

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 73, Pages 2161 - 2190

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

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Item Identifier: 210296

www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

KANSAS Y. M. COMMITTEE TO ADVISE AND ASSIST

E. L. Comstock

The following committee having been appointed by Kansas Yearly Meeting of Friends to advise and assist E. L. Comstock in the distribution of supplies which she and others may desire to send to this State for the benefit of the "Freedmen," either for physical comfort or educational interests. Our plan of work will first be feeding, clothing and medical aid for the sick, aged and destitute. The educational as funds may come in for that purpose, and whenever any Evangelical Ass'n from other States may desire to open Normal schools or Mission stations will esteem it a privilege to encourage the same to the extent of our ability.

J. E. Pickering, Columbus, Kansas.
Seaborn Jessup, Springdale, Kansas.
Levi Woodard, Lawrence, Kansas.
Lizzie Wilson, Lawrence, Kansas.

M. H. Newlin, Lawrence, Kansas.
Sarah Jessup, Springdale, Kansas.
Sarah Nicholson, Lawrence, Kansas.
Matilda Haworth, Boston Mills, Kas.

OFFICERS.

Jonathan E. Pickering, President.
Levi Woodard, Treasurer.
Matilda Haworth, Secretary.

Columbus, Kansas, *Jan. 31* 188*1*

John P. St. John.
Gov.

Lopeka - Kas.

Dear Friend

This covers receipt for \$500—
Agreeable to thy letter of the 26th inst.
Will report account of disbursement in
due time. The weather is now moderating
and I trust many more of the Colard ref-
ugees will soon be able to subsist them-
selves. As ever

Thy friend
J. E. Pickering

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3894 Book 6 Page 535
From J. C. Pickering
Place Columbus Mo
Date 1-31-81
Rec'd (Pres. Agr. & Indus. Institute)
Ans'd

ABSTRACT.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

If necessary I can give Leavenworth References
I am a mile from store to night & this is all My Paper

Mobile Alabama Feb 1st 1881
Gov. J. P. St John

Sir after Being a citizen
of Leavenworth Kan the Past 20 years
I have concluded It was too cold for me
as I am now 60 and have this fall come
to this Place for health and think of staying
and In passing a Round among the freed
men I Learn Many was In the union
army and have some dues to them
and while many have Been swindled out of
their Papers Many have Enough to Make
out Proof & Identity and as they Learn I
am from Kansas Many come to me to Learn
something about Kansas and I find My self
at a Loss as to what to advice them now
you will Please write me such Information
Beaving on the subject of such as Can Pay their way
to Kansas as you May deem advantageous Both
ways and Refer me to the Proper Department
to apply for Blanks to secure Pention, Bounty
or Back Pay &c Respectfully yours J. F. Webster



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 4038 Book C Page 556

From J. F. Webster

Place Mobile Ala

Date 2. 1. }

Rec'd } 1881

Ans'd 2 - 16 }

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Kingston
Island of Jamaica, W. Indies,
Feb. 3 - 1881

To His Excellency, -
John P. St. John
Governor - etc. - }

Sir: Permit me to introduce myself before making the request which gives occasion to this letter.

Leaving Illinois for my health - having been Co. Capt. of Infantry, and afterwards Major (Bvt. Col.) of the 96th Ills. Vol. - I went to Kansas City, and shortly after, upon the occasion of Col. Wilder's death, I became Editor of the Kansas City Journal.

My health not improving, I came to Jamaica, and have now made this Island my permanent home, and am connected with the Education

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Department as one of the Inspectors
of Schools.

Our Jamaica people are mostly
colored - and I have become greatly
interested in their welfare, and have
published some pamphlets respecting
their improvement, &c. - one of which
I take the liberty of sending to you.
My interest extends to all people of
that race, and I am becoming not
a little indignant in noticing the
tone of contempt and disparagement
with which English tracts and
periodicals refer to the colored people,
and the very unfair estimates of
what they have done and are
capable of doing. Even the most
work of Sir Geo. Comptrell, who
calls himself an English Radical,
is by no means altogether just
to the colored people.

