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(1861
Jan. 22)*

PERSONAL LETTER from Gabrielle Declouet in St. Martinville, to
her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
(January 22, 1861)

My dear little brother,

I want so much to see you. Edgard fell into the bayou. I wish you a happy New Year. Zidore Taler and Vincent came to ask for permission to go to Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme, our aunt). Ninise (Blanche, our sister) asked Zidore what is Christmas day. He answered it was a feast, he did not know it was the day Jesus Christ was born. Amisstre sold a pig to Mr. Beloque. He said he had sold a pig to Mr. Lopez, Mr. Balthazar and Mr. Beloque.

Lutetia sends her regards. She tells you that she wants to see you. I wish you success for your school. Two men came here to sell us a lottery ticket. There were a bracelet and sleeves. At the other lottery there was a pair of shoe strings. Miss Laurent gave a bracelet for the lottery. Melanie has been here since Saturday. There has been a ball*. Ta gave the ball. Mr. Basile pruned the oak trees and the pine trees*. Melanie sends her greetings. Many of Mr. Meguile's negroes came to the ball. A negress came with a printed cotton dress which was horrible looking.

Goodbye, my dear little brother. I kiss you with all my heart,

Gabrielle Declouet

* In a letter dated January 22, 1861 from Louise Declouet to her son, Paul, she refers to the ball and the pruning.

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