

1856
Apr. 24.

PERSONAL LETTER written by Alexander de Clouet at
St. Martinville this date to his son Alexander at Louisiana College,
Convent, La.

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

St. Martinville
April 24, 1856

My dear Clouet (Alexander)

Just a few words in reply to your letter of this month received only day before yesterday. I learned with great pleasure that your professors were very happy with you, and I hope that you will continue to work your hardest to finish a good year by consistently applying yourself to your studies. At your age, my dear son, you do not have a minute to lose; you haven't progressed far and if you do not put forth some courage and good will, your education will be a failure! Do you understand? You do not lack the talent; the opportunity and the means to educate yourself are in your hands and if you do not take advantage of them you yourself will have to say "mea culpa" (I am guilty) and you can believe me one day to come, your pride will suffer cruelly. Do I have to tell you how much your dear parents who put so much hope in yours and Paul's projects would be hurt and mortified to have these hopes destroyed if you renounce these plans which are so dear to their hearts if they see you leave college without having made fruitful use of the good years of your youth?

Take stock of yourselves, my dear children, and do not lose sight for one minute what you owe to yourselves, what you owe to your parents by preparing yourselves in your studies and your conduct to one day take an honorable position in society, having as a basis especially

Letter
by
Alexandre
de Clouet
to his
son
Alexander
at
Louisiana
College.

1856
Apr. 24.
Cont'd.

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

the personal qualities of which I have just spoken. Now to other things. In your correspondence with your sister it would be better if you refrained from saying anything which would be objectionable to the nuns. The suggestions contained in the letters Ninise writes in regard to the college at Mobile or to the one at G. (Grand) Coteau are evidently from them. But you shouldn't attach any importance to them. If they find it profitable to mix themselves in things which are not their concern, you can't stop them. It won't matter one way or the other -- and the best thing is not to talk about it.

It has been announced in the newspapers that the college of G. (Grand) Coteau will be open October 15. I think I told you that I had gone with your mother to see Ninise two weeks ago. Since there was whooping cough at the convent we left Gabi and Christine in the pasture and the nuns let Blanche go with us to see them. We had lunch and spent part of the day under the trees.

Since I began making bricks I haven't been able to start work on my _____.

I wait each day for the workmen and the materials to set up the bagasse oven -- I do not have much sugar cane, but I will not plant cotton. I prefer to plant lots of rice and have a brick factory. At Aunt Catula's they have planted some cotton. I took advantage of the drought to send 14 wagons to haul the rocks for your uncle. It went fast, his field is entirely enclosed and he now has a very fine pasture.

As I myself haven't been able to go to New Iberia to see the salt man, the salt pots are still here. I have delayed so long I don't know if Narcille L. still wants them. I should nevertheless get them fixed.

1856

Apr. 24,

Cont'd.

Your mother wants to know if you need linen shirts and
white pants. Paul's shirts are finished (the gingham ones, too). Does

**T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION**

Paul need white pants? Did the stamps stick together too badly?

Toodbye, I kiss you with all my heart.

Your father and friend

Alex. (Alexander) de Clouet