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PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Jr. in St. Martinville,
to his father, Alexander Declouet in Richmond, Virginia.

St. Martinville, September 14, 1861

My dear Papa,

Since last Tuesday, the 10th, I have been alone in the house. Mama (Louise Benoit Declouet) went to Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) and as the carriage ride upset her, upon arriving, she went to bed and had a rather strong attack of fever. Yesterday, I went to spend the day over there and she was still in bed. Her fever had subsided somewhat but she still felt it. At the time I was going away yesterday afternoon, Ninise (Blanche, my sister) went to bed seized with feverish shivers. Tonton promised to send for me if they were worse during the night. You should not worry about that. This fever has been over here for almost two months. Christine, Gabi and Corinne (my sisters) are well and also everybody over there. Noemi gave birth to a little girl on the 10th of this month, she is well. Charles, her little boy had fever and Alexandre had a bad cold.

It is almost time to mail this letter and as I have other letters to write it will prevent me to talk with you as long as I would like. Still there is a number of sick people in the hospital and that rather delays the work. One has finished to cut down and carts away briskly. As I told you, the maize has been taken in for several weeks. The Clos du Bayou on the other bank filled in the warehouse where the anvil is located.

They started to reap three days ago and if the weather is favorable, we will have a good harvest. The new warehouse has a roof and walls, we need only to take care of the floor and the openings. As soon as it is finished, I shall send a group of the workmen to the refinery and employ the others to repair the

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bridge or take care of the kitchen at the refinery. I do not believe that it will be necessary to make over completely the floor of the bridge. If we repair the missing beams, it will last until next year.

Mr. Octave left a few weeks ago to go to Virginia but having been unable to obtain a passport in town he joined the company of Captain Hayes of New Iberia who was in town to get more recruits. The companies of Henri Garland of Opelousas and Alfred Morton of Lafayette have left. I believe they are at Camp Moore. Your friend, Lucius Dupre, volunteered as private in Captain Garland's Company.

Your name has not appeared yet in the "Democrat" as a candidate for the Congress. I shall see your friends at St. Martin about that matter and I will not enter your name until I receive your answer to this letter. From what I hear, Jules Olivier is a candidate for this position. I heard at St. Martin that should you accept to run you would be elected. According to what Aristide Tertrou told me the "Democrat's" publisher did not want to mention your name until he was certain you were willing to run.

Well, goodbye, time and paper are getting short. We embrace you with all our love.

Alexander Declouet, Jr.

P. S. I am sending this letter to Mrs. Gay who will forward it to Paul (my brother) if you have left to return to Louisiana.