Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

Section 86, Pages 2551 - 2580

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

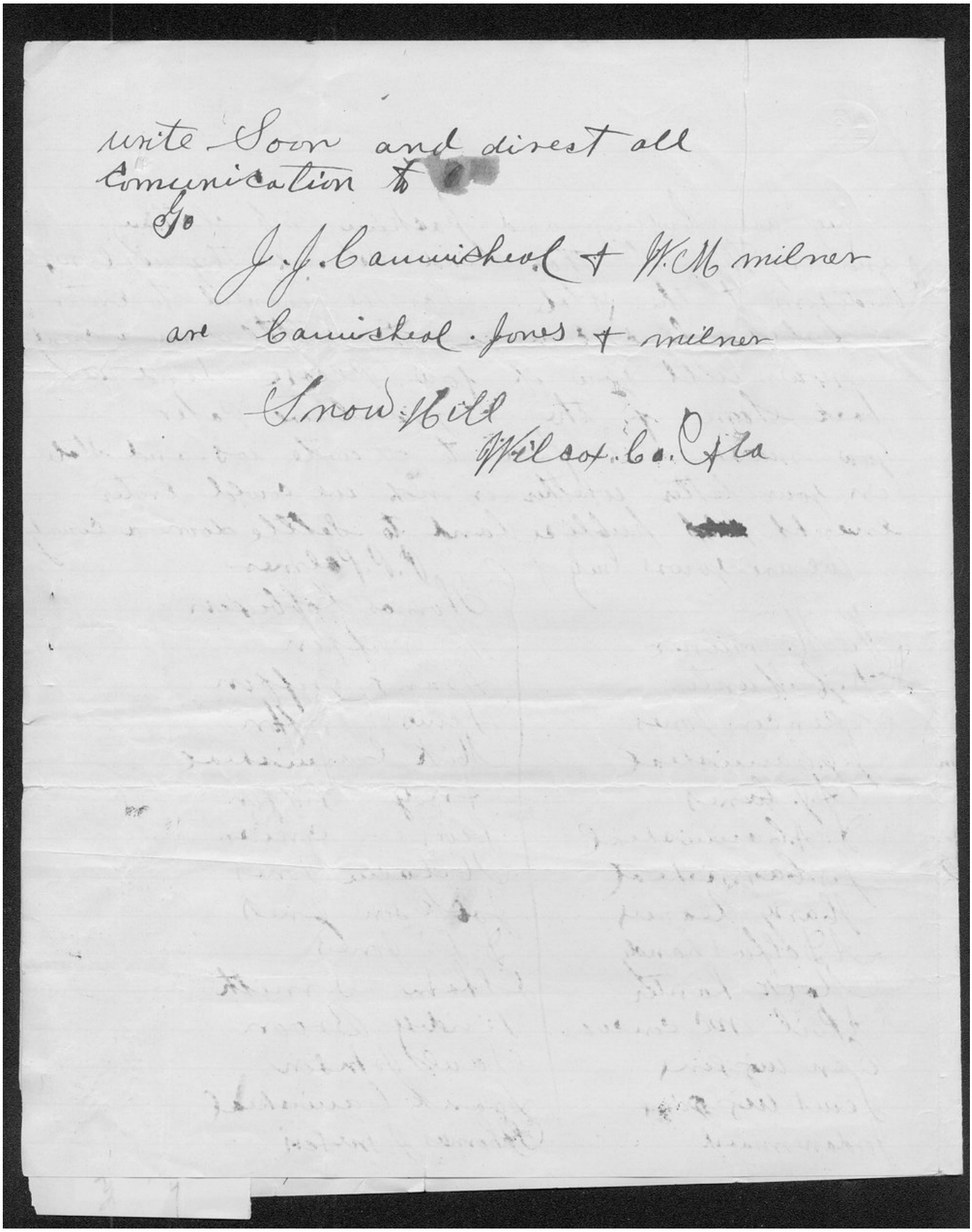
Callnumber: Governor's Office, St. John, Correspondence Received-Subject File, Box 13-15

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 210296

Item Identifier: 210296

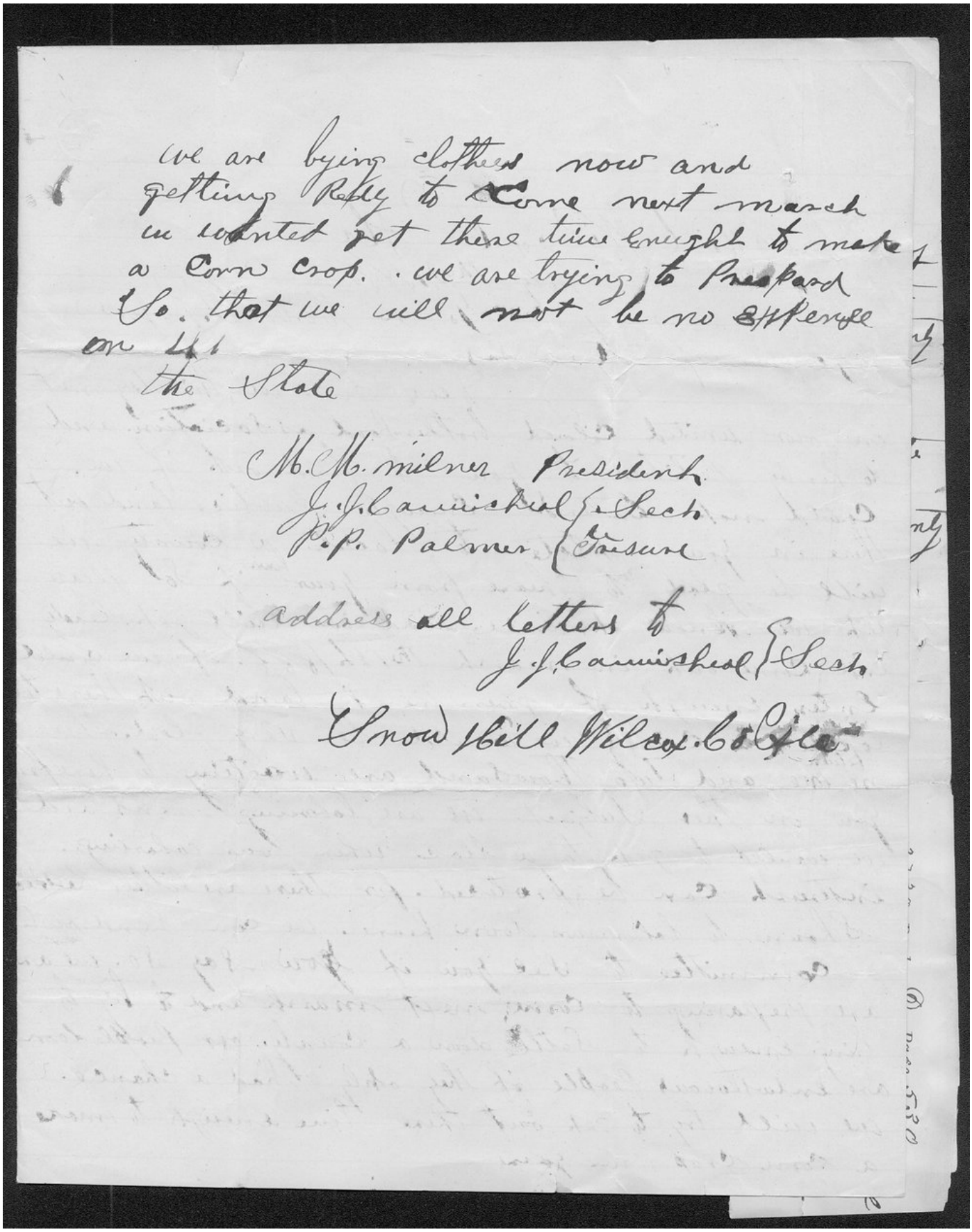
www.kansasmemory.org/item/210296

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



write Soon and direct all
Comunication to
Jo
J. J. Cannisheol & W. M milner
are Cannisheol. Jones & milner
Snow Hill
Wilson Co Kla

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

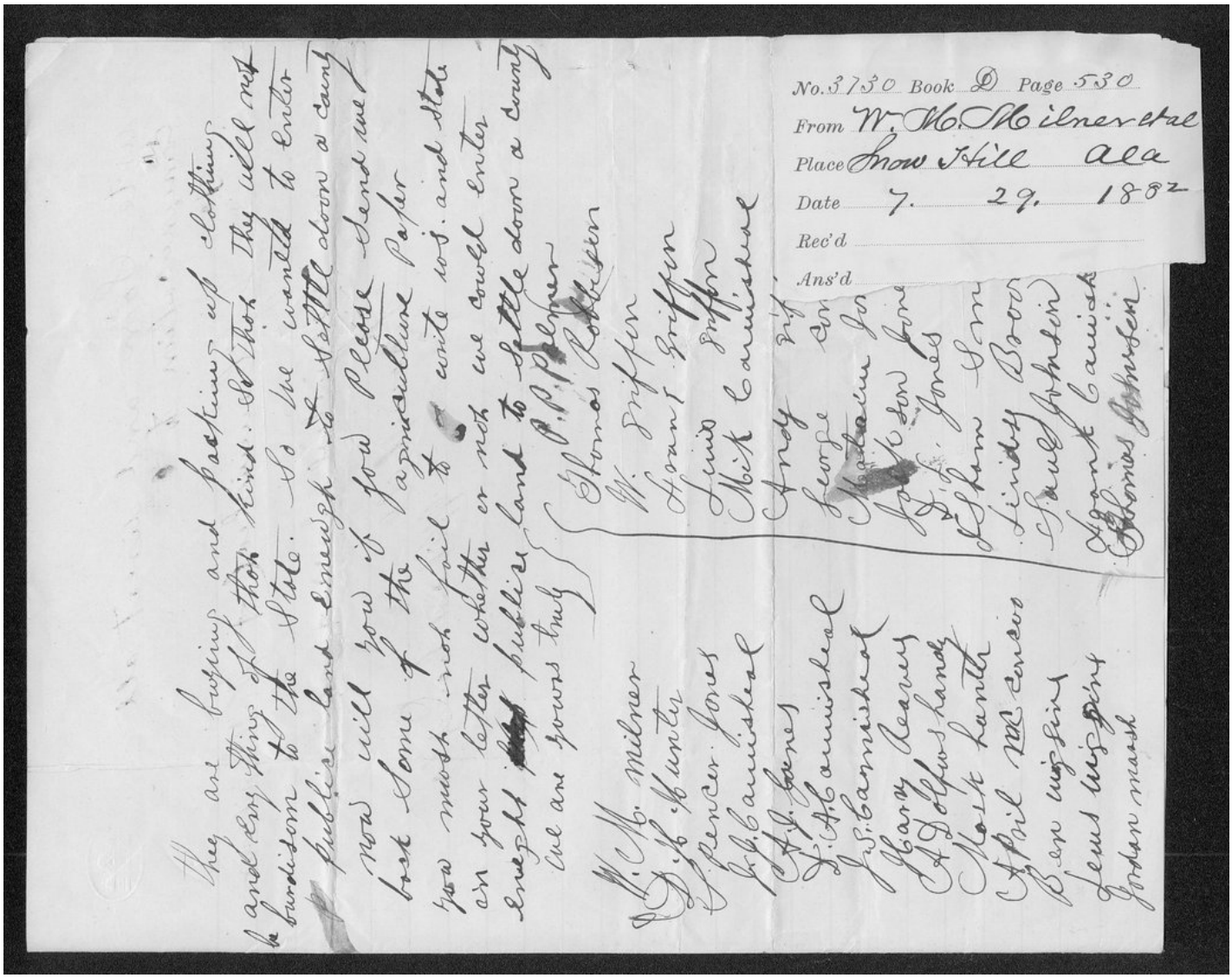


we are buying clothes now and getting ready to come next march we wanted get there time enough to make a Corn crop. we are trying to Prepare So. that we will not be no Expense on the State

M. M. milner President
J. J. Cannishead Sec'h
P. P. Palmer Treasure

address all letters to
J. J. Cannishead Sec'h
Snow Hill Wilcox. Co Ala

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



No. 3730 Book D Page 530
From W. M. Milner et al
Place Snow Hill Ala
Date 7. 29. 1882
Rec'd
Ans'd

They are buying and packing up clothing and every thing of that kind. Do not. They will not be furnished to the State. So we would to enter public land enough to settle down a county now will you if you please send me a pre-emption Paper for the same not fail to write us and state you must not fail to write us and state on your letter whether or not we could enter enough public land to settle down a county we are yours truly

W. M. Milner
D. H. Hunter
Spencer Jones
J. B. Counsilman
A. J. Jones

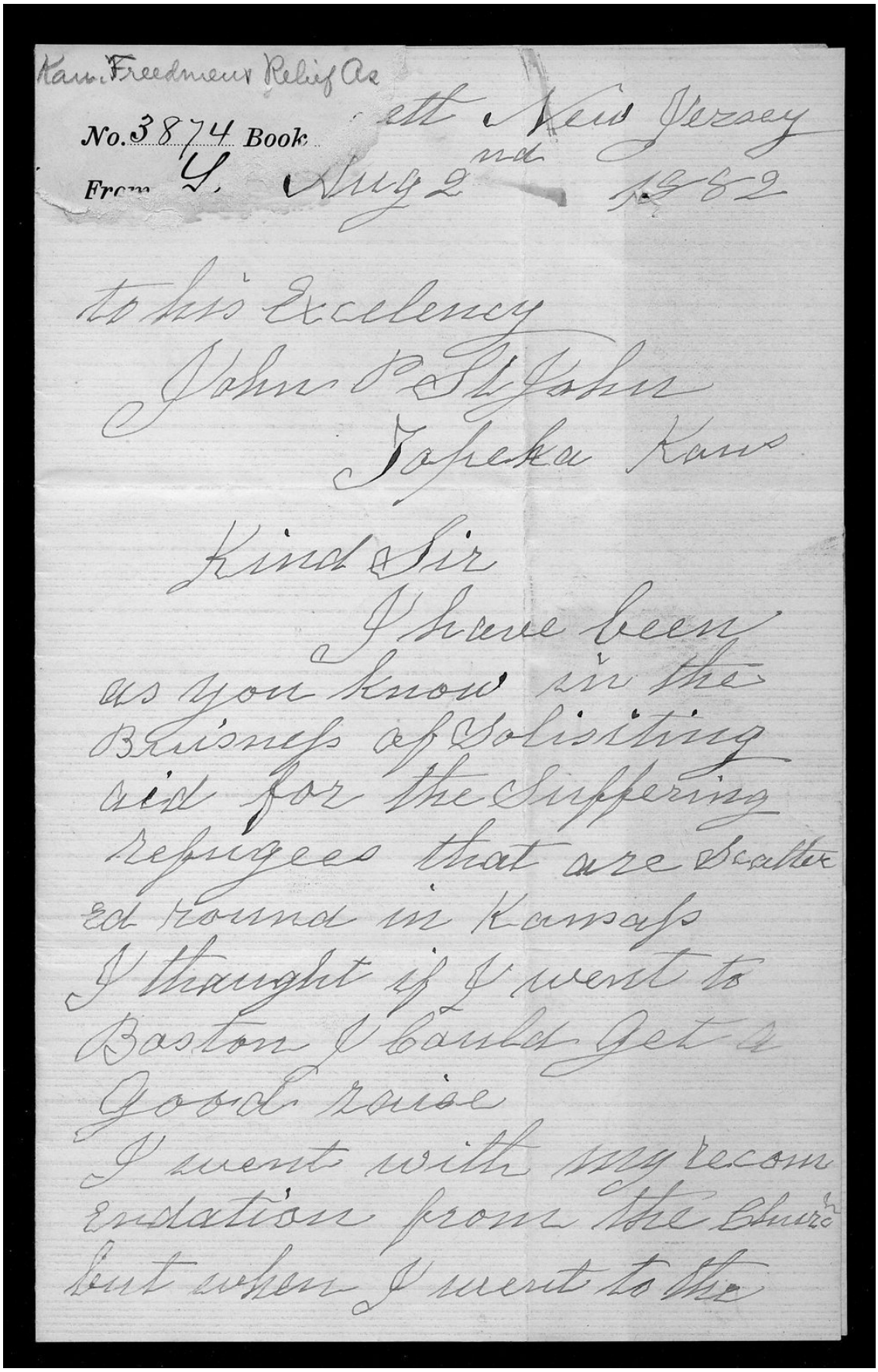
W. M. Milner
D. H. Hunter
Spencer Jones
J. B. Counsilman
A. J. Jones
J. A. Counsilman
J. S. Counsilman
Mary Reavis
A. Dolphus Reavis
Mark Lantz
April 22 1882
Ben Griffin
Lewis Griffin
Jordan Marsh

