

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 65, Pages 1921 - 1950

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

Wm. St. John Aug 8th 1880.

To Gov. St. John
Pres. Anderson's Relief Com.

Dear Sir,

We don't find
Cathie's Check for the
amount of \$8. for the And-
ersons, from money contrib-
uted in the vicinity. For
which please have ac-
knowledgment made.

The stream of benevolence
has almost ceased to flow in
this direction - And it is
unwise to start it again,
if the wants of the Andersons
continue.

I have transmitted

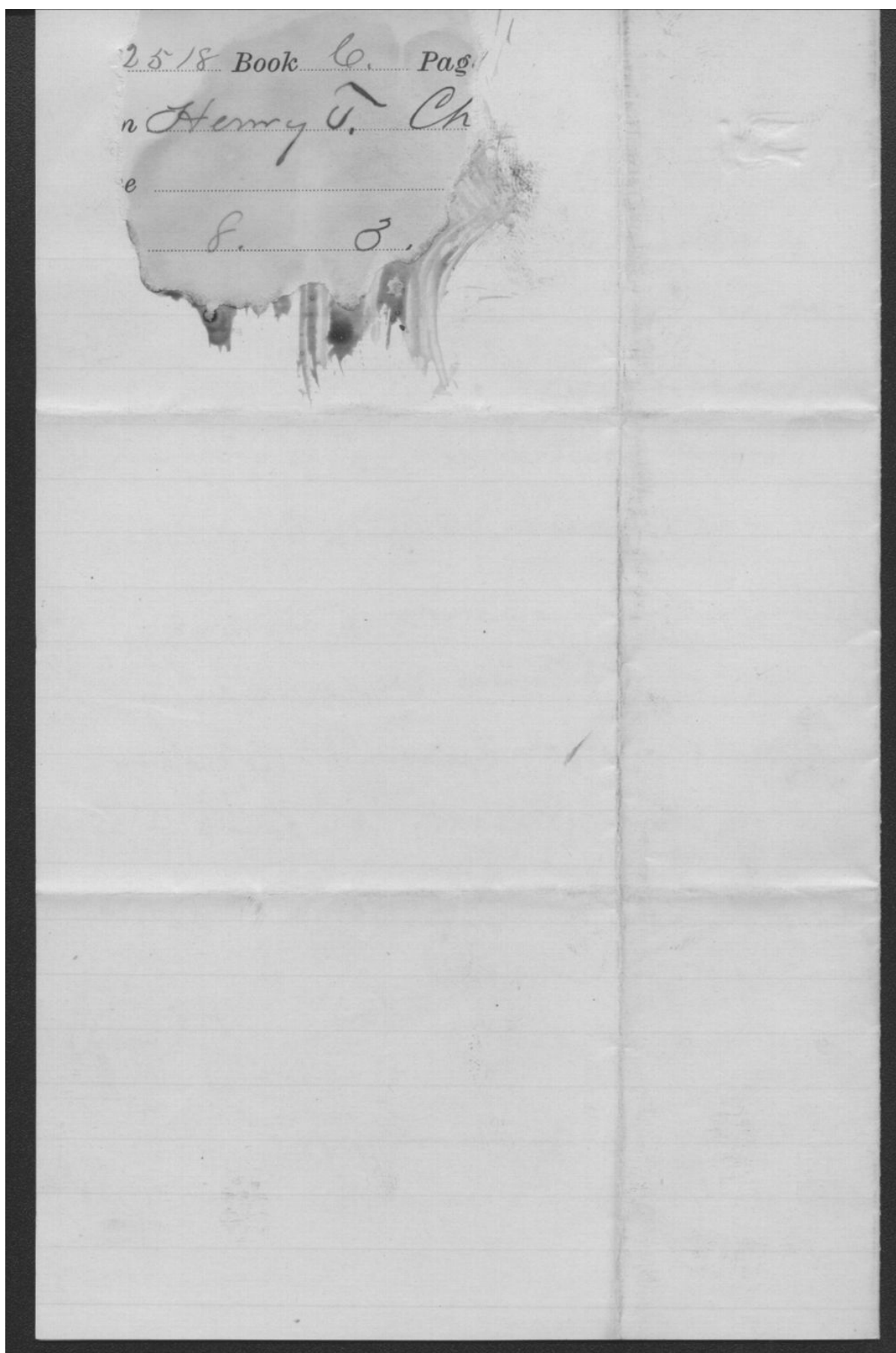
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

from time in money
to b. and 20 Baskets of Cloth-
ing. Let me know if
the necessity for effort in
this direction continues
that we may renew our ef-
forts to the charitable.

With warm desires for
your success in the Temper-
ance Campaign on
which so much is depen-
ding, Most Cordially
Yours

(Enc) Henry T. Cheever
Treasurer of Worcester
Committee for Freedmen

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Entaw, Greene Co Ala
August 6th 1880

To his Excellency
Governor St John
Topeka Kansas.
Sir.

We desire to introduce
to your notice, the bearer of this letter, Rev Henry
Reed Pinckney, a colored man of liberal education
and large influence in this section, who comes
to Kansas in the interests of his race. From our
intimate personal acquaintance with him, we
can safely assure you that any statement he may
make is entitled to be received with full credence.

