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PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville, to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, November 26, 1859

My dear Paul,

I have received with pleasure your letter dated the 15th of this month. It arrived very quickly unless you made a mistake in the date. Since the day I received your letter I started this answer but I could not finish it because I have been feeling sick for three or four days. Mr. Loreald came to see me yesterday afternoon. He made me take several medicines. I am better this morning. Gabie (Gabrielle, our sister) also is not feeling well, her throat is swollen but it does not hurt. Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) wants you to know that she has received your letter and that she did not answer you, since I am writing today but she will do it on Tuesday. Papa (Alexander Declouet) is telling you that he has no objection to your going to spend a few vacation days with your friend. I think he will write to you also if he is not too busy. Right now, he is very upset because since last night his sugar turned bad. The weather has been so hot for the last few days that the canes are spoilt and the sugar does not cool off. He is obliged to make some installation in the cistern because he has not enough room.

A few days ago, Quaite (Alexander, our brother) went to visit Mr. Arthur Simon who gave him a pretty little dog. Also, the day before yesterday he went hunting with Messieurs Arthur Simon and Louis Duchamp. They killed a large amount of game. Quaite brought back thirty snipes and one duck. Miss Laurent tells you that she will eat some for you. Mr. Jouan is still a supervisor, however he left for St. Martinville because eating too much syrup made him sick. He had made an arrangement with Mr. Robertson to borrow some money

1859 in order to leave for Mexico where resides his family he had not seen for
Nov. 26 fifteen years but the offer having failed, he went back to supervise. I assure
(con't.) you that sometime he amuses us with his explanations about inventing
caldrons and all that follows. I really believe he is mad, or at least, slightly
crazy.

At last, Aunt Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) came. She has been here since Thursday. She sends you kisses. She brought Alexander, who plays all day long with Cola (the dog). Little Uncle (Jean Baptiste Benoit) has started with the cane harvest a few days ago. It will soon be over. Tonton says that he will barely gather 50 boucauts. Papa is afraid not to be able to reach four hundred boucauts. We had the pleasure to see Mr. and Mrs. Dotrive who slept here a few days ago. Goodbye, my dear Paul. All of us kiss you. Miss Laurent sends greetings.

Your sister who loves you,

Blanche Declouet