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PERSONAL LETTER from Louise Declouet in St. Martinville, to her son, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, November 29, 1859

My dear Paul,

I am coming to answer your last letter of October 30. I would have written to you sooner if your sisters had not written to you several letters and I knew that you heard about us through them.

Papa (Alexander Delcouet) has received your second bulletin. I believe he was more satisfied with it. He often speaks about writing to you and also to Mr. Dinwiddie (principal of Brookland School), but he has so much trouble with his grinding and especially with his frozen canes that he has not a minute left to write to you. He hurries to end the grinding before his canes are totally lost because for several days one has not done anything good, about half sugar, half molasses. But he hopes to make again some good sugar with the canes cut the same day as the freezing weather. As molasses is worth a good deal of money, he will grind all the canes, whether good or bad, to make molasses. This freeze of November 13 harmed a great deal the making of sugar in Louisiana. On some plantations, plenty will be lost. They finished grinding at Aunt Catiche's (Declouet Lastrapes). They made only 400 bushels. It is a very small crop for them. Here, we do not quite have 300 bushels made and Papa cannot reach 400. In my next letter, I shall give you more definite details about all that, as I think that by that time we will have finished grinding.

The house has been finished for a long time. I am anxious to take possession of it as dust, wasps and spiders are there and once we occupy it, I shall be able to have a better cleaning done.

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(con't.)

We plan a trip to the city after the grinding but nothing has been quite decided about it. I don't know yet if I shall take your sisters or not. However, I think it would be better if Papa and I went alone in order to come back right away with our furniture. Since we don't intend to have Blanche (your sister) going out into the society this year, I believe it would be better to keep her here with her little sisters and Miss Laurent who will take her vacation a little later.

Goodbye, we are very well and we send you kisses, Miss Laurent also. We speak often of you. Your ears must burn quite often. Clouet (Alexander, your brother) is going to the post office and you know that he does not like to wait.

Our old neighbor's anniversary service took place yesterday. Last week, Edouard Ratier married a Miss Broussard. Also, John Devalcourt married a Miss Bienvenue of St. Martin, Mr. Numa's sister and we were told that Ephie Ferry also was getting married with a young Forstal of New Orleans.

Goodbye, my dear Paul, I am in such a hurry,

Your mother,

Louise Declouet