P. O. Pelham
Thomas Patterson

W. Griffen
Frank Griffen
Lewis Griffen
Mick Counsilman

Andy Pitt
George Counsilman
Nathaniel Jones
Joseph Jones
D. Jones
Elam Jones
Linsey Brown
Paul Gilbreth
Frank Counsilman
Thomas Patterson

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Kan. Freedmens Relief Ass

No. 3874 Book

From 4. Aug 2 1882

eth New Jersey

nd

to his Excelency

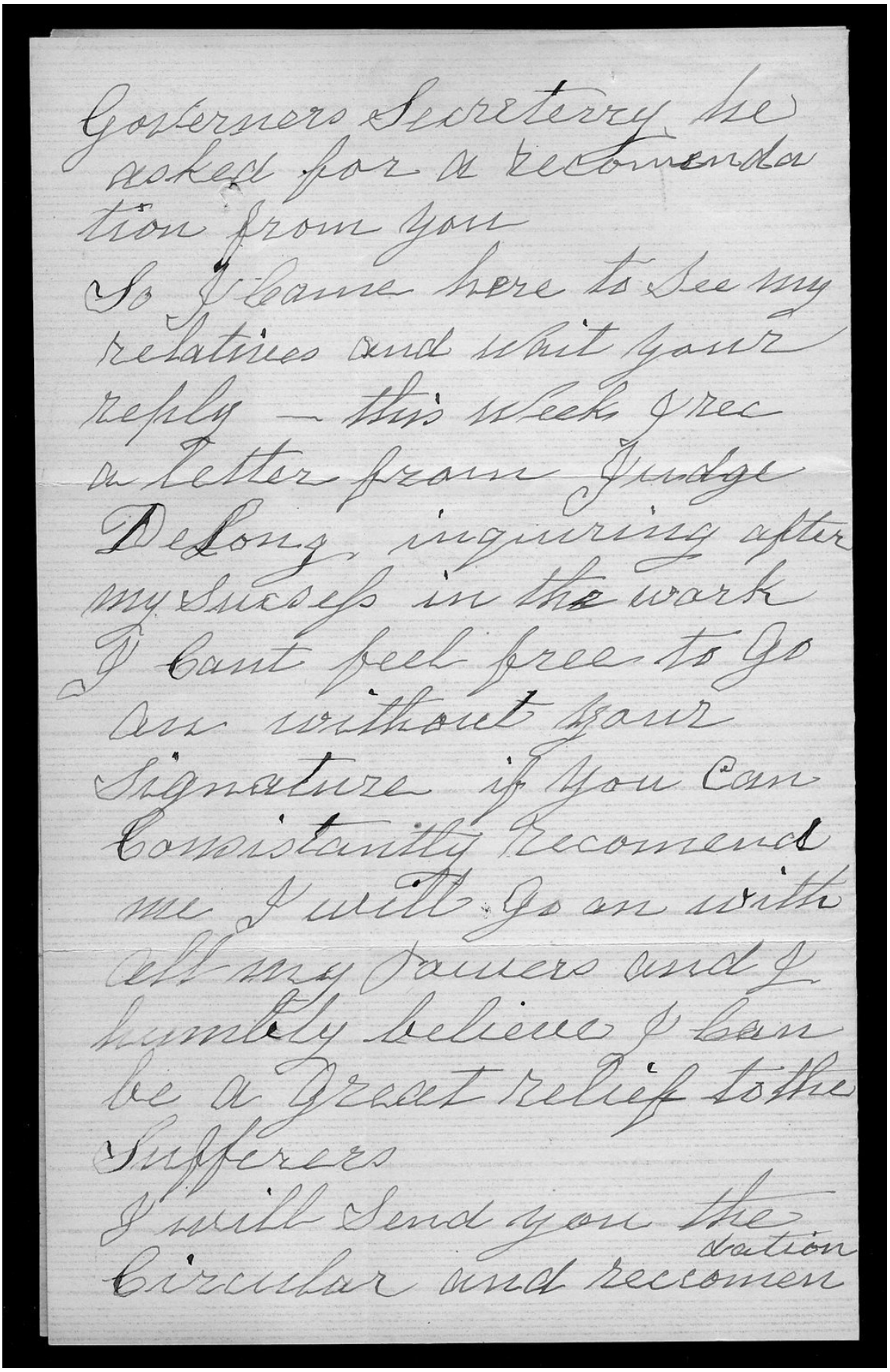
John P St John

Topeka Kans

Kind Sir

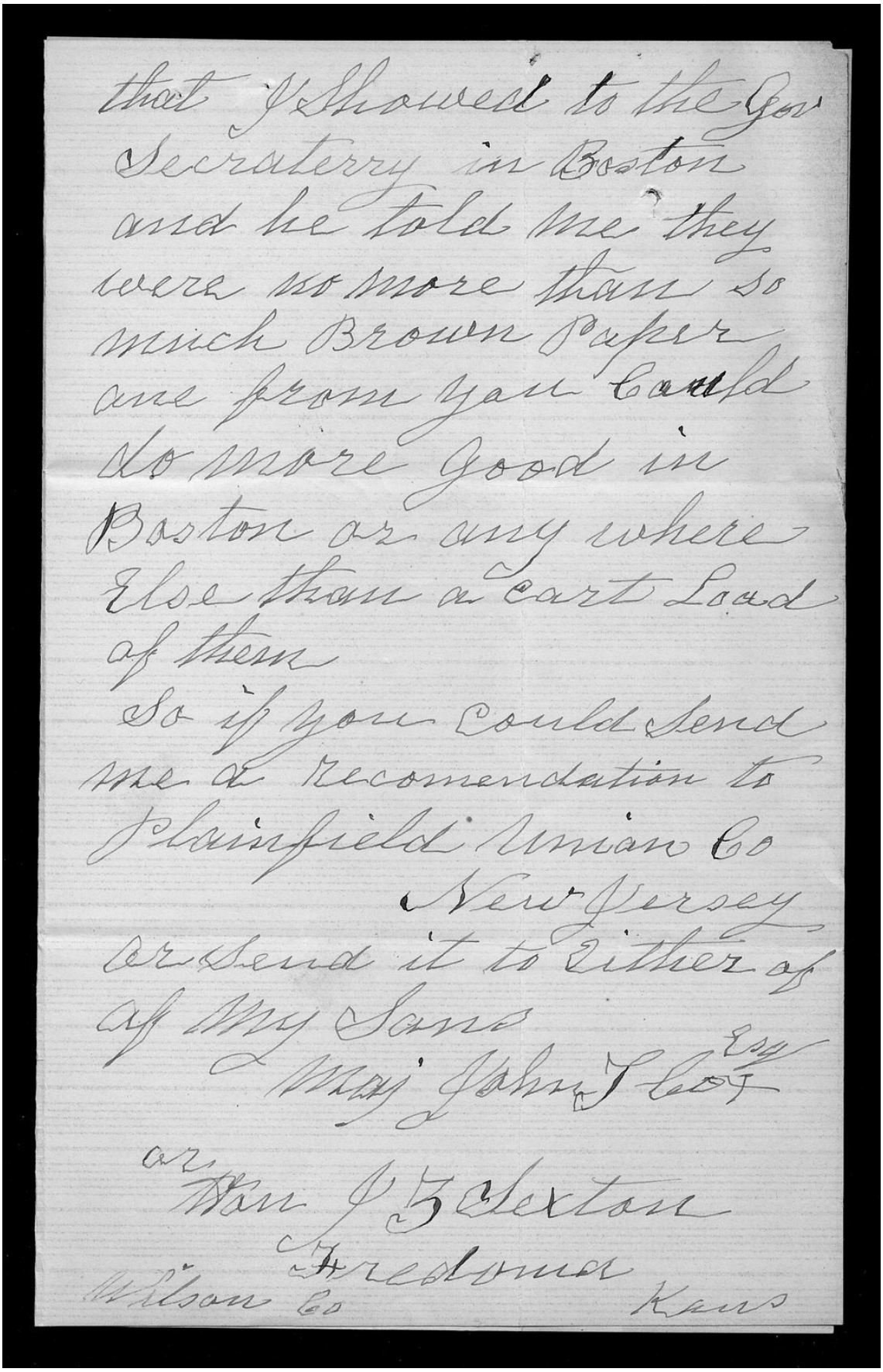
I have been as you know in the Business of Solisiting aid for the Suffering Refugees that are Scattered round in Kansas I thought if I went to Boston I could get a Good raise I went with my recommendation from the Church but when I went to the

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



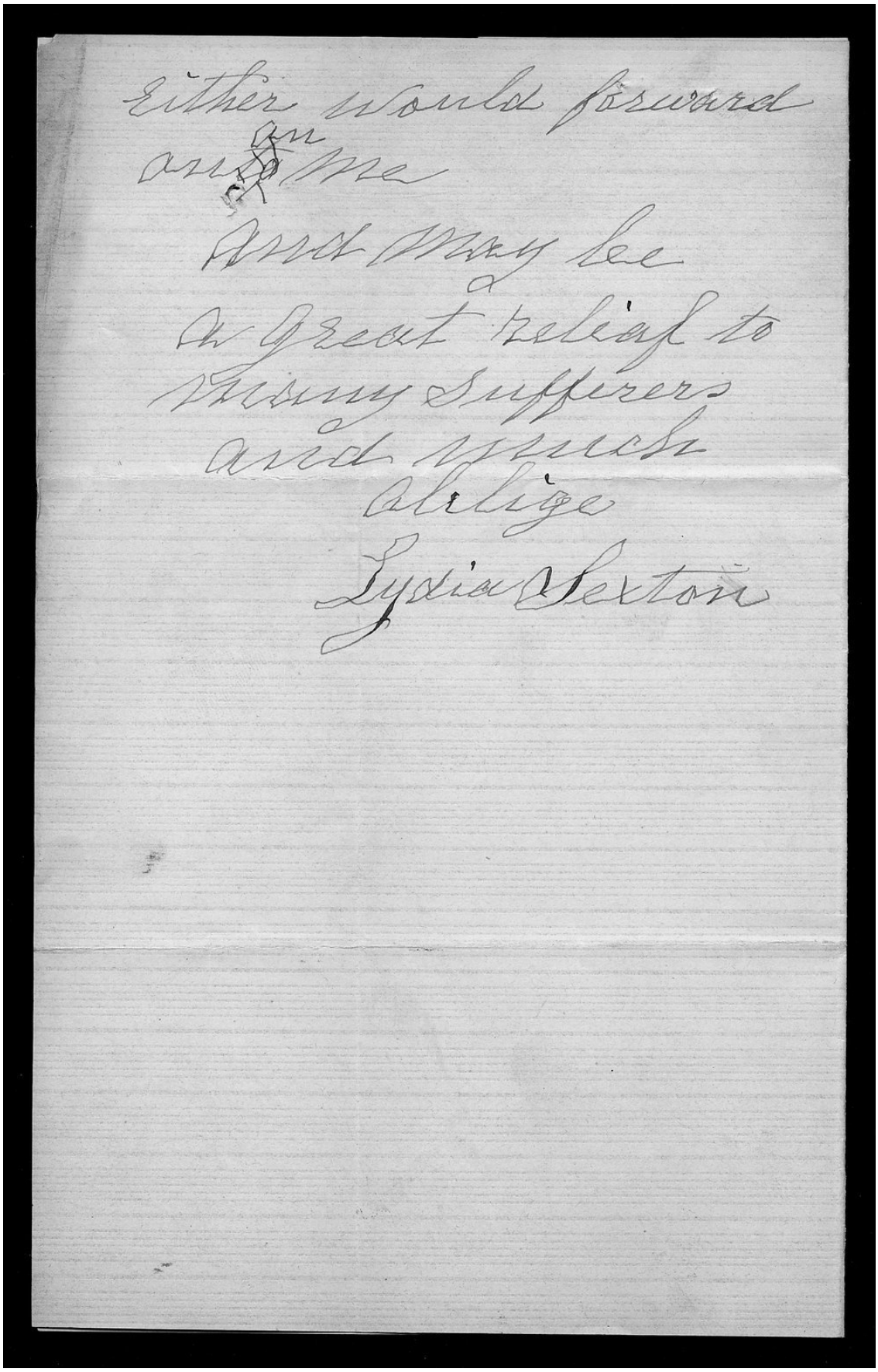
Governors Secretary he
asked for a recomenda
tion from you
So I came here to see my
relatives and wait your
reply — this week I rec
a letter from Judge
DeLong inquiring after
my Success in the work
I Cant feel free to go
on without your
Signature if you Can
Consistantly Recomend
me I will go on with
all my Powers and I
humbly believe I can
be a Great Relief to the
Sufferers
I will Send you the
Circular and recomen
dation

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



that I showed to the Gov
Secratery in Boston
and he told me they
were no more than so
much Brown Paper
and from you could
do more Good in
Boston or any where
Else than a Cart Load
of them
So if you could send
me a Recomendation to
Plainfield Union Co
New Jersey
or send it to Either of
of My Sons
Hon John J St Esq
or
Hon J J Sexton
Fredonia
Wilson Co Kans

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

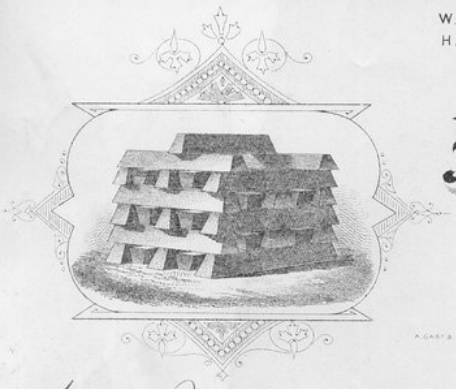


either would forward
an
answer me
And May Lee
a
a Great Relief to
Many Sufferers
and Much
Oblige
Lydia Sexton

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

W. B. STONE, PRESIDENT.
H. GOVE, VICE PRESIDENT.

J. F. MITCHELL, SECRETARY.
O. T. STREET, TREASURER.



SOUTH SIDE
Mining and Manufacturing Co.

LEAD AND ZINC ORES, PIG LEAD
AND MINERAL LANDS.

