

1876
July 15

PERSONAL LETTER from Jane Roman Declouet in Galveston, Texas,
to her husband, Paul L. Declouet in St. Martinville, La.
Galveston, July 15, 1876

Dear Paul,

I am taking advantage of Edwige (Lauve), Blanche (your sister) and Charley (our son) being out to chat with you. I will start by telling you that we are quite comfortable here and that the children are cheerful. My dear Charley who cried several times during the trip because he wanted so much to see papa seems inclined to have fun. But he says your name constantly and when he sees something which might be agreeable or useful to you he advises me to buy it. While I think of it, he wants you to take his whole pencil from his desk to replace the one you have in a piece of cane. He tells you that he does not need it because Naine Vigie (Edwige Lauve) gave him two brand new ones. Can you believe that his sea sickness lasted through almost all yesterday morning and it is only after taking a good nap that he recovered. We ate a fine water melon and there again he put your share in a pretty tin container. He is advising you to take Rolland and Morgan when you come for us in order to go around the gulf and avoid the crossing. Edwige took him to Mrs. Broussard's yesterday after dinner and they came back with Mr. Broussard who came to offer me his bath cabin. I thanked him for this attention, it will be much more pleasant than those public cabins. His wife was not feeling well, she will come to see us as soon as she can get out. She had kidney trouble and had the idea to apply a quick vesicatory but there was swelling and she cannot put her clothes on right now. Today, Blanche went to buy flannel for our costumes and we are making them quickly on the sewing machine.

(Lauve)

Nemours/looks well although he suffers from his liver. He was waiting

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for us on the wharf with a carriage. His house is comfortable and we have a great deal of room. There is a delicious breeze. The little girls search everywhere and help somewhat. They always think about getting out and are ready to do so now.

Don't forget to give me news about the unfortunate Dominique affair. I am worried about it. If you do not have time to write urge the young ladies to do so. I promise I shall answer their letters. Tell my boy's mother not to be too uneasy and to snatch a few moments to speak to me about him. Tell Christine (your sister), Edwige was sorry she did not come. She would have found a place for her. I forgot to tell you that she was not expecting the children and her joy was at its height when she had a glimpse of her little blond head. She could not entirely get resigned at the idea not to see them yet, she could not be sure of it. Also, Nemours said he spent a very bad night Thursday and did not succeed calming his nerves.

I do not expect you to write to me (you would not have time) before your father's (Alexander Declouet) arrival. Tell your sisters to give us news. Charley expects that after Pere (Alexander Declouet's nickname for grandfather) 's arrival you will have a two week vacation in order to come to enjoy the good breeze, go bathing, eat well without being bothered by flies, there are not any here.

Farewell, I am feeling well and am not sad as I am convinced that you will spare yourself a little and take courage during our separation. Mrs. Broussard says that I should stay at lease three months! All right!

Greetings to the friends, kisses to the family and for you all the affection my heart contains. A good kiss to my dear big boy (George) on his fat back not to say anything else.

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Later: The strollers have returned. Charley bought for himself a little grey suit with white checks, a vest included for \$3.00 and another one in white duck for \$5.00. I did not find them expensive. They fit well and come from Mr. Broussard's. Mrs. Broussard just left with her little family. She was very friendly and promised to accompany us for the first bath. Such bathing keeps me busy. Tell Gabie (Gabrielle, your sister) that when the costumes are not well made, waves pull them away which gives rise to many incidents.

Farewell again

(Jane)