

1858
May 13

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

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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.