Nov. 24

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

New Orleans, November 24, 1876

Dear Paul,

Today it is a real piece of news I am announcing to you. Dr. Souchon is sending you the message that, unless unexpected events, I shall be able to leave on the first, that is to say, next Friday. He gave me an injection this morning and after he left I believe I had a little fever. This is due perhaps to the frightful weather, a little rain, drizzling all day long and also my boy had fever yesterday with intestinal trouble. Dear friend, your wife is nervous, you must excuse her. My boy is well today, cheerful and satisfied, but rather demanding. He wants apples and we do not want to let him eat any. We are going to be patient until Saturday and take care of the last little errands. You believe I am happy to leave, don't you? I do not know how to express it. You will figure by what you feel in receiving the news if I cannot say more.

I gave Alex the check and I made it for \$200 to be sure not to have to write another one. I have not seen Mrs. Landry yet because of the bad weather we had and she is anxious to see if my figure is more full. I am distressed that the rain prevented me from going to kiss her. She now has a sore foot. Your sisters saw her.

All the family find the children's portraits perfect and Vigette's (Edwige, our daughter) little pose adorable. Alexander requested one of each one of them and he has been so amiable and so kind to us that I gave them to him with pleasure telling him to offer a little share to his good mother.

Christine (your sister) seems to have felt better lately and does not

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1876 want to hear she might remain without you. Edwige (Lauve) we saw shortly Nov. 24 (con't.) yesterday, does not speak about her departure. Tell my Charley (our son) that

I did not want him to guess, I wanted to surprise you. Kiss him for me until I arrive, his sisters kiss him and their dear father also.

Yours forever,

Jane

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