

1857
Dec. 21

PERSONAL LETTER from J. de Parada in Spring Hill, Alabama
to his friend, Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Brookland School in Greenwood
Depot, Virginia.

Spring Hill December 21, 1857

B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

My very dear Alexander,

Here I am, back from my immense voyage and the first thing when arriving is to write to you to inquire about you. I don't know if you have received my letters from Havana, from Jamaica, from Mexico etc., as I have not received any answer. I hope that from now on I shall be compensated by receiving often some of your charming missives.

What shall I tell you about a five month trip? I shall tell you that I saw frightful countries and magnificent countries; that I travelled through awful woods, over terrible mountains, horrible precipices, subject to all possible dangers and that I was lucky enough to return safe and sound.

You will tell me that I am insane to travel thus, I shall answer you that you are right, but, dear friend, there is in me a fever for travelling, for seeking adventures in forests, in cragged mountains. Oh! It is so poetical, so romantic to enjoy the sight of beautiful landscapes, of those bottomless abysses as one finds in Mexico's picturesque mountains. Then, one feels inexpressible sensations, a pleasure that cannot be imagined. Ah! What a good time we would have had if you had been with me! Jamaica is very pretty, there are there Creole families of Santo Domingo, excellent and worthy people. I did not stop there long. Finally, I find myself in the United States and for a long time, I will not start on a trip.

I think, my beloved Alexander, that you are still in good health, and also friend Paul (your brother) and your dear family. I believe that you must

1857 find time very long being thus separated from you dear Papa (Alexander
Dec. 21 Declouet) and your dear Mamma (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) and your good
(con't.) little sister (Christine). Tell me if she has recovered from her distressing
FAVROT accident. When you write to them, offer them my affectionate respect.
SECTION

I have not yet heard anything new in this part of the country.

Business is bad this year as everywhere.

Goodbye, very dear Alexander. Write to me as soon as possible so
that I have the pleasure to receive again one of those pretty letters I have not
received for so long. Kiss Paul (your brother) for me and receive all the
affection of your best friend,

J. de Parada