

1858
Aug. 4

PERSONAL LETTER from Benoit St. Clair in Breaux Bridge, La.,
to his nephew, Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Brookland Academy in Greenwood
Depot, Virginia.

Breaux Bridge, August 4, 1858

My dear Clouet,

B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

As I rarely see your Father (Alexander Declouet) or your Mother (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet), I also very rarely have news from you, so to have some a little oftener, I shall address you directly and I shall write to you as regularly as I will find it possible. That is to say every time my occupations will allow me to do so and you know that I will have many (occupations) as you do not ignore the fact that I am building a sugar refinery and you must think that it will not be a small trouble for us; within two weeks I shall have the workers. Almost a third of my bricks are here, I am buying them from Tante Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme), which makes it easier for me as if I had been obliged to make them myself, I would never reach the end of my works. My canes are growing well and I hope to have a very good crop. I feel more inclined to be a planter since I have planted some canes, our prairie was not proper for the culture of cotton.

Over a month ago I wrote to Paul (your brother) and my letter remained unanswered. Ask him if by any chance he is angry and why?

Yesterday, we had news from your father's home, every one was in good health. Mimi (Henriette Lebreton Benoit, my wife) arrived from your home Monday last, she had spent a week with your mother.

I have nothing new to tell you except that Noemi had a little girl on April 2nd. It is her fifth child. Everybody here and at aunt Tonton's are in good health.

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(con't.)

Mimi and Henry embrace you and also Charles, this rascal, who, I believe had completely forgotten us.

Goodbye, then my dear children. Believe in the affection of your only uncle,

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

Benoit St. Clair

P. S. Don't forget that I changed post office and that I received letters and newspapers at Breaux Bridge.