



December 1, 1898

Dear Friend,

I am a 14-year-old boy. 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 for us to live 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?

I also need to be sure that my family is safe. I have read some newspaper articles like the ones I am enclosing in this letter. Some articles make it sound like people in North Carolina really want us to be there, and some sound like they do not. Could you please find out all you can about how North Carolinians feel about foreigners right now, especially Syrians and Arabs? I want my family to have every opportunity, but I do not want to put them in danger.

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,

Amin