

Martin Stowell to Thomas W. Higginson

This letter from Martin Stowell, written from Nebraska City, Nebraska, was sent to Reverend Thomas W. Higginson, agent of the Massachusetts Kansas Aid Committee in Worcester, Massachusetts, to keep him apprised of the Massachusetts emigrant company's business and financial affairs. Stowell includes information about the other members of his emigrant party, including a Mr. [John B.] Dunning, who continually asks Stowell for whiskey money. For the most part, the members of his company are employed and hard at work. Stowell also mentions Eastern supporters such as Massachusetts supporters Mr. Nightingale from Groton and Mr. Newell from Littleton. Stowell writes briefly about Orville Chester Brown, whose house had been destroyed on August 30, 1856, during the Battle of Osawatomie in Kansas Territory.

Creator: Stowell, Martin

Date: November 19, 1856

Callnumber: Thomas W. Higginson Coll. #380 Box 1 Folder 3

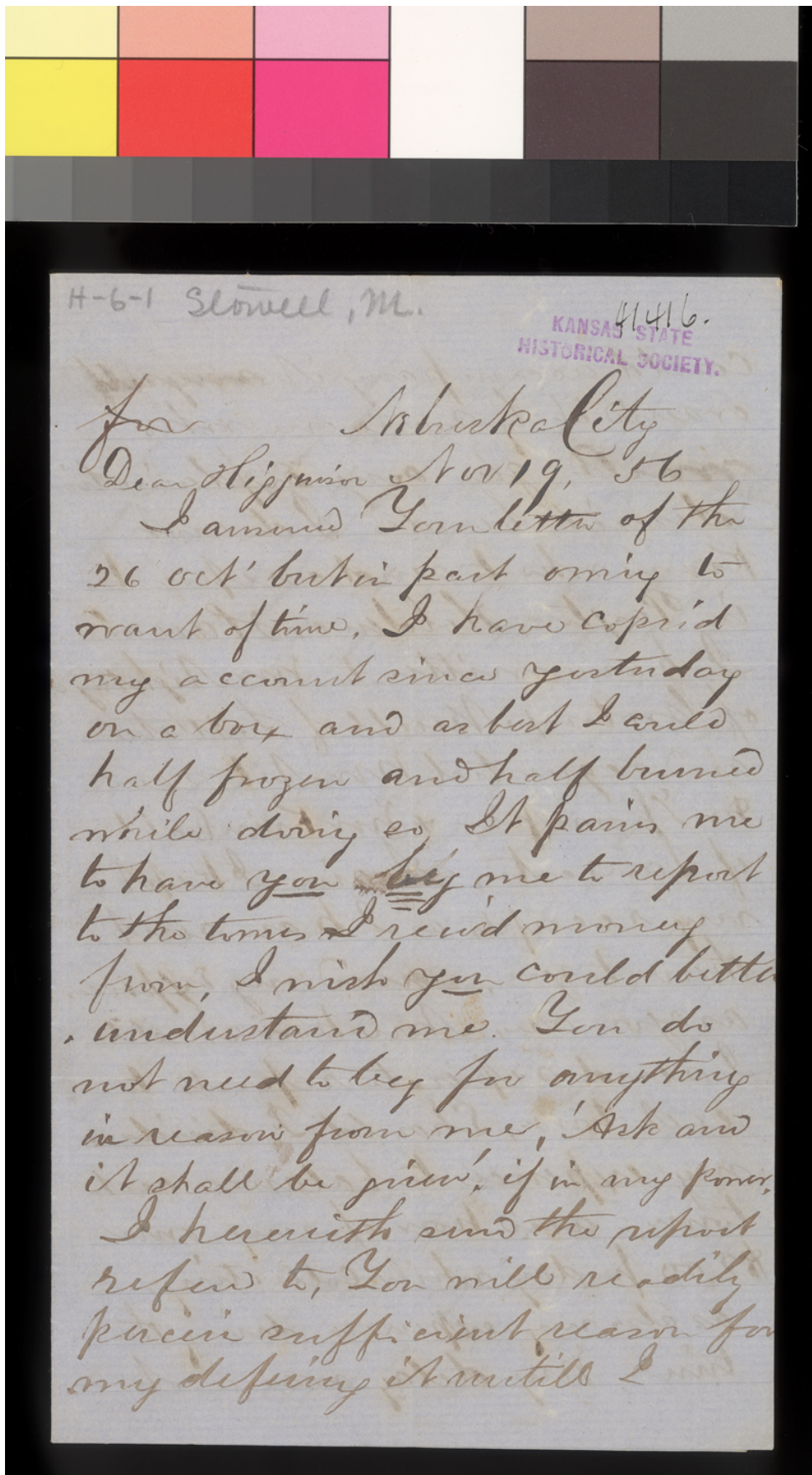
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Martin Stowell to Thomas W. Higginson



