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1858  
Feb. 20 PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet at Sacred Heart Convent  
in Grand Coteau, La., to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in  
Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

Grand Coteau, February 20, 1858

Dear Paul,

For a long time, I have been expecting a letter from you, but not receiving it, I am making up my mind to write to you. I wrote to Alexander (our brother) lately. Tell him to answer me as for a rather long time, I have not heard from you. I hope that you also will answer me. Next week, Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) will send me my clothes. I shall try to write to you in order to give you news from home. The last ones I have received were good. Can you believe that Papa (Alexander Declouet) did not come to see me a single time. Mama came once, I am afraid that this visit will not be renewed often. Monday and Tuesday we had a holiday during the whole afternoon. We had a very good time.

Goodbye, dear Paul, kiss Alexander for me.

Your sister who loves you,

Blanche Declouet

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1858  
Mar. 11

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Sr. in St. Martinville,  
to his son, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.  
St. Martinville, March 11, 1858

My dear Paul,

Although I wrote to Clouet (Alexander, your brother) a few days ago, the idea to give you a pleasant little surprise led me to send you hastily a few lines. We received yesterday your letter to your mother (Louise Benoit Declouet) of February 25 and as your letters are becoming rarer and rarer you can imagine how welcome it was. I find the style of this letter much better but I must tell you that you still have a great deal to do when it comes to spelling. The last letter I wrote to you was so long that there is not much to tell you for some time anyway, I would risk the chance that you would not read my letters entirely if all of them were so long, I even fear that you did not finish reading it. But to return to your letter and your curiosity to know how much P. Briant's property cost and what I am going to do about it I shall tell you that it cost me eleven thousand and five hundred dollars to be paid within three years (\$3833, 33 1/3 a year) and if you want to give me a hundred percent profit it is yours. There is a good house, a warehouse, a kitchen, an orchard, a garden, a chicken coop, etc. - a large enclosed yard and all that to be received from Papa and Mama, well? How do you feel about that?

Your horses are not as fine as when you watched over them, however, they are in good condition. Son rides them to go to the Post Office and it is about all they do. Francis, Pato and Emile are in the enclosed lot and I sent Genssy to the big yard. Josse and Evariste are always in the stable. Old Zidore spends at least three days out of 4 in the hut, the remaining of the time he does his work on horseback. I think that all the mares of La Manade will

1858  
Mar. 11  
(con't.)

have colts this spring for G. Anvil. Fanny T. had on the 6th of this month a very pretty filly with a black mane. The first two colts are very robust. This time, I shall send to Louis Grevemberg's stud-farm. Georgette's two colts are not too bad looking, the older is easy to ride. Georgette is splendid and before long there will be another one.

Last fall, I bought 24 beautiful mules and I sold all the youngest ones and the oldest ones. Farceur is still the best dog in the United States! But he is more mischievous than ever. He and Roland are fighting to death, they cannot stand each other. Roland gave him several good beatings but Farceur never gives up. Cou Blanc is more and more attached to the family, he is very affectionate and everybody spoils him because of Clouet's memory. He is very exacting for his meals and starts an uproar if he is not fed exactly at the usual hour.

I had sent Cairo to Mr. Jo Canard for his training and he was sent back very well trained. I went hunting several times with him and he knows how to bring back the game. We have another young one, his brother, who is very pretty. The little girls who are crazy about him called him Marquis. Here there are, I hope, all the news of all the dogs and cats and also the horses, etc. Your dear mother left yesterday for the (Sacred Heart) convent. At the present time, she must be with Ninise (Blanche, your sister) whom she may bring back if the condition of her health requires it. She did not take along Gabi and Christine (your sisters) who remained with Melanie and myself. She will sleep tonight at Little Uncle's (Jean Baptist Benoit) home and will be here tomorrow morning. I am not going to tell her that I wrote to you so that she will probably write to you also to answer your letter.

1858                      Such is the way my little hastily written letters are! Enough said,  
Mar. 11  
(con't.)      good bye. Christine and Gabi kiss you and I do the same.

Your father and friend,

Alexander Declouet



1858  
March 14.

PERSONAL LETTER written this date at Springhill by J. de  
Paradie to Alexander deClouet at Brookland School, (a school for boys  
at Greenwood Depot, Va.).

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

Springhill  
March 14, 1858

Dear Alexander

Letter  
written  
by J. de  
Paradie  
to  
Alexander  
de Clouet.

