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Nov. 8

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Jr. in St. Martinville,
to his brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.
St. Martinville, November 8, 1859

My dear Paul,

Two or three days ago, I received with a great deal of pleasure your letter of October 29. I did not answer immediately because I have been a little more occupied than usual. Finally, I received on the same day as yours a letter from (W. C.) Schaumberg. I have not had yet time to answer.

The election took place yesterday and I voted for the first time. For the State officers I voted the whole democratic ticket and as to the Parish officers, I voted for Captain Wm. Greig for sheriff, for Captain Bull for the Court Recorder, for Adolphe Olivier as District Attorney, for G. B. Miller and Martin Voorhies as representatives and for Jacob Harry as Assessor. Three candidates ran for the Senate. They were E. W. Fuller (Democrat), John Moore (K K) and Belden, independent. As I did not care for any of the three gentlemen, I did not vote at all for any Senator. We do not have yet the result of the election. I will send it to you as soon as it is received.

Grinding is still going on since a few days. We have gone over a hundred boucauts. Mr. John will finish cutting the canes of the other bank today. The sugar is very fine, the molasses also. The furnace for the cane refuse and our old steam pan run perfectly. We have not tried yet the new brass boiler but we will soon do it. The mill will start soon to make the store some cane-wine. I shall explain this to you and tell you more about it after we see it operate. We are all very well and kiss you a thousand times and will send you a barrel of syrup from the vat.

Goodbye, my dear Paul, I am writing to you hastily. I have to go to

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(con't.)

St. Martin, bring my letter, and hear about the election. My next letter will be longer and with more details. Mr. John sends his greetings, Miss Laurent also. We are always impatient to hear from you.

Your brother and best friend,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.

P. S. It seems that the insurrection which took place at Harper's Ferry brought forth a violent emotion at Greenwood. Since you are organizing a military company, it must be by fear of a revolt like at Harper's Ferry, may happen at Greenwood. In any case, if it happens, remain calm. Place (W. C.) Schaumburg at your company's head and he will frighten all the John Brown's of the world. While wishing a great deal of success to your military company, take care that it does not do like the Ugly Club did last year, that is: "turn out to be a fizzle."