

1857  
July 4

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

St. Martinville, July 4, 1857

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

My dear Clouet,

A few lines only as an answer to your last letter of June 23  
received on July 1. I regret I have not sent you enough money once for all.  
But it is your fault, you should have let me know. I believe you had some  
left out of what I gave you when you left. From now on, we should have an  
understanding on that matter. I have numerous and heavy payments this  
year and with a crop which failed last year it is necessary to cut down one's  
expenses and not be extravagant.

I just wrote to Mr. D. de T. to send you another \$150. This will  
amount in all to \$850 since the last December 25! I do not mention this to  
reproach you for having spent too much but in order to attract your attention  
and give you the habit to be careful and keep an orderly account of your  
little financial transactions.

It is better to buy over there the clothes you need (with the exceptio  
perhaps of linen shirts).

My principle is never let any one wait for my payment. Therefore,  
I am repeating this: as much as possible, pay cash and to be able to do so  
you should manage to inform me ahead of time of your needs.

You spoke to me about Mr. Urquart's gracious invitation for you to  
spend part of your vacations on his property. But you did not tell me where  
it is, at what distance and what is the way to get there. You must have  
enough tact to find out or guess if it is an invitation you can properly accept

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and also to know the proper length of time you should spend in his home. Within such conditions I have no objection and you should not fail to thank Mr. Urquhart for me for his amiable attention and his kindness toward you. As to the remainder of your vacations, as you already have acquaintances in Washington, it seems to me that it would be more pleasant and more profitable to go there rather than elsewhere. However, if this can be done, I must tell you that I prefer to know you are in the countryside rather than in a big city. Be always careful when you travel.

I have to send my letter to the Post Office and it is impossible for me to write to you any longer. My work is progressing and the crop is rather promising. Your dear Mama has been rather sick for the last two weeks, but, thank God, she has been feeling better since the day before yesterday. Your little sisters are in good health and always very nice and amusing. They often speak about you. Tonton who remained here all the time of your mother's sickness is going home today, but as your Mother is still very weak, she intends to come back. She had a very strong hemorrhage but it was more alarming than really dangerous.

Goodbye, be good, sensible and careful. Write to us often and receive our most tender thoughts.

Your father and sincere friend,

Alexandre Declouet