

1858  
July 25

PERSONAL LETTER from the widow Charles de l'Homme in St.  
John Parish, to Alexandre Declouet, Jr.

St. John the Baptist Parish, July 25, 1858

My dear Clouet,

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

I was very pleased that you had not forgotten me and appreciate your thoughtfulness by your letter of the 15th. I know how happy your parents must be to have you with them after being away from them so long. It is so good to be with one's family, I thought you were not going to return to college, your good Aunt Tonton was already so happy about that, she will again become sad. You must be having a good time, make the most of it and enjoy yourself. I was so sorry not to have been able to be at Attakapas while you were there, it would give us such pleasure to see you. I hope you can carry out your plan to come to St. James (Parish) and visit us. I would be so happy to see you again. Kiss your sisters for me, speak to them about me often, I love them very much. I hope your mother (Marie Louise Benoit) can come to see me next winter, or I will be hurt. This separation from my dear Charles (my husband) is very hard on me. Mr. Lougues should buy my house and Charles could have a small one build for me on his property, that may happen yet. I have talked it over with Mr. Louques, his house is in very very bad shape, so he will have to decide soon. The floods are receding slowly. The Negress who catches shrimp told me this morning that her nets don't catch any more - it is proof of the waters condition. The C.D. (name of a boat) has been grounded for several hours near our long embankment. We have had strong winds the last few days, I hope it will help dry up the ground. A crevasse on the other bank is still widening. The refineries are full of families the owners allowed to

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(con't.)

take refuge. It is a pity, a desolation. It is said that M. Patout has about thirty families on his property which he lodges everywhere, moreover, he sent for supplies for them. There are irreparable losses. All this was caused by the carelessness of an inhabitant (farmer).

T. B. FAVROT  
COLLECTION

All our love to your good parents, and kiss your mamma for me. Please continue to write to me and let me know if you have been to see Aunt Catiche and give me her news which always interests me. My love to Paul (Declouet), I expect he is still always full of life. I scribble badly, my pen is awful and I have no one to sharpen another one for me. My eyes are giving me trouble. Goodbye my little friend,

Your old friend,

Widow Charles de l'Homme.