I received your good letter a century ago, but I am so busy tha  
I have not been able to find a moment until today to answer you. I sup-  
pose that you are still in good health; Paul, too. I would like to send you  
a little bit of the heat which we are already beginning to feel here in orde  
to warm up that beautiful ice which surrounds you. I guess you already  
know how to ice skate in your snow country and that you are an excellent  
ice skater by now, even though the results cost a few falls, didn't they?  
We don't have this pleasure here, it's a pity.

I suppose that you are up to date on all the news of politics and  
that I can't tell you anything about it. Besides, there isn't very much  
right now except that France and England are making faces at each other.  
Be careful of the bombs if they start hitting each other.

I don't know if you have seen in the papers a very wild story.  
It seems that a French engineer, Mr. Savarin, has found the way to tra-  
vel through the air. It said that he had an air ship built and that he went  
from Paris to Algiers and from Algiers to Paris in 18 hours and that  
soon he will go from LeHavre to New York in 48 hours. He travels 100  
miles per hour. If all this is true, goodbye to distances; we could travel  
around the world in 8 days. That's when I will go see you often.

Goodbye, my dear, charming Alexandre; kiss Paul for me and  
remember that I am devotedly

Your sincere friend

J. de Paradie

1858  
Mar. 16

PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet at Sacred Heart Academy in Grand Coteau, to her brother, Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Brookland Academy in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

Grand Coteau, March 16, 1858

Dear Alexander,

Although I have not heard from you for a long time, I make up my mind to write to you a few lines in order to give you news of our dear family. Mamma (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) and Aunt Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) came to see me Thursday. I had written to Mamma that I had a stomachache, therefore, she came as soon as it was possible as she was worried. She found me changed a great deal. Papa (Alexander Declouet) is coming back next Thursday or the next and if I continue not to feel well perhaps I shall go home to spend a little while.

I told you at the beginning of my letter that I had not heard from you, however a cartoon arrived and it did not take me a minute to figure that it was one of your jokes. I sent it to Mamma and it caused amusement, but I would have preferred to receive a long letter from you instead of that. Papa did not come with Mamma because he was not feeling well. Christine and Gabi (Gabrielle, our sisters) remained with him. I felt sorry not to be able to see them.

Goodbye, dear brother, try to write a little more frequently, kiss Paul (our brother) for me and remember me to Mr. Gilbert when you write to him.

Your sister who loves you,

Blanche Declouet

Handwritten in French. In 1980 original owned by Mrs. Marty Sims of Nederland, Texas.

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1858

PERSONAL LETTER from Louise Declouet in St. Martinville, to her  
Mar. 16 son Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.  
St. Martin parish, March 16, 1858

My dear Paul,

I am coming to let you know that your letter of February 25 arrived and gave us much pleasure because of the progress you made in your handwriting which is better than usual and I find your style better also, although you need to apply yourself. And after all that, I find that both of you are getting very lazy. You do not write to us any longer as often as you used to. I came back from Grand Coteau a few days ago. Ninise (Blanche, your sister) grew a great deal. She is as tall as I am, she is still rather thin. She does not feel too well. I find her quite changed without being sick with the exception of rather frequent stomach pains. She was sad all day long and cried a great deal when I left the convent. I believe she was sure that I was going to take her home for a while but I did not find her sick enough to make her leave the convent. She is too old to make her lose her time. At the bottom of all this, I believe that your dear sister is going through some confusion as it happens often to children. She argues with all the nuns except with Mrs. Martinez who is very kind and obliging to her. Finally, I hope that all this will be over and will let you know as soon as I hear from her. She had already received your duck-billed lady. She mailed it to us and it amused a great deal your little sisters. Christine wants to have it framed to preserve it better. Both feel well and kiss you tenderly. Gabi (Gabrielle, your sister) gave me a big amount of messages for all of you but I have no time today. She sends greetings and tells you that she is so anxious to see both of you. She is still a chatterbox and quite amusing. She constantly speaks about you and is



1858 beginning to count the time from now to your vacations.

Mar. 16  
(con't.)

Mrs. Chevalier de l'Homme has been here since yesterday. She sends her friendly greetings and wishes to see you. Last night we went to see Mr. Godard who does some magic tricks. He made some very puzzling ones. He had an excellent clown who really amused the children. He was supposed to climb in a balloon last Sunday but he gave it up because there was too much wind on that day. They left St. Martinville this morning. He had come in a pretty boat on which one could see white Negroes singing and dancing. On board, there were also two little twin Negresses tied to each other on the side. They sang and did some little tricks. I did not see them but heard that it is quite curious.

