

1856
June 28.

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

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

St. Martinville

June 28, 1856

My dear Clouet (Alexander)

Upon my return from the city last Tuesday (the 24th) I found

Letter
by
Alexander
de Clouet
to his son
Alexander
at Louisi-
ana Col-
lege.

your letter of the 10th of this month which gave me so much pleasure be-
cause I have seen in you a return of sentiments which are more moderate
and more reasonable. I must tell you, however, that I was very unhappy
over the long delay in your reply to me. After what happened it was your
duty to write us right away to soften the grief and to calm the anxiety
which your conduct towards Mr. Dufau and me caused us. As you ex-
press to me your regrets for having acted the way you did and I comfort
myself in believing that you are sincere, you must think that I ask nothing
more than to forget all that happened; on condition, however, that your
conduct in the future will give us more satisfaction than in the past, and
when I speak of conduct I include all that goes with it; studies, applica-
tion, constant attendance, etc., etc. You did not speak of having taken
steps of submission and conciliation toward Mr. Dufau which you owe
him, not only to him, but to yourself, if you really regret what you did.
As soon as one recognizes his errors, my dear son, what is best and
more deserving to do, is to do all in one's power to repair them, frankly
and loyally. Far from humbling himself or humiliating himself one rises
up not only in his own esteem, but also in others. Mr. Dufau has been
very good to me and to you and Paul, and you can't have forgotten that
for both of you have told me this very often. I could then never be able
to support for one instant the idea that you lack the regard and recogni-

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Cont'd.

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tion which you owe him by not doing all that you can to make him also forget what happened.

I do not believe it is necessary to go on more on this subject, but if you really want to make us happy, if you are interested in your future, if you care to enter the world not exposed to the most bitter and cruel humiliations to your self respect, if you don't want to make me blush, if you don't want to be classed among the fools and the ignoramus, if you wish to occupy an honorable and useful position in society, if you are proud of the name you bear, all that I can tell you is that it is necessary for you to change in every way and for every reason. You must shake off your laziness. You must work and work seriously and conscientiously. You must study because you like it and not because you are forced. On these conditions, my dear son, all will be based. Fill them faithfully and I will ask nothing better than that I will never speak to you about what has happened (as you request).

One more word and I will be finished on this subject. I have no proof, but I guess and I sense that your sudden aversion for the college and your bad conduct, come from bad examples and bad advice-- and I will add even correspondence with students who left the college dishonorably. If this is the case, my son, and I believe that it is, you can't be too much on your guard-- and if you wish to believe me, I recommend that you stop this correspondence. I will speak to you of this in more detail later. Not to end: I wish, besides, that if you have not yet had a discussion with Mr. Dufau that you go find him and make your peace with him, without false shame and without mental reservation. You must not hesitate to show this letter to Paul as well as all the ones I write you.

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My advice and my instructions are always for both of you, and I want him to take his share.

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Your dear mother has received your two letters and will answer you soon.

My trip to the city was only for three or four days (from the 19th to the 22nd of this month) and I regretted not having been able to go see you. But my business did not permit it. I had the pleasure of taking Claire with me, and she is now with us for a few weeks. Blanche is still here, but she is better and in a few days we will send her back to the convent. Christine has been sick and is so thin she is pitiful. She is better these last few days. Gabrielle is not well either. She has had fever since yesterday, but I hope it won't amount to anything. Upon my arrival with Claire, I had the pleasure to find your uncle and Mimi at the house. They spent several days with us. Noemi's little (Denis (?)) is very sick. We haven't had any news since day before yesterday.

Nothing else new. As for the rest, all goes well on the farm. I am making lots of bricks and the crops are very good and very clean. The worms are causing much damage to the young corn and to the cane.

Goodbye; write to us more often. Your mother, your sisters, and Claire join me in embracing you with affection and love.

Your father and sincere friend

Alex (Alexandre de Clouet)

P. S. Enclosed \$10.