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PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Jr., in St. Martinville, to his brother Paul Declouet, in Virginia.
St. Martinville, May 9th, 1861

My dear Paul,

Your long and interesting letter of April 27th was received yesterday and I now reply to it with utmost pleasure. We all of course were very glad to learn that you had gotten back all safe at the University. When the intelligence about you going to Harper's Ferry reached us, mother (Marie Louise Benoit) was frightened to death, so were all of them. Miss Laurent and Ninise (Blanche Declouet) are still at Aunt Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) and they will come back tomorrow or day after.

The cavalry company in which I am is getting on right well. We are going to drill today at 2 P. M. Charles Tertron our captain, had gone to New Orleans to get the arms. I have not yet heard whether he has come back or not. Mr. Alcibiade's company in St. Martinville is a splendid one. They are almost 100 men in it and they are ready to march at any time the governor calls for them.

Last Saturday I assisted to the presentation and benediction of the flag and banner of that company. They were both made by the young ladies of St. Martinville.

Miss Cecilia Bienvenu presented the banner and Miss Hersilie Bienvenu presented the flag. Both of them made some very appropriate remarks, there being from 300 to 400 people present. After the presentation was over Mr. Alcibiade got up and made one of the most beautiful and eloquent speeches I ever listened to. William Mouton of Lafayette also made a very fine speech. We then all went to church and old father Jean blessed

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both flag and banner and also made a very good little speech. The assembly then broke up. Edourd Mouton is the flagberer of Mr. Alcibiade's company. Enclosed I send you a list of the members of Said company.

Every thing is going on splendidly here, the crop has improved very much since I last wrote you and it keeps on improving every day.

I had me a fine secession flag made and as soon as we hear of the taking of Pickens I am going to hoist her up on top of the house.

Mother (Marie Louise Benoit) tells you to ask to Father (Alexander Declouet) to let you come home.

Well goodbye dear Paul. Have you received the perrique? It was sent to you by Adam's Express since when Father passed in New Orleans on his way to Montgomery.

My best respects to all my good Virginia friends and believe me to be as ever your affectionate brother,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.