

1860
Jan. 30

PERSONAL LETTER from Alexander Declouet, Jr., in New Orleans, to his brother, Paul Declouet, at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

New Orleans, January 30th, 1860

My dear Paul,

Since we are here in the city we have heard of you just two or three times. I hope that nothing is the matter with you and that you are as well as ever. I got a letter from Schaumburg the other day dated in St. Louis, he must by this time be with you all at Greenwood. I answered his letter immediately but as I put it on board the boat when I was going up to St. James, my letter will perhaps be lost or delayed somewhere. If he has not received it tell him that I will start off for Europe with him next spring. Tell him also that I am willing to start before the 15th of May if it is the same thing to him. I mentioned in my letter to him that I would start on the 15 of April if he was able to start at that time, but since I have change notion, it will be better to start later than that time. Tell him that if he is ready for the 1st of May or the 15 of the same month it will be the same thing to me. I would like very much to know if his family is going over with him. If they are going tell Schaumburg that I intend to pass by St. Louis and I could take them and make the trip to New York together.

The time at which I'll pass in St. Louis will perhaps be to soon for them for I intend to go soon enough before the time of my departure so as to spend several weeks in Virginia.

We must fix every thing right before I leave here. Tell Schaumburg that we must try to take the Persia. She is the best steamer on the Cunard line by that way we will land in Liverpool.

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(con't.)

Nothing new to learn you, except that every body is talking about my marrying one of Mr. Septine's girls, you know that whenever a young man goes in a house where there are young ladies they marry him right off. The other day our mother went at Mr. Ganucheau's and old Mrs. Ganucheau asked her if it was true that I was going to marry one of Miss Fortier's. She told her that she didn't know any thing about it, they spoke to me about it, and I told them that I did not have any intentions if I went there pretty often, as that family has been very kind and polite to us when we were in La. College (Convent, La.). I thought it was my duty to return them the kindness they had for me. Mrs. Ganucheau would do well to keep her tongue to herself. She would surely die if she couldn't talk and tattle and tell a thousand lies and ridicule every body. I don't know if I'll go there at all for if they talk to me about that I will answer them in accordance. I will leave for Cuba in about five or six days and will come back about the 5th or 6th of March.

You will perhaps be surprised to learn that our Father (Alexander Declouet) bought Mr. Dazincourt's plantation (\$3600) he didn't buy any slaves.

I am very anxious to leave for Europe. I wish you could come with me. If Schaumburg don't change notion it will be a very fine chance for me.

Well goodbye and write often.

Your brother,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.

P. S. My father has received today your last letter.