

(1861  
Aug.)\*

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

My dear papa,

I have not answered you right away because it was my turn to write to Paul (my brother). Mama is supposed to go to see Mimi (Henriette LeBreton Benoit, my aunt) soon but as old Roselle is ill and there are many sick people in the hospital\* she cannot go just now. Miss Laurent is a little better, she had no fever Sunday. The mothers of Mrs. Reine and of Mr. Reine had dinner here Sunday. They came to bring back Mrs. Reine's granddaughter whom Miss Amelie had taken toward the river for the last two months. Tell Guassy that Pataud calls his daughter Leya and ask him if he thinks this name is pretty.

Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) was supposed to come here this morning but the Reine ladies being in her house, she has not been able to come. Corinne (my sister) wants to get fat for your visit. For two days she has been eating well but I don't know if this will continue for long. Mrs. Thon's granddaughter can walk a few steps standing alone by herself. She was sick recently. Calves were branded Saturday afternoon, I don't know how many of them. Quaitte (Alexander, my brother) will tell you about it.

Goodbye, my dear Papa. Kisses from all the family,

Christine Declouet

\*In a letter dated Aug. 29, 1861, Christine refers to many sick people in the hospital.

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