

October 11, 1830
France

*PART OF A PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet in France, to his aunt, Josephine Declouet de l'Homme in Attakapas.*¹

And I wrote to Catiche (Declouet Lastrapes, my aunt) in the same envelope. I hope she has received those two letters. I urge you to answer them. They are very hurt because they have been neglected so much. I am urging you especially to write to Fideline (Declouet, Brognier's daughter). She is the flower of all the family. She is so kind and amiable that it is impossible not to love her when you know her. I assure you that to correspond will benefit you.

Alexandre (Brognier's son) is still in Spain. * His family is quite worried about him. There has already been an insurrection and a general uprising is being feared. The example France has given is bound to be followed. My aunt (Clair de la Pena Declouet, Brognier's wife) wrote to him to beg him to return to Bordeaux. I hope if this happens that I shall have the pleasure to see him before leaving for Paris. I am going next month. I think I shall be there before this letter reaches you. Always address your letters to General Delivery, Paris. It seems to me, my dear aunt, that you are neglecting me. During the two months I have been in France, I have not heard from you. Truly, I do not believe that I deserve this. One could not, I hope, accuse me of carelessness. I did not let any opportunity pass without taking advantage of it. This is the fourth or the fifth time I have been writing to you and I also wrote to Catiche and Sinclair. It is cruel, my dear aunt, to remain so long without hearing from you. My sojourn in France will grow unbearable if you let whole months go by without writing to me. Therefore, write me often, I beg you. Make an example, my dear aunt, and urge Catiche and Sinclair to write me. It is painful enough to be separated from you, don't make that separation more cruel still by depriving me of the sweet pleasure

¹Original letter on file at the Louisiana Room, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

of your correspondence. I trust your affection. Kiss Mrs. Lastrapes for me and tell her that I have seen her uncle. He is quite old, his hair is as white as snow but his face is still very fresh and he seems to enjoy a very good health. He is anxious to see one of his nephews coming to join him in France. He would like him to marry a niece he has here. I also saw Mr. Rouffignac. I think he has some plan about returning to Louisiana. His wife constantly nags him to make him consent to undertake this voyage. He is my uncle Brognier's close friend. His wife is an excellent Creole although I did not know her, I assure you that I saw her with the greatest pleasure. But I am forgetting myself, my dear aunt, I fear I am wearing out your patience. If I was not writing to you, I would find myself more to be blamed. Now, I believe it is time to tell you goodbye. Offer my regards to my uncle (Christopher de l'Homme) and to my aunt Neuville (Louise DeBlanc Declouet). My respects also to Mrs. (illegible) when you see her. Kiss the children for me. Urge Louison (Benoit, my cousin) to write to me. I think that at the present time she must be at the convent.

Goodbye, my dear and good aunt, do not forget what I am asking you constantly in all my letters. Think of the pleasure you will afford me by granting this request and think also that it is your duty to do so. Farewell, I kiss you with all my heart.

Your affectionate
Declouet

*NOTE: In a letter dated November 8, 1830, there is reference of Alexander Declouet, Brognier's son, returning from Spain where there had been trouble.