

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 68, Pages 2011 - 2040

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

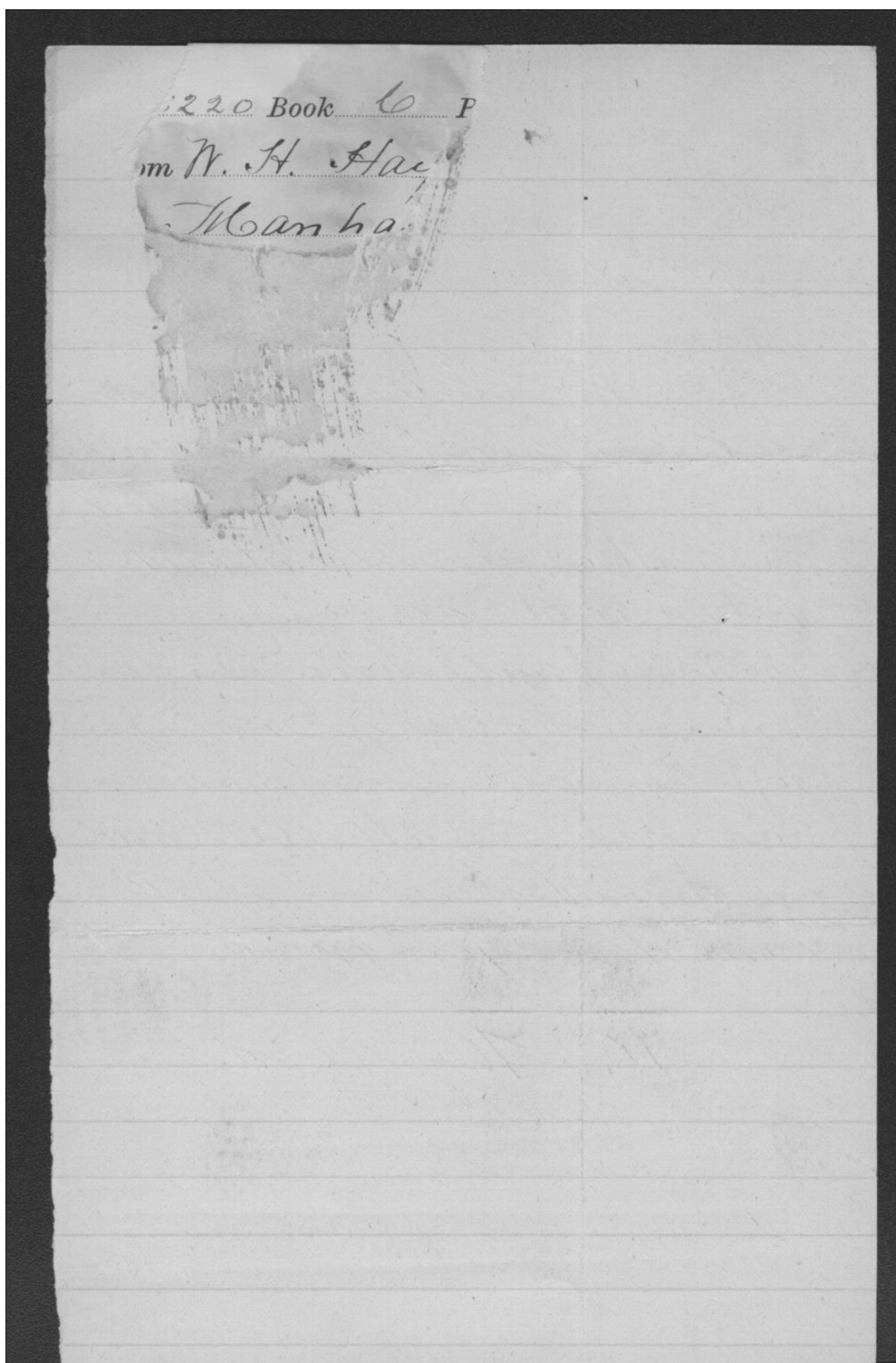
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Nov. 10.

