

1856  
March 20

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

PERSONAL LETTER written on this date at St. Martin Parish  
by Mrs. Alexander DeClouet to her son Alexander at Louisiana College,  
Convent, La.

St. Martin Parish  
March 20, 1856

My dear Clouet (Alexander)

Personal  
Letter  
by  
Mrs.  
Alexander  
DeClouet  
to her  
son  
Alexander

I want to acknowledge receipt of all your last letters, as we  
received all of them at once on the same day. The postal service for this  
area has never been as bad as it is now. Sometimes we get your letters  
eight or ten days late; while we get the newspapers from New Orleans  
the following day. Tell Paul that I received his letter which gave me  
much pleasure. Papa has also received his letter written in English.  
He will answer him as soon as he returns from up country. He has gone  
to see Ninise today, <sup>[BLANCH]</sup> Holy Thursday. Your sister is very happy to re-  
ceive your letters often. She is, I believe, a little bit jealous that Papa  
went to see you before her. We haven't seen her since she returned to  
the convent after vacation, that is to say since December 12. The roads  
are so bad as to be impassable. We can reach Grand Coteau only by  
horseback. That's how your Papa will get there. You can judge how bad  
the roads are since I have not yet been able to go see Tonton since the  
death of our poor old Nonc (uncle)

Your uncle and Mimi came all the way here yesterday in a skiff.  
She was to have arrived from the city yesterday. It was her uncle  
Ganucho who came to get her; he spent two or three days with us while  
waiting for the boats.

Quite some time ago I sent the little peas to Tante Zo. I also  
sent her by Mr. Labarthe's boat (the Ceres) a cage containing 10 male  
turkeys. The captain had promised your father to unload them at their

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place. Let me know if they received them, and give them our greetings. I must, my dear Clouet, now speak to you about a letter which your father has just received from Mr. Dufau which I assure you has pained us greatly. He seems to be very unhappy with you and with your conduct in general. We really do not know, my dear Clouet, to what to attribute this change in you. I believe, my dear child, that you love us too much to continue like that. Now that you feel you are altogether grown up, I pride myself in believing and hoping that you will conduct yourself in a manner to satisfy Mr. Dufau and not cause us grief. We have had enough. As for you, I believed you to be too sensible to cause us pain. Let it be ended, my dear Clouet, for I shall be really miserable if I have to scold you again. Be good and apply yourself in order to catch up all the time you've lost up to now. I want this to be the last time that I will have to speak to you this way, for I assure you nothing bothers me more than to have to scold you like this.

We are all well and we kiss you. Your little sisters speak of you often. Gabrielle hardly misses a day blowing kisses to your portraits. She says she wants very much to see you. Christine, too. They were very happy with the old female cat catching a mouse in her claws. They thank you. Gabi (Gabrielle) calls it bouqui the red throat. It's an idea she took from pa bouqui. Several days ago a music merchant (as they call him) and a monkey passed by, which charmed Gabi (Gabrielle). She thought it was hers and she absolutely wanted me to give it to her. She dances and makes all kinds of funny faces like the monkey. She says she will take it for her own when he passes by again.

Tell Paul that Farceur is well and is fat as a thief. Flore has

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become very pretty since her mange is cured. Her fur is shiny and nicely grown back, as she was completely bald, that is not to say plucked. All this has disappeared now and she finally has a pretty white and brown coat. She is more spoiled than ever. She follows me step for step and goes wherever I go. She is very intelligent and retrieves well already. I haven't dared to send you your watch in the box. I am afraid of breaking it. I will send it to you by the first good means. Do not forget to give our greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Dufau. Christine and Gabrielle say many things to Camille pending the time they have the pleasure of meeting her. Give our regards to Mr. Gilbert.

We have shipped your box aboard the Delia in care of Messieurs Darby and Tremoulet. It contains two cotton pants, twelve napkins Gil Blas and two with designs. Greetings to Uncle Terry and Aunt Zo, Mr. and Mrs. Septime Fortier. I will have to send the little white peas to Aunt Zo as well as a cage of turkeys via the city as the boats refuse to stop on this shore. Your Papa will send them in care of Terry's brokers

The original written in French and on file at Tulane University.  
Translated by Tulane University March 1968.