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PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Jr., in Florence,
Italy, to his brother, Paul Declouet, at home in St. Martinville, La.
Florence, June 13th, 1860

My dear Paul,

I have been already six days in Florence, and the day after my arrival here I received your letter of the 12th May, and answered it immediately. Florence is a very pleasant city indeed. It is very well situated and the views from the mountains around here are most beautiful. We have seen about every thing worth seeing here. We visited several galleries of paintings churches, artists' studios, palaces, etc.

We went to the Opera the other night and heard the Trovatore which was very well performed. They had a fine corps of ballet, but they danced and fooled about so long a time that it spoilt the performance a little. Night before last we went to a concert which was very fine, the best one I ever went to. A little girl about 13 years old performed delightfully on the violin. That concert was for the benefit of the Scycilian revolutionists. When the concert was over the people shouted, "Viva Garibaldi."

As I sent the last letter I wrote you directly from here and as I am not certain whether it will reach you safely or not, I shall now repeat one of its most important parts. I now have 7900 francs and am not sure if that will be enough to finish my trip, so tell father (Alexander Declouet) to send me a letter of credit on Messieurs Borde and Co. of 500 dollars in case that the 7900 francs should not be enough to complete my tour. By all means I will have certainly enough to last me until the other letter comes.

We intend to leave here next Friday the 15 for Venice; from Venice

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we shall go to Milan and from there to Lake Como and Lake Maggiore and then through Switzerland. We intend to go out of Switzerland at Schaffhausen; from there to Frederickshafen, Munich, Vienna, Berlin through Hanover, Holland, Belgium etc. I will try to be back at Paris for the 15th of August which is Napoleon's birthday. I don't think of going to England at all this year. It will be time enough when I'll leave for America. I will either take the Adriatic at Southampton or if the Adriatic is not running when I leave next spring, I'll go to Liverpool and take the Persia. Well goodbye Paul, I will write again to one of you from Venice and Milan.

My best respects to Miss Laurent and Mr. John. Kiss all the family for me.

Your affectionate brother,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.

P. S. Soon after my arrival at Paris when I've done traveling, I intend to leave for Bordeaux at which place I shall spend a month or two.