Manhattan Kan Nov 10/880
Gov while you have Sir
So I am as full as to be told
Re Election is it is a common
for a gov when he is elected
to part of his old suit and
Pot on and one is I am
harder up and I have Sir since
I Sir in Kansas I ask you
for that old suit in answer
one we are all well and
are proud of your Election
answer soon your friend

W. H. Haywood

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New York City
317 Broadway
Nov 11, 80

Gov St John
My dear Friend.

Since I last wrote,
you have gone through the trials and
triumphs of a great election. I con-
gratulate you that it is over, and
that you have had a great per-
sonal triumph.

Our World's Fair work progresses
very slowly, indeed. The men of N.Y.
are too busy and too prosperous
to take hold with vigor. Each man
has his own work to do.

The Commission, at its meeting
in Aug. left behind it an Execu-
tive Committee, with full power. It
consists of 31, of whom 5 are from

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the States. Of the 5, I am the only one who has been able to remain for work. We meet regularly once a week & sometimes twice.

During my absence in Aug. the opening of Books of Sub. was postponed until after the election. They were opened very quietly yesterday. It may be that the first million will be as quietly taken, but I don't believe so. And if taken, I think it will be to control and postpone. Such subscribing will involve no outlay for we resolved to spend none of the money until success is assured.

My own experience teaches me that nothing is accomplished without agitation and the controlling policy of the Ex. Com. seems to have been to suppress agitation. All active work has been kept in abeyance, lest the Exposition may not come off

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- and it is not likely to come off because the work has not been pressed.

- I had occasion some weeks ago to go before the Farmers Club, American Institute, to set Kansas right on the question of the drought and of the appeals for help made at Des Moines. St. Louis & now the other day I was exceedingly sorry to see the statements made by Mrs Comstock concerning the condition of the refugees. The Herald reported her as stating that of 50,000 who have gone to Kansas, about $\frac{2}{3}$ I have to be supported. The Tribune makes her say that there are five times as many refugees as there were a year ago & that she "wants money to give them food and shelter".

I must believe that her story is cruelly exaggerated. I send you the Tribune account.

If the poor of the South cannot be protected and maintained at home they should be systematically distributed through the North before they reach their destination, so that

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Kansas will have only her fair proportion whom
she can care for without soliciting aid.

It touches any state pride to have any one
come from Kansas to beg for any purpose.
It makes against us in public estimation
since Kansas has done so much in that
line - & so often.

I will remain here but a few weeks longer.
My health has been improving &
I am beyond the reach of any chronic
malady. I have touched bottom & begin
to climb.

I hope your family are all
well & that you are long to have
as I know you will deserve,
the confidence of the people.

Your friend
Geo. A. Crawford

1. 1874
New York City
J. St. John
Page 434
Book 10

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STEPHENSON & McLAUGHLIN,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW,

ROOMS 10 & 11, MASON'S BLOCK.

Muskegon, Mich., Nov 11, 1880

Hon Gov St John
Kansas

Dear Sir, Last Summer Mrs Marlot of
Adrian Mich. came to my. and laid down
before me for assisting the colored people
fleeing from their homes in
the South to their Country, Kansas.
With other citizens of this place I did
what I could to raise funds to purchase
lumber to be sent to Kansas. Three
thousand and something more
than \$500.⁰⁰ was paid into the Treasury.
For some reason Rev W B Swann of
this city published a piece in the
newspaper here. carrying the news that
no assistance was needed in
your state; that he had been told
that Kansas was able to care of
her own negro and all within her
borders; that all the refugees & others
in your state could be employed of.

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STEPHENSON & McLAUGHLIN,

ATTORNEYS AT LAW,

ROOMS 10 & 11, MASON'S BLOCK.

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Muskegon, Mich., _____ 18__

Willing to move; that the Refugees
were lazy & shiftless & would not move
unless paid exorbitant wages & then just
at such work as they might think de-
sirable. Again an article by the same
gentleman appears in our Public
Opinion, pretty much the same as the
first article. I find it enclosed.