Galena, Kansas, Aug 11th 1882

Hon John P St John
Topeka Ks

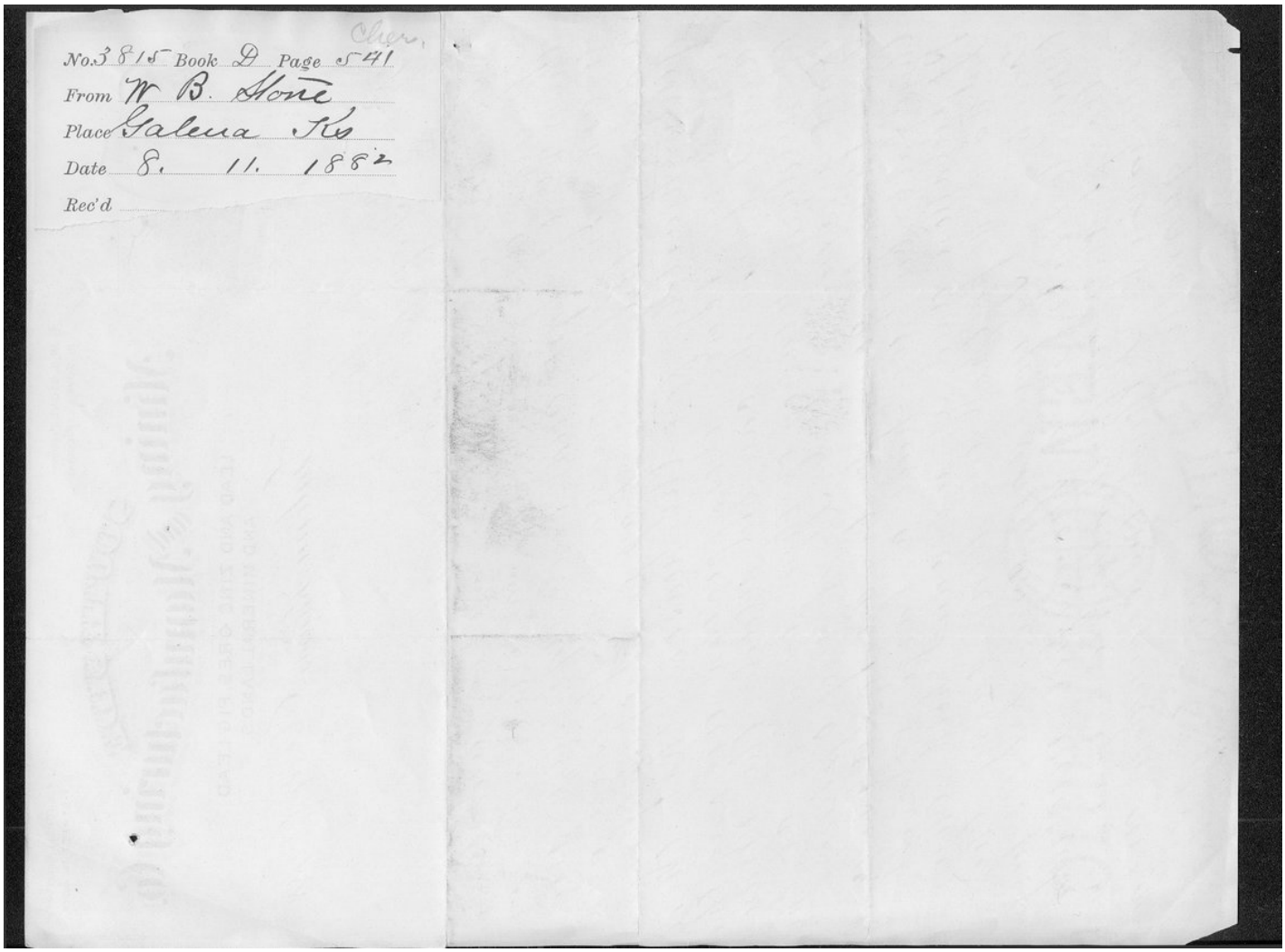
Dear Sir & Friend

The colored people of this place and Baxter Springs desire to have a celebration on the 7th of Sept and have requested me to ask you if you can be present and address them. I approve of the project quite heartily for the reason that there has been some disaffection among them and I believe it can be made the means of holding many of them in line at the fall election. It is my opinion that this is going to be a very close county this fall, but we have a large colored population and if we can hold them I have hope that we may carry the county. If you can come I will help them to make it a successful meeting.

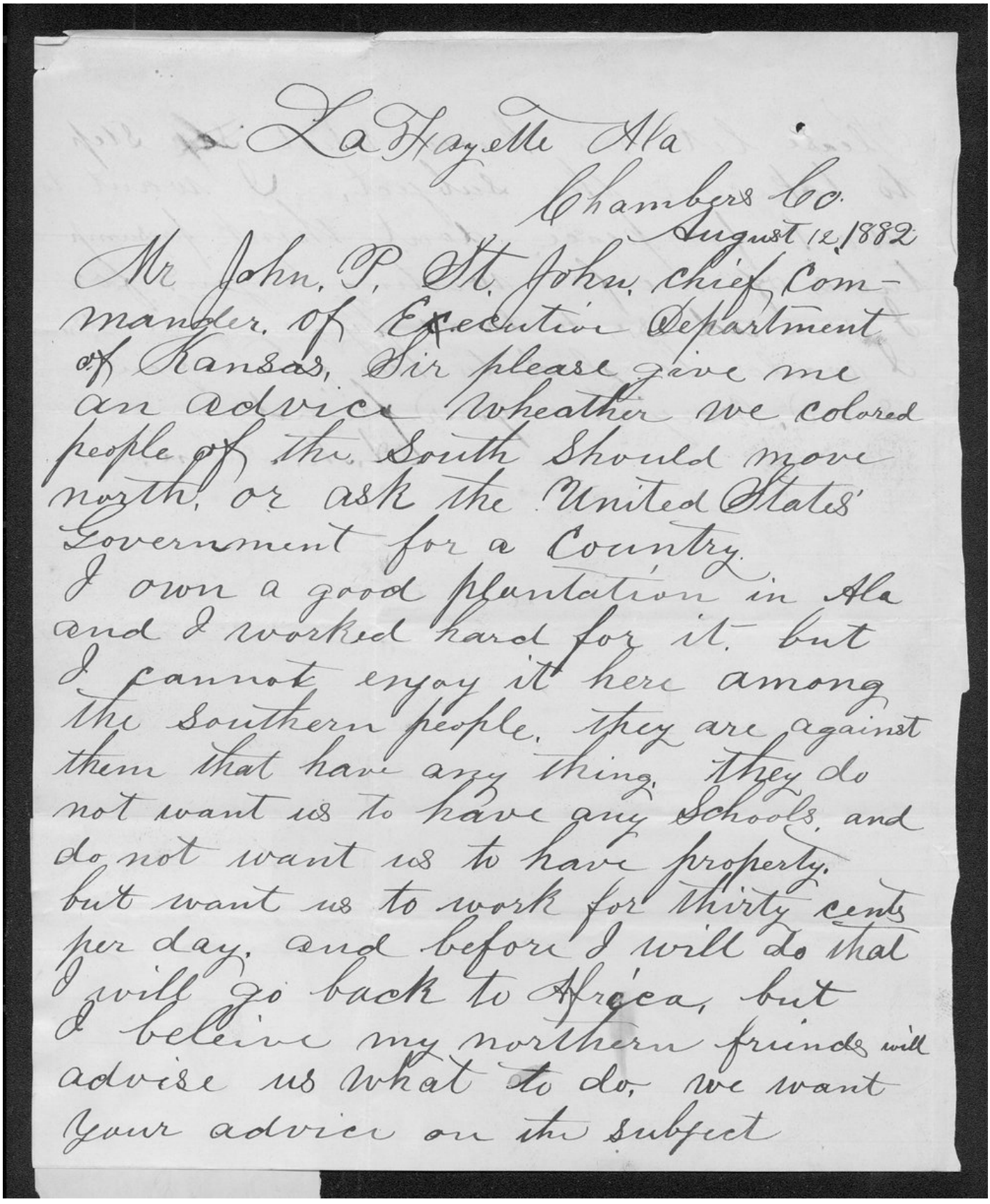
Accept my congratulations on your renomination. I think the convention did good work generally

Yours Very truly W B Stone

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence


Clipped
No. 3815 Book D Page 541
From W B. Stone
Place Galena Ks
Date 8. 11. 1882
Rec'd

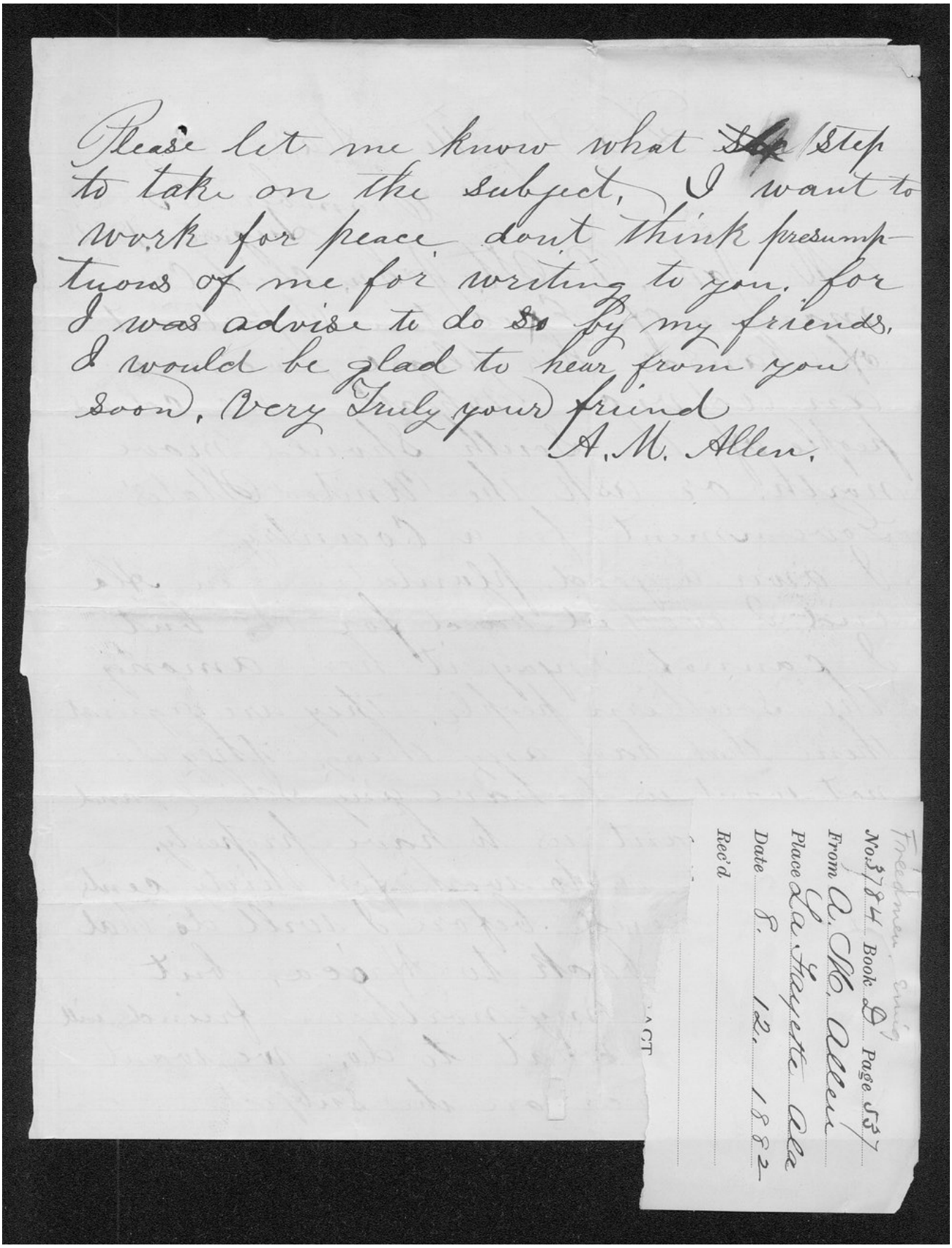
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



La Fayette Ala
Chambers Co.
August 12, 1882

Mr John. P. St. John. chief Commander. of Execution Department of Kansas. Sir please give me an advice Wheather we colored people of the South Should move nozth. or ask the United States' Government for a Country.
I own a good plantation in Ala and I worked hard for it. but I cannot enjoy it here among the Southern people. they are against them that have any thing. they do not want us to have any Schools. and do not want us to have property. but want us to work for thirty cents per day. and before I will do that I will go back to Africa. but I believe my northern friends will advise us what to do. we want your advice on the subject

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Please let me know what ~~S~~ Step to take on the subject. I want to work for peace dont think presumptuous of me for writing to you. for I was advise to do ~~so~~ by my friends. I would be glad to hear from you soon. Very Truly your friend

A. M. Allen.

Freedmen Enq.

No. 3784 Book D Page 537

From A. M. Allen

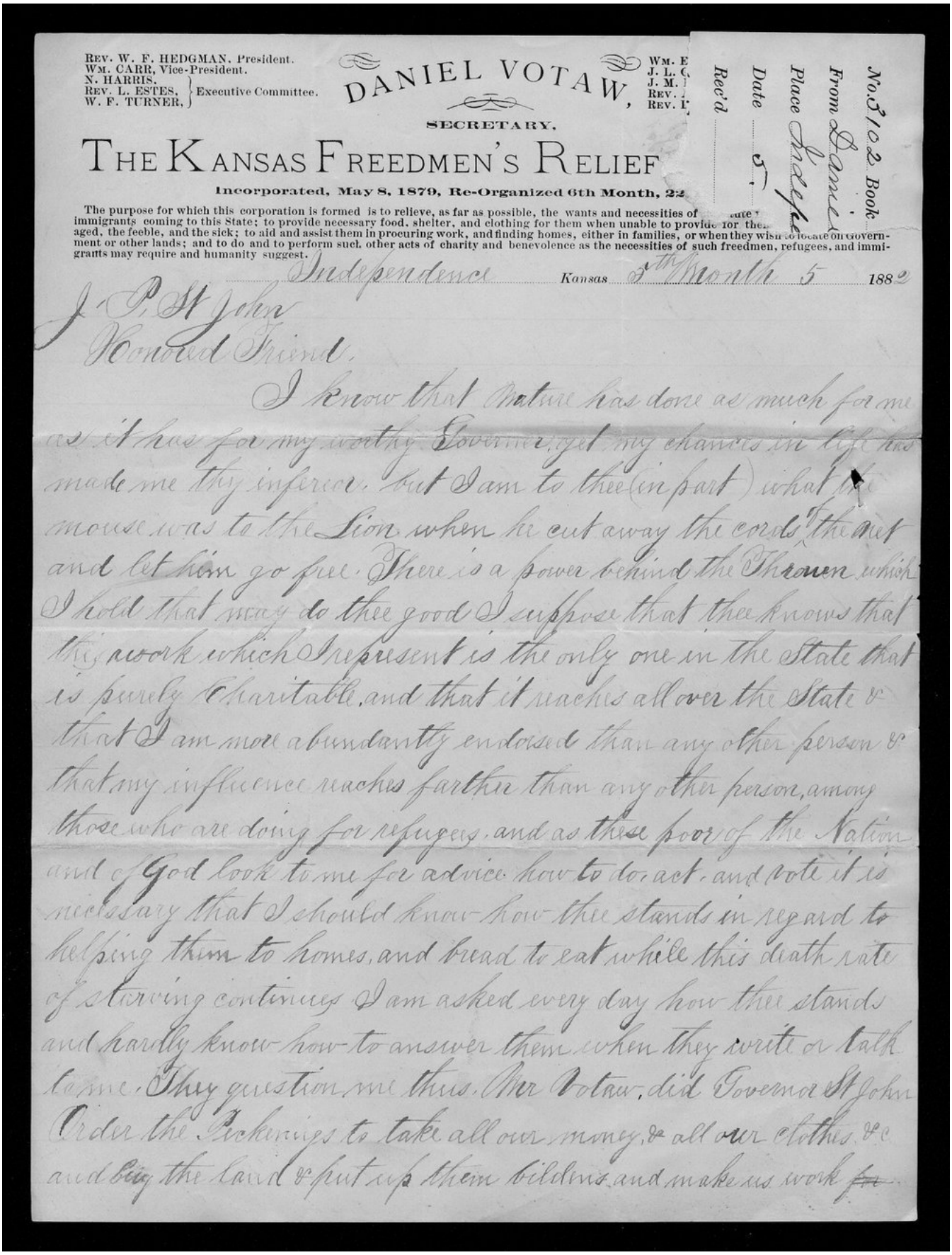
Place La Fayette Ala

Date F. 12, 1882

Rec'd

CT

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



REV. W. F. HEDGMAN, President.
WM. CARR, Vice-President.
N. HARRIS,
REV. L. ESTES,
W. F. TURNER,
} Executive Committee.

DANIEL VOTAW, SECRETARY.

