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

Nice, Sardinia, May 9, 1860

My dear Paul,

We arrived here yesterday in the evening at about 7 o'clock. We left Paris since the 3 of this month, went as far as Marseilles in the cars (railroad) and from Marseilles took a carriage to come to Nice. We took three days to make that journey. From Marseilles here it is a most beautiful country and an elegant road, all McAdamised from one end to the other. We are now on our way to Naples, Rome, Florence, Milan and good many other cities. When we go from Florence to Milan we shall pass through the battle fields of Magenta and Solferino and we will probably pass through Villa Franca the place at which Napoleon and Francis Joseph held their conference after the great engagement at Solferino. Yesterday we took dinner at a short distance from which Napoleon I landed on his return from Elba. We saw the house in which he rested and on that house was the following inscription, "Chez moi se reposa Napoleon, venez boire possants et celebre von nom." Near that house on a road we saw the olive tree at which foot he sat and the limb on which he hung his hat, his name "N" only is cut in several places on that tree. Night before last slept at a place called Frejus, a small nasty town on the Mediterranean Sea, where we visited an old forum (at least its ruins) which was built in Caesar's time, we also saw the ruins of an aqueduc built by the Romans.

This place, Nice, is a lovely little town on the shore of the sea. We have from our window a most beautiful view of the sea and of a fine park

1860 right in front of the hotel.

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(con't.)

The name of this house is hotel de la Grande Bretagne which is very neat and clean.

This part of Sardinia will be before long annexed to the French Empire. It is a very fine country, some beautiful mountains all around the town. I wish you were along with us. You would enjoy it so much. I wrote to you from Paris giving you my direction which I will give you again in case you did not get my letter. "Chez Messieurs M. N. Borde & Co., 63 Rue Taitbout, Paris." Give it to Jim Clark and Bryant and all my friends who wish to write to me.

Well, goodbye. My best love to all my friends. Schaumburg sends his love to you all.

Before long you shall go home and see them all; I wish I was in your place.

Write often and give me all the news, especially when you go home. We don't know yet who is the nominee of the Charleston Convention. Am very anxious to hear about it.

Your brother and best friend,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.