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PERSONAL LETTER from Christine Declouet in St. Martinville, to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia, followed by a note from his sister, Blanche, and a letter from his brother, Alexander Declouet, Jr.

St. Martinville, October 4, 1859

My dear Paul,

I am writing to you very early in the morning. Gabrielle (our sister) is telling you that she is very anxious to see you. Marie wants to be remembered to you. Miss Laurent is sending you greetings. Blanche (our sister) wonders if you have received her letter and if you are going to answer her. Mr. Allison is urging you to write to him. Quaité (Alexander, our brother) made some experiments. He locked Miss Laurent and Blanche in the dining room and frightened Miss Laurent with your dog's head. Mama (Louise Benoit Declouet) wants you to know that all of us had sausages for lunch and thought of you. Every one is sending you kisses even Miss Laurent.

Your sister who loves you,

Christine Declouet

(In the handwriting of Blanche Declouet):

I pity you to have to read so much about Miss Laurent.

(In the handwriting of Alexander Declouet, Jr.):

My dear Paul,

Christine received your letter several days ago. She did not think to acknowledge it although she wrote to you especially for this purpose. The young ladies, Miss Laurent and Ninise (Blanche, our sister), do not believe any longer anything I tell them, therefore, I don't know how to manage when I relate something to them.

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(con't.)

Ninise takes some kind of drug for her stomachache. It is a mixture of white wine, touscaloussa (?) and some magic powder coming from Mr. Duchamp's. She makes all sorts of faces and puts on airs when she swallows this wonderful mixture.

I am going to tell you something new which will surprise you a great dear; David McGill is in love with Ninise, it is what I heard. I don't know if it is true, don't tell anyone. Goodbye, my dear Paul. Give me some news about the school.

Friendly regards to all the I. V. A.

Your brother,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.