

1862
Aug. 3

PERSONAL LETTER from Shreve in St. Louis, Missouri, to his
friends Alexander and Paul Declouet in prison.

Saint Louis, August 3rd, 1862

Dear Paul and Alex,

I might have written to you long ago had I known it were possible for a letter to reach you. It was not until sometime after your departure from the city that I learned through our friend Mrs. S., that friends were allowed to communicate with you. I have no doubt you understand perfectly well why it was that I did not visit you during your sojourn in this city. After making every effort in my power to obtain admission to the prison I at last gave it up in despair. I have never ceased to regret my misfortune. It seemed hard that we could be so near each other and then not have intercourse; however I hope you received my letters. I suppose you are looking anxiously forward to the time when you can be released from your bondage; and that time may not be very far off, for a general exchange of prisoners is talked of. It seems absurd however to place any confidences in such reports, as those matters are so often contrary to what we anticipate. I often think of you and how lonely you must be in confinement; but I trust you manage to keep in good spirits and pass your time as pleasantly as possible under such circumstances. We had been very anxious about our brother for some time past and inclined to fear something serious had befallen him on account of such continued silence but recent and positive information has set us aright. All goes well with him and others of your acquaintance. You must excuse brevity, for prudence requires that I should defer many things that I might tell you. Hope and confidence reign among us and I trust our

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prayers for a speedy termination of this unnatural war will not be heard in
vain. Write soon dear friends and believe me as ever

Your affectionate friend,

Shreve

P. S. Since writing the above I have received a letter from Miss Fun
Sunday announcing the sad intelligence that her brother John fell on the field
at the battle of Richmond. Her loved one was doing well at last accounts.