1876 PERSONAL LETTER from Jane Roman Declouet in New Orleans, to her Oct. 10 husband, Paul L. Declouet in St. Martinville. New Orleans, October 10, 1876

My dear Paul,

Yesterday was a long day, yet we made good use of it. About noon, we went out. First we called on Ninette; she was quite surprised when she saw me in the living room. Edwige (Lauve) had been announced but not I. We saw the sofa which is very pretty and will be much more pleasant for the doctor than the arm chair where he often fell asleep in order not to upset his bed. After the visit we took the bus and went to Canal street. There, following your advice I bought for myself a pair of earrings, black and gold, for \$3.00 and a pair of cuff links, also gold and black, for \$2.75. You see that I am in a good disposition. The weather was fine and after window shopping for a while, we returned to the house about 2 o'clock. I paid for the gas bill \$3.85 and I do not think it is much considering that we did not spare the light.

Tell Charley (our son) that Manissin did not come yesterday and that old Nainaine was looking for him at the table. She held a plate to offer it to him.

We have not seen our little doctor for the whole day and we don't know yet if he travelled with you. On the other hand, Dr. Landry surprised us. We had expected him only today. He told us that everybody was well and Blanche (your sister) begs her sisters not to count on the news he gave us to remain silent. We must have details to be patient.

Charley's photographs will be ready only today. At the moment I am writing I am thinking of my Charley's joy. It is about the time of the arrival. Roland and Morgan are harnessed. It was one of his great expectations and then 1876 Oct. 10 (con't.) to see again all this dear little group and all the big ones who spoilt them so much. If my shawl has not left, ask Gabie (your sister) to send Blanche to send

her woolen dress with a flap and double skirt from last year; her barege dress is out of season.

I was forgetting to tell you that I bought Pato's little boy's hat. It looks nice and costs only 75 cents. Tell me if you have not forgotten Jenkins. I could supply to that before my departure.

I slept well last night although I woke up several times. We are expecting the postman and I will give him my letter to be sure it will leave tomorrow.

Kiss my dear children for me and tell Zezette that I am very proud to (Edwige, our daughter) know that she is not capricious any longer and that Vigette/is always good.

A kiss for all those who kiss you and for you as many kisses as you desire.

Forever yours,

## Jane

P. S. Miss Lise is very proud of her separate portraits and thanks you.

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