Now, I purpose writing

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

something, for some English
periodical, to present facts creditable
to the despised race, — being careful,
of course, to avoid fulsome praise
and overstrained statements. While
revisiting Kansas City in the latter
part of '79, I met and conversed
with several of the refugees. I also
met an intelligent colored Methodist
Minister, who gave me information
concerning Singleton's colony, and
one or two other colonies of colored
people, who went to Kansas prior
to what was called the Exodus. —

For the purpose of what I am
about to write, I am anxious to
know what is the fact as to the
success of any such colony, inaugurated,
managed, and sustained by the colored
people themselves. Such a success would
fairly offset the failure of a colony sent
from Charleston to Liberia, mentioned
in Sir Geo. Campbell's "White and Black"

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

The foregoing is all preliminary to making the request that if you can you will kindly give me the information I seek respecting any such successful colored colony in Kansas — and I am bold to make the request, because of the very deep interest in the welfare of the colored people which I know is taken by yourself. —

Congratulating you upon the recent renewed expression of confidence received from the people of Kansas, and, as an ardent Republican and friend of Temperance, heartily and thankfully sympathizing with them and yourself in the great victory of last November —

I beg to subscribe myself

Yours Excellency's obt. servt.
Geo. Dick

I am very much ashamed of these blots — but the stonewall is about to fall, & I have not time to copy the letter — Please excuse — G. D.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

C. B. Bouton, President
E. T. Cushing, Secy & Treas

E. F. Hurlbut, Vice Pres
Erastus Foote, Jr. Secy



Corner 15th & Dearborn Streets

Chicago Feb 4th 1881

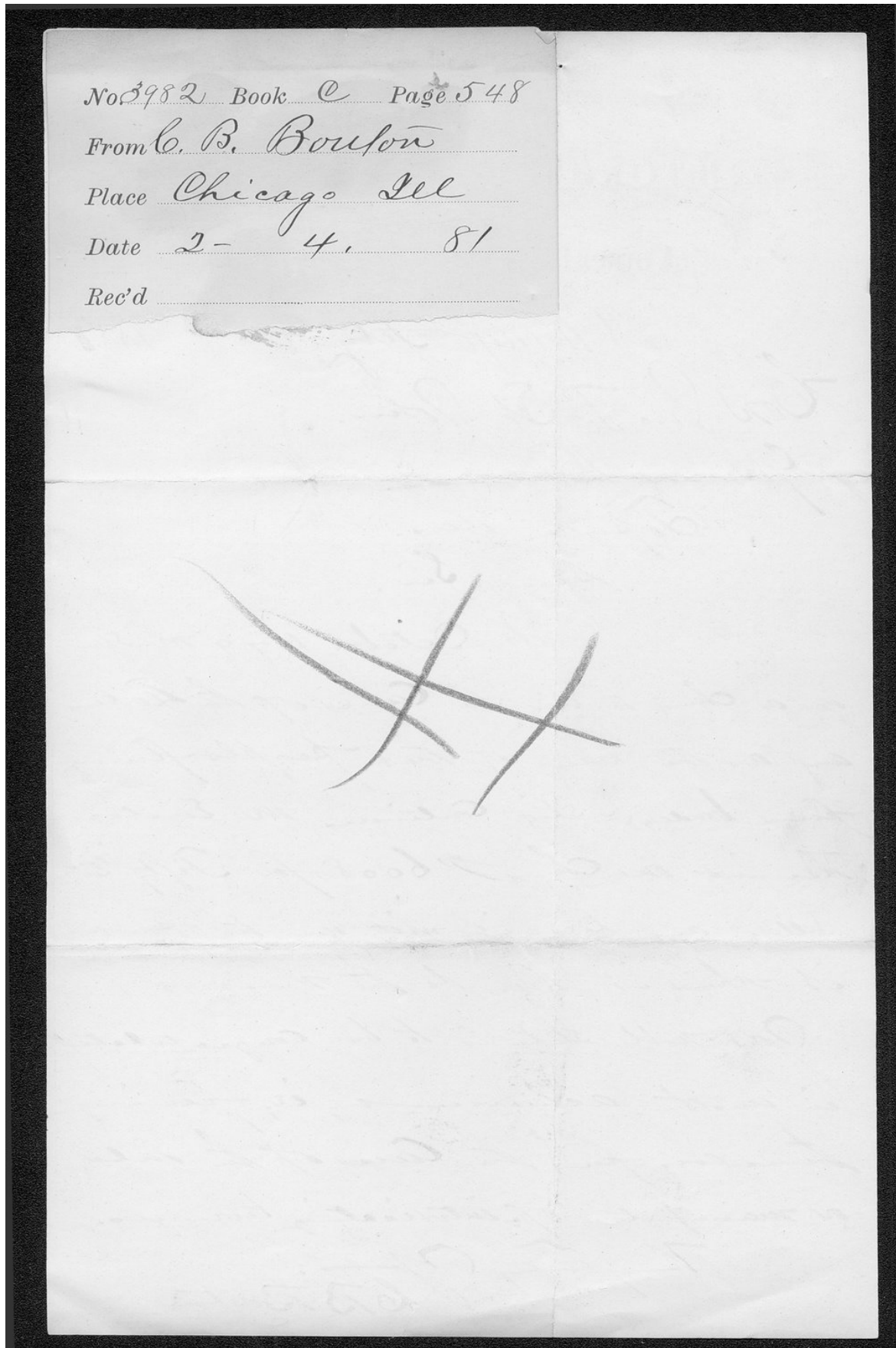
Hon Jno T. St John.
Governor Kansas.
Topeka Kas.
Dear Sir.