I saw Mr. Martin Voorhies last night. He always asks about you, Felix also. He left college and people say that he studies law at St. Martin. I think you have received Papa's (Alexander Declouet) letter to Clouet (Alexander, your brother) and now you must know how you stand about your religion. You are not obliged to attend their prayer services if you don't care. My opinion is that I prefer you do not attend if it is repulsive to you. I see with pleasure, my dear Paul, that you are firmly attached to the Catholic religion in which you were reared and during the vacations, I want you to make your first communion under Mr. Jan at St. Martinville. We also have received your bulletins. Your Papa was very satisfied. Goodbye, my dear children. Be good, apply yourselves very well so that you can rejoin us as soon as possible. All of us feel very well and kiss you. Everything is well up there and Little Uncle (Jean Baptiste Benoit, my brother) says he will scold you because you neglect him too much.

Write to Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme, your aunt) oftener than you do and to Blanche also. All the servants send their regards, also



1858  
Mar. 16  
(con't.)

Francis and Rosette. Tonton Lubin all of them seem so anxious to see you.

Goodbye, I do not want to write to you such long letters but more often. The old sugarmill has been torn down and soon Little Uncle will erect it on his plantation. Then, soon, it will be the old house's turn. Goodbye, my dear Paul, embrace Quaite (Alexander, your brother) for me. Farceur (your dog) is well, your horses also. Tell Quaite that Cairo is well trained. He goes to the water and retrieves perfectly. Farewell, my dear children. I cannot stop when I am writing to you. Goodbye,

Your dear mother,

Louise Declouet

1-8  
1858

Mar. 21 PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet at Sacred Heart Convent in Grand Coteau, La., to her brother, Paul Declouet, at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

Grand Coteau, March 21, 1858

Dear Paul,

With a great deal of pleasure, I have received your letter of March 9 as there had been a long time I had not heard from you. I wrote to Alexander by the last mail. I gave him some news about the family and I hope to receive some more soon as Papa (Alexander Declouet) is due to come to see me on Thursday. I am expecting him with impatience.

I had the pleasure to see Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) and Aunt Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) two weeks ago. I did not speak to you about Coralie and Constance leaving the convent because I had entirely forgotten to do so. It gave me a great deal of sadness not to have them any longer in the Convent because both were my dearest cousins and friends. Alexander Frere comes rather often to see his sisters and I shall not fail to transmit your messages. It is probable that he may come today and several times he asked me to tell you to write to him. I think that Alexander (our brother) spoke to you about the trick he played on me. I shall not forget this joker.

Goodbye, dear Paul. You write to me too seldom. Kiss Alexander for me.

Your sister who loves you,

Blanche Declouet

Handwritten in French. Original on file at Dupre Library at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, La.

1858

March 27.

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

PERSONAL LETTER written this date at St. Martinville by  
Alexander deClouet to his son Alexander at Brookland School ( a school  
for boys at Greenwood Depot, Va.).

March 27, 1858

My dear son

I received just a few days ago Paul's letter of the 10th of this  
month and yours of the 13th. As I just recently wrote to Paul and since  
his mother has also written him I will write to him later. At the moment

Letter  
written  
by  
Alexander  
de Clouet  
to his son  
Alexander.

I am in a hurry and I can only write you a few lines of encouragement to  
try to dispel the sadness to which you have let yourself go, quite wrongly  
it seems to me. May God wish, my dear son, that you not have more  
serious or sadder event in the course of your life. Why should you let  
yourself become so sad and abandon yourself thus to discouragement?  
Our separation will only last a while and in all that we undertake if we  
do all that we should and we are not successful the first time, we can be  
assured that with courage and perseverance we arrive later at more satis-  
factory results. It hasn't been given to everyone to have the aptitude for  
such and such branch of education and after all if I can judge your progress  
by your letters and by your bulletins I have more occasion to be satisfied  
than otherwise. You would not be the first nor the only one who has let  
himself become discouraged by the study, somewhat dry, or mathematics  
--and as for the other, that is a question of time; for often what we find  
hard today becomes easy the following day. It requires only that you put  
forth a little bit of will, constancy and energy. You must have character,  
my dear son. It is almost weakness to let oneself become so demoralized  
by sadness and melancholy which have no reason for being. We let our-  
selves become unhappy without reason to be and we cause pain to those  
who love us. I would certainly be flattered to see you go to the university



