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PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville, to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Va. St. Martin, October 10, 1860

Dear Paul,

It is with pleasure that I accomplish my promise, to write to you soon after the Barbecue of the 6th October.

This assembly was very pretty, there were nearly a thousand of persons. We had a very bad weather on that day. I told you in my first letter that Uncle Laclair (Fuselier) intended to come with a great number of his neighbour-woods, but the steam boat they had engaged for that occasion could not come here. There were six speakers, who were Mrs. Alcee Judice, Edgard Voorhies, the young Perry of Vermillion, William Mouton, Fuller, and Papa (Alexander Declouet). The speech of Mr. Alcee Judice was nothing but insults to the Bell and Evreet party. He paid a great compliment to Papa and to the ladies. Mr. Gerard Fournette was killed in duel by Mr. Alphonse Bienvenu in the same evening that the Barbecue took place. Yesterday we had the pleasure to see petit uncle (Jean Baptiste Benoit). He is well, he told us that Mimi (Henriette Lebreton Benoit, his wife) was not very well. He names his little girl Arthemise Marie. Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) is not very well, we are expecting her this week. Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) is very well. She goes down today for the first time; the little Corine (our sister) is well also.

Adieu dear Paul, we kiss you all.

Your affectionate sister,

Blanche Declouet

P. S. Papa is telling you that he has not written to you, first, because I had

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done it and besides because he has been too busy in the last days, having the yard cleaned as it was covered with branches broken by the hurricane that we had on the first and the second. Three lilac trees were broken and the finest of our small pecan trees, it was covered with pecanes. Next Saturday we will send you the Democate so that you will have other news of the assembly.

Your sister,

Blanche Declouet

P. S. You are going to receive at the same time as this letter another one I have written to you since the last mail but which was returned this morning as it was believed that you were here, yet, it had been correctly addressed to the University of Virginia.