

1861
May 1

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet in Montgomery,
Alabama, to his son, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot,
Virginia.

Montgomery, May 1st, 1861

My dear son,

I addressed a few lines yesterday to Professor Maupin to request him to inform me of your whereabouts. Supposing that you had seen in the papers that our Congress was convened for the 29th of April, I had strong hopes of getting a letter from you on my arrival here - but I have not and my disappointment together with my great anxiety to hear from you are such that I can scarcely think of anything else. In the great turmoil which the secession of glorious old Virginia must have occasioned - my uncertainty as to what decision you have taken is harassing and painful. I do not even know where to address you my letters and this one I drop in the P. O. to run its chances of reaching you. It is probable that our Congress will in a few weeks remove to Richmond and in that event we will meet on Virginia soil - So be it. I received yesterday a letter from Clouet (Alexander Declouet, Jr.) of the 23 April. All well at home. Farewell, remember that in heart and soul we are bound to the sacred cause of southern independence and that I am ready to sacrifice my all - fortune, life - in stern resistance to northern aggression. Lose not a minute in letting me hear from you.

Your father and dearest friend,

Alexander Declouet

P. S. I wrote to you from New Orleans. If you have not lately addressed me a letter here, telegraph to inform me where you are.

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