

hearted master treated his slaves as human beings ought to be treated. Yet there were a few hard-hearted masters who treated their slaves in a very cruel and brutal manner. But almost everywhere in the South public sentiment was against the brutal treatment of slaves, and the cruel master was looked down upon and shunned by his neighbors.

In respect to buying and selling, slaves were precisely like any other kind of property, and one of the worst evils of slavery was the breaking up of families by selling the members to differ-



Negro quarters on a plantation.

ent owners. But kind masters would not, if they could avoid it, sell the husband apart from the wife or sell young children away from their mother.

In matters of education the slave fared badly. As a rule, he was kept in the darkest ignorance. In most of the slave States it was unlawful for anybody to teach a negro to read or write. In several States, however, it was lawful for masters themselves to instruct their slaves, and kind masters sometimes would teach their negroes the rudiments of reading and writing. In matters of religion the slaves were not neglected. They were given oral