We have the honor to be

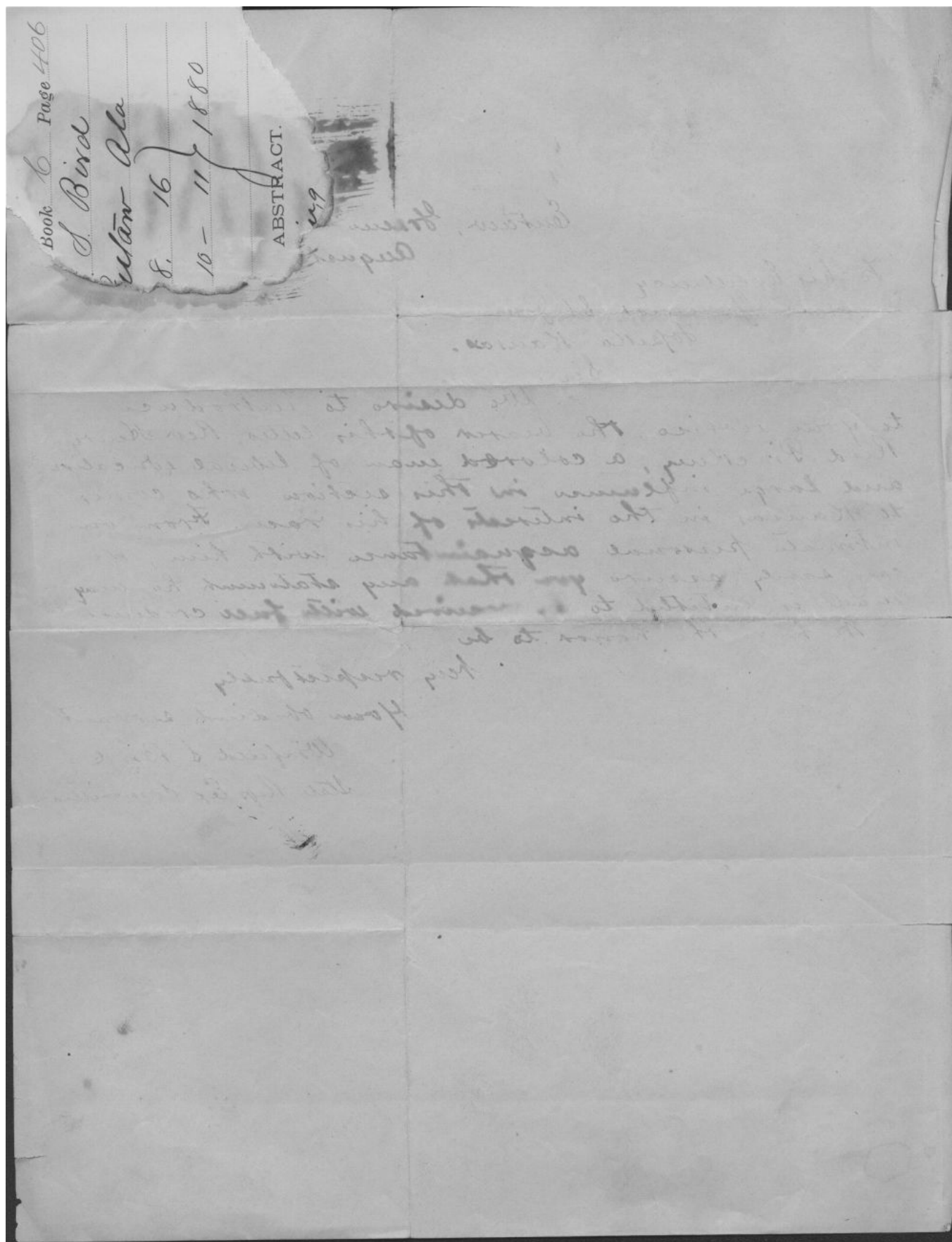
Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

