

1857
Feb. 26

PERSONAL LETTER from J. de Parada at Spring Hill in Alabama,
to his friend, Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Brookland Academy in Greenwood
Depot, Virginia.

Spring Hill, February 26, 1857

J. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

Very dear Alexander,

I have received your kind letter and did not know that from the burn-
ing sun of Louisiana you sunk into the ice of Virginia. The contrast must have
seemed to you quite vivid especially to Paul (your brother) who probably had
never seen as much snow. I had heard that you had gone to Georgetown in the
month of October and every day I was expecting to hear from you. If I had
known that you were home I would have flooded you with letters, at least in
order to receive some from you, I am so fond of receiving your pretty letters.
Therefore, do not fail to write to me often. If you need some things from
home in case your letters would be lost, let me know about it as I often see
here friends from New Orleans, then nothing would be easier.

For a month we have enjoyed a very warm temperature and to prove
it to you I am sending you some flowers abundant in our woods and that without
any doubt you do not have yet in your climate. One does not know what to
foresee, this heat is premature and one fears diseases for this year.

I think that you see in the newspapers political news of the South.
Furthermore there is nothing at the present time. The other day, we celebrated
here with great noise the feast of February 22nd (George Washington's birthday)
We had a big crowd who came from Mobile to hear our beautiful music. Beside
the brass band I made up this year a magnificent orchestra: violins, clarinets,
flutes, etc., etc., which enchanted everybody. I am sending you one of the
articles published in the Mobile newspapers.

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(con't.)

Spring Hill college goes on increasing every day new pupils arrive. How pleased I would have been to see you here with them and to see you every day. I am sure that you would have liked our place a great deal.

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

Farewell, beloved friend. When you write home, offer my respects to your Papa (Alexander Declouet) and your Mamma (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) and kiss Paul for me. You are going to become a Yankee over there and you are going to forget beautiful Louisiana! But no, dear, since you still remember your best friend who is still very fond of you,

J. de Parada

NOTE: Spring Hill College was founded in 1830 by Michael Portier, first bishop of a newly formed diocese that included all of Alabama and much of Florida. A young seminarian named Beroujon designed and supervised construction of the building, accommodating the Tuscan style of architecture to the severely hot and humid climate of south Alabama. His original building was a three-storied brick building, 72 feet in length, with a handsome colonade of eight pillars covering the entrance to the south facade. Sixty students and the school's faculty moved in the still incomplete building in May of 1831, with Father Mathias Loras as first president of the college.

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