

1856
Aug. 6

PERSONAL LETTER from Henriette St. Clair to her nephew,
Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Louisiana College in Convent, La.
August 6, 1856

My dear Clouet,

I have received a letter from you the day before yesterday and I am answering right away to tease you. So, you already have some little secrets, am I right? You will have to tell all that to Father Jan when you come for the vacations. He is going to give you a good scolding that you deserve. Your uncle (Jean Baptiste Benoit, my husband) wants you to excuse him if he has not answered you right away. First, he was busy, he had to go to the meadows where they finished to mark (the animals) then he had some visitors here. We had two young ladies who know you well and are anxious to see you and Paul (your brother). You may be able to see them during the vacations as they will leave only in September. What a pleasure! But I was going to give myself away and reveal their names (guess if you can). Anyway, they are going to write you a few words at the end of this page:

Good day, Clouet, guess who is writing to you. Do you give up?
Greetings to Paul, he will guess better than you (Lali's mark) X .
Gentlemen, hurry up here and you will know who is writing to you /
(Bece's mark).

You see that I know how to get revenge when one has little secrets for me. Tato sings at the top of his voice, he is sending you thousands kisses. Your uncle and I are happy to see that you are going to study well up to the time of the vacations. Courage and keep your good resolutions. Excuse my scribbling. The young ladies who are here, you uncle and Henri (my brother) join me to send you a thousand friendly greetings, Affectionately yours,

Henriette St. Clair

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