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1861
Feb. 15 PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville to her
brother Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, February 15, 1861

Dear Paul,

As in a letter to Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) you reproached me with not writing to you often enough. I am hurrying to answer your last letter of February 3 received this morning. We were surprised to see that you had not yet received Papa's (Alexander Declouet) letter in which he was telling you to come to join him at Montgomery, but I think that you have now the pleasure to be with him. We would like to be in your place. Miss Laurent is still very ill. I assure you that she gave us and is still giving us a great deal of anxiety, however, Mr. Sebathier found her improved since the day before yesterday. Today for the first time in nineteen days he found her without fever. She has changed a great deal, is very thin but it is not surprising as she has suffered so much. Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) has been with us for six or seven days. She went to take a little trip to her home but she came back last night and I assure you that we are very happy to have her among us because we are too much alone and too sad especially since this good Miss Laurent's illness. Now, dear brother, let us speak about something else.

We have just read Christine's and Gabie's (our sisters) letters. They amused us a great deal. I doubt that you will be able easily to understand Gabie's letter but we found Christine's very well written. Tell Papa that I have not corrected anything in their letters with the exception of three or four words too bizarre.

Mr. Alcibiade arrived to St. Martin yesterday and he sent us the message that the day before yesterday he had received a letter from Papa who

1861 was feeling very well. We were very pleased to obtain this piece of news
Feb. 15 because we had received nothing by the last mail, not even two lines. We hope
(con't.) to hear tomorrow about your arrival at Montgomery.

Our dear little Corrine (our sister) is still very well and she gets more alert every day. Tell Papa that I wrote to him three times but I think that my letters went astray or that he has not received them yet. Goodbye, dear brother, with out hearts and mind we kiss you.

Since yesterday Miss Laurent has been much better. She has no fever any longer. She sends you her friendly greetings.

Your sister who loves you,

Blanche Declouet