

1856
Aug. 18.

LETTER written this date at St. Martinville by Alexandre deClouet to the Louisiana College at Convent, La.

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

St. Martinville
August 18, 1856

Gentlemen and Friends

Letter
written
by
Alexander
deClouet
to
Louisiana
College.

I have just returned from St. Mary parish and I have time to reply hastily to your letter of the 16th of this month which I received upon my arrival. I am like you deeply distressed by the horrible misfortune which has brought mourning and desolation to almost all the families of the area and of our community in general. It is very sad, and heart-breaking to see the pain and the distress of our poor friends of St. Mary Parish. I left my aunt's house this morning and I left Carlos, who had arrived the day before, there with them. I suppose that you have received the new and more details via the R. R. so promptly that I believe it is not necessary to give them to you. I learned before leaving nevertheless that the body of that poor Adrien and that of his wife had been found and that the sea was washing up a great many on the island. It was said also that Mr. T. Mills, Sr., Hilatre and one of the Messrs. Muggah who were believed lost were saved and rescued at Grand Caillou. But let us speak of the voyage of my young people. If the city continues to enjoy the same health until the students leave you can let them come. Otherwise, please give them the necessary instructions to get off the boat at Mr. Meyronne's. In this case I believe it will still be better to address their trunks to the city and you can ship them on later. If they go by the city I want them to leave right away no matter what the schedule of the Orion is -- even if this does not fall conveniently. They could always take the Franklin boat and from there rent a carriage and horses to take them to LaClaire.

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Cont'd.

Please send this letter to my children as well as the money they will need for the trip.

It is late and I must get my letter on board.

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

Sincerely,

Alex. (Alexandre) de Clouet

Note: No description of major Gulf Coast hurricanes can fail to mention the great "Last Island" (Ile Derniere) hurricane of August 10th-11th, 1856. Last Island was a resort and beach area about 40 miles south of Houma, La. It boasted of hotels, cottages, businesses, and steamboat transportation. The daily Picayune of August 17th, 1856 state "Not a single building withstood the storm. The loss of property is immense, amount to \$100,000.00. The loss of baggage belonging to visitors, amounts to at least \$5,000.00 and besides about \$10,000.00 in money on those who were drowned, which was nearly all recovered by a set of pirates who inhabit the island. The bodies of those recovered have invariably been robbed by these men."

The final tally showed about 400 persons lost their lives in this hurricane.

Original written in French and on file at Tulane University.
Translated by Tulane University, November 1968.