

1856
July 11

PERSONAL LETTER from Henrietta Lebreton St. Clair to
Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Louisiana College in Convent, La.

July 11, 1856

My dear Clouet

It is only Monday morning, the 6th that I received your letter and Paul's (your brother) one, the mail goes so poorly now that we get only old letters. I am happy to know that you are in good health and have a good time. You gave a real concert at Mr. Ferry's and I am sure that he is not the one who sang the least. As you said, it is too bad that Grandmother was not present, she who likes so much to sing and hear people singing. When you write to her tell her that I am expecting her. I have trained all my servants and even the field Negro to do the cooking and in my house from morning to night one is busy in the kitchen. It is amusing to see my troop of cooks' helpers. From what you told me you expect to be a ladies' escort when you come here for the vacations therefore, you will be two to judge my dancing. Please, Clouet and even you Mr. Gilbert, listen to Mrs. Chevalier relating her trip with A dou dou Jacob, it will be so amusing. What a pleasure! Keep writing to me, whatever the length of your letters is, they never fail to give me a great pleasure and I shall answer them as much as I can. Try to study well up to the vacations in order to please your Papa (Alexander Declouet). We are expecting you mother (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) today or tomorrow, aunt Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) went to your mother's last Sunday and brought Claire back to her house; Claire had fever yesterday. Louison came to take back Ninise (Blanche, your sister) to the convent (Sacred Heart). Every one feels well here at aunt Tonton's home except Tali and Louis.

3. FAVROT
LECTION

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(con't.)

You asked me to tell you if there were many mistakes in your long letter, it is embarrassing but with you I will act frankly as I want you to do with me. You had the mistakes one makes when writing very fast but you would not make when writing carefully, that is all, but you neglect your penmanship, as I do, it is not good as a pretty handwriting is becoming to a man.

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

Your uncle (Jean Baptist Benoit, my husband) went fishing to catch fish so I can abstain from meat. They bite well, he is hoping to catch perches. Henri (my brother) is still occupied teasing my mockingbirds, he thinks and dreams only of that. Parking places have been set near us. It is there the marking (of the animals) will take place. I shall often go to the park.

Goodbye, my dear Clouet, I embrace you with all my heart.

Henriette St. Clair