

1-16
(1861

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

My dear brother,

I want so much to see you. There is a gardener who has been coming since Saturday*. We call him Mr. Basile. He works as hard as a horse. We went to Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme, our aunt) Friday. I am learning my St. Malo rock (poem). Didi had a sore throat, now she is better. Mama (Louise Benoit Declouet) also has a sore throat. There is a little merchant who came to Tonton's. He had a magic lantern. There was a little boy and a little girl who played cards with her grandpa. Christine (our sister) is learning a piece which is "a ball at grandmother's". There are ten little girls and eight little boys and the Mademoiselle (Laurent) who plays piano.

Goodbye, my dear 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 new gardener.

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