

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

### Section 70, Pages 2071 - 2100

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

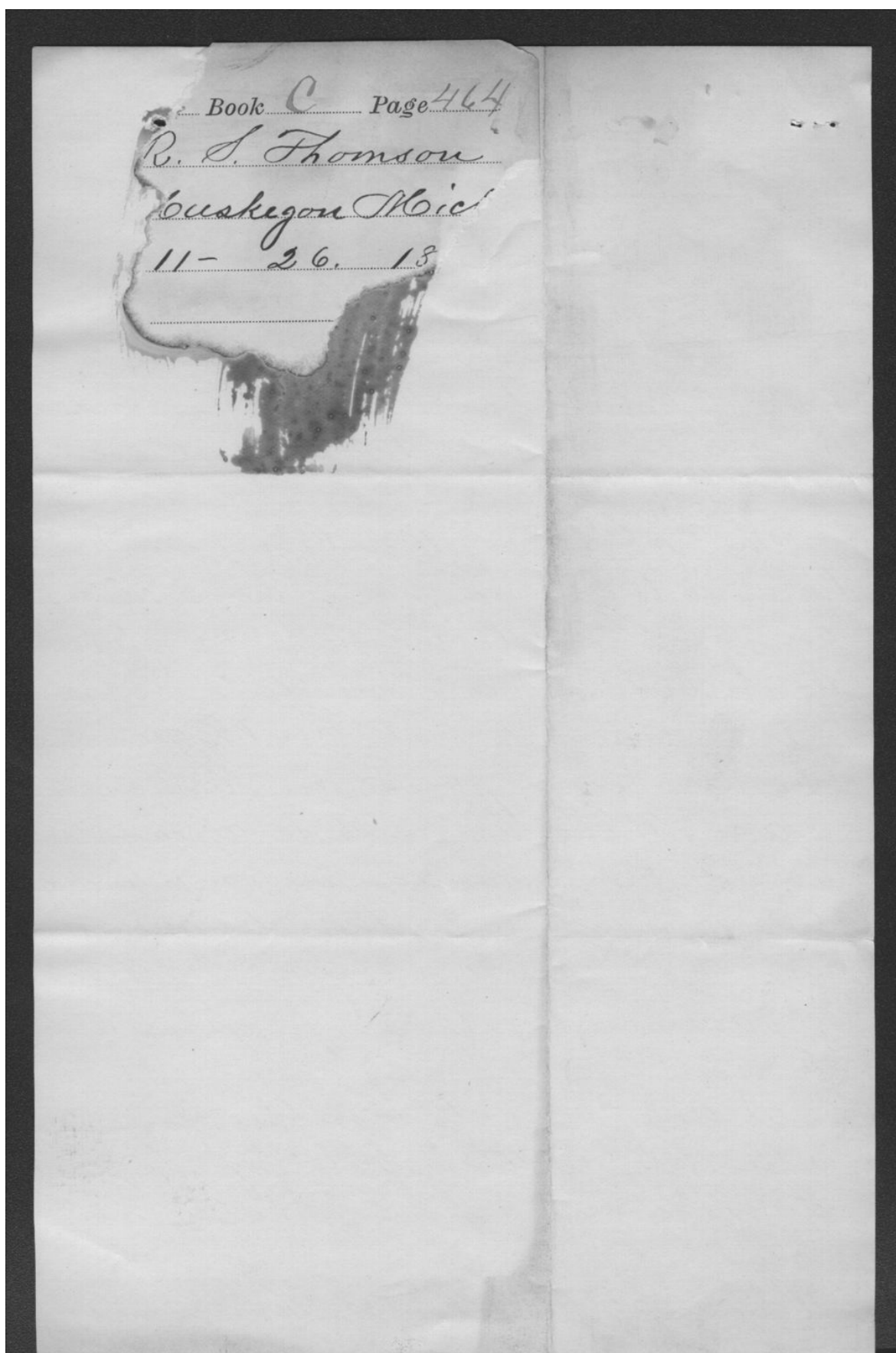
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

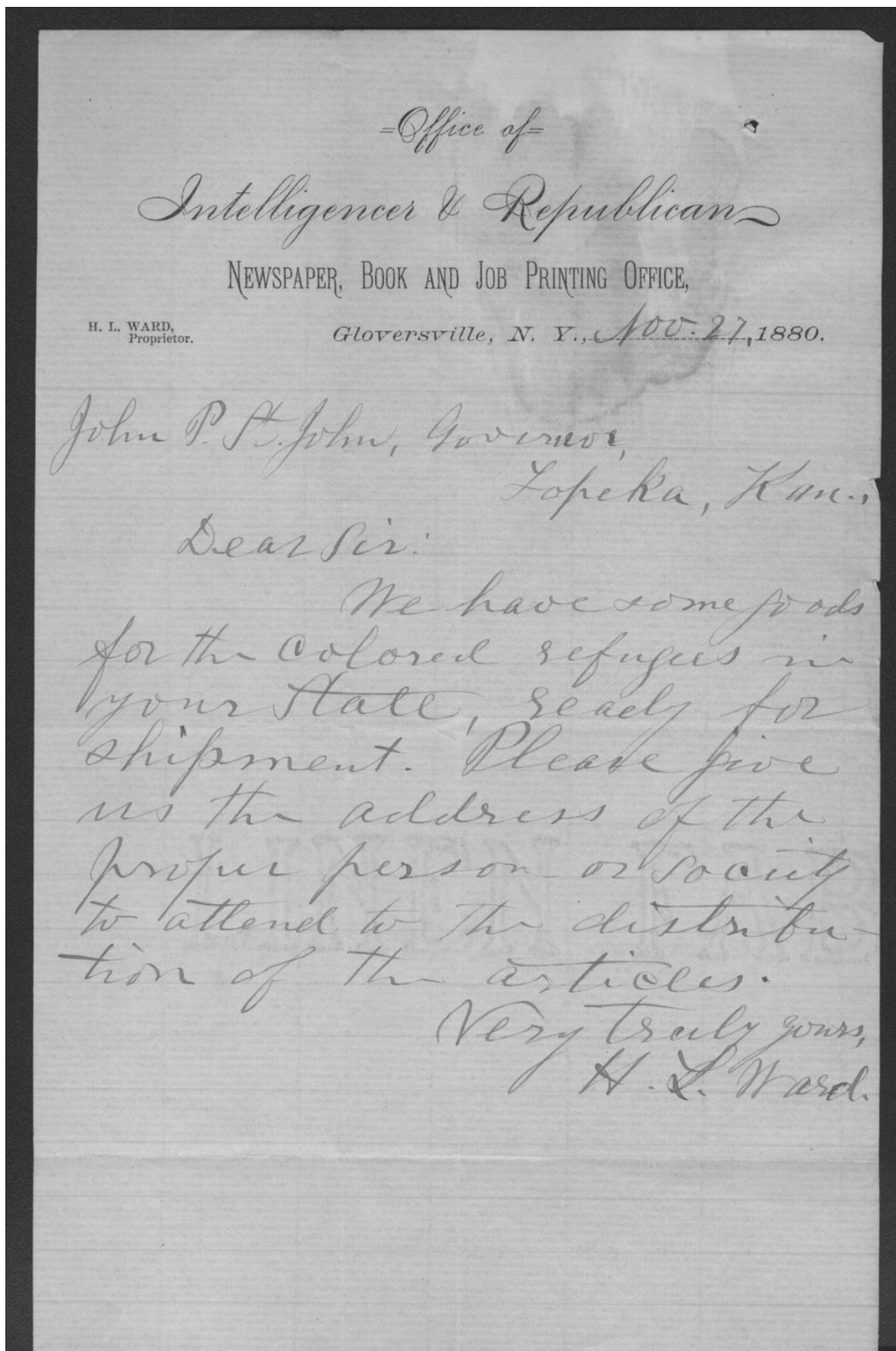
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[www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296)

