

## James L. McDowell correspondence

### Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

This item contains letters to James L. McDowell. Correspondents include Edmund G. Ross, Alexander Caldwell, Thomas Carney, Senator Preston Plumb, General Thomas Ewing, members and staff of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, individuals working for the Kansas State Fair Association, staff of the Department of the Interior - General Land Office, and others. The letters from Thomas Carney focus on topics such as the Fugitive Slave Law, the Kansas militia, and Missouri border trouble. McDowell held a number of public positions in his lifetime, from notary public to city mayor to U.S. Marshal and major-general of the Kansas militia (including organizing to defend the state during Price's Raid in 1864) to postmaster for Leavenworth. He was also actively interested in agriculture, helping to organize the first and later state fairs for Kansas.

Date: 1860-1892

Callnumber: James L. McDowell Coll. #425, Box 1 Folder 3

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KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



## James L. McDowell correspondence

U.S. att. Genl.  
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39123.  
KANSAS STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Attorney General's Office,

April 1, 1861

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you, that a Commission<sup>\*</sup> appointing you Marshal of the United States for the District of Kansas \_\_\_\_\_, has this day been forwarded from this office to the Hon. Archibald Williams District Judge of the United States District Court for that District, with the request to him to deliver it over to you, when you shall have given the official bond and taken the oath required by law. You will be pleased to inform this office of the receipt of the Commission, and, should it be accepted, of the name of the State or country in which you were born; and also transmit to the First Comptroller of the Treasury of the United States your oath of office, and a certified copy of your official bond, a blank form of which is herewith enclosed.

Your attention is directed to the act of Congress approved September 24, 1789, sec. 27, (i Stat. at Large, page 87,) and also to the act approved April 10, 1800, sec. 1, (ii Stat. at Large, page 372.)

I am, very respectfully,

*Edw. Bates*

*James L. McDowell Esq*

\* Sent to Judge W. at  
Quincy Ills.

*Kansas-*



Delahay, M. W. 447  
Private  
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY [1861] 39183.  
Mr. J. L. McDowell  
My Dear Sir,  
after a Consultation with H. P. Johnson, I have concluded to remain here a day or two for the purpose of pressing you for election - shall, if I find that the appointment will be made before our Senators are Elected, - I have filed your application and written a strong letter signed by myself & Johnson, Col. Baker has arranged an interview for me with Mr. Lincoln - his time is completely taken up by his Cabinet & Senators, the pressure is awful, the like before never was known -  
Truly yours in haste  
M. W. Delahay



## James L. McDowell correspondence

U.S. Penitentiary, Wash. D.C.

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U.S. Penitentiary  
Washington D.C.

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KANSAS STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

June 20th 1862

Received of James L. McDowell Esq  
the Bodies of George W. Parrish convicted  
at Lopeka Kansas for robbing the Post  
office and sentenced to the Penitentiary  
in the District of Columbia for two years  
and six months

Also the body of Edward  
Murphy convicted of Larceny and  
sentenced to the Penitentiary in the  
District of Columbia for the term of  
one year

Respectfully yours

H J King  
Warden

Receipt - Warden  
for  
Ed Murphy  
Geo W. Davison  
U.S.C. D.C.  
April Term 1862  
James L. McDowell  
U.S. Marshal

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James L. McDowell correspondence

Corney, Thomas  
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Topeka July 25<sup>th</sup> 1862

Hon J. L. McDowell

Dr Sir

Your 25<sup>th</sup> trust just  
to hand - please accept my thanks for  
the interest you have taken in my behalf.  
The new payment will come off on  
Monday when I have got to go - so it  
will be impossible for me to render per-  
-al assistance to my poor wife in her  
unpleasant situation before next week -  
Can you not adopt some plan to afford  
the proper relief - send one of your deputies  
there & in the first place arrest Clark when  
- ever he sets his foot on the place - don't  
stop at expenses - and have him see that she  
does not intrude on my family until I can  
get home - Don't let Clark or any of her  
friends go there if they can lawfully be prevented.  
If you can arrange some plan to get  
her out & keep her out until the case is  
disposed of, I will give you \$500 - and will  
Esteem it a favor - as I would much prefer  
to pay this to my friends than to those who may

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James L. McDowell correspondence

*Shot Barney*

*Joseph*  
 try to convince me - When she goes  
 out voluntarily on some business cant.  
 you put her thing out - or get some  
 one to do it in some way or under  
 some pretense - - No matter how  
 you do it - adopt your own course  
 and when done you shall have \$500  
 If some thing cannot be done  
 to make matters more pleasant for  
 my family I will vacate the house  
 for I will not stand the abuse heaped  
 upon my family - Would never have  
 allowed them to have you there had I  
 been assured that they should not be  
 disturbed & now am told by Holman  
 that they can do nothing - if they had  
 rather pay damages to me than assist me  
 in maintaining the rights they promised  
 them so be it. I do hope My Dear friend  
 you will be able to do something that will  
 least put a stop to the insults offered my family  
 until I can get home  
 Yours truly  
 Shot Barney



James L. McDowell correspondence

Carney, Thomas

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Topeka Feb 2) 1862  
Hon J. L. McDowell

Dr Sir  
I have just had  
a talk with Judge Williams & he informs  
me that I have the right to keep Mr Clark  
or any one else out of the premises that  
I chose - I now wish you to ~~station~~  
Keep one of your deputies with sufficient  
force to keep any & all of Mrs Clarks  
friends out of the premises - Dont let  
any of Mrs Clarks friends enter the  
premises under any circumstances  
Mr Clark or any one else -

And further I want you to instruct  
your deputy or some proper officer to  
have Mrs Clark arrested whenever she  
behaves herself improperly for a breach of  
the peace - & see that these orders are  
strictly enforced - If Mrs Clark will  
not behave herself we will by G-d Con-  
fess her - provided you cannot get her out  
as I wrote you last night - which I do not

## James L. McDowell correspondence

Some mode can be adopted to do it -  
 See Mr Holman & see with them  
 my wishes in this matter - Also let  
 my wife know that that her rights  
 shall be respected by Mrs Clark &  
 if she offers any insults let her  
 have my man Pat or some <sup>one</sup> of  
 the servants, present to appear as  
 witness to as to raise my wife the away  
 - away of doing so herself -

Please attend to this for me & you shall  
 be well rewarded for such services -

Your friend  
 Tho. Larned

Thomas Larned  
 Feb. 27/62  
 Topeka

of Larned  
 Feb 27/62



James L. McDowell correspondence

Carney, Thomas  
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Topeka March 7 1862  
Hon L McDowell

Drying  
This is  
~~Friday~~ morning & I go  
home this morning  
if you get here this  
morning or to day  
and are not going  
over to Leav. Chas.  
Stearns will take what  
money you may have  
for us - Should you  
not get here to day  
get it down at the  
first opportunity  
In haste  
Carney

## James L. McDowell correspondence

Carney, Thomas  
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KANSAS STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lawrence, Kansas Aug 6 1862

James L McDowell Esq  
Lawrence

The bearer R. Barnes  
owns the Pistol & Rifle that was taken  
by Jay Hawks from our train last fall and  
captured by you. You will please  
deliver them to him.

Thomas Carney

The rifle was the one taken - Pistol was not in  
C. Clarkson

Aug 6/62

## James L. McDowell correspondence

Thos. Lacey Esq  
Leavenworth  
Aug-6-1862

James L. McDowell correspondence

Carney, Thomas

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Leavenworth City Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 1862

