

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 62, Pages 1831 - 1860

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

NEW YORK
DAILY AND WEEKLY
WITNESS
7 Frankfort St.

New York April 30 1880

Hon. John P. St. John
Topeka Kas
Dear Sir

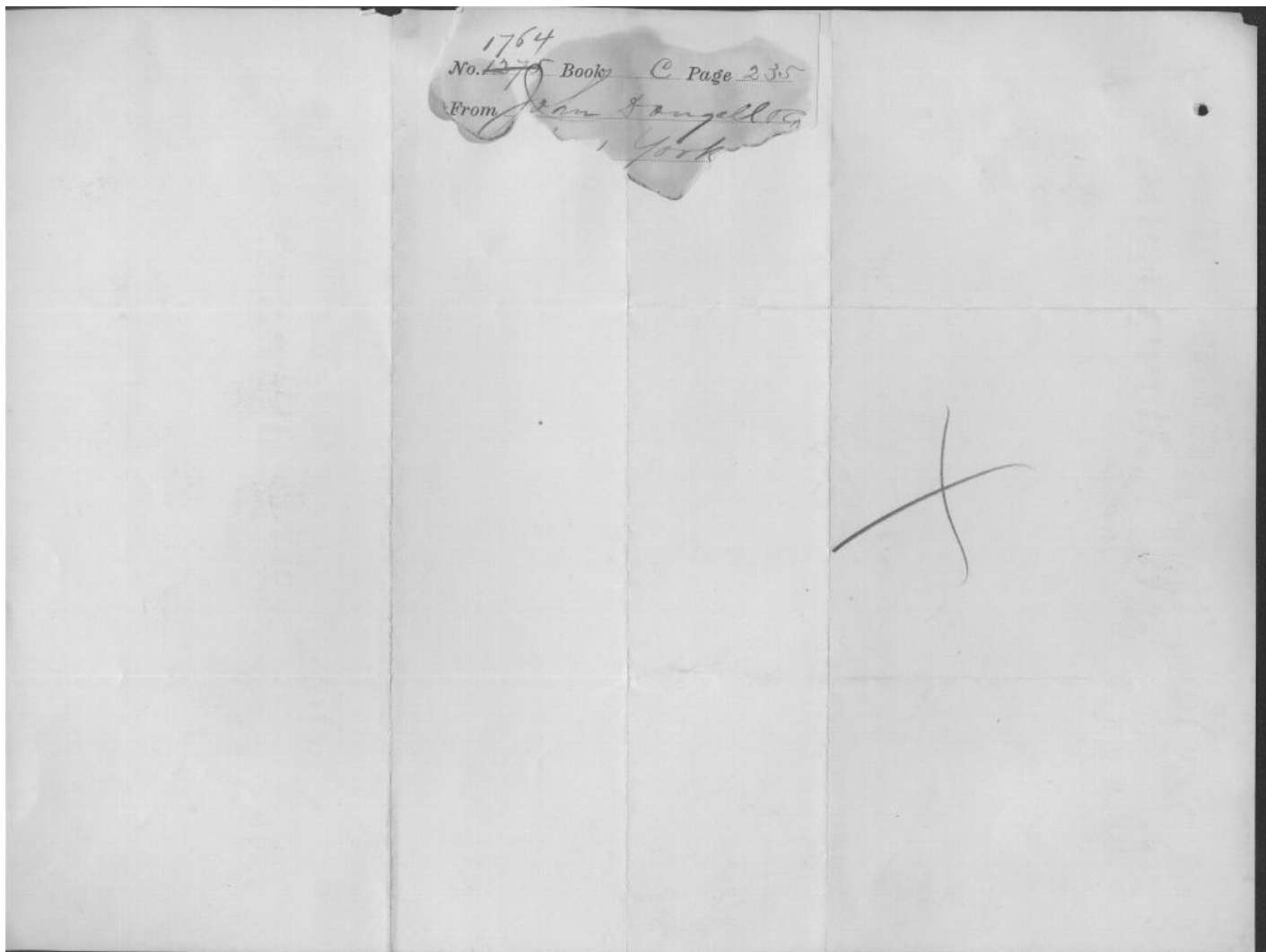
Enclosed please find
check for \$30. for benefit of the Colored refugees,
from a friend. Our subscriber desired that the amt.
should go to Mrs Comstock's branch of the work,
if you approved of it

Yours truly
John Douglass

Pd to Mrs C

See letter -

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Ans, May 4

Parsons Kansas
Apr 20-80

Gov St John
Topeka

Dear Governor

Since my return from Washington
whither I was called to testify before
the Great Exodus Comtee. I have
heard but little of State Affairs and
State Politics. There was a strong
effort made to connect some of
the Republicans you in particular
with the movement; that they
failed to do any thing of the kind
is known to all - Brooks was sick
of his effort before I got there
I dismissed most of the Kans witnesses
without examination. Mr Reynolds
myself was called by Senator Mindome
I made our little speeches I feel well
satisfied with the results of the investigation
than go before the people this fall

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

with renewed vigor & rapidity
I was there three weeks & spent
the time profitably I trust
I see Gen Davis here today have
not spoken to him but he will
be around soon there are no "oats"
for him in this part of the
country - & I think with a proper
effort the southern district can
be carried against him &
will you visit us soon

Has the appointment on the board
of Charters been made yet if so who was
appointed

I am truly your friend

J. St. John

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No. 1575 Book 6 Page 2
From B Rockhold
Place Parsons K.
Date 4. 30
Rec'd J. 1
'd 5.

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EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
MAY 5 1880
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

May 1st 1880

Safey Hollow
Graham County Kans

Dear Gov. By request &
in behalf of suffering humanity
I am compelled to appeal to you
for your kind cooperation in
a cause that should be uppermost
& foremost in the minds of all Christians
that of alleviating the distress of poor
suffering humanity, And knowing
that this principal has ^{been} largely ~~the~~
manifested in your policy since
you have been our Chief Executive
I am assured that none need
be slow to ask your cooperation
to a cause so just & humane as
the one that I am now presenting
for your consideration,

Governor, My heart was made
to bleed on yesterday, when I was
met by a number of my old colored
neighbors & friends from my native

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County & State (Ky) beseeching
me to try & procure for them through
you something to keep themselves &
their children from starvation.
I know the most ^{of} your petitioners
personally & know them to be good
& industrious Citizens, & could & would
make a good living for their families
if they could get any thing to do, but
business has almost entirely suspended
on account of continued drought, &
if we should not get rain soon the
Lord only knows what are to become
of a large no of our people,
One of the number for whom I appeal
stated to me that he had written you
as to their necessities by Mr George
D. Brown, Esq. I will now give
you the names of the families no
in family & their location,
George D Brown Town 9 R 23 ^{no of family} Tralco
William A Brown " " " " " " " " " " " "
Nathaniel Brown " " " " " " " " " " " "

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

no br ⁿ forward				no in family
				19
Lysman Brown	Dr	20	20	4
Edmon Williams	18 R	23	Graco	4
Bluford Williams	"	"	"	8
Calvin Potter	"	"	"	2
Barthel Meekolds	"	"	"	4
E D Grimes	"	"	"	2
E D Grimes	"	"	"	4
Green Myers	"	"	"	4
Pryor Dickey	"	"	"	2
Monroe Willcoxson	"	10	"	4
Jackson	"	"	"	6
Miles	"	"	"	4
Total no				69
Gov. truly the above does show				
a lamentable state of this poor				
and unfortunate race of people				
& should arouse the feelings of every				
good & Christian man & woman				
of our country to renewed efforts				
to place that unfortunate race				
of people in a happier condition				
than they are ^{in now} This language				
may appear strange & strong emanating				

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

as it does from and Old Slaveholder
& Democrat. Yet my previous
position on these matters shall
not & never did prevent me from
doing my duty as a man for the poor
& needy of whatever race of people
that demands my help. And the most
of those ^{^ them} whom I am now appealing
to you in behalf of. I knew me when
I was a slave owner & knowing me to
be one who always acted more as an owner
for them than Master have requested
me to add what little influence I may
exert in their behalf. Now Gov. I
have arrived at the place in my
letter which I would gladly have
had ^{placed} removed to some one else, & so
stated to them, but they said no, that
I knew them & that they knew me
& that they wanted me to do the receiv-
ing & distributing, as they knew they
would get what was sent them. & if
you can do anything for these poor
people, ship to me at W. Mearns to the
care of Lawrence & Hall, and I do

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

long & grow brighter with our
people for your ^{own} kindness
towards those who are the warm
supporters of your ~~of~~ humane
& philanthropic administration
& may all good men of whatever
party unite in saying well done,
good & faithful servant, yours
most truly H C M

Governor if this feeble letter would
facilitate the means of procuring
help for the suffering of our
people you can do with it, as
see fit, H C M

Please forward as soon as possible



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 1601 Book 6 Page 20
m H. C. Mosely
St. John

assure you, that you will be ever
kindly regarded by those who are
now asking your kindness &
also your humble servant,
With due consideration I am
Yours truly H. C. Mosely

P.S. May the means at your command
for relieving the destitute of our
State be greatly increased, so that
you may be enabled to do what
in your judgment is your duty
towards alleviating the distress of the
people of our Great Commonwealth
Governor I could say much
more upon this most important
matter, but I fear that my letter
has already grown monotonous
& will close, May your name live



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Col Springs. Colorado. May 3. 1880

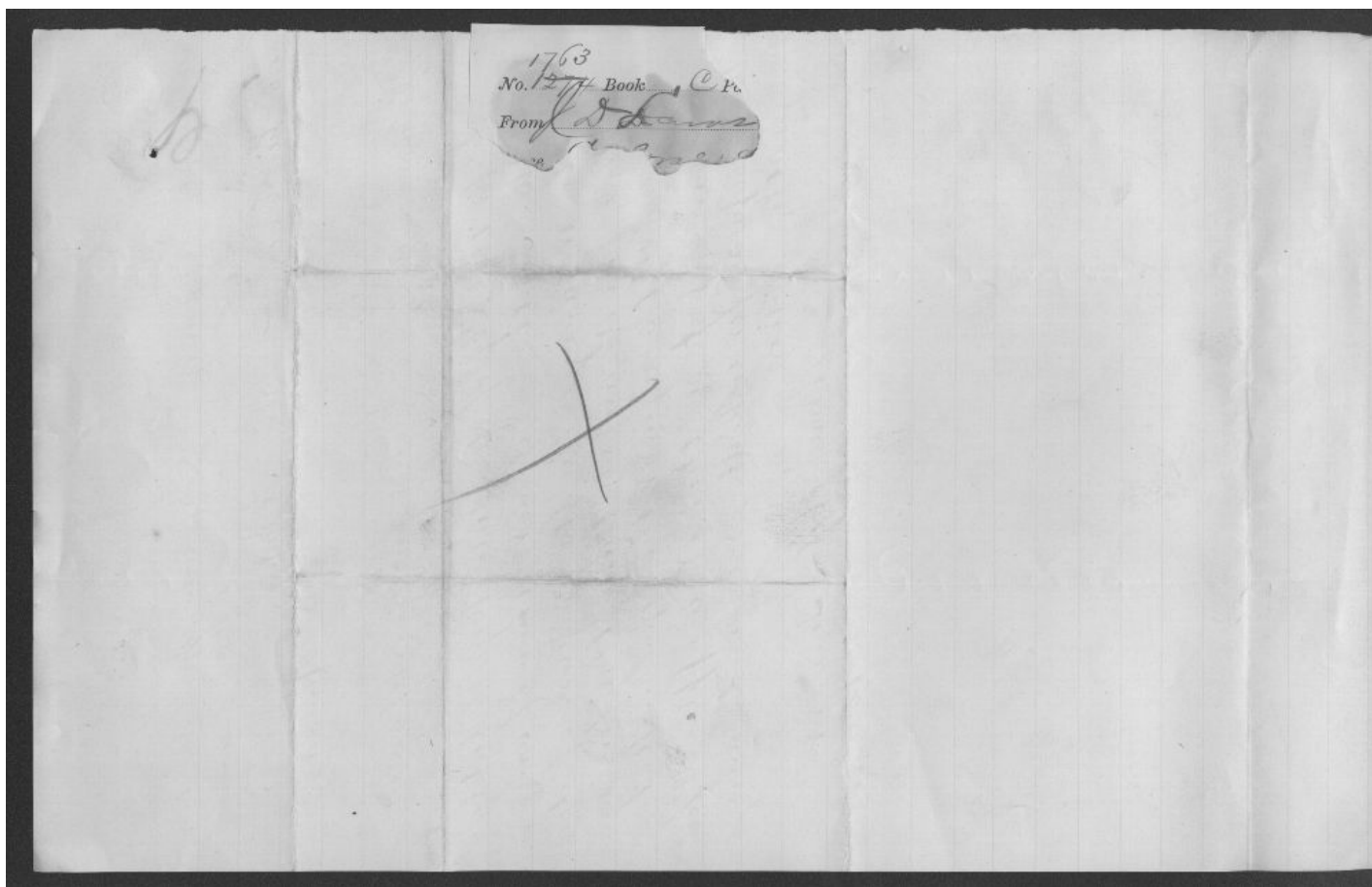
To His Excellency Gov. St John
Kansas

Sir

P. G. Morey order Please find enclosed
Draft for Ten Dollars (\$10.00) which is
given for the help of destitute Negroes lately
from the South. I do not know of any
society organized for the purpose of dis-
tributing funds among them therefore send
to you with the request that you will be
kind enough to see that it is applied to
the purpose for which it is sent and
greatly oblige

Your obedt servant
J. D. Lawson

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



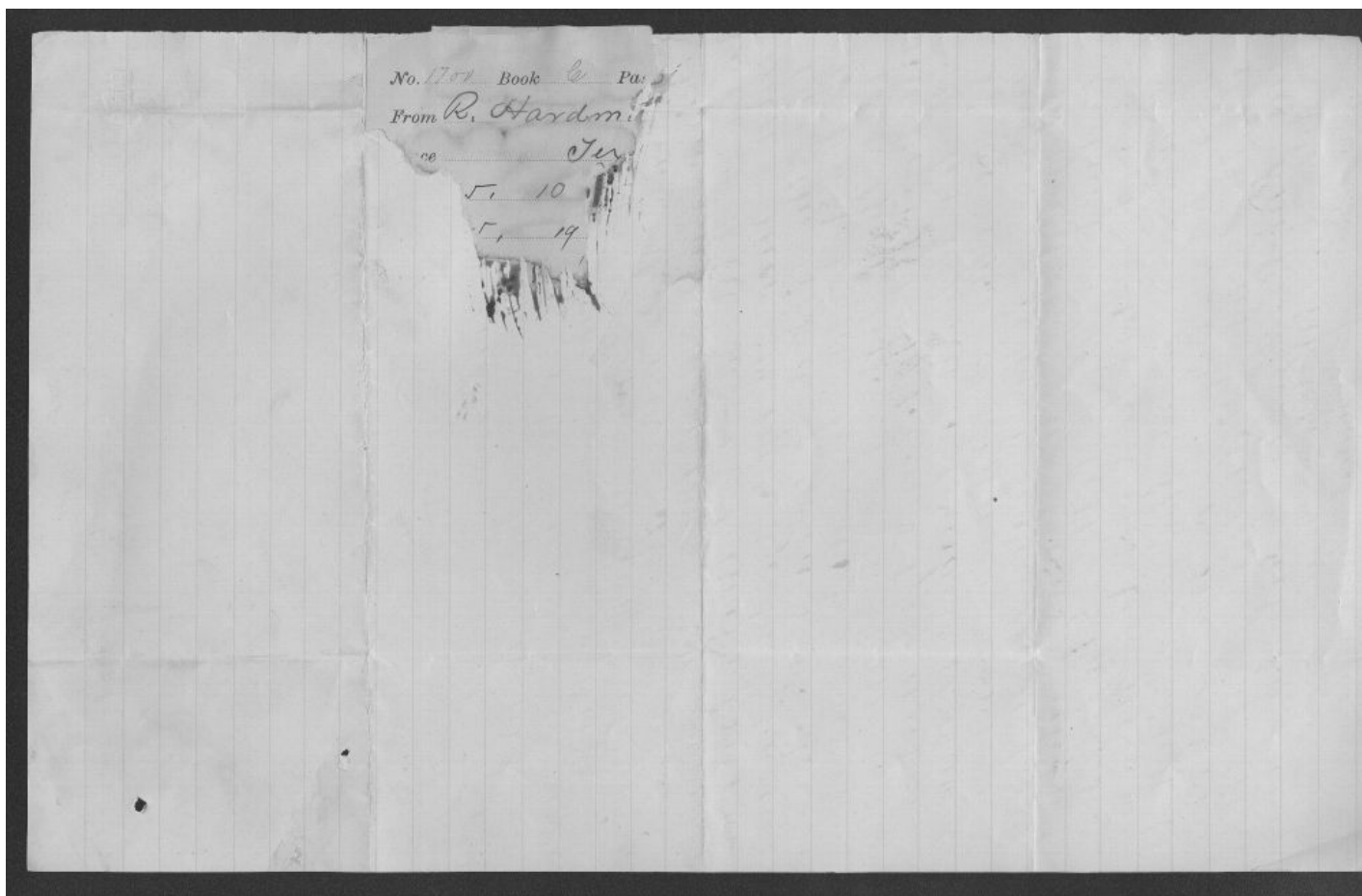
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