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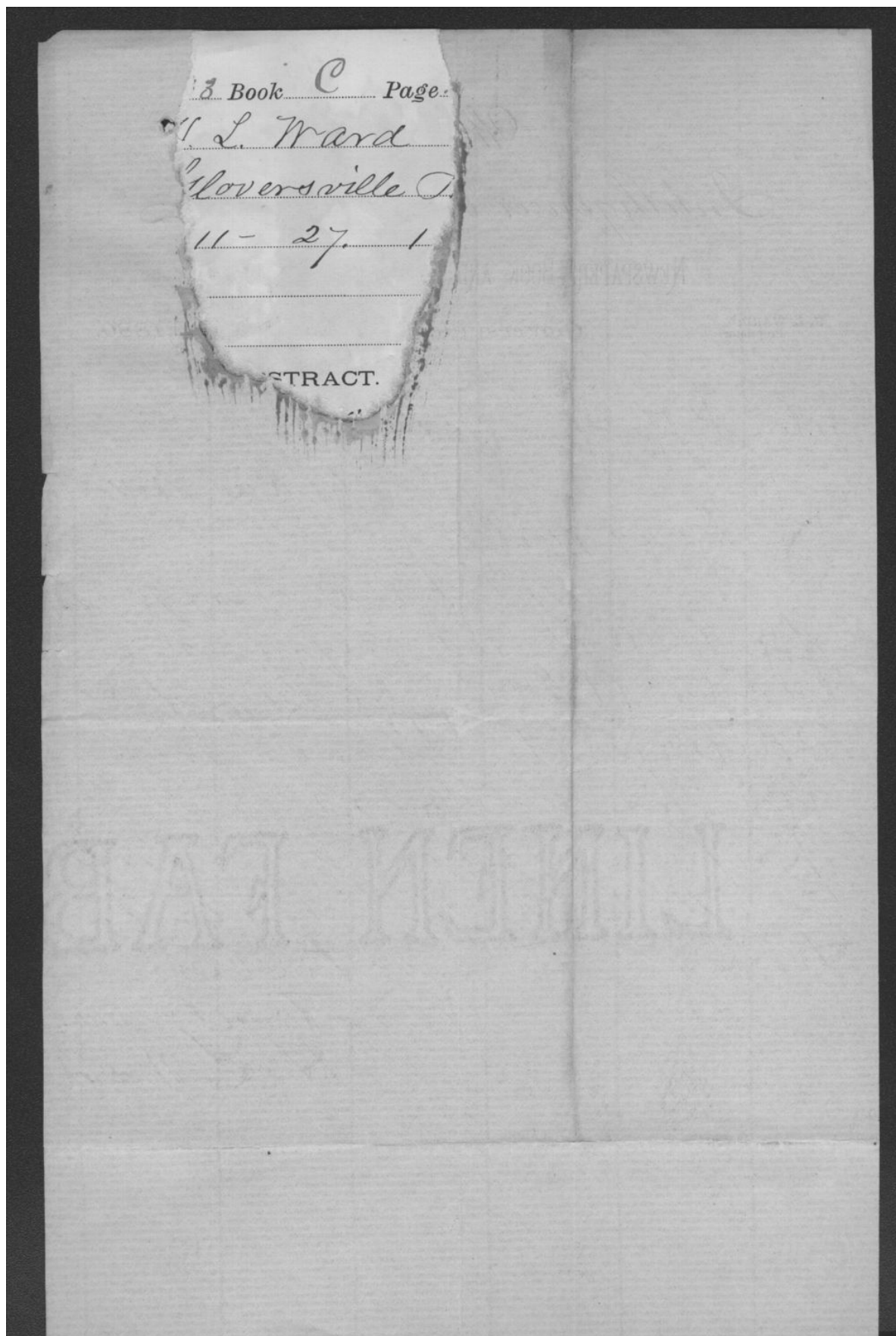


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M. W. REYNOLDS, President.  
DR. C. ROCKHOLD, Secretary.

WILMER WALTON, Correspondent.

J. J. HENDERSON, Vice-President.  
S. O. FLETCHER, Treasurer.

### The Labette County Freedmen's Relief Association.

AUXILIARY TO THE STATE RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

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.

Parsons, Kansas, Nov. 27 1880.

Sen Governor

Am much ~~thank~~ obliged for your efforts -  
 - Will the destitute colored  
 people here get shelter.  
 I have just written Louis  
 S. it would see to it that  
 he had a little aid  
 just now. He has  
 not received a cent  
 since last March. He  
 has not needed any-  
 - thing. I have not  
 asked for anything. Now  
 he needs it. I saw the  
 business here last winter  
 for less than one half  
 what it cost to run  
 it at Independence.  
 I think it must be within  
 your knowledge that



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(2)

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Parsons, Kansas, 1880.  
 You have twice the colored  
 people here than were  
 at Independence. Much  
 suffering was prevented  
 and at light expense.  
 It is convenient  
 I wish you would  
 mention our needs  
 to the parent society.  
 Very Respectfully  
 M. W. Reynolds

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3446 Book C Pa.  
From M. W. Reynolds  
Place Parsons & Co  
Date 11-27-1880  
'd

## ABSTRACT

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

EXECUTIVE DEPT. *Editorial Rooms*  
RECEIVED  
DEC 8 1879  
TOPEKA, KANSAS.  
APR 1879

CHAR. M. DICKINSON,  
Managing Editor.

