

1854  
May 6.

T. B. FAYROT  
COLLECTION

PERSONAL LETTER written on this date at St. Martin Parish  
by Benoit de St. Claire to his nephew Alexander deClouet at Louisiana  
College, Convent, La.

St. Martin Parish May 6, 1854.

My dear Clouet: (Alexander)

Personal  
letter  
by  
Benoit de  
St. Claire  
to his  
Nephew  
Alexander  
DeClouet

I received from you, the day before I left the city, a letter which gave me much pleasure. I was so busy that I didn't have time to reply immediately. I did not send you the fencing foils that you asked me for thinking that your fencing master would supply them to you. We were waiting for a letter from you, but we were disappointed. I hope that tomorrow's mail will bring us news from you. I do not know yet when I will go to get Mimi (your mother). I will try (?) then to go see you. Write a few words to your aunt. That will make her very happy; and she will give you news of Tato. I see with pleasure in your last letters that you are working because they were much better than the first ones. A few days ago I saw Bienvenu's son; he had just received a letter from you and he was very proud of it. There is nothing new here, poor Vena (?) is still in the same condition. Gabrielle has a slight rash which thankfully is almost over and from which she is not suffering.

Goodbye my dear Clouet, (Alexander) kiss Paul for all of us.  
Tell him to be a good boy, and remember that I am very fond of you.

Your uncle who loves you very much.

B. de St. Clair

P. S. Ninise(Blanche) has been at Aunt Tonton's for two weeks. Christin is very well and speaks of you often.

The original written in French and on file at Tulane University.  
Translated by Tulane University March 1968.

1854  
June 3

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexandre Declouet, Sr. in St. Martinville,  
to his son, Paul Declouet at Louisiana College in Convent, La.  
St. Martinville, June 3, 1854

My dear Paul,

We have just received your letter and also two from Clouet (Alexander, your brother) addressed to your mother (Louise Benoit Declouet). As it is uncertain whether she will answer you right away, I am taking upon myself to answer for her and for me. Your little uncle (Jean Baptist Benoit) not having returned from the city yet I am still very busy and I have only time enough to write to you a few lines so you would not be without news from us. I have just received a short letter from him in which he announced to me that he will leave the city with Mimi (Henriette LeBreton Benoit, his wife) next Tuesday, on the Delia. Then I could think of going to see you for a few days and it will be for me a strong satisfaction, especially if upon arriving at the college I find you happy, in good health, studying and behaving yourselves in such a way as to deserve Mr. Dufau's and your professors' approval and congratulations.

Noemi (de l'Homme), her two children and Mrs. Chevalier de l'Homme arrived the day before yesterday by the Delia and slept at the house. Alexandre is splendid and our dear aunt Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) will experience a great joy having them with her for some time, a month or two. I don't know if I told you that we have been staying in the new house for about a week. We like it but it is rather uncomfortable to occupy two houses. We still eat in the old house.

You spoke to your mother about an examination but you did not say how you got along. In your letters, you and Clouet never speak about your studies, your classes, etc. You would give me a great pleasure in speaking

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(con't.)

about all that sometime. I wrote to Clouet last week. In my letter there was one for Mr. Dufau to grant you the permission to go bathing. - But under certain conditions. If you do not promise me to be extremely careful, I could not consent. I also think it is too early, the river's water must be very cold and it seems to me it would be better to wait until the end of this month. In that way, I could also see by myself. I rely completely upon Mr. Dufau. I think I will land in St. James parish before going to the city and I shall leave from there probably a week after your uncle's arrival. Between the 15 and the 20, I believe I shall have the happiness to be with you. In the meantime, my dear children, keep letting us hear from you often as something might prevent my departure. Your mother and your dear little sisters join me in sending you our tenderest regards.

Your father and best friend,

Alexander Declouet