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1857
Oct. 20 PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville to her
brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, October 20, 1857

My dear Paul,

At last, to finish my relation of our trip I shall tell you, with sorrow that on the Saturday we went to Aunt Phemie we arrived to see the death of one of Fanny's little daughters, the oldest. I think that you knew her. Her name was Mathilde. Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) saw her dying, she is the one who closed her eyes. I assure you that it was very sad for us as we had danced the day before she died. We did not know that she was so ill as we had been told that she was much better. Afterwards we spent a little while at Aunt Phemie's then we left to return here sooner than we had expected. We left because Mama wanted to attend the funeral which took place on Sunday at 11 o'clock. Well, dear Paul, let us change the subject. I think that you will read the letter I am writing to Quaite (Alexander, our brother). I relate to him all the evening parties prepared for us. It is Marceline that Mama had brought to the lower Bayou. She sends greetings to you and tells you that during all those parties she thought only of you because you would have had such a good time.

The little girl you told me, through Quaite, to greet, wrote to me. She wants me to send you her greetings. She is anxious to get acquainted with you.

You shall tell Quaite to excuse my handwriting and my spelling because I am writing these letters in a hurry. Mama wants to mail them right away. You, also, excuse me. You asked me for the name of Hortense's child and godfather and godmother. His name is Edgard, his godfather and godmother are you and Gabie (Gabrielle, our sister) because Gabie was so anxious that

1857 she was allowed to be godmother, although she is so little.

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(con't.)

Goodbye, dear Paul, all the family joins me to kiss you. Old
Quinne, old Rosette, Mirthe, Marceline, Hortense, Pamela, Zephyre, Lyse,
Charlotte and Francise want to be remembered to you.

Again goodbye,

Your sister who loves you with all her heart,

Blanche Declouet