*Daily and Weekly Republican.*

*Binghamton, N.Y., Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 1879*

*Hon. J. St. John*  
*Topeka Kansas.*

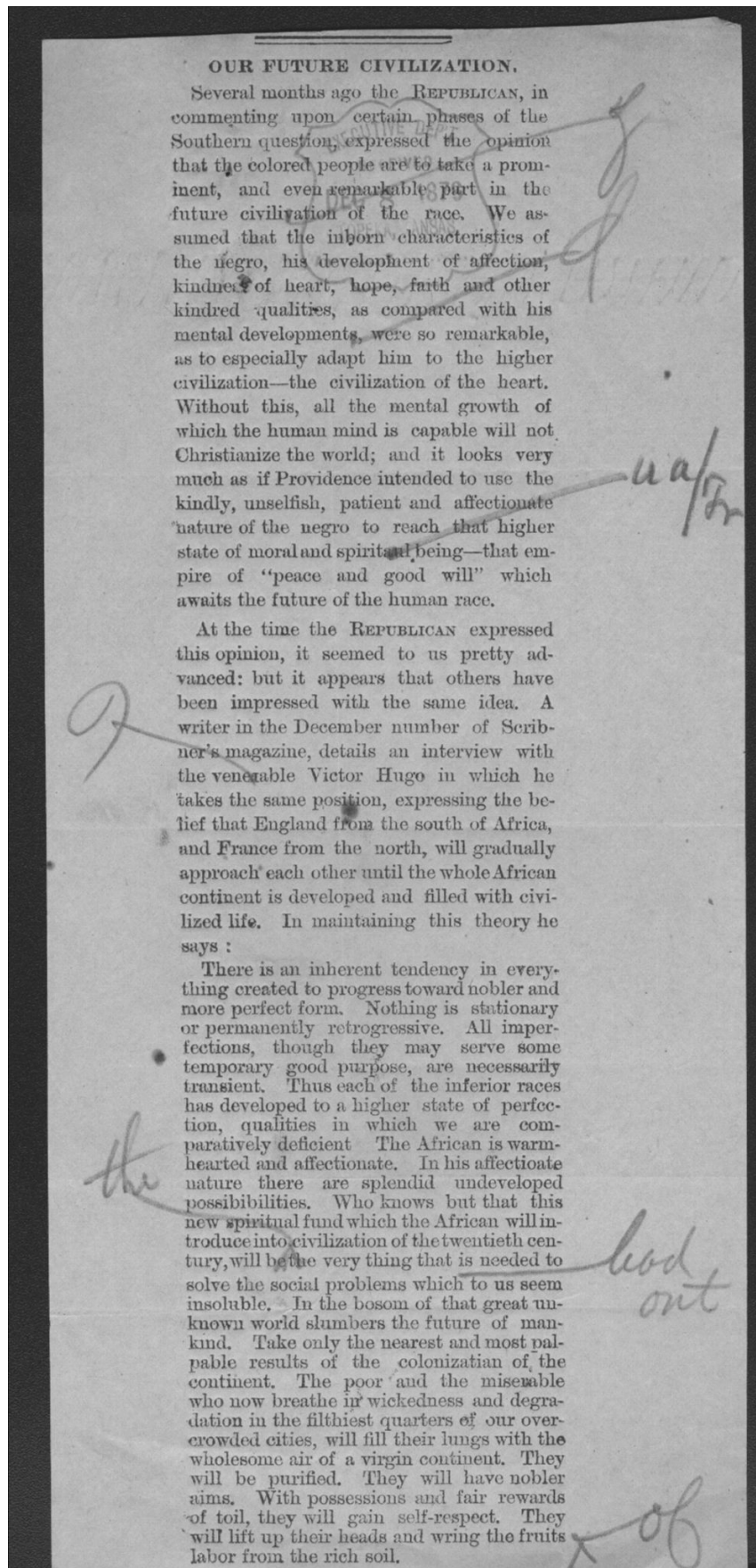
*My Dear Sir.* I enclose my check  
on N.S. for \$30.25 contributed by  
this office to the Freedmen of  
Kansas. Will you kindly act  
knowledge receipt.

*Yours,*  
*Chas. M. Dickinson.*

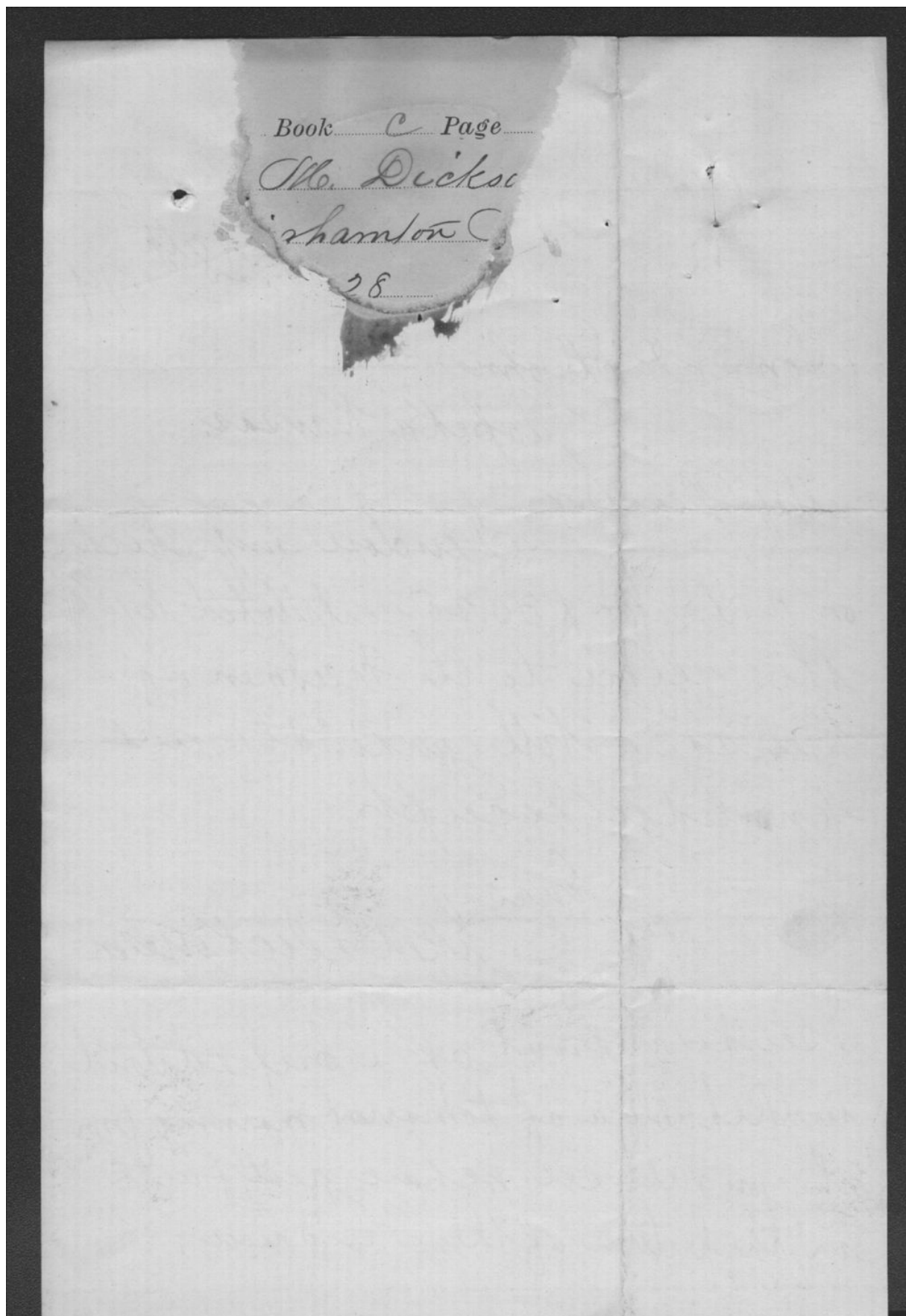
*I send you proof of a brief editorial  
in Republican of tomorrow morning from  
wh. you will see, we have great faith  
in the future of the Freedmen.*



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HON. A. B. JETMORE, President.  
LAURA S. HAVILAND, Secretary.

