William Hutchinson to Jacob Collamer

William Hutchinson seeks assistance from Jacob Collamer, a U.S. senator from Vermont, on a plan to speculate in land on the Delaware Indian reservation in Kansas Territory.

Creator: Hutchinson, William, 1823-1904

Date: March 5, 1858

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

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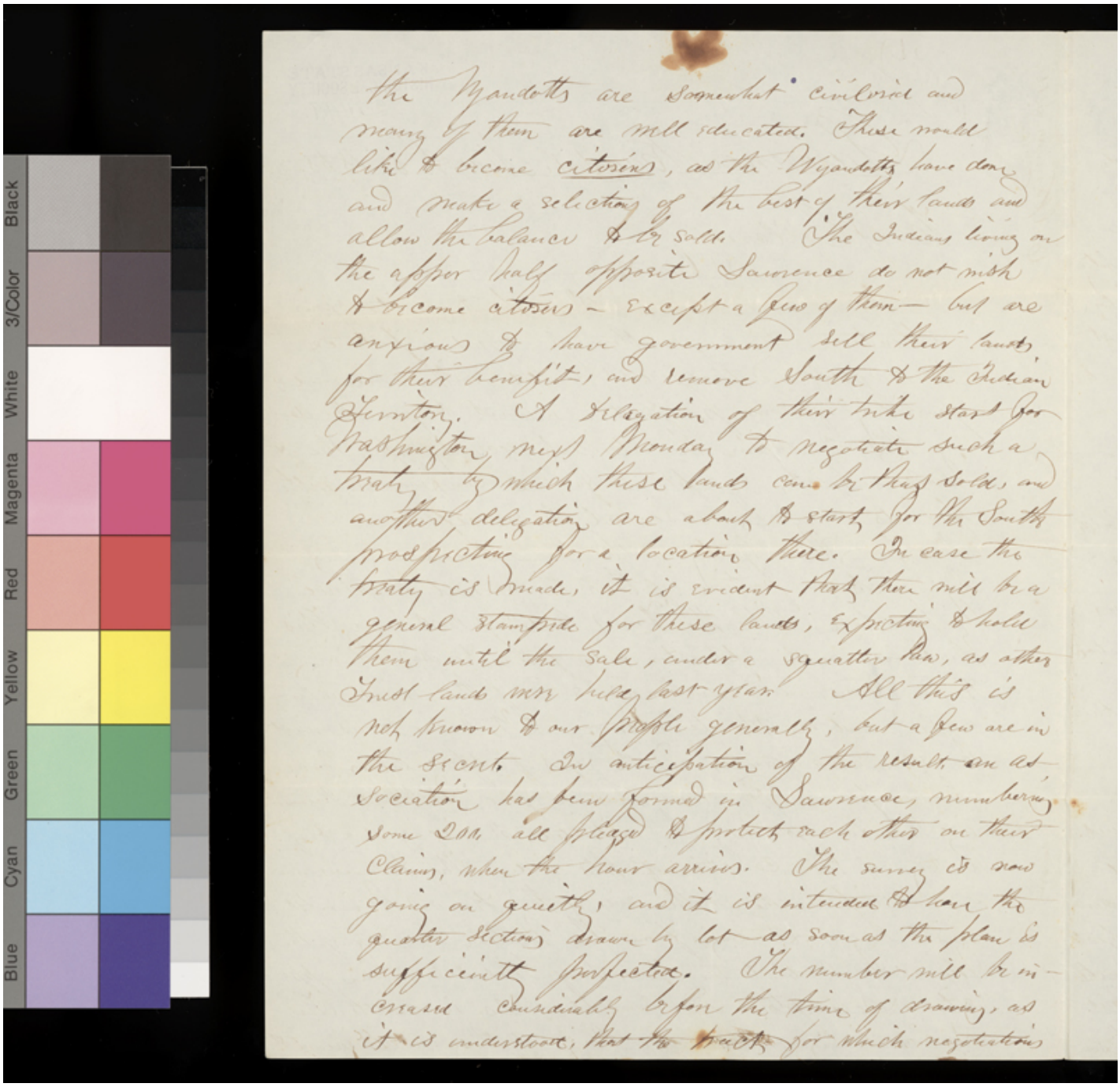
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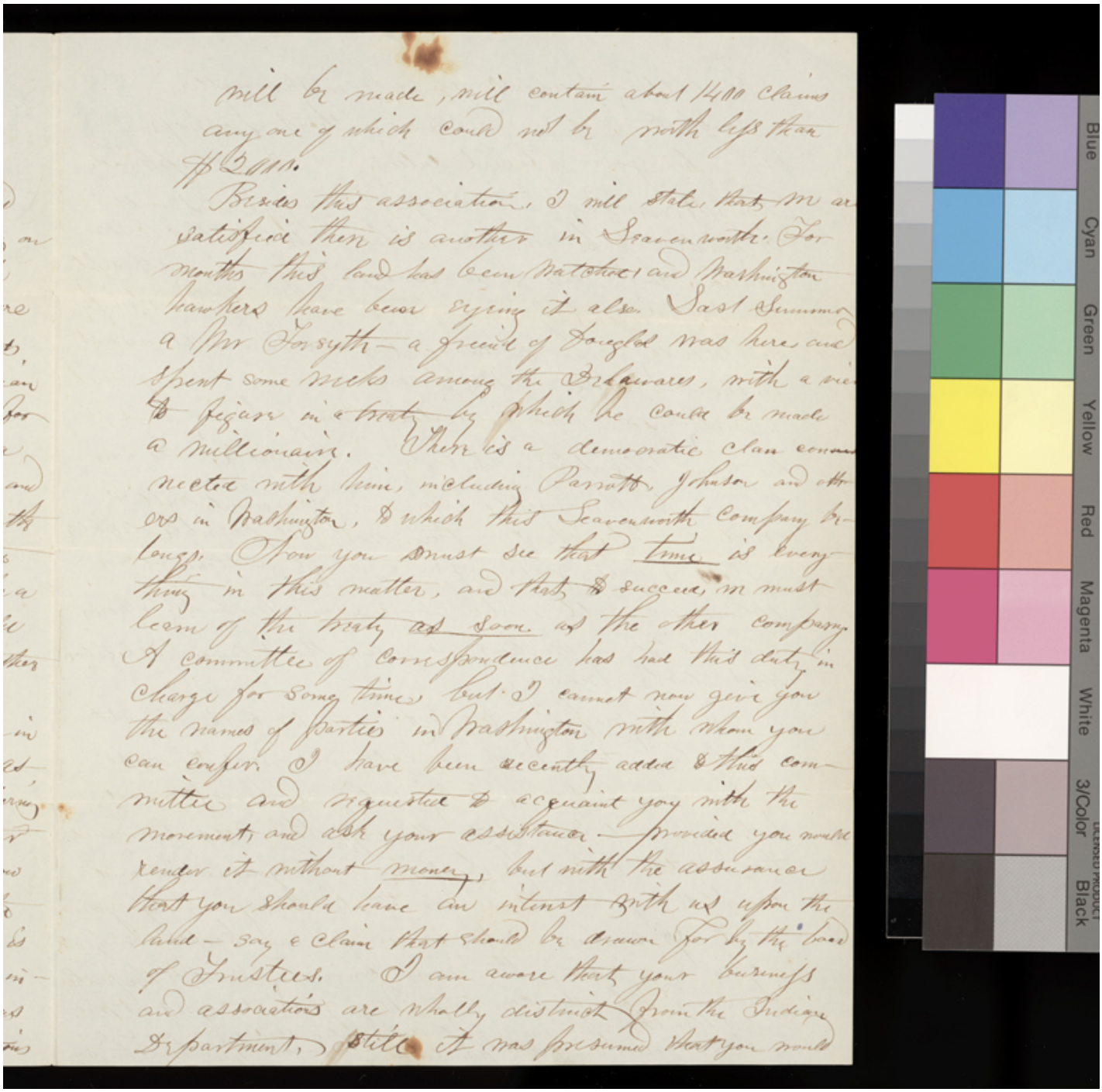


