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PERSONAL LETTER from Gabrielle Declouet in St. Martinville, to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia, with a note from Miss L. Laurent.

St. Martinville, December 12, 1860

My dear Paul,

I want so much to see you. Papa (Alexander Declouet) had a little brick sidewalk built. Miss Laurent has received a bracelet. She does not want to wear it, she says that she will wear it when you come. Papa asked her to wear it, she refused. Miss Laurent, Ninise (Blanche, our sister) and Christine (our sister) went to Mr. Dauterive. They saw Cousin Mathilde's little daughter, she is called Marie. Cousin Nee (Louis Erasmi) is here.

Our little sister (Corrine) had fever. Now she is well, she is spoilt rotten. We are learning "trusty learning to read". I think you know what it means, it is very pretty. Papa went to Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme)

Miss Laurent and Ninise slept in Mama's (Louise Benoit Declouet) room. Our little sister cried almost all night long. Cousin went to the Opelousas. I started learning a piece for four hands. Goodbye, my dear brother. I kiss you with all my heart,

Gabrielle Declouet

P. S. I thank you a great deal for the crayons you sent me.

(In the handwriting of Miss L. Laurent)

Dear Paul,

Allow me to thank you through a few words waiting for the time I can thank you by word of mouth for the nice little souvenirs you sent me. The pen is so pretty that I keep it for my important letters. I already wrapped it up and put it in a safe place. No more space on this page. Goodbye, excuse this

1860 little scribbling.

Dec. 12
(con't.)

Your sincere friend,

L. Laurent.

P. S. Pay a compliment to Gabi for her pretty paraph and for her model
handwriting. Good night, I wish you a thousand golden dreams.