

1854

April 21.

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

PERSONAL LETTER written on this date at St. Martinsville
by Alexander DeClouet to his son Alexander at Louisiana College,
Convent, La.

St. Martinville. April 21, 1854

My dear Clouet. (Alexander)

Personal
letter
to
Alexander
DeClouet
by his
father
Alexander
DeClouet

I shall kill one bird with one, two or better three stones and
reply with a few hurried lines to your three last letters received all
together day before yesterday. Continue, my dear son, to write us
often. You don't know how much pleasure your letters give us. The
hope of receiving one makes us await each mail with impatience. For
my part, I will write you as often as I can so you must not be discour-
aged if your letters are not answered for a while. It is not often that
I have the leisure to write, I am more tied down than ever.

Mr. Simon, who did not conduct himself well with me, has been
gone since the 12th of this month, and I am at this moment all alone on
the farm. Your mother and your sisters left day before yesterday to go
to spend a few days at Tonton's. I am obliged to watch over and take
care of everything, and am steward and housekeeper, etc. So you see
that I have my hands full and have little time for myself. I have not
received any more news from your uncle and I don't know when he is
coming back. It may be that he'll return on the Rosa which is expected
today. I can't tell you when it will be possible for me to go to see you.
When your uncle returns or if I find a good steward capable of replacing
me, I will try to make the trip during the month of May.

There is nothing new here, the spring has been very cold and
the crops are not advanced. Sugar is being sold at a very poor price,
and I recommend that you make many economies. You must buy only

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the indispensable and take care of all your things. You did not say if you are to start art and music classes. I know Mr. Cazere; he is an excellent teacher of armes, and you must try to take advantage of his classes. This is a noble and useful exercise which develops strength and the muscles and gives poise and bearing to the body and to health but on the other hand it is a pleasurable thing which pushes many young boys without brains to be quarrelsome teasers and braggarts. You have too much good sense, I am proud to think, to let yourself go down in this direction.

But here are my few lines which already fill a few pages and time is lacking to continue writing to you. One recommendation before finishing, your handwriting (I saw it with pleasure) is quite good. But it could be much better and even beautiful if you didn't let yourself get negligent. That would be a pity, because with a little care you would have a very lovely handwriting. Your spelling is also a bit neglected and this is even more important than handwriting. I know that you intend doing much better.

And your English? Your Latin, your Greek, etc., you did not speak of these at all.

Goodbye, I embrace the two of you with all my heart.

Yours father

Alex. (ander) deClouet.

Tell me also what Paul is doing. He is not big enough to begin fencing. It is better to wait. Here is a dollar to buy some letter stamps or some stamped envelopes. I think you will find some at the Post Office.