J L McDowell

Dear Sir

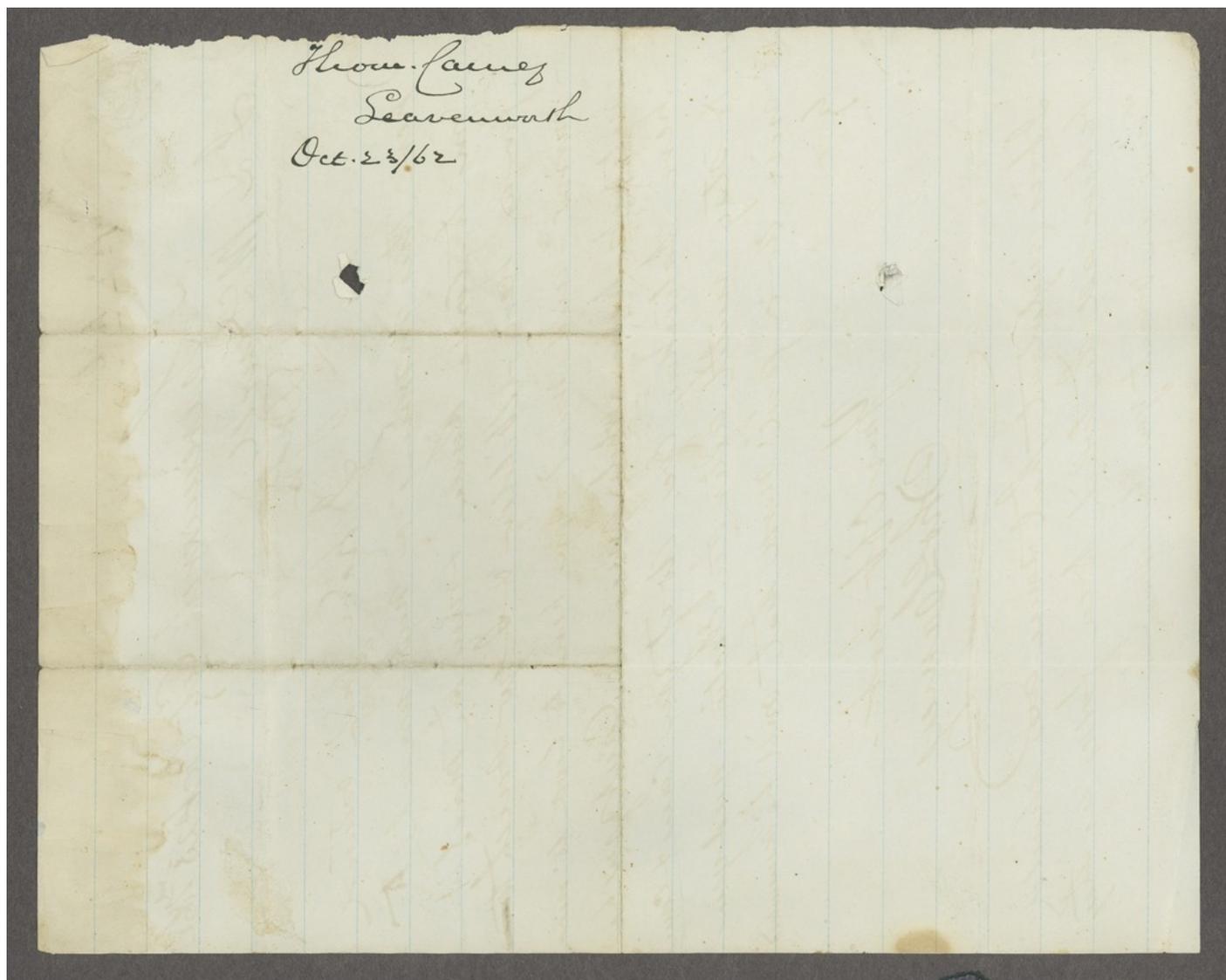
I have just returned here this morning & now want to go to come home & run the machine for us here - Wilder & I go South to-morrow - and want you here to look to our interests here while gone - Can you be here Saturday Eve. do if you can & come to stay until after the Election - and you will do a good work that will be remembered by

Your Obedt Servt -

Thos Carney

It is important that some one should be here all the while & see folks as they come in & want you the that man

## James L. McDowell correspondence



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Carney, Thomas

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Leavenworth Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Mac

Cielmer you have my  
check on Scott Kerr & Co for 400 or 800  
as per your request - Widen goes  
East to day -

