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1861
Sept. 19

PERSONAL LETTER from M. L. Gay, near Staunton, Virginia, to
her friend, Alexander Declouet, Sr., in Virginia.

Near Staunton, September 19, 1861

Mr. Alex Declouet

My dear Friend,

I have been in an unusual state of excitement and anxiety since you left. A few days after your departure I received a letter from Charley informing me of Erskine's being quite sick. Monday last I received a letter from Lewisburg (West Virginia) telling me that he had been brought there and was very sick with typhoid fever, that Fannie had measles and that Charley had been left very unwell. At the same time my four little ones at home were all very sick with measles which made it impossible for me to go to the sick ones at Lewisburg. You can better imagine my feelings than I can describe them. I sent my old nurse out on Tuesday to Lewisburg to nurse the sick ones there.

Last night I received a letter from Charley from Lewisburg. He wrote that when Erskine got sick at camp he took him to the hospital and finding it such a miserable place he sent him to his grandmother. He was then taken sick at the hospital and orders came for all the sick to be removed to Lewisburg. He arrived there Sunday evening. From violent cold he was stiffened in the neck and shoulders and rendered very weak - but since getting to his grandmother's he was much better and that Erskine was improving and Fannie was getting along very well with measles. My little ones here are recovering rapidly and I am truly thankful. But we feel the deepest anxiety about you and Paul (your son). We have received no letter from you. I trust we will hear from you by the next mail. I hope sincerely