

to be the best + fastest train
in America. makes the run of
921 miles in $22\frac{3}{4}$ hours. Got
the porter to get some hot water
made some tea and had a good
feed out of the lunch we had
with us. our first stop was
at Champain, Ill. at 3:30 P.M.,
having made 126 miles. Since
leaving Chicago we have been
travelling south across the state
of Ill. the country is flat
(no sign of a hill) and low. soil
looks dark in color and nothing
much grown excepting corn.
Has been raining all the after
noon. and some places a
little snow. one thing we noticed
in particular all the houses ^{are} of
frame only saw two brick.

houses all the after noon.
Dec 5th. Had a better nights sleep got
up at 6:30 a.m. this train sure
travels some. arrived at Jackson
state of Miss. at 6:45 a.m., raining
yet. the porter says it rains
here nearly all month, and either
rain or sunshine. just a lot
of scrub brush along here, pine
& oak. & gum in the swamps
Talking to a Mr Smith who
lives at Lockport - La. 20 miles
from New Orleans. he says
they grow lots of vegetables
in this section. plants early
corn in July, and usually gets
\$4.00 to \$5.00 a hundred ears for
the first. and feed corn in
March. selling now at 92
cents bushel. also has early