

1861
Apr. 18

PERSONAL LETTER from Gabrielle Declouet in St. Martinville, to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia, followed by a letter in English from his brother, Alexander Declouet, Jr.
St. Martinville, April 18, 1861

My dear Paul,

This is the third letter I am writing to you and you answered me only once. We went to Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme). I had my ears pierced by Rosette because Tonton had bought a pair of earrings and I did not want to give them to Ninise (Blanche, our sister). We went to Noe's and to Mimi's (Henriette LeBreton Benoit, our aunt). I pulled off a tooth and I will send it to you in my letter. Christine (our sister) and I made lockspurs wreaths almost all the time. Mama (Louise Benoit Declouet) has ten little geese and some little turkeys. Lutetia and Alice will not come back to school here, they came to spend a day here with their little cousins last Saturday and Christine and I went to see them on Sunday.

Miss Laurent gave Corine (our sister) a pretty little toy. Papa (Alexander Declouet) went to the Opelousas. Yine sends her greetings. She tells you when you come back to bring her something. She tells you that Quaite (Alexander, our brother) did not bring her anything. Lutetia and Alice will enter Mrs. St. Laurent's school and Lutetia will irritate Mr. St. Laurent.

Quaite told us that you had sawed a door to go to hoist a flag on the top of the dove-cote. If it is true you are a rascal. Miss Laurent's health continues to improve. Quaite asked her to go up to wake him up. It would ease her pain in her knee. Mama made Corine wear my hat.

Goodbye, my dear Paul, I kiss you with all my heart,

Gabrielle Declouet

1861 (In the handwriting of Alexander Declouet, Jr.)
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(con't.) My dear Paul,

Mother tells you to get the prettiest porte-folio you can find at the University. She wants to give it as a present to Miss Laurent. She wants one of those porte-folios that have a lock. Mother says to get it whatever is the price. Have it put on your account and as soon as you let us know how much it costs we will send you the money.

You will bring it along when you come next June. Ninise asks you to get her one of those porte-folios too, but you must not get as fine as one as Miss Laurent's.

When I said whatever is the price, you must not get any thing too extravagant, for the times are quite hard. Father is going to leave very shortly for Montgomery. Tonton gave me \$100 and I will tell Father when he passes in New Orleans to send you some perrique tobacco. You will give some of it to Heutter. Father thanks him a thousand times for the fine Lynchburg he sent him. Goodbye.

Your brother,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.

P. S. Tell me if I did not leave my pen holder in your room. It is a white ivory thing with a silver end. Father has decided to leave tomorrow evening. He intends to stop some time in St. Mary's parish as he goes by and a few days in New Orleans before leaving for Montgomery. I will tell him to have Darby & Tremoulet to forward you the perrique by express to Charlottesville, University of Va. You will have to call for it at the express office in Charlottesville in a few days.

A. D. Jr.

1861 P. S. Has Buck come back from Sumpter? Would like to know if he had
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(con't.) much fighting to do.

NOTE: There is the outline of a small hand and on it is written, in French,
Corinne's hand.

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