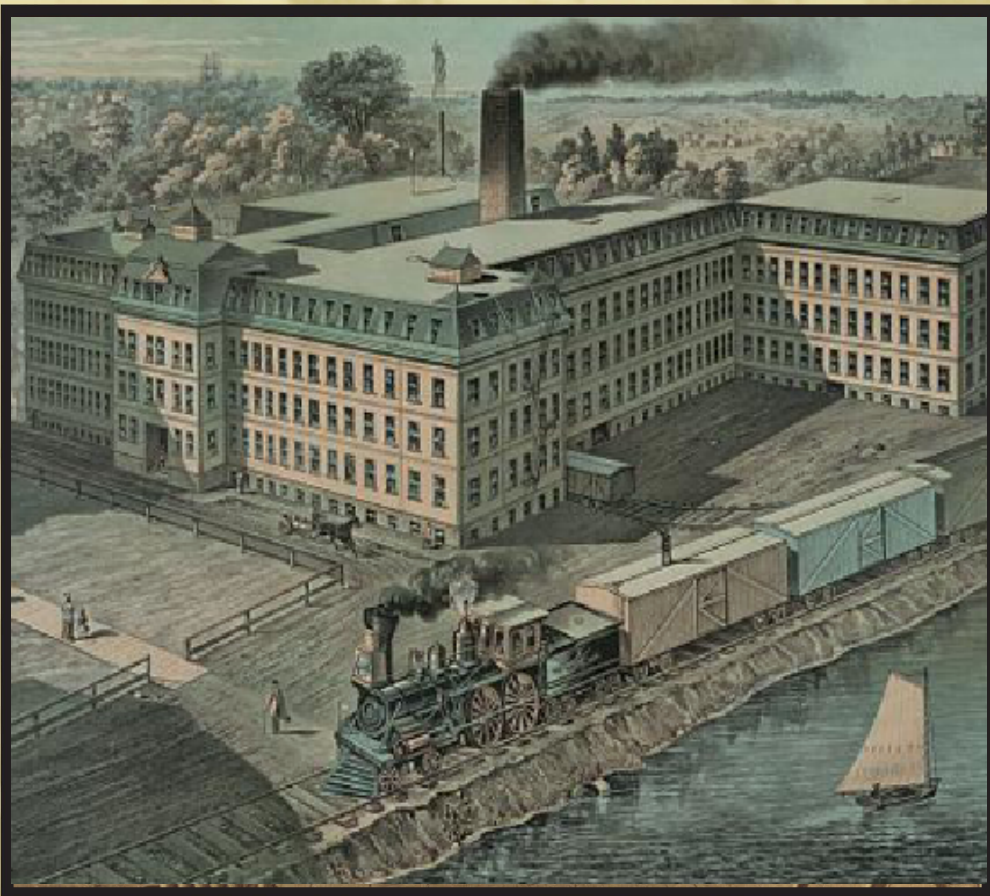


THE GATHERING STORM

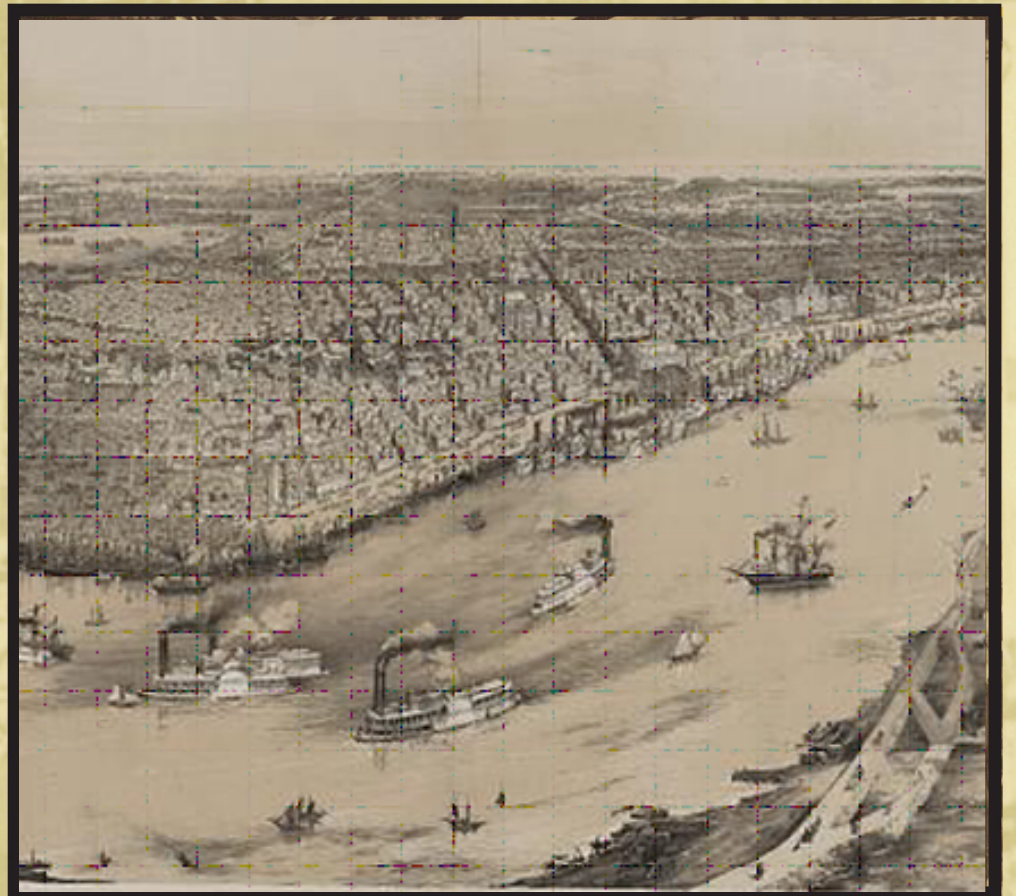
IMAGES OF AMERICA ON THE EVE OF THE CIVIL WAR

Industrial North, Agrarian South

Beyond the moral dilemma caused by slavery, the country's two regions also faced a deep economic divide. In the agrarian South, slaves accounted for more than one fourth of the population. While the North had a strong agrarian backbone marked by improved farmland and mechanized techniques, the region also had a booming manufacture-based industrial economy. In 1860, of the 128,300 industrial establishments nationwide, only 18,026 were in the South.



The Frederick Jones Shoe Factory of Plymouth, Massachusetts, shown in this 1850s engraving, was, by 1860, one of 1,354 shoe manufactories in Massachusetts. Across New England, the shoe industry employed more than 62,000 people that year. *Library of Congress*



New Orleans, Louisiana, was the largest city in the South before the Civil War. This 1851 lithograph by John Bachmann provides a birds-eye view of the Crescent City and the Mississippi River. Cotton was king, accounting for 60 percent of the value of all exports. *Library of Congress*



Four American shoe makers, holding the tools of their trade and their product, pose for a daguerreotype portrait in the 1850s. *Library of Congress*



This 1866 image of field hands on a plantation on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, depicts a scene common on plantations throughout the South during more than two centuries of slavery. *Robin Stanford Collection*