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Sept. 17

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

St. Martinville, September 17, 1861

My dear Papa,

I almost have some regret for having told you in my last letter that Mama (Louise Benoit Declouet) and Ninise (Blanche, my sister) had fever. But as this one will reach you almost at the same time as my last one you will not have time to worry. The day before yesterday, I went to Tonton's (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) to bring your letter of the 7th from Staunton (Virginia) and upon arriving, I had the pleasure to find our dear Mama and Ninise being up. They are very well now and are coming back tomorrow. There is a week today that I have been alone in the house. I was quite bored during that week and also during that time I made many trips from the house to the corn warehouse, etc.

Sunday evening, Noemi's little boy was very sick with a sore throat but fortunately it was not a dangerous sore throat. Little Uncle (Jean Baptist Benoit) went to see him at ten at night and when he returned he told us that the child was feeling better.

I don't know if I told you that Noemi had a little girl. Catiche (Declouet Lastrapes) was at Tonton's Sunday and she cried a great deal when we read your letter to her. All of them were very well at her home (Tonton's) and send you and Paul (my brother) friendly greetings.

We still have many patients in the hospital, fever and more fever. Rosa, Roselia and Chlessie Ginessey have been ill but they are better.

We are waiting for your next letter with the greatest impatience in order to have details about your trip as far as Wise's army and also to hear about Paul.

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(con't.)

You would not believe how pleased I was to learn that you became acquainted with Mr. Dinwiddie (principal of Brookland School) whom you saw at Greenwood where we had such a pleasant stay. From Greenwood travelling west you saw the most mountainous and picturesque part of Virginia. I shall always love Virginia almost as much as Louisiana. All the people we met in this state were so kind and polite to us. If it is possible, make a little stop at Greenwood on your way back.

Our greetings to all my comrades who are in Paul's company.

Goodbye, I am going to St. Martin to see the gentlemen about your candidacy and I shall tell them not to announce your name yet. I hope that you wrote about this matter to the "Democrat"s" publisher, or to one of your friends since the letter in which you mentioned this subject.

Goodbye again. We kiss you with all our love.

Your son and best friend,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.