

(1861
Apr.)*

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PERSONAL LETTER from Gabrielle Declouet in St. Martinville, to her brother, Paul Declouet at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.

St. Martinville, (April, 1861)

My dear Paul,

Three times I have written to you, you answered me only once. Cousin Alfred (Lastrapes?) came here. Quaité (Alexander, our brother) went to Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme). He brought a screech owl, he calls it Scott and Gaspard's one. He said he wants to tell Gaspard to call his Lincoln.* Two men came here. Aunt Catiche (Declouet Lastrapes) brought us to St. Martin to see Octavine (Favrot). The governor Mouton and Mr. Erasme Mouton came here. They had dinner here. Mr. Tos Canard came here the other day with his little daughter. Aunt Catiche, Christine (our sister) and I went to Mrs. Sabatier's home. I saw little Eugene. He is too pretty. Tonton came here with Mrs. Evariste Perrette, Mr. Charles and Alexandre. We went for an outing last night. Quaité is going to mass at Pont Breaux tomorrow. He has to be there for seven o'clock. Quaité made a big pole for his flag for Pont Breaux's gate. You must come to see us soon, you have left such a long time ago.

You should see Corine (our sister) with her décolleté chemise. She is so pretty. Mama (Louise Benoit Declouet) tells you that she kisses you. Miss Laurent also. Goodbye, my dear brother. Your little sister who loves you,

Gabrielle Declouet

*In a letter dated (April, 1861), Christine refers to the screech owls that were caught.

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