

1857
Apr. 3

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexandre Declouet, to his son,
Alexandre Declouet, Jr., at Brookland Academy in Greenwood Depot,
Virginia.

April 3, 1857

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

My dear son,

A few hurried lines to let you know that all is well. I hardly have time to eat these days, we have at this moment 20 workmen, all living in the old house. The bridge will be finished in 10 or 12 days. The windmill is in operation and is very useful. One has started today to lay the foundations for the refinery, part of it having arrived. I expect the rest to come soon. The canes grow well, the corn is coming up and on the whole we can expect good crops. Vegetation is ahead at the present time our trees are perfectly beautiful. Your mamma wrote to Paul (Declouet) not long ago. Christine (your sister) is suffering just now with a heavy cold and she almost choked on a plum seed. She gave us a great scare but I think she is going to be alright.

I have so much to tell you and so little time that I will have to cut it short this time in order to get it in the mail. When we cannot write we shall send you the "Courrier du Teche" and it will always mean that everything is all right.

I will write in a few days to Mr. Dinwiddie.

Have courage, work hard and conduct yourself like a gentleman and everything will be for the best, and let me know all about your studies. Goodbye I kiss you with all my heart.

Alexandre Declouet

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