In October 1879 we sent
you a check to aid the cause of the Exodusters,
and as the need of that people's financial
helps become still continued, we enclosed
herewith our check # 6008 for Fifty (\$500)
dollars, and leave it with you to pass
it where it will do the most good.

Your noble state is to be congratulated
in another achievement, i.e., passing
themself from the cause of the sale
or manufacture of intoxicating beverages.

Very Truly Yours
C. B. Bouton.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Bloomington Feb 6th 1881

Dear Governor St John
of Kansas as I ^{have} of suffering
among the refugees in your
State I hereby send you a
post office order of ten dollars
five for my wife Chatilda Clark
and five for myself for you
to apply it there it is most
needed

Yours Respectfully

Box 507

William Clark

Bloomington

Chas. Bean & Co Ill

Please - Box 507 please my translating hand

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 44441 Book C Page 601

From Wm Clark

Place Bloomington Ill

Date 2. 6. 1881

Rec'd

Ans'd



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

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

WILMER WALTON, Correspondent.

The Labette County Freedmen's Relief

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; 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 the 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.

No. 3967 Book
From Parsons
Place Parsons
Date 2-
Rec'd
Ans'd
Ack'd

Parsons, Kansas, 2nd Mar 7th 1880.

To Gov. J. P. St. John;

My dear friend; -

Thy very acceptable favor of the 5th inst. reached me this morning; and I was pleased to find enclosed therein a Draft for the sum of those timely contributions for the benefit of the destitute colored Refugees. I say timely; for indeed this is a time in which these poor people do most especially need aid. Just after getting the Draft cashed at Bank, I went to the Coal-yard & ordered a little Coal sent to some sick families who are entirely out of fuel. I do not take any body's word for it; but go frequently to the houses of the sick, suffering, most needy ones, and see for myself their real condition, and keep notes thereof. Some of these folks have large families of children; and during this alternately cold & wet weather, out-door labor is nearly stopped; and many parents find it impossible to earn sufficient to procure the common necessities of life. I am called upon every day to visit needy cases; some suffering with pneumonia, frost-bites, mumps, &c.; and some aged - nearly helpless - persons of both sexes. I shall prayerfully endeavor to judiciously use that

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

money which thee so kindly committed to my care, in such manner as to do the greatest amount of good, for the greatest number that I can of these destitute Refugees.

The perusal of thy letter caused me to greatly rejoice on this dreary looking day, to see this renewed evidence that the heart of the worthy Gov^t of Kansas is still beating in earnest sympathy for poor, oppressed, suffering humanity; and that in addition to his numerous Gubernatorial duties, he is still nobly & Christianly laboring to uphold right, suppress evil, and remove temptations from the weak & erring ones.

