

1857
Mar. 12

PERSONAL LETTER from Benoit St. Clair in Vermillionville, to his
nephew Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
March 12, 1857

My dear Paul,

I received yesterday your letter of February 27 and I assure you that
it is always with a new pleasure that I hear from you, I only would desire to
hear more often.

Mimi (Henriette Lebreton St. Clair, my wife) and I thank you for
(Henri, my son)
your good intentions regarding Tato, / should I send him to join you in a few
years, we were sure in advance that your kind heart would prompt you to be
for him an older brother.

For some time, we have not spoken to Mimi any more about her
brother Henri's departure for Virginia. If it was not for the distance from
his family, she would be delighted to see him near you, you would prevent
him from being homesick as you say. I warn you not to let yourself being
caught by this sickness, it is the worst of all.

The weather is frigid today, there was some ice this morning.
Henry is near me at the present time. He wants me to tell you that he is
kissing you and breaking your neck. Mimi wants me to send you her friendly
greetings. As ever, your uncle who loves you,

Benoit de St. Clair

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