

1861
Dec. 12

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet in Richmond,
Virginia to his son, Paul Declouet in West Virginia.

Richmond, December 12th, 1861

My dear Paul,

I hope that you have received my letters - one enclosed to the care of Mr. Gay who informs me that it has been forwarded to the care of Mrs. Gay's uncle at Lewisberg and the other entrusted to Luit, Old who left here a few days ago expecting to meet you all at Charlottesville. You have probably learned ere this, that the U. V. Cy. (University of Virginia Company) had been disbanded and you now have a new field opened before you. Expecting to see you here from day to day I will not now say anything in regards to your future plans or intentions preferring to hold counsel with you, viva voce (orally), after your arrival here which I am now beginning to look for with some impatience if not with anxiety - and the more so on account of the probability of my departure for home on, or, about the 15th or 18th of this month. As a matter of course then, I expect you to hurry a little that you may be in readiness to go on with me. I have no other news from home but I have not been out this morning and I may find letters at the Capitol. As my time for a trip home and back here will be very limited I shall, I fear, be deprived of the pleasure of a visit now to Mr. and Mrs. Gay, but it shall only be deferred until my return to Richmond sometime next month. Reserving my recommendation to hasten on as fast as possible I remain very affectionately your father and best friend,

Alexander Declouet

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