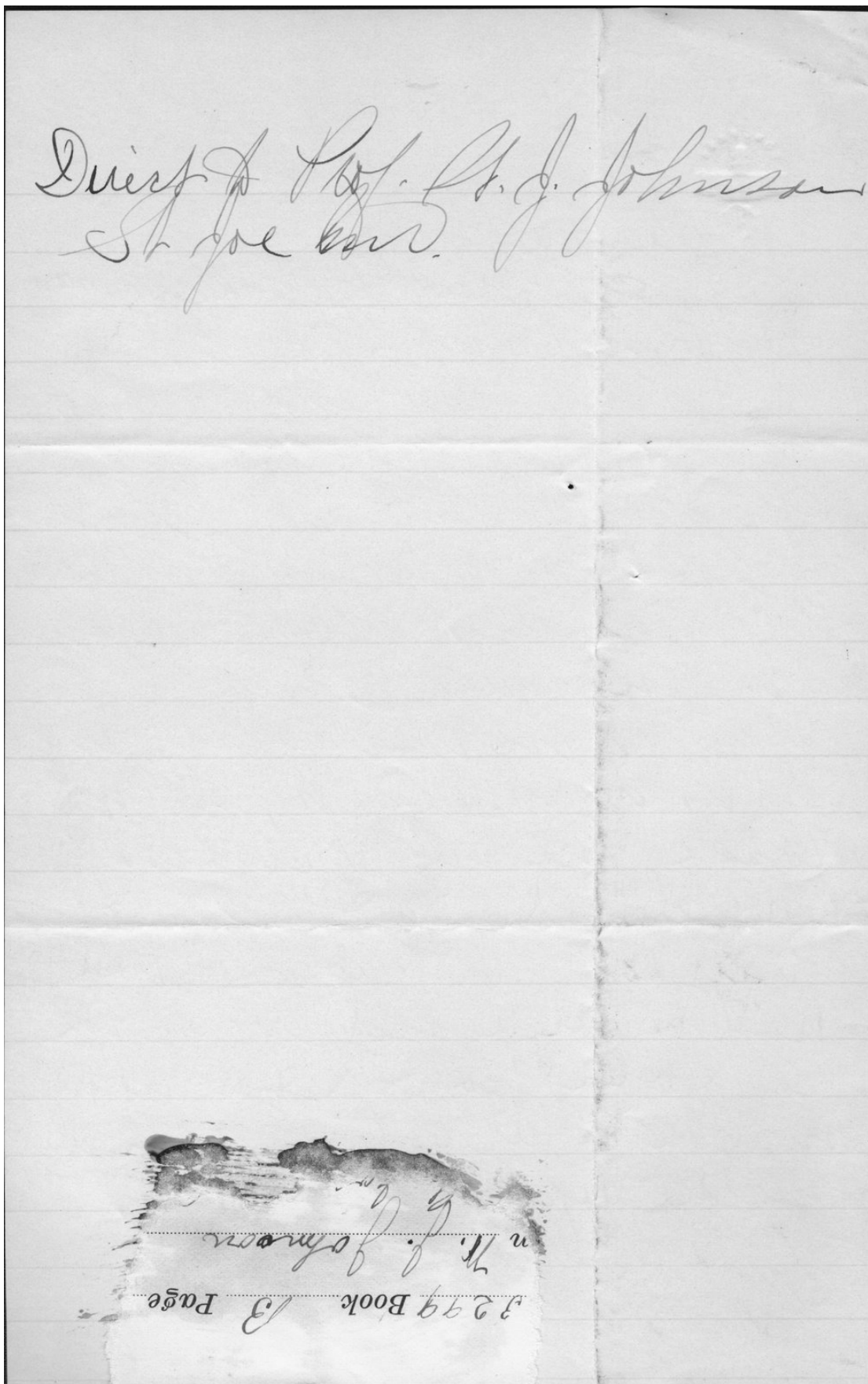
EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
MAY 14 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

St. Joseph Ind. May 13th 1879
St John Relief Com.
Topeka.

I am in-
structed by the Col. Citizens
Relief Board of this city
to communicate with your
body in regard to help for the
refugees in your state. We
are at work here trying to
raise means to assist them
& we would like to know of
your committee where we
had better send who of we
have our hand & what we
may hereafter obtain. An im-
mediate reply is solicited.

Respect.
A. J. Johnson
Corresponding Sec.

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Salina May 13th 1879
 Solomon responds with
 money. Salina has placed
 the matter in the hands of
 a committee and will re-
 port the last of this week.
 I stop at Wamego
 tomorrow night and then
 I must return home
 thursday to other duties.
 I think they will do a
 generous part here, and
 hope that the little seed
 sown in the hearts of the
 people, will bring forth a
 grand harvest.
 I like the spirit mani-
 fested every where, and if
 there were houses to work for
 them, there would be no
 trouble in providing places.
 But these new towns are

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~~777~~ Book B Page 411
 A. M. Way
 1416
 TOPEKA, KANSAS.
 full to overflowing, some not
 a single empty house, but
 they promise money, and
 arrange to collect & send
 it in. Can you meet
 me at the depot Thursday
 I want to go on home
 if possible and I would
 like to know how much
 has been accomplished.
 I have been speaking every night
 since I left you
 Yours in Hast
 A. M. Way

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
MAY 17 1879
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

New Orleans La
May 13th 1879

Gov St John

Dear Sir

We the undersigned members
of the mutal. Adv. Emigration
assoc. of the City of New Orleans.
By Rev to submit the grievan-
ces of the Colored people in genera-
l. We write to you under circumstan-
ces of great embarrassment
hoping to get your full sympath-
y. We are deprived of all right - what-
ever we are refused the rights of pray-
ing & singing over our dead;
We are or at least the poor people
that goes in the Sumps after Black
Berz. are taken up as soon as
they get in Town & led taken to
the City Hall & made to pay fees &
deals or go to jail. It is heart
rending to behold. & We are com-
pelled to appeal to our good friend
north for them to extend
us a hand of aid & friendship
as we have a great many
that wish to take their departure
from here and we must means for

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

this occasion and we sincerely hope to
 get the Best Wishes of our northern
 associations for we are all most
 satisfied that you all know our
 Condition here in the South all
 most as well as we can tell you
 for the degradation that is perpe-
 trated upon the poor innocent
 and unprotected colored people
 is enough to make the blood
 curdle in a human being and
 we may God bless though
 that comes from such a good
 fearing country as this and
 may they be forever found
 on the top wave of prosperity
 we have got to this now that
 the police enters our
 churches and try to prevent
 us from saying the mee-
 ting was over Monday
 night 16 words of five to
 it 16 words of five to
 attend at each and every
 meeting. I was ask how many
 wanted to go to Kansas and
 the whole church stood upon
 their feet and as there so so

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

many wants to go that we
 hope we will get all the ones
 that you can pass on give us
 any and amon will be the
 we fully received of prosperity
 we remain your honest ser-
 vants
 W. H. Harrison
 No 415 Franklin St President
 W. H. Harrison Secy
 G. A. Guss asst - do -
 Emigration Committee
 James Lewis S. Johnson
 J. M. Lewis

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

