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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, October 5, 1860

My dear Paul,

Although I have not many things to relate, I shall write to you however a few lines to let you know that we are all in good health. Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) is feeling very well. She has been getting up in her room for almost a week. Little Corine (our sister) is better and better up to now. She is beginning to get fat. We see this because her little bonnets begin now to fit her properly. Papa (Alexander Declouet) is still not too well.

We started school since last Monday although Mademoiselle Laurent is not yet in the best of health. (NOTE: Mademoiselle Laurent must have been a private tutor to the children before the time they would be sent to boarding school) Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) left Sunday. Mimi (Henriette Lebreton Benoit, our aunt) had a little girl last Saturday. She was feeling well and the child also, we have not had further news. Mrs. John also had a little girl but unfortunately, there is a fear she will not live. We had a visit from Mrs. Lebreton and her daughter Odalie, and also from Mr. and Mrs. Reine, Charle's cousin.

Goodbye, dear Paul, I shall speak to you in my next letter about the Assembly which is supposed to take place at St. Martinville at the Pine Avenue, tomorrow, October 6. There will be a crowd. Uncle Laclair (Fuselier) wrote that he had rented two boats in order to come. I think that Papa (Alexander Declouet) will speak. This afternoon, he sent for the meal an ox, a calf and three pigs. Mademoiselle/was ver. sick yesterday afternoon. Mr. Sabatier came to see her last night. This morning she is better but still very weak. If

1860 she feels a little stronger by tomorrow, it is probable that we shall go to the  
Oct. 5 Assembly. She has an intense desire to hear Papa speak.  
(con't.)

Goodbye a second time, dear brother. All of us send kisses. Write  
to us often.

Your sister who loves you,

Blanche Declouet

P. S. Mademoiselle Laurent sends you friendly greetings. We heard from  
Quaite (Alexander, our brother) yesterday. He is very well and has a grand  
time.