

1861  
May 23

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet in Mobile, to his son,  
Paul Declouet in Charlottesville, Virginia.

May 23, 1861

Mobile, 7 A. M.

My dear son,

I wrote to you from Montgomery in such haste that I avail myself of a few minutes that I have before me to address you again a few lines to inform you of my departure from Montgomery (on the 21st.) to go home. I arrived here yesterday at 1 P. M. after spending the very worst kind of a night on the cars (railroad) from Montgomery to within 15 miles of Pensacola where we took stages to Mobile - 40 miles - and from 10 to 12 hours packed up in a slow coach - and all that to miss the connection with the New Orleans mail boats. However I am well satisfied being that much nearer home and in much less time than by the Alabama River. At 8 A. M. today I will be on my way to New Orleans and will be there at ten or eleven o'clock at night. I will not tarry there more than one day and will probably arrive at home a few days sooner than I am expected. Oh! That you were with me! But let us not think of that. As I told you Congress adjourned on the 21st and before leaving I left in the hands of Mr. W. C. Rives sixty dollars which he kindly promised to remit to you. He lives in the neighbourhood of Charlottesville and insisted with great politeness that I should send you to see him. If you have finally made up your mind (with my consent and approbation) to go to Lexington, I suppose that you will not do so before receiving that money and then you may also be able to pay Mr. Rives a visit (provided nothing serious prevents). If you go to Lexington you must also pay a visit to Judge Brockenborough who gave me two letters of introduction for you and which I hope you have received.

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(con't.)

As I am on the question of going to Lexington I must say that I have become reconciled to that plan from the fact that I will be able before long to judge for myself. Congress has finally determined to meet in Richmond sometime in July and perhaps sooner and this being the case it is as well for you to wait for me in Virginia. Your year is almost out at the University and you may at all events spend a portion of your vacations at the military institute or with me according to circumstances. Having thus my views you will be better able to make up your mind. Do however according to your own sense of what is right and best. The adjournment to Richmond is to all intents and purposes public but I do not know whether the injunction of secrecy has been removed. Say nothing at all of this for the time.

Farewell, my dear son, my few minutes have elapsed and I must go to the boat. I may not write to you from New Orleans but I will from home.

Very affectionately,

Your father and friend,

Alexander DeClouet

P. S. I forgot I think to tell you that last Sunday the 19th I spent the day visiting the batteries navy yard encampments, forts etc, at Pensacola. A most interesting visit but of this anon - no time now.