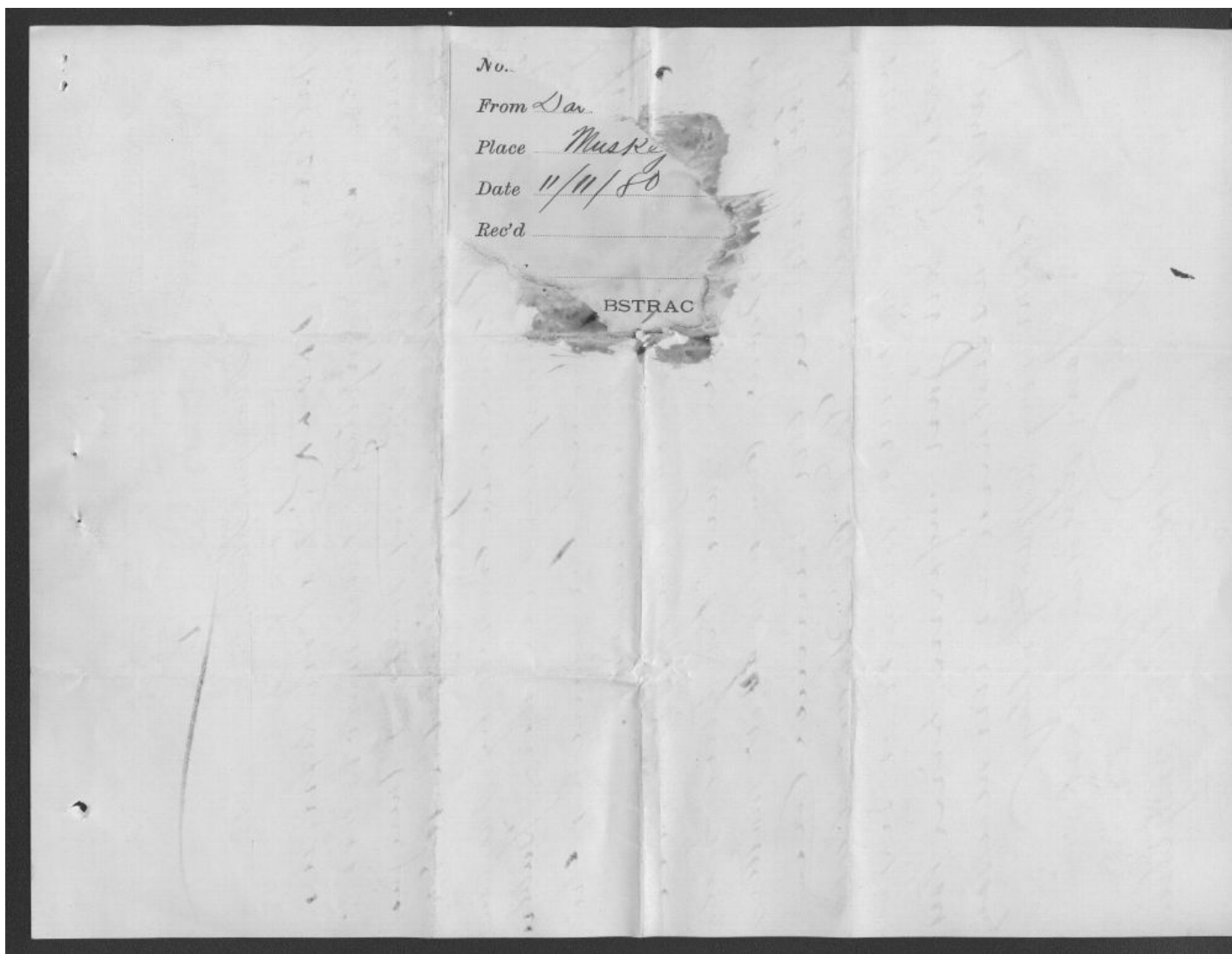
I will be much pleased to hear
directly from you the true state
of affairs, now. Can also how matters
stood late in the summer (and
early fall). Did Mr Seaver call
on you within a month or six
weeks? Did you inform him that
further assistance is unnecessary?