1858  
March 27,  
Cont'd.

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

but if you do not succeed in preparing yourself for it the efforts which you should still make to get there will always have the advantage of leaving you with a good if not a complete education. It is not sufficient after all to do well in ones studies, conduct, morals and good manners make a well bred man and a gentleman even more than instruction and with this report I can be satisfied and can congratulate myself. Mr. Dinwiddie in his bulletins does not let me wish for anything more. In his report I have the confidence that you will both give us this satisfactio

Come now, my dear son, shake off this sadness. You have no good reasons to be sad and I have hopes that this will be only a cloud for you which will appear and then disappear and leave the sky even more dazzling than before its passage. Everyone and I the first have at times these attacks of spleen (which do not have the common sense).

Ninise and Tato are with us at the moment and have made several trips in the neighborhood with your mother and your sisters. Your uncle also spent two days with us.

Goodbye, I must close my letter to send it to the post office. I will do my best to go see you between May 15 and June 1. Paul should not play with axes!

We kiss you with our hearts.

Your father and friend

A. (Alexander) de Clouet

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



1858  
March 31.

PERSONAL LETTER written this date at St. Martin Parish by  
Louise Favrot deClouet to her son Alexander at Brookland School ( a  
school for boys at Greenwood Depot, Va., )

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

St. Martin Parish

March 31, 1858

My dear Clouet (Alexander)

Letter  
written  
by  
Louise  
Favrot  
deClouet  
to her son  
Alexander

Today I received your letter of March 21 in reply to mine of  
February 13 and I hasten to answer you right away because I note that  
you let yourself think of us too much and of your home. Thinking of us,  
my dear Clouet, is very good, but to be homesick for a month, that's not  
good nor reasonable. You will end up by giving us more grief than you  
should, instead of taking pain like a child. Think of July and that will  
give you courage and patience. Be gay for your mother and for all of us  
and you will see that this time will pass by very rapidly. Don't think of  
us too often and study hard. You will see that the time will arrive with-  
out your being aware of it. I plan to write you often and tonite I am going  
to try to distract you a moment by telling you funny stories and nonsense.  
I'm writing you while waiting for supper. I stirred up some biscuits  
like Mimi makes and Milla is making us wait for supper to cook them.  
I'll make some for you too every night during vacation. Gabi is taking  
a nap. While waiting for supper she asked me to send Doubonne to the  
kitchen to get her something to eat. Once this something arrived she  
idn't want it. When the nap was over she pouted and cried a lot as Daddy  
was singing her the song about the pouter. She just bawled while listen-  
ing to him, and began to eat her chop and grits. I think that Coublane  
also contributed to consoling her, because after having put her plate  
close to the fire, Christine pretended and told her that Coublane smelled

1858  
March 31,  
Cont'd.

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

and was watching her supper, so she wiped her big eyes and began to eat. Now still sleepy, she is drinking her milk, and will soon go look for tomorrow by going to sleep like Mr. Jacques. It is Paul who shows that least. She only wants to use that little coverlet of Paul's to think of him more often. She speaks constantly of you two. Well, she's leaving to go to bed, all sleepyheaded and telling us goodnight and bumping into everything that happened to be in her way. She'll sleep now until 7 in the morning without moving. Christine asks me to kiss you a thousand times and has many other requests. Melanie also sends you many messages. She is sewing the scraps and dolls are all around me while waiting for supper. She also plays Mother with Doudonne. Daddy has just come in, and we will go set the table to eat. I will finish the letter afterward. Mr. Balthazar Berard had breakfast with us this morning and Mr. Godefoie Wilz also. I imagine that you remember him. He is crazy and from time to time he stops by to see your father. He wishes absolutely that Daddy give him a notice to have the sheriff hang 12 persons in the parish, but he does not want to name them all, however, he says that among this dozen are 6 women and 6 men. The only one whom he will name is his brother St. Cyr Wiltz and after the 12 persons will have been hanged he will pretend to leave for Germany. He says that his brother St. Cyr stole three or four thousand piasters. He is very amusing, but nevertheless one couldn't see him too often. He left here about noon, going to St. Martinville on foot to find the lawyers and the judges to help him to get back his money. Gabi says that he resembles Mirthe very much because he is very thin. Well, that's enough about the crazy man. I received a letter from Claire. Their chicken pox is over but