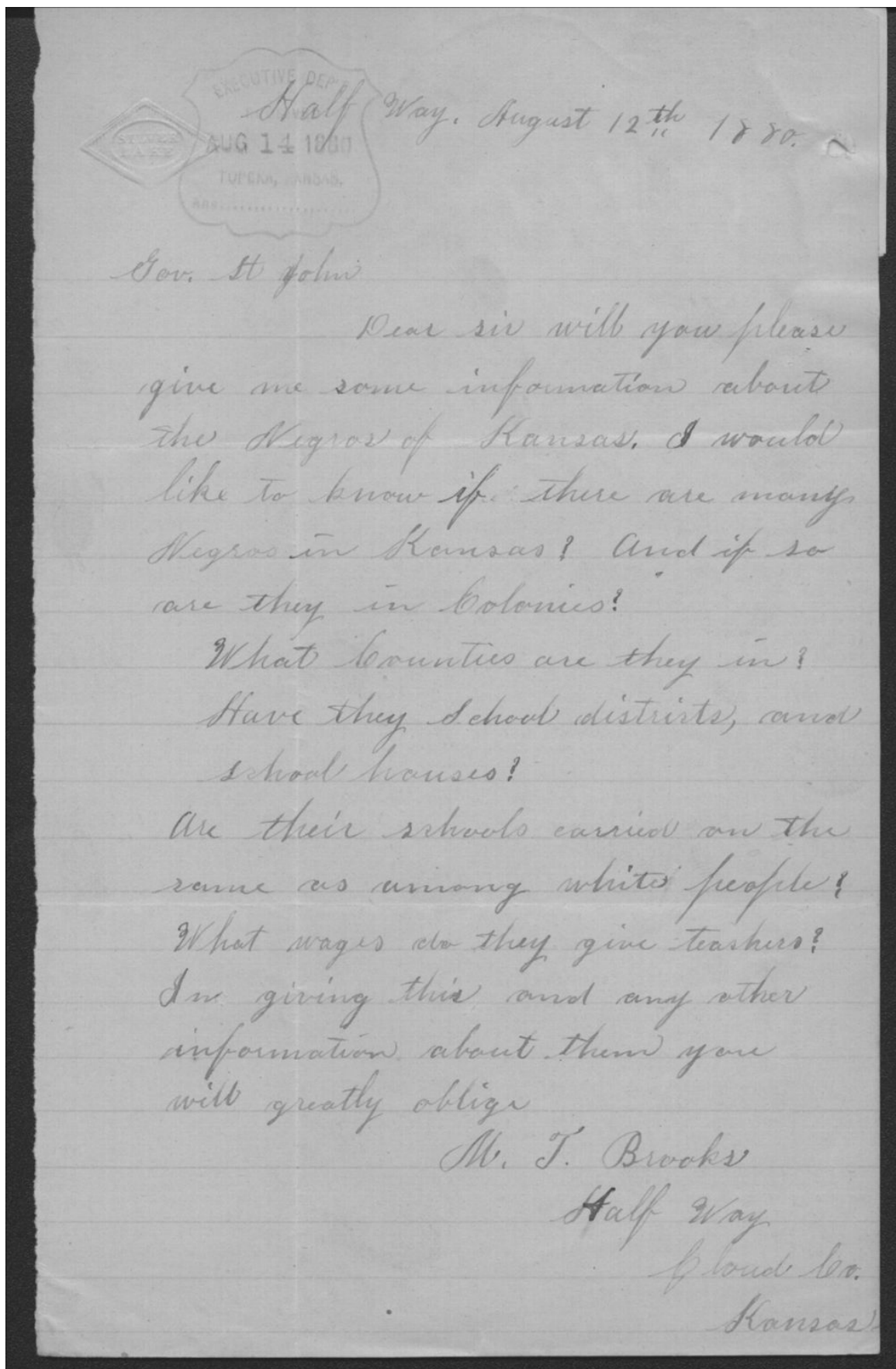
Winfield S Birds

State Rep Ex Committee

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No. 2514 Book 4 Page :

From M. J. Brook

Place Half Way

Date 8. 12

Rec'd 8. 14

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from fine crops of Corn Cotton &
 vegetables - Corn being very cheap
 will of course not be much aid
 as supplying plenty of meal - but the
 Cotton coming up so rapidly and in
 so much larger quantities than was
 expected that many of the farmers who
 cursed the Negro for coming to Kansas
 are now preparing to have Cotton
 planted next year. one man told
 me that Montgomery Co. alone would
 plant 20,000 acres next year -
 whilst Labette & Cherokee will
 have their own in the same way.
 A colored man ~~at~~ ^{told me} Oswego on
 Friday that his gin mill would
 have 20,000 bales this year -
 and that his success warrants him
 in leasing 200 acres next year &
 planting the same in Cotton -

There has been some fears amongst
 the friends of the Freedmen that the
 Anti Prohibition element should

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over Persuade them knowing
 them from acting Correctly and
 thereby damage the good Cause &
 am pleased to find a strong Element
 in favor of renouncing the present
 Government - and I trust the Dear
 Lord may so order it -
 As near as I can find there will
 be about About 30 pr cent of the Exodusters
 who must be clothed the coming
 Winter and 60 pr cent of those need
 more or less food - I am informed by
 J. E. Pickering that in Cherokee Co
 almost all the food needed will
 be furnished by the Citizens. Which
 will relieve our work very
 materially as there are nearly 4000
 in the County - 30 Pr cent will
 come up pretty large -
 I think Labette Co will be very
 much the same - but Montgomery
 Co although not having so many
 by near one half yet very many

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new settlers having sought a home
 of their own with but little means
 to pay out cannot provide enough
 for themselves until they set another
 crop - & give bread to freedmen is
 impossible without stinting their
 own families - the same is also
 true of Chetangua Co consequently
 in order to avoid unnecessary
 suffering there should be clothing
 and food for at least 1500 who
 are already here beside the thousand
 who will arrive within the
 next 9 months and must have
 help - and the friends of the colored man
 are very desirous that no tax should
 have to be levied on his account.
 If A. L. Comstock comes back to her
 work and takes special hold of this
 part of the state in her work I
 hope she will not concentrate too
 much at any one place as those
 people have flocked into Topeka
 and I am satisfied will damage its

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future interests unless some prompt means are used to scatter them among to other points. If Supplies could be shipped direct to Osage then assorted and sent to Parsons - Chetopa - Baxter Springs - Columbus - Independence - Coffeyville & Sedan it would hinder such crowds as would gather to any one point if supplies were all given out as ~~had~~ has been at Topeka -