H-6-1 Stowell, M.

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KANSAS STATE
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for Abbeville City

Dear Higginson Nov 19, 56

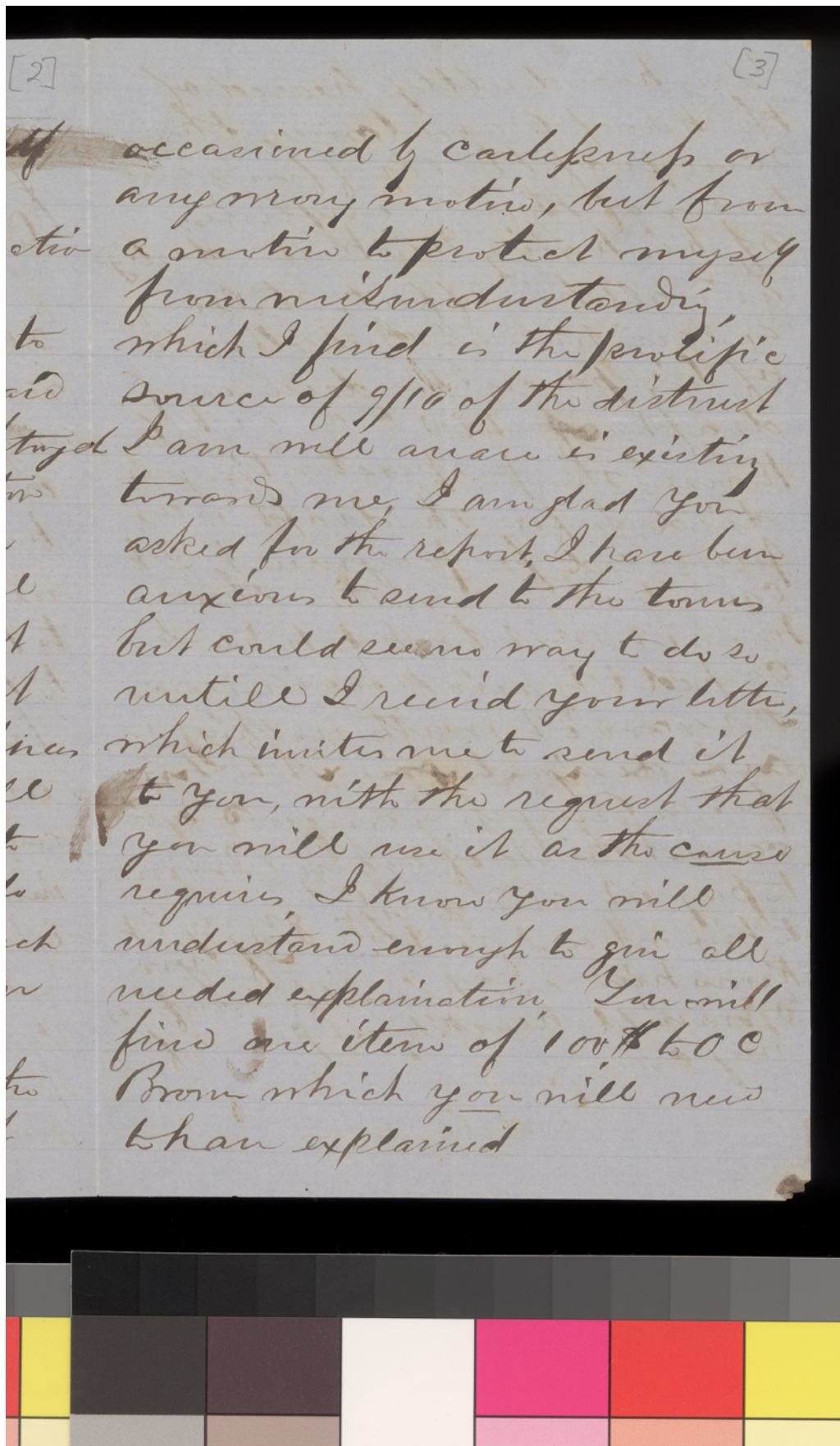
I am now in your letter of the
26 Oct' but in part owing to
want of time, I have copied
my account since yesterday
on a box and as but I could
half frozen and half burned
while doing so. It pains me
to have you beg me to report
to the times I rec'd money
from, I wish you could better
understand me. You do
not need to beg for anything
in reason from me, 'Ask and
it shall be given' if in any power.
I herewith send the report
refer'd to, You will readily
perceive sufficient reason for
my deferring it until I