1858  
March 31,  
Cont'd.

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

Stanislaus has just had scarlatina. He is better and Victorine had it whe  
Claire wrote me, she isn't too bad. Mimi and Tato spent a week with us  
They are all well up above. Guassay was going to take Mimi back home.  
He went as far as the convent with Ninise's clothes and is on his way  
back since this morning. He saw Ninise who sent me word that she is  
much better. Write her often. The little boys at the College of St.  
Charles are still being naughty. The Jesuit fathers are always chasing  
them. Douce left Grand Coteau to go to the Jesuits in the city. Your  
father received Paul's letter. He will answer him soon. We have also  
received, my dear Clouet, your last bulletins and Paul's are far from  
giving us pleasure. I suppose that right now he is sincerely sorry for  
all his mischief and will not begin again to hurt us. As for you, we see  
that your teacher is satisfied with you. Tell my dear Paul that I believe  
that he loves us too much to continue to be naughty. Goodbye my dear  
Clouet. We all kiss you. Everyone is asleep in the house except me.  
I wanted to answer you the same day I got your letter. I doubt that you  
can read my letter. When I start chattering with you, my dear children,  
I cannot stop. Be lenient, my dear Clouet, I write too badly to write  
more. Goodbye my dear children. The dogs are making an infernal  
noise in the yard, and I am beginning to be afraid. The servants wish to  
send you their good wishes.

Goodbye, goodbye.

Your dear mother

Louise (~~isw...~~) deClouet



1858

April 9.

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

TELEGRAM sent this date by Alexander deClouet to Mr. Wertenbaker at Charlottesville, Va. requesting his sons be sent away from school in case of dangerous fever.

Richmond, Charlottesville & Staunton Telegraph Company

Charlottesville, Va.

The following communication was received at this office by

Telegram      Telegraph

sent by

Alexander      Dated: New Orleans      April 9th, 1858

DeClouet

to

For:      Mr. Wertenbaker

Brookland

School.

Please request Dinwiddie of Brookland to send my  
sons to some healthy place in case of dangerous  
fever.

Alex. (Alexander) DeClouet



1858  
Aptil 11.

PERSONAL LETTER written this date by Blanche deClouet at the convent (Sacred Heart Academy) at Grand Coteau to her brother Alexander at Brookland School (a school for boys at Greenwood Depot, Va.

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

Grand Coteau

April 11, 1858

Dear Alexandre

Letter  
written  
by  
Blanche  
deClouet  
to her  
brother  
Alexander.

I received with great pleasure your letter of March 28. I understand, dear brother, that time is long for you. I, who am so near my dear parents in comparison with you, I am still always worried, but as Daddy tells me we should understand that if parents have sent us away from them it is only for our good. I had the pleasure of seeing Daddy a few days ago for the first time in five months. We talked about you for a long time. I must tell you something which will make you very happy. Daddy is going to go see you this month. I am happy for you for your pleasure in seeing him after 15 months of separation. Daddy was supposed to bring Christine to see me, but Aunt Tonton kept her because she was going on a pleasure trip like you used to have -- she was going fishing in Little Bayou and Christine let herself be tempted, even though she wanted to come see me. Daddy went to an auction not far from here. I can't tell you what he bought unless it was a little negro who amused him very much. We had the exams and the little prizes last week. I received a \_\_\_\_\_ for application in my French class. At this time there are only two prizes in each class, the good conduct prize and that for application. Classes resumed Tuesday.

1858  
April 11,  
Cont'd.

Goodbye, dear brother, I share your sadness, but I hope that  
it will change to joy soon. Kiss Paul for me, and tell him that I received  
his letter.

**T. B. FAVROT**  
**COLLECTION**

Your sister who kisses you tenderly

Blanche de Clouet

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

1-8  
1858

Apr. 14

PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet at Sacred Heart Convent in Grand Coteau, La., to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

Grand Coteau, April 14, 1858

Dear Paul,

I am taking advantage of the little time remaining to me after I studied to talk a few minutes with you. I received with a great pleasure your last letter, as I had written a rather long one to Alexander (our brother) a few days previously I waited a little before answering you, and then, I had no time. Again, I had news of the family last Sunday. Everyone at home is well but Noemie (de l'Homme) has been very sick. They feared for her life, but she is better now. I must write to Aunt Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) or to my Uncle (Jean Baptist) St. Clair to ask for news and I shall write to you as soon as I have some.