I have only time now to say, — go on Governor I entreat thee, in thy commendable course; and I firmly believe that a just God will — in His own best manner — amply reward thee, both in time and eternity. With best wishes for thyself and family, I remain sincerely thy friend

Wilmer Walton.



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3967 Book C Page 546
From Wilmer Walton
Place Parsons Kansas
Date 2 - 7 1881
Rec'd
Ans'd

ACKNOWLEDGED

The Labette County Freedmen's Relief Association
WILMER WALTON, Correspondent.
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; to provide necessary food, shelter and clothing for them when unable to provide for themselves; to secure the best securing work, and in finding homes, either in families, or when they wish to locate on Government or other lands; and to relieve as the necessities of such freedmen, refugees and immigrants may require, and humanity suggest.

*To Gov. J. St. John,
Parsons, Kansas.*
My dear friend

In favor of the 5th inst. reached me this morning, and I was pleased to find enclosed therein a draft for the sum of those timely contributions for the benefit of the destitute colored Refugee! I pay timely; for indeed this is a time in which these poor people do most especially need aid. Just after getting the draft, dashed at Bank, I went to the Coal yard & ordered a little coal sent to some sick families who are entirely out of fuel. I do not take any body's word for it, but go frequently to the houses of the sick, suffering most needy ones, and see for myself their real condition, and keep notes thereof. Some of these folks have large families of children; and during this alternately cold & wet weather out-door labor is nearly stopped; and many parents find it impossible to earn sufficient to procure the common necessities of life. I am called upon every day to visit needy cases; some suffering with pneumonia, frost-bites, mumps, etc.; and some aged - nearly helpless - persons of both sexes. I shall prayerfully endeavor to judiciously use that

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Syracuse Feb 7th/81
Gov. St. John

Dr Sir

Have been
trying for three or four weeks to send P.O.
money order for relief of colored refugees. Our
P. M. does not know your address, says North Topeka
isn't a money order office & Please send me
your address or some other and oblige Yours &c
Mout. Pelton. T. W. Adams. Syracuse
N. Y.



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3985 Book C Page 548

From F. W. Adams

Place Syracuse N. Y.