WM. E
J. L. C
J. M.
REV.
REV. I

No. 3102 Book
From Daniel
Place Indep
Rec'd
Date 5

THE KANSAS FREEDMEN'S RELIEF

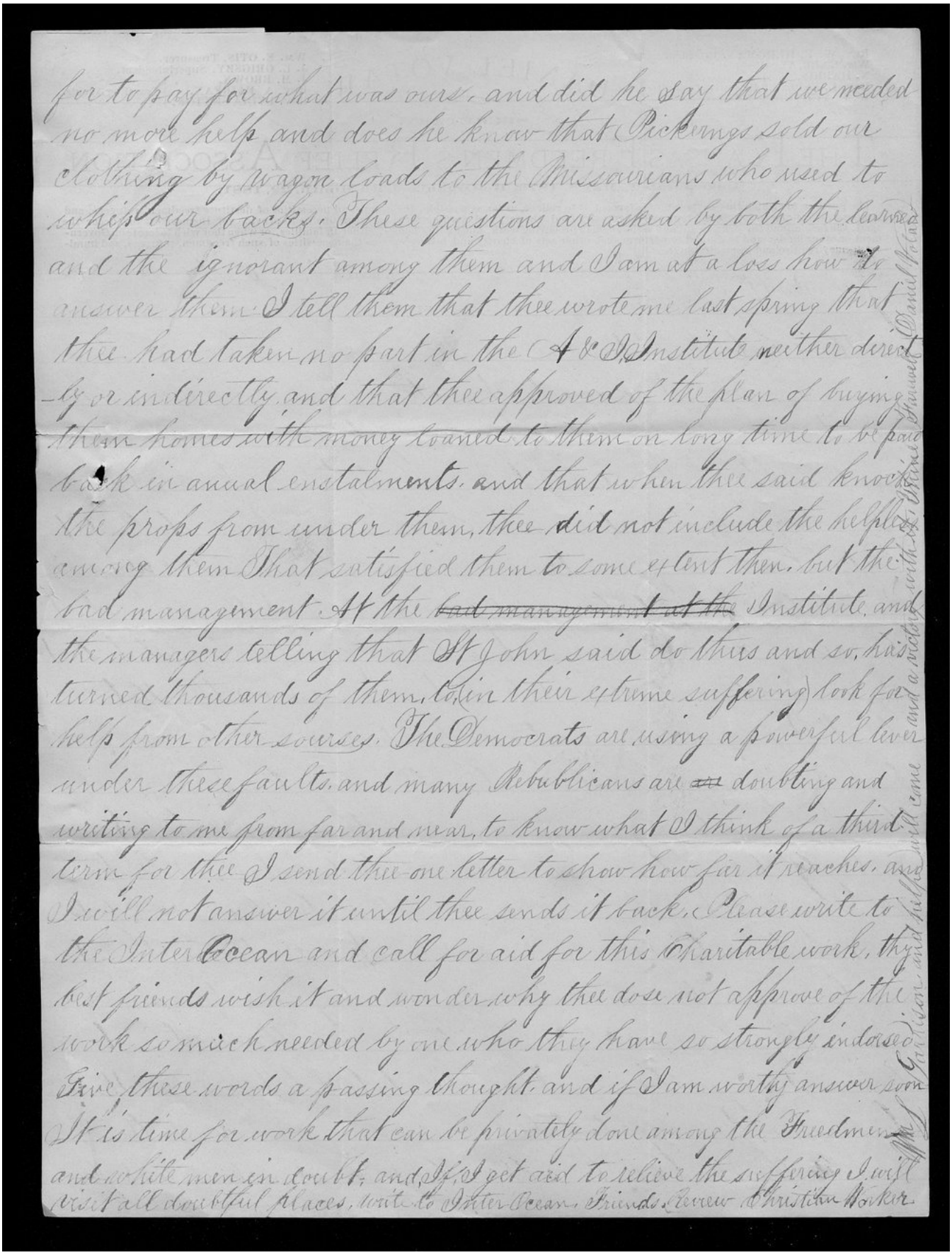
Incorporated, May 8, 1879, Re-Organized 6th Month, 22

The purpose for which this corporation is formed is to relieve, as far as possible, the wants and necessities of ...ate ... immigrants coming to this State; to provide necessary food, shelter, and clothing for them when unable to provide for the... aged, the feeble, and the sick; to aid and assist them in procuring work, and finding homes, either in families, or when they wish to locate on Government or other lands; and to do and to perform such other acts of charity and benevolence as the necessities of such freedmen, refugees, and immigrants may require and humanity suggest.

Independence Kansas 5th Month 5 1882

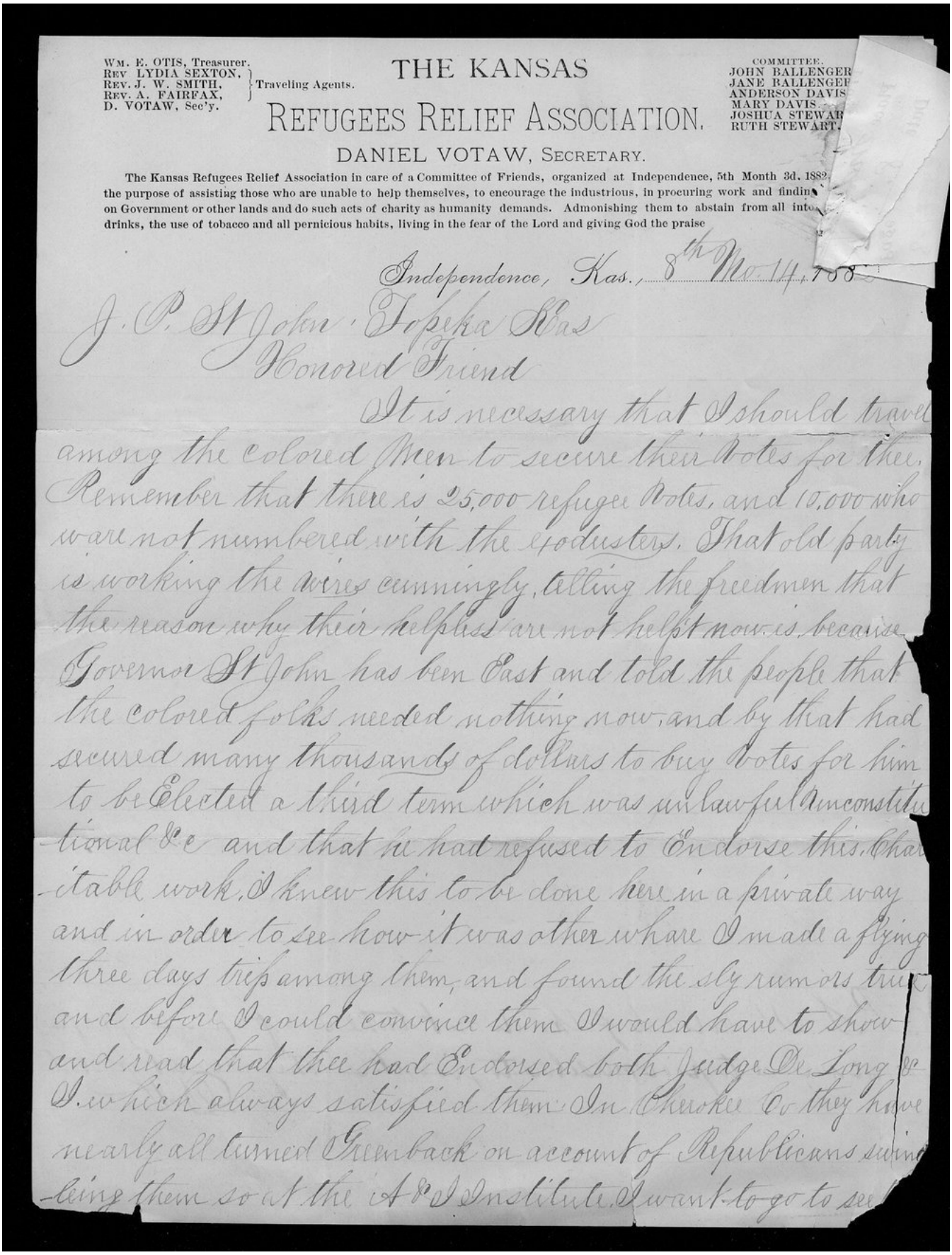
J. P. St John
Honored Friend.

I know that Nature has done as much for me as it has for my worthy Governor, yet my chances in life has made me thy inferior. but I am to thee (in part) what the mouse was to the Lion when he cut away the cords of the net and let him go free. There is a power behind the Throuen which I hold that may do thee good I suppose that thee knows that the work which I represent is the only one in the State that is purely Charitable, and that it reaches all over the State & that I am more abundantly endorsed than any other person & that my influence reaches farther than any other person, among those who are doing for refugees, and as these poor of the Nation and of God look to me for advice how to do, act, and vote it is necessary that I should know how thee stands in regard to helping them to homes, and bread to eat while this death rate of starving continues I am asked every day how thee stands and hardly know how to answer them when they write or talk to me. They question me thus. Mr Votaw, did Governor St John Order the Pickaninys to take all our money, & all our clothes, &c and beg the land & put up them bildens and make us work for



for to pay for what was ours, and did he say that we needed no more help and does he know that Pickenys sold our clothing by wagon loads to the Missourians who used to whip our backs. These questions are asked by both the learned and the ignorant among them and I am at a loss how to answer them. I tell them that thee wrote me last spring that thee had taken no part in the A & D Institute, neither direct-ly or indirectly, and that thee approved of the plan of buying them homes with money loaned to them on long time to be paid back in annual enstalments, and that when thee said knock the props from under them, thee did not include the helpless among them That satisfied them to some extent then, but the bad management At the ~~bad management at the~~ Institute, and the managers telling that St John said do thus and so, has turned thousands of them, (in their extreme suffering) look for helps from other sources. The Democrats are using a powerful lever under these faults, and many Rebublicans are ~~in~~ doubting and writing to me from far and near, to know what I think of a third term for thee. I send thee one letter to show how far it reaches, and I will not answer it until thee sends it back. Please write to the Inter Ocean and call for aid for this charitable work, thy best friends wish it and wonder why thee dose not approve of the work so much needed by one who they have so strongly indorsed. Give these words a passing thought and if I am worthy answer soon. It is time for work that can be privately done among the Freedmen and white men in doubt, and, if I get aid to relieve the sufferings I will visit all doubtful places, write to Inter Ocean, Friends Review, Christian Worker

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



WM. E. OTIS, Treasurer.
REV LYDIA SEXTON,
REV. J. W. SMITH,
REV. A. FAIRFAX,
D. VOTAW, Sec'y.
} Traveling Agents.

THE KANSAS
REFUGEES RELIEF ASSOCIATION.
DANIEL VOTAW, SECRETARY.

COMMITTEE.
JOHN BALLENGER
JANE BALLENGER
ANDERSON DAVIS
MARY DAVIS
JOSHUA STEWART
RUTH STEWART

The Kansas Refugees Relief Association in care of a Committee of Friends, organized at Independence, 5th Month 3d, 1882, the purpose of assisting those who are unable to help themselves, to encourage the industrious, in procuring work and finding on Government or other lands and do such acts of charity as humanity demands. Admonishing them to abstain from all into- drinks, the use of tobacco and all pernicious habits, living in the fear of the Lord and giving God the praise

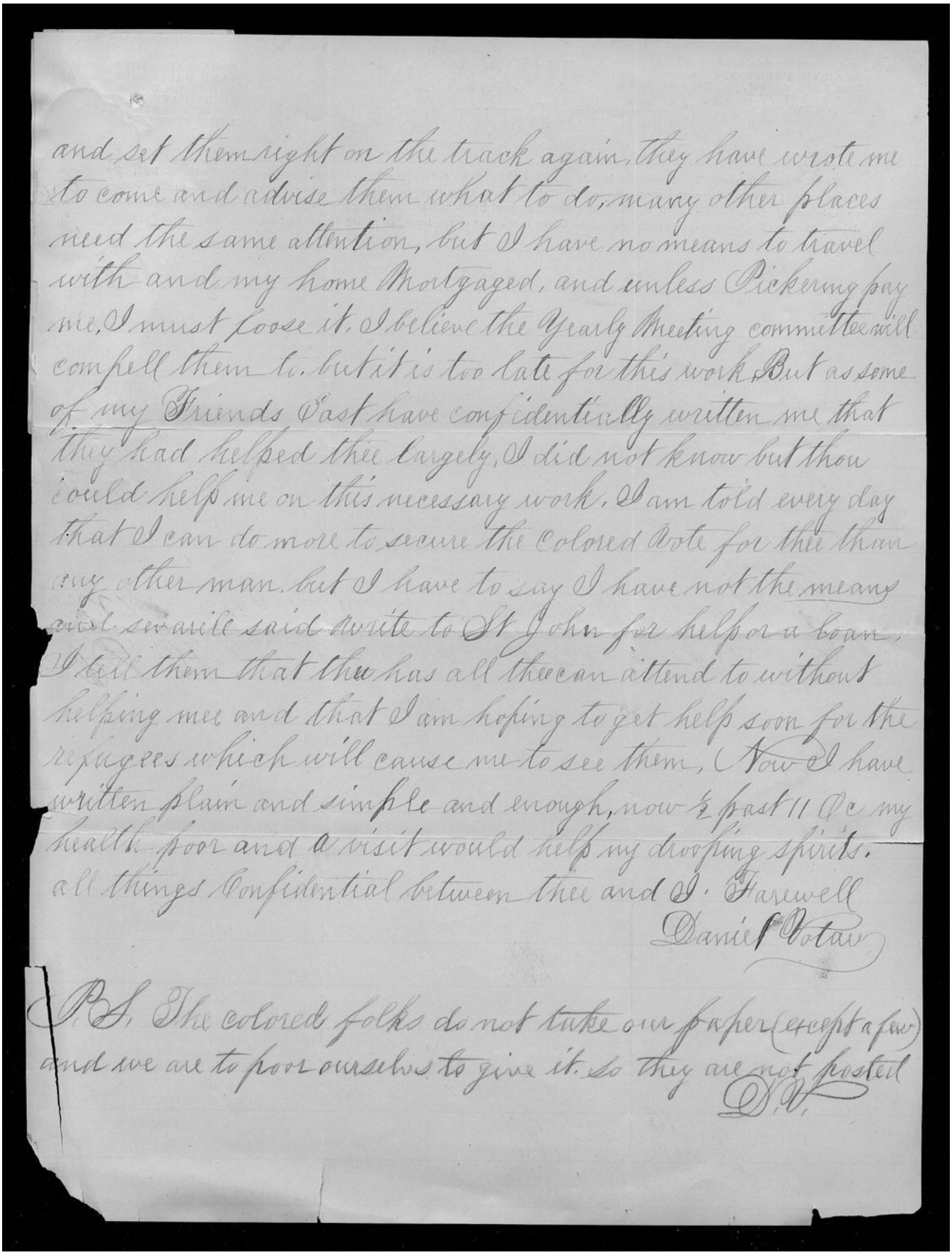
Independence, Kas., 8th Mo. 14, 188

J. P. St John · Topeka Kas

Honored Friend

It is necessary that I should travel among the colored Men to secure their Votes for thee. Remember that there is 25,000 refugee Votes, and 10,000 who are not numbered with the Exodusters. That old party is working the wires cunningly, telling the freedmen that the reason why their helpless are not helpt now is, because Governor St John has been East and told the people that the colored folks needed nothing now, and by that had secured many thousands of dollars to buy Votes for him to be Elected a third term which was unlawful Unconstitutional &c and that he had refused to Endorse this, Charitable work. I knew this to be done here in a private way and in order to see how it was other where I made a flying three days trip among them, and found the sly rumors true and before I could convince them I would have to show and read that thee had Endorsed both Judge De Long & I. which always satisfied them. In Cherokee Co they have nearly all turned Greenback on account of Republicans submitting them so at the A & I Institute. I want to go to see