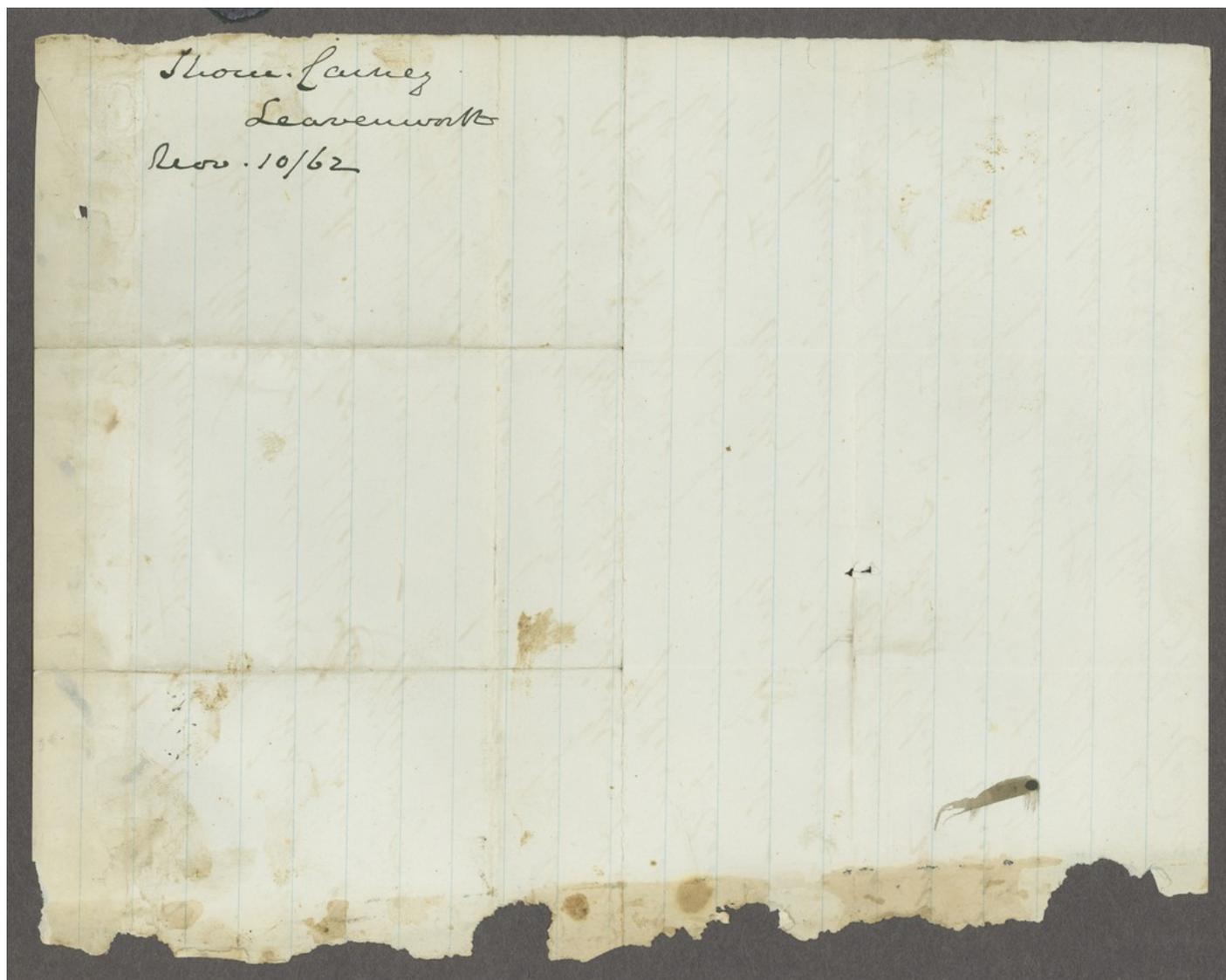
I have had a full talk with  
Law & Widen about you for the  
office of Provost Marshall - Law  
fully endorses you - Widen favors  
McCann but has agreed to leave  
matter wholly in our hands -

Some of our best Citizens are getting  
up a petition in your favor also  
my suggestions & I think there will  
a good move made in your favor  
which I trust will have its effect

We shall see what we shall see

Walter E. Carey as high Your friend  
as possible for they are  
useful all round -  
Thos. Carey

## James L. McDowell correspondence





Carney, Thomas

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KANSAS STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

State of Kansas, 39 1863

Executive Office,

Topeka, July 22<sup>d</sup>, 1863.

J. L. McDowell, Esq.

Leavenworth

My Dear Sir:

I contemplate

sending your name to the Senate within a few days for Major General of the Northern Division of Kansas Militia, vice Gen. Stone, who is to resign. I trust that this arrangement will meet with your approbation, as know of no appointment which would give more general satisfaction to the people. Of your confirmation, of course, there can be no doubt.

I have received a petition from leading Germans of Leavenworth, headed by Pittman, recommending Wm Kempf Esq to my favor, as a recognition of their element. Of course there are no civil appointments in my gift that would be of pecuniary advantage to him. I will probably be called upon to commission the officers for the Colored Regiment. I wish you would, in a manner not to excite

