

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.