Goodbye, dear Paul. Kiss Alexander for me.

Your sister who loves you,

Blanche Declouet

1-7  
1858

Apr. 21

PERSONAL LETTER from Louise Declouet in St. Martinville, to her son, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.  
St. Martinville, April 21, 1858

My dear Paul,

A few days ago, I received your letter of March 28 and I would have answered sooner if I was not so lazy when it comes to writing. I also took a trip over there, since that time I was prevented from writing. Noemi had a little girl on April 2. I believe they intend to call her Suzette. It was the name of Noemi's mother. The latter has been very sick with an eruptive fever but she is better now. Mrs. Chevalier is still at the Attakapas. Every one over there is well. Your little uncle (Jean Baptiste Benoit, my brother) complains that you have completely forgotten him or that you became too lazy to write to him. I think, my dear Paul, that you have been careful enough not to go to the University with the bad fever being there. For my part, I forbid you to do so. If you wish to save us from much worry you will not go there at all for a long time, especially you, my dear child. You are exactly at the age when one catches fever, so avoid it as much as possible. I have not yet given your message to Mrs. Voorhies. I have not seen them since I received your letter but I will not fail to do it when I have a chance. I shall tell you that Felix is supposed to get married. I don't know if it is sure, it is rumoured. Albert Martin asked about you, he says that he took care of you at Grand Coteau. He pretends that he pitied you as for a long time you were the smallest boy in the College. He spoke of both of you with a great deal of interest. He also is married and even had a little boy a long time ago. He had married a sister of Mr. Alcibiade Deblanc. He lives now at Breaux Bridge where he has a store in partnership with one of



1858 the Castille brothers, the one you knew at Grand Coteau and afterward at Mr.  
Apr. 21 Renaudet. The latter takes care of a college in New Iberia. He has been doing  
(con't.) it for several months. The house where he had his college in St. Martinville has  
been changed into a hotel and stables, managed at the present time by the Babin  
brothers.

A week ago, I had news from Ninise (Blanche, your sister). She is  
better, I believe, from her stomach troubles and still wishes to take a trip home  
but at her age, we do not want her to lose any time. She sent me a letter that  
my dear Clouet (Alexander, your brother) wrote to her and I saw with sorrow  
that your dear brother is still very sad to be away from us. Tell him for me  
that he has not enough courage as a man and that we have more than he has,  
however your vacations are so close that it seems to me that he ought to make  
an effort and not to let himself fall as he does into boredom and depression. For  
over a week, they have been wrecking down the poor old house and in a few days  
nothing will be left of it. You would not believe, my dear Paul, how sad it is to  
see this poor cabin torn down because it was lived in for so long, above all by  
myself as I lived there when I was six or seven years old. Except for the time  
I spent in the convent I always remained in that same house so I had a heavy  
heart often when seeing it being demolished and it will be hard to forget about it.  
It had so many memories for us, sad or cheerful, after all you have to accept  
bravely and think that it will be replaced by another one finer and more comfort-  
able for all of us. It is especially missed by a swarm of beautiful pigeons who  
had taken possession of the attic since it remained open. They also entered  
through the roof. They feel lost and at night you see them hiding and nesting on  
all the debris still standing up. I am afraid all of them are destined to be the

1858  
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(con't.)

to be the victims of white owls as they sleep outside and spend their nights, I think, deploring the loss of their old castle. And to tell the truth, those gentlemen (the pigeons) used to be perfectly and grandly located.

Your gun is at your uncle's who takes good care of it. Your horses are big and fat and eat, doing nothing while waiting for you. Farceur (your dog) is still the same. I find he is getting younger, he is more of a fighter than ever as he constantly has a battle with Rolan who is victorious sometime now, although Farceur beats him. Each one is victorious in turn but Farceur is always the first one to attack even when he is sure to be beaten. He is always the first to start. He cannot stand Tom nor William. All the servants, and Francis also send their regards. They are anxious to see you. Fanie Thrurbert had a little bay filly with black mane who is very pretty. Georgette also had one. Gabi (Gabrielle, your sister) pretends that it is for her and Titine (Christine, your sister) to ride like amazons. That is to say, there will be their own horses when they are as tall as Ninise. Gabi asked me yesterday if the little fillies will always remain as small as they are now. I told her "no". Then, she said she will give them to you when they are big because she would be too afraid should they get as big and bad as George who frightens them. Both of them just brought me wreaths made by them that I must put in my letter for both of you.