The 10
Gardalope Co Texas May 18/80

Mr. Governor John Dear
Sir I now take the pleser of
Write you a few lines in book of
Mr. C M B Johnson he was Down here
last febrary I Richard Hardmon wont
er to know for I am one of the super
vise Mr. Johnson cash out nine hund
red and fifty six five. Mr M Johnson
goot the money for them money
Ticket five Dollars a ticked in Kaise
Co and Coll Well County we do our
bisness at those Gray School house
and I Will say that thair is a fret
money more Monitor go that haven
got the ticked to go on I Monitor you
to Write to me just as soon as you
get this letter I Will Write to you
all bout it. Whine I get a anser
we have made a Greedle of trouble
since Mr. M Johnson was Down
here I Richard Hardmon live
in Gardalope Co Texas Delect
Delect your letter Staples
Stone Gardalope County Texas
I wont to know if you think it
Mod be nesary for me to come
up thair as a Delalite please let
me know how to Write in your
litter I Will close hope to here from
you soon Richard Hardmon

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Berea, Ohio, 5th mo. 14th, 1880

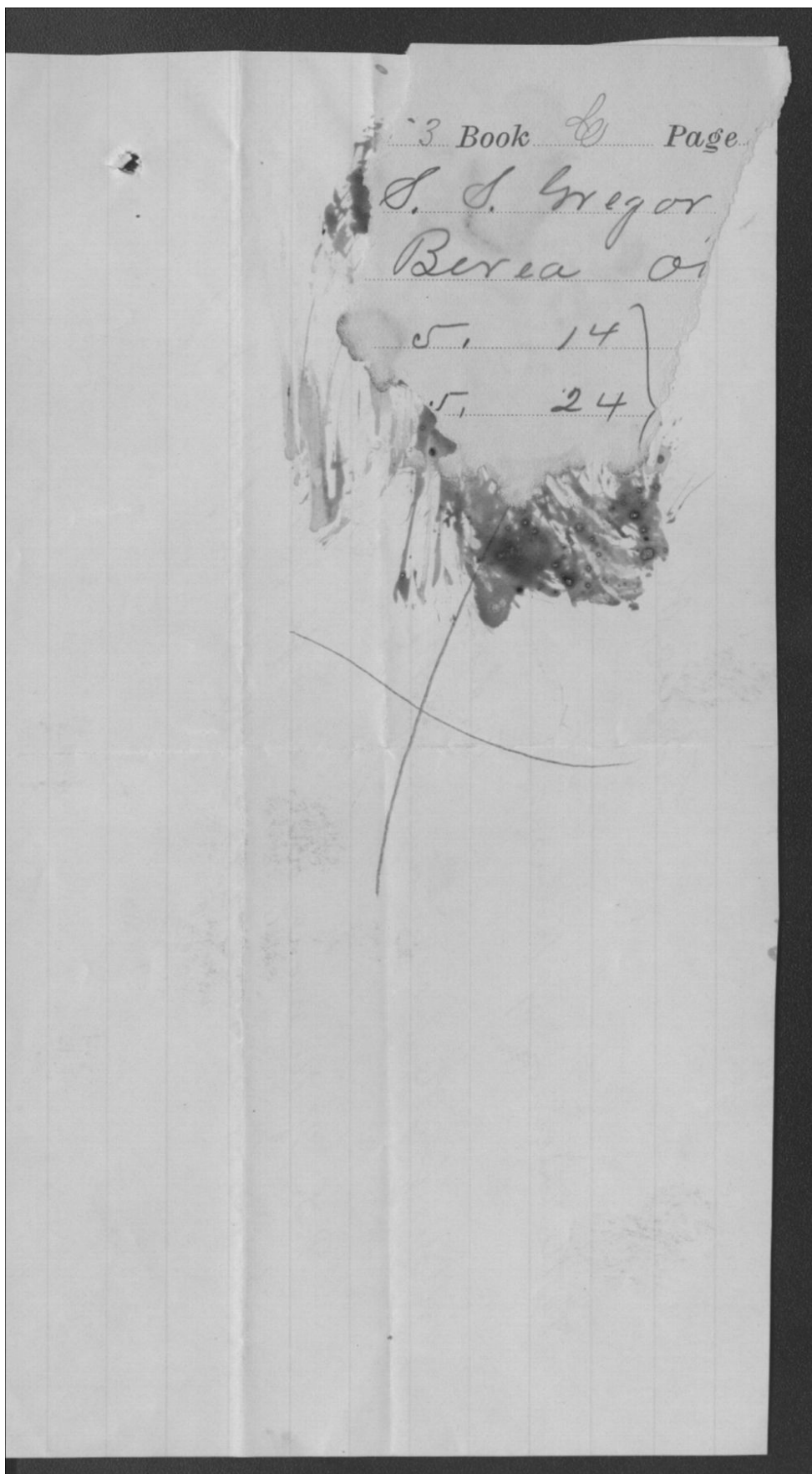
To the Governor of Kansas:

To day I intend to send twenty
dollars for the assistance of the destitute Colored people.

Shelock L. Gregory.

P.S. If the money arrives safe, please, if convenient,
write the bare word yes on the back of this paper.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



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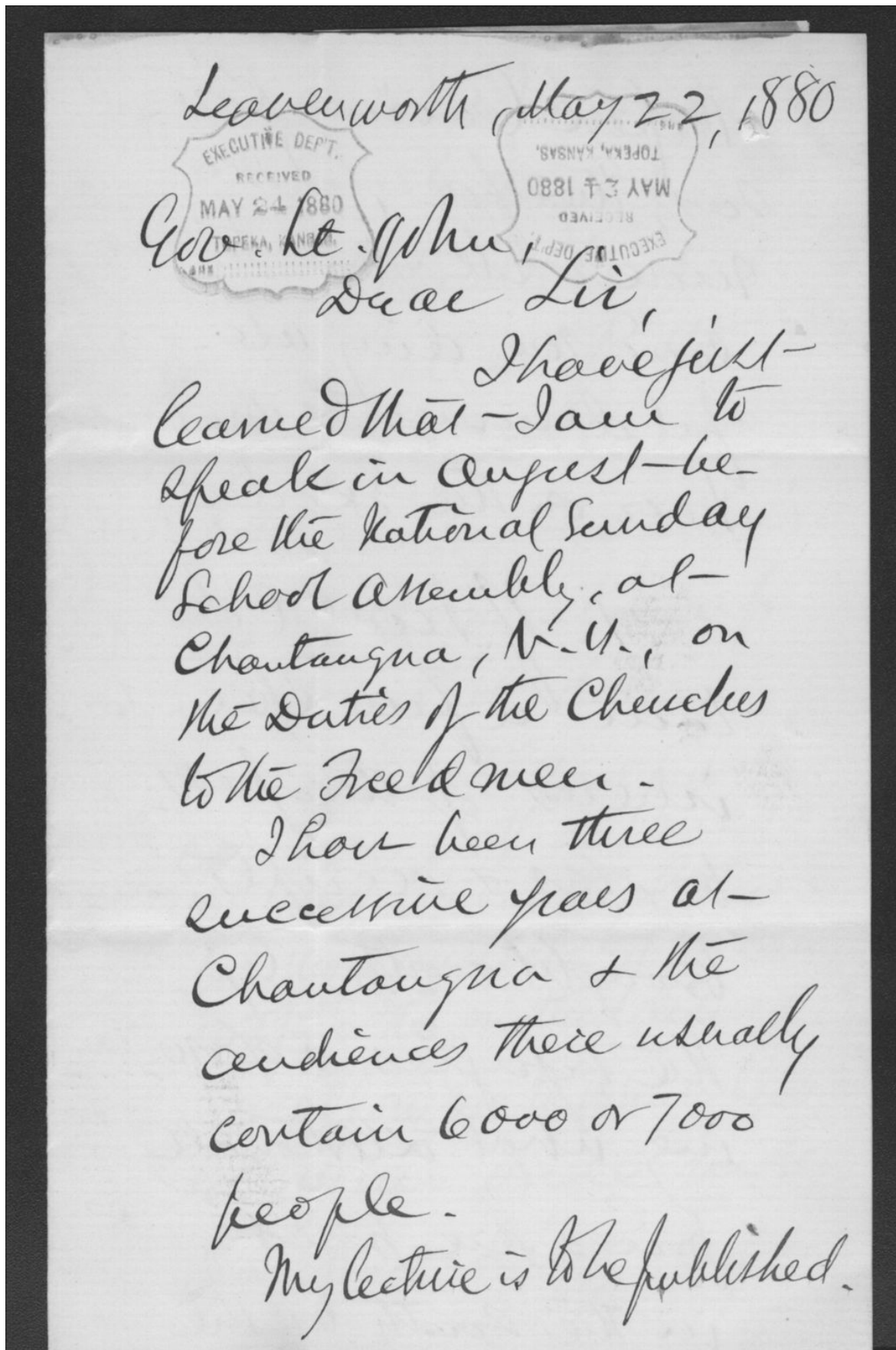
Ells
Princeton May 21st 1880,
Governor St. John
Dear Sir,
you recd^d my writing to you
last winter about giving
part of the ~~sale~~ money for
sale of lots in Topeka, to
help the Freedmen, to help them
get started in some way to
make a living. The lots were
sold by Bernhard and Rounds.
They wrote me they would give
me \$100 for them, and sent
me a deed to sign, and I
had it made out and acknow-
ledged before a notary,
and sent to them, in their
answer they said they had

