

1861

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Jr. in St.
Apr. 12 Martinville, to his brother, Paul Declouet at the Brookland School in Greenwood
Depot, Virginia.

St. Martinville, April 12th, 1861

My dear Paul,

Father got your letter the other day and he did not answer it because he started for Opelousas the day after he received it. He tells you that Mr. 's Darby and Tremoulet will in a very short time send you the sum you asked him to settle your bills at the University. Since the last time I wrote you nothing new has occurred here. Every thing is going on very well. The crop looks splendidly, the cane especially are for the present promising very much. If the year is in the least favorable we will make a handsome crop. Success depends entirely on the weather we shall have.

Since I got back I went hunting three times. The first day I killed 15 papabottes, the 2nd 5 papabottes and 4 snipes, and yesterday 10 papabottes and 2 snipes. These are about the only game to be killed here, and then the snipes are very few indeed in number. In a few weeks they shall all be gone.

Father is having all the fences around the house white washed, the buildings also, the garden's and orchard's fences are done and it looks very pretty. I don't know of any news in St. Martinville, I don't go there as often as I did last year. The horses are very fine and fat, the young grey colt which comes from old Baptiste's is a splendid horse. I intend to ride him in the field some of these days.

I received yesterday the University Magazine you sent me. Has Schaumburg gone home yet? If he is at the University when you get this tell him I will write to him by next mail and direct the letter to St. Louis.

1861 Madame Chevalier and Miss Humphreys are here since yesterday. They are
Apr. 12 going to spend a few days with us.
(con't.)

Mr. Charles Delhomme is talking about selling his plantation.

Miss Laurent is improving gradually. She cannot walk yet on account of pains in one of her legs.

Little Corinne (our sister) is very well. She is a very good and quiet child. She is never heard to cry. Gabi (Gabrielle, our sister) and Christine (our sister) have grown very much since last year. They make school with Ninise (Blanche, our sister).

Miss Laurent is not going to take any more scholars but our sisters. Lutetia and Alice are going to Mrs. Saint Laurent's. As for Maria and Cooke I don't know where Mr. John is going to send them.

Nothing more to tell you. My best love to all our friends and believe me to be your affectionate brother,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.