

1856  
July 11

PERSONAL LETTER from Henriette Lebreton St. Clair to her  
nephew, Paul Declouet, at Louisiana College in Convent, La.  
July 11, 1856

My dear Paul,

Your letter surprised me pleasantly the other day. I find that you have made a great deal of progress since the vacations. It is with pleasure that I read the description of your little concert, it is too bad that you did not sing, you have a pretty voice and they would have overlooked a few little mistakes. I am happy to see that you do not forget me even when you find yourself among other people far from us. You are very lucky to have rain over there, the dry weather is beginning to worry me. We are expecting your mother (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) today or tomorrow, with your little sisters. She is going to bring Ninise (Blanche, your sister) back to the convent (Sacred Heart). Claire had fever at Aunt Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) home, she was suffering yesterday. She is disappointed to have come here for a good time and to be ill. I saw your favorite dog, your horses, finally everything. All your animals were very fat. It is too bad that you won't be here for the marking at the end of this month or the beginning of August.

Your uncle (Jean Baptist Benoit, my husband) is asking me to send you his greetings. Henri (my brother) is saying that he wants to run a race with you during the vacations, his horse against a mare.

Goodbye, I kiss you with all my affection.

Your aunt,

Henriette St. Clair

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