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1861
Feb. 12

PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville, La.
to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, February 12, 1861

Dear Paul,

The Sunday mail brought to Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) your letter and also one from Papa (Alexander Declouet), but as she did not have the time to write to you this morning, she asked me to answer with a few lines your two letters. But so that you will not remain too long without news, we will write to you by the next mail.

Miss Laurent still is suffering. She still has fever, however, this morning she feels a little better and we hope, so does Mr. Sabatier, that from now on, she will improve. Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) was with us for five days, but this morning, she took a little trip to her home, promising to return here tomorrow evening. Tell Papa that everything is well on the plantation, no sick people in the hospital. I have a good piece of news to give Papa. Old James came back yesterday morning with a note from Mr. Baltazar asking for his mercy. Mama sent him to the enclosure without having him punished. She told him that everything would be settled with Papa when he returns. Corine (our sister) is still well, she is so beautiful. Tonton thinks (Henriette Lebreton Benoit, our aunt) that she is more clever than Mimi's/little girl. Mr. Bazile brought the camelia here this morning. It was placed near the house between Mama's window and mine.

Goodbye, dear Paul. I have to close my letter because it is very late. Kiss Papa for all of us and to you go our fondest kisses. Miss Laurent sends her friendly greetings. Your sister who loves you, Blanche Declouet

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