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Feb. 13

PERSONAL LETTER from "Bug." in New York, to his friend, Paul
Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

New York, February 13, 1860

Dear Chum,

^{Delayed}
~~I~~assured if I'll speak to you when I meet you, or write to you again
if this letter does not bring you out in a reply. What the devil is the reason
you don't write? It can't be that you have no time. It certainly is not because
there is nothing to write for the simple every day details are interesting to
an absent school fellow. For instance the proceedings of the Brookland School
what the questions are, who debate and how they debate. Who have rouse
with the teachers etc. etc. Anything and everything that transpires, even
the most trivial things. Not one of you have given me an account of the
expulsion of Mayo, although I so earnestly begged you to.

I went to an "Oration" last night at the Academy of Music otherwise
called the New York Opera House. The Oration was "Stabat Mater".
Madame Colson and Madame Strakosch sung together with Siguris, Stiglli,
Susuri, Muller and Quinto, then there was a chorus of 37 voices male and
female and an orchestra composed of 39 members, it was very grand, the
only thing that marred the occasion was that Colson, as usual, was behind
the time and kept the audience waiting forty minutes after the time for the
curtain to rise and when they came out they were hissed like the devil.
Madame Colson was very much hurt by it and tears came to her eyes and she
could not sing at first but after a while they both sang divinely. Madame
Colson is not pretty but sings magnificently but cannot act. I have seen her
in an opera of "Der Freischutz" it is a German opera put in Italian words and

1860 very fine. The scenery was grand and gorgeous. Tonight is the "Barber of
Feb. 13 Seville" but as I've seen that I will not go. Wednesday night is "Lucia de
(con't.) Lammunoor" from Scotts "Bride of Lammunoor" a splendid opera in which
Miss Adeline Patti sings. (NOTE: Adeline Patti sang in New Orleans on
January 28, 1861 and was heard by H. M. Favrot. See newspaper article
dated the same day.) She is the finest prima donna of the day except
Madame Eazzanigo who sings on Thursday in "Saffo". "Patti" sings in "La
Somainbula" some time this week. I am going to every opera, matinee and
oration they give. Patti is beautiful and sings splendidly. She is very "petite"
in her manner and style. I have fallen really in love with her. We are having
a very pleasant time here now, plenty to see and do, enough to keep us busy
and occupy all our time. What would I give to have you here with me? But
never mind I expect we will be here together in the summer and then old
fellow want I show you around "Gommorah"? I do believe I am as good a
guide as you will find in New York to all points except the "fronts". I have
never been there nor never will unless I have some friends with me. It is
too damned dangerous.

I went out riding to "Central Park" today with my mother and a
Mrs. Eaton a lady friend living here. We rode all through the park. It is
a beautiful place and beggars description. I will only say that it contains
two hundred and a half acres of ground and that the city has already spent
four million dollars on fixing it up and will spend sixteen more before they
stop. That is they have already appropriated \$20,000,000.00 to adorn this
park besides the original cost of the ground. There are fifteen hundred men
at work there all the year round. There will be, when finished, twenty five

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miles of drives in it. There is an artificial pond there which covers five acres of land. It is in reality a city "reservoir" but looks like a beautiful natural lake. I am still in ignorance as to when I shall leave New York. I did not send the things I spoke of as I thought it no use. Paul, I wish you would send me by the next mail after you get this one of "Old Bill's" catalogue I want it for a gentleman in the house who thinks of sending his son there. So let me have one as soon as possible. Remember me to all who seem to care for my absence. Tell Sheve, Frere, Buck and Scott McG. and Paul Declouet that they give up a correspondence very soon after commencing it. Good night. Respects to Old Bill and Murray. Love to Agress and the "baby" damn you write soon to your chum and devoted friend, I. V. A.

Bug.