Robert S. Stevens to Samuel N. Wood

Writing from Lecompton, Kansas Territory, Robert S. Stevens contacts Samuel L. Wood about an issue of grave concern to the people of Council Grove--"the Kaw Treaty," which had been taken up "the last day of the Extra or called Executive session & then ratified with certain amendments." Stevens explains the treaty's provisions and discusses the land survey to come.

Creator: Stevens, Robert S.

Date: August 6, 1860

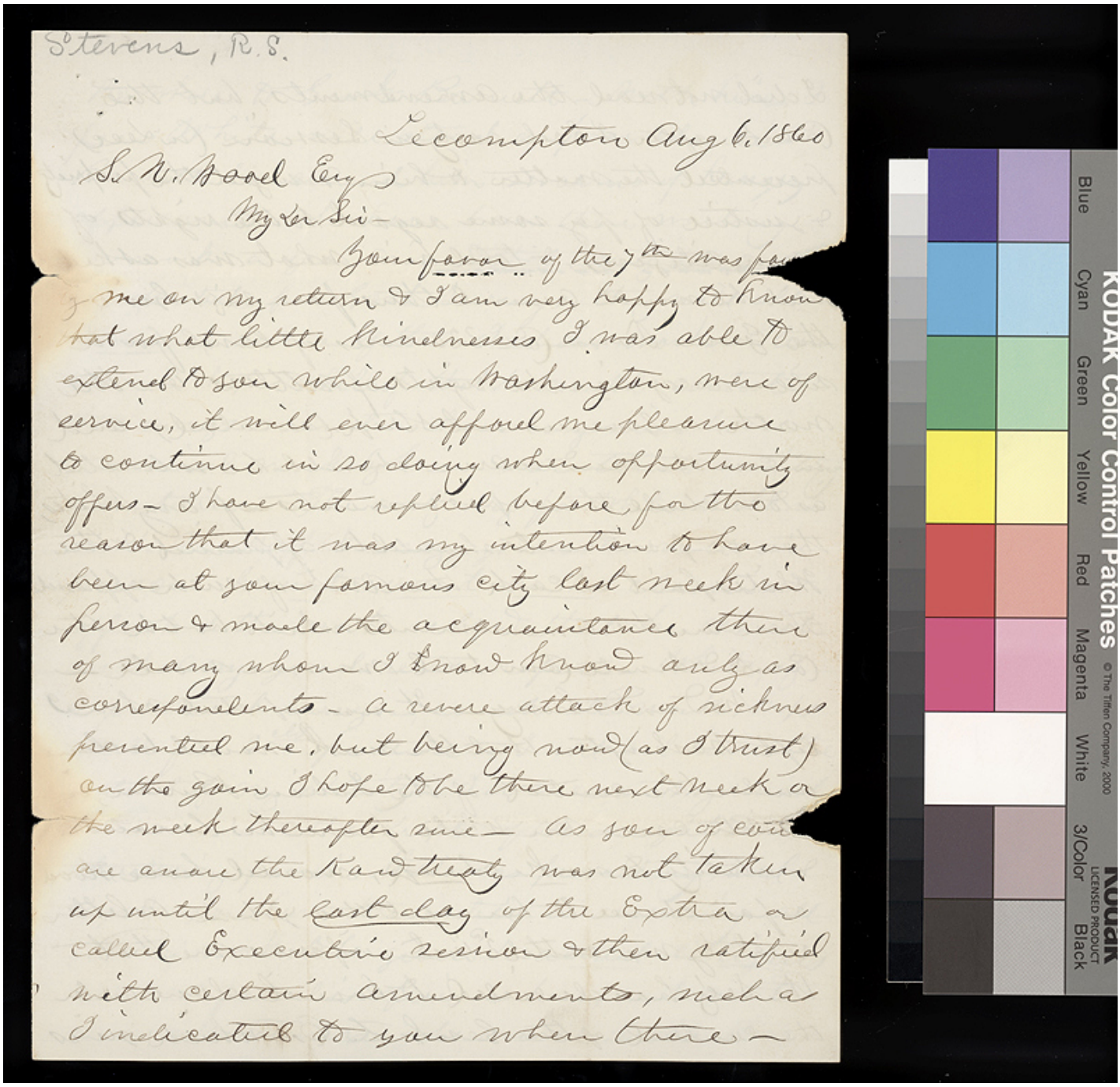
Callnumber: Samuel N. Wood Coll. #548

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 90361

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Stevens, R.S.