Date 2 - 7. "81

Rec'd

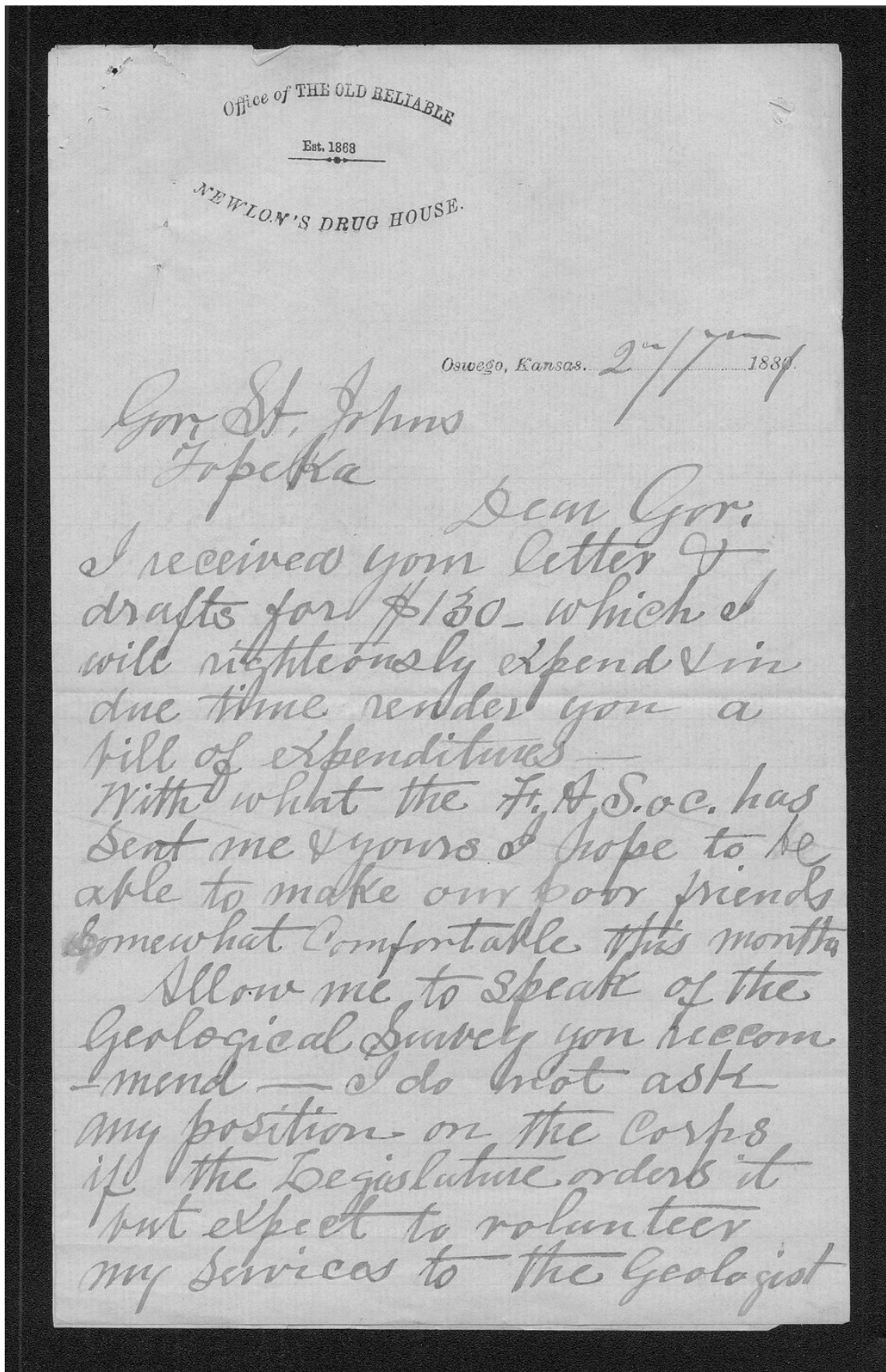


WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE - THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

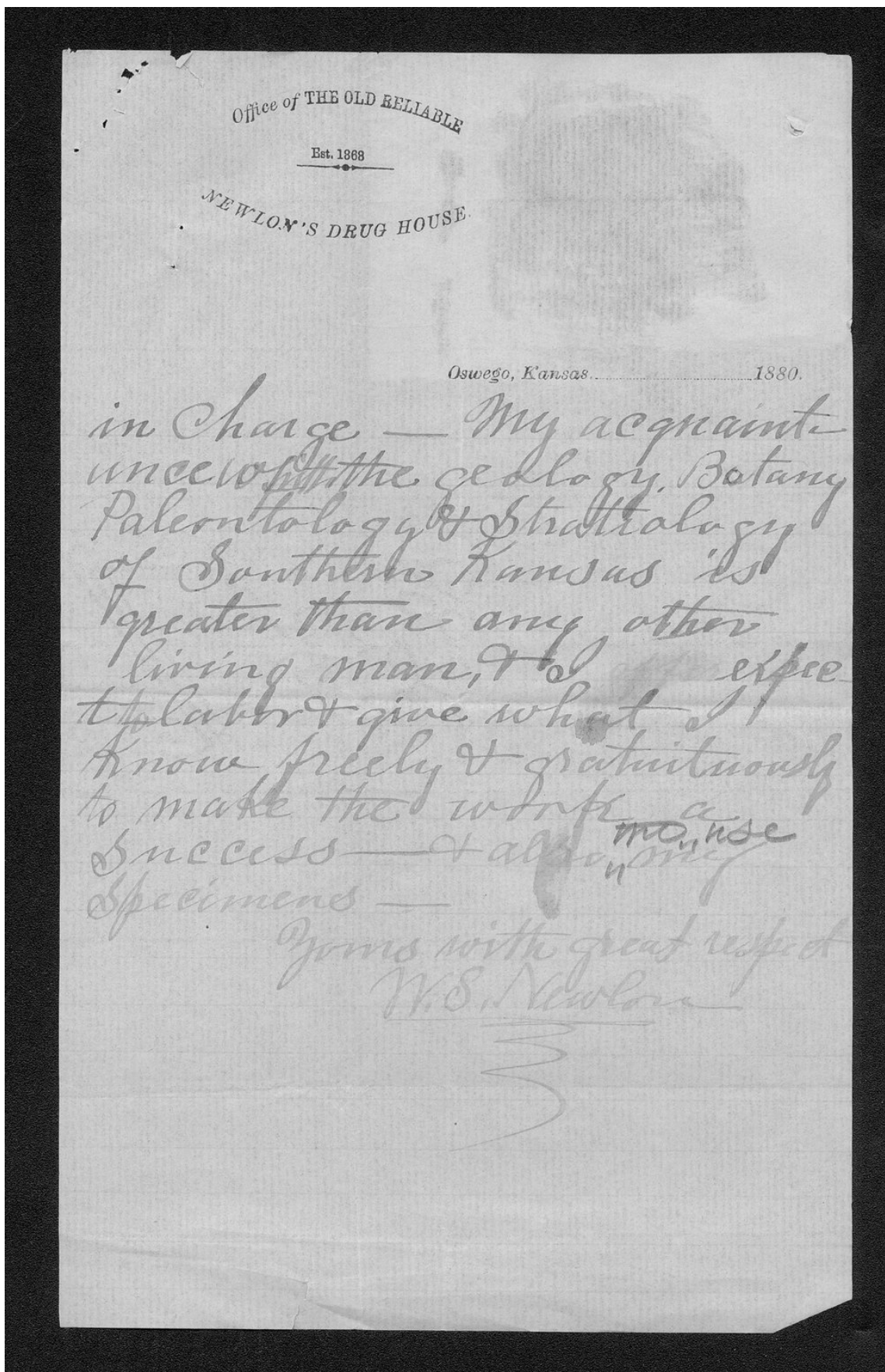
Governor 12 "81

P. M. Please forward

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

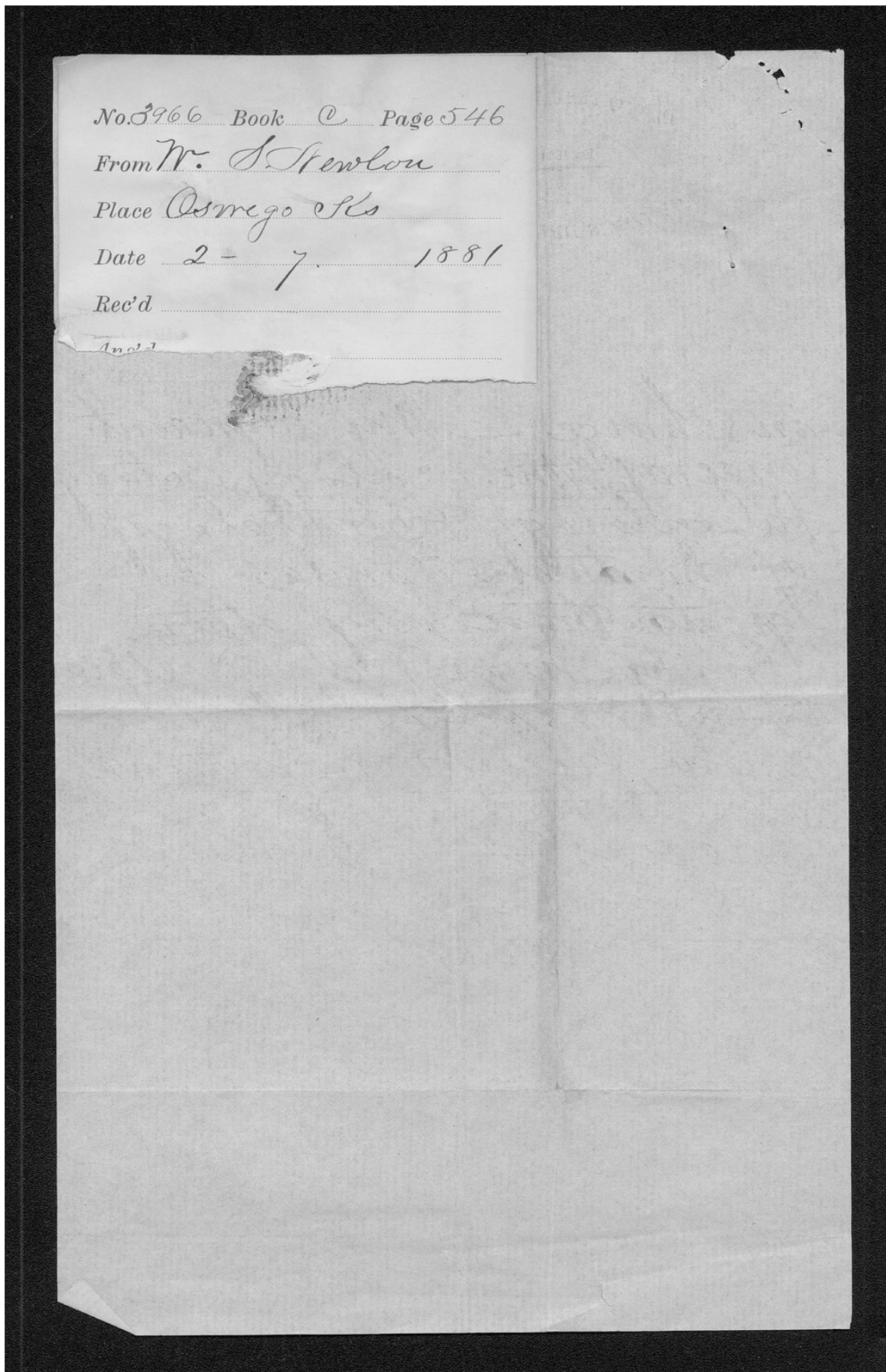


Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence





Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

2. 18. 1881.

Respected friend, this Check,
enclosed, please appropriate
for Kansas Refugees
in distant places, or
place, where most
needed, and oblige

H W R

No 522 Arch St.
Philada.

Pennsa.

Please only give
the above initials,
in any Report, if given.

\$100.00



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 4444 Book C Page 601

From H. W. R

Place Phil Pa

Date 2. 18. 1881

Rec'd

Ans'd

EXTRACT.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

February 9th 1881

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Mr. George Pitts | 1 |
| Mr. William Page | 2 |
| Mr. Alfred Pitts | 3 |
| Mr. R. B. Thifer | 4 |
| Mr. J. R. Rayford | 5 |
| Mr. J. Rayford | 6 |
| Mr. George Washington | 7 |
| Mr. Henry Hubbard | 8 |
| Mr. Silas Caldwell | 9 |
| Mr. C. Harris | 10 |
| Mr. Daniel Burriel | 11 |
| Mr. Britton Linner | 12 |
| Mr. Sunday Brient | 13 |
| Mr. Jack Linton | 14 |