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



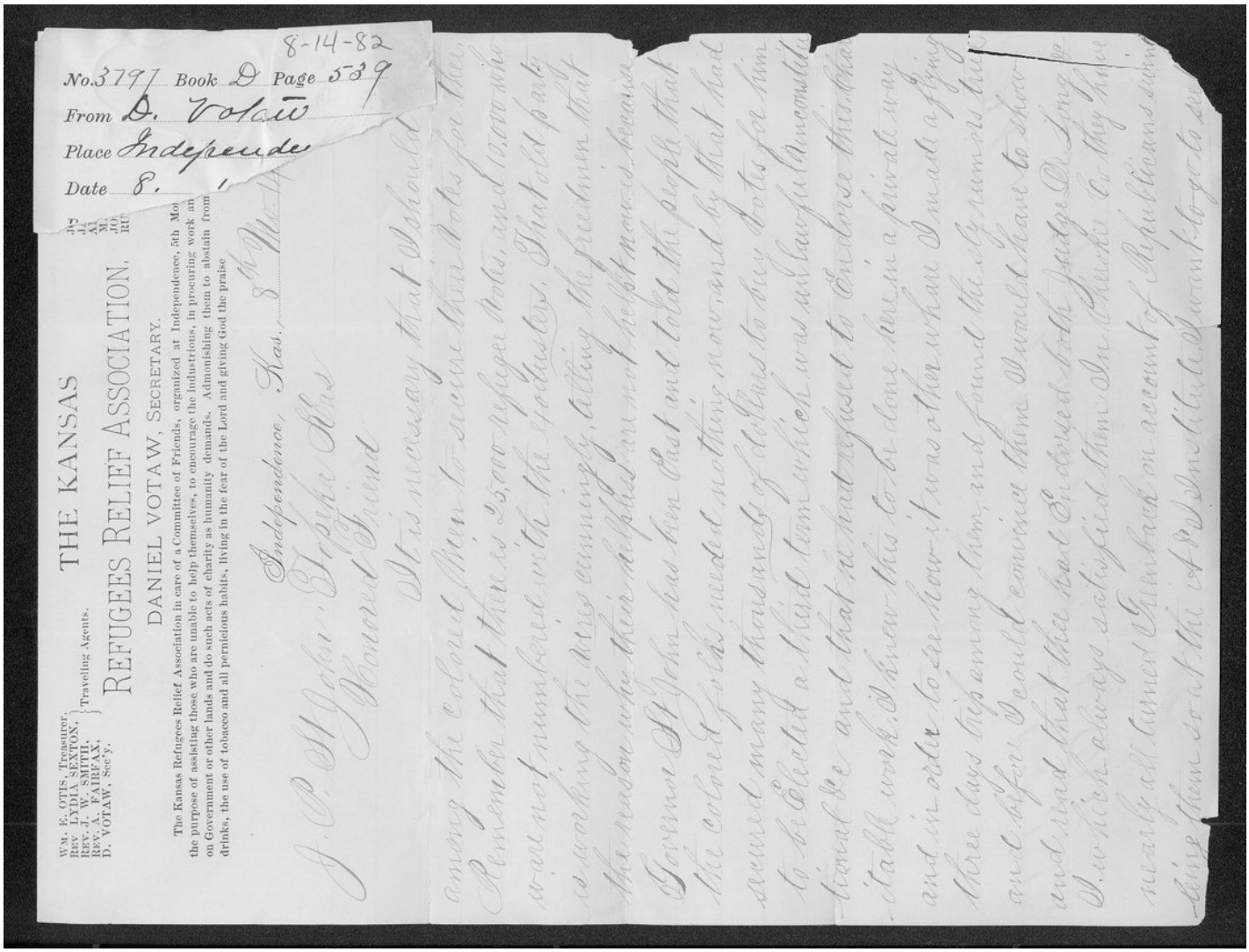
and set them right on the track again, they have wrote me to come and advise them what to do, many other places need the same attention, but I have no means to travel with and my home Mortgaged, and unless Pickering pay me, I must loose it. I believe the Yearly Meeting committee will compell them to. but it is too late for this work But as some of my Friends East have confidentially written me that they had helped thee largely, I did not know but thou could help me on this necessary work. I am told every day that I can do more to secure the Colored Vote for thee than any other man. but I have to say I have not the means and so as he said write to St John for help or a loan. I tell them that thee has all thee can attend to without helping me and that I am hoping to get help soon for the Exoduses which will cause me to see them, Now I have written plain and simple and enough, now ½ past 11 Pc my health poor and a visit would help my drooping spirits. all things Confidential between thee and I. Farewell

Daniel Votaw

P.S. The colored folks do not take our paper (except a few) and we are to poor ourselves to give it. so they are not posted

D. V.

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



8-14-82

No. 3797 Book D Page 539

From D. Votaw

Place Independence

Date 8. 1

THE KANSAS

REFUGEES RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

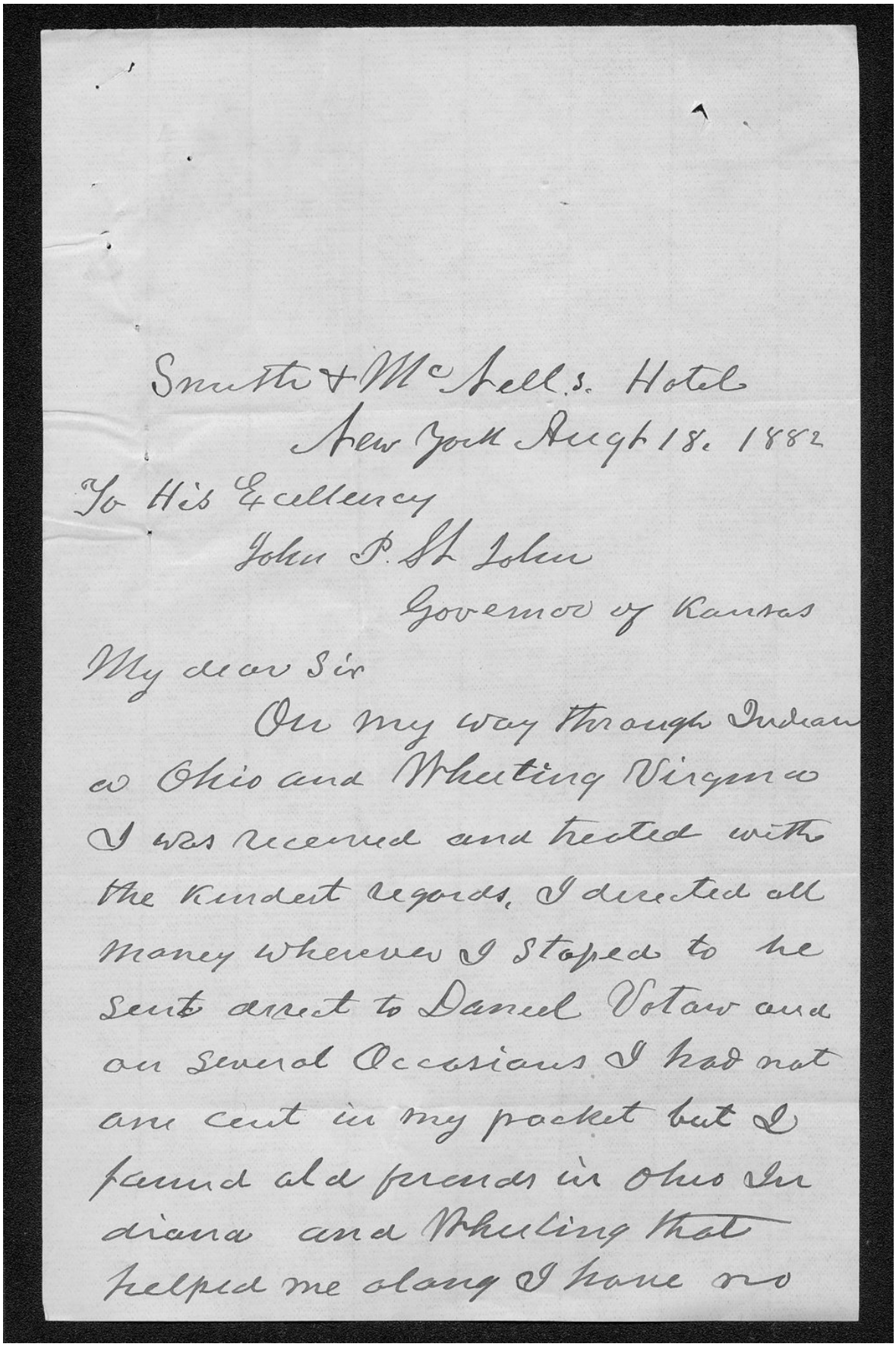
DANIEL VOTAW, SECRETARY.

Wm. E. OTIS, Treasurer,
Rev LYDIA SEXTON,
Rev. J. T. SMITH,
Rev. A. FAIRFAX,
D. VOTAW, Sec'y.
} Traveling Agents.

The Kansas Refugees Relief Association in care of a Committee of Friends, organized at Independence, 5th Mo
the purpose of assisting those who are unable to help themselves, to encourage the industrious, in procuring work an
on Government or other lands and do such acts of charity as humanity demands. Admonishing them to abstain from
drinks, the use of tobacco and all pernicious habits, living in the fear of the Lord and giving God the praise

Independence, Kas., 8th Mo

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



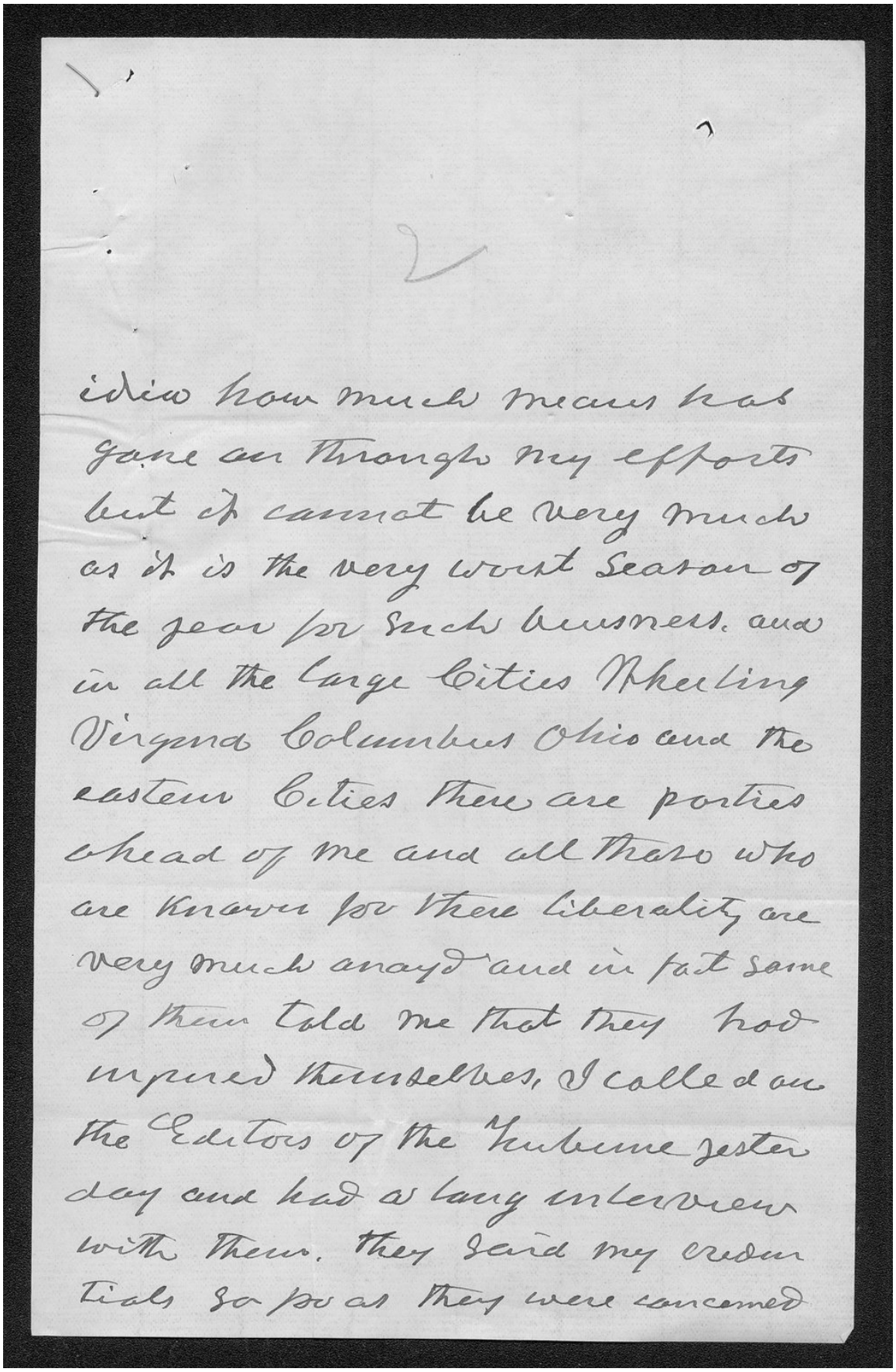
Smith & McNell's Hotel
New York Augt 18. 1882

To His Excellency
John P. St John
Governor of Kansas

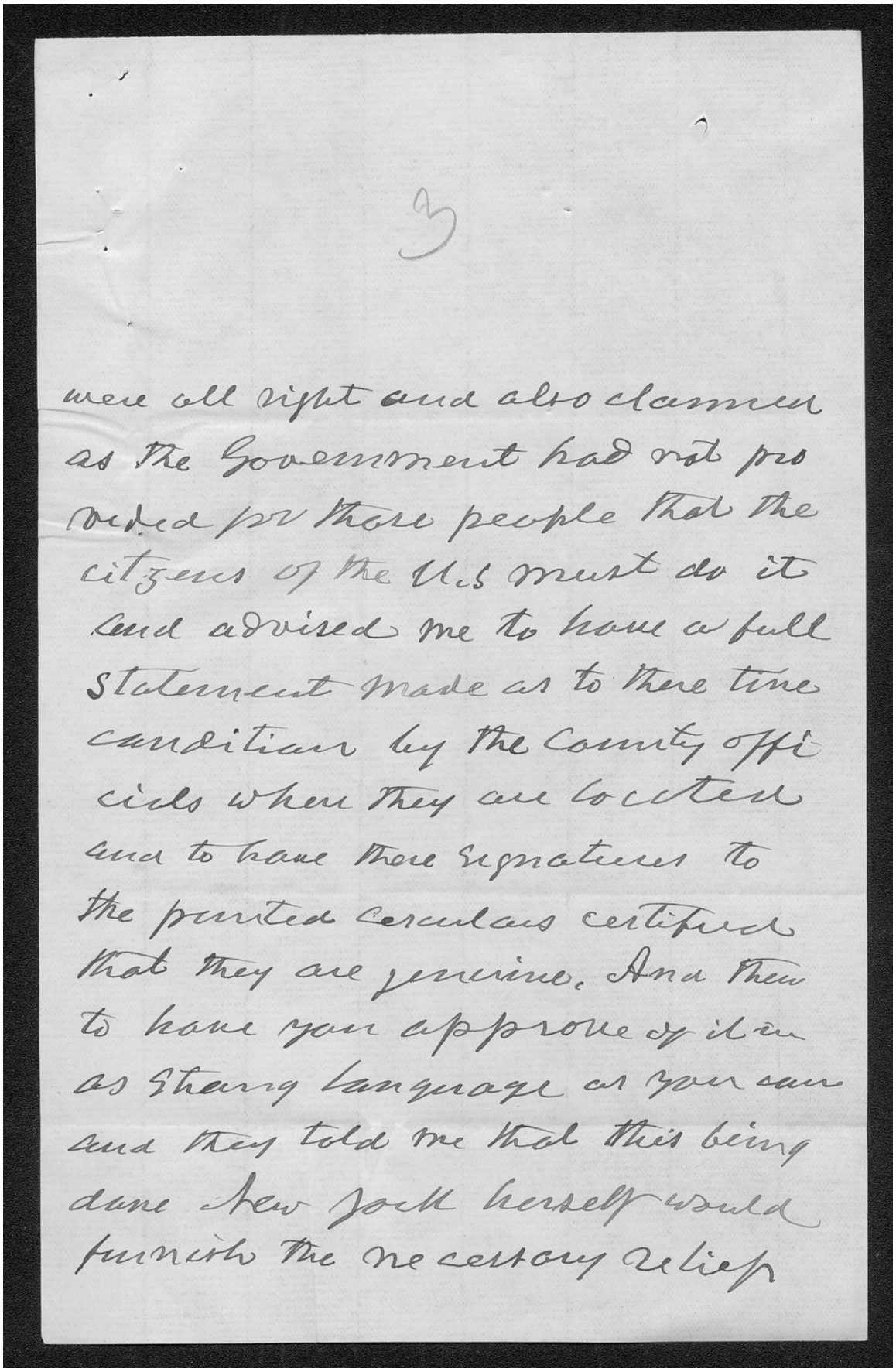
My dear Sir

On my way through Indiana Ohio and Wheeling Virginia I was received and treated with the kindest regards. I directed all money wherever I Stoped to be sent direct to Daniel Votaw and on Several Occasions I had not one cent in my pocket but I found old friends in Ohio Indiana and Wheeling that helped me along I have no

