

1857
Oct. 14.

PERSONAL LETTER written this date by Henriette de St. Clair to Alexander de Clouet at Brookland School (a school for boys at Greenwood Depot, Virginia).

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

Lafayette Parish

October 14, 1857

Dear Clouet (Alexander)

Letter
written
by
Henriette
de St. Clair
to
Alexander
de Clouet

In spite of my good intentions to answer your two sweet letters giving me news of Charlo, I have not been able to answer sooner. It's first one thing then another; our home is a hospital; I am more often in bed than up. All the servants are sick and the other negroes, too. I've never seen such a thing. I was forced to use Maria as the cook. Day before yesterday Victoire had a child which lived only a few hours. That's the third one she's lost. It made me very sorry; she's very sick. You know that my dear mother died October 5. You have no idea what a void there is in my life. She had asked me to write you to thank you for having written about Charles in one of your letters. She loved Charles so much. She would tell me that as long as he was near it seemed to her that she loved him as much as the others, but since he's been gone, she loved him more because she was worried about him. She was relieved about his absence when she learned that Charles was getting used to it over there. She asked you to take care of him the way you do Paul and to kiss him for her. She sent you her best wishes. You have no idea how you as well as Paul have won the heart of my uncle Edmond because you have been so kind to his son. He wrote in a letter to Mother that you had offered to share your room with Charlie, a gesture so natural that he was mute and that that had made him decide to leave his poor Charlie whom he was on the point of bringing back to the city because he hated so much

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to be separated from him. Mr. Noe's son was here Sunday; he slept here. He had some holidays and had come to spend those few days here with his parents. He is always the same. It is said that he will marry Miss Wagaman. That is all I know; he himself didn't talk about it. Your mother is supposed to leave today to go down below. Mr. Noé will accompany her there. Aunt Tonton has been very ill. She has had fever for several days and her servants were sick also, but they are better. I am all alone here with St. Claire and Henry who has a cold. Mamma and Ceci left on the 5th. They wrote me when they arrived in the city. They had the good fortune to see the arrival of my uncle on the day following their arrival. They are still at Yeyette's. My uncle's house had just been painted and the odor of the paint is so strong that it would make them sick if they stayed. You must know that Mr. Florent Fortier lost one of his little twins. Tell Charles that Ries, Nathalie and George are very fat according to what Mamma tells me. Give a big kiss to Paul and Charles for us. Your uncle asked me to send you his regards and begs you to kiss Paul and Charles for him. Tato says that he _____

Goodbye dear Clouet. I kiss you with all my heart.

Your devoted

Henriette de St. Clair

Everyone is well at your house.

Original written in French and on file at Tulane University.
Translated by Tulane University, November 1968.