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

New Orleans, October 12, 1876

My dear Paul,

(Edwige, our daughter)

I received my dear little Vigette's/little tooth after my letter was closed. This is why I did not speak about it. Tell her she had an excellent idea when she sent it because receiving it gave me much pleasure and to reward her I will bring her a sewing kit. I paid for Dr. 's consultation and I am enclosing his receipt. Yesterday, we walked along Canal street and I bought four pretty printed cotton dresses for the little girls, printed cotton still costing 8 cents. This piece of news will please them, they like new dresses. I shall bring them a little hat costing \$3.00. I ordered it at the same time I ordered one for the young ladies.

Dr. Landry came to see us last night and a while after, Dr. Souchon came. This morning, they are coming together and after their visit I shall add a word to tell you what they said if they say anything. We ate little cakes with ice cream and thought again of Charley (our son). Old Nainaine takes good care of us and gave us a good little dinner. I forgot to tell you that Dr. Souchon let us know that Dr. Sabatier's house burned down. He heard this through a letter.

Tell my dear little Mime that she was right to send me the message that she likes apples only. I shall not fail to bring her some and I shall bring to her also shoes similar to the ones of my big Vigette. Ask her also what is her favorite bonbon so that I can satisfy her and my Charley also. As to George (our son), I know that he likes chocolate cigars, and on the whole likes an assortment of candies.

Delphine slept with Edwige (Lauve) last night and she asked me

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for a picture of Charley. I could not refuse her. I am enclosing one to show you they are good. Landry, the son, thinks so. The old man did not mention my gift. I don't know what it means, however, he is very amiable and encourages me by telling me that soon I shall only need a cook.

My letter was interrupted by the physicians' visit. The little doctor seems quite satisfied. He made me lie down for an injection and, as he said, to see how much the "dame jeanne" (demijohn) contained. A quarter of a glass was absorbed.

They think it is not very important. The little doctor quoted a case similar to mine, the person in question did not agree to the operation and died. An autopsy was made, it would have been a very good chance for an operation and he certainly could have been cured. It seems that Dr. Sabatier lost all his belongings and within twenty minutes everything had burned.

The postman just gave me your letter dated on the 10. I thank you and also Lizzie (our daughter) and George. I am not too worried about your absence because I have the proof that I shall hear from you often and I feel more reassured about having remained. I am very proud to think my dear boy has not forgotten me. Kiss him a thousand times for me and the others also. Very sincere greetings to all and for you all that my heart contains.

Yours forever,

Jane

P. S. Tell Christine and Gabie (your sisters) that we have found pink coral earrings for \$2.00. If they can afford them, they must tell me.

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