

1876

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

New Orleans, November 10, 1876

Dear Paul,

I write almost every day but since you do not find it is too much and do not ask for a break, I am answering today your letter of the 6th received this morning. For me, to write to you is a recreation, a duty at the same time as sweet and pleasant to fulfill and as demanding as prayer. This little moment of conversation is the only time that I am able to devote to you with the absence of appearances. I belong entirely to the children the caresses they lavish on me, the boy being included. He rushes to me to show me anything, a little piece of skin above one of his dear little fingers, or to eat a piece of candy, a cake. At the present time, they are in Melanie's convent with Christine and Gabie (your sisters). Blanche (your sister) is with me. I am happy to hear that the election over there has been as calm as it was here. We are waiting until tomorrow to know who has been really elected. We do not hear about politics here. No one discusses it.

Blanche would like to know if one has forgotten to mail oranges. She counts on them to pay Miss Pauline for the use of her sewing machine. You did not tell me if you have found your raglan yet. Charley (our son) knew about it. I am surprised he did not reveal the secret. Anyway, if you need an overcoat, I like to think that you have not forgotten the one at the bottom of your armoire. I am afraid you may need underwear before my return. I have for this purpose twenty yards of natural color stripped cotton and the pattern is in my patterns box with a mark. With a model you can furnish, the old Joe could make them in no time. You should wet the cotton before you give it for sewing. No doubt,

1876  
Nov. 10  
(con't.)

you found on your desk a little bill for sewing little dresses. It had to be paid to Mrs. Fleming, Gabie forgot to mention this to you.

This morning, I paid \$155 to the old Deloche, \$10 to Marie for two months due to her and \$6.00 to Ernestine. Blanche wished to pay \$4.00 for her last two months of laundry. As it is not her pocket money, I accepted. The little girls will lead me into extra small expenses but I will buy only what is necessary, not depriving them of sweets because you would scold me for it. The young ladies dispute with me when I speak of the attentions you had for me and which I miss. The fact is, dear friend, I do not find my toddy as good as when you gave it to me. I have to take it myself. It is a spoilt child's whim, tell this to Charley and he will laugh as he loved to laugh at Mama. Tell him to be very prudent in the refinery when you are not there. I would be constantly worried if I could not count upon it in advance upon your presence. George (our son) mentions his name often and speaks of enclosures for Papa, of canes for Charley, besides his little sisters speak about him often and sometimes Vigette (Edwige, our daughter) appears troubled.

I am stopping writing so that my letter may leave tomorrow. Miss Sanchez offered to bring it to a postal box. I kiss you waiting for the time I can really do so.

Yours forever,

Jane

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