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the Wyandotts are somewhat civilized and many of them are well educated. These would like to become citizens, as the Wyandotts have done and make a selection of the best of their lands and allow the balance to be sold. The Indians living on the upper half opposite Lawrence do not wish to become citizens – except a few of them – but are anxious to have government sell their lands, for their benefit, and remove South to the Indian Territory. A delegation of their tribe start for Washington next Monday to negotiate such a treaty by which these lands can be thus sold, and another delegation are about to start for the South prospective for a location there. In case the treaty is made, it is evident that there will be a general stampede for these lands, expecting to hold them until the sale, under a squatter law, as other Trust lands were held last year. All this is not known to our people generally, but a few are in the secret. In anticipation of the result an association has been formed in Lawrence, numbering some 200 all pledged to protect each other on their claims, when the hour arrives. The survey is now going on quietly, and it is intended to have the quarter sections drawn by lot as soon as the plan is sufficiently perfected. The number will be increased considerably before the time of drawing, as it is understood, that the tracts for which negotiations

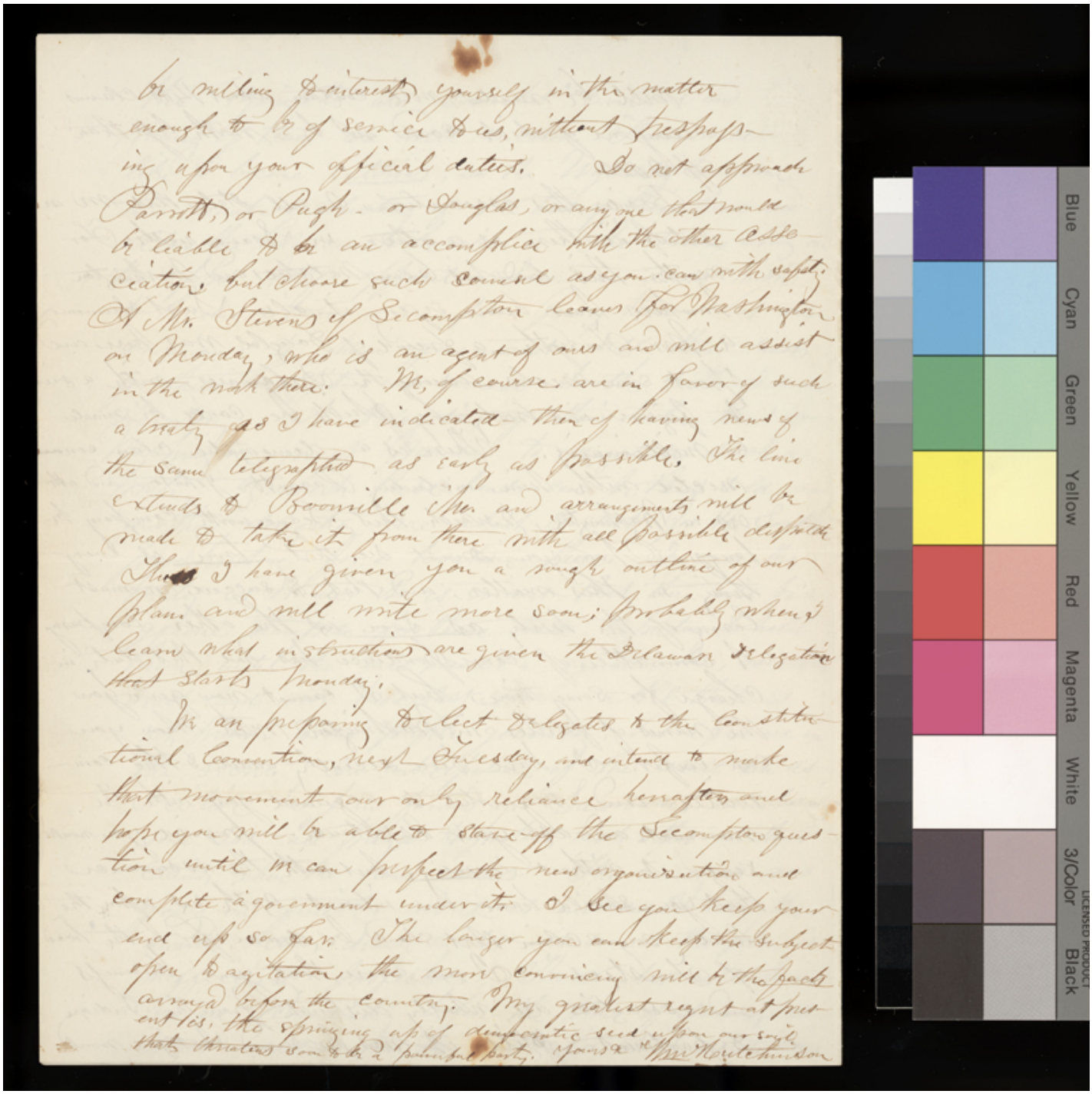
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will be made, will contain about 1400 claims any one of which could not be worth less than $2000.

Besides this association, I will state that we are satisfied there is another in Leavenworth. For months this land has been watched and Washington hawkers have been trying it also. Last Summer a Mr Forsyth — a friend of Douglas was here and spent some weeks among the Delawares, with a view to secure in a treaty by which he could be made a millionaire. There is a democratic clan connected with him, including Parrott, Johnson and others in Washington, to which this Leavenworth company belongs. Now you must see that time is every thing in this matter, and that to succeed, we must learn of the treaty as soon as the other company. A committee of correspondence has had this duty in charge for some time but I cannot now give you the names of parties in Washington with whom you can confer. I have been recently added to this committee and requested to acquaint you with the movements and ask your assistance — provided you would render it without money, but with the assurance that you should have an interest with us upon the claim — say a claim that should be drawn for by the board of Trustees. I am aware that your business and associations are wholly distinct from the Indian Department, still it was presumed that you would

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be willing to interest yourself in the matter enough to be of service to us, without trespassing upon your official duties. Do not approach Parrott, or Pugh - or Douglas, or any one that would be liable to be an accomplice with the other association, but choose such counsel as you can with safety. A Mr. Stevens of Decampton leaves for Washington on Monday, who is an agent of ours and will assist in the work there. We, of course, are in favor of such a treaty as I have indicated - then of having news of the same telegraphed as early as possible. The line extends to Boonville Mo. and arrangements will be made to take it from there with all possible dispatch. Thus I have given you a rough outline of our plans and will write more soon; probably when I learn what instructions are given the Delaware delegation that starts Monday.

We are preparing to elect delegates to the constitutional Convention, next Tuesday, and intend to make that movement our only reliance hereafter and hope you will be able to stave off the Decampton question until we can perfect the new organization and complete a government under it. I see you keep your end up so far. The longer you can keep the subject open to agitation, the more convincing will be the facts arrayed before the country. My greatest regret at present is, the springing up of democratic sentiment upon our soil, that threatens soon to be a powerful party. Yours &c W. Hutchinson