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

—OFFICE OF—

### 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 into 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.

*Topeka, Kansas, Englewood Nov 27 1880*

*Gov. John D. St. John.*

*Dear Friend, I rec'd last evening \$50.00 from Lansing Mich. in response to an appeal, I sent to Detroit Post and Tribune, that I send to thee. in D. C. P., which is for relief of Refugees new arrivals. I receipt it, forwarded to thee. As I am here, I think confidence in the donor, will be more perfect than to send it to to any other stranger. as all have unbounded confidence in the Christian Temperance Gov. of Kansas.*

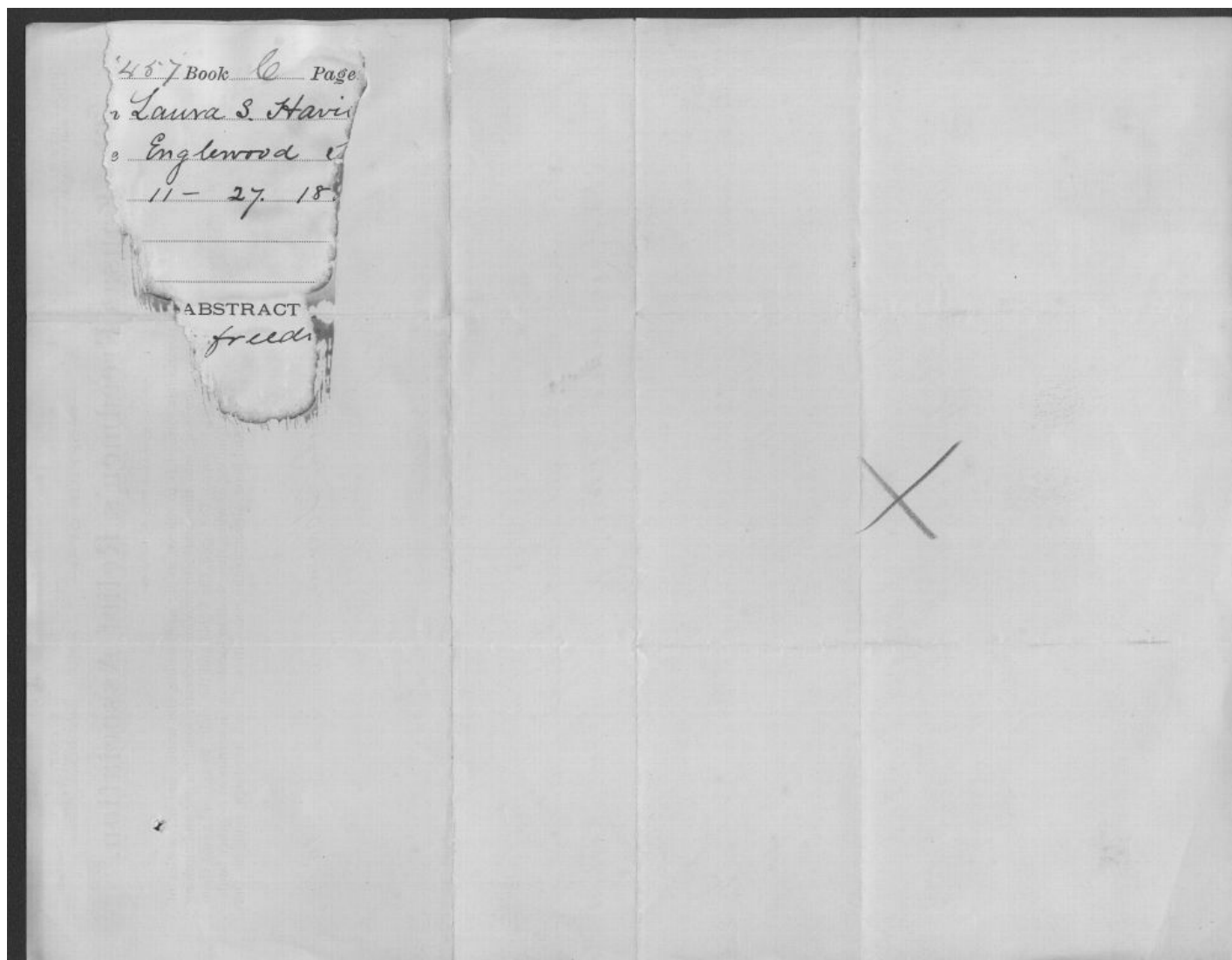
*My health quite good, though cough still rather annoying though much better than when I left Kansas. Give dear love to thy wife and children, accepting the lion's share for myself.*