There is a strong desire amongst the citizens at some points to have a training school established but I have not seen how funds can be procured for feeding clothing & schooling unless some new avenue is opened to the funds money locked up in the East. I have wanted to write them for some time but not receiving any reply to my letter I thought my

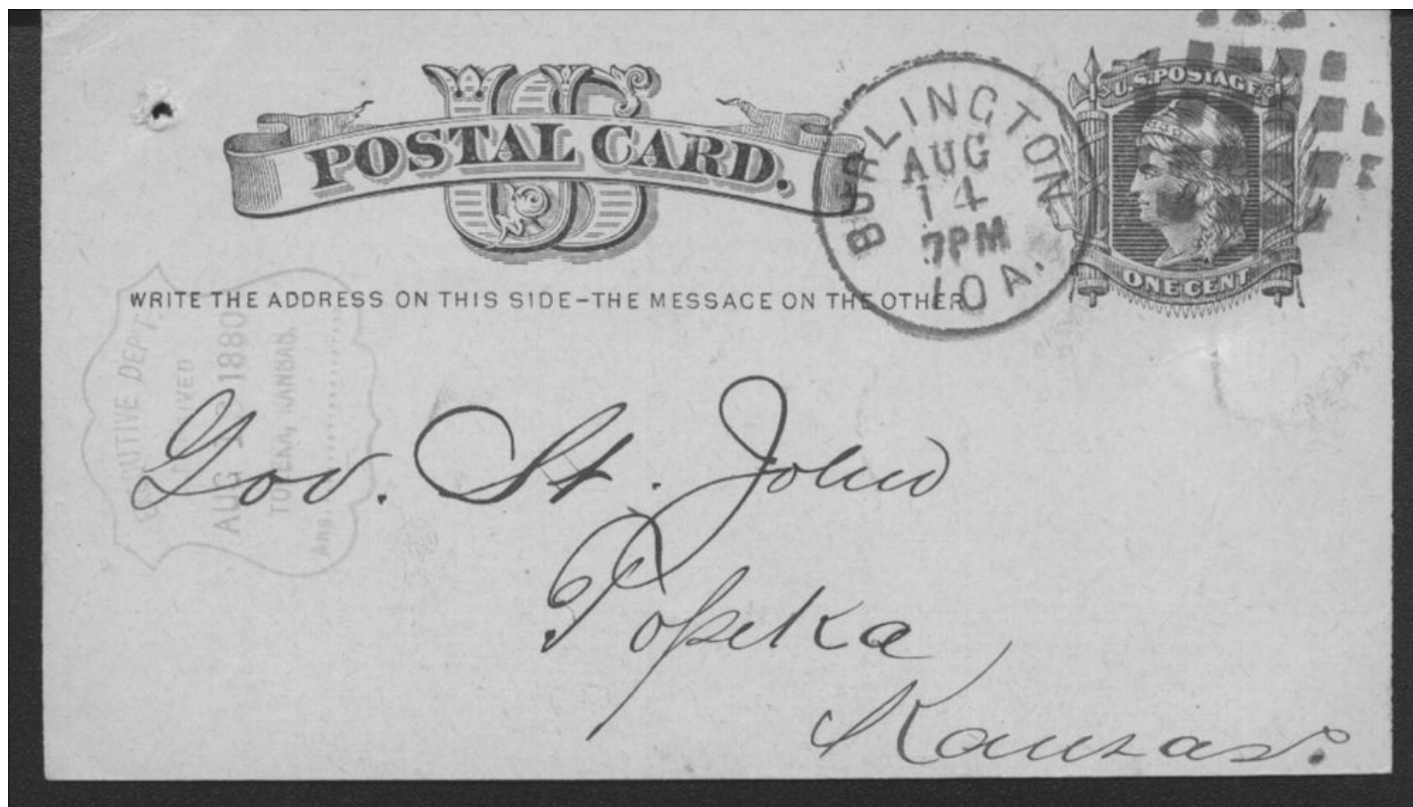
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letters were welcome perhaps
 and kept quiet on in my work
 knowing that some day all would
 come right. I want to say that our
 mutual friend Wilmer Walton is a
 man in the right place - and if
 Mr. Constock entrusts him with
 anything he will find it honest & done.
 I am sorry that politics has turned
 Mr. W. Reynolds head - as I hear it
 has -

My kind regards to Messrs Ward &
 Devendorf.

I am sincere thy friend
 John M. Watson
 Address for 10 days
 Columbus, Kansas

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Dear Sir, Burlington, Iowa. Aug 14/88
About three weeks ago I
sent you P. O order for \$5.00
for colored people.
Have you received it.
I have not heard from you.
Please let me know & oblige
Yours truly
James Hickey.

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EXECUTIVE DEPT.
RECEIVED
SEP 3 1880
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

2 Book C Page 354
Julia C. Cleveland
Newburyport Mass
Newburyport (Essex Co.) Mass.
August 21st 1880.

To
His Excellency Gov. St. John,

Respected Sir,
Late in the summer
of 1879 a man styling himself
Gen. Conway of the Union Army,
came to this City to solicit
funds with which to purchase
a steamer to convey the col-
ored people who had located
on the river banks during
the Exodus, being denied
passage on the regular boats.
I think he said that
\$10,000 was the sum that he
wished to raise, and of that

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Sum, Newburyport was to give
one hundred dollars.

