

1857
March 8.

PERSONAL LETTER written this date at Attakapas by
Charles Delhomme to Alexander deClouet at Brookland School (a school
for boys at Greenwood Depot, Va.).

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

Attakapas

March 8, 1857

Mr. Alex. (Alexander) deClouet

My dear friend

Letter
by
Charles
Delhomme
to
Alexander
deClouet
at
Brookland
School,
Virginia.

I received lately your charming letter of February 20; I
note with pleasure that you still think of us. I hasten to send you a reply
and to let you know the news of the area, for I am not unaware that when
one is far from his parents, his friends and the place of his birth, one
always finds infinite pleasure in hearing about them. The smallest de-
tails concerning them become interesting and the chatter which in other
circumstances is almost an unforgivable fault becomes then a quality
almost unappreciated. I must tell you first that it will be necessary to
make an unheard of effort of the imagination to find news for you; you
know that monotony reigns here as sovereign, and only an excess of dis-
traction is certainly not the corpse for which we must reproach ourselves.
But I must stop this chapter, for you will be able to hear me say that I be-
lieve myself to be transported to the middle of a Thebaide and somehow
to say that at least if solitude has at times its disadvantages it also has
its good points at times -- which justifies up to a certain point the old
proverb that each thing has always its good and its bad sides.

I will begin by telling you what I think would interest you the
most. Several days ago your Dad, your mother spent the night here with
Christine and Gabrielle on their way to Grand Coteau. Ninise spent the
night with them, the nuns this time were not too severe. They had a

1857
Mar. 8.

T. D. FAVROT
COLLECTION

wonderful time on the trip. Gabrielle was delighted. She is still the same, always sweet and very talkative. Aunt Tonton's trip seems to have done her some good. She should do this more often, but the hardest part is to make up her mind to go. St. Clair and his wife will have dinner with us today; they are all well down below at the moment. St. Clair is talking of going to the city soon, but the date of his departure has not been set. Mrs. St. Clair is to be the godmother for Mr. Paul and your father the godfather. I don't know when the baptism will take place; probably soon. We are still hauling cane for seed; we will finish hauling them tomorrow which will mean that we will have planted about 20 arpents so I hope next year to have a good crop. Aunt Tonton has finally decided to start planting cane, and I believe that she will earn a great deal from it. We shall start right after to make bricks and also this year we will erect the machinery for a saw mill. The cane which has been planted is already coming up, and if we can judge by the present appearance it will be a good crop.

In your letter you sound a bit disgusted with life at school; you must take courage and double your courage. At the end of a few years when you will have finished your studies you will again see your family and your home with infinite pleasure. Remember these lines from the writer of fables: Patience and length of time bring greater results than faith and courage.

I will try in my letters to keep you up to date of all that happened here. This is all for now. I have nevertheless forgotten to tell you of the weather which has the right, I believe, to be part of the chapter because of the metamorphosis which it has taken. For more

1857
Mar. 8,
Cont'd.

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

than two weeks we had truly warm spring days, so much so that we got to the point of already thinking of putting on summer clothes, but for several days now it has been freezing cold and the trees which were all in leaf and covered with flowers could easily lose them all and not produce any fruits.

Our greetings to you and Paul and I beg you to believe in the sincere affection of

Your devoted friend

Charles Delhomme