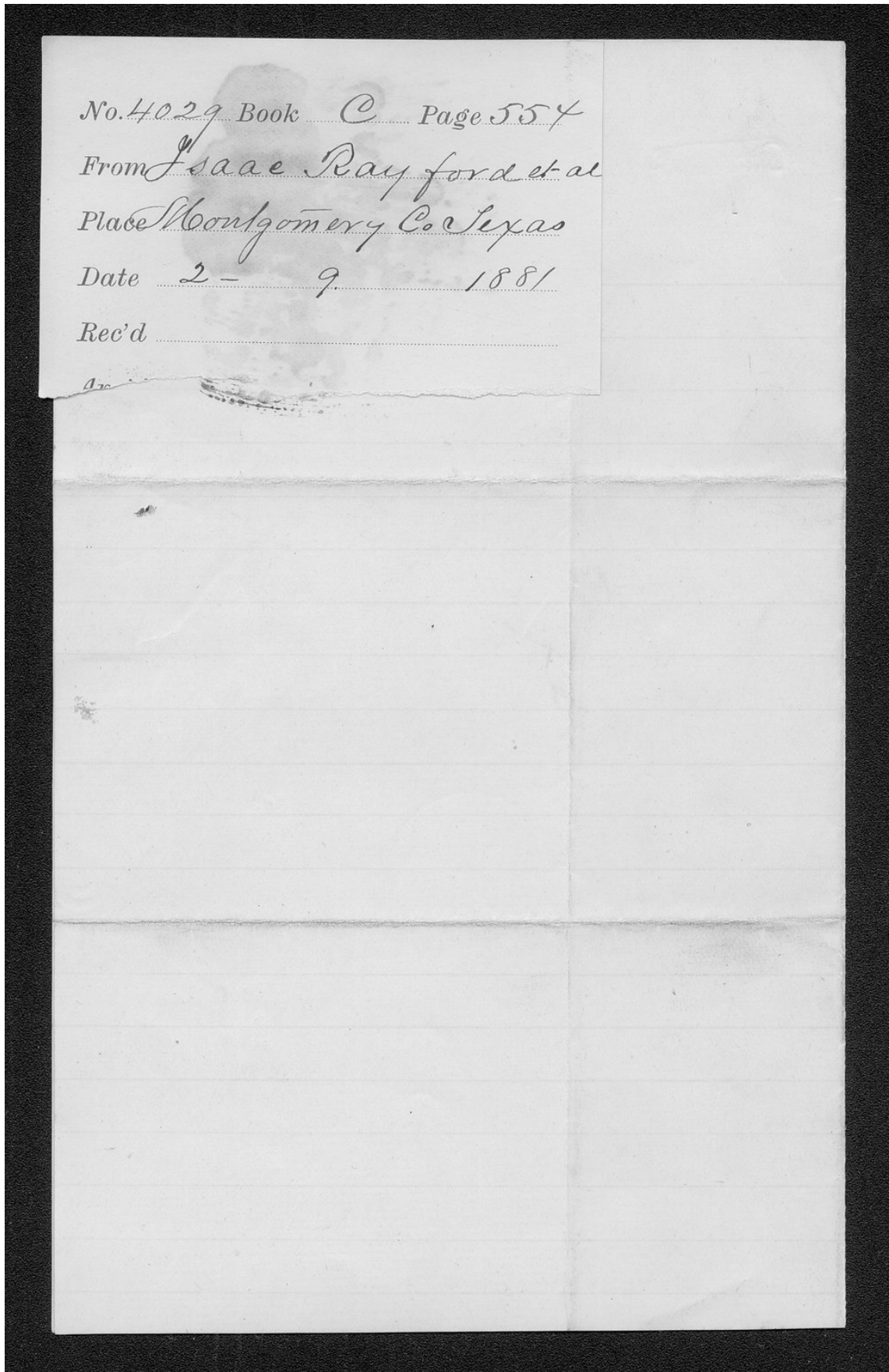
Mr. Saint John.

We are the majority of
men that come from a
can chusion ask you
to for this our work.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

far a colene for us.
 But We cant stand up,
 north it is too cold up
 then for us and We ask
 colene down to South,
 and if you pleas goe to
 Work for us if you
 Pleas sir and ask you
 Help us if you pleas sir
 And if you pleas if you
 Pleas for We are need,
 people and We ask you
 forward this to the Pres
 dent, Garfield, and.
 Tell him We are in need
 of you Help Mr Gar
 & friend for Keep.
 Pleas Sir let us,
 Hear from you soon
 your friend Psaas
 Rayford. Montgomery
 County Texas,

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

To Governor St John
I have sent a small box of
Clothing and bedding to the to be
transferred to E L Comstock for
the refugees, the superintendent
at Chicago wrote me that all that
that the would recieve should
go free of Charge thine with
respect

Jesse Hoag

Clarent Blain Jefferson Co
Kansas 9 81 Iowa



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

No. 3986 Book C Page 548

From Jesse Hoag

Place Pleasant-Plain Iowa

Date 2, 9, 81

Rec'd

STRACT.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

New-York

Feb. 9th /88/

Hon. J. P. St. John

Dear Sir

I send enclosed
a check for fifty dollars
to be given to the Kansas
Relief Association for the
colored Refugees. Will
you do me the favor
to send over your own



Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

signature acknowledge-
ment of the same. To
Yours respectfully
Rebecca D. Swift
Care Messrs. H. H. Swift & Co.,
P. O. box 3399
New-York
N. Y.