



December 1, 1898

Dear Friend,

I am a 12-year-old girl. I live in a place called Mount Lebanon which is part of the region of Syria in the Ottoman Empire. (I drew a map for you here). My mother had worked in a silk factory weaving thread until recently when it was closed down because of foreign competition.



I want to help my family. We are looking for a place to live and work where my parents could get a job. Is North Carolina a good place right now? Would my mother be able to work with fabrics and textiles somewhere? What kinds of jobs are there in North Carolina? Where should we live if she wants to do the same kind of job that she has been doing?

Also, my family is very scared of changes that cause people to lose their jobs. What kinds of changes are going on in North Carolina right now? What kinds of new inventions are creating changes, and are they good or bad changes?

You may not get this letter until 1899 because the ship carrying it is slow. My family really needs you to write back. Thank you in advance for answering my questions. I am so grateful for your help.

Sincerely,

Sonja