

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 satisfactory 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 ourselves 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

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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