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Aug. 26

PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet at Sacred Heart Academy in Grand Coteau, to her brother, Alexander Declouet at Brookland Academy in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

Grand Coteau, August 26, 1857

My dear Alexander,

I have received with the greatest pleasure your long letter from August 9, however, I have also been very sad seeing that you have not had the happiness yet to enter a Catholic church and that Paul (our brother) has not made his First Communion yet, no doubt, he will not make it since there is no church near enough for you to go there two or three times a month. I wish God would grant you some graces as the ones he grants me daily. Not only, I have the happiness to hear mass every Sunday but even every day. Moreover, good instructions fortify my good principles given by Papa (Alexander Declouet) and Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) in what concerns religion. Sundays are not boring for us at all, we have the same amusements as on the other days. But why should I speak to you thus, it will only increase your sorrow. I will tell you only this: take courage and do not forget God, always say your prayers and if you cannot go to church it would be better to let Papa know about this perhaps he might send you to another college where you would be able to practice your religion. But I shall say like you; let us change this subject.

Our vacations will begin on September 15. Everyday I count how many weeks are left, we have only three weeks. These three weeks will pass very fast, as we soon will have our examinations. We already have started reviewing and doing compositions. The college's vacations have started on the 22 of this month. The ladies (Sacred Heart Nuns) have allowed

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several of the students to attend the College's commencement, but only the ones who have brothers in the college.

I don't know if Paul has received my letter as I wrote to him some time ago. Tell him to answer me. I have just received a letter from Mimi (Henriette Lebreton Benoit, our aunt). She told me that she has been sick for a month. She is expecting Mrs. Ganucheau and Mr. Edmond and one of his sisters. She said that Malakoff (plantation) will look very festive and that her little house is crowded. She said that for a long time she has seen neither Papa nor Mama but that she often hears about them. They are all very well.

Goodbye, dear Alexander, I cannot write any longer, I am going to answer Mimi. Kiss Paul for me.

Your sister who will love you all her life,

Blanche Declouet

B. FAVROT  
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