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Mar. 23

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

St. Martinville, March 23, 1860

My dear Paul,

Only a few lines to let you know that I sent you by last mail a box containing a few cigars and cigarettes. I wish I could have sent you more, but you know it would have cost too much for the postage. They will however last you until I arrive yonder. I wrote to you a few days before I sent the box of cigars. I also wrote to Buck Ridley by the same mail as the box. There is nothing new over here to learn you. We are just about to commence making bricks. The carpenters are putting up the shed. We have not yet tried the saw mill since it has been moved on the other side of the canal. Celeste (Garland), Mrs. Alfred Lastrapes is going to take dinner here today.

The cane are coming out very finely and if we have good weather we will probably make a bustering crop. We have not yet planted any thing in the Chretien's field. Mr. John is now ditching and plowing it. He intends to put only corn in it this year.

I have given up going by St. Louis and Louisville. I shall pass by the Memphis route taking the cars in New Orleans. Our Uncle (Benoit) St. Clair and I will start here together and he says that he will go as far as Jackson with me. Well gboodbye my dear Paul. I will be at Greenwood in a few weeks from now.

Your brother,

Alexander Declouet, Jr.

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