

1851  
May 14

PERSONAL LETTER to Alexander Etienne Declouet, Jr. at St. Charles College in Grand Coteau, from his father Alexander Declouet in St. Martinville.

St. Martinville, May 14, 1851

My dear Clouet,

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

A few days ago I received your letter which gave me the more pleasure in that it was written with a little more care and application than the preceding ones. Also the writing and the style were much better than usual. But the spelling needs a lot more improvement. In order to write well and to speak the language you must not only apply yourself in class, but you must also read as much as possible apart from your regular studies. This will help you to progress in a manner which will surprise yourself. Not only spelling, but the style and ideas will improve if you apply yourself seriously. I urge you firmly to read as much as you can and it will help you immensely as well in class as in your studies. And I can not recommend strongly enough that you study your English more seriously. It is a great necessity.

Although I would wish so much to be able to talk to you I just do not have the time to do it. I am leaving this very morning to go to your uncle Sartoin's home for the marriage of Aima which is taking place today, and I have preparations to make.

Nothing new here. Your dear little cousin Henri has been very ill and gave us much anxiety. He had convulsions followed by high fever. It has been 8 or 10 days since he was ill and it is only since yesterday that he is a little better. Christine (your sister) has been sick owing to her teething but not so seriously. Nonise is not very well either and that with Henri's

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illness prevents mamma (Marie Louise Benoit) from going to the wedding.

What you told us about Paul (your brother) gave me great sorrow,  
but I think and hope that he will change and that he will work and conduct  
himself in a manner which will please his professors as well as ourselves.

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

Goodbye me dear son, I can not say when I will be able to see you.

All of us send many kisses to you both,

Your father,

Alexander Declouet.