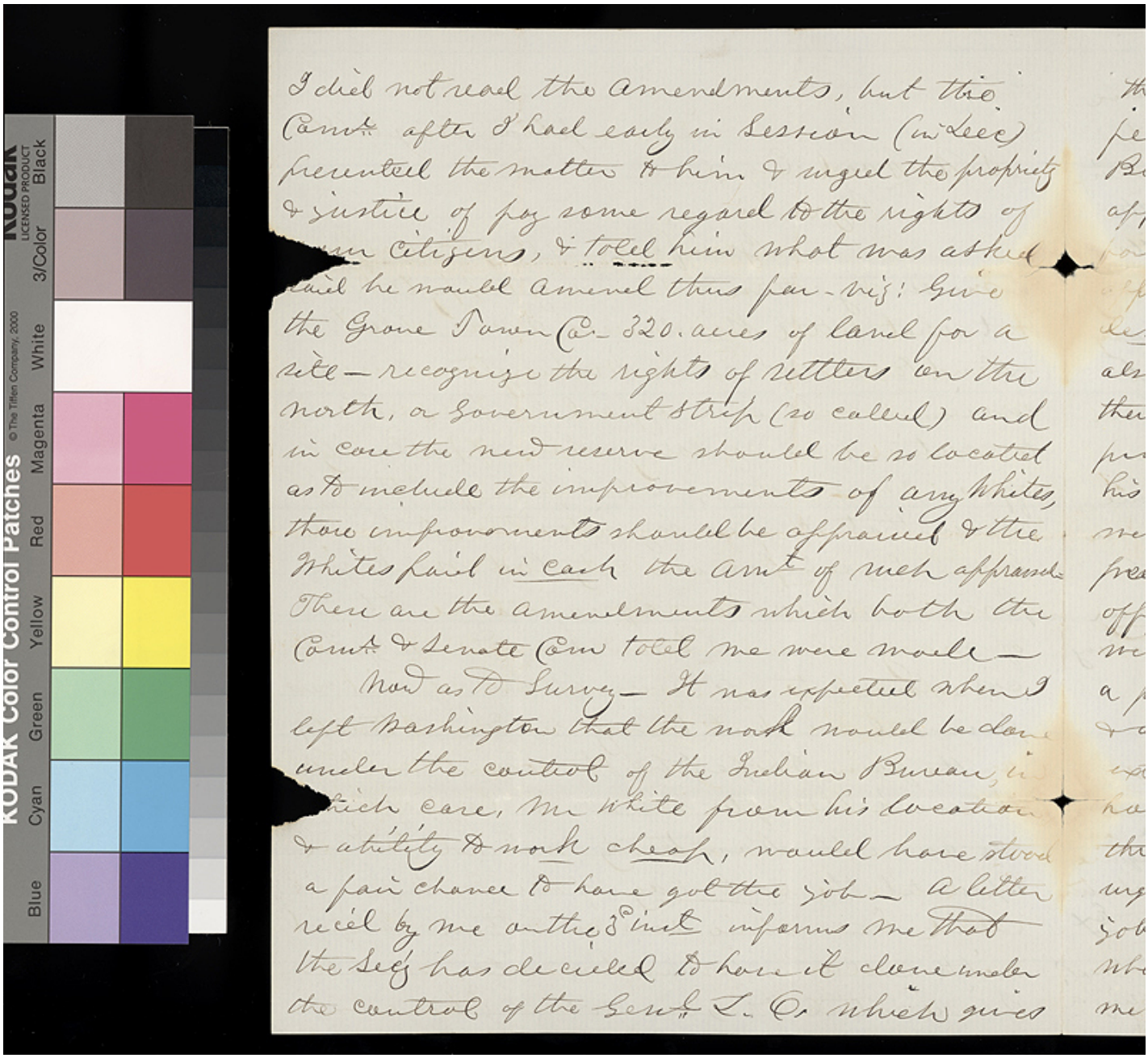
Lecompton Aug 6. 1860

S. N. Wood Esq

My dear Sir—

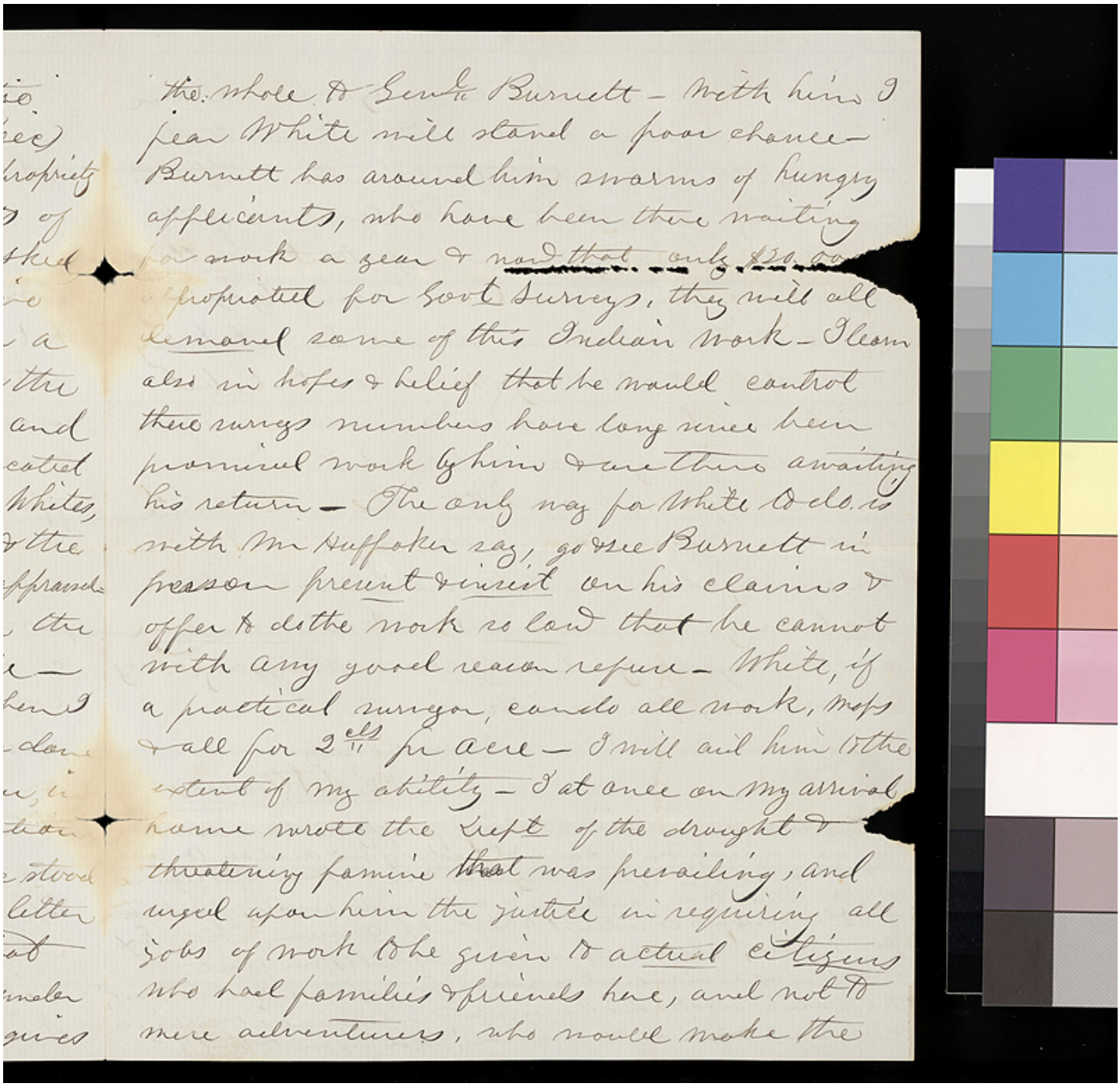
Your favor of the 7th was for
me on my return & I am very happy to know
that what little kindnesses I was able to
extend to you while in Washington, were of
service, it will ever afford me pleasure
to continue in so doing when opportunity
offers— I have not replied before, for two
reason that it was my intention to have
been at your famous city last week in
person & make the acquaintance there
of many whom I know know only as
correspondents— a severe attack of sickness
prevented me, but being now (as I trust)
on the gain I hope to be there next week or
the week thereafter sure— As you of course
are aware the Kansas treaty was not taken
up until the last day of the Extra or
called Executive session & then ratified
with certain amendments, such as
I indicated to you when there—

