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1860

Nov. 16

PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville, to
her brother Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, November 16, 1860

Dear Paul,

I have received your letter dated October 19 a long time ago but I did not have the time to answer right away. Your letter addressed to Christine (our sister) reached her the day before yesterday. You do not need to urge them to write to you often as they are obliged to compose a letter every week and it is almost all the time to you they write. Gabi (Gabrielle, our sister) wrote one for you today. Miss Laurent thought that your yellow paper on which you had written your letter to Christine was admirable. She thinks it resembles some others.

Yesterday we had a pleasant visit from Mrs. Ganuchau and Louise who left for the city this morning. It is strange to hear Mrs. Ganuchau speaking about politics and all the dangers which threaten us during this period of election. She is terribly afraid of Negroes, no doubt because she nagged her servants too much.

Henri (Lebreton) left for the city with her. He did not come to see us even once in all his vacations which were long enough for him to find a chance to pay us a little visit. We have received at the same time as your letter to Christine a letter from Quait (Alexander, our brother) who was at Limoges but he finished his letter from Paris. At last, he heard that he had another little sister (Corinne). Cousin Lise asked Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) for her. Quait wants Miss Laurent to know that he has been asked many questions about her at Limoges and at Bordeaux. They asked if she was pretty, how old she was and if she would get married. He answered that she

1860 is 19 or 20 years old and finally that she would marry a young doctor from
Nov. 16 St. Martinville. Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) and Noe (Noemi
(con't.) de l'Homme, her niece) have been here since yesterday. They send greetings
to you. Tonton and Mama beg you to remain calm if there are some troubles
in Virginia. They tell you that you are too young for military service in case
of need and we join them to tell you the same thing. As to Papa (Alexander
Declouet), I believe that he will send you some advice. Miss Laurent sends
her greetings. She wants you to know that she went to see your room and
that you had damaged all your table. She kisses you affectionately.
Marceline tells you good day and that she is always a little confused. Miss
Laurent will scold you if you make fun of her. She did not know that you had
such bizarre ideas.

Goodbye, my dear brother, all of us send kisses.

Your sister who loves you,

Blanche Declouet