*Thine for the oppressed, and sister in Christ*

*Laura S. Haviland Secy K. F. R. A.*



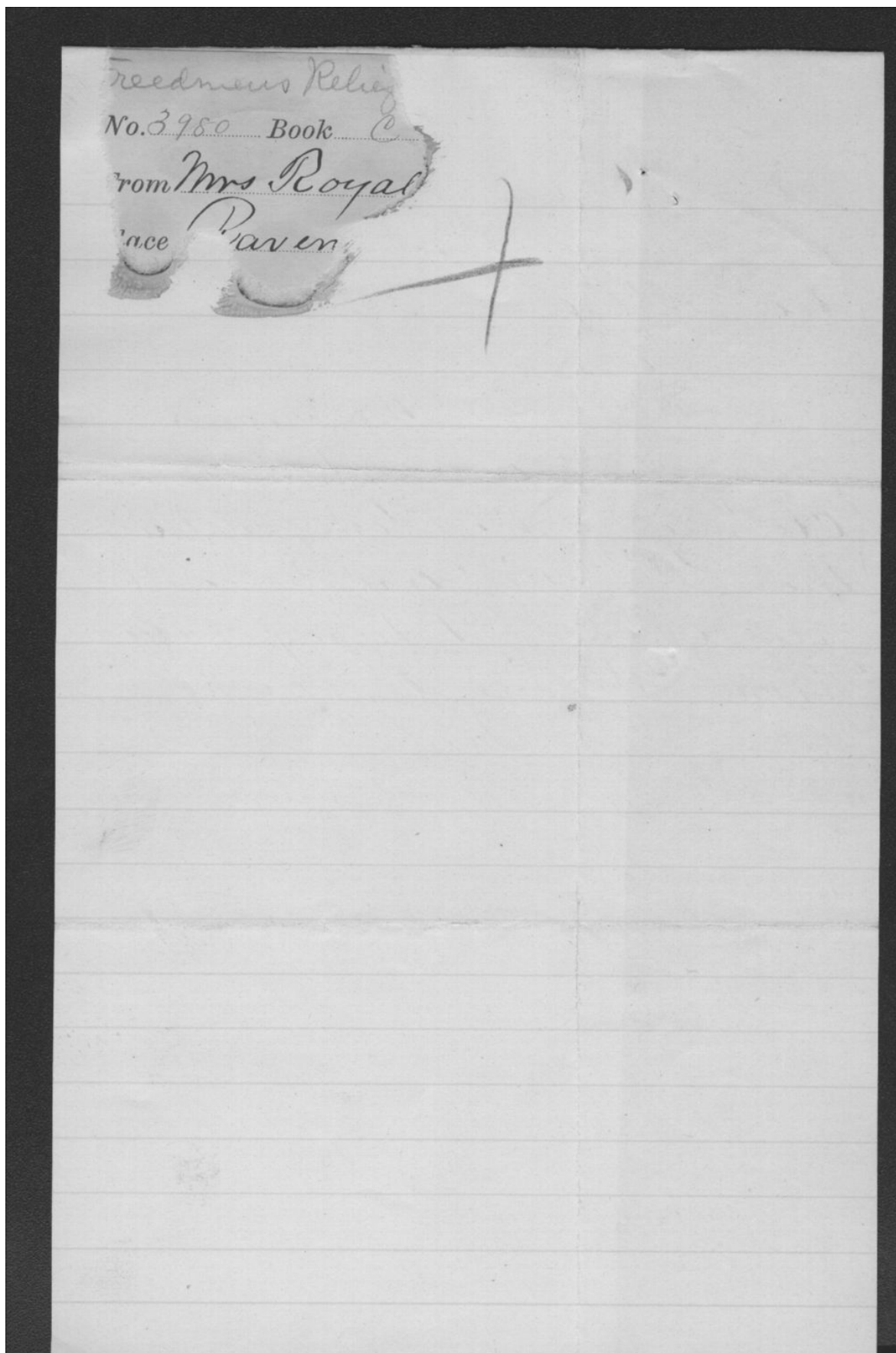
## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



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Ravenna, O.  
Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 1880  
Gov St John  
Sir  
I find that I cannot  
pay freight on my box of  
clothing for the Blacks, farther  
than St Louis; and herewith  
please find \$1 to pay charges  
from St Louis to Topeka  
Truly  
Mrs Royal Taylor

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## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Pecatonica Dec 6<sup>th</sup>/80

Gov, St John.

Will you please inform me (on  
the enclosed P. C.) whether the Association  
(whose circular I have enclosed) is a  
reliable agency for the distribution  
of relief for the colored Refugees  
and oblige yours Ed

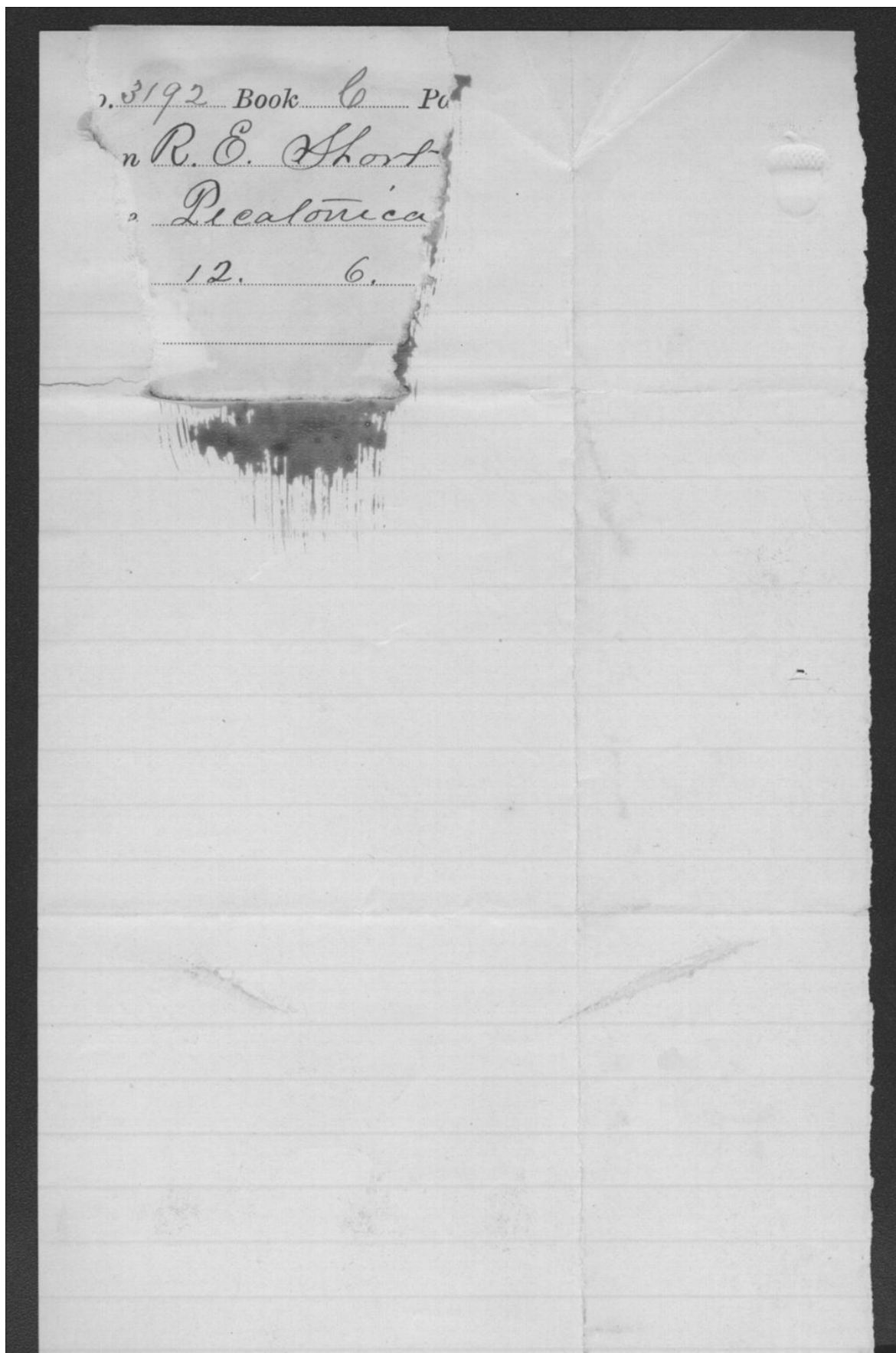
R E Short

Pecatonica

Winnebago Co

Ill.

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





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### 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. CULVER.  
DR. W. H. RYDER.  
BISHOP SAMUEL FALLOWS.

*Secretary.*  
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, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 1880.

