

(1861
Apr.)*

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

St. Martinville, April, 1861

My dear Paul,

I have not written to you for a long time, but you have not written to me since 1860. Answer me as I wish so much to receive one letter from you. We went to Mrs. St. Laurent with Aunt Catiche (Declouet Lastrapes) to see Lutetia* and then the little Favrot girl (Augustine, Bouvier Favrot's daughter). Quaitte (Alexander, our brother) had been to Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme). He made Gaspard catch two little screech owls. One is for Gaspard, Quaitte calls his one Scott. He told us he wanted to tell Gaspard to call his Lincoln. Marseline sends her greetings. Toser Paulite drowned when he went to bathe. He was working with his mother and his mother realized that he was missing. She asked about him, no one knew where he was. His mother went to the bayou. She found his clothes on the bank of the bayou, he had drowned. Corine (our sister) is well, for us she is always very pretty. Mr. Basile made two little plots for us in the garden. We planted some corn, melons and eggplants.

Goodbye, my dear Paul, all the family is sending kisses.

Christine Declouet

* In a letter dated April 18, 1861 from Gabrielle Declouet, she stated that Lutetia would enter Mrs. St. Laurent's school. Also, Alexander returned from Europe in the end of March

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