Marcus J. Parrott to Samuel N. Wood

Marcus J. Parrott, the Kansas Territory's delegate to Congress, writes Samuel N. Wood from Washington, D.C., about several issues, including the establishment of mail routes and railroad matters. Regarding the latter, Parrott briefly states his views about pending legislation and possible outcomes.

Creator: Parrott, Marcus J. (Marcus Junius), 1828-1879

Date: March 28, 1860

Callnumber: Samuel N. Wood Coll. #548

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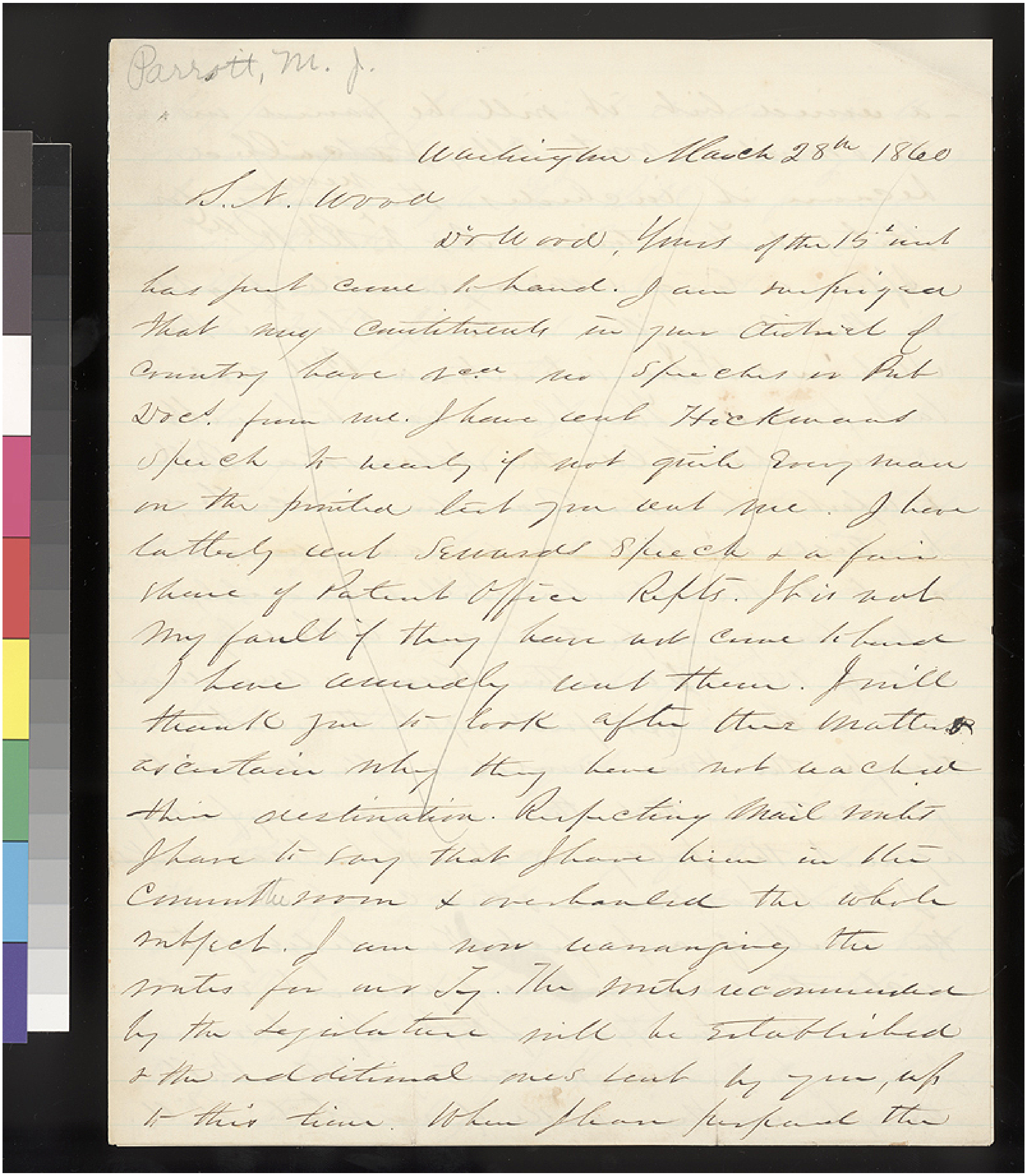

Parrott, M. J.