The interest in the Exoduster
at that time was very great,
and the money freely given,
inasmuch as Gen. Conway was
endorsed by two of our best
clergymen & reported himself
to have been previous to the
rebellion, a Baptist minister.

A short time after he
left, an item in our daily
paper said that he had
"been" arrested for "muddling"
which was explained in some
way, but not contradicted,
since that time we have been
unable to learn any thing
definitely of his movements.

I have repeatedly written
to the Rev. Mr. Woodmont
of Boston of Miss American

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Missionary Association "who had replied "that he knew nothing of such a man personally".

A lady who had contributed liberally to Gen. Conway's fund came to me last evening saying that she had made inquiries at the Miss. Rooms in Boston and learned that he was in Kansas, and that a letter addressed to yourself would probably reveal something of this mysterious man, as he undoubtedly had some thousands of dollars in his hands.

Any information which you Sir may be able to communicate to the friends of the Colored people of this City will be very gratefully received. such measures a

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-great injury to the cause
of benevolence, be they ever
so honest.

I have often heard my
dear husband, the late Rev.
Dr. Cleveland, speak of the
Rev. Mr. Cordley of Lawrence
Kansas, if he is the individual
whom he once knew in Michigan
will you Sir, do me the favor
to ask him to call on me
at my residence whenever
he may come to New England.

Respectfully -
Juliana C. Cleveland



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Aug. 22, 1880

No. 44. 3

HALF RATE MESSAGES.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages only on conditions, limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message.
Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold its liability 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. 3 NORVIN GREEN, President.

Dated New York Aug 22 1880

Received at TOPEKA, KANSAS \$ 23 - 526 CASH

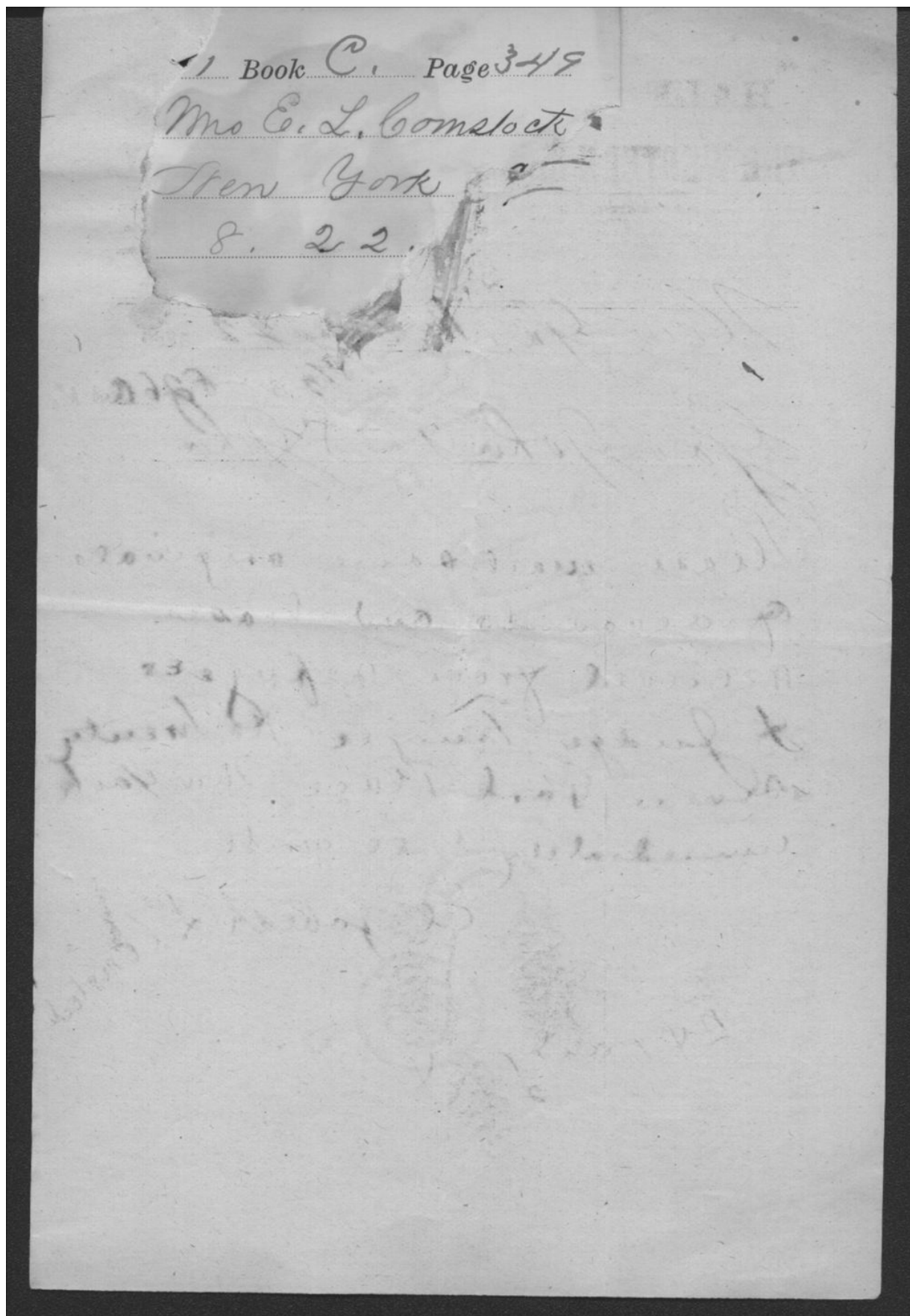
To Gov John St John

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

Please mail same originals
of accounts and leases
received from refugees
to Judge Tanager No twenty
Seven Park Place New York
immediately will write
Elizabeth L Constock

24 Paid, RX
2 RX

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Normal Aug 23rd 1880

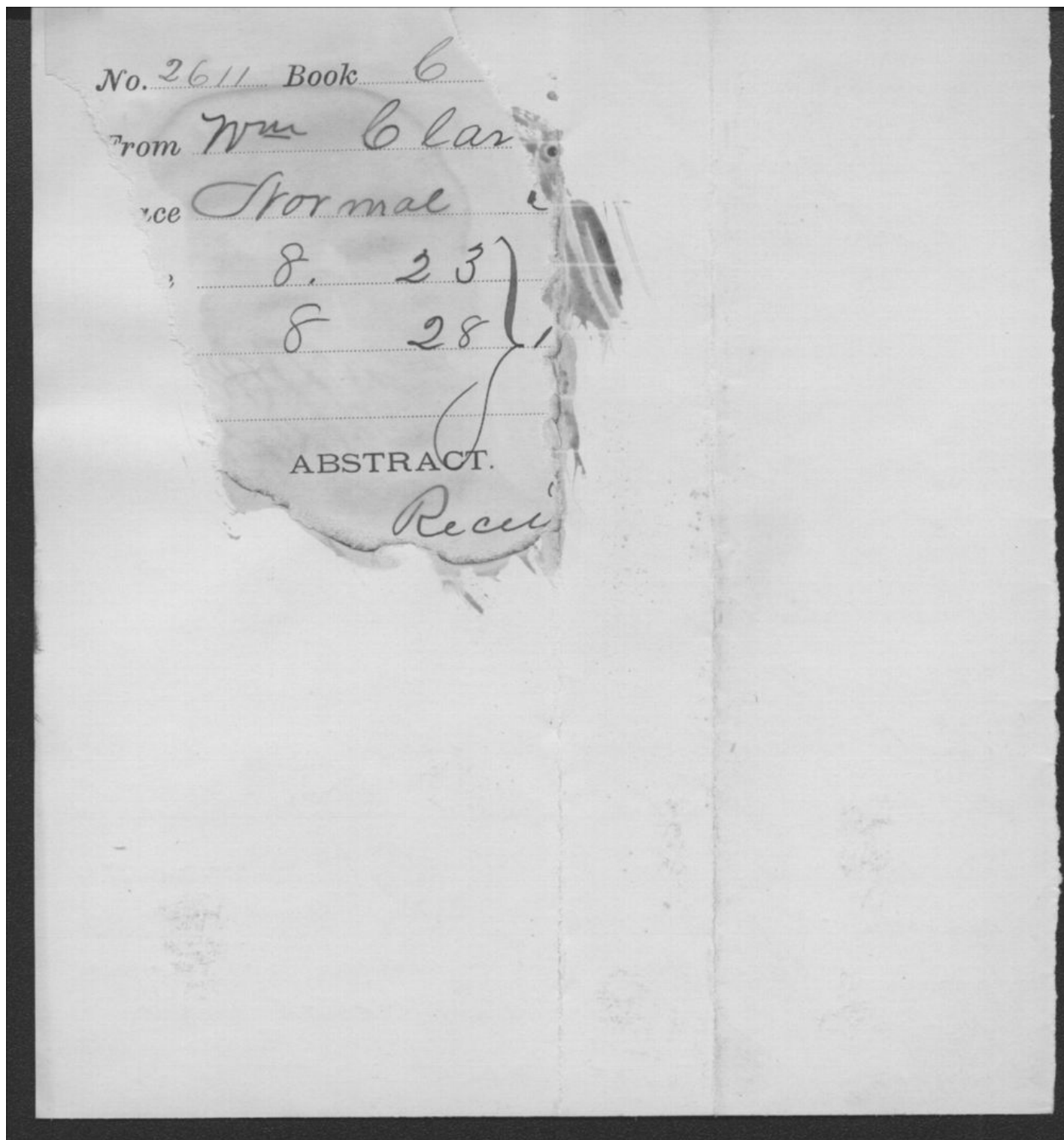
Hon. John St. John
Governor of Kansas

RECEIVED
AUG 23 1880
TOPEKA, KANSAS.

Dear Sir

Your Receipt came to hand
for 5 dollars all right I have
been in the habit of paying
five dollars a year to the Mission
Cause I was going to send to you
last year the Methodist Minister
said he would send it wherever I
wished I hope it went to where I
intended it I have two son-in-laws in
your state one in meane Co name
Jacob Rohrer the other Cherokee Co
name David Trimmer
yours respectfully
J. M. Clark

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H. N. BAKER.

LAW, REAL ESTATE, LOAN AND

COLLECTING AGENCY.

Money Loaned, Farms and City Property
Bought and Sold, Rents Collected,
Deeds, Wills, Mortgages and Con-
veyancing of all kinds. Also,
NOTARY PUBLIC.

P. O. Box 2214.


Metropolitan Block,

East Rockford, Ill. Aug. 27 1889.
Hon. J. St. John
Topeka Kansas

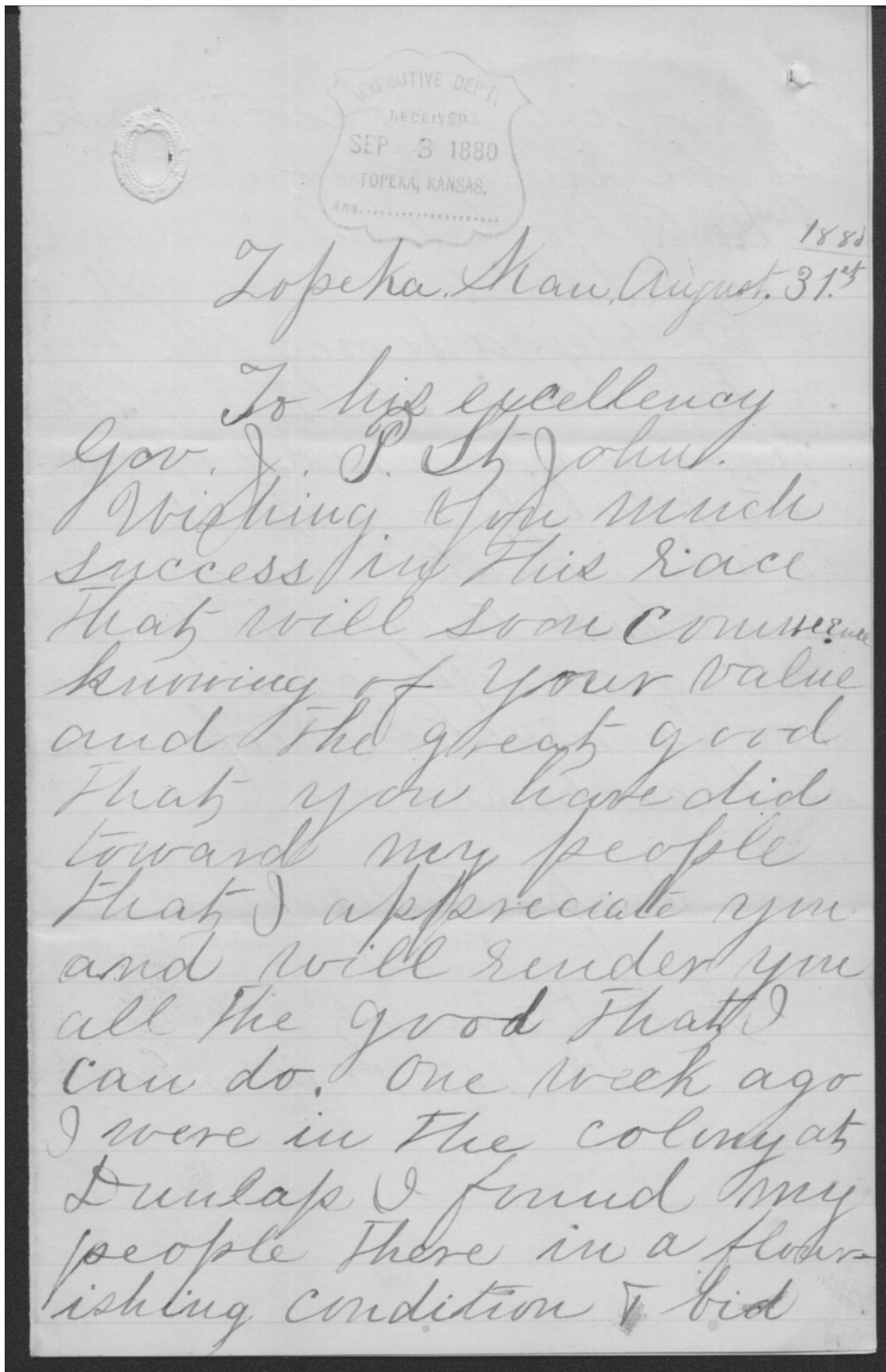
Dear Sir
A "Ladies Friend" desires to donate
One hundred Dollars to the colored
Emigrants in Kansas in whatever
way you may deem for their
best interest & enclosed find
Chicago \$100 - to your
order Please ack mt same
& oblige Yours very truly
H. N. Baker

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No. 3264 Book 10 Page
From H. N. Baker
Place East Rockford
Date Aug 27
Rec'd
Ans'd
ABSTI
no for 7



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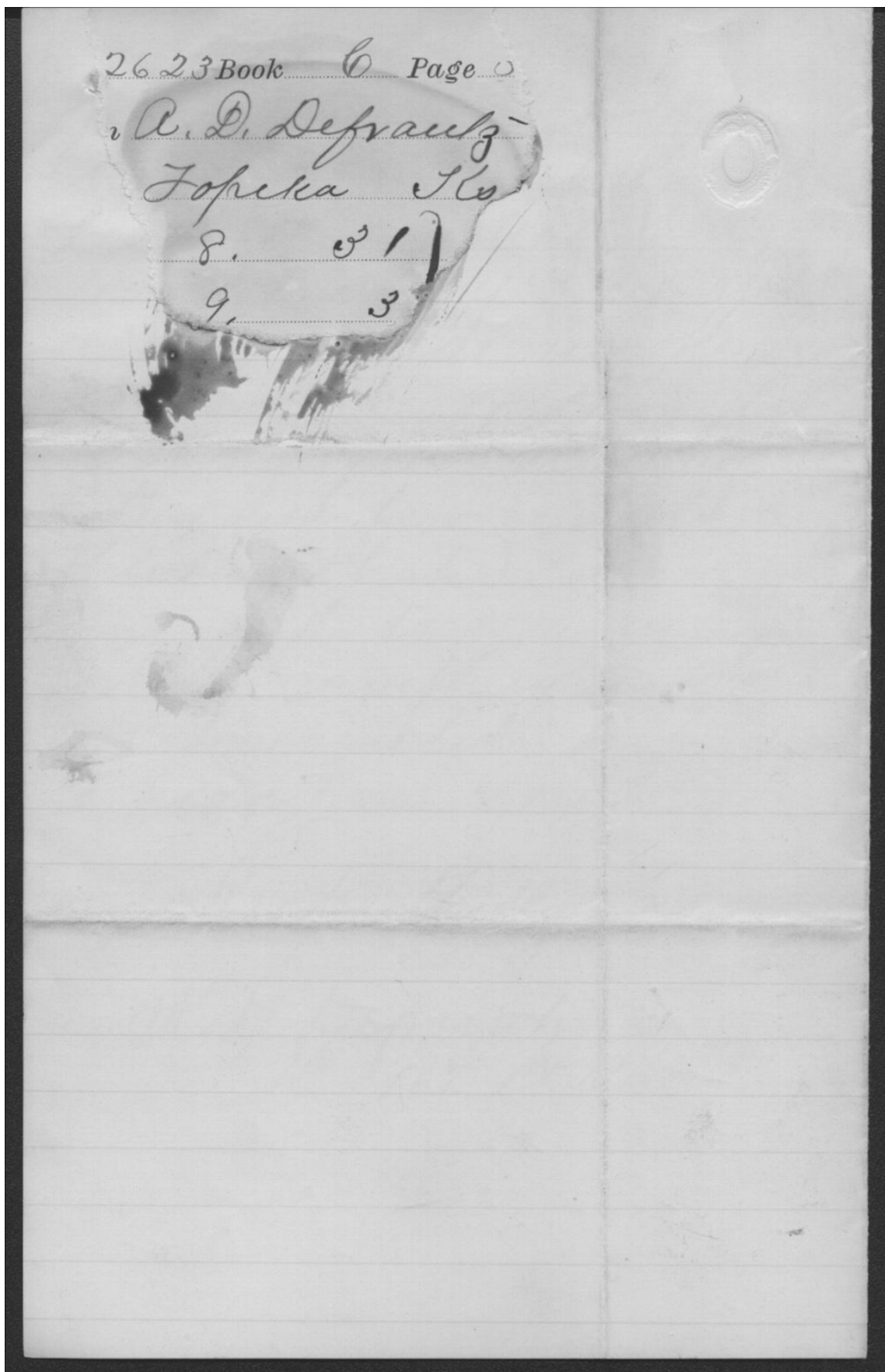
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fair in a few years
to be in no want
Oh to God that I may
live to see my race yet
a people among the best
on the face of the globe.
hoping you may apprec-
iate these few remarks and
Thinking that I can be of
any aid to you in this
coming campaign if you
are nominated I hope soon
to hear from you


Respectfully

A. D. Deprant
No 167. St Ave East

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 Lawrence Has. Sept 3rd 1880.
 Dear Governor:
 I am glad to congratulate you upon your successful nomination before the Republican convention. I did what I could for you. And also I hoped to secure some recognition for my race upon the State ticket. But in this we failed. I must in justice to yourself. Support the ticket - as nominated at Topeka. But in doing so I will incur the condemnation of some of the leading men of my race. Not that they wish to defeat you, but to call the attention of the party to the numerical strength of the Negro in Kansas. I shall do what I can to allay this storm of dissension. I did not ask anything at Topeka for myself.



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I did not ask not for a place
on the Central Committee.

Was not in the convention when
it was done. I expect this thing
will kill me politically. it will
alliate the colored men of
weight from me and the
White Republicans will have
no sympathy in my behalf
when I am down. So you
can readily see where I am placed.
I expect in less than a week
you will hear me denounced
all over the State. But
"Alls Well that ends well."

John L. Waller

No. 2706 Book C
From J. L. Waller
Place Lawrence, Mo.
Date 9, 3
Rec'd 9, 4
Ans'd
ABSTRACT.
Congratulating
St. John, on
nomina