Yours very respectfully


Yours obedient servant

David M. Laughlin

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 Achieving that many of the large families
 of Exodusters, might be greatly & more permanently
 benefitted by having homes provided for them
 in Country neighborhoods, where they could obtain
 work & as land has already been offered for this
 purpose, we, the undersigneds agree to pay one
 hundred dollars for the purpose of building a
 house on an acre of land for a home for such one
 family, they to come in permanent possession
 of it, when they have paid this amount, without
 interest to the Kansas Freedmen's Relief Asso-
 ciation, through their Secretary.

(Detmar P. Wharton Phila
 Jonathan Thorne New York
 Jm J Retch & others New Bedford
 A Young Friend Fall River

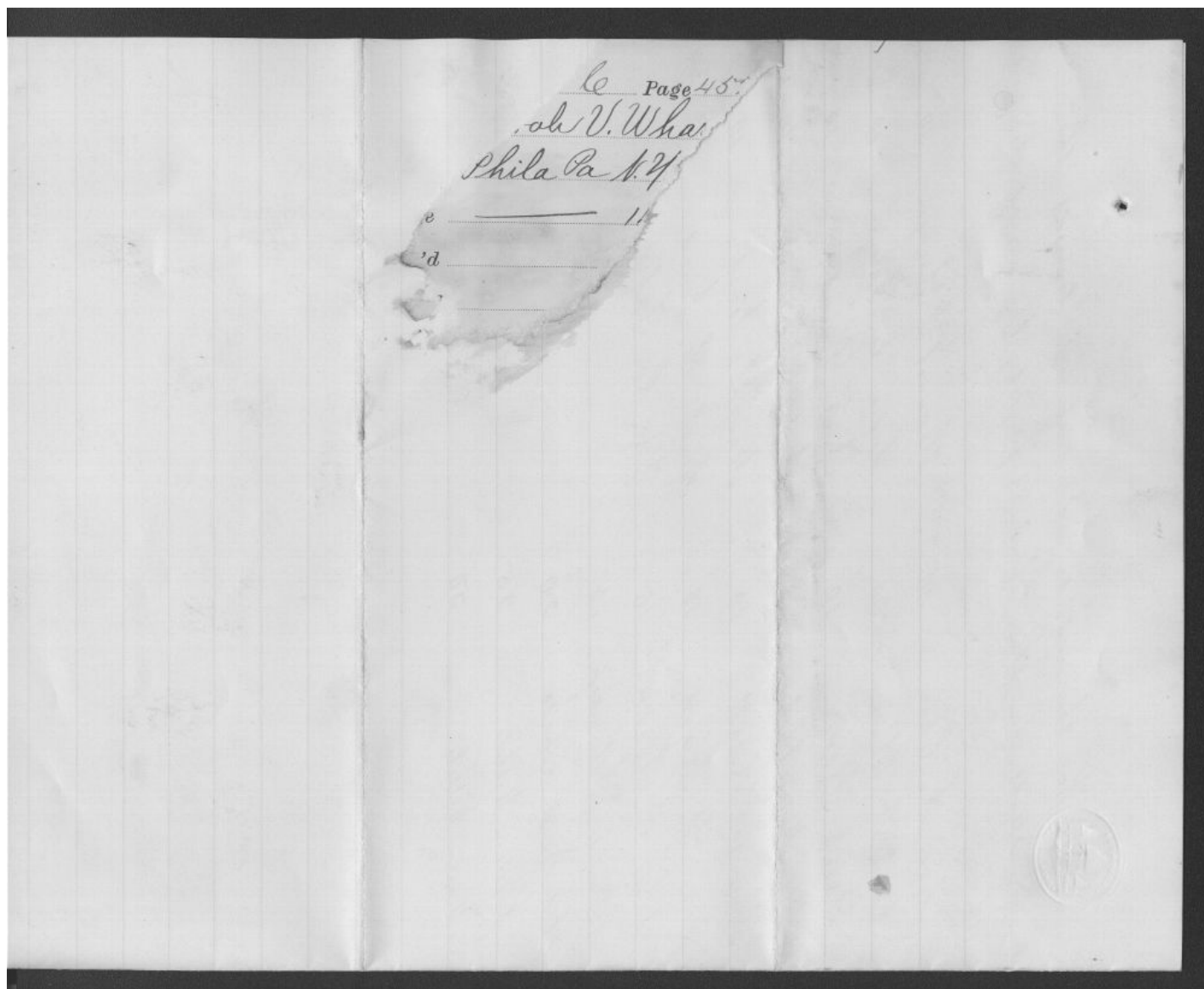
(over)

