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PERSONAL LETTER, unsigned, from the mother of a friend of
Paul Declouet's, to Paul Declouet in prison.

May 16, 1862

Dear Paul,

I wrote to you this morning in answer to the only letter I have received from you since you left. It only reached me two days ago, as you wrote then apparently upon the eve of departure for Sandusky I directed my letter to that place. I fear you will not get it. This I regret as I enclosed a letter I had gottem from Alex (your brother) which I know you would like to have read. Perhaps by writing to the Postmaster at Sandusky to forward it to you enclosing him a stamp you might get it. Alex was quite well and as pleasantly situated as a prisoner can expect to be. He met at Chicago a cousin of his I think his name was Fuselier (NOTE: their grandmother was Marie Aspasia Fuselier) who was captured at Shiloh. O'Rourke and 15 other Louisianians occupied one room with them. Alex said the food was much better than that at the prison here, but they have to cook it themselves, a fine mess they make of it no doubt. I told you in my letter this morning had much surprises and distresses I was to find at the moment of your departure that you and Alex were to be separated. I had done all I could to prevent it and been assured by officers high in authority it would not be done, there was some mistake doubtless; a federal friend of mine has procured an order which reached him yesterday for Alex to be sent to Columbus with you which I hope will be soon carried into effect so you see I have not forgotten you and did nothing but cry for two days after you left, first that you and your brother were separated then that I missed you both dear boys. It reminded me of my

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own darling. I had a short note from him a few days ago, he was well and had reached his destination in safety. Did you see in the official report of the Elkhorn battle that he is mentioned for distinguished conduct there. Now that New Orleans has surrendered I think by writing to your parents they would get the letter if you direct to their agent. Nanni got back from Kentucky a few days ago. She sends much love and regrets she did not see you before you left. As I wrote this morning I would not have written again today if I had not just received yours of the 11th postmarked 14th saying you were still at Columbus. I flatter myself to a poor prisoner a letter from even such an uninteresting lady as I am will be welcomed even if it does nothing but serve to break the monotony of prison life. I heard Willie was at Columbus I hope he is well, give him my love. If permitted I will send you a bag of eatables or anything else you may want if you will let me know how to direct it. Of course dear Paul you will not hesitate to tell me as you would your mother what you want. With every wish for your health and welfare I remain

Your devoted friend

P. S. As I have an extra postage stamp I send it lest you may not have one to send for the letter from Sandusky.