James L. McDowell correspondence

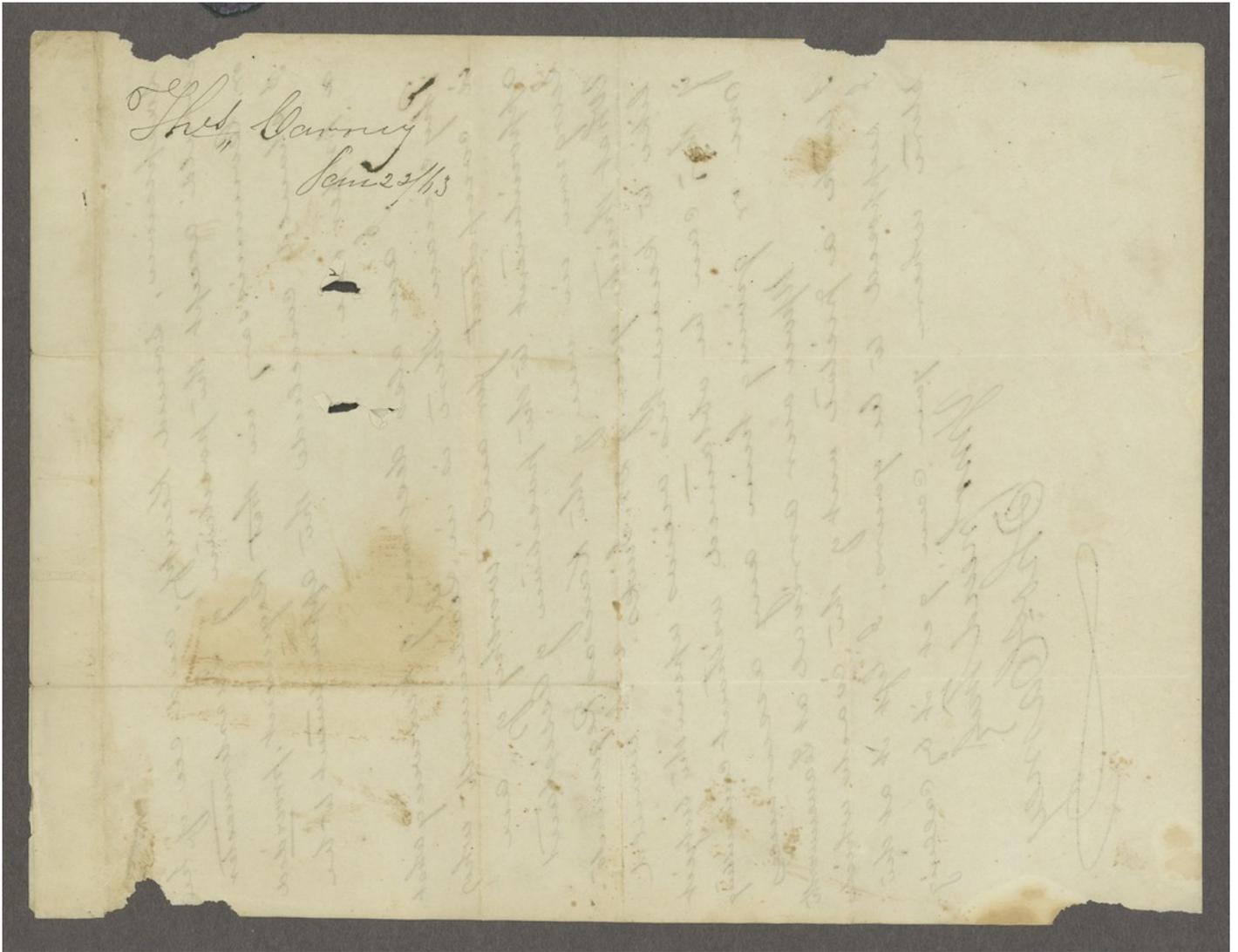
suspicious, sound Keuff, and see if he  
would accept the position of Quartermaster  
or Commissary in that Regiment, provided  
I should conclude the appointment to be  
a proper one.

I am also desirous of knowing what  
Physician there is in Leavenworth who  
is competent for and worthy of an  
appointment to the position of Assistant  
Surgeon in one of the Kansas Regiments.  
What think you of Dr. Sinks? I would  
like to know his views upon the subject  
if they can be obtained without committing  
me or giving him any assurances.

