

August 31, 1830  
Bordeaux, France

*PART OF A PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet in Bordeaux, France, to his aunt, Josephine Declouet de l'Homme in Attakapas, La.*

... it would take more charm than they own to possess my heart. This is the only bad thing I can decide to say about them. I am supposed to go to spend a Sunday with them on a country estate my uncle Brognier (Declouet) has near Bordeaux. Then, I shall have a chance to get better acquainted with all those ladies. And the next time I write I shall speak about each one separately.

I wanted to write to Catiche (Declouet Lastrapes, my aunt) but the mail is leaving in a moment and it is impossible. There is a ship leaving for New Orleans on the 20th of this month and I promised her not to let this opportunity pass without writing to her. My cousins gave me many messages for you, but I save them for the letter I intend to write to Catiche. Now, as my letter must begin to bore you I shall tell you goodbye and also to my good aunt Catiche. Kiss her and her dear children for me. Kiss also for me the dear uncle (Christopher de l'Homme, your husband) and Mr. (Charles Henry) Lastrapes and assure them of my affection for them.

Goodbye again, dear aunt, think often of your dear Declouet and believe in his sincere and everlasting affection.

Your affectionate  
nephew, Alex Declouet

P.S. I had forgotten to tell you that I took a professor of music, of dance and of French in order not to waste my time in Bordeaux. As I must return to Paris in the month of September, send my letters to this city. Write: Paris General Delivery until I give you a more definite address.

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<sup>1</sup>Original letter on file at the Louisiana Room, University of Louisiana at Lafayette