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



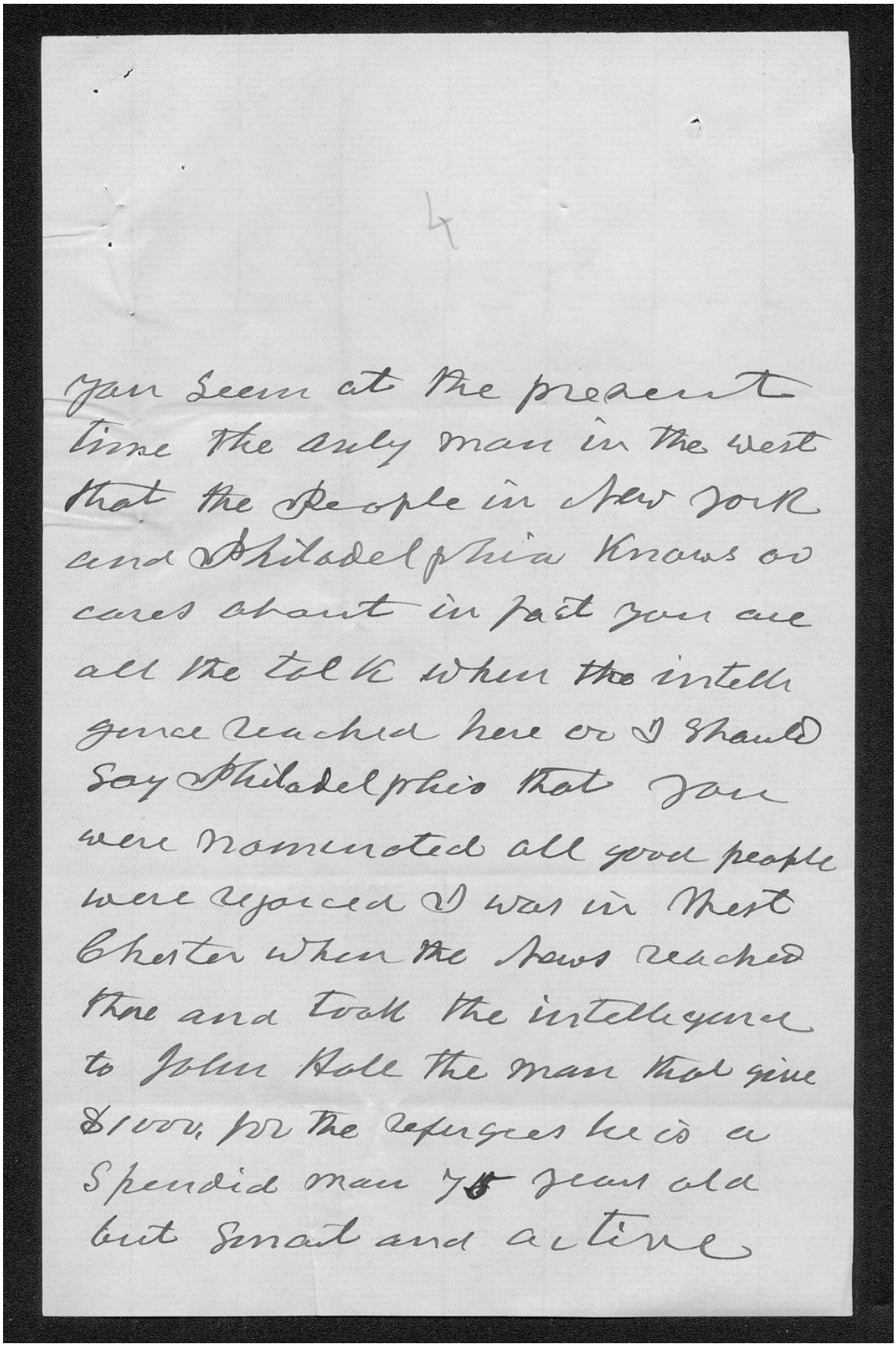
idiew how much means has
gone on through my efforts
but it cannot be very much
as it is the very worst season of
the year for such business. and
in all the large Cities Wheeling
Virginia Columbus Ohio and the
eastern Cities there are parties
ahead of me and all those who
are known for there liberality are
very much anayd and in fact some
of them told me that they had
unpaired themselves. I called on
the Editors of the Enquirer yester
day and had a long interview
with them. they said my creden
tials so far as they were concerned



3

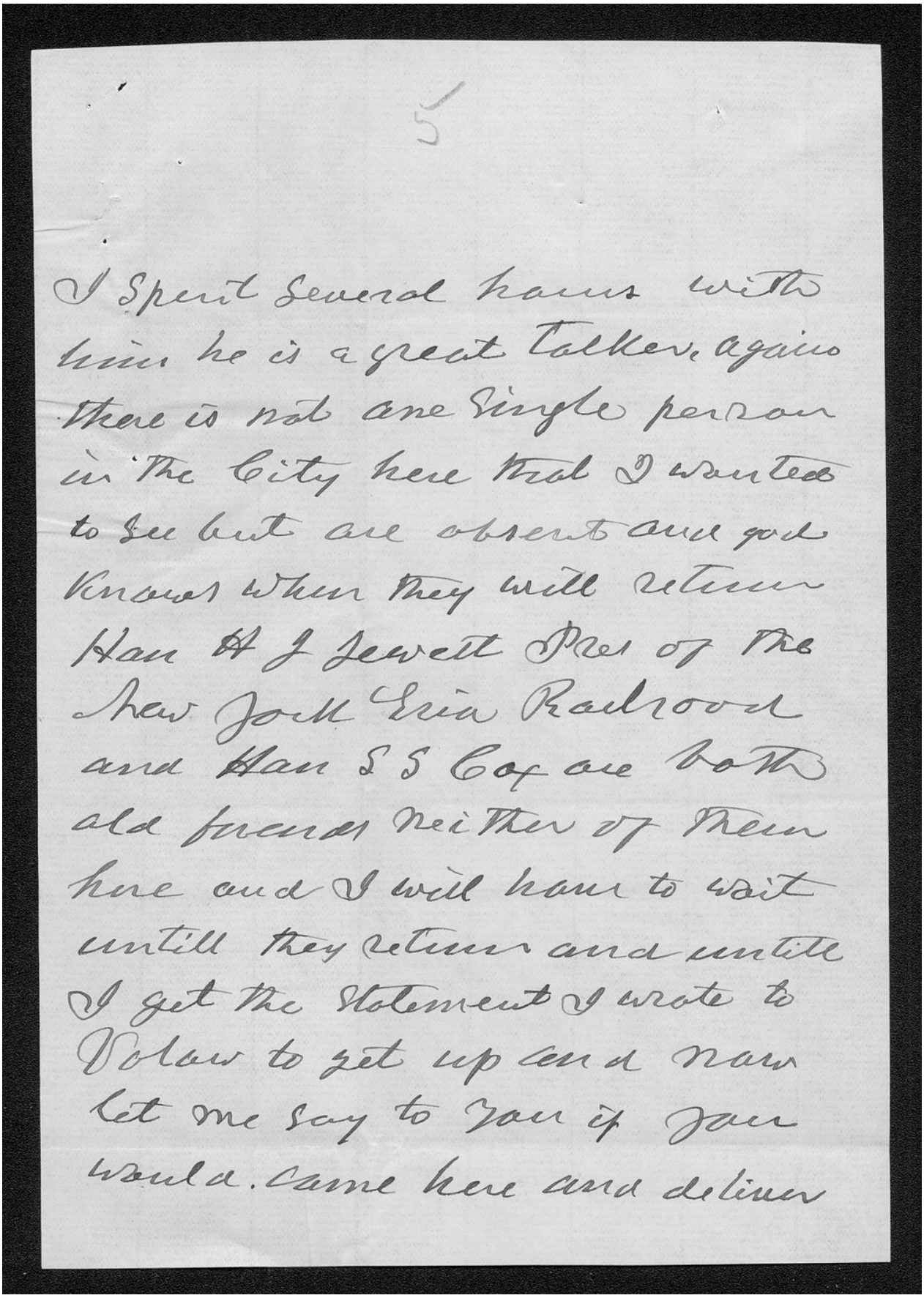
were all right and also clammer as the Government had not provided for those people that the citizens of the U.S must do it and advised me to have a full statement made as to there true condition by the County officials when they are located and to have there signatures to the printed circulars certified that they are genuine. And then to have you approve of it in as strong language as you can and they told me that this being done New York herself would furnish the necessary relief

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

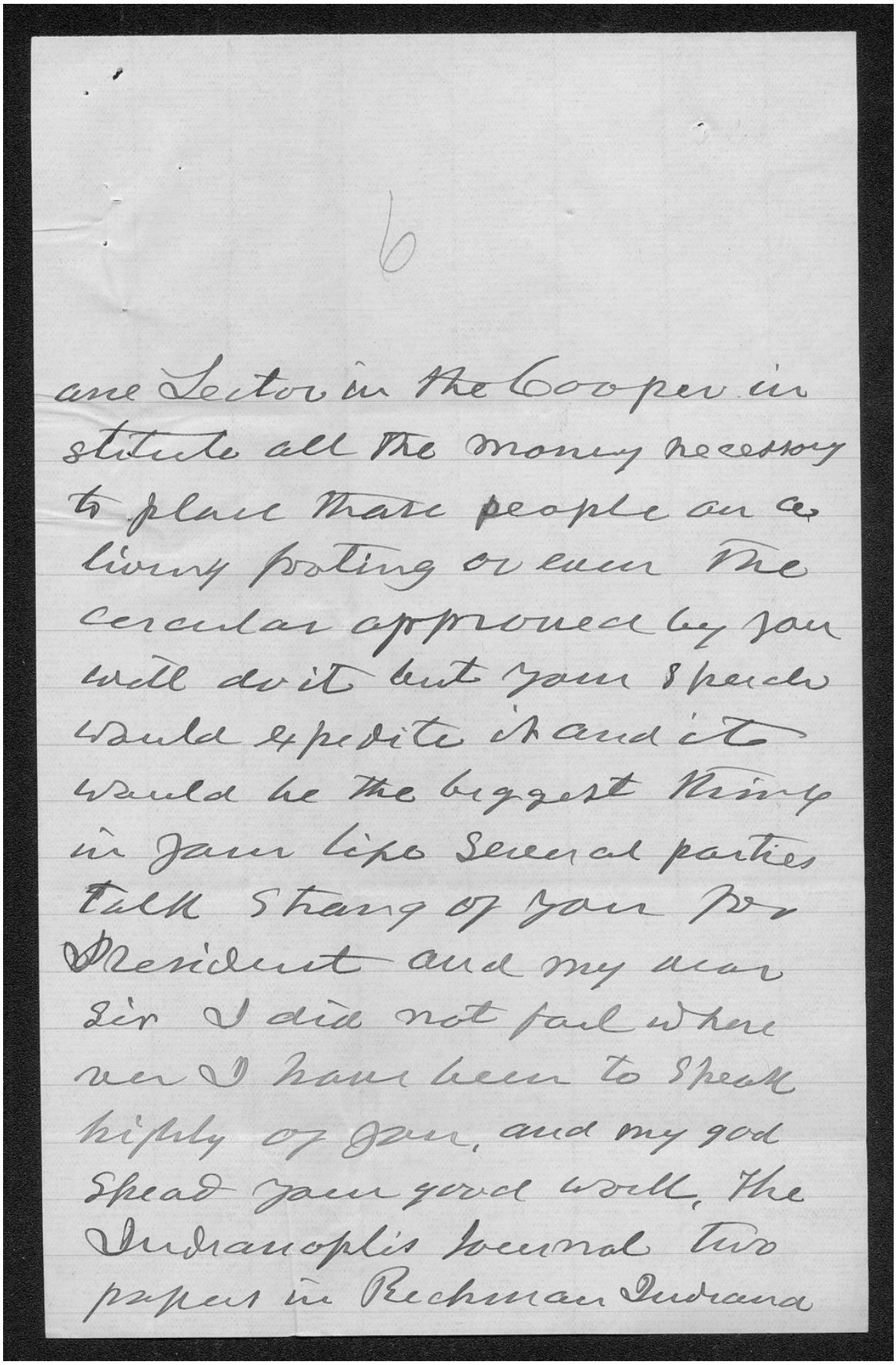


You Seem at the present time the only man in the west that the People in New York and Philadelphia Knows or cares about in fact you are all the talk when the intelligence reached here or I Should Say Philadelphia that you were Nominated all good people were rejoiced I was in West Chester when the News reached there and took the intelligence to John Hall the man that give $1000. for the refugees he is a Spendid man 75 years old but Smart and active