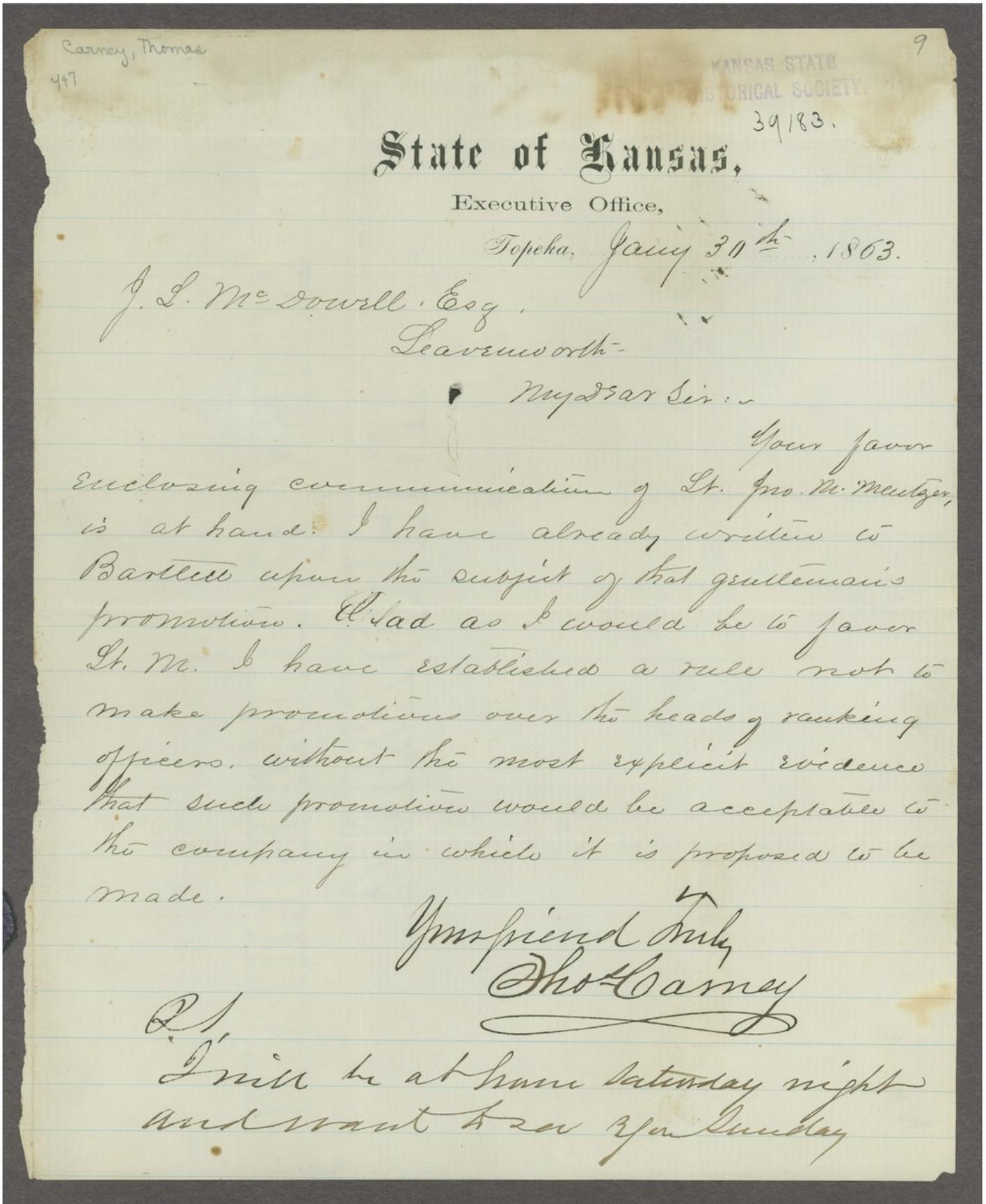
Upon our arrival at Leavenworth  
I took a pistol out of the coach which  
I supposed to be yours. I left it at the  
store where you can get it by calling.

Your friend truly  
Thos. Carney

## James L. McDowell correspondence



James L. McDowell correspondence





Carney, Thomas

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Washington March 27<sup>th</sup> 63

Wesley L. McDowell

Dear Sir

Yours of 23<sup>rd</sup>  
just to hand & carefully read.  
Judge Williams not yet arrived.  
I met Lane here & he promised  
Every thing - Expressed a willing-  
ness to do something for me - I regretted  
that I shall not attempt any  
<sup>more</sup> to give trouble, but shall  
be my friend & all that sort  
of thing - all of which you & I  
understand. Owing to my  
Genl. I have had a long  
interview with the Secy of War  
& President - and it was highly  
satisfactory - They both say that  
no more irregular work shall  
be done in Kansas - that Kansas  
shall be treated as Ohio Penn. &c.



James L. McDowell correspondence

The President - Com<sup>d</sup> Williams  
 Lt. Col. Williams had just  
 left here when I arrived - but  
 the Secty of War expressed  
 much regret in not knowing  
 the facts before & will do  
 with the case as I say - which  
 will be dismefal as soon  
 as I get ready. I have  
 other matters more important  
 & accomplish - and have  
 matters pretty well fixed I  
 think.

I got an order from  
 Secty of War on Belmont  
 & Bulla. Three bridges on  
 the Military road to Scott  
 with the Cold Regiment.