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

to pay \$25.00 for to clear
up title, \$14.00 for back taxes
and \$10.00 for commissary
so that ~~came to~~ what I
had left was about \$40.00
I do not know whether
it was done all straight
or not, I send you an
money order for \$20.00 and
hope with Gods Blessing it
may do so some good,

Yours Respy,
Chas. R. Stearns,

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Before leaving Kansas, therefore, I once more ask you to send me any useful documents you have on the Exodus.

1. If I could obtain a few specimens of the pass-books & receipts brought north by the refugees & showing what exorbitant prices are paid in the South by the

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freed men, I should
be much aided.

2. I should be glad
to get a full set of the
reports & circulars
of the Kansas Freedmen's
Relief Association, up
to the latest - date.

Perhaps your private
Secretary will do me
the favor to hand this letter
to Mr. Constock, if he can
not find the matter desired.

allow me to thank Gov.
St. John once more
for presiding at -

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

the ^{Pa} ~~top~~ ^{Pa} ~~top~~

Sunday Mass
Meeting, May 16,
& for his superb
advocacy of
Constitutional
Prohibition.

Most resp. & truly,
Elph Cook.

I leave Leavenworth Monday.
My summer address is
Liconderoga, N. H.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Minneapolis, Kan., May 24th,
1880.

Gov. St. John,
Topeka Kan.:

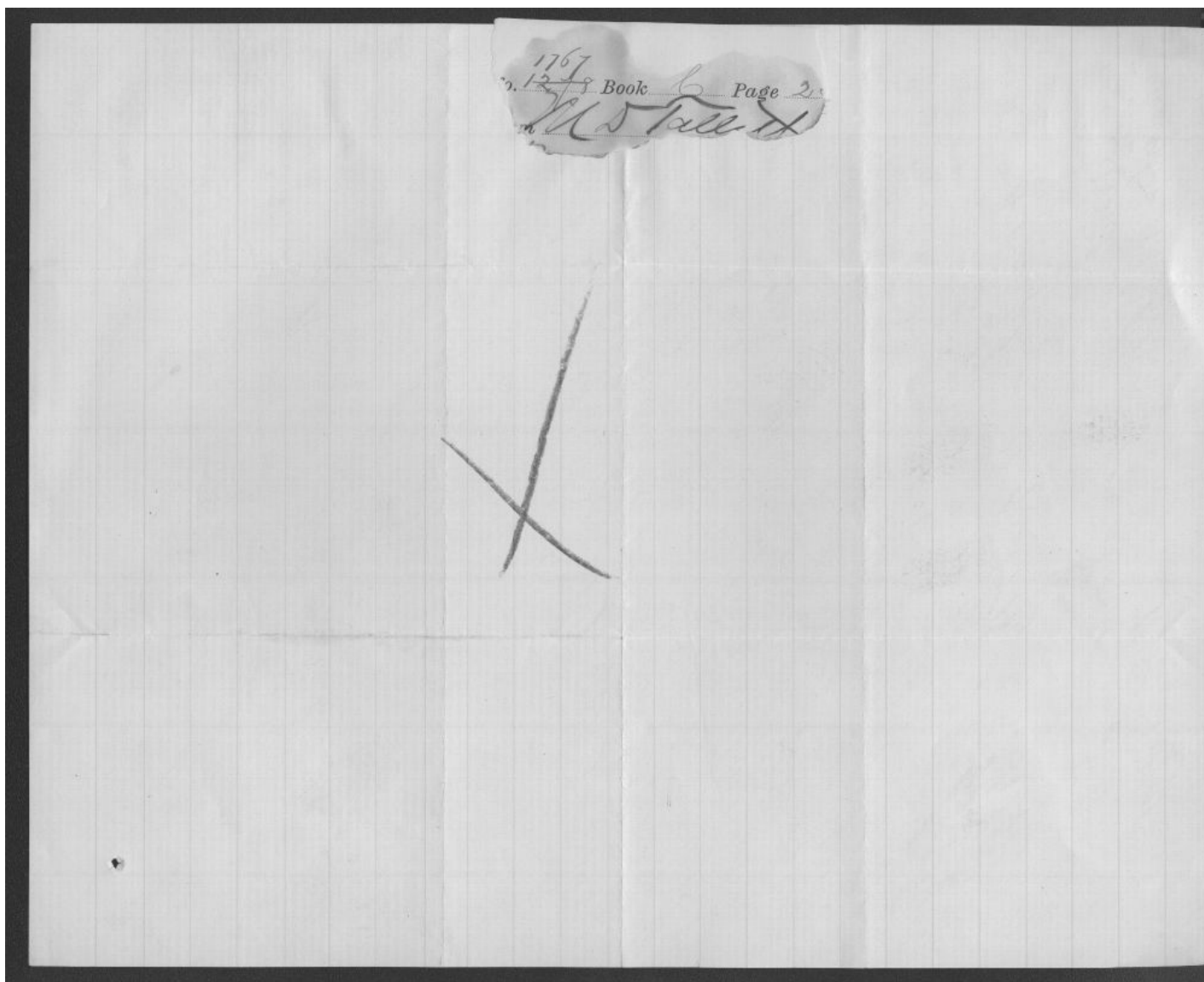
Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will find Four Dollars and Ten cents (\$4¹⁰) a gift of Maria Cartwright of Lincklaen Centre, Chenango Co., N. Y. (per M. D. Tallett, Minneapolis, Kan.) to the Kan. Freedman's Relief Association. Thinking that you are an officer of that association and not knowing any of the other names I send it to you trusting that it will be no trouble to you to hand it to the proper persons. A receipt would probably be received with pleasure by her.

To His Excellency,
Governor St. John,
Topeka, Kan.

Your obedient servant,
M. D. Tallett.

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Wheaton Ill. 5-28.
Gov. St John,
Topeka Kan.
Honored Sir:

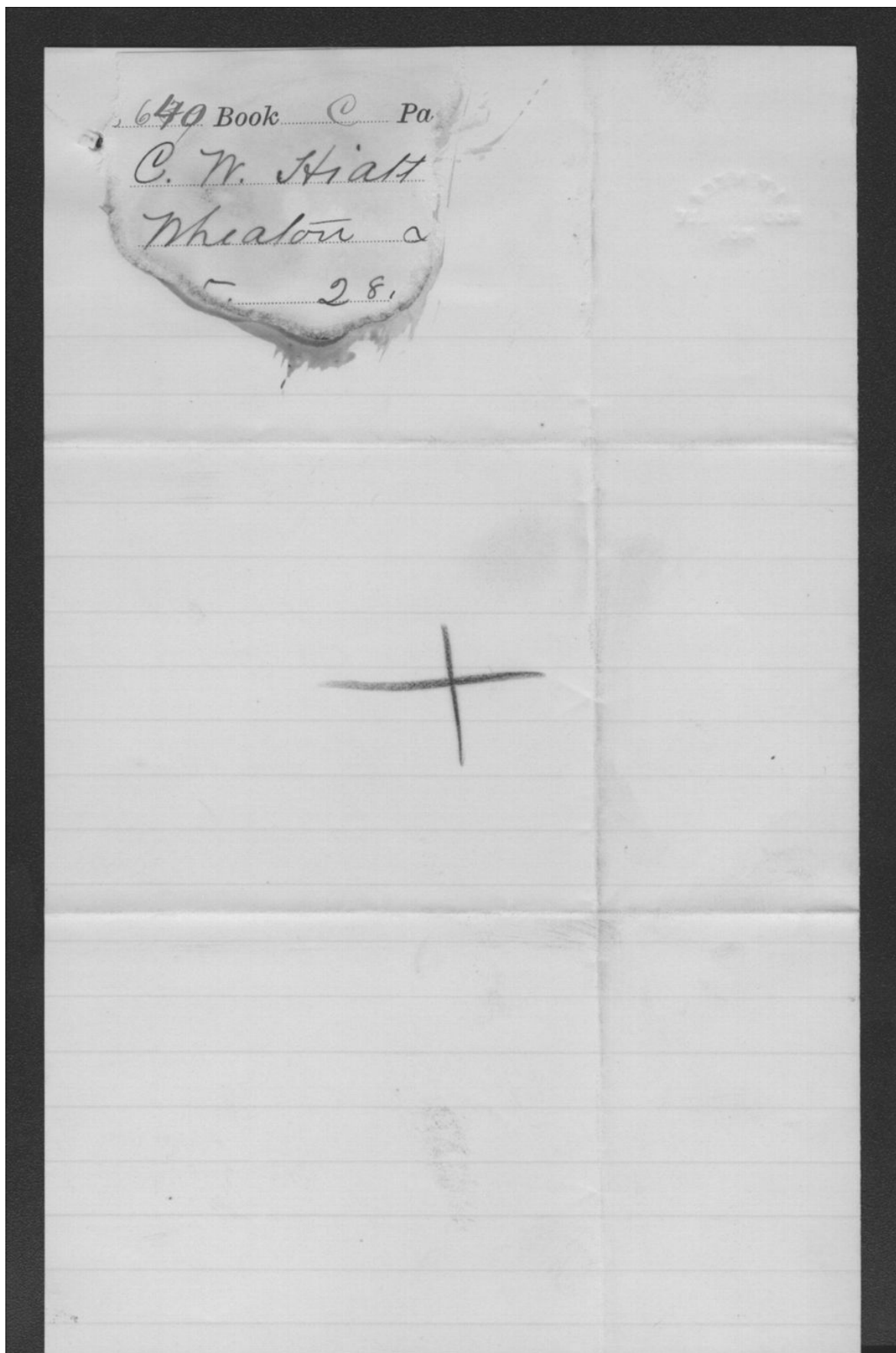
Enclosed please
find Twelve (\$12⁰⁰) Dollars,
voted to the 'Exodus' fund
by the College S. S. of this
place. Will Your Excellency
please acknowledge receipt
of same on enclosed postal
and greatly oblige,

Respectfully

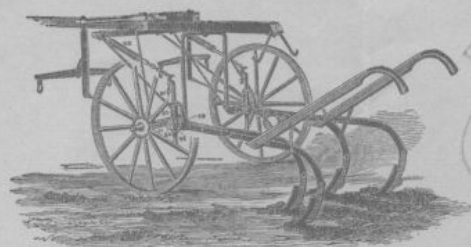
C. H. Wiatt

S. S. - Treas.

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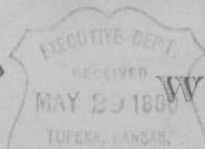


Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



DEERE'S NEW SPRING CULTIVATOR.

