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1859
Dec. 14

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

St. Martinville, December 14th, 1859

My dear Paul,

I have had the pleasure to receive several days ago two letters from
you. I could not answer them before this because I have been out of home
(Josephine Declouet de l'Homme)
for the last five or six days, I had gone at Tante Tonton. / I went hunting
whilst I was there and killed nothing else but squirrels there are great many
of them in those woods on our fathers land.

We have finished grinding exactly a week ago and made 280 hhd's,
and a great deal of molasses. Our Uncle also finished grinding he made 48
hhd's. The cotton crop here is splendid, on the Chretien's place they made
150 bales. Mr. Alphonse Tertron is going to leave St. Martinville, to go in
New Orleans to be a partner in the firm of Lobit and Charpentier.

We are all going to New Orleans after new years, and I will announce
you that I am going to take a trip to Cuba soon next month, at which place I
intend to spend a few months visiting all the fine sugar houses and curiosities
on the island. On my return from Cuba I shall leave for the North, passing
by St. Louis, the Niagara Falls etc. and from New York I will go down to
Virginia to see you all and bid you farewell before leaving for my long trip
on the other side of Jordon.

If I had plenty time I would go on the plains with Schaumburg to hunt
Buffalo, he would lend me his fine indian hunting shirt and we would be as
wild as the Buffalo running about on the great plains; Hurrah for young
Buffalo what is he doing the rasca! I wrote to him last and he never answered

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

1859 my letter; are his legs getting any more crooked? If they are he must look
Dec. 14 very much like a white ourangoutang.
(con't.)

I wish you would let me know if Charles Wallace of Fredericksburg and Carmichael are back to old Bill's School, and Mt. Gordon where is he the old koon. Tell me about all the I. V. A. fellows, if they all came back, or if some of them don't come.

Father (Alexander Declouet) says that you can go and spend your Christmas vacations in Richmond. If you have not enough money you could take some with Mr. Dinwiddie (Brookland School principal).

I assure you I am very anxious to leave to go traveling. I dream about Paris every night.

Nothing new over here to learn you, except that Mr. John began planting cane today in the field on the other side.

How did Schaumburg express himself while the Harpers' Ferry affair was the subject of the conversation at Greenwood? Did he approve old Capt. Brown and his friends? I am sure that he cried when the old Capt. was hung, if it had been in his power he would have gone over to Charlestown to rescue him; tell him that if he wants to take a little advice from Ajax it will be of great service to him. I advise him to stop to be such a hard headed abolitionist for Gov. Wise will have hung like old Capt. Brown. Nothing more to tell you. I hope to hear soon from you. When you see Jim Clark tell him that he owes me a letter, I wrote to him since last summer and he never answered my letter. My love to all the I. V. A fellows. Kiss Schaumburg for me. Your brother in I. V. A., Alexander Declouet, Jr.