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We the undersigned contribute towards the homesteads for the Colored Refugees, the sums specified below.

Chas. A. Chase	30	Hannah G. Sawyer	10.
Addie F. Chase	30	Lydia E. Sawyer	10
Sarah Glade	10	J. K. Purinton	10
Ann Maria Earle	5	J. G. Whittier	10
Alvin C. Whitall	10	Mary L. Jones	10
Anne G. Wood	10	Amelia H. Jones	10
John H. Tucker	10	Wm. C. Taber	20
Charles Taber's wife	15		
Edmund Chase	20		
Lydia Willets	25		
Maria Willets	50		

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12 1/4 Arch St Philadelphia

11. 11th 80.

Gov^r St John
My dear friend

I think thou wilt
be interested in seeing the
enclosed. Some of our Friends
in the East are much interested
in providing homesteads for
some of the large families of
refugees, whom we desire to
scatter from Topeka & other
cities & make them self sus-
taining as soon as possible, in
the rural districts.

Perhaps thou remembers my
consulting thee upon this point
last Spring. 4 or 5 of our Friends
farmers, expressed a willingness
to deed an acre of land to a
large family, if we would put
up a cabin or shanty to shelter

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them. These Friends had small houses, & were much crowded & cd. not provide shelter for the refugees, but were willing to employ them as much as they cd. afford to, & thought they cd. get work by the day from neighboring farmers & their wives.

For this we found one hundred dollars wd. be required for each large family.

I have collected subscriptions for 10 & have provided for more.

If thou canst spare time to send me a line, a simple endorsement & approval if it meet thy judgement, I shall be much obliged.

Thanks for thy last letter. I rejoice in thy re-election & also in the amendment.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

With kind love to thy wife
Thy friend truly
Eliyth L. Comstock

c/o Eliyth H. Garrison
12 1/2 Arch St.
Philadelphia
Pa.

I hope to return to Iospeka
early next month.

It seems to me that the refugees
should be scattered about in the
rural districts as much as possible.
It will be so much better for
them than congregating in the
towns & cities.

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1214 Arch St.

Philadelphia 11.13.80.

John P St John

Dear Friend

I am requested to
send this to thee with an
urgent appeal to thee to
attend to it at once.

I know thy engagements
are very numerous & pressing
but our friend Wm F Thott
thinks this is important now.