I don't think Lane will  
 return next winter. He is  
 as humble as a child ~~and~~  
 promised to take Williams out  
 of the way or do anything I

James L. McDowell correspondence

might say. Sidney Clark  
Lance had detailed as Post  
Marshall - & I got Kellogg  
or will get him on the board  
and Dr. Tallman of Lyon Co.  
The two latter are my own  
and I got Lance on paper  
for them & the Secty of War  
told me they should be appointed.  
You may so say to Kellogg;  
but keep it private <sup>between you</sup> until his  
papers arrive - Report says  
that others are appointed which  
you need not contradict for  
the present.

I shall succeed as I  
told you in the bond sale.

Now about yourself Mac,  
I am preparing you have for  
Com<sup>d</sup> to treat with all the  
~~Indians~~ Indians in Kansas Nebraska  
Indian Territory for their removal  
- at south. Com<sup>d</sup> Dole & myself



will probably be appointed with  
you - Secty. Usher wants  
to appoint Stone - & has  
committed himself somewhat,  
Doh & I are trying to break  
it & Doh says will do it,  
& put you on instead of Stone.  
If he should not put you  
in Stone place I will not  
accept, & make him put  
you on in my place - but  
perhaps we <sup>can</sup> fix it differently  
Poor Adams - was badly played  
out 20 to 1 - hard luck!  
Will write again soon -  
Your friend  
J. Coarnay



James L. McDowell correspondence

Carney, Thomas

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St. Joe March 16/63

Dr. M<sup>c</sup>

There will be two Col.  
to appoint in the places of Lee &  
Deyster. I have been thinking  
about appointing Anthony in the  
place of Lee just to get him out  
of town, as I believe it would add  
to the peace of the city. Merrick  
is now Lt. Col. & entitled to the  
place. I do not know him, some  
say that he has had little influence  
at home. Anthony is said to be  
popular in the Regiment - which if it  
thought to be true would feel inclined  
to appoint him - he would be pleased  
and flattered with the appointment.  
Think the matter over, and should  
you meet Tom Osborne ask him about  
Merrick, as I understand he is from  
same neighborhood.

I wish you would see  
Genl. Blunt when he arrives & ask  
him to detail troops enough for each voting  
place to preserve the peace & quiet of

James L. McDowell correspondence

The City on Election day. I should feel extremely sorry to hear of a riot or any serious difficulty at the polls on that day - hence to prevent it, would guard the polls well with Troops.

I wish you would keep me posted as to the movements of things during my absence - Address me care Wm. P. Dole Court Indian Affairs, Washington or Stuges Bennett Co New York. Either party will forward to me in case of absence.

Look yourself out a good house by the time I return which will be by the middle of next month I expect.

