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1857
Feb. 13

PERSONAL LETTER from Benoit St. Clair in Lafayette Parish, to
his nephew, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia
Lafayette Parish, February 13, 1857

My dear Paul,

The day before yesterday, I received your letter from the last
January 30th. I am answering today so that mine can leave with tomorrow
mail. Keep up writing to us often, when I have no time to write, Mimi will
do it for me.

By the same mail as your letter, I received Clouet's (Alexander,
your brother) letter dated January 28. Your letter, dear boy, gave me the
greatest pleasure and I am glad that you told me that your classes require
strong studies. I shall tell you to be always stronger than they are and do
you know what is necessary for that? Nothing but hard work. You are robust
enough for this, if you work well, it seems to me that within two years at
the latest you could enter the University. I wish Henry were two years older,
(Henriette Lebreton Benoit, my wife)
I would send him to you. Some one wrote to Mimi, /announcing that her
brother will soon leave for the University where he will be on familiar
grounds, thanks to Clouet.

Goodbye, my dear son, I kiss you as I love you, that is to say with
all my heart,

Your uncle,

Benoit St. Clair

(Henri, my son)

P. S. Mimi and Tato/kiss you also, write to Mimi.

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