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



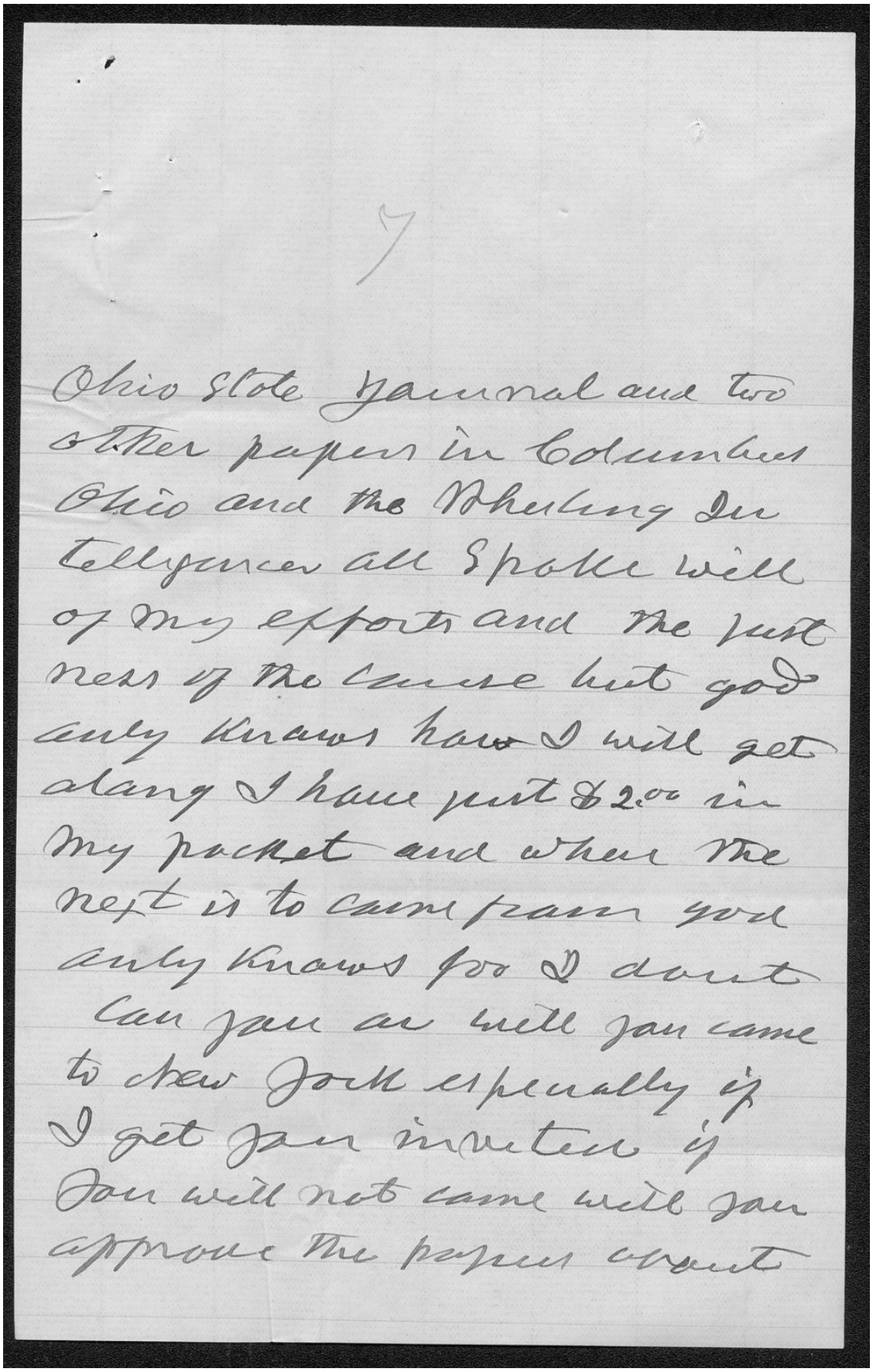
I Spent Several hours with him he is a great talker, again there is not one single person in the City here that I wanted to see but are absent and god knows when they will return Han H J Jewett Pres of the New York Erie Railroad and Han S S Cox are both old friends neither of them here and I will have to wait untill they return and untile I get the Statement I wrote to Polan to get up and now let me say to you if you would. come here and deliver



6

are Sector in the Cooper in
stitute all the money necessary
to place those people on a
living footing or even the
circular approved by you
will do it but your Speech
would expedite it and it
would be the biggest thing
in your life Several parties
talk Strong of you for
President and my dear
Sir I did not fail where
ever I have been to Speak
highly of you, and my god
Speed your good work, The
Indianapolis Journal two
papers in Richmond Indiana

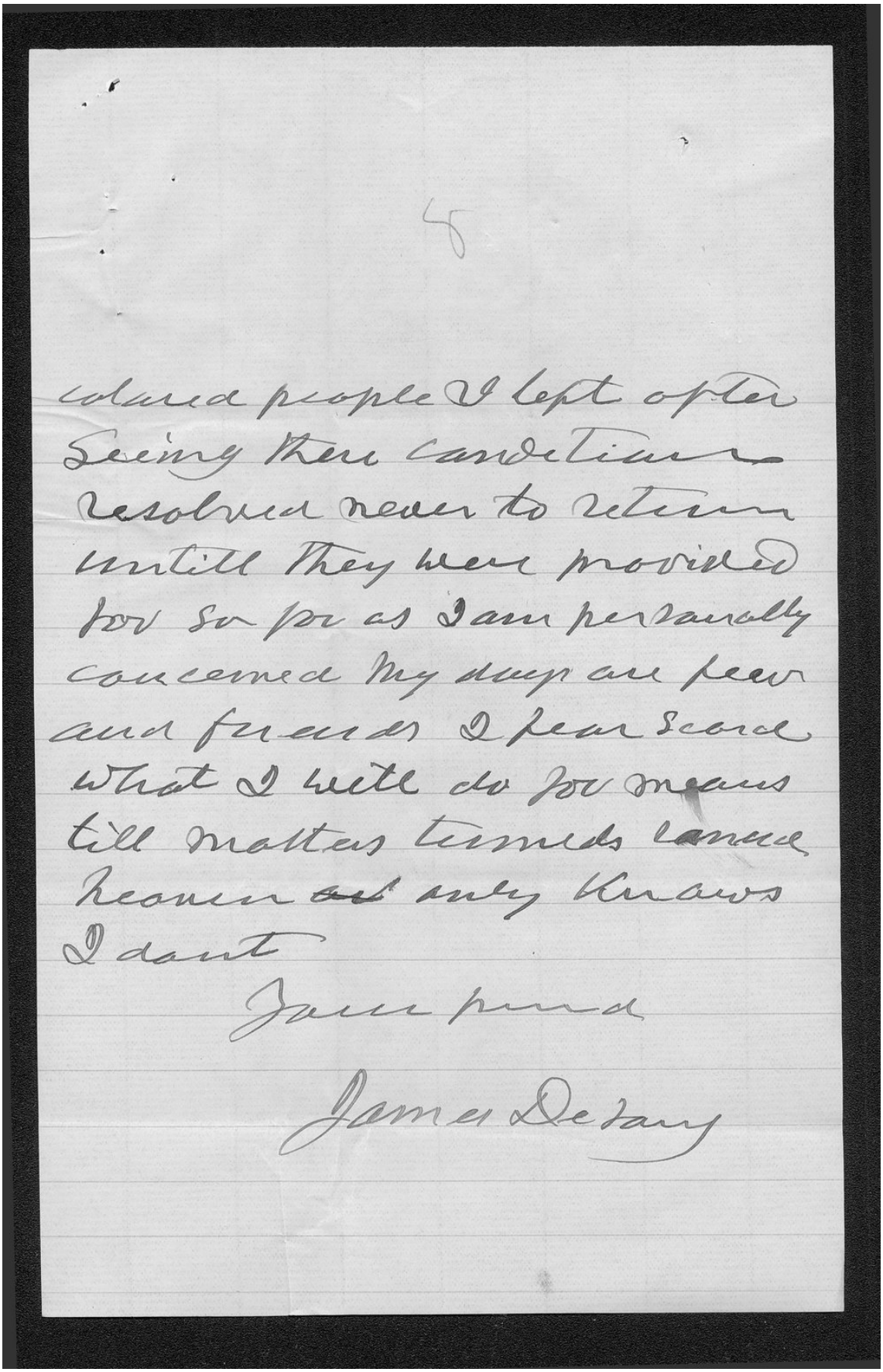
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



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Ohio State Journal and two
other papers in Columbus
Ohio and the Wheeling In
telligencer all Spoke well
of my efforts and the just
ness of the cause but god
only knows how I will get
along I have just $2.00 in
my pocket and when the
next is to come from god
only knows for I don't
Can you or will you come
to new York especially if
I get an invitation if
You will not come will you
approve the papers about

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence

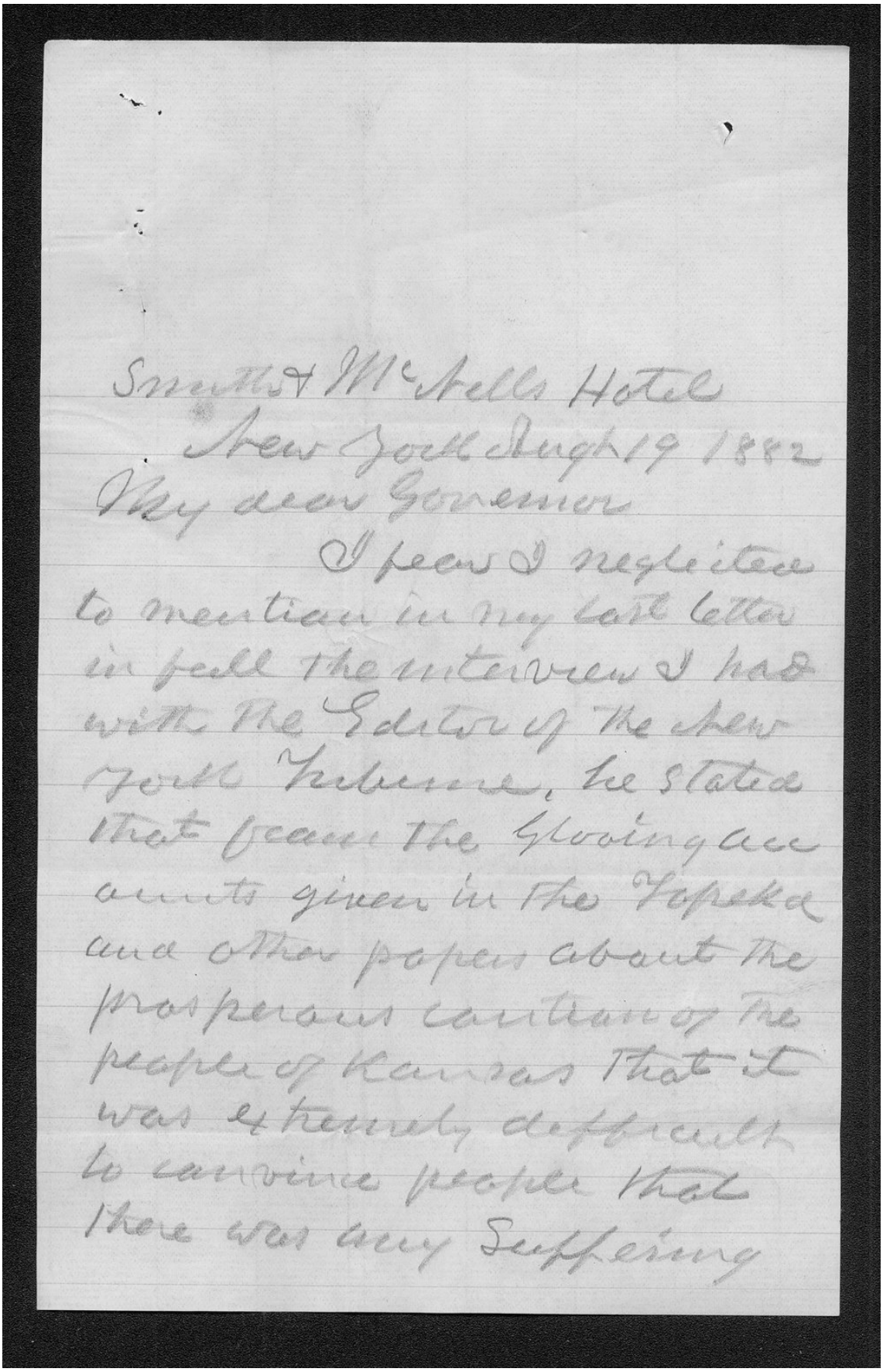


colored people I left after
seeing their conditions
resolved never to return
until they were provided
for so far as I am personally
concerned My days are few
and friends I fear scarce
what I write do for means
till matters turneds round
Heaven and only knows
I don't

Yours truly

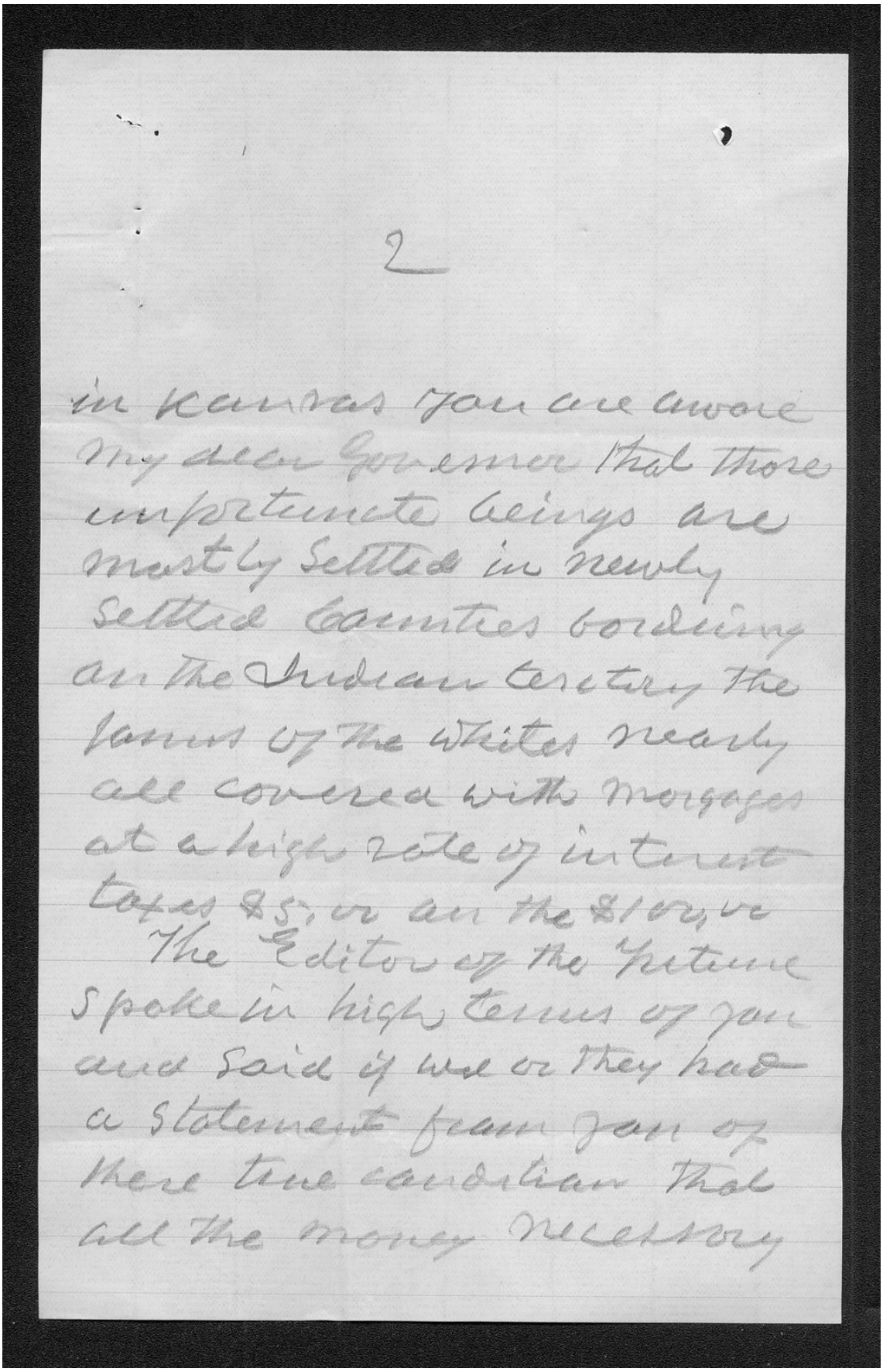
James DeLany

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Smith & McNeills Hotel
New York Aug 19 1882
My dear Governor
I fear I neglected to mention in my last letter in full the interview I had with the Editor of the New York Tribune, he stated that from the glowing accounts given in the Topeka and other papers about the prosperous condition of the people of Kansas that it was extremely difficult to convince people that there was any suffering

