

1857
May 12

PERSONAL LETTER from Dr. Pierre Louis Nee in New Orleans,
to his nephew, Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Brookland Academy in Greenwood
Depot, Virginia.

New Orleans, May 12, 1857

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

My dear Declouet,

Yesterday mail brought your letter of the 4th, Sunday, the day before
yesterday. Your brave and respectable father (Alexander Declouet), your good
and excellent mother (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) had returned to the
Attakapas with your dear little sister Christine, who had quite recovered from
her scarlet fever which very luckily had been mild and the scar left by the
operation performed on her on April 23 was almost healed.

I do not doubt that they arrived yesterday morning safe and sound at
their home where good aunt Tonton (Josephine Declouet De l'Homme) must
have shed tears when seeing them. We expect to hear from them by tomorrow
boat.

I think that my letter written after your father's will have reached
you and that within a few days I shall hear about you and Paul (your brother)
whom you don't mention, but after all as you are together now I believe it is
an oversight and that he is feeling well. I am going to write tomorrow by the
intermediary of cousin Erasme (Nee) who presently is going up to Bay Berwick,
passing on the Bayou aux Boeufs bridge upon which your father and mother
passed Sunday with the railroad. When I went with Clair (Benoit Nee), as soon
as your father informed me about the accident which happened to Christine, we
left from here Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock and on the next morning,
Thursday, at 5 o'clock, we arrived at your home. We took a carriage in
New Iberia.

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At Bay Berwick, twice or three times a week, there are some of Commodore Vanderbilt's steamers which take you to Texas with the same speed as if you were going from the Bay to St. Martinville. This new opportunity for the railroad promises to be very profitable for it.

B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

The late and repeated cold weather after a too early spring seemed to have hurt the crops a great deal. After all, the damage has not been as serious as it was feared and hope seems to be reborn for the next crop.

All of us are feeling very well after all the worries we experienced for your dear little sister (Christine) and afterward for your good mother as three of my colleagues had stated she had scarlet fever. I was absent at the time of their visit and when I came back I was lucky enough to ascertain that fear had been the only harm. It proves to you that members of the Faculty of Medicine are not infallible. Infallibility is only in Rome and we did not capture it, so it seems.

Friendly greetings to Paul. Tell him to get rid of rheumatism in his fingers which prevents him from writing and deprives his friends from hearing from him.

Caroline who had come with Marie and Narcisse to see your mother and be present at the operation left when poor Christine developed scarlet fever, fearing that her children might catch it. Your mother ordered her to go but Stanislas remained courageously and had no trouble up to now and will not have any, I think. In spite of the quarantine established between him and Christine, the fellow often over-looked it to play with Christine. God blesses the brave people, he did not catch anything.

News from you, my dear Declouet, are very pleasant to me. I am

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answering you precisely, as you see, in haste, it is true but I am to be excused because since I began this letter, ten times I have been disturbed. After all, you should be satisfied with it and add the words...and the , , , missing. I have only time left to send my greetings. All of us remember you affectionately. Tell Paul about this and believe that I am your affectionate old uncle and friend,

I. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

Pierre L. Nee

P. S. When you want to write to your father quicker, send me your letters. I would transmit them to him directly, otherwise they take longer. I do not know why nor does your father.