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PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Sr. in St. Martinville,
to his son, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, January 10, 1861

My dear Paul,

It happens so often to me to write to you hastily that it becomes a habit and you must get used to it. Catiche (Declouet Lastrapes, your great aunt) and our cousin Aurore Favrot (Bouvier's wife) who slept here, have just left to go to Aunt Neuville (Louise DeBlanc Declouet) and, as I had to keep her company, the time to mail my letter just came to deprive me of the pleasure to talk to you longer. During the week preceding the election of the 7th, I did not stop a single day as I had to face a pitiful intrigue threatening our ticket. "The formidable alliance of a carp and a rabbit". Think of it! V. Fournet and Laloire joined Edgar Voorhies and Fuller to defeat myself, Alcidiade and Judge Moore. Underhand there is a silly and dirty plot (between us). I have not the time to tell you more about it but luckily the people's good, common sense dealt thoroughly with it. As you will see on the table here enclosed, your uncle, Laclaire, Jules Olivier and W. Smith have been elected with a majority of 25 to 28 votes only against Falfrey, Deverin, Olivier and Dr. Saunders. There will be a heavy majority of Secessionistes at the Convention which will assemble on the 23rd of this month. After you receive this letter, you can write to me at Baton Rouge and I shall let you know, if possible, how long the Convention will seat. Events are growing more and more serious; in Louisiana, excitement is at its height and one is ready for anything. With the greatest anxiety we are waiting for the decision that Virginia, and, above all, Maryland will take. Here, nothing new (540 arpents have been planted, 150 to 200 are to be planted, 15 men work in the cypress marsh.) I hired an overseer

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(con't.)

for the large yard etc. Corinne (your sister) has completely recovered from her cold, her mind is quickly improving, now she laughs aloud and begins to prattle.

Goodbye, my dear son, we have not heard from you for some time.

Write often, it is the only thing which makes us accept your absence with patience and resignation.

Your father and best friend,

Alexander Declouet

	Declouet	DeBlanc	J. Moore	Voorhies	Fuller	Belsom
Petite Anse	51	51	51	0	0	0
N. Iberia	153	153	158	0	0	0
Tess Pointe	82	84	81	3	0	4
" " Large	21	22	21	1	1	4
St. Martinville	112	116	86	36	63	42
Coteaux	61	50	59	3	6	4
Babinville	21	21	8	9	18	6
Wiltz	14	21	17	9	2	6
American Bayou	0	0	0	41	41	41
Bayou chene	43	33	40	14	17	22
Grand River	2	2	1	11	10	11
Junction	20	20	20	1	1	0
Grand Pointe	61	70	37	9	28	2
Pont Breaux	76	86	69	21	21	19
Butte Larose	6	14	10	12	5	7
	723	743	658	170	213	169

In Vermillion Parish, I shall be 250 votes ahead.

Handwritten in French. Original on file in Dupre Library at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, La.