

1860
Feb. 12

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

Havana, Cuba February 12th, 1860

My dear Paul,

You must have by the time this letter reaches you, received the letter I wrote you the same day I arrived here. I have been here in Havana since last Thursday the 8th inst. So far I am very well satisfied with my trip. I shall start back for Louisiana if nothing happens on the 2nd of March on board the De Soto. I intend to go out in the country tomorrow Monday. I shall first stop at Matanzas and from there I'll go to Cardinas to visit some sugar houses. After that I will probably go to Cienfuegos to visit that place which was settled by one of our uncles (Louis Brognier Declouet) long ago.

Yesterday I visited the Moro Castle and the surrounding fortifications which are indeed very magnificent. A gentleman here for whom I had a letter of introduction promised to get me some cigars of the best quality he gave me a box of the same brand and I never in my life smoked any better cigars; I will send you some of them they are put up in tin boxes. I have not yet received any news from home since I am here.

The scenery here in the neighborhood of the city is certainly the finest I ever saw. It surpasses by far that of Virginia which is very pretty and which I admired very much. The palm trees change the landscape altogether. I will also get some good cigarettes before I leave.

I did not send you any cigars while I was in New Orleans because I preferred to wait until I came here to get some of the real good sort. Good many of the persons staying at the same hotel as I are going over to Matanzas

1860 tomorrow so I will be in company for a few more days.

Feb. 12

(con't.)

My room-mate a young frenchman who was in the same room as I on board the steamer is also going, he is a very polite young man, I don't know his name yet.

Tell to Schaumburg to come over here and meet me on the 25th of this month. He would do as my servant and traveling companion. If he wants to come I will wait for him until the 15th of March and will put him up in a cage and show him as the great Indian chief called young Buffalo the hero of the plains; and the swiftest and most experienced Buffalo killer. I would give him half the money for him to buy cigars. Tell him to hurry on, he must be here without fail on the 15th of next month. If Bidley wants to come tell him he is free to do so. I would have two servants then instead of one.

Well goodbye the steamer leaves at 5 o'clock this evening and I would not like to miss it.

My love to all the I.V.A. fellows and believe me to be as ever your true and affectionate brother.

Alexander Declouet, Jr.