Washington March 28th 1860

S. N. Wood

Dr Wood, Yours of the 15th inst has just come to hand. I am surprised that my constituents in your district of country have seen no Speeches or Pub Docs. from me. I have sent Hickmans Speech to nearly if not quite every man on the printed list you sent me. I have lately sent Sewards Speech & a fair share of Patent Office Repts. It is not my fault if they have not come to hand. I have assuredly sent them. I will thank you to look after this matter & ascertain why they have not reached their destination. Respecting Mail routes I have to say that I have been in the Committee room & overhauled the whole subject. I am now arranging the routes for our Ty. The routes recommended by the Legislature will be established & the additional ones sent by you, up to this time. When I have proposed the

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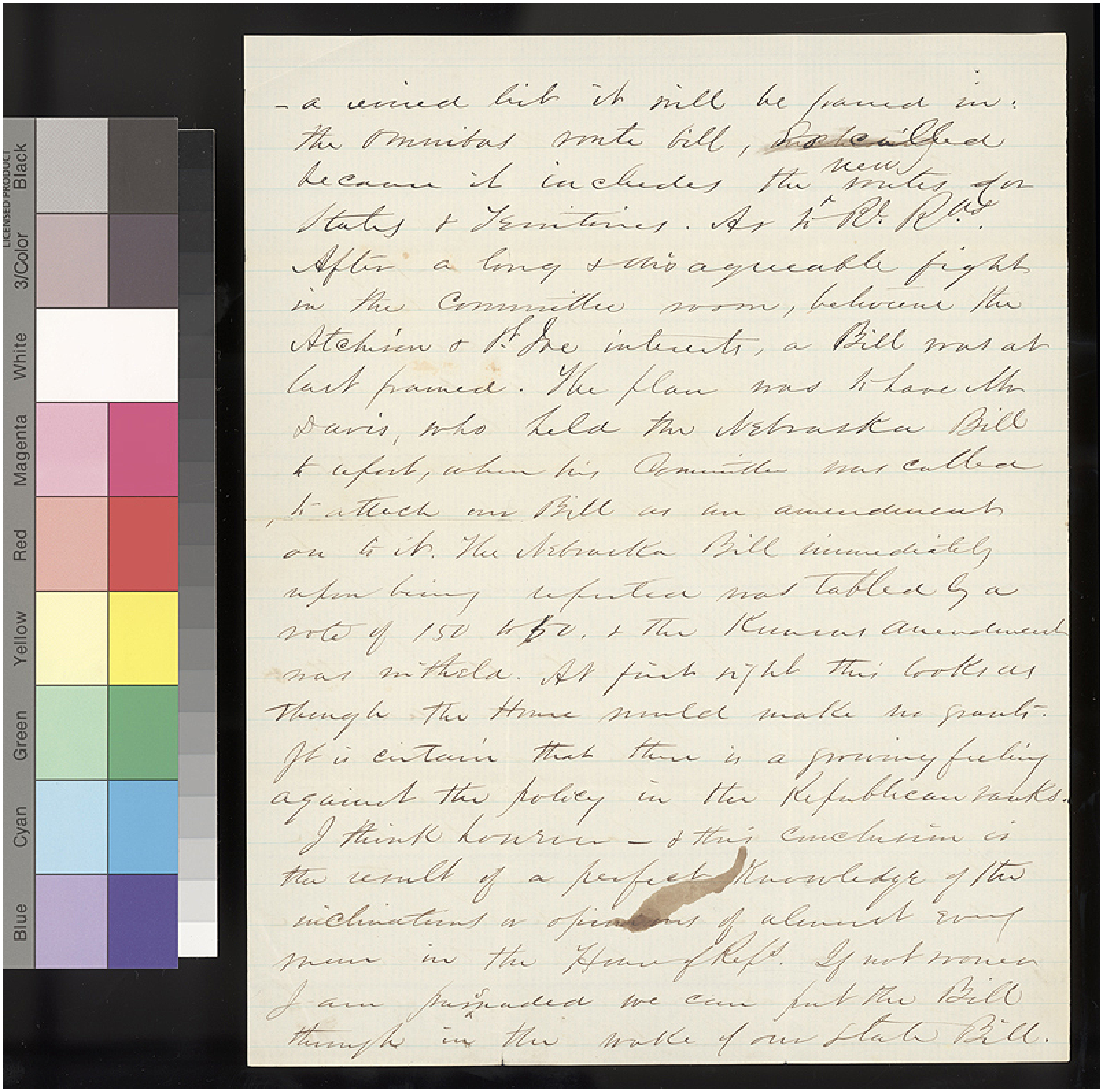

– a union but it will be passed in:
the Omnibus route bill, so called
because it includes the new routes for
States & Territories. As to R. R.ds
After a long & disagreeable fight
in the Committee room, between the
Atchison & St Joe interests, a Bill was at
last framed. The plan was to have Mr
Davis, who held the Nebraska Bill
to report, when his Committee was called
to attach our Bill as an amendment
on to it. The Nebraska Bill immediately
upon being reported was tabled by a
vote of 150 to 52. & the Kansas Amendment
was withheld. At first sight this looks as
though the House would make no grants.
It is certain that there is a growing feeling
against the policy in the Republican ranks.
I think however – & this conclusion is
the result of a perfect knowledge of the
inclinations or opinions of almost every
man in the House of Reps. If not sooner
I am persuaded we can put the Bill
through in the wake of our State Bill.