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[2]

could accompany it ~~myself~~ or
 send it by some one who
 could give any explanation
 desired, besides I do not
 know who to send a report to
 in Payton, Holdeworth or Harard
 I have written to Mr. Nightingale
 of Boston & Mr. Knell of Littleton
 and requested them to see
 Dr. Thompson & Mr. Kimball
 of Lancaster. Again I kept
 my receipts as I have sent
 them to you, and my expenses
 as you see. Now how shall
 I send separate reports to
 each town, Should I divide
 my expenses to balance each
 town, and how of my own
 \$2.00 per day while collecting,
 as also my expenses during the
 time. My delay was not

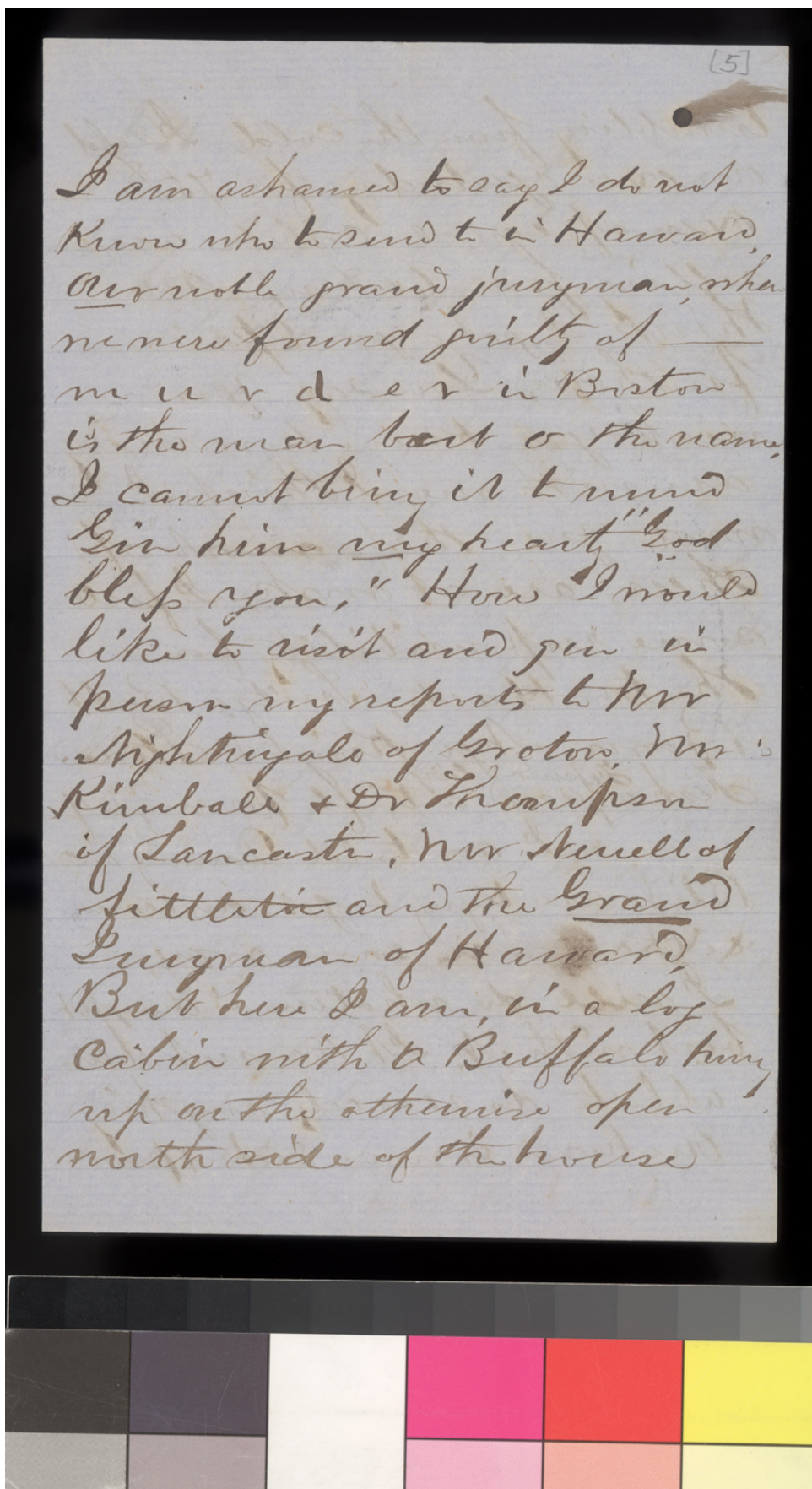
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[4]
You have doubtless heard of
the hero of Ooraratamee, the
savage of the Pawnee and
terror of their enemies,
of his having his horse stolen
and all his effects stolen
or scripied at the district
of his place. He drew a
draft of 100. \$ on a N Y
house, the proprietor, 'Burgess'
died, before the draft was
presented for payment. It
came to me and rather than
have it sent back to him I
cashed it and have it now.
I regard it worth nothing so
and design to give it to him
far as Burgess is concerned and
cannot think of asking Brown
to pay it, and design giving it
to him when I see him. If you
know him and his noble sacrifices
you will heartily approve of
my course.

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[5]
I am ashamed to say I do not
know who to send to in Harvard,
our noble grand jurymen, when
we were found guilty of —
m r d e r in Boston
is the man best of the name.
I cannot bring it to mind
Give him my hearty "God
bles you." How I would
like to visit and give in
person my reports to Mr
Nightingale of Boston, Mr
Kimball & Dr Thompson
of Lancaster, Mr Skell of
Fittsfield and the Grand
Jurymen of Harvard.
But here I am, in a log
cabin with a Buffalo hung
up on the otherwise open
north side of the house

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[6]

trembling from the cold, I sold
 one even yesterday for 75¢.
 Oxen of equal calibre are
 selling from 60 & up. I
 think I got a good price
 for them. You say you
 wish you knew how many
 are with me. I think I
 wrote you, that most of
 them are at work. I feel
 some responsibility for
 the two Harts, Snitzer, Babb
 Borer, Mrs. Knight, Stenard
 Fisher ^{depending on} and a trifle for myself.
 I am told Dunning and
 Bliss are trying to get our team
 with ~~in~~ some way.
 I will do whatever is thought
 best with it. It has not been
 able to do scarcely anything.
 One horse is now sick & poor

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[6] I think with proper care
it will be well gain before
long. I think it ought to
be kept for the cause
untill this question is settled
[7]
Some of the boys tell me
Dunning finds it rather hard
to raise money enough to
buy whiskey with. Aught to
to give him and Blip money.
Dunning asks me for some
my time I see him, though
he told you he had left
the company. But I think
if he must board at the hotel
while the rest of are trying
to help pay our way he must
get his means of support from
some other hand than mine.
Most of the boys are now at work.
I cannot tell how long they can
set it I will help the all I can
while I live.

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Stowell. [8]
I like to have again forgot to
tell you about the little picture.
I did not know ^{now} it was for \$
as there were no models or
primers, I concluded it
was sent of some friend for
the cause and after getting it
cleaned, for it was nearly
spoiled with rust, sold it
to Fisher of our party for
\$8, and credited the amount
as you will see when I
report again. I believe
this covers nearly all your
requests, if not it does nearly
the sheets of paper, and as I
am trembling with cold I
decline writing more now
if ten thousand misunderstandings
are the consequence.

Truly & faithfully
Yours for free Kansas
M Stowell

Just heard of the election of Buchanan
Business enough next Spring