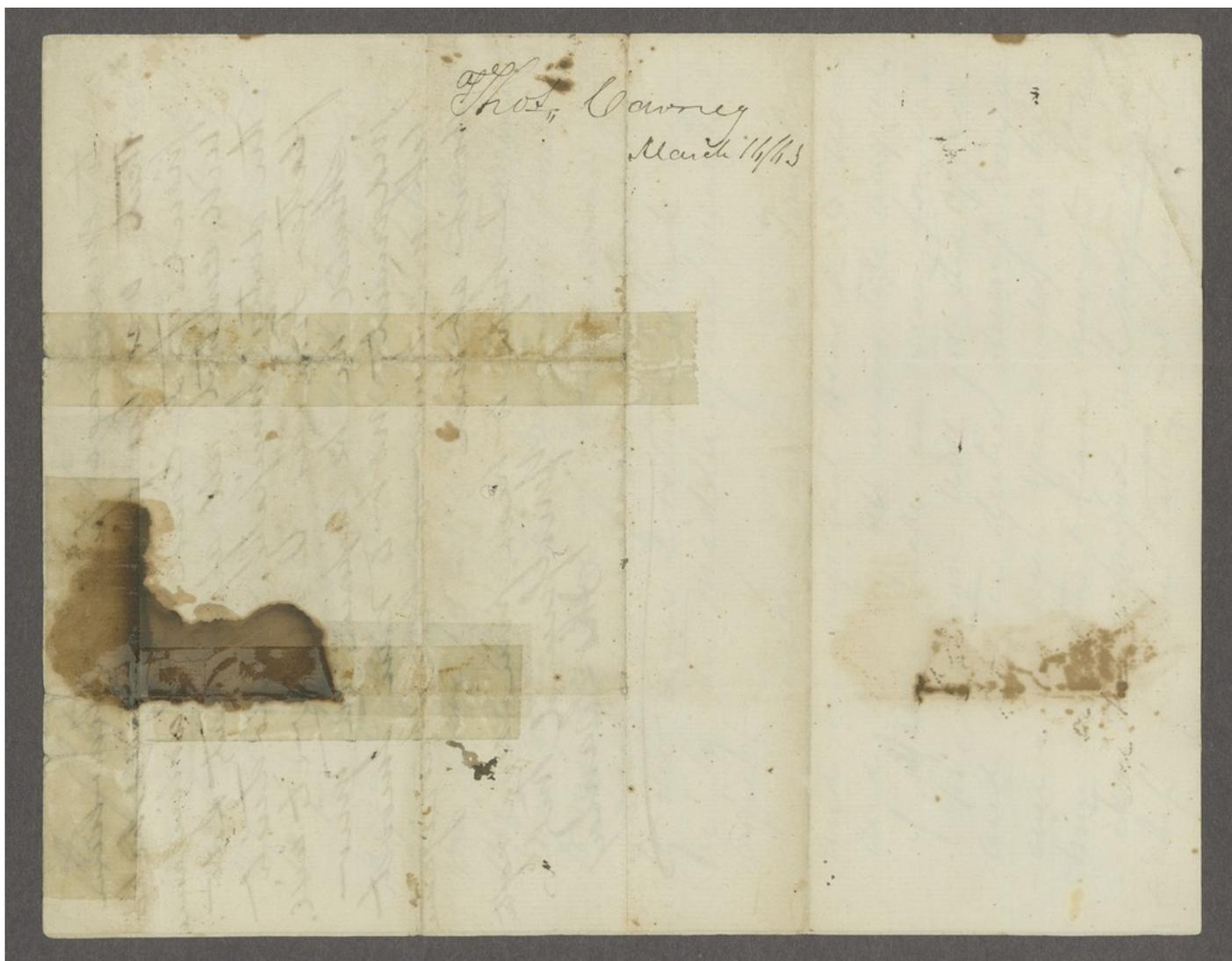
I have just seen Tom Osburn and he says that Henick is useless and says by all means take any one if Osburn make an excuse for it. Gov. Osburn will fill the office and do the duties during my absence - I wish you would see after him a little & learn how it takes.

Tom has expressed all sorts of friendship for me lately & I thought best

## James L. McDowell correspondence

to encourage him, & show him  
that was his friend - would be his  
friend if I could - Burleigham  
will control all appointments, & do  
the duties principally. I do not to  
flatter Tom as I know it will.  
Should he be disposed in your  
judgment, not to run smooth  
let me know or have Burleigham  
do it at once

I hope to hear from you soon  
Yours friend truly  
J. L. McDowell





James L. McDowell correspondence

Carney, Thomas

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39143.

Topeka June 9<sup>th</sup> 1863  
Genl. J. L. McDowell  
Leavenworth  
Sir

I leaved to day  
on my way up here, that four  
persons were hanging in Atchison  
on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> inst, and  
that there is a probability of a large  
number being executed on that day,  
by & through the excitement occasioned  
by irregular action. I deeply deplore  
violence, & the necessity of its employment,  
and as I know nothing of the cause  
for this summarily & irregular  
action. I desire you to go in  
person to Atchison on receipt of  
this, & enquire into the facts of the  
case, and if the Civil authorities  
there, desire your aid, or in your  
judgement the executions ought not  
not to take place in the manner  
proposed, to employ so much of  
the Militia force as to prevent it.  
I fully authorize you to act  
in the premises, at your judgement.



## James L. McDowell correspondence

may approve after visiting the  
place. You do all you can  
to allay excitement, and only employ  
force when pacific measures  
have failed to restore order, and  
the law vindicated.

I am very respectfully  
Yours obedient,  
Thos. Carney Gov.



James L. McDowell correspondence

R.S.

I understand that it reported  
in Attetium that I approve, that  
kind of administration of justice.

Please assure the Citizens that I do,  
and shall contended for the enforcement  
of the laws, and discontinue all  
irregular action except in extreme  
Cases.

Urge upon the people the  
necessity of caution upon this point,  
and the great injury it must inflict  
upon the Credit & Character of the  
State, when law is so little regarded.

We have loyal, intelligent Courts,  
and officers to enforce the laws,  
and punish the guilty, when called  
upon <sup>to do</sup> so, which is much the safer  
course under <sup>all</sup> circumstances.

In a word Me will leave  
this <sup>matter</sup> wholly in your hands, trusting  
that your good judgement <sup>& ability</sup>  
will always guide a right <sup>course</sup>  
in any <sup>your</sup> duty you may be called upon <sup>to</sup>  
perform.

Yours truly  
Thos. L. James