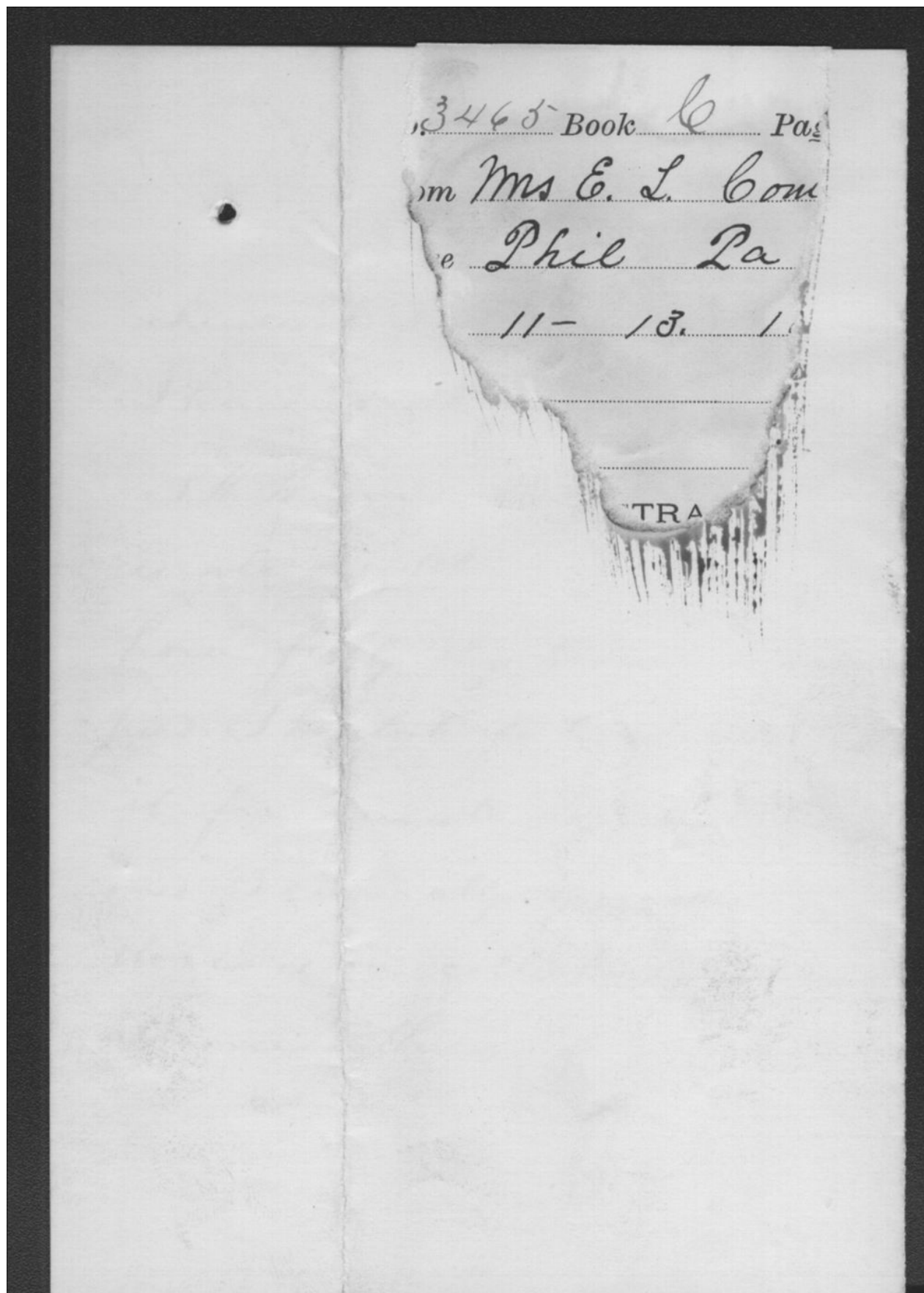
Thy friend truly

Wm F Thott *over*

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Since S. S. Hamland left,
I have sent remittances to
S. M. Wimer. I suppose that
is all right. Knowing
how fully thy time is occu-
-pied I hesitate to trespass upon
it for small amounts. Large
ones I generally request the
donors or collectors to remit
at once to thee.

