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July 10

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Sr. in St. Martinville,
to his son, Paul Declouet at Louisiana College in Convent, La.
St. Martinville, July 10, 1855

My dear Paul,

For almost two weeks we have not heard from you and as Clouet (Alexander, your brother) is in the habit of writing to us often when we remain so long without receiving letters from you we cannot help from getting worried. If each one of you would take turn to write you could easily spare us some trouble. I received some time ago a little letter from you which gave us much pleasure and I thought that you would continue to write to me once in a while. But it seems that you are quite strict and that you require a letter for a letter. Should have I thought that you were so severe I would have hurried a little more to answer you and I am offering my very humble excuses for not having done it sooner. Clouet, sometimes, writes twice or three times when I write once but since it is necessary, I shall try when corresponding with you not to be at fault. Lately, I received a letter from Mr. Dufau with your bulletins which gave us a great pleasure. I believe that Mr. Dufau must have received my answer.

A few days ago, you must have received a letter from Blanche (your sister). It had been sent here by mistake and I forwarded it. When you write to her, you must apply yourselves and pay attention to your letters as the Nuns are in the habit to read all the letters addressed to the (Sacred Heart) Convent's (in Grand Coteau) pupils.

Nothing new here. Your two little sisters are still very nice and give us a pleasant time. Gabrielle (your sister) is cunning and amusing. She speaks well enough to express almost everything she wants. She often speaks about

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(con't.)

Ninise (Blanche, your sister) and about you also. When I return home, she often asks me if I went to the Coteau to look for Ninise.

L'Eveille is big and splendid, I ride him every day and when you return we may be competitors. He is a first rate horse - no mistake - And what about Farceur? A great dog!!! He always follows me and I am proud of his friendship coming perhaps from the fact I am his master's father, he is so clever! Too bad he was not sent to College, he would have turned into a performing dog!

A few days ago, we received a letter from Mr. (Louis Erasmi) Nee and one from Claire (Benoit Nee). It seems that poor Aunt Claire had been very ill with cholera. Thanks to God, she was better. Mr. Narcisse (Landry) lost several slaves. In Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) home, things are pretty well. A few days ago, Noemi (de l'Homme) had another big boy.

Goodbye, it is the day for the mail, and I must go to St. Martinville to see about my shipment of sugar.

My greeting to my young friends, kisses for both of you from your mother and myself. I remain as usual your father and best friend,

Alexander Declouet

P. S. Have you still any money?