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1862
May 24

PERSONAL LETTER, unsigned, from the mother of a friend of
Alexander and Paul Declouet's, to Alexander and Paul Declouet in prison.
May 24, 1862

Dear boys,

I address this letter to you both, as Alex's (Declouet) last letter said he would leave for Columbus the afternoon of the day upon which he wrote. I feel so much better satisfied to know that you are together. I have been waiting to hear from you before sending a bag of eatables. I send them by express today. The bag contains three pairs of socks, three handkerchiefs, and three towels, a drum of figs, a ham of dried beef, which is a nice relish either boiled or chipped thin and eaten as it is, two boxes of sardines, one of oysters, one of brandied peaches, a jar of mixed pickles, one of french mustard, one of anchovy paste, this is nice to spread upon your bread, some cheese cakes and candies. If this reaches you safely and quickly I will send you a bag of biscuits and fresh meats cooked. I feared to put such things in till I know how long it takes to get them there, lest they might spoil. I wrote a few lines yesterday to my darling boy. The Federal Officer kindly permitted us to send an open letter by some exchanged prisoners. I told him to write to your parents to tell them you were well and of your whereabouts. I have no news but what the newspapers give. If I had any one to go with I should like to run over and see you dear boys so much. Can you not get paroled and come here? Why not try to be paroled to go home and get exchanged? I hear it is sometimes allowed. I have not heard from my son and feel very uneasy about him. All my family are well and join in much love to both of you. Write as soon as you get your bag and let me know about it. Write whether you get it or not. With devoted affection I remain truly your friend.

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