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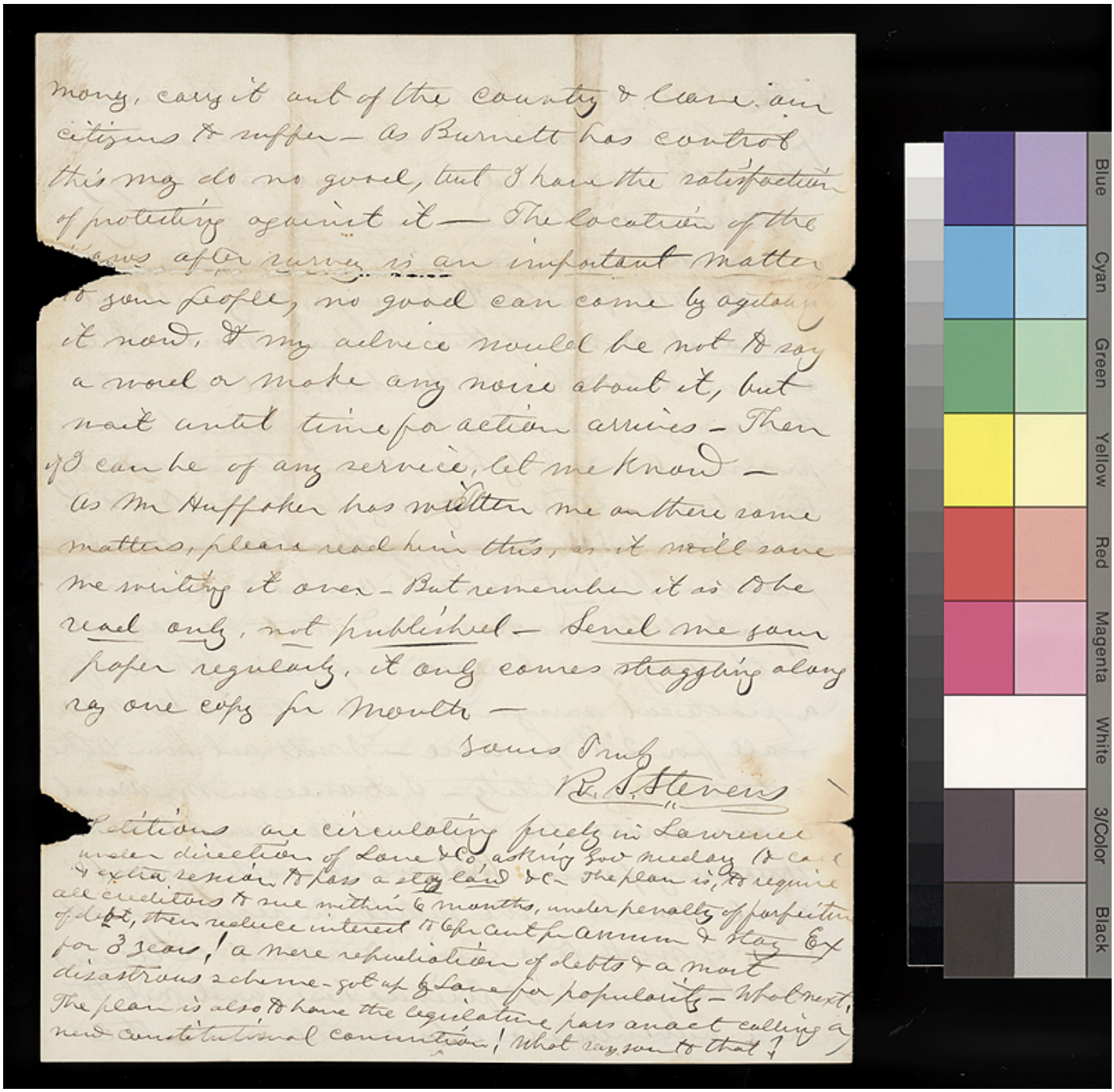
I did not read the amendments, but this
Comm after I had early in Session (w Leec)
presented the matter to him & urged the propriety
& justice of pg some regard to the rights of
our citizens, & told him what was asked
said he would amend thus far - viz: Give
the Grove Town Co 320 acres of land for a
site — recognise the rights of settlers on the
north, a Government strip (so called) and
in case the new reserve should be so located
as to include the improvements of any Whites,
those improvements should be appraised & the
Whites paid in cash the amt of such appraisal
These are the amendments which both the
Comm & Senate Com told me were made —
Now as to Survey — It was expected when I
left Washington that the work would be done
under the control of the Indian Bureau, in
which case, no white from his location
& ability to work cheap, would have stood
a fair chance to have got the job — A letter
recd by me on the 3d inst informs me that
the Secy has decided to have it done under
the control of the Genl L. O. which gives

