

1858

Jan. 31. ,

PERSONAL letter written to Alexander DeClouet by B. Parain
in Springhill (Mobile, Ala.)

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

Springhill January 31, 1858

Dear Alexander

I received your dear friendly letter which gave me an enjoyable moment of pleasure of conversing again with you. It had been so long since I had had news from you. I learned with pleasure that you are still well, and Paul, and your dear family too, and that you continue still to work well. You are right, my very dear friend, work, learn about all branches of modern education, take advantage of your youth in order to reap the fruits later on by occupying a rank worthy of you in your dear country. A young man owes all to his country; he should work only for its glory, and if he truly loves his country he will be happy because this love will always let him acquire new knowledge useful to the happiness of his nation and this knowledge will give him an idea of the beauty, the right, and of justice, and by conforming his conduct to the rules of his conscience, he will find in the accomplishment of his tasks a noble happiness, grand, and more delicious than all possible pleasures. Work, then, always, beloved Alexander, and you will receive the compensation later.

There is no great news from our South. The financial crisis is making everyone suffer, however, business seems to be improving a little; cotton is steadily going up. We haven't had any cold weather yet this winter. I don't suppose that that is the case in your mountains. By contrast, we have had a great deal of rain, and a horrible storm in New Orleans, which lasted many hours, caused a great deal of harm and many

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persons have died. There have been no illnesses this year in New Orleans, I am told; it is to be hoped that this will continue. The Opelousas railroad is still going forward, I believe. Here everything is going along the same way. I still have endless lessons at the college and outside for the young girls. I am making lots of money, that's what is important. Terry is very well. He sends you his greetings and will not delay writing to you. We have here all the young Creoles from New Orleans, all good children. We often have _____ of good fellowship together.

Goodbye, dear Alexander; I am obliged to leave you. Kiss Paul for me, and give my greetings to your good parents. Goodbye, I remain your best friend.

B. Parain

The original written in French and on file at Tulane University.
Translated under the direction of Tulane University, January 1969.