Mr J. P. St John  
Hon Sir

I write in confidence to ask  
your influence. There is a plan on foot to send a colony  
of Refugees to the Sandwich Islands. Mrs Comstock will  
explain it to you and will be influenced by you in the  
matter. From what I know of sugar planting there from  
some reliable gentlemen here I am inclined to think it is  
a good scheme. at least it may be well to properly examine  
into the matter and what I want is that if convenient  
you will use your influence if opportunity occurs to have  
me sent there to investigate the chances for the colored  
people. Mrs C has been invited to go but does not decide  
what is best to do until she sees you. then it may not  
be thought best that she should go. and possibly then might  
be a chance for me to go instead or if she goes to have  
me go with her. should such be the case your influence



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might be the means of helping me to go in place  
of some other person. I think I can give you  
or anyone all the references you can wish.

I should be very sorry to have Mr C know  
that I had written you in this matter but  
since I have no improper motive it can do no  
harm if she does not know of it.

I learn that the rumors against  
Mrs Griffiths are unfounded and come from  
a blunder of Dr H's who intended the remarks  
for another person entirely.

Very Respectfully,

Your Friend  
Horatio W Rust

No 3548 Book C Page 483

from H. W. Rust

Chicago Ill

12-10

2

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ABST



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Chariton Iowa Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 1880

Hon J. P. St. John; Gov of Kansas;  
Dear Sir;

I have read, with deep interest, your address at Garwell Hall, Chicago, on the exodus of the blacks from the south; & can only say - I wish there were many more like you, in sympathy, purpose & resolution, to act in behalf of this race, who, since Grant's Administration have literally been left exposed, in querto to the malice & hate of the South. I have no faith in any political affiliation of white Southerners, with the blacks, not even by new fledged Republicans of the South: for they are the outcome of Democracy there, with all its traditional arrogance & hate towards the Blacks, & a mere



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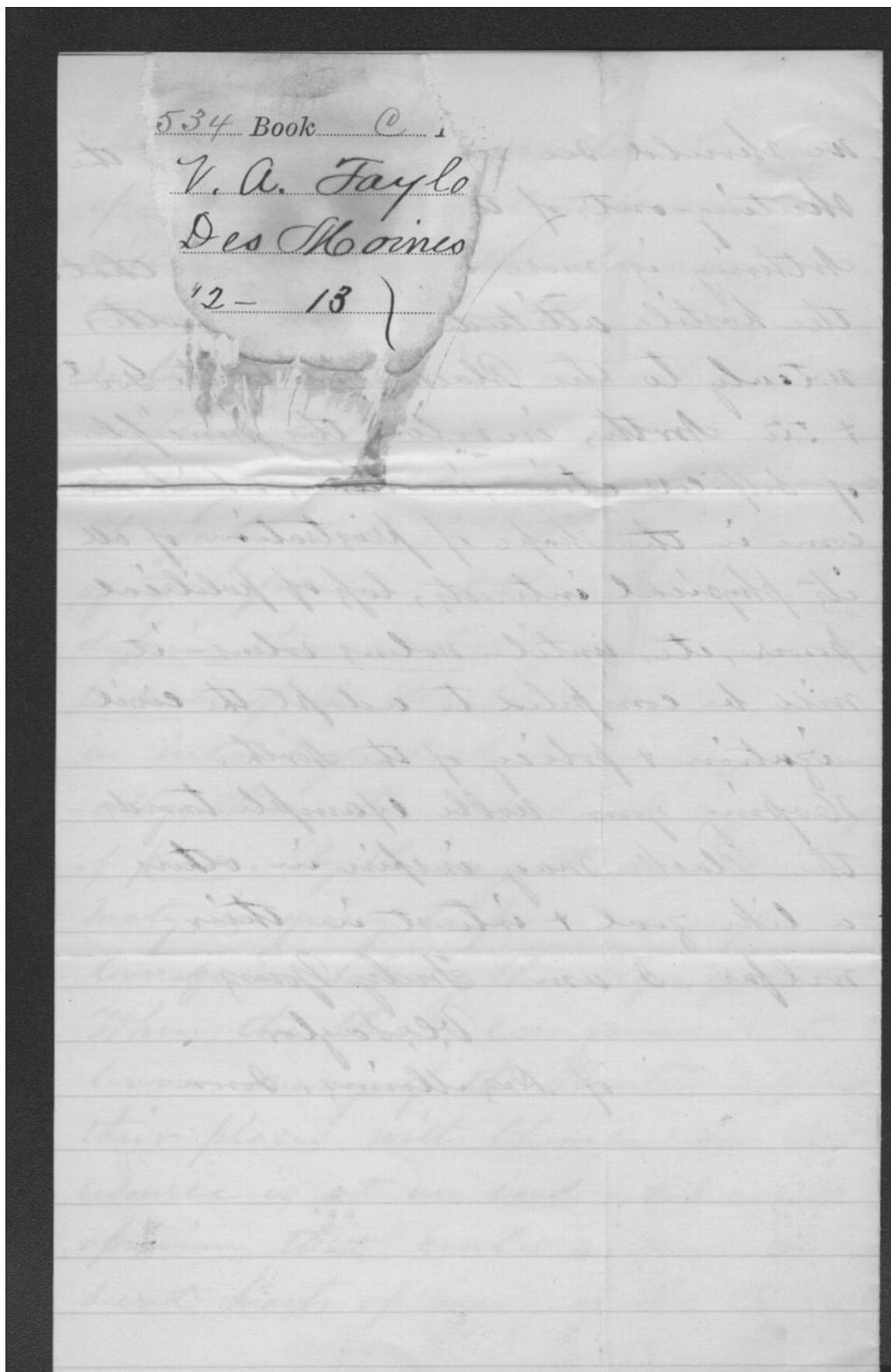
change of name, under the stress  
of Northern political supremacy,  
will not change the old animus  
towards those whom the whites have  
so long, lorded it over. A Rattlesnake  
might be called a Dove; but the  
calling will not change its nature.  
The only solution to the problem  
of "pacification of the South" is, to  
deprive them, not only of the aid, <sup>but</sup> the  
presence of the Blacks, until they are  
in inconsequential minority, politi-  
cally, then, there will be the beginning  
of peace. By the way, the new Chinese  
moty, is going to prove an important  
leverage in solving the Negro question.  
When the Blacks commenced to  
leave, many of the Planters supplied  
their places with Chinese; now, that  
resource is at an end - & I am of  
opinion that, could we read the  
secret hearts of many of these Planters,



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we should see no rejoicing at the  
shutting-out of the Celestials.  
Nothing is more evident, than that  
the hostile attitude of the South,  
not only to the Blacks but to the Gov<sup>t</sup>  
& the North, involves the principle  
of self-correction, in time, which will  
come in the shape of prostration of all  
its physical interests, loss of political  
power, etc, until - volens volens - it  
will be compelled to adopt the civil-  
ization & policy of the North.  
Hoping your noble example towards  
the Blacks may inspire in others  
a like zeal & interest in their  
welfare, I am Truly Yours  
W. Saylor  
of Big Springs, Iowa

## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



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\$5.00 Enclosed

C

Soldan Valley, Ia.  
Dec 22, 1880

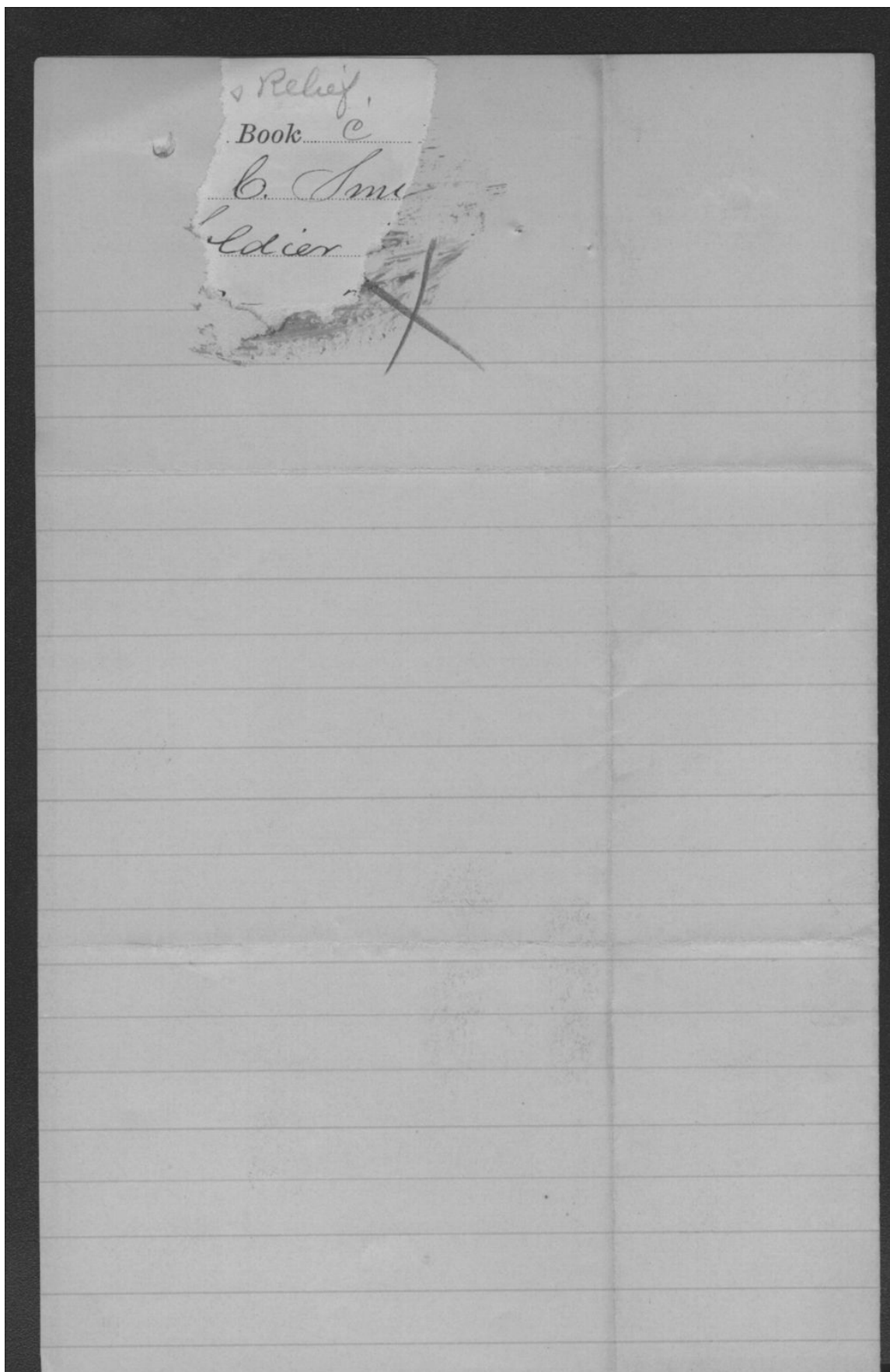
John P. St John

Honored Sir

I have always felt a kindly interest in the refugees since the exodus first commenced. Since your stirring appeals in their behalf, have felt a deeper interest. am glad to be able to remember them in this "Hear, December" and to find it in my heart to do this little to help them in their great want. The good Lord deliver them all out of their trouble is our prayer. Yours truly  
W. C. Smith



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## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

December . 22 . 1880.

Princeton . Bureau . Co. Ill

Sir Mr Governor St. John I am glade  
to have the privilege to write you a few lines  
about my work. I have not bin sending  
Supplies to the Refuge at Topeka since I saw  
you. But I have bin doing what I could  
and helping thers that are in Needham  
Graham, Co. During the camp pain I  
could not do much <sup>but</sup> will do what I can.  
And now I want to say to you that while  
you thought I could help them poor people  
which I have all I could. The next <sup>happy</sup> day  
that you made a Speech in Chicago and  
said that the people dont need help. so  
my way is block. And I am laboring  
under imbarren work. And I have not bin  
told to stop



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

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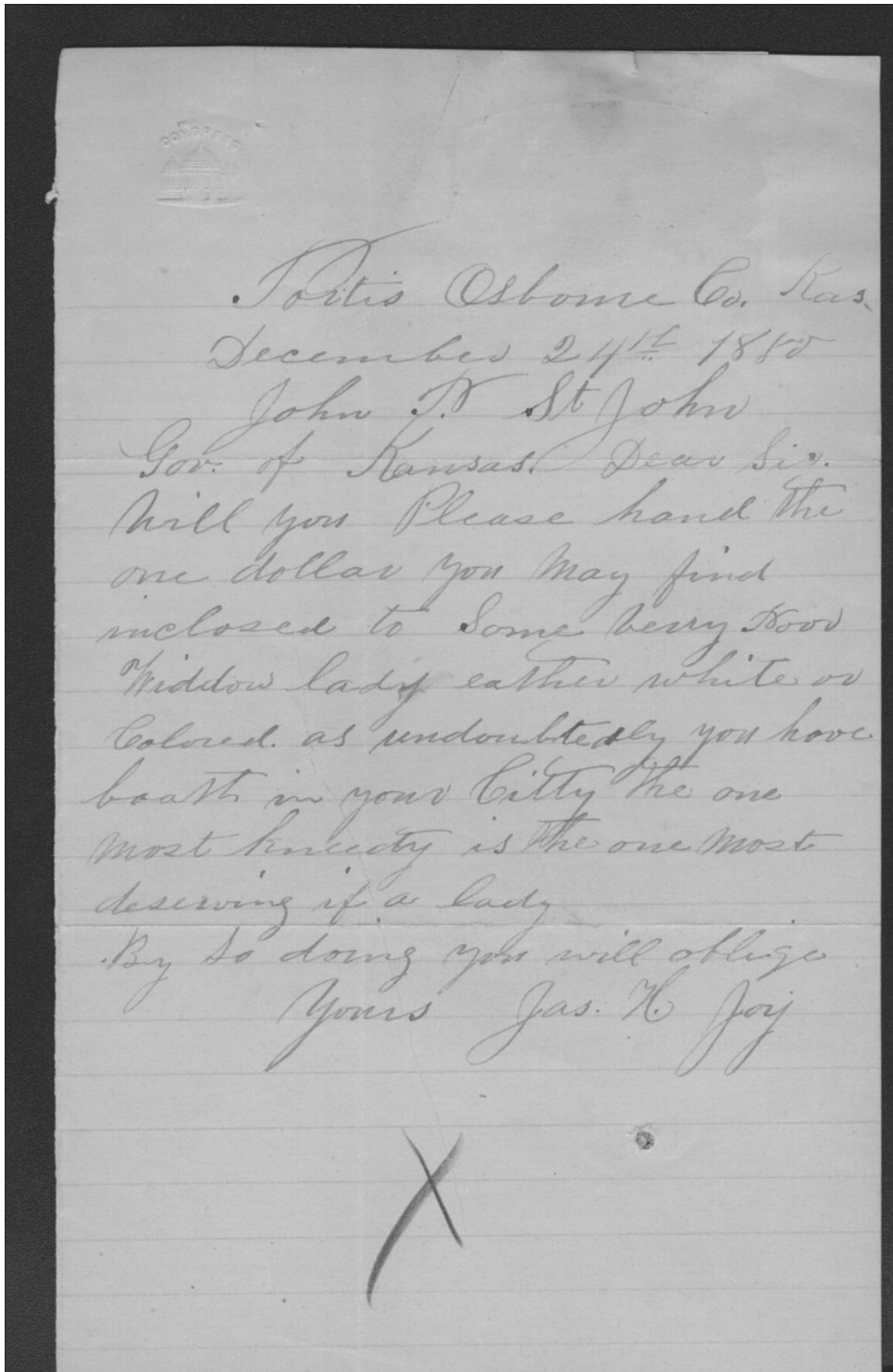
but to help all I can. a call  
from Graham Co. And a call  
from Parsons Mr Walter of Parsons. Mr  
R M Rhany of Nicodemus Graham Co.  
And cant employ them all. And now  
I dont know how to do. But if I am  
wound, as God will help me I will do  
all I can. And I want you to give  
me a reckinord of the leaders deate. And  
please let it be very strong. And if not  
why let me know. May God bless you  
in your grate work. Governor dont you get  
the God that is helping you And blessing  
you. Please give me a return mail  
your friend in Christ

James Suggs

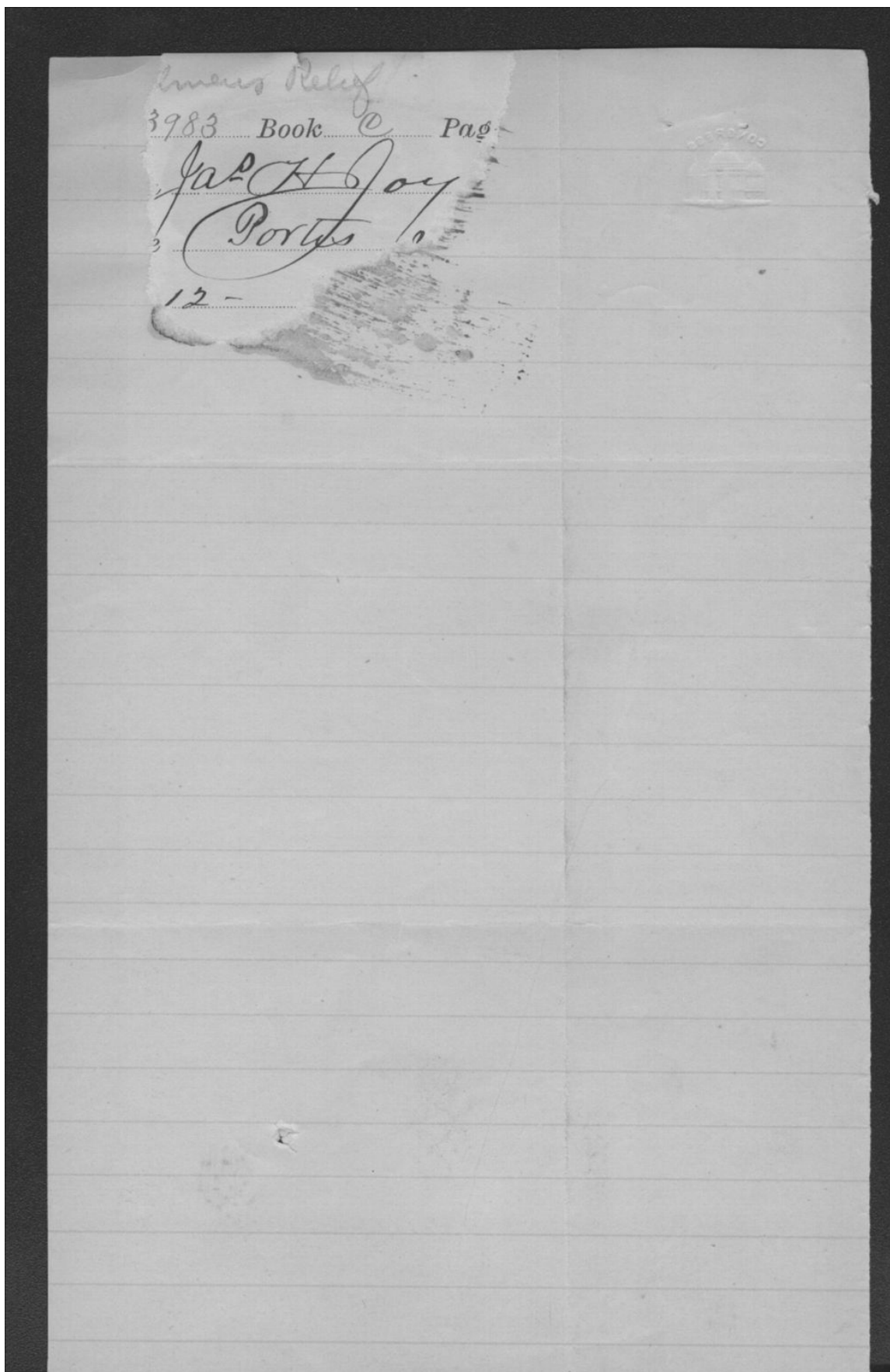
Tell my People that I was 100 years  
old when I be you to write. Tell them  
to dig in And learn all they can



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## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Lawrence H. H. H.  
Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> / 1880.

Dear Governor,

you said in answer to my letter inviting to deliver an address for the colored citizens of Douglas county Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. 1881, at their "Emancipation Celebration" that you might perhaps be able to spare the time to come, Governor. if you could only come, our gathering will be a success beyond all question. Please arrange your affairs so as to come if possible.



## Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

And inform me  
by return mail  
as we want to advertise  
you. you have become a  
great favorite with my  
race in Kansas, and  
it would be a great  
pleasure for them to hear  
you on that occasion  
hoping to hear from  
you immediately I remain  
as ever yours truly  
John L. Waller

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