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PERSONAL LETTER from Louise Declouet in St. Martinville, to her son, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, May 20, 1858

My dear Paul,

A few days ago I received your letter of April 30 and I should have answered you right away but I owed two answers to Clouet (Alexander, your brother), so I did not answer you. Besides, I think, my dear child, that you have received the money your father (Alexander Declouet) sent you, also my letter to Clouet and that you bought the clothes you needed, especially you. I saw through your letter that you needed plenty. Buy just what you need now while waiting for the vacations. At the present time, I am having some shirts made for you, you will find them all ready. Your father came down from up there last night. Everybody is well, Ninise (Blanche, your sister) also. Here all of us are in good health with the exception of a few Negroes.

Christine and Gabi (your sisters) are delighted with the idea of having rings. Gabi pretends that she will never break them. They often speak about you, especially Gabi as you know that she chatters a great deal more than Titine. The river is still going up and there are several crevasses which were abandoned, that is to say, that it was impossible to close them. This flood of the Mississippi will harm many farmers. The Opperlousas railroad is partly cut off, that is to say that Cousin is caught between Bayou Lafourche and Bay Berwick. This means that he cannot go to the city. Yet, I think it will not last much longer and our railroad will not suffer too much. Crops are beautiful everywhere and it is believed that much sugar will be made this year. The crop here is rather fine and I think that Papa is rather satisfied although the weather is a little too dry.

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(con't.)

I think I already told you that Charles Fuselier had come back from Georgetown. He is a clerk at St. Martinville for Messieurs Curesse and Bernard. It is the store that replaced Mr. Bonnufon's because the latter lives in New Orleans now. He is still in business. Boy Bonnufon was expelled from Grand Coteau. He is in town. Agricole Grevemberg went to Mobile.

Goodbye, my dear children, we kiss you. All your little belongings are in order. Your horses are well, Farceur (your dog) also. He sends his respects. Goodbye, we are expecting Judge Simon for dinner and I have not much time left today. I am waiting for your little sisters who went to the garden to look for flowers to be sent to you, and I assure you that if I send you all the ones they are bringing, this letter will be gigantic, so I am sending you only what it can contain. All the servants send their regards and insist that they wish to see you.

Goodbye, my dear Paul, it is noon and my letter must leave for St. Martinville.

Your mother,

Louise Declouet