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1862
July 25

PERSONAL LETTER from Mary L. Benham in Cincinnati, Ohio to
her friend Paul Declouet in prison.

Cincinnati, Ohio, July 25, 1862

Dear Friend,

I hope that your day of freedom is at hand and, that your restoration to home and kindred may soon gladden you and them. I sent to my cousin Sam B. Hawes, a box, take from it whatever you require. In conversation yesterday with a french friend of mine, he proffered to send me a box of good Claret for you but, we decided to ask if you will be permitted to receive it. If so, tell me when you answer this note. Your friend, Bernard is still in the hospital here, resting and lonely, but nearly recovered from his wounds. If there is any service of any kind that I can render to you during your captivity, do not hesitate to ask of it of your sincere friend,

M. L. Benham

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