

1859

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Jr. in St. Martinville,
Sept. 13 to his brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, September 13, 1859

My dear Paul,

Your letter of the 31st reached me a few days ago. We are always anxious to hear from you.

Since we received your letter, Mama (Louise Benoit Declouet) and the young ladies are very impatient to hear about your old travelling companion (Mrs. Long). They speak about her all the time. They are asking you to give details about your trip and say how you got along with the old lady. Who introduced her to you and who entrusted her to you?

The Committees of Vigilance are still acting marvellously well. A few days ago was formed a committee of resistance made up of about a hundred men, the friends of those who already had been dismissed. They gathered to oppose resistance to the Vigilants. Their point of reunion was at "Queue Tortue". Lafayette's committee of Vigilance learning that a Committee of Resistance had been formed warned all the other committees, the ones of Pont Breaux, St. Martin, False Point, Vermillion, in short, all the committees of Vigilance gathered. They were from five to six hundred men. They went to Lafayette, from there, they left, armed to the teeth and having the loaded Lafayette's cannon to go to "Queue Tortue" in order to stop the Resistants who were lined up in a very steep ravine and had fortified an old house on the edge of the ravine. They were about eighty to a hundred against the five to six hundred Vigilants. The Vigilants marched in battle order with the cannon in the center and they had as General in Chief Alfred Mouton, the Governor's son. When they arrived within reach of the cannon of the fortified Resistants, the General in Chief, as

1859 Mr. Alcee Judice wrote in the last issue of the "Democrat", stopped the soldiers.
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(con't.) The two wings separated going to opposite directions and the cannon advanced at the head of the Vigilant army. The unfortunate Resistants seeing that their enemies were more numerous and also had a cannon became frightened. Fear got hold of them and they escaped everywhere, leaving their arms, ammunition, etc. in the cabin they had fortified. Then, the Vigilants separated into little groups and succeeded in seizing about sixty of them. However, a few escaped. All those who have been captured, about 60 as I told you, were flogged and mistreated like Negroes. One of them, called Canada, preferred to blow his brain rather than to be flogged; two others drowned after they had been flogged. They could hardly walk or ride. From what was said some of them were very good people. It is a shame for these Vigilants, among whom there are respectable country settlers, to whip and mistreat their fellow citizens as if they were animals. It is about all that I can tell you about the Vigilants. If they do some more exploit, I shall tell you Uncle Dufouchar and his family left for the city Sunday morning (the day before yesterday) on board the Darby. They had come here Friday night and spent all Saturday here. Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) came with them. They want to be remembered to you. We spoke a great deal about you. Saturday afternoon I took the young ladies for a ride as you used to do. They thought that I was a worse coachman than you because I made the cart go through ditches. They were pinching my arms. At night, they removed all the planks from my bed and filled it with grits, corn and buckshot.

Goodbye, my dear Paul, it is time to send this to the post office.

Gaspard is here waiting. Everyone sends kisses. Gabi (Gabrielle, our sister)

1859 and Christine (our sister) often speak about you. Miss Laurent is going to
Sept. 13 embroider a cravat for you, it will be sent in the box of clothes in the spring.
(con't.) Give me some news of the school, the pupils, the clubs, old Bill and the whole
caboodle.

Your affectionate brother,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.

P. S. Greetings to Alexandre from me and all my other friends.