I want to hope, my dear Paul, that your next bulletin will please us more than the previous one. Your Papa (Alexander Declouet) was supposed to answer you about it. He delayed answering because he is so busy. You have been neglecting us much lately, especially Clouet who has no trouble writing but he does it so seldom now. We feel well and kiss you a thousand times. The Allison family is well and sends you greetings.

1858  
Apr. 21  
(con't.)

Goodbye, my dear children. Write more often. With this letter, I shall mail you a Democrat of St. Martinville. Your friend, the young Bienvenu, has just been very ill but I heard that he is better. Goodbye, my dear Paul, embrace Caite (Alexander, your brother) for Mama and both of you be good.

Your mother,

Louise Declouet



1858  
May 2

PERSONAL LETTER from F. de Faroux, in Spring Hill, to his friend, Alexandre Declouet, Jr. at Brookland Academy in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

Spring Hill, May 2, 1858

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

My very dear Alexandre,

I received your good letter which gave me great pleasure, as I heard that in the University of Virginia there was an epidemic of a bad fever which killed several students, and as you had told me formerly that your boarding school was not far from there, I was most anxious, especially as I had not heard from you for a long time. I believed for a while that you were going back home and were on the way. Finally, I heard that you were in good health and it is all I wanted to know. You say that you are going up there but do not expose yourself to this fever, my dear friend, be very prudent and keep warm, Paul (Declouet), too. I think that the world must have turned, since you tell me that it is warm up there and that the wheat is already coming up, whereas here, we are having infernal weather, first it is very hot, and then suddenly it is cold enough to crack the rocks. We are still wearing winter clothes in the month of May! Imagine that. They say that in Louisiana there is a lot of sickness, but what is sure is that the Mississippi river is higher than it has ever been. In New Orleans there is a flood which threatened the entire town, fortunately 400 workers were hurried there and were able to curb the waters. At Baton Rouge, at Plaquemine and other places, crevasses through which the water flowed ruined many plantations. Let us hope that it will not last long.

In politics, I suppose that you read the newspapers. In New Orleans they are having elections for Mayor which will be held in about a month, the

1858  
May 2  
(con't.)

Democrats have not offered a single candidate, and the Know-Nothings have two. They speak of drying the swamps which surround the city and to that effect, taxes will increase, and the good inhabitants of New Orleans do not protest.

**T. B. FAVROT**  
**COLLECTION**

Henry says hello. He says he has been very lazy, but that he is going to write to you.

Goodbye, my dear, sweet and kind Alexander. I am looking forward so much to seeing you in July, and it will be time. I shake your hand tenderly.

Always yours,

F. de Faroux

1858

May 6, 1

PERSONAL Letter written this date at Sacred Heart Academy,  
Grand Coteau by Blanche DeClouet to her brother Alexander at Brookland  
School (A school for boys at Greenwood Depot, Va.).

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

Grand Coteau  
May 6, 1858

Dear Brother,

Dear Alexander,

I am happy to have again a small moment to spend with you.

I sent two letters to Paul only two days ago, so I don't have much to tell

Personal  
letter  
written  
by  
Blanche  
deClouet  
to her  
brother  
Alexander.

you. This week I hope to have news from the family. I wanted to wait  
to write to you but I was afraid I wouldn't find time later. I'll try to  
write to you again soon. I hope that you will not reproach me for not  
writing you often enough; rather it is I who am in this situation, for it has  
been quite a long time since you have written me, but I always forgive  
you, for I know that you don't have much time.

Goodbye dear brother; kiss Paul for me, and tell him to write  
me right away, and you give him the example of being prompt.

Your sister who embraces you with all her heart.

Blanche de Clouet



1858  
May 8

PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet at Sacred Heart Academy in Grand Coteau, La. to her brother, Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Brookland Academy in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.  
Grand Coteau, May 8, 1858

My dear Alexander,

I have received with a great deal of satisfaction your last letter, dated April 23. I read it and reread it always with the greatest pleasure. The beautiful day when we will see each other again is getting near. You might even be home before I am but you must come to see me right away. Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) sent my clothes the day before yesterday. Noemi now has recovered, every one is well at home. Christine and Gabi (Gabrielle, our sisters) sent me a box of little flowered wreaths they made themselves. I wrote to you several letters not so long ago and to Paul (our brother) also and I hope that you will answer me immediately and continue to write to me often. I shall always answer you.

