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PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Jr. in St. Martinville,
to his brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, October 21, 1859

My dear Paul,

I received today with the greatest pleasure your letter of the 13th of this month. I am hurrying to answer while I am writing. At last I received the reviews that you were kind enough to send me. "The University Magazine" reached me a few days ago and I read with much pleasure the speeches of Jim D. and Dr. Harrison. While reading them it seemed to me I was present at the celebration of "Commencement Day".

Mama (Louise Benoit Declouet), the little girls and the young ladies left this afternoon to go to Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme). They will return only on Sunday afternoon. I am alone here with Papa (Alexander Declouet).

They have finished making mattresses. Mr. John will begin to cut the canes in view of the grinding tomorrow or next Monday. The refinery is ready. They need only to wash the plant and polish the machinery a little. They will light the furnace for the bagasses (Note: The remnant of the canes after the sugar has been extracted) Monday evening or Tuesday morning. I am very impatient to see the grinding starting. Mr. Wallace will not be here this year for the grinding. He will attend to one near the river at Mr. Bringier's. A young man called Newman will be our engineer. He has not arrived yet. Mr. Wallace will come for the start.

I went hunting yesterday and killed 5 snipes and several other birds. Not many ducks have arrived yet.

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(con't.)

Goodbye, it is beginning to be late. Time to go to bed. My greetings
to the I. V. A. and believe in the affection of your brother and best friend,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.