

1862
July 2

PERSONAL LETTER from William R. Howard in Baltimore, to
Paul Declouet, in prison.

Baltimore July 2, 1862

Dear Sir,

Having understood through Mr. R. W. Evans now at Chicago that you were like himself a prisoner, my object in writing is to inquire whether you need anything which I can supply. If so, please let me know. My brother, Jim, a college mate of yours at the University of Virginia, has been in the Southern army for over a year. I heard from him as late as June 17, through one of your officers who went to Richmond to effect his exchange but was unable to do so and of course returned.

Your college acquaintances Logan, Robinson, and Wright are also in Virginia so I can tell you little or nothing about them. Robert McKim was killed in the battle of Winchester over a month ago, he was a member of the Rockbridge Virginia Artillery.

My sister sent off a bundle this morning directed to Capt. Gordon, for yourself and brother (Alexander). I hope before this reaches you, you will have received it. If you should gain your liberty by a parole, I should be glad if you would come to this place and make my house your home, until exchanged. As politics are contraband I must be silent on the subject in my communicating with you.

Respectfully,

Wm. R. Howard

P. S. Address letters to 225 North Entow Street, Baltimore. Please send me your address. I enclose half a dozen postage stamps, not knowing whether you are supplied. W. R. H.

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