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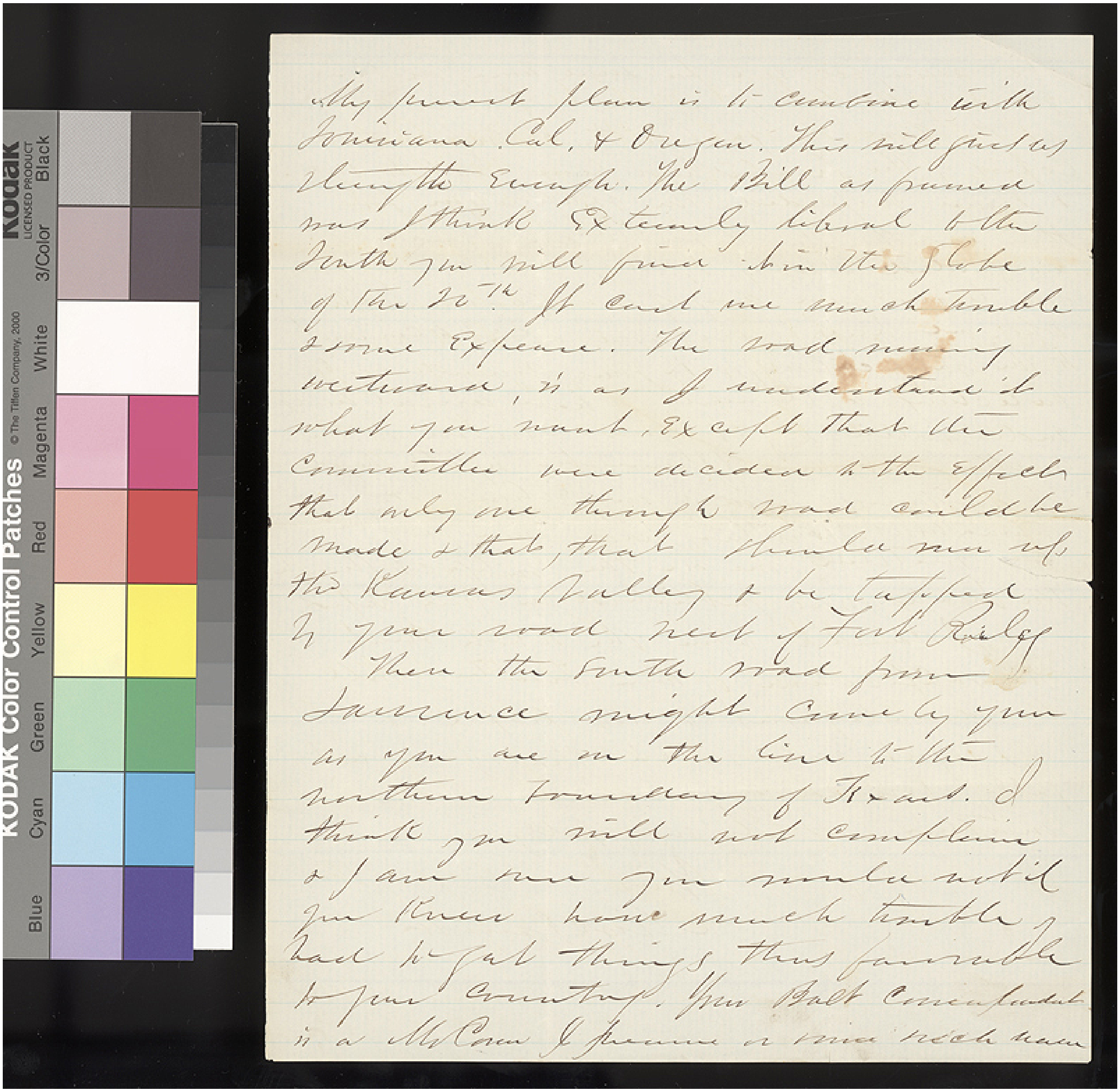

My present plan is to combine with Louisiana, Cal, & Oregon. This will give us strength enough. The Bill as framed was I think extremely liberal to the South you will find it in the Globe of the 26th. It cost me much trouble & some expense. The road running westward, is as I understand it what you want, except that the Committee were decided to the effect that only one through road could be made & that, that should run up the Kansas Valley & be tapped by your road west of Fort Riley.