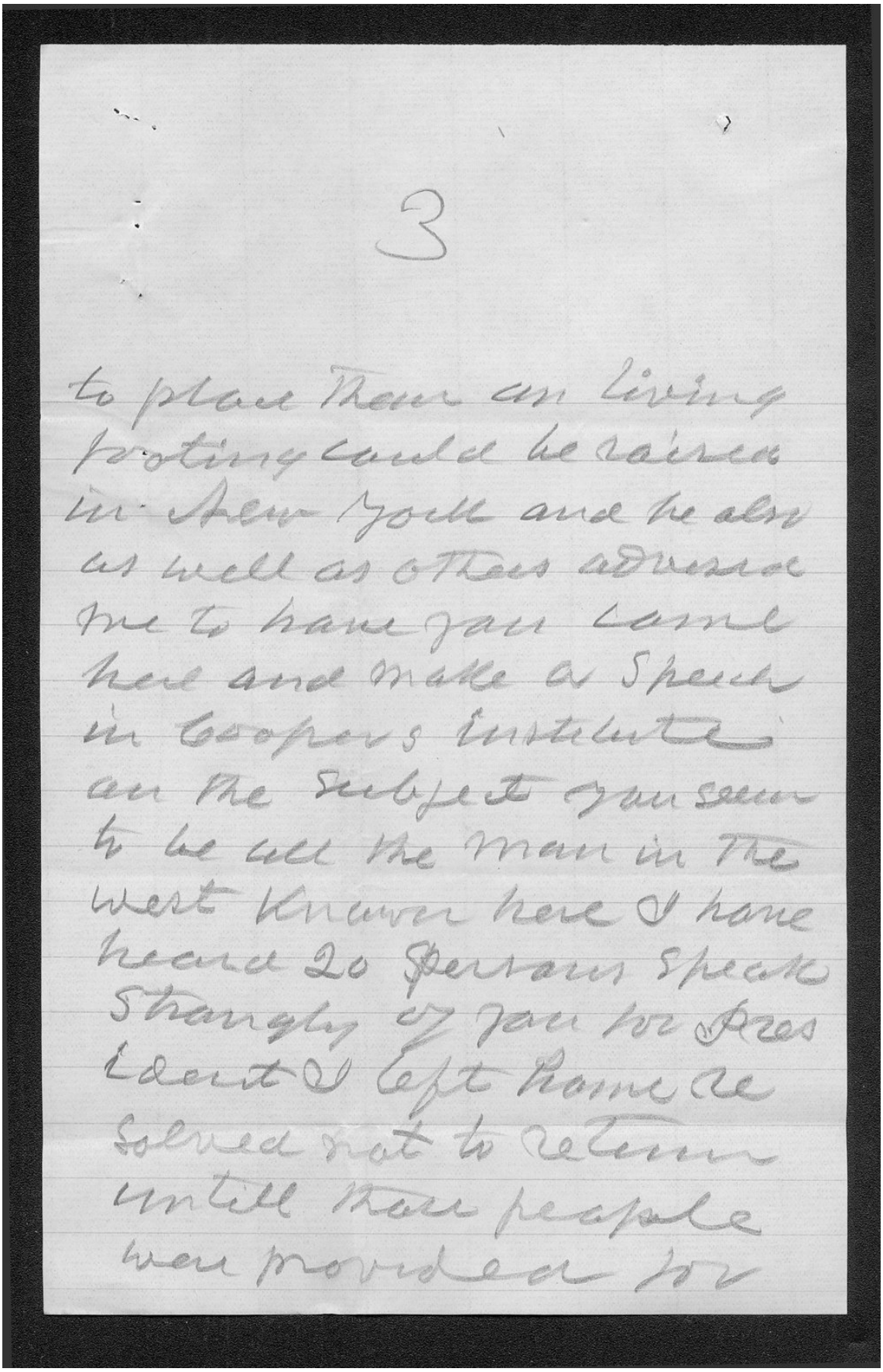
Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



2

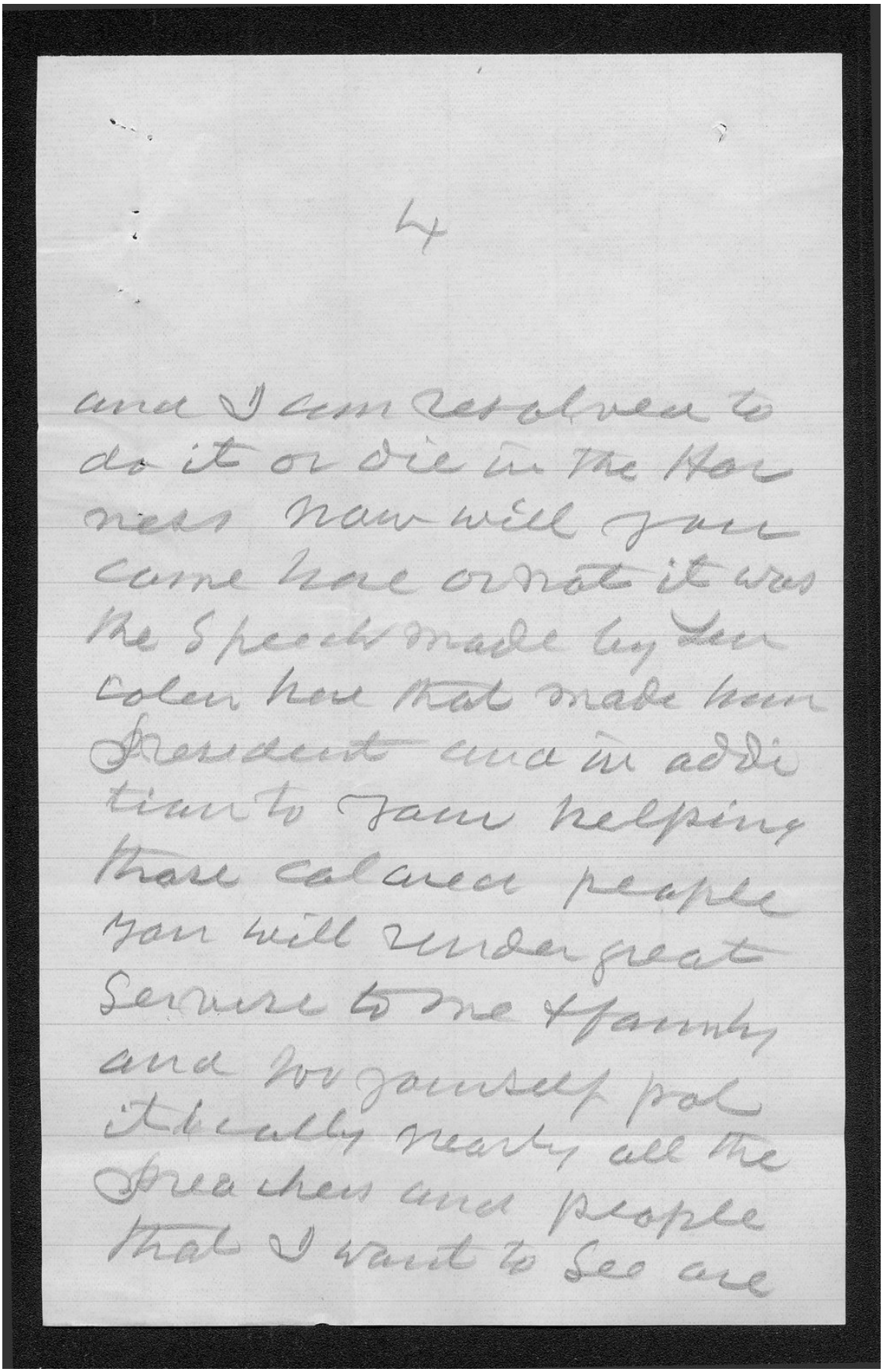
in Kansas you are aware
my dear Governor that those
unfortunate beings are
mostly settled in newly
settled Counties bording
on the Indian territory the
farms of the whites nearly
all covered with morgages
at a high rate of interest
taxes &c; on an the 1st Nov
The Editor of the Yetuma
spoke in high terms of you
and said if we or they had
a statement from you of
these true condition that
all the money necessary

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



3

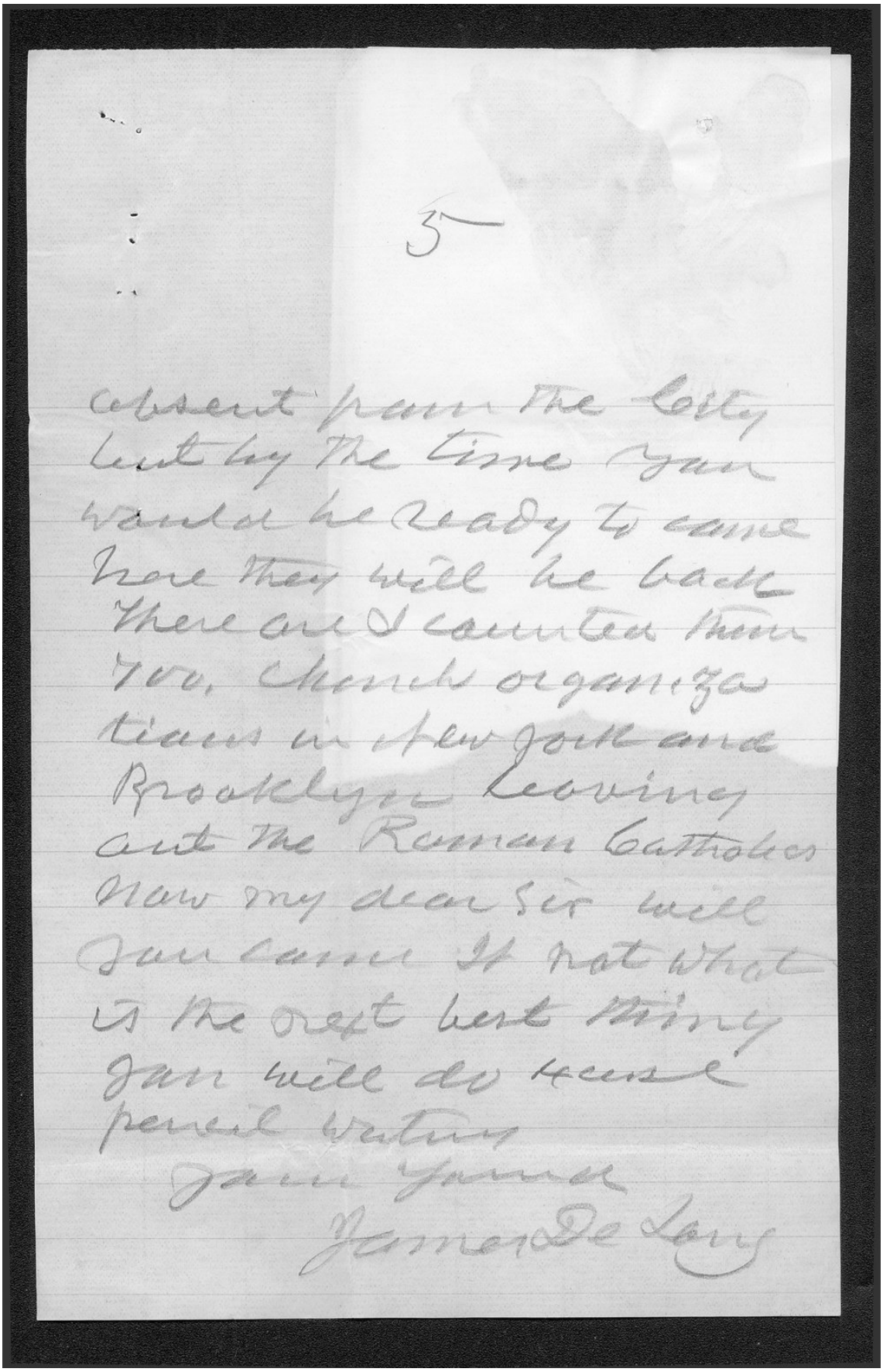
to place them on living
voting could be raised
in New York and he also
as well as others advised
me to have you come
here and make a Speech
in Coopers Institute
on the Subject you seem
to be all the man in the
West known here I have
heard 20 persons Speak
Strongly of you for Pres
Edent I left Home re
Solved not to return
until their people
were rescued or



4

and I am resolved to
do it or die in the Har
ness Now will you
come here or not it was
the Speech made by Gen
Colen Ford that made him
President and in addi
tion to Jam helping
those colored people
You will Render great
Service to me & family
and Yourself pol
itically Nearly all the
Preachers and People
that I want to See are

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



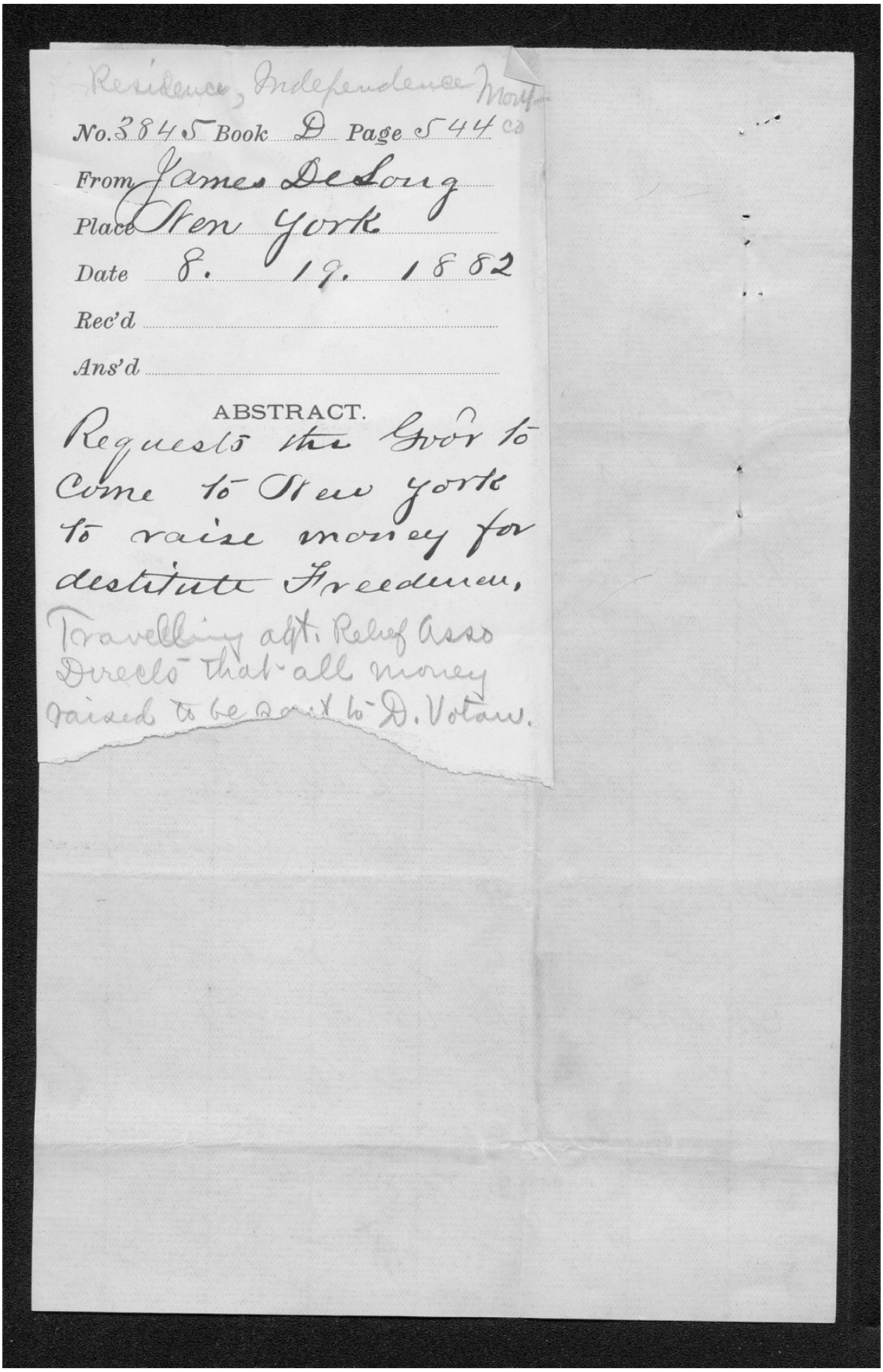
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absent from the City but by the time you would be ready to come here they will be back there are 9 counties from You, Churches organizations in New York and Brooklyn Leaving out the Roman Catholics Now my dear Sir will you come If not what is the next best thing you will do Kindly please return

Yours Truly

James DeLong

Governor John St. John, Exoduster received correspondence



Residence, Independence Mont-

No. 3845 Book D Page 544 cs

From James DeLong

Place New York

Date 8. 19. 1882

Rec'd

Ans'd

ABSTRACT.

Requests the Gov to come to New York to raise money for destitute Freedmen.

Travelling agt. Relief Asso Directs that all money raised to be paid to D. Votaw.