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1854
Dec. 12

PERSONAL LETTER from Benoit St. Clair in St. Martinville, to
his nephew, Paul Declouet at Louisiana College in Convent, La.
St. Martinville, December 12, 1854

My dear Paul,

I have received the day before yesterday your letter through Mr. Aristide's intermediary. Your father also has received the letter from Clouet (Alexander Declouet, Jr.). We see with pleasure that you are feeling well and are satisfied with the College. I have found your letter quite correct which makes us see that you apply your self. The more you will study, the sooner you will return among us.

Your father will write to you soon to give you an answer about the errand you had entrusted to Mr. Aristide. The cane harvest is still going on well. We have about 340 boucants already gathered and I do not think we will finish before the first day of the year to come.

Every one here is in good health and we kiss you tenderly. Nome's cotton-mill burned last Wednesday with a rather large quantity of cotton, only part of it having been salvaged.

Farewell my dear Paul, kiss Clouet for me and believe that I am

Your affectionate uncle,

B. St. Clair

Handwritten in French. Original on file at Dupre Library at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, La.