In reply to yours of



OFFICE OF

WILLIAM PENROSE,
DEALER IN
Standard Farm Machinery,

No. 217 FRONT STREET.

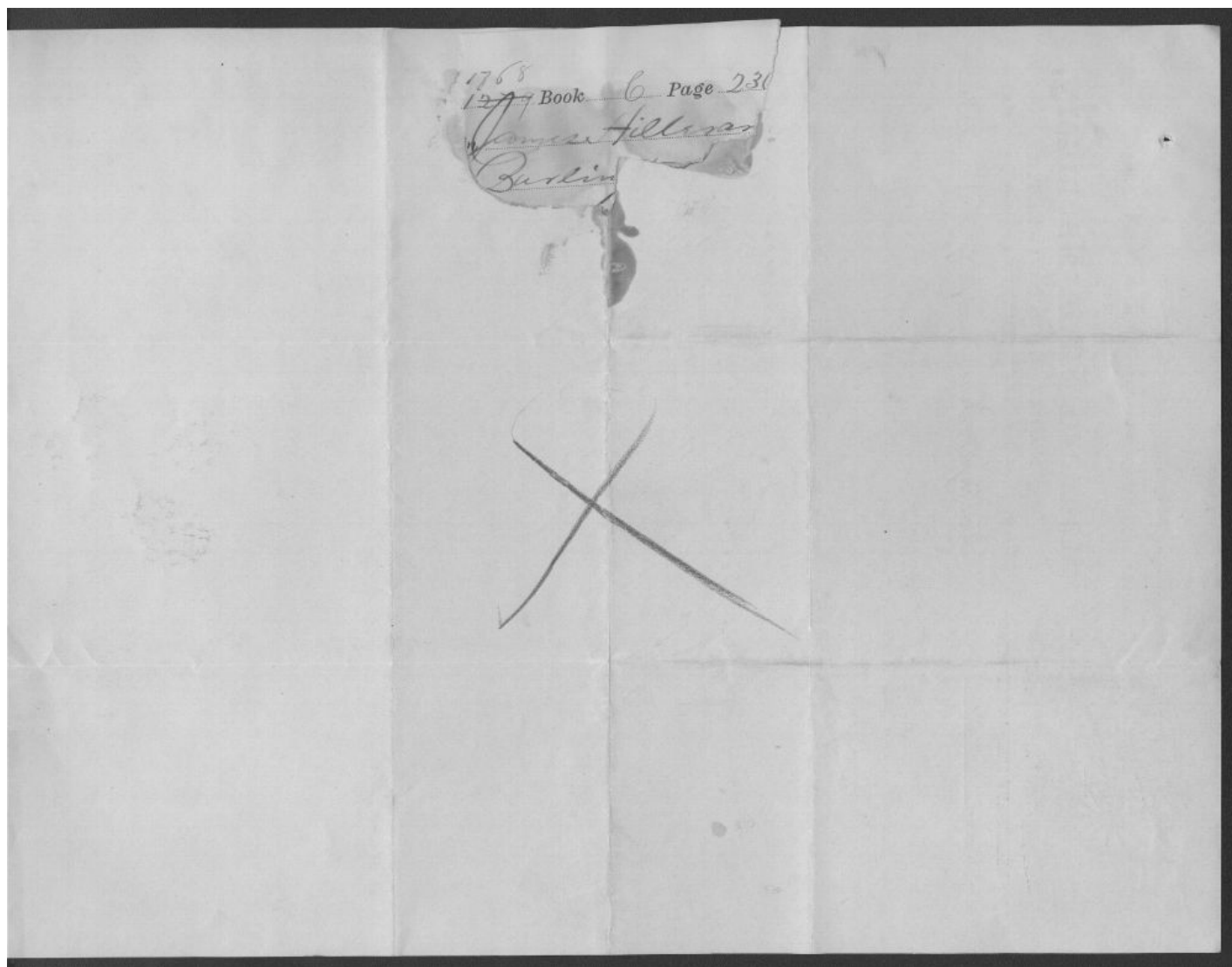
Burlington, Iowa, *May 28* 1880

Gov St John
Topeka Kansas

Dr. Sir. Enclosed please
find P.O. order for \$5.⁰⁰ Five Dollars: for the benefit
of Freedman; (fleeing from the "hell" of the effects of slavery).
I have recd papers from said Society - giving great satisfaction

Yours Truly, James Hillary

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Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Huntsburg O
May 29th 1880

Gov St, John
Sir

The ladies of
the Aid Society of Huntsburg
have sent one barrel of clothing
to the Colored Refugees at
Gopika, we did not know to
whom to direct the box & so
sent it to your self, Enclosed
you will find the Bill of lading
& one dollar to pay freight please
acknowledge the receipt of this
letter & also the barrel if received
The barrel was valued at forty
two dollars contained a good
deal of new clothing & all of
it good address Mrs Lucy Strong