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PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville, to  
her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.  
St. Martin, December 21, 1860

Dear Paul,

Gabie (Gabrielle, our sister) received Tuesday your letter of the 9th instant. I assure you that she was very glad, she wrote to Clouet (Alexander, our brother) this week and will probably answer you next week. We had the pleasure of seeing Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) this week. She went back yesterday, she is very sad and very uneasy about you. She asked Papa (Alexander Declouet) several times to let you come back but he did not consent to it. I think that he wrote to you already on that subject. I suppose that you know that Papa will go to the (Party) Convention, he was named candidate of the Senatorial district. I and every body here wish very much that you or Clouet would be here to stay with us during that time, for we will be quite alone. We praid Tonton to come, but I don't think that she will be able to leave her plantation now.

Miss Laurent says that she don't think of Mrs. Patin's fricots very often, but me it is the contrary. I have not forgotten the pretty little chickens she gave us every day. Our dear little Corinne (our sister) is very well, she is almost as fat as you. The big bebe (baby) of Mimi (Henriette Lebreton Benoit) is well also.

Why have you never spoken to us of Mr. Bidell. We are very impatient to know how he is, if he is pretty or not, if he is smart, etc., etc. I think that Maria will leave school at the end of the year.

Adieu dear Paul, all the family kiss you. Your affectionate sister,

Blanche Declouet

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(con't).

P. S. I thank you, kind brother, for the pretty pen you sent me, also the little plaque, some ink etc. Papa is telling you that he is not writing to you during these days because he is too occupied by political affairs and the plantation.

Today several gentlemen from New Iberia came to see him about his candidacy. As I think that Papa will give you all details about his political affairs I excuse myself from giving you any as I do not understand too well everything concerning politics. Mama is telling you that she would like very much to have you with us while Papa goes to the Convention. She thinks of you all day long. Miss Laurent sends her greetings. She urges you to practice shooting gun and pistol, not to go to war but to come here to defend us.