

1861
June 25

PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet in St. Martinville, to her
brother, Paul Declouet in Virginia.

St. Martinville, June 25, 1861

Dear Paul,

I received your letter of the 11th of this month as I already mentioned in Christine's (our sister) and Gabie's (Gabrielle, our sister) letters. I believe that Clouet (Alexander, our brother) must have told you that a white man bent on urging the slaves to revolt was hanged. The same was done to six of the Negroes. Yesterday (Monday), they were led to False Point, on Papa's (Alexander Declouet) property where they were executed. They were accompanied by a large crowd. Mr. Charles Tertron's company and several others followed the procession. Father Jean who had succeeded, so it is said, to reawake in them religious feelings led them to the scaffold where he addressed to them a short sermon and, I believe, gave them communion. The unfortunate men asked permission to speak before dying and it was granted to them on the thought they might perhaps reveal other things but they did not say anything else. They only said good bye to their relatives, comrades, etc. who had been brought in as spectators. Some of them recommended their children, one of them wanted that "good day" would be said to everybody for him. All of them showed much courage with the exception of a mulatto who was rather emotional. Finally the unfortunate people got what they deserved. Before dying they showed again how guilty they were as not one said a word of repentance or urged the others not to follow their examples. They told their comrades etc., not to be sorrowful not to be worried about their fate as they were going to a better world, a world of rest and peace and that they would see them again.

Well, dear Paul, enough about this subject. It is getting late. I am

1861 going to say goodbye. All the family joins me to kiss you. Miss Laurent
June 25 sends her greetings.
(con't.)

Your sister who loves you,

Blanche Declouet