

1-6
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