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1861
Mar. 21

PERSONAL LETTER from Gabrielle Declouet in St. Martinville, to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia, followed by a letter from his father, Alexander Declouet.
St. Martinville, March 21, 1861

My dear brother,

For a long time I did not write to you as you are the one who had to answer me. Lutetia and Alice came to spend the day with Christine (our sister) and me. Corinne (our sister) had a cold, she had fever. Papa thinks she is just as she was when he left. Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) came here. She left today. We were so sad when we had no news from Quait (Alexander, our brother). Mama (Louise Benoit Declouet) put some pieces of canvas on the back gallery to protect our complexions as we have many freckles. It is Mr. Laureal who takes care of Miss Laurent. She is better now.

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

Gabrielle Declouet

(In the handwriting of Alexander Declouet)

Two lines only, my dear Paul, in order not to miss this chance to say a few words to you. I arrived on the 19th with the happy news of Clouet's (Alexander, your brother) arrival in New York, which I received in town on the 17th. It was time, I think, that you could spend a few good moments together - and we are expecting him now within 4 or 5 days. He did not remain long at the University. After so much upset, we want to believe that his trip from New York to New Orleans will be pleasant. The day before yesterday, there was a severe freeze which affected our crops of maize and corn which otherwise were rather promising. I have no time to write to you at length. I am going back to Montgomery at the beginning of May. Goodbye, your father and friend,

Alexander Declouet

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