Jacob Collamer to William Hutchinson

Jacob Collamer, a U.S. senator from Vermont, cautions William Hutchinson against an attempt to establish a Kansas state government under the Topeka Constitution without the consent of Congress.

Creator: Collamer, Jacob, 1791-1865

Date: December 17, 1857

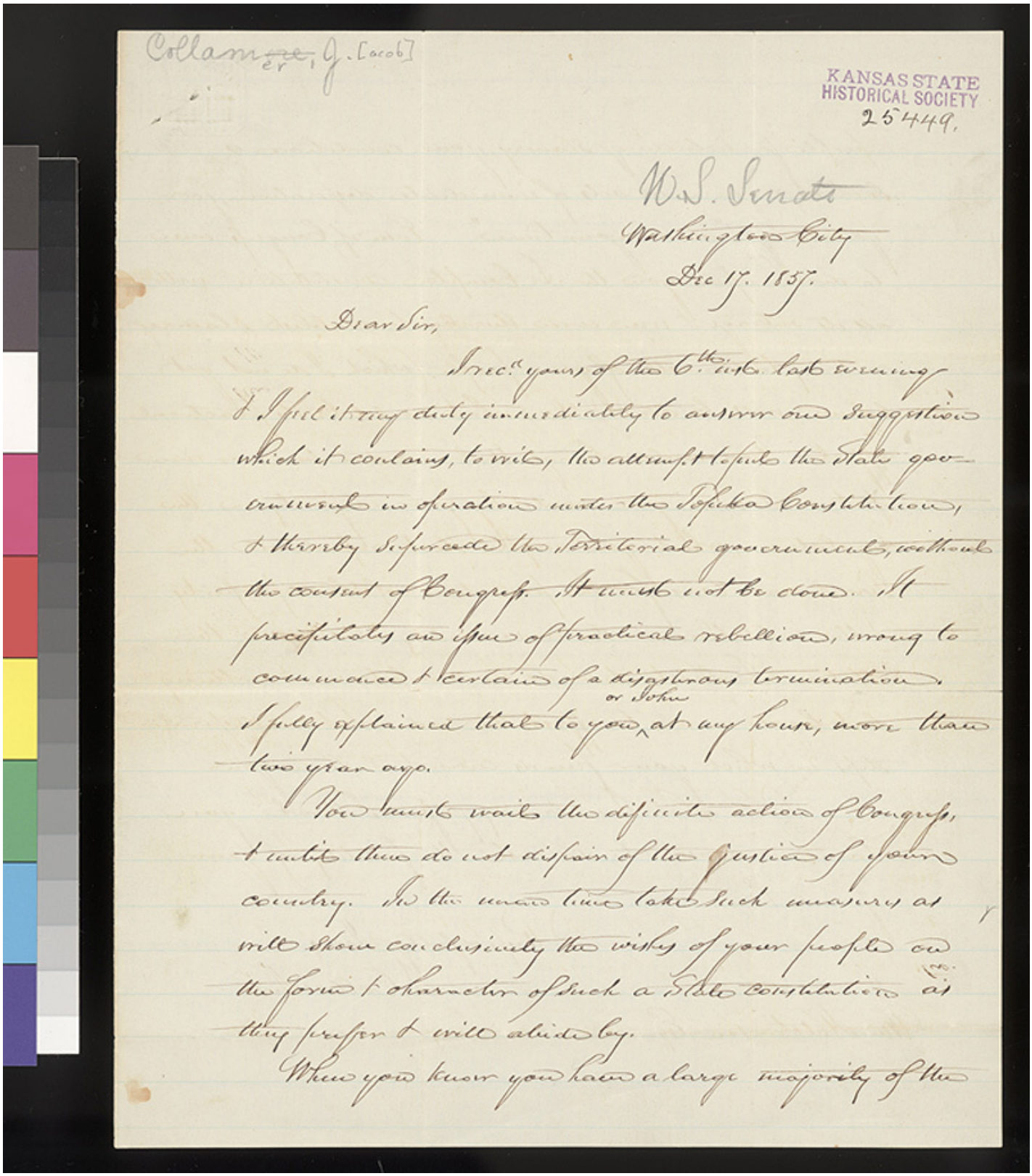
Callnumber: William Hutchinson Coll. # 400 Box 1 Folder 3

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Jacob Collamer to William Hutchinson



Collamer, J. [Jacob]

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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U.S. Senate
Washington City
Dec 17. 1857.

