

1861  
Mar. 17

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Jr., in Jersey City, New Jersey, to his brother, Paul Declouet, at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

Jersey City. March 17th, 1861  
Sunday Morning

My dear Paul,

I arrived here yesterday evening at 5 o'clock all safe on board the Arabia. I left Liverpool since the 16th of February on the Australanian, on the fifth day after we had sailed she broke two fans of her screw and she kept on going in that way with her broken screw and the sails until the 10th day. The weather continuing to be very bad, the captain decided to go back to (Queenstown, Ireland) at which port we arrived on Saturday March 2nd, exactly two whole weeks after we had sailed from Liverpool. On the same evening (the 2nd of March) the Arabia arrived at Queenstown and we took her. By that accident which happened to the Australanian it makes me a whole months passage. I am very tired of the sea. I was quite sick at first but got used to it after a while.

I will not be able to leave here before Monday evening at six. Come and meet me at the (Greenwood) Depot in Charlottesville (Virginia) on Tuesday. I will be on the Lynchburg train. Agricole and Gustave Dufossat are along with me. Dufossat will stop in Washington and Agricole will perhaps stop with me at the University (of Virginia).

Goodbye, my love to all the friends.

Your brother,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.

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