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Hammonton, Nov. 13th 1880,

Ex Gov. St. John,

Dear Sir— Will you please excuse the liberty I have taken in thus addressing you? I venture to do so knowing how faithfully you have labored in behalf of the freedmen. I will explain as briefly as possible my object in writing. I have about \$3000, which I wish to bequeath to the freedmen by faithful executors who will buy good land for them in Kansas which they can cultivate, & can make homes for themselves. This three thousand is about all I possess, & as I am now 62 years of age, & have been an invalid the last ten years, I may be obliged to spend some of it before my decease. I have however so far, spent only the annual interest. My native state is Maine where I taught school over thirty years, & earned the most of said money. For the last ten years I have

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been unable to do anything for a livelihood,
I have no near relatives; & wish to bequeath
this to the honest worthy poor. Knowing that
you & Mrs. Elisabeth Comstock were associated
in this work, I thought I would write, & ask
if you & Mrs. C. would accept the trust of
bestowing what I may leave at my decease as
here expressed; or as I may more definitely ex-
press. As about \$10000 of this is in promissory
notes I think it will be well to name an
Executor here who will collect the money, &
settle the business to be done here, & send the
amt. to you & Mrs. Comstock to be bestowed
upon those named to the best of your ability.
If you accept the trust, & ^{as} life is uncertain
with us all, would it not be well to name
in the will that, if the persons named as Ex-
ecutors, or Trustees were not living, or were
sick, or otherwise unable at my decease to act
as Executors that, the Judge of Probate Court
in either Maine, ^{the place, in N. J. I mean,} or New Jersey may appoint
persons of known integrity, & in sympathy

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with the conditions of ~~the~~ will, as my Execu-
tors, I fear you may not understand my meaning,
but I mean the Judge of the court ^{the} ~~of place~~ where
my decease may take place. I have no home,
I have to board where best I can, & meet the
expense. I did not know whether Topeka
was your residence, or whether you were there only
officially; hence the seemingly odd address.
I enclose a stamp, & will you please use
it at your earliest convenience, & answer
my requests. You will confer a great favor on
one who wishes to do what the Master approves
if you will. Yours very respectfully,

Miss Anne F. Jameson,
Hammonton, New Jersey.

P.S. Any advice you may give will be grate-
fully received. A. S. J.

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Kidder, Peabody & Co.

40 STATE STREET,

Boston

Nov 13 1880

Hon. Geo. R. St. John
Topeka, Kansas

My dear Sir

I enclose
for aid to the Col-
ored Refugees.

K. P. Co. on Chemical
Satt. M., N. York \$500.

Mr. Comstock writes
that Mr. Daniel
Votaw of Independence

Kansas
can use \$100.

Yours
judiciously
Will you kindly

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

have that sum
forwarded to him
from enclosed amt

Please accept

I hope the
result of the election
will make it more
comfortable for
our colored friends
to remain South

Yours very truly
W. B. Kidder
Reasie

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3 Book 6 Page 44
from H. P. Kiader
Place Boston Me
Date 11-13-1
Rec'd
ABSTR
for 1

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Medina N.Y. Nov 15/1880
Gov St John
Dear Sir

A colored minister, Rev Mr James was here two or three week ago soliciting clothing and bedding for the colored Exodusters in Kansas. Stating that he was employed in that work, - He asked for no money and stated he would give us directions as to whom goods should be directed. He however left without doing so, probably forgot it. - We have gathered a nice lot of goods and are ready to ship them.

Will you inform us, giving directions needful that we may send. Is there great need of such goods to help through the coming winter.



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Send any information you may
deem desirable.