Then the South road from Lawrence might come by you as you are on the line to the northern boundary of Texas. I think you will not complain & I am sure you would not if you knew how much trouble I had to put things thus favorable to your country. Your Balt Correspondent is a McCoun I presume & some such man

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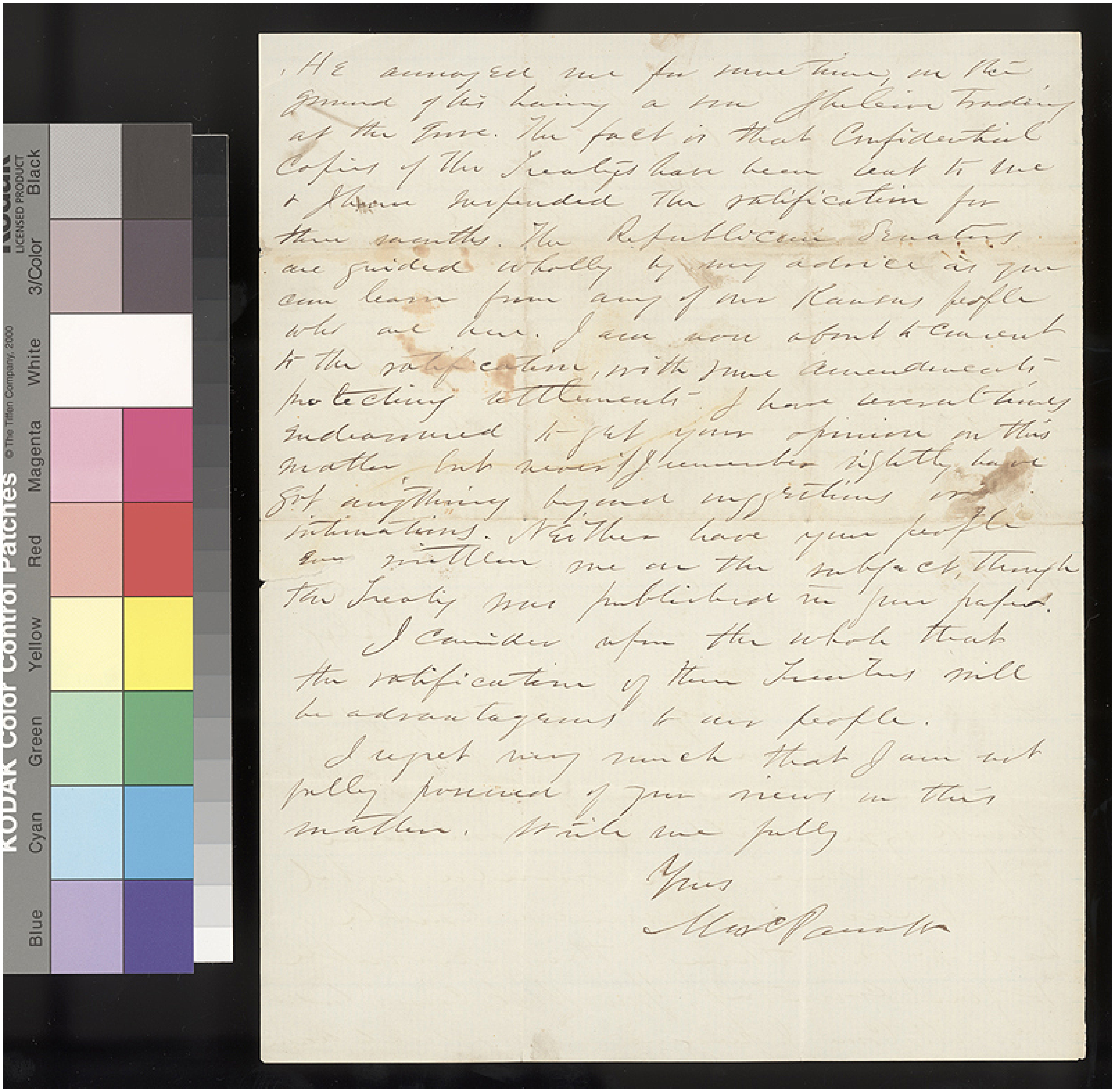

He annoyed me for some time on the ground of his having a son [illegible] trading at the Grove. The fact is that Confidential Copies of the Treaties have been sent to me & I have suspended the ratification for three months. The Republican Senators are guided wholly by my advice as you can learn from any of our Kansas people who are here. I am now about to consent to the ratification, with some amendments protecting settlements. I have several times endeavored to get your opinion on this matter but never if I remember rightly have got anything beyond suggestions or intimations. Neither have your people ever written me on the subject, though the Treaty was published in your paper.

I consider upon the whole that the ratification of these Treaties will be advantageous to our people.

I regret very much that I am not fully possessed of your views in this matter. Write me fully

Yours

Marc Parrott