

1857
Feb. 18

PERSONAL LETTER from J. B. Lalaine at Georgetown College in Washington, D. C., to his friend, Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Brookland Academy in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

Georgetown College, February 18, 1857

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

My dear Alexander,

The first prefect gave me your charming letter at noon when I was having dinner. I almost read it all at once but when I came to the part which describes the way they hacked these poor negroes' bodies, I almost vomited. I assure you that I closed the letter quickly and that I reread it only after I had finished eating.

You say that you will bring Paul (your brother) there as soon as you can. It would not be too careful to act thus since he is so disgusted about this. You told me that some of these corpses had been buried for three months when the resurrectionists (body snatchers) dug them out and sent them away to a Medical School. You must have had some perfume or at least some chloroform to offset the odor which must be all over the dissecting room. Enough about this subject. Luckily for me I do not intend to study medicine as I would have to overcome too many difficulties to reach my goal.

You are inviting me to join you on a tour through New England. If I was able to go home every other year as you can do, I would not find a better occasion to have a good time, but think that I must remain here until my graduation. Naturally, I do all that I can to finish as soon as possible.

After the 22nd (George Washington's birthday) that we will celebrate only on Monday because it falls on a Sunday I shall tell you all that happened during that time at the College of Georgetown. In exchange, do the same for me. For some time I have not heard from home. I hope that all of them are

1857 in perfect health. When you write home, don't forget to offer my greetings.

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(con't.) The 4th of March is coming, I hope that bad weather will not bring an obstacle to your visit and particularly to the inauguration of James Buchanan (President elect).

. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

Friendly regards to the young men and especially to Paul and do not take him to see what you had planned.

Your friend,

J. B. Lalaine