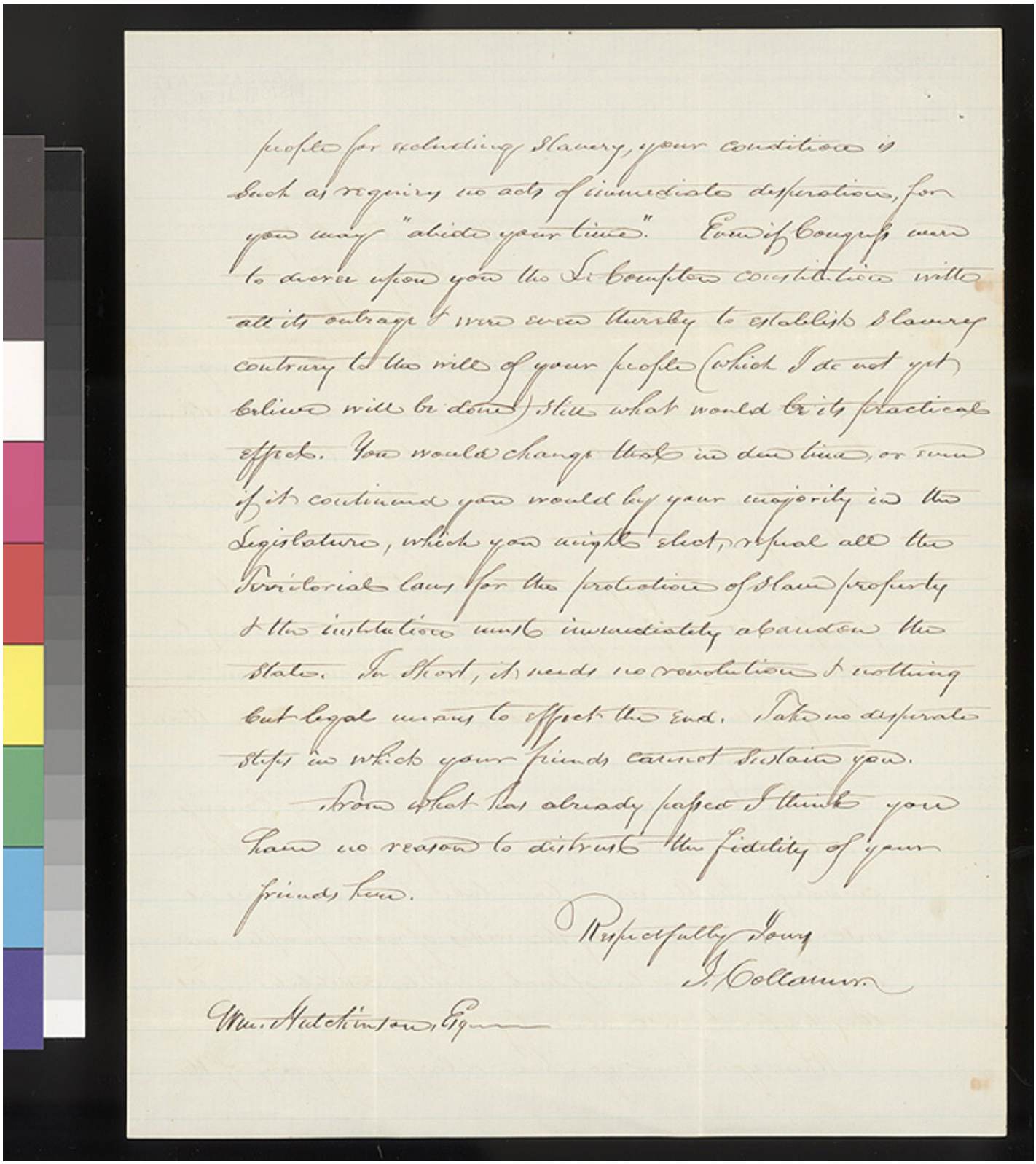
Dear Sir,

Rec.d yours of the 6th inst. last evening & feel it my duty immediately to answer one suggestion which it contains, to wit, the attempt to put the State government in operation under the Topeka Constitution, & thereby supercede the Territorial government, without the consent of Congress. It must not be done. A precipitate act upon so practical rebellion, wrong to commence & certain of a disastrous termination. I fully explained that to you or John at any hours, more than two year ago.

You must wait the definite action of Congress, & until then do not despair of the justice of your country. In the mean time take such measures as will show conclusively the wishes of your people on the form & character of such a State Constitution as they prefer & will abide by.

When you know you have a large majority of the

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people for rejecting Slavery, your condition is such as require no acts of immediate desperation, for you may "abide your time". Even if Congress were to decree upon you the Lecompton Constitution with all its outrage & were even thereby to establish Slavery contrary to the will of your people (which I do not yet believe will be done) still what would be its practical effect. You would change that in due time, or even if it continued you would by your majority in the Legislature, which you might elect, repeal all the Territorial laws for the protection of Slave property & the institution must immediately abandon the State. In short, it needs no revolution & nothing but legal means to effect the end. Take no desperate steps in which your friends cannot sustain you.

From what has already passed I think you have no reason to distrust the fidelity of your friends here.

Respectfully Yours
J. Collamer

Wm. Hutchinson, Esq.