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the whole to Genl Burnett – With him I fear White will stand a poor chance – Burnett has around him swarms of hungry applicants, who have been there waiting for work a year & now that only $20.00 is appropriated for Govt Surveys, they will all demand some of this Indian work – I learn also in hopes & belief that he would control these surveys numbers have long since been promised work by him & are there awaiting his return – The only way for White & Co. is with Mr Huffaker say, go see Burnett in person present & insist on his claims & offer to do the work so low that he cannot with any good reason refuse – White, if a practical surveyor, can do all work, maps & all for 2½ cts per acre – I will aid him to the extent of my ability – I at once on my arrival home wrote the Supt of the drought & threatening famine that was prevailing, and urged upon him the justice in requiring all jobs of work to be given to actual citizens who had families & friends here, and not to mere adventurers, who would make the

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money, carry it out of the country & leave our citizens to suffer — as Burnett has control this may do no good, but I have the satisfaction of protesting against it — The location of the Laws after survey is an important matter to some people, no good can come by agitating it now, & my advice would be not to say a word or make any noise about it, but wait until time for action arrives — Then if I can be of any service, let me know — As Mr Huffaker has written me on these same matters, please read him this, as it will save me writing it over — But remember it is to be read only, not published — Send me your paper regularly, it only comes straggling along say one copy per month —

Yours Truly

R. S. Stevens

Petitions are circulating freely in Lawrence under direction of Lane & Co, asking for needless & extra session & pass a stay law & c — The plan is, to require all creditors to sue within 6 months, under penalty of forfeiture of debt, then reduce interest to 6 per cent per annum & stay ex for 3 years! a mere repudiation of debts & a most disastrous scheme — got up by Lane for popularity — What next, The plan is also to have the legislature pass an act calling a new constitutional convention! What say you to that?