

1876

Oct. 29

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

New Orleans, October 29, 1876

Dear Paul,

Your last letter received Saturday only confirmed what we already knew about the old uncle (Laclaire Fuselier) and since that time we heard the sad news of his death. We were quite moved about this, first because we loved him and also because we know about the sorrow your father (Alexander Declouet) will experience. The Landry gentlemen are very sad also. They knew he was so unhappy that they consider his death as a deliverance. The son, a dairyman, supposedly could not leave his work to go to say goodbye to his father he had treated so badly. The old doctor thinks he is a rascal and his wife is not much better.

My convalescence is progressing and I believe I will be bold enough to ask if I may leave. My back did not hurt in the last few days, the swelling did not increase, and I am going to see what Dr. Souchon is thinking. He is arriving tonight and I am pleased of this. I had been afraid to be ill during his four day absence.

Yesterday, we walked as far as Holmes along Bourbon street without being tired but as I had gained some appetite and it was time for lunch, we went to Lopez's to eat a chicken salad. From there we took Camp street to Magazine street to find the store where "Insurance Oil" is sold. Dr. Souchon recommends it to us or rather to you. It is the only one which is not dangerous to use and you do not have to change your lamps. It sells for 50 cents a gallon and if you want to try it we can send you a gallon. On Gravier street they would not send

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(con't.)

less than 5 gallons, but there is an agency on Chartres street.

We were sorry to hear that Mrs. Landry was sick during her stay in the country and was deprived from stopping at our home. She is expected on Tuesday. I believe that the old man is quite anxious to see her. Minette told us that he cannot do without her and calls her twenty times a day for what he wants to find.

We have a shortage of water that is almost alarming, for three days the water-work has not run.

I stopped writing to you for a moment to receive Miss Lavillemon's visit and after her, Minette came. The latter looks much better since she gained weight. Edwige (Lauve) made her laugh and she appears to have pleasure when she sees us.

Farewell again, kiss my darlings and they will kiss you for their dear mother who is languishing for the return.

Yours forever,

Jane

P. S. Between ending my letter and signing it, I received a visit from Mrs. Septime Fortier and Anna. She asked me if you were the one who spoke about her husband to Dr. Souchon and I could not answer. While going out, she begged me to recommend him to the doctor.