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(1861) PERSONAL LETTER from Christine Declouet in St. Martinville, to
July 16* her father, Alexander Declouet in Richmond, Virginia.

St. Martinville, July 16, (1861)

My dear papa,

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I am writing to you. I often think of the evening you left* but each time that I think of this dreadful evening it makes my heart heavy. Since you left I think almost constantly of you and I will never forget you. If you see Paul (my brother), kiss him for me and tell him that if he has time to write to me a few lines when he is writing to Mama (Louise Benoit Declouet) or the Quaité (Alexander, my brother). I think that when you come back you will find Corinne (my sister) walking on her fours. The other day, Mama was bathing Corinne. She asked her where papa was and looked for you in your study. Lutetia wrote to Miss Laurent on Saturday. Mr. Numa Bienvenu gave another little dog to Quaité, but on Sunday, Norbert went to St. Martin, he took along Bravo to give it to a man.

Tell Paul that I am asking him if he has forgotten when he put on a big grey tin can and glasses and then went to Miss Laurent to show her how he looked and to Ninise (Blanche, my sister) also.

Goodbye, my dear papa, kisses from all the family,

Christine Declouet

*Alexander Declouet left for Richmond in July, 1861.

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