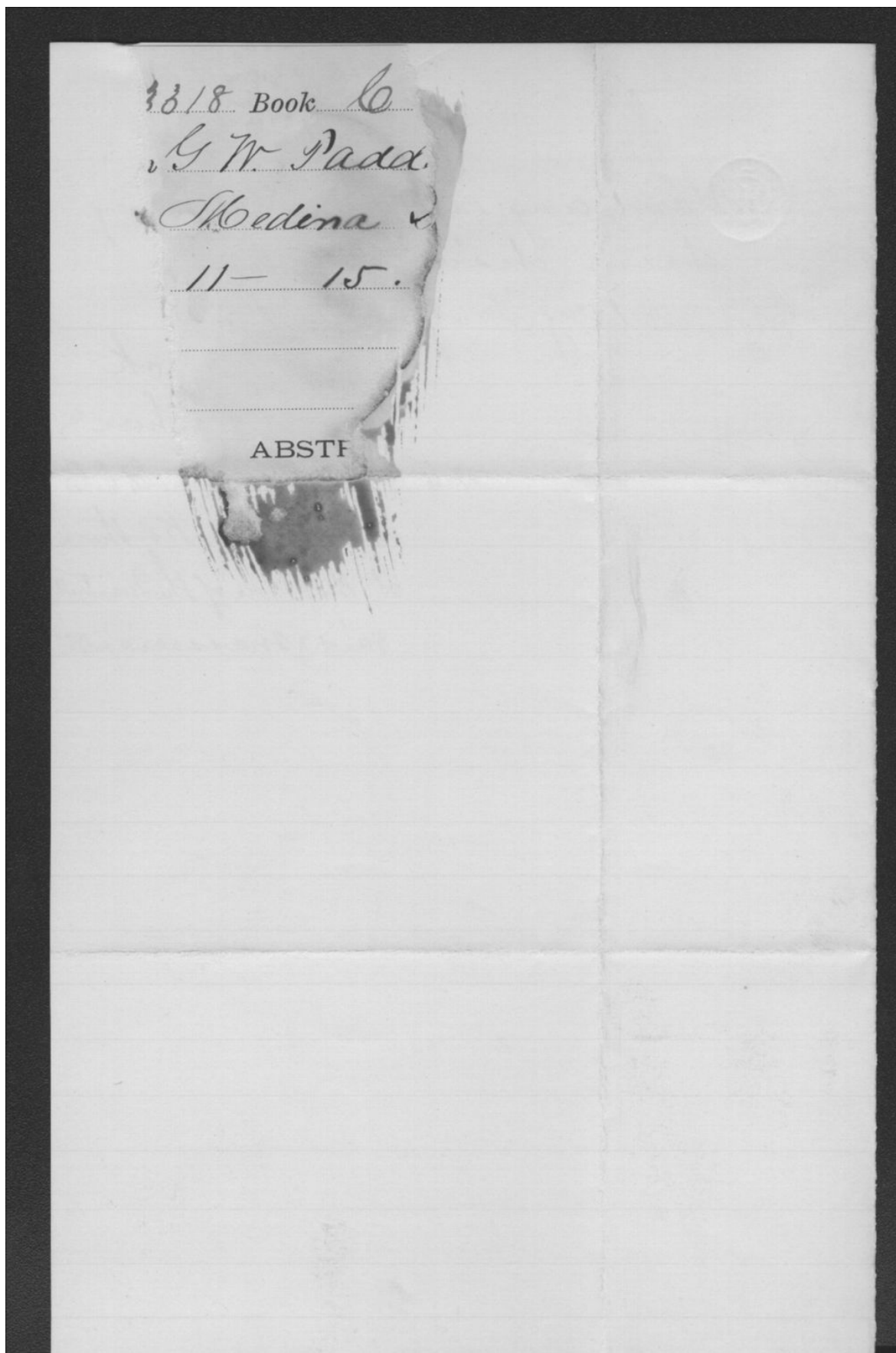
Very Truly Yours

G W Packard

Pastor M. E. C. here &

17 to 15 yrs ago pastor M. E. C.
in Lawrence Ks. there
at the time of the Quantrell
raid & massacre in 1863

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Kidder, Peabody & Co.

40 STATE STREET,

Boston Nov 17th 1880

Hon J. P. St. John
Topeka

Dear Sir
I notice in
the report of the
Treas of the Kansas
Relief Comm, recd
to day, my remits
have been credited
to "Thos Nickerson"
"ex K. P. Co" i.e. instead
of H. P. Kidder Treas.

Personally I
do not care but
as Treas should
prefer to have the

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accounts show
what I have done
with the money;-
which is often
obtained through
direct application
and on the prom-
ise that I will
see it is properly
disbursed - which
I feel I do, in
sending ~~direct~~
to you.

Yours in resp^y
W. B. Hilder