Louisiana offers an intimate picture of a wealthy nineteenth-century family and the turmoil they faced as a system based on the enslavement of others unraveled. In 1870, with their plantation and finances in disarray, the Butlers sold Dunboyne and resettled in Pass Christian, Mississippi, where they resided in a rental cottage with the financial support of Edward J. Gay, a wealthy Iberville planter. Their experiences at Dunboyne over the next forty years demonstrated the transformations that many land-owning southerners faced in the nineteenth century, from the evolution of agricultural practices and commerce, to the rethinking of slavery and the implications of the Civil War.

The Butlers' move to Pass Christian was a response to the economic and social changes that were occurring across the South. The end of slavery had brought significant challenges for former slaveholders, who were forced to adapt to a new social order and the loss of their labor force. The Butlers' decision to relocate to Pass Christian was likely influenced by the hope of finding a more stable and prosperous future in the region. The rental cottage they occupied was a symbol of their struggle to maintain their status and way of life in the post-Civil War era.

The Civil War had a profound impact on the South, and the Butlers were not immune to its effects. The loss of enslaved labor and the disruption of economic activities had severe consequences for the region. The Butlers' financial difficulties were a testament to the challenges faced by many southern families after the war. Edward J. Gay's support was crucial in helping them navigate this uncertain time, highlighting the importance of community and connections in the post-Civil War South.

The Butlers' story is representative of the experiences of many land-owning southerners in the post-Civil War era. They faced the task of rebuilding their lives and finding new ways to sustain their families in a rapidly changing world. The challenges they confronted were not unique to them, and their story offers a glimpse into the broader struggles and transformations that occurred in the South after the Civil War.