Farewell, dear brother, kiss Paul for me.

Your sister who kisses you with all her heart,

Blanche Declouet

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

1858  
May 13

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet in St. Martinville, to his son, Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Brookland Academy in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

May 13, 1858

My dear son,

As your mother (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) has a letter in the mail for you today, I am writing only a few lines to inform you that Messrs. Darby and Tremoulet have been told to send \$100 for you and Paul (your brother) who, in a letter to your mother we have just received, announced that he is almost completely out of clothes. I had thought that the \$150 I sent you some time ago, would cover your clothes' expenses until July 15, time of your vacations. But you never spoke about this amount and I do not know until now if you have ever received it. I would think so, however as this sum has been sent by D & T (Darby & Tremoulet) at the same time as \$275 to Mr. Dinwiddie (Principal of Greenwood Academy) covering a semester.

It is impossible to make you some clothes here being uncertain about the fact you may have grown taller, bigger, etc., and the best thing to do is to buy over there, but only what is necessary up to July 15, and then we can get you clothes here. It might be poor material and it would be a waste to buy more than what is strictly necessary.

Business troubles and endless obstacles compelled me to postpone my trip so that I doubt strongly now I may be able to take it. It might be possible however, and it would be painful for me to abandon it completely. But in order to avoid too many disappointments, don't count upon it too much.

Goodbye, take heart, I have several letters to write and I leave you, kissing you in thought and affection. Your father and friend, Alexander  
Declouet

Handwritten in French. In 1980 original owned by Mrs. Marty Sims of Nederland, Texas.

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

1858

May 13

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

PERSONAL letter written this date at St. Martin Parish by Louise BENoit deClouet to her son Alexander at Brookland School ( a school for boys at Greenwood Depot, Va.).

St. Martin Parish  
May 13, 1858

My dear Clouet (Alexander)

I am answering your two last letters written in April, and I accuse myself for having delayed in replying because you would be so long without having news from us. We are all well. Noemi is better too. All the folks up above are well. Your uncle's workmen began to work at the sugar house on Monday. Guessay went to the convent this week. Ninise is well now, thank God. I would be very happy if this improvement could continue until vacation so that she wouldn't lose any time. I received the letter from my dear Paul this morning. Tell him that I will answer him next week. I couldn't stop myself from crying as I read it, for I see that you miss so many things, but I wish to tell you, my dear child, that it is the distance which makes you feel this way. But I must tell you with sorrow that Daddy has about decided not to go to see you. The more time passes, the more work he has. It increases each day more and more. It hasn't been decided finally. It may be that he will surprise you one of these days. I can't say yes or no. You must take care of Paul's clothes; buy what you need. Daddy is supposed to send you some money very soon. I am making you some shirts at this very moment, and they will be ready for vacation. I am awaiting this time with so much impatience that it seems the time will never arrive. Let's talk now of our poor old house. There is nothing left except the debris which is scatterd in the four corners of the courtyard. Daddy has several small buildings, amont which is a room for the seamstresses, a

Personal  
letter  
written  
by  
Louise  
Favrot  
deClouet  
to her son  
Alexander.



1858  
May 13,  
Cont'd.

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

building just like the kitchen which will serve as an ironing room and a workman's room, as I don't have one anymore; and the third is a cabin for Hortense and Prosper. You will find many changes on the farm. These next two months will be long for me, but again a little bit of patience and we will all be reunited. I see that each one has his times of depression, for I can assure you, my dear Caite, that I have had a great one these last few days, but I shouldn't tell you this; however, it escaped me in spite of myself. Don't you get down in the dumps because I will be more unhappy than ever. I think this feeling will disappear very quickly. Titite and Gabi are well and kiss you tenderly. Daddy will write you soon, I think. We have had several negroes who were sick lately. Gr. Francois was very sick, but he is well now. Poor ol' Madelaine also was very sick. She is a little better lately. Only poor Isabelle can't seem to get better. Doctor Dudlensley has diagnosed a disease of the brain which is incurable. He has put a drain on her neck, perhaps that will do her some good, but it's not certain, though he does have hope in this method. Finally as for me, I have made the sacrifice as I see that she gets worse day by day. She has lost her memory, the use of her arms and has difficulty walking. Goodbye my dear Caite; we kiss you a thousand times while awaiting the happiness of seeing you arrive in Louisiana.

Your mother

Louise (13<sup>e</sup> No. 17), deClouet