

1858  
Jan. 11

PERSONAL LETTER from Claire Nee in New Orleans, to her  
cousin, Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Brookland Academy in Greenwood Depot,  
Virginia.

New Orleans, January 11, 1858

B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

My dear Clouet,

I should have answered your last letter a long time ago. Finally, I thought that if I had been neglectful in '57, I should make up for it at the beginning of this year, so, I seized my pen and here I am talking with you.

My letter certainly would afford more pleasure if I had fresh news to give you about your dear parents. I am able to tell you that they are in good health, it is already a great deal. Their cane cutting season has been over for some time, so I have been told.

What kind of weather have you in Virginia? Although you predicted we would have snow in Louisiana because your mother (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) took a walk as far as the lower part of the Bayou, you have not been a good prophet. The opposite happened; winter has been completely absent, with the exception of three or four frosts which, unfortunately, have damaged the young canes in the month of December, but we did not have any cold weather a fire is hardly necessary.

This winter is rather dull, business is not good, so the theater is not much visited and there are very few evening parties. Money is so rare that no one is busy having a good time.

I do not know if Caroline (my sister) answered you. I went to see her during the cane cutting season. I was at her home when she received your letter which gave her a great pleasure. She is so busy that you can excuse her if she has not written to you yet.

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(con't.)

Stanislaus (Caroline Landry's, my sister, son) is still at the Jesuit Fathers' school. He studies well, is now in the 5th grade and has started Latin.

Farewell, my dear cousin, do not follow my bad example, let me hear from you. Remember me to Paul (your brother), ask him if this year he will not give me the pleasure to write to me?

All the family is in good health and asked me to kiss you.

Your affectionate cousin,

Claire Nee

P. S. Victorine offers you her respects; she is getting married any day with Leonard, the house servant.

I. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION