

1856
May 7

PERSONAL LETTER from Henriette St. Clair in St. Martinville,
to her nephew, Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Louisiana College in Convent, La.
May 7, 1856

My dear friend,

You must have thought I was very indifferent as I often received letters from you without answering them. Well, don't you believe it, dear friend. If I did not answer right away it is because I used the little free time I had to write to St. Clair (Jean Baptiste). I also wrote to Noemie and as I know you, I was not afraid it would make you interrupt our correspondance as you know what pleasure your letters give me and how happy I would be if Paul (your brother) was willing to follow your example in often giving me news from you. You asked me if I had a good time. Being in mourning for this poor old one, no, I went nowhere but I amused myself in my family. When we were alone in the evenings the little girls played jokes. Marie and Nathalie especially made me be convulsed with laughter when they played their comedies, the only one lacking was Gilbert dancing a masurka and the fun would have been complete. I thought that Louison would have come to town or gone to the bank of the river but I see that we must now expect that visit any longer. St. Clair wrote to me that Declouet (your father) was about to come to the city. I am waiting for him with impatience, I do wish to see him. I think that you will come to town with him. I would not have been able to go to the college this year to see you as I had no one to accompany me. I did not want to disturb my uncle. Tato tells you that he kisses you and Paul and that he acts as a clown in a little circus. Every one here wants to be remembered to you, you are not forgotten. I kiss you with all my heart and beg you to believe in the affection of your devoted friend, Henriette St. Clair

Handwritten in French. In 1980 original owned by Mrs. Marty Sims of Nederland, Texas.

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

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(1856)
June 27

PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet at Sacred Heart Convent
in Grand Coteau, La., to her brother, Paul Declouet at Louisiana College in
Convent, La.

Grand Coteau, June 27, (1856)

My dear brother,

The reason I did not answer your letter sooner is because I had no stamped envelopes, but now that Papa (Alexander Declouet) has sent me some, I shall answer all your letters. Tell Alexander (our brother) that I thank him very much for what he sent me. I am sure that you will be almost jealous when you know that I went to spend a few days at home. It was to have my teeth fixed. Anyway, I saw Papa and Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) and I had a good time with my little sisters and when I returned to the convent I was very sensible and I did not cry. Goodbye, my dear Paul. Papa and Mama and my dear little sisters are feeling well. I hope that you will answer my letter right away.

Your little sister who loves you with all her heart,

Blanche Declouet

P. S. Kiss for my my good brother Alexander.

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