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1859

Nov. 15

PERSONAL LETTER from Gabrielle Declouet in St. Martinville to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia with a note from his mother, Louise Benoit Declouet.

November 15, 1859

My dear little Paul,

I kiss you with all my heart. Miss Laurent has been sewing today and it is forbidden to sew on Sunday. Did you not freeze this morning, there was so much ice. Mama wants to see you. Good day, my dear Paul, I wish you a happy New Year for the time New Year Day will arrive. Sapho has two children, a little boy named Diamant and a little girl named Flore. I am Flore's godmother and Mr. Louan is the godfather. Diamant has neither a godfather nor a godmother, Miss Laurent is Cola's godmother. My doll has not been baptised yet. It will be called Lorenza. Farceur will be its godfather and Sapho its godmother, Mr. Foi will baptise it. Your good professor, Father Chaignon left. Caite (Alexander, our brother) placed Colas on the roof of the dining room. Did you have a good fire in your bedroom this morning? Colas went to Miss Laurent's room yesterday morning and gave her twelve fleas. These fleas were hiding in Miss Laurent's stockings so poor Colas got a famous punishment. Mama is asking me to give you a kiss on your left eye and tells you to be as good as an angel and to take good care of Mr. Schamburg. Marceline sends her greetings. Miss Laurent returns to you a big kiss.

Gabrielle Declouet

My dear Paul,

A few lines only to finish Gabi's paper. All of us feel very well and I believe that you are beginning to forget me as you have not yet answered my last letter, at least, I have not received anything from you for a long time. The

1859 grinding has been stopped since Sunday evening. 195 barrels have been gathered  
Nov. 15 and the rest of the canes are frozen. We had a horrible weather Sunday because  
(con't.) of the wind and Monday morning everything was frozen, Tuesday also, today  
Wednesday, the ice has not been as bad. Canes have been cut since Monday and  
I believe it will be over tonight. Papa (Alexander Declouet) is hoping to save  
all his canes if the weather does not get too warm. We had all those changes  
in the weather without a drop of rain. Water is lacking on many plantations.  
At Aunt Catiche (Declouet Lastrapes), one is obliged to get barrels of water  
from the bayou for the machine. We were told that Doctor L. has a broken arm.  
Goodbye, my dear Paul, I am afraid to miss the mail. Your mama,

Louise Declouet