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PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville, La.
to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, January 5, 1860

My dear Paul,

We have not had the pleasure to hear from you for several days, but Papa (Alexander Declouet) received your Bulletin Sunday. I made up my mind to write to you today for the last time before our departure for the city. We shall leave Wednesday. You must not stop writing to us because Quaité (Alexander, our brother) will arrange with Mr. Marais to have our letters forwarded to the city. We went to spend New Year's Day at Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) who is well and also everyone in her home with the exception of Alexandre who was a little ill. We are hoping that perhaps Tonton will come with us to town but this is not sure as you can surmise. We also saw Petit Oncle (Jean Baptist Benoit) and Mimi (Henriette Lebreton Benoit). Petit Oncle's negroes, while plowing, found in the enclosure about twelve dollars which was buried there. Lately, at St. Martinville, several persons died. Among them, Mrs. Robertson, a butcher and a few others. Old Mr. Landry, from Pont Breaux died also and one of his daughters is dying. Therese's granddaughter, Therese's daughter died Friday last. Papa has been absent since yesterday. He went to Catahoulou to have the land surveyed.

Mrs. Balthazar came to spend yesterday afternoon here with all her children with the exception of her two little boys. Thomas Vollison came here to spend his Christmas vacation, he has not left yet. Maria is supposed to accompany him to Franklin.

Goodbye, dear Paul. I shall try to write to you when we arrive in town. Relate all the conquests you made during your stay in Richmond.

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(con't.)

We are all kissing you.

Your sister and friend,

Blanche Declouet