PERSONAL LETTER from C. S. Gay, the father of a friend of Sept. 15 Paul Declouet's, to Paul Declouet, in Virginia.

Saturday, 15th September 1861

Dear Paul,

You will find enclosed a letter which came to me yesterday for your dear father. I hope he has reached you in safety and that you and my boys are enjoying his good society. I learn that Erskine is not at all well and that Charley is as usual, quite delicate. Tell them from me and their mother, that before they get too much worn down to get a furlough for a time and come home to recruit their health. I hope to hear from you, your father and my boys by next mail. God bless you, your father and my dear sons.

Yours sincerely,

C. S. Gay

P. S. Tell Charley and Erskine to write by every mail, one or the other of them and you must write too. Tell your father to let us hear from him also. We are all well. Come and make our house your resting place whenever you can. We shall be always happy to give you a hearty reception.

Yours in haste,

C. S. Gay

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