

# Life in the North vs. South- Industry and Agriculture



June 16, 1858 (New York)

Papa left home early this morning to start his new job. He will be paid a good wage for his work. I hope that we will soon have enough money to move to a better home. Our apartment building is very dirty and crowded. We are lucky, though. In the apartment next to ours, six families have to share the same room.

Papa will work many hours a day at the factory. He says he will help make tools and machine parts that farmers far away need. Last week, Mama and I walked past the railroad station on our way to the market. I was amazed at how many boxes were loaded onto the rail cars. The trains were shipping many of them far away. They were probably going to take some things to plantations (large farms) in the South. Oh, I hate to think of those poor slaves having to work so hard without pay. I don't think it is right for the South to have slaves. I know most of the people here agree with me.

June 16, 1858 (South Carolina)

Daddy says it will be another very hot day. He left this morning in his carriage to pick up a part he needs to repair the cotton gin. It should arrive on the train this afternoon all the way from New York City. Daddy says he needs to talk to the railroad company today, too. He's starting to make plans to ship his cotton crop to the North in September. He was also going to speak to one of the other plantation owners about buying more slaves to work in our fields.

The slaves we own now are in the fields working hard to take care of the cotton crops. In only three months they will begin the harvesting work. If the cotton gin isn't fixed, the work will be harder for all of our slaves. More importantly, Mama says if the crops are not harvested, the farm won't make money. Our plantation is one of the biggest and best in the South. I know some people don't agree with using